



CONSULTATION REPORT

For the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd (English Medium, Community School) as of 31st August 2016 with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area subject to parental preference.

DECEMBER 2015

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1. Introduction

1.1 Following the end of a school organisation consultation period, the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code requires the proposer (the Council) to publish a consultation report. In this document the proposer is required to:

- Summarise each of the issues raised by consultees.
- Respond to these by means of clarification.
- Set out Estyn's view (as provided in its consultation response) of the overall merits of the proposal.

1.2 This report should be considered by decision-makers prior to determining any recommendation relating to the proposal.

2.0 The Proposal and Consultation

2.1 On Tuesday 16 June 2015, Cabinet resolved to:

Open a period of formal consultation with key stakeholders for Ysgol Llanfynydd with a future report to be provided to Cabinet.

2.2 Consultation was carried out in accordance with the School Organisation Code. The consultation period commenced, Wednesday 21st October 2015 and ended, Wednesday 2nd December 2015.

2.3 In accordance with the code, the consultation documents were published on Flintshire County Council's website, Wednesday, 21st October 2015, and a link to the consultation documents was provided to stakeholders. A complete list of recipients can be found in **Appendix A**.

2.4 A special version of the consultation document, for primary school children, was also published on the Flintshire County Council website and provided to all pupils at Ysgol Llanfynydd. Copies of this document were also provided to the school councils at Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn, Abermorddu CP School, Ysgol Estyn, Hope and also Bwlchgwyn CP School. Both versions of the consultation document can be found in the school modernisation section of the Flintshire County Council website at the following link:-

<https://t.co/Cn5xTEZMVU>

2.5 Hard copies of the consultation documents were delivered to Ysgol Llanfynydd, Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn, Abermorddu CP School, Ysgol Estyn, Hope and also Bwlchgwyn CP School for people to view if they were unable to access the website. Hard copies were also available on request and were either posted or collected from County Hall, Mold.

- 2.5 A post box was made available at Ysgol Llanfynydd for consultation responses to be posted and collected by a member of the school modernisation team.
- 2.6 The Council produced a response document (standard response form) to assist and encourage people to give their views. This formed part of the consultation document and was also published on the Council's website. The children and young people's version of the consultation document contained a simpler response form. The consultation response form was converted into an online survey using the survey monkey online tool. Links to the survey were also published on the website.
- 2.7 All consultees received an e-mail with the link directing them to the formal consultation document, supplementary documents, and also the link to the online survey on the first day of the consultation 21st October 2015.
- 2.8 Documents were produced in both Welsh and English.

3.0 Consultation events/meetings

- 3.1 Whilst not a requirement under the Code, the Council held separate consultation meetings on Monday, 23rd November 2015 with:

Teachers and support staff and governing body of Ysgol Llanfynydd

Officers from Flintshire County Council attended these meetings. Officers informed those in attendance at the meetings of the process to date and what would happen if the proposal were approved. The attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and express their views and opinions.

A summary of the points raised at these consultation events/meetings, together with the responses given at the time in **Appendix B.**

Parents/carers/guardians of pupils at Ysgol Llanfynydd

The parents/carers/guardians meeting took place in Ysgol Llanfynydd. Each parent/carer/guardian received a letter containing the date, time and location asking them to register their attendance at the event.

The consultation event allowed for parents/carers/guardians to meet with Council representatives and ask questions or raise issues which were pertinent to them as individuals and also the wider views regarding the school and community.

The summary of the points raised at these consultation events/meetings, together with the responses given at the time in **Appendix B.**

- 3.2 A school council consultation event was arranged for Ysgol Llanfynydd. The event was facilitated by the Healthy Schools Co-ordinator whose role includes engaging and consulting with school councils. A member of the school modernisation team was also present at the school council meetings.
- 3.3 Consultation events were also arranged with the School Councils at Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn, Ysgol Estyn, Hope, and Bwlchwyn CP School. A member of the school modernisation team was also present at the School Council meetings. Abermorddu C.P. School, chose to facilitate their own meeting with the School Council to discuss the proposal.

The findings of the School Council meetings are set out in **Appendix C.**

- 3.4 The School Modernisation Team met with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of the nearby affected schools. (Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn, Abermorddu CP School, Ysgol Estyn, Hope and also Bwlchwyn CP School).

A record of the Headteacher and Chair of Governors meetings are set out in **Appendix D.**

4.0 Consultation responses

- 4.1 In total 153 responses were received before and during the consultation period. These included a response from Estyn in the form of a report. A number of responses were received on electronic response forms, e-mails and letters.
- 4.2 The table below show the methods people used to respond to the consultation:

Method of contact	Number of Contacts Received
Consultation Response Forms (all online)	35
Children & Young People's Response Forms	40
Letters and E-mails	25
Children and Young People Letters and E-mails	35
School Council Responses	5
School Governors Responses	5
U Tube Clip	1
Union Response	1
Estyn Response	1
AM and MP Response	5
Total number of contacts	153

The number of contacts made pre and during the consultation are listed on the next page.

Method of contact	Pre Consultation	During Consultation	Total Number of Contacts Received
Consultation Response Forms (online)	0	35	35
Children & Young People's Response Forms	0	40	40
Letters and E-mails	10	15	26
Children and Young People Letters and E-mails	35	0	35
School Governors Responses	0	5	5
School Council Responses	0	5	5
U Tube clip	1	0	1
Union Response	0	1	1
Estyn Response	0	1	1
AM and MP Responses	2	3	5
Total number of contacts	48	105	153

4.3 Breakdown of Petition Information

No	Response Type	No of signatures
1	Online Petition	1175
2	Handwritten Petition	433
Totals		1608

4.4 An analysis of the frequency of issues being raised within the correspondence received from adults highlighted the following issues:

Rank	Issue	Description	Frequency of issue raised
1	Consultation Document	The information in the consultation document is incorrect. The information is out of date. The pupil numbers in the school would not fit into any of the alternative schools. The Estyn report for the school is old. The document is biased and negative. The information for the roof repairs seems high and	42 comments

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		incorrect. The Schools Capacity looks incorrect. The diminishing resources criteria is flawed. Projections for the school look incorrect.	
2	Impact on the community	Closing the school down would significantly affect the local community. The school is at the heart of the community. Closing the school would rip the heart of the community. The school has been in the village for hundreds of years.	35 comments
3	Positives of the school itself	The school has many positives, it's a family school, and it's a lovely community school. The school is in a lovely building. The building is DDA compliant. The school has lovely supportive teaching staff. The Castell Alun Consortium arrangement is very strong. Strong connections of the school with Welsh culture and language.	34 comments
4	Alternative suggestions: Federation for the school	The school should be able to explore Federation with Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn. There is evidence that a Federation would work as the current Headteacher is currently being shared with Ysgol Parc Y Llan.	32 comments
5	Housing Development	Local housing developments in the local area have not been fully taken into consideration.	16 comments
6	Alternative Provision and educational standards	The only alternative school that meets the current standards of the education is Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn. There is not enough room for the full cohort to transfer to Parc Y Llan.	15 comments
7	Traffic and transport	Traffic will increase in the Abermorddu area. Transport costs do not seem to be correct.	10 comments
8	Impact on pupils	Concern about impact of closing school on the current pupils. Concern peer groups and siblings will be split up, emotional welfare has not been taken into consideration, breaching UN rights of the child.	8 comments
9	Transition and timetable	Concern about the transition for pupils. Timetable for the proposal is a concern with only a term to make a decision which alternative school to send to.	8 comments
10	Family connections	Request that siblings should be able to attend this school. Family connections with the school and a number of families	7 comments

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	with the school	attended the school historically. The school has been in the village for hundreds of years.	
11	Other schools overfilled	Overfilled popular schools should send their children to this school. We should be helped to promote the school.	7 comments
12	Impact on Teaching Staff	Concern about what will happen to the Teaching and support staff at the school.	6 comments
13	Financial information	The financial modelling seems incorrect. How have the Wrexham based pupils been factored into the funding? The school has been overfunded for a number of years.	5 comments
14	Impact of threat of closure	Threat of closure is putting other parents off selecting this school, making it hard to reduce our unfilled places.	4 comments
15	Comments supporting the proposal	Supportive of the proposal. There is clear rationale to support the proposal.	3 comments
16	Additional Learning Needs	There is a high percentage of Additional Learning Needs pupils in the school.	3 comments
17	New uniforms and bags	How will we pay for new uniforms and bags.	3 comments
18	Admission process	The admission process for the alternative schools is not clear. It's not clear how the risks for parents not being able to select their preferred school will be managed.	3 comments
19	Childcare	There is no afterschool club at Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn, but there is one at this school. There is wrap around care available at the school through the Montessori Play School.	3 comments
20	Parental choice	Our parental choice is being taken away.	2 comments
21	School site	What will happen to the school site should the school close?	2 comments
22	Consultation Process	There was no community engagement.	1 comment

4.5 An analysis of the frequency of issues being raised within the children's and young people's correspondence received highlighted the following issues:

Rank	Issue	Description	Frequency of issue raised
1	Positives of the school itself	The school has many positives, it's a family school, and it's a lovely community school. The school is in a lovely building. The school has lovely excellent supportive teaching staff. We are a small school that can do many things, we raise lots of money for charity, we have lots of after school clubs.	83 comments
2	Impact on pupils	Concern about impact of closing school on the pupils. Concern peer groups and siblings will be split up, emotional welfare has not been taken into consideration, the upset that closing the school would have on us, concern over friends being split up.	82 comments
3	Family connections with the school	Siblings should be able to attend the school. There are many family connections with the school. A number of families have attended the school. The school has been in the village for hundreds of years.	28 comments
4	Alternative suggestions: Federation for the school	The school should be able to explore Federation with Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn. There is evidence that a Federation would work as the current Headteacher is currently being shared with Ysgol Parc Y Llan, we are saving money.	13 comments
5	Impact on Teaching Staff	Concern about what will happen to the Teaching and support staff at the school.	10 comments
6	Impact on the community	Closing the school down would significantly affect the local community. The school is at the heart of the community. Closing the school would rip the heart out of the community. The school has been in the village for hundreds of years.	8 comments
7	Consultation Document	The information in the consultation document is incorrect. The pupil numbers in the school would not fit into any of the alternative schools.	4 comments

8	School site	What would happen to the school building should it close?	4 comments
9	Alternative Provision and educational standards	There is not enough room for the full cohort to transfer to Ysgol Parc Y Llan.	2 comments
10	Housing Development	Local housing developments in the local area have not been fully taken into consideration.	1 comment
11	Financial information	Savings would not be that much.	1 comment

4.6 An analysis of the frequency of issues raised within the children and young people's correspondence received from School Councils highlighted the following issues:

Rank	Issue	Description	Frequency of issue raised
1	Impact on pupils	<p>Pupils comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about impact of closing school on the pupils. • Concern peer groups and siblings will be split up. • Emotional welfare has not been taken into consideration. • The upset that closing the school would have on us. • Concern over friends being split up. • Sadness and anger should the school close. • It would be strange • New teachers would not know us that well. • Would be concerned about losing current friends. <p>Other terminology used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heartbroken, traumatised, devastated, awkward, scary, nervous and shy 	144 comments
2	Comments supporting the proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed emotions. • Would like to make new friends. • It may be okay. • It may be nice to have new teachers. 	40 comments

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would be happy to make new friends. 	
3	Alternative suggestions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We should stay open and stay together • We should join another school • Build an extension • We could save money • Our new headteacher works in another school: that should save money • They could do some fundraising • They could get more pupils in 	31 comments
4	Positives of the school itself	<p>Pupils' comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has many positives, it's a family school. • It's a lovely community school. The school is in a lovely building. • The school has lovely excellent supportive teaching staff. • We are a small school that can do many things • We raise lots of money for charity, and we have lots of after school clubs. • We are friendly and happy. • We are an Eco School. 	18 comments
5	Impact on Teaching Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about what will happen to the Teaching and support staff at the school 	11 comments
6	Impact on Other Affected Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would have some concerns about the impact on our school. • We have full classes and some classes with spaces and would be worried about full classes. • We currently share our headteacher with Ysgol Llanfynydd - what are we getting in return. • Will there be a bigger bus from Leeswood to our school? 	7 comments
7	Impact on the Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would rip the heart out of the community. • The village would be a ghost town. • We have lots of services at the local church. 	5 comments
8	Housing Developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What about the new housing developments in the local area? 	1 comment

9	Childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school has a good breakfast and after school club, not all schools have these. 	1 comment
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4.5 The Council's response to the concerns raised can be found in **Appendix E.**

5.0 Response forms and correspondence

5.1 The standard response form was designed to establish:

- whether or not people were in favour of the proposal;
- the capacity in which they were responding;
- whether or not they were linked to the school;
- what alternative suggestions they would have for sustaining education in the area; and
- whether they wanted to make any other comments.

5.2 A summary of the responses to the standard response form is set out in **Appendix F.**

5.3 On the response forms, we asked people to confirm whether they were responding as a pupil, parent, governor, teacher, support staff, local resident or other. Details of the respondents are set out in **Appendix F.**

6.0 Response from Estyn

The main points made by Estyn in response to the proposal and the Council's response to them are set out below. A full response from Estyn is set out in **Appendix G.**

Estyn Comment	Comments which require response
The proposal is likely to at least maintain the present standards of education provision in the area.	n/a
Would be sufficient unfilled places to accommodate all pupils currently attending Ysgol Llanfynydd. The proposer has demonstrated capacity within the existing four schools to manage this increased demand for school places.	n/a
The proposal outlines the expected benefits and disadvantages of each option against the key drivers of educational improvement, suitable buildings, unfilled places, diminishing resources and resilient school leadership.	n/a
The proposer have also recognised the potential impact of closure on the local community and have completed a community impact assessment.	n/a

The proposal appropriately outlines the reasons for discounting alternative options and the reasons for their preferred option. The Local Authority believes that longer-term benefits for pupils outweigh any disadvantages	n/a
The proposer has suitably identified the relevant risks relating to the proposal and has outlined clearly how these risks will be managed. However the proposer has not clearly identified how they will manage the risk of parents not being able to choose their preferred alternative school.	A bespoke admission cycle will be run by Flintshire's Admission's team in accordance with its admission's policy. The Council has demonstrated in its consultation documents that there is sufficient capacity within the local school network to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Llanfynydd should it close. However, additional places if required can be established at Ysgol Parc y Llan, Treuddyn.
The proposer has given suitable consideration to the impact of the proposal on pupils travel arrangements and their ability to access the provision	Agreed
The proposer has completed a detailed separate equality and Welsh language impact assessment	Agreed
The document also gives a detailed analysis of each school's most recent property building survey. These show that each school is in a similar satisfactory condition fit to effectively deliver the primary curriculum	Agreed
The proposer has undertaken a detailed equality impact assessment that carefully considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with special educational needs and mobility issues. Where available, comments from the most recent Estyn reports from each of the alternative providers, judges their provision for pupils with additional learners needs as good.	Agreed
The proposer suitably recognises the potential additional challenge of change for many pupils and accurately considers how transition would be managed successfully these more vulnerable groups of learners	Agreed

7.0 Responses from Assembly Members and Members of Parliament

In total 5 responses were received during the consultation period from Assembly Members and Members of Parliament.

The table below show the methods Assembly Members and Members of Parliament used to respond to the consultation:

Breakdown of Responses from Assembly Members & Members of Parliament

No	Response Type	Response from Assembly Members & Members of Parliament
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		AMs	MPs
1	Consultation Response Form	0	0
2	Letters and Emails	1	4
Totals		1	4

The letters from Assembly Members and Members of Parliament and responses from the authority can be viewed in **Appendix H.**

8.0 Responses from Governors

In total 5 responses were received during the consultation period from governors. The table below show the methods governors used to respond to the consultation:

Breakdown of Responses from Governors

No	Response Type	Amount of Governors received
1	Consultation Response Form	1
2	Letters and Emails	4
Totals		5

The correspondence from governors can be viewed in **Appendix I.**

APPENDIX A

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APPENDIX A

Consultation Document (Adult and Children's and Young People Versions); Transport Assessment, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Community Impact Assessment Recipient List

No	Stakeholder	Number of Recipient List
1	Maintaining or proposed maintaining authority for any school likely to be affected by the proposal	20
2	Any other local authority likely to be affected Denbighshire County Council – School Modernisation Conwy County Council – School Modernisation Wrexham County Borough Council – School Modernisation	3
3	The Church in Wales	1
	Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority	1
4	School Governing body for Ysgol Llanfynydd	11
	School Governing body for Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn	11
	School Governing body for Abermorddu CP School	11
	School Governing body for Bwlchgwyn CP School	11
	School Governing body for Ysgol Estyn, Hope	11
5	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/School Council of Ysgol Llanfynydd	61
	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/School Council of Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn	104
	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/School Council of Abermorddu CP School	229
	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/School Council of Bwlchgwyn CP School	134
	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/School Council of Ysgol Estyn, Hope	258
6	The Welsh Ministers, AMs and MPs	7
7	Estyn	1
8	Teaching and Staff trade unions	17
9	North Wales Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service - Consortium - GWE	2
10	Regional Transport Consortium	4
11	Police and crime commissioner	1
12	Any community or town council for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is subject to the proposal	4
13	The local communities first partnership	1
14	In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, any independent provider	1
15	In the case of proposal affecting nursery provision, the Children and Young People Partnership	1
16	URDD	1

17	Welsh Government Schools Management	4
18	Local Members	5
19	Equality and Welsh Language	2
20	Local High School – Headteacher and Chair of Governor	1
21	Local Health Authority	1
	TOTAL	919

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APPENDIX B

APPENDIX B

YSGOL LLANFYNYDD 23 NOVEMBER 2015, 4PM

TEACHERS, SUPPORT STAFF AND GOVERNORS MEETING

In attendance: Flintshire County Council: Ian Budd; Claire Homard; Damian Hughes; Steven Gow, Brian Rozier, Sarah Thomas; Jennie Williams. School staff & Governors: Joy Gladman, Emma Jones, Belinda Evans, Lowri Evans, Carol Pye, Samantha Hanmer, Dafydd Morgan, Martin Hanmet, Mary Nightingale, Louise Thompson, Barbara Connor, Dawn Westaway, Neil Worthington, Paul Whybro, Meilir Ashford,

IB Introduction and presentation. Points raised noted down. Make most of the opportunity to ask questions but also use email/letters to give your points of view
Headteacher encouraged all to ask questions

Q: PW - Why have we ended up being reviewed?

I would also like to raise the issues of the maintenance costs and suitability on page 51 which quotes £81,000 – I would like to know what quotes and what does it relate to?

A: DH - Local Authority use an independent contractor who complete condition surveys and who are also qualified building surveyors. They refer to DFES guidance who use building construction indices to provide the Authority with estimated costs repairs and maintenance activities required on a five year cycle..

Q: PW - Would you not get 3 quotes

A: DH - The estimates provides the Council with a strategic overview of maintenance and repairs and enables the Council to prioritise maintenance programme. Priority 1 works would be looked at first, if the work was required then the Council would procure via competitive tendering.

Q: PW - The backlog maintenance for this site is not much money, when compared to the upheaval for staff and parents. My view is that the costs should be more precise. Also the school building provides energy saving and I would have liked to have seen this in the document. The document has been written in a negative way which I feel is unfair.

A: IB - We all want to see fairness whilst we complete this process. The document has been developed in line with the School Organisation Code and also checked with Welsh Government to see if it meets their WRAG status. The school has been selected for review on the grounds of unfilled places, diminishing resources and also the school sustainability against the levels of austerity facing the Local Authority.

Comment: NW - I was not aware that the school had a roof issue.

DH - The maintenance and backlog programmes is a global assessment of the issues for a site, and are based on estimates, we can provide you with more detailed explanation of the roof situation from our Maintenance Team.

Q: NW - I have downloaded from the Stats Wales school pupil numbers, the number of unfilled pupil places and it looks to be in region of 451, is there something wrong with your statistics, and I am keen to understand your views on this.

A: DH - firstly the total schools capacity is reviewed, so we look the individual capacity of a school. The capacity of each school is formulae driven and also signed off by the school.

The surplus places of each school is calculated against the capacity and the actual school PLASC returns, this provides a global pupil surplus total. It would be helpful for you to share the figures either way to help understand what information is being referred to.

Q: DW - On page 40 of the document it refers to ensuring that the alternative provision under the School Organisation Code section 14 is of equivalent standard, looking at the information the only school that can be considered as an alternative is Parc y Llan.

Also on point 10.10 it states that there is no capital investment required, if pupils did go to Ysgol Parc Y Llan.

A: CH - There is a new Welsh categorisation model, and Estyn have graded Parc Y Llan as a grade 2. This is based on the quality of leadership and ability to improve and other factors.

Use of data can vary, a number of factors are considered when looking at equivalent standards.

Parents can express a preference to an alternative school, and parents would be advised to visit the school so they can understand their ethos and ensure confidence in the leadership of the school.

Estyn as an independent inspectorate produce their own report on content of proposal which looks at the standards and provides a view on the standards of education within the area, this will be made a public report.

DH - In terms of revenue funding for schools, funding follows the learners.

In terms of capital funding, the Local Authority has a statutory role to ensure the right number of schools in the right condition. In general terms what most Authorities are appreciating is more parents are expressing a preference for a school other than their local school. The movement of pupils means that it becomes more difficult to manage the school estate. It is the Local Authority view that the existing schools estate could accept pupils without the need for capital investment.

Q: DW - Looking at the Admission Policy, it looks that depending on places there is no guarantee of admission. As a governing body we believe that the admissions policy is a concern.

A: CB: The Admission policy is managed by the admission teams, when parents are not provided with their chosen school because they are oversubscribed, then they can appeal against this decision, the panel is completely independent of the Local Authority. It is often difficult to manage school preference issues, and management of places compared to national legislation around admissions.

Q: BC - We appreciate there is information and guidance on these processes, but the document is full of jargon, leaving parents totally confused, in Annex A of the School Organisation Code there is an easy to follow format. Also the admissions school timetable does not match the timetable for this review. There is also missing information there is no mention finding a school place and no guidance on it. The admission system is supposed to minimise concerns. When we don't know the final date for decisions, and the school finds out in April, how are the parents and children supposed to secure a place elsewhere? There are 11 siblings in this school and very few places in each year. Also when do parents of nursery children know their choice – will parents receive a letter?
Year 1 when do they apply?
Will priority will be extended to siblings so they can attend the same school together?
Is there any feasibility to be flexible with the admission process?
With the decision due in Spring this is stressful and we have a duty of care on these families.

A: IB – The documents are large documents, which follow the School Organisation Statutory code, this was as result of a judicial review, so the documents have got more complex. The Children and Young Peoples document is much more accessible. The Admissions team will work closely with families as the Local Authority is the admitting body. The admission policy will be followed, and with any appeals the Panel may take a view and may warrant over admitting to a school.

IB - Aligning the timetable is difficult because of the national timetable that the Local Authority is required to follow. The Admission Team will complete a mini assessment process and will have dialogue with the school and local school network.

Comment: BC - Abermorddu C.P. School have a sign outside their school indicating they still have nursery places available. The uncertainty does breed panic. On page 43, it indicates that small schools face a greater challenge. The document fails to mention the Castell Alun consortium, and that we have been held up as a good model with links between primary and secondary.

Comment: NW – It was disappointing to see that federation for this school had such a small section in the document, and this also included the advantages of a small school, there were no costings on federation.

IB: There is a separate substantial document providing advice on federation, it provides practical advice around pay and conditions.

Comment: LT – I would be interested to hear the policy on sustaining rural communities, the school closing would impact on community, the school use the church, and there is a remembrance garden and Brymbo choir visit. This proposal has caused a lot of worry and concern in the community.

CH - no one wants to sit here discussing closing schools, however with the funding crisis there is a major black hole in budgets and this is why we have to protect learners by removing inefficiency from the system. There is of course a recognition the contribution the school makes to the community.

Comment LT – Closing the school would be a drop in ocean to the savings they are so insignificant, we can prove we can federate. The report is biased, why didn't we get more notice it's unfair.

CB - School budget forum should have done something earlier, the schools modernisation strategy has been in place since 2010, the policy has always been there, but the drivers for change have not been as pressing as they are now.

Comment NW – with the cost per pupil figure, the school has been overfunded massively, we have used this money to fund additional teachers to drive up standards. This has been in the region of around £35000, I think this is County Hall's fault.

IB: Schools budget are kept under regular review, and discussed through the primary Headteacher Federation. Future budget projections will see a 4-5% gap between funding this is due to increases in National Insurance, Superannuation and increases in pay awards. The level of cuts schools will be dealing with are significant.

Comment NW – we received the budget information for this year, and it was not as bad as we thought it was going to be.

Comment DW – The community impact assessment talks about the building and not people, the village without schools would have a significant detriment on the community. I think the community impact assessment was biased to buildings.

DH: We asked the Headteacher to complete information about the community links with the school, that information is not censored, the community impact assessment return is based on the headteacher questionnaire return.

Q: JG : I would like to ask about the situation with redeployment

MA: HR are going to stay behind to answer any questions if staff wanted to ask more individual questions

JG: Section 14.3 of the document talks about working with current staff what does it mean?

SG: Assuming the worst case scenario then staff would be issued with notice, this would be for the Governing body to confirm a compulsory redundancy situation.

There is also a legal duty to support staff to find suitable alternative employment, staff are provided with access to vacancies throughout the council. We do encourage other schools to work positively with those at risk but there is no obligation for other Governing bodies to take displaced staff.

JG: There is normally a windows in school year when vacancies come out, I have looked for jobs on FCC, Denbighshire and e-teach

SG: I have to confirm that there is not a lot of opportunities out there and it is getting harder

CH: The Local Authority and Governing body cannot stand in your way for you to find job opportunities, if the decision is made to close the school the Local Authority will act as an advocate on your behalf to help you find vacancies.

SG: There may also be different scenarios for staff depending on their own personal circumstances.

SG: The level of recruitment is dropping rapidly, also there have been lots of redundancies this year and last year, we will work closely to maximise redeployment opportunities, and ensure all at risk are guaranteed an interview.

Q: BC - Why have you extended the timetable?

A: DH – the timelines have been working towards a closure date of September 2016, the timetables were an indicative draft programme, due to the complexity of documents, and preparations have taken longer than originally anticipated.

Q: BE – This is a good school its high achieving why are you trying to close it? One of our Year 3 has just been told she has won local eisteddfod champion of arts

A: CH – this is not about the school not achieving on education standards, the drivers are around the financial budget challenge, and a time when the council has diminishing resources, it is just not possible to review every school.

Comment: EJ – I am a transporter for the school, and as far as I can see you cannot guarantee me work.

A: No we could not guarantee work at this stage, as we have no decision on the schools future yet.

Comment: LE: Comments made about teachers workload in smaller schools I disagree with, as staff we work together to ensure the work is shared compared to larger school, we have less marking at the end of year assessments

CB – we note your point, the challenge for smaller schools is that they often share curriculum leads

Comment: CP - But the school has high standards

CH: The challenge for smaller school is how they can maintain standards, as budgets impact, and Teacher pupil ratios increase, Governors will have to make harder decisions.

IB: The Cabinet will need to be confident that standards in the area will be maintained

Since 2010/2015 the school modernisation policy has provided opportunity for governors to put forward sustainable proposals for their school, this includes putting forward any proposal in relation to federation with another school. In order for this be a realistic option, the governors need to identify a willing partner and pass a number basic tests, the proposal has to be resilient and sustainable, no one has come forward with this proposal. Federate requires more resources.

Q: SH: If the majority of children in key stage 2 and Foundation phase move would you consider the staff moving with them

A: IB: If the transfer of pupils takes the school over their staffing rota, then the governing body of that school would consider that the existing staff would be a valuable asset, the funding follows the pupils, and it would be wise to look at staff

who are familiar to the pupils. We would support a sensitive approach to transition for pupils.

Comment: SH: If this is about saving money, I don't think the Local Authority is going to save money with this proposal.

IB: Budgets are based on the school funding formula, savings can be made if a schools federate in relation to their leadership costs.

CB: In relation to the building, the local community can make a bid for the building.

IB: The building could be transferred over under a community asset transfer arrangement.

Comment: BC - invite local communities 2030 budget demands
5/10years time

Hope building were going to education the children

Could be growth area

Comment – There are no issues with the children's education in Llanfynydd. Why don't you look at other larger schools which are failing?

IB – Just like to make it clear that there are no schools in Flintshire which are failing.

Comment – Pupils have been moved to Llanfynydd School and are now gaining confidence and doing well.

**YSGOL LLANFYNYDD - PARENT/CARER/GUARDIANS CONSULTATION EVENT ,
23 November 2015, 18.00pm**

Council attendees:

Councillor Chris Bithell, Ian Budd; Damian Hughes, Claire Homard; Gill Yates, Jennie Williams, Sarah Thomas

IB welcomed parents, carers and guardians to the meeting noting their concerns and anxieties. It was stated that the review was to ensure that their concerns can be aired. He confirmed that the meeting would be recorded and shared with school and with decision makers. It is a public record and made available to all. All views will be shared with Cabinet members and these will be taken into account in their considerations.

IB advised that a Questions and Answer session would follow after a short powerpoint presentation and drew attention to council prioritisation of funding for learners and safeguarding of the vulnerable; £52m reduction in public services over next 3 years; a priority is low pupil teacher ratio; funding challenge ahead for the community to participate in; a challenge for small schools and how they could be organised in the future as they have to manage diminishing resources; the admissions process will assist families with their preferences; pupils with additional learning needs will be supported through transition arrangements with this school and receiving schools.

GY referenced the national admissions regulations, Flintshire's policy and how parents can apply for a space. Each schools has a year group number limit but in limited circumstances a right of appeal to an independent panel could be made; parents were advised of the link to Flintshire's School Transport policy on the web; pupils have entitlement to free school transport if they live 2 miles from their nearest appropriate.

IB stated that options for families would be worked through on an individual basis; the meeting was an initial consultation process to identify the issues; the indicative timeline was responses by 2 December 2015 with report back to Council Cabinet in January which will include copy of all correspondence from school community along with identification of the issues raised and council responses. The Cabinet will then decide to issue either a statutory proposal to close or some other option. There will be a need to publish objections received to a statutory notice. Views and objections can be submitted to the council in a variety of ways.

Questions and Answers :

IB asked the meeting to note some ground rules to help ; to avoid interrupting when another person talking; to avoid distracting side conversations and to respect each other's views'

Q – You refer to a 3 year cycle of financial planning ahead – why only 3 years?

A – DH – The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide the right number of places in the right locations. We do not look at 10/20 years ahead with the pending budget situation. We have to look at the holistic view with the cuts in budgets. We are confident there is enough pupil places within the local schools network for future approved housing development. DH explain how housing development is calculated (see 4.16 of the Formal Consultation Document)

Q – As one of the 44% who are not from the local area. Do the projections take account of the pupils who choose to come to this school from out of the area?

A – The projections are based on a 3 year average of nursery intake based on school returns. Projections are produced annually following the school statistical returns.

Comment – We have been looking at new strategies to increase the numbers at the schools i.e. the Montessori Play Group this might attract pupils and they then follow on into the school. – There may be the possibility of using part of the Foundation Phase classroom and using it for pre-school provision – we are looking to apply for registration.

Q - Number of children from new local housing developments in Hope cannot get into their local schools. Looking at all the information in the consultation document, I don't think that the council has taken into consideration what is actually happening on the ground.

A – DH – We work with the information we have available to us. Information about schools including their Capacity and Admission Number for schools is based on the standard formula across Wales 'Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales'. Surplus places in the area are reviewed by returns we get back from schools themselves.

Q – The document is more about figures and surely this is more than about cutting costs

A – IB – The document has to provide information in line with the School Organisation Code, they are weighty documents and not always an easy read, but this is because of the legal requirements, information commentary on the quality of educational standards is also part of this information which is supported by GWe and also the national category system.

Q – I live out of the area and have two children in different schools. How can you ensure this doesn't happen?

A – GY – We cannot hold pupil places – it is not legal to do this. For example – A local primary school has reached it's admission number in some year groups. If parents/carers/guardians express a preference and there is available space for 1 child but the other year group is full. Parents/Carers/Guardians can go to an independent appeals panel. GY confirmed Flintshire County Council's admissions policy is the same for both Primary and Secondary Schools. There is no feeder school system going into secondary schools

Q – I refer to page 4 of the Formal Consultation document. How can you promise to maintain/raise education standards? The only option left for parents are in a lower category which is limiting the options to parents.

A – CH – School Categorisation is based on a number of factors which is why the schools have different categorisation, such as the number of Free School Meals, performance, additional learning needs are often not taken into account. If there are small numbers in a school cohort this can make the numbers go up and down, and this is no fault of the school. It is the Local Authorities view that all of the schools identified as alternative schools are good schools and require light touch support. CH advised that as a parent when looking at another school, it is important to visit and all consider all the aspects of the school such as its ethos. IB – There is also an independent report produced by Estyn who are statutory consultees during the consultation process. Estyn provide their own report on the proposal providing their point of view on the standards of education in the area.

Q – In the School Organisation Code – it says that you have to provide equivalent or better standards of education

Q – Llanfynydd's Estyn Inspection Report is based on old data, couldn't you of waited until after we had been inspected?

A – CH – The Authority has no control over when a school inspection will take place. Estyn used to inspect on a 6 year cycle but this does not happen anymore, and they are calling schools out of cycle. The report also includes information on standards from GWE School Improvement Service.

Q –You are only basing judgements on half of the facts.

A – IB - All education standards information and performance is based on information contained within the website 'My Local School' www.mylocalschool.com

<p>There is a lot of different sources of information that are used to look at the standards of education.</p>
<p>Q – I am disappointed by the presentation as it contained no information on how to keep the school open, and the document is one sided and it appears the decision has already been taken, there are no options on federation. If I was reading the Formal Consultation document based on the information you have provided it would be difficult to justify keeping the school open.</p> <p>A – DH - The Formal Consultation Document follows the School Organisation Code and has been checked by Welsh Government. The Governors/Community are able to put forward alternative sustainable options. This is a period of consultation and there has been no pre-determination of the decision that would be illegal.</p>
<p>Q – There is nothing wrong with Ysgol Llanfynydd’s roof and there is a maintenance figures of £80,000. Where has this come from?</p> <p>A – DH – Condition Surveys of school buildings are carried out on 5 year cycle by independent qualified building surveyors based on DFES guidance who produce a report. The costs are estimates based on construction indices. The information is used to prioritise the council’s maintenance programme in schools</p> <p>Q – Why have you published maintenance figures that are estimates why not get quotes?</p> <p>A – If the works were in Prioritised the Authority would need to tender for the work.</p>
<p>Q – Why has the original timescale slipped? This only gives us one term to decide where to move our children if the decision is taken in April to close Ysgol Llanfynydd.</p> <p>A – GY – Once we are aware of the decision we will hold a mini admissions process but we cannot take this forward at this stage until a decision is made.</p> <p>A – IB – Parents/Carers/Guardians will be able to express a preference for their child/children. If the decision is made to close Ysgol Llanfynydd a further meeting will be held with Parents/Carers/Guardians or individuals can individually contact the Admissions Team at any time.</p>
<p>Q – If a child lived 7 miles away but got their admission form in early would they get in before a child that leaved 3 miles away?</p> <p>A – GY – Once a decision is made we will run a mini admissions process and look at all the applications together.</p>
<p>Q – If we decide to request a place at an alternative school now. Does that not make it is easier for you?</p> <p>A – IB – The Governors of Ysgol Llanfynydd would not want you to do that until a decision has been made, it is important that the schools stability is maintained until a decision has been made. That does not stop a parental right to request a new school.</p>
<p>Q – It is testament to the quality of the school that only 3 children have not come back in September 2015. You ‘MUST’ be able to provide education – my child is in Year 6 and it is the right of the child to provide them continuity. Will Wrexham children be treated equally?</p> <p>A – IB – With regard to admissions – Yes. With regard to transport this will depend in which Authority they reside. Children leaving in Wrexham will have to apply to Wrexham County Council for Transport.</p>
<p>Q – Who is entitled to Transport?</p> <p>A – GY – Pupils who leave more than 2 miles from their nearest school and pupils who walking route is deemed hazardous to the nearest school.</p>
<p>Q – Why are you giving people from Cymau free transport to Abermorddu School?</p> <p>A – GY – I am unable to comment on individual schools but it may depend on where you live in Cymau as Abermorddu may be the nearest school and deemed a hazardous route.</p>
<p>Q – You commented on the standards and the general feel and ambience for a school before, will Cabinet be taking your advice and visiting this fantastic school or will they be taking recommendations of the categorisation?</p>

<p>A – CH – Cabinet Members have already received an invitation to the schools open day. It is up to them if they attend.</p>
<p>Q – Will every letter/email be sent to Cabinet?</p> <p>A – DH – All correspondence both pre-consultation and during the consultation will be made available to Cabinet Members</p>
<p>Q – Would the school be left to go derelict if there is a decision to close Ysgol Llanfynydd?</p> <p>A – DH – No decisions can be made on the future of the building until a decision has been made on the future of the school. If the community wish to put a robust business case forward for community use they can do. If the decision is made to close Ysgol Llanfynydd, Education and Youth will declare the building/site surplus to education requirements and passed over to Asset Management Section.</p>
<p>Q – There has been lots of instability at the school recently and since Mr Ashford has been here the pupils are happy and they think he is funny – we are not against Federation</p> <p>A – IB – I am glad to hear that Mr Ashford’s leadership and his work has been recognised. Governors have the powers to Federate – if you can get a willing partner to work with and provide a sustainable option including working through the governance/leadership and staffing issues by 2nd December and provide as much detail as you can. Cabinet will have to look at this option. Governors have had the power to federate for some time, the Local Authority has only just been given powers to propose federation. Often the stumbling block for Federation has been finding a willing partner. During the last meeting we have checked with Governors that they have a full copy of the Federation guidelines.</p> <p>Q – Can Ysgol Terrig be included in this option of Federation as Mr Ashford is a Welsh speaker</p> <p>A – IB – There can be more than two federation partners, Governors would have to agree and be willing partners.</p> <p>CH – It could be that federating with a Welsh medium school is more sensitive and controversial as it may be that school would want to preserve the welsh culture at the school.</p> <p>Q – would that be your advice to Federate?</p> <p>A – IB – Governors can make the proposal to federate and the Local Authority can propose to Federate, but that does not absolve school organisation intervention, and we would still have to work through the process. If the school wanted to advocate Federation, then this would need to be presented as an option and Members of the Cabinet would need to determine the schools future.</p>
<p>Q – I didn’t fully understand the timetable?</p> <p>A – IB – During the consultation period, responses to the proposal are collected, this is then reported back to cabinet, a consultation report is produced which includes all the issues raised during the consultation period and the Councils response to them. If the Cabinet decided to support that proposal then a statutory notice is issued, this is a legal part of the process which indicates that formalities around the school closure and on what date, with the arrangements for transition. The statutory notice is published for 28 days, during which time anyone can object to the proposal. Following this statutory notice period a post objection report is completed and then Cabinet make a final decision.</p> <p>The process can stop via Cabinet should a new option come to light, this may lengthen the timetable for further considerations.</p>
<p>Q – Are there 34 pupil places available in the local schools network?</p> <p>A – GY – There is available places in the other schools, no school is completely full, space depends on the school. Pupil numbers change on a daily basis as pupils move schools all of the time, so it would be better for contact the Admissions team to get an up to date picture.</p>
<p>Comment - As most of spaces in Ysgol Parc Y Llan, if this school did close I would prefer the children to be together, as less disruption for our children.</p>

IB – If the difficult decision was made to close this school, then the number one priority will be working with pupils and parents, alongside the local authority officers to develop transition plans.

DRAFT

APPENDIX C

DRAFT

Ian Budd
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)

COPY



Your Ref/Eich Cyl

Our Ref/Ein Cyf

Date/Dyddiad 17th November 2015

Ask for Gofynner am Jennie Williams

Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704015

Fax/Ffacs

Dear School Council

Thank you for meeting with us on the afternoon of November 12th 2015 to talk about the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd.

It was important that we met with you to understand how you are feeling and what your views are, in order to share these with Cabinet Members. Thank you all for participating in the session; for your honesty and heart felt answers. You gave us very mature feedback, and your behaviour throughout the session was a credit to yourselves and the school. Enclosed is a summary of the feedback you gave us for you to keep.

We would also like to thank you for completing the children's consultation document (booklet) before the session. If you think of anything else you would like to say about Ysgol Llanfynydd, or if any other pupils in your classes raise any other important points, you can complete additional booklets and return them to: the School Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ND. Or you can Email your comments to: 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk by **2nd December 2015**.

During the session the Chair of the Council asked about the cost of a play worker and whether the funding could be used differently. I can confirm that 'Playful Futures' is a pilot project which costs £4,500 is funded entirely by Welsh Government (not Flintshire Council). There is no cost to the school and the project is delivered for one term only.

Yours sincerely



Claire Broad
Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner



Jennie Williams
Project Officer – School Modernisation

Copy. Sent 23/11

Ysgol Llanfynydd School Council Consultation

Summary

1. What do you like about your school? What would you like to change about your school? Detailed below are pupil responses on the flip chart:

Themes	Responses	Number of Responses
Small numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• That are not many people in the school which makes it good• Its quite small so you get a lot of attention	2
Love	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I love my school• I love Llanfynydd	2
Building and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It's a historic building that has amazing facilities• This school has been open for over 150 years• I like our school field because we are allowed to play on it. We do rugby and rounders	3
Friendly and Happy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safe, everyone has friends, happy• The people know each other• We always have a great time working and its happy	3
Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The teachers rule• The teachers know all about everyone	2
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loads of activities	1

The children stated they did not wish to change anything about Ysgol Llanfynydd.

2. How would you feel if Ysgol Llanfynydd were to close? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

Themes	Responses	Number of Responses
Anger	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angry• I would feel annoyed	2
Sadness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I would feel sad• We'll all be sad but I would feel very sad• I'll be sad!!!• I think everybody would be very sad• I've been here since nursery so it would be very sad• Really sad inside• If the school close I would be sad• Very sad if our school was to close	14

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It wouldn't affect me because I'm in year 6 but I will still feel upset because a lot of my friends are here • Sad, all the friends may be split up • Sad, I wouldn't like it • It would be upsetting to see a historic building close that's been open for a very long time and nearly all my family went to this school • We would lose our memories • We spend most of our life and day at this school 	
Heart broken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would feel heart broken • Heart broken • I would feel heart broken 	3
Friendship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't separate friends • It would be like it is taking friends away • I would feel that I would be alone in my new school for a week 	3
Traumatized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traumatized • Traumatized 	2
Devastated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be devastating to see our lovely school close • I would feel devastated, I have attended it for 8 ½ years and so has my brother so I have known this school for most of my life 	2
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't rip the heart out of our community • Without our school this village would be a ghost town and no one would know each other • This school raises loads of money for charity so if you were to close it, it wouldn't just be us it would be affecting • The school is lovely and safe 	4
Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the teachers would have to get a new job 	1
Sad face / thumbs down		18

3. How do they feel about possibly making new friends? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

Themes	Responses	Number of Responses
Angry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angry face 	1
Awkward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be awkward 	1
Scary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would not like it it would be scary 	1

Nervous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would feel a bit nervous but hopefully it won't shut down • Making new friends is nerve wracking because they might say no! • I'll feel quite nervous 	3
Hate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would hate it so much! No 	1
Don't do it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please don't do it • Don't do it!! 	2
Separation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't want new friends I like my friends now • Boo! I want to keep my friends I've got now • I really like my friends don't break us apart • I would not like to be separate from my friends • I beg you don't separate us • How would you feel if you were separated from your friends? • I am in year 6 so it would not affect me but it will affect all of my friends and I do not want to be split up • Some sisters and brothers will break up • All of my friends might not see each other again • I would not like my school to close as I would always want to know my friends • Keep friends together!!!! • Keep everyone together!!!! • Please don't separate us please • Keep friends together • Me and my friends have known each other for a long time • I love my friend and my school 	16
Mixed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would like making new friends but it still won't be the same • It will be good but I would like to stay with all of my friends • It may be okay 	3
Very hard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be hard • Very hard 	2
Sad face /crying face / other pictures		14
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please care 	1

4. How do they feel about possibly being taught by new teachers? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

Themes	Responses	Number of Responses
Scared	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I would feel scared being taught by a new teacher Scared I would feel very scared!!! Boo!! Even though I'm in year 6 I'm going from a friends point of view and it would be scary because you don't know how nice they are 	4
Not happy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not happy 	1
Nervous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I would feel nervous, very nervous? Nervous! 	2
Strange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would be strange. Boo! 	1
Not the same	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It wouldn't feel the same It would be different because I would have been in this school for nine years it would be so weird being taught by new teachers 	2
Unlike	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boo - I would not like it 	1
Unsure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I don't know! 	1
Fondness of existing staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I love my teachers don't take them away! Noooooo I love my teachers I really like my teachers don't take them away! I might not see them again. My teachers are amazing don't make them get new jobs I love (names of all staff) No!!! I love my teachers!!!! Don't take our teachers away. Boooooooooo I think they should not lose their jobs, it's not their fault if the school closes 	9
Concern about new teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They wouldn't know me so well I wouldn't like to be taught by new teachers because they could be really mean! Bossy Bossy, mean, not the same, boooo and moody Boo - Angry, [?] poo, like nothing No Boo, get out of here 	2
Sad face, thumbs down, other		7
Mixed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would be nice but nothing would be better than Ms Evans and Mr Morgan and the other staff 	1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even if the teachers we may have in the future are the [best?], according to people, I still like ours now! 	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!! • Boo 	2

5. Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead? This question was discussed verbally and some of the suggestions were:

Responses	Number of Pupils
We should stay open	5
The school should not be shut and there are buses that come to the village with no one on them	1
We should join another school	1
We should get more into the school	1
Our friends should stay together	1
How about building an extension	1
We could save money	1
The new head works in another school that should save money	1

6. Would you like to say anything else?

The Chair of the School Council shared his speech with the group which he had prepared himself as he felt very passionate about the school. A copy of the speech was provided.

School Council had met prior to the consultation to discuss the proposal and they had prepared the following questions:

I heard that the play worker cost money about £5,000 – why do we have them if we need to save money

Our schools has a good breakfast and after school club and not all schools have these

How much money do you think you would save by closing the school

Can you make savings anywhere else instead of the closing the school

By using taxis and buses this will cost money – would it be better to keep the school open compared to closing it

Do you really have the heart to close the school and separate siblings and friends

There is planning permission been given to build new homes in the area – where are the new pupils going to go to school if this school closes and Abermorddu school is full

Together we raise lots of money for charity for example for Macmillan. What benefits would closing the school give

We get loads of help from other teachers what would happen to them

What will happen in the future if more money is needed

What would happen to the school building if we closed

Should the buses be running if there is no one on them

I think the lights are turned off in the village after a certain time that would save money

1. If you are taking our headteacher away
what our you gonna give us?

2. Why dont your pupils come to
our school?

3. ~~If~~ If ^(handwritten) ~~you~~ children come here
what will you give us in
return?

...

If the Children come here

- Asferd would have get more
aff and ^{more} ~~more~~ ^{moneys} ~~money~~ so you
ive us some more

lONEY!!!

3. We will have to lay on a
gger bus.

Thursday November 12th 2015

Flintshire threat of closure meeting

Recently you have threatened to close our great school down because you need more money but why would you close this great eco friendly historic school! Here are some reasons why our school is so great and why you shouldn't close it down:

- Our school raises a lot of money for charity each year e.g for Macmillan we raised over £200, for comic relief we raised over £100 and on our welly walk for motor neurone disease we raised over £150 therefore if you closed our school we wouldn't raise thousands of pounds for charity.
- Our school has a massive impact on the community and if it wasn't for this school most of the parents and pupils wouldn't know each other. We also have lots of services with the church
- Our school is very eco friendly and has got its second green flag better than most schools which shows how much this school can accomplish even though it is small.
- The pupils, teachers, parents, governors and all the other people related with the school all have a great relationship with each other and this schools all mean a lot to them. Our school may be the smallest but ours means the most to all of them and means the most to me.

So why would you close down this amazing school! I'm in year 6 so it wouldn't affect me if the school was to close but that doesn't make me one bit relaxed because it's my school and I'm going to fight for it!



Flintshire village school closure threat sparks fury from parents

“We’re not going down without a fight” – that’s the message from defiant parents of children at a closure-threatened school.

Yesterday the [Daily Post](#) reported the future of three primary schools had been thrown into doubt and that a question mark could soon hang over another four amid Flintshire council’s latest education shake-up.

The local authority is considering the potential closure of [Ysgol Maes Edwin](#), [Ysgol Llanfynydd](#) and [Ysgol Mornant](#) by September 2016.

Council leaders also intend to carry out an area review which will shape proposals for the future of Brynford, Lixwm and Nercwys Voluntary Aided primary schools and Ysgol Rhos Helyg.

Parents, grandparents and supporters of Ysgol Maes Edwin in [Flint](#) Mountain reacted furiously to the proposal and launched an online petition and Facebook campaign group within hours of hearing the news.

A group of campaigners spent this afternoon collecting signatures on a written petition in the village and met at the school to discuss future action, including holding a peaceful protest outside the council’s cabinet meeting next week.



Flint Mountain Primary School

Mum-of four Barbara Masters, who launched the online petition and is spearheading the fight to prevent the potential closure, said: “We’re not going down without a fight. People feel really passionate about this school.

“It’s not even been 24 hours and we’ve got more than 400 signatures on the online petition and more than 500 on the Facebook group – it’s overwhelming.

“We’ll be holding a peaceful protest on Tuesday and will be contacting the other schools so we can make a stand together.”

"Shocked and stunned"

Headteacher John Plunkett said he was “shocked and stunned” when he learned of the council’s proposals.

He said the supportive reaction from parents, pupils and the local community had been “incredible”.

Mr Plunkett added: “Our school currently has 73 pupils on roll. This represents a significant year-on-year growth in terms of pupils numbers since 2008 when we had 17 pupils on roll.

“Our school has an admission number of ten pupils per year group. We have space for one pupil in year three and one pupil in year six.

“We are currently over-subscribed in all other year groups. There is very little surplus capacity.

“Today, I have sat the pupils down and explained to them what is happening. Their reaction was one of deep shock and upset.”

The proposals form part of Flintshire council’s ongoing School Modernisation Strategy, which aims to improve education in the county and tackle unfilled places.

Cabinet Approval

A report to the cabinet by Ian Budd, chief officer for education and youth, recommends that they enter into formal consultation “on closure and other school organisation options” for the three schools.

The reorganisation options could include creating federations, where two or more schools are governed under a single body, or amalgamation.

Mr Budd is also seeking approval from the cabinet – due to meet at 9.30am on Tuesday – to press ahead with the review of the four other schools, which could result in recommendations being put forward by January next year.

Ysgol Llanfynydd and Ysgol Mornant refused to comment.

WATCH: Closure-threatened Hope recycling centre given 'stay of execution'



-->

Campaigners have won a temporary reprieve in their fight to save a recycling centre in Hope after Flintshire County Council gave it a "stay of execution".

The council had proposed shutting the facility, which costs £125,000 a year to operate, from June 1 as it struggles to find £18m worth of budget cuts for 2015/16.

More than 20 protesters from [Caergwrle](#) Community Action Group greeted councillors before today's meeting waving placards and shouting "save our tip".

It followed another [peaceful protest on Saturday outside the Hope recycling centre](#).

Community councillor for [Hope](#) Christine Cunnah told how she had been approached by more than 400 residents over the controversial plans while other protesters told of their concerns that closing the facility would increase fly-tipping in the area.

But members of the council's Cabinet today decided to temporarily postpone their decision to allow for more consultation to take place, including looking at proposals to keep it open at weekends only which would cost £80,000 a year.

Changes to bin collections and other recycling centre opening times

Councillors also voted through plans to reduce opening hours at [Flint](#) and [Connah's Quay](#) recycling centres from seven days a week to just Saturday, Sunday and Monday from June 1.

Other changes include the introduction of a charge hand on each bin collection round who will sign off each street once collections have been completed in the hope it will reduce missed bin collections.

Residents will also now be charged for having more than one brown bin (garden waste) while the council will only collect garden waste between March 1 and November 30, as of December 1.

VIEW GALLERY



Dave Healey of Hope, who was among the campaigners opposing the Hope centre closure, said after the meeting: "I am pleased that they have not gone ahead with the closure today, but the community need to remain vigilant. This is just a stay of execution. It is in no terms a victory. We need to keep fighting this."

Cllr Kevin Jones told the meeting it was no longer "affordable" to keep Hope recycling centre open.

He said: "Hope is the worst performer in the whole county in terms of recycling. It is very small and we cannot put sufficient kit in there to develop it.

"We did look at an option to restrict the site to recycling only but given the poor performance and the restriction on space it was deemed that option was not affordable."

Council leader 'fearful' for future of other services if cuts continue

Council leader Aaron Shotton said he understood residents' anger over the proposed closure and said he was "fearful" for the future of services in years to come if financial cuts continue.

He told of his "concern" the Caergwrle ward may currently be under-represented following [the death of Cllr Stella Jones](#) and suggested the decision over closure should be deferred until a new representative was elected on May 7.

While several councillors voiced their support for deferral, Cllr Derek Butler said it had already been discussed "at length" and the site in Hope should not be given "credence" over other communities.

Chief executive of [Flintshire County Council](#) Colin Everett said: "It does need a rigorous and hard business case review, we will look at the possibilities, but we will look at the realities too."

The decision over the centre, which was destined to close by June 1, is expected to be made by Cabinet on June 16.

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Llanfynydd school closure 'would destroy community'

Published date: 10 July 2015 |

Published by: Romilly Scragg

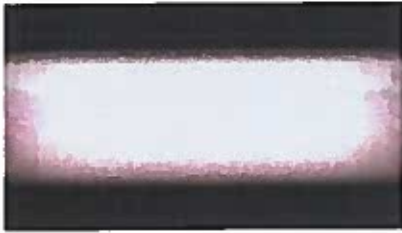
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[Email reporter](#)



A SCHOOL governor has accused education bosses of producing policies fit only for lighting a fire.

ADVERTISING



Parents with children joined governors and staff from Llanfynydd Church in Wales Primary to protest at proposals which could see the school close as part of reorganisation plans.

Campaigners met councillors with protest placards outside County Hall in Mold yesterday ahead of a meeting of Flintshire Council's education and youth overview and scrutiny committee and said now was the wrong time to even consider closing schools.

School parent governor Paul Whybro said closing the school closed contradicted policies which spoke of protecting rural communities and wife Elaine warned that closing the school would mean destroying a community that was resilient. Flintshire Council has begun a consultation into the "closure and other school organisation options" for Ysgol Llanfynydd as well as Ysgol Maes Edwin in Flint and Ysgol Mornant in Gwespyr.

According to the council's education chief Ian Budd, the three schools earmarked for closure meet the "diminishing resource criteria" – when schools raise concern regarding sustainability within the schools portfolio, higher costs per pupil, and unnecessary building and administration costs because of dwindling numbers.

But Mr Whybro from Minera said a lot of people were "pretty devastated" at what was being proposed.

"We can't understand why they want to undertake this process now."

With the current Welsh Government review of county councils likely to see Flintshire merge with Wrexham and possibly also Denbighshire in the coming years, he said the timing was "strange".

Parent governor Louise Thompson said the school was a central part of the community along with the pub, church, garage and post office.

"They all feed off each other," she said. "Footfall through the village will fall if the school closes.

"The school has play equipment for the children to use at other times. The village has no other play facilities – there's no park."

The school also offers a breakfast club, after-school club and French club and has additional facilities for children with disabilities.

Parent Ruth Hodson, who has two children at the school, said she was told that alternative schools could not offer places for both infant and junior children but added that she had chosen Llanfynydd because it was "a brilliant school".

Mr Whybro added: "If you look at the county's policy documents, it's all motherhood and apple pie but when it comes to the crunch, they don't apply it.

"It takes thousands of hours of officers' time to produce these plans and, in the end, you may as well use them to light your fire."

"They say they want resilient and cohesive communities," said Mrs Whybro, "and yet they're willing to destroy one that is resilient. They're contradicting their vision."

Mrs Thompson said members of the committee meeting including Cllr Ian Roberts and Cllr Dave Healey encouraged campaigners to put a case together, telling them "it's not a foregone conclusion".

For more news from across the region visit newsnorthwales.co.uk

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Dylan - I live in Llantynydd and I think that the school plays an important part in the community. We do a lot together like hold events to raise money for charities, for example Macmillan. Apart from saving money, what other benefit would school closure have? I don't think there would be any benefits at all!

8

Beth - Llanfynydd has good breakfast and afterschool clubs. Not all schools have these! Why wouldn't you want to keep a school with such good facilities open?

2

Megan - Do you really have the heart to separate siblings and friends?

6

Information - what makes Ysgol Llanfynydd so good?

10

Archie - Why do you need so much money? Why are you in debt?

7

Ferne + Are there savings that can be made elsewhere?

Lilly - Using taxis and buses to take children to different schools will cost Flintshire County Council a lot of money. Surely it would make more sense to keep the school open?!

5

Hari - Planning permission has been given to build new homes in the local area. Which school would you expect these children to go to? Abermoddu is full!

7

Josh - How much money do you think you would save by closing the school? Is it really worth it?

3

Toby - We get loads of help from all the teachers. What would happen to ~~our teachers?~~ them?

9

T.H.A

22/10/15 meeting called by head teacher.

The Present Sophie, Emily, Danny, Seren, Emily, Jacob,
agenda Joseph, Oliver, Kirstyn.

1. Ysgol Hanfynydd consultation document.

The meeting discussed this document,
filled in the children's vision on behalf
of all pupils.

The head teacher read through the document
and left the meeting while we decided
if we wanted to resubmit.

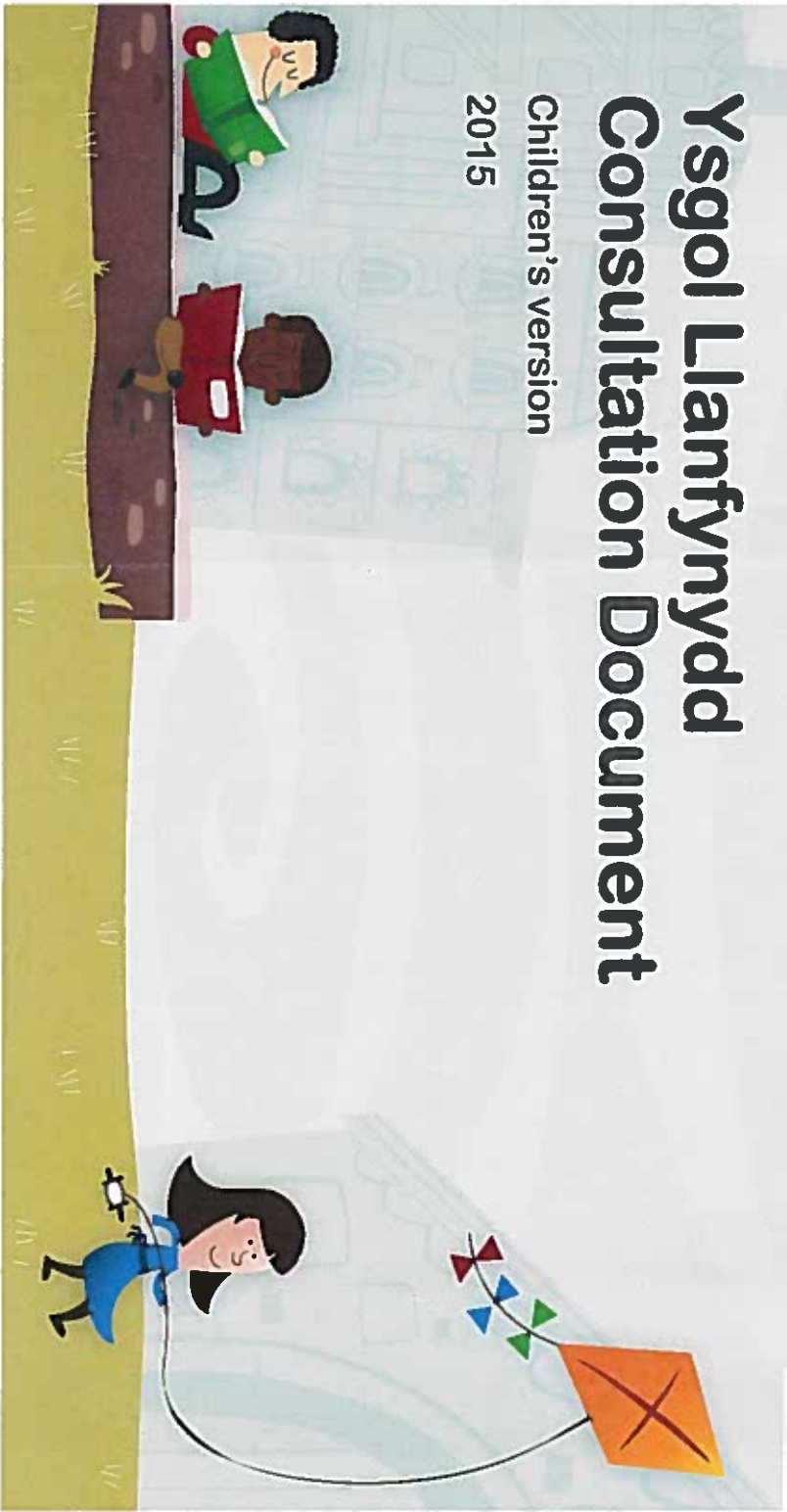
The document was completed and sent to
county hall.

Meeting closed 9:45 am.

Ysgol Llanfynydd Consultation Document

Children's version

2015



Who are we?

Flintshire County Council are responsible for all the schools in our area.

We are part of a team that work for the Council to support schools.



Our Aims

- To give all children the best chance to learn in excellent schools in our area.
- To have safe and strong school buildings.
- To make sure money for children and schools in our area is spent in a fair way.
- To give everyone the opportunity to have their voice heard and listened to, in decisions that affect them.



Changes

It is not always possible for every school to stay as they are and sometimes this means the Council needs to make some important changes.

Changes can help to give everyone the best chance to learn, in the best possible school.



What does this mean?

This could mean that Ysgol
Llanfynydd may close in the future.

If Ysgol Llanfynydd was to close, you
would go to a different school near to
your home address in Flintshire or
Wrexham.



What would change?

If you were to go to a different school, your classroom would change and you would have a new teacher. You would also have a new school uniform.



How long do things take?

October 2015

December 2015

January 2016

September 2016

1. People tell us what they think.

2. We collect all the responses and tell everyone what the main comments are.

3. The Council will have a meeting to decide what to do. We will then let everyone know what the decision is.

4. Any changes agreed will start from this date.



Want to find out more?

If you want to find out more, there is information in a much bigger document on the internet for parents, teachers and members of your school community. Log on to:

www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation



What do you think?

It is very important that we talk to lots of different people about this idea, especially children. Your opinion is important to us.

In this booklet you can write down anything you want to tell us and any ideas you may have.



Which school do you go to now and how old are you?

Abermawddu C.P. school

Student council representing
all pupils aged 4-11

Please write your answers in the box.



How would you feel if Ysgol Llanfynydd were to close?

The Student council had some concerns about the impact on our school

Please tell us what you think by writing your answers in the box.



Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead?

We are sad but we
can't think of an alternative

Please tell us what you think
by writing your answers in
the box.



Would you like to say anything else?

We have full classes
and classes with spaces we
are worried about the
impact on full classes

Please write your answer in the box.



What Happens Next?

Please post your completed booklet to us by Wednesday, 2nd December 2015. Unfortunately, we won't be able to accept anything you send us after this date.

Address: Schools Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ND.

Or you can Email your comments to:
21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk



Thank you





Bwlchgwyn CP School Council Consultation

Summary

1. How would you feel if Ysgol Llanfynydd were to close? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

Responses	Number of Responses
Angry	1
Not fair	1
Sad (including 5 sad faces)	10
Other:	
• I think if the school closes it would be hard for the kids to get to a new school and their parents will have to take time off and won't be able to earn money (sad face)	1
• Stay open (smily face)	1

2. How would you feel about making new friends? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

	Number of Responses
Happy	4
Good	2
Hard for them	2
Worried	1
Shy	1
Awkward	1
They would be frightened	1
Other:	
• Golden Moment box is where you get notes that you see and have been good.	1
• Worry pig is where you put your worries into	1

3. Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead? This question was discussed verbally and some of the suggestions were:

Responses	Number of Pupils
The school could do some fundraising	4
Could they find new ways to get new pupils in	2
Could make the school exciting	1
The looks great	1
Could make the school bigger	2

4. Would you like to say anything else?

The school looks amazing it should not really close

Do they have different class sizes

How many classrooms do they have

The school could visit other schools and could share ideas

Ian Budd
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



Your Ref/Eich Cyl
Our Ref/Ein Cyf
Date/Dyddiad 26th November 2015
Ask for Gofynner am Jennie Williams
Direct Dial Rhif Union 01352 704015
Fax/Ffacs

Dear School Council

Thank you for meeting with us on the afternoon of November 24th 2015 to talk about the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd.

We were really interested to hear your opinions and you raised some interesting points for the Council to consider. Enclosed is a summary of the main themes that were discussed for you to keep.

During the session you were provided with booklets about the proposal. They can be completed if you think of anything else you would like to say about Ysgol Llanfynydd or if any other pupils in your classes raise any important points.

Please return them to: the School Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ND or you can Email your comments to: 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk **this has to be done by 2nd December 2015.**

Yours sincerely

Claire Broad
Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner

Jennie Williams
Project Officer – School Modernisation

Ysgol Estyn School Council Consultation

Summary

1. How would you feel if Ysgol Llanfynydd were to close? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

Responses	Number of Responses
Happy	4
I don't mind	1
Sad	9
Other:	1

2. How would you feel about new pupils starting at Estyn? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

	Number of Responses
Happy about making new friends	3
Happy (including SMILEY FACES)	10
Shy	1
Sad	1
Other: I don't know some people	1

3. Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead? This question was discussed verbally and some of the suggestions were:

Responses	Number of Pupils
Money could be raised for the school so that it doesn't close	1
Could make the school bigger and extend it so more pupils can go	2
Could advertise for more children	1

4. Would you like to say anything else?

Nothing was raised

Ian Budd
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



Your Ref Eich Cyt

Our Ref Ein Cyf

Date Dyddiad 17th November 2015

Ask for Gofynner am Jennie Williams

Direct Dial Rhif Union 01352 704015

Fax Ffacs

Dear School Council

Thank you for meeting with us on the morning of November 13th 2015 to talk about the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd.

We were really interested to hear your opinions and you raised some interesting points for the Council to consider. Enclosed is a summary of the main themes that were discussed for you to keep.

During the session you were provided with booklets about the proposal. They can be completed if you think of anything else you would like to say about Ysgol Llanfynydd or if any other pupils in your classes raise any important points.

Please return them to: the School Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ND or you can Email your comments to: 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk **this has to be done by 2nd December 2015.**

Yours sincerely

Claire Broad
Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner

Jennie Williams
Project Officer – School Modernisation

Ysgol Parc y Llan School Council Consultation

Summary

1. How would you feel if Ysgol Llanfynydd were to close? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

Responses	Number of Responses
Happy	3
Mixed emotions	4
Sad	1
Other: The school would need to pay out more money if there were more pupils and buy more equipment. Pupils wouldn't learn anymore if the school was to close.	3

2. How would you feel about new pupils starting at Ysgol Parc y Llan? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

	Number of Responses
Happy about making new friends	2
Happy (SMILEY FACE)	2
Mixed (great but wouldn't want to lose current friends)	1
Not happy (incase loose current friends)	1

3. Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead? This question was discussed verbally and some of the suggestions were:

Responses	Number of Pupils
Send some pupils from the biggest school in Flintshire (Ysgol Bryn Coch) to Ysgol Llanfynydd	1
Could extend their school to make it bigger?	1
Could their school join together with another school with different school buildings but do the same fund raising?	1
Could the school join together with another school in the same building?	1

4. Would you like to say anything else?

School Council had met prior to the consultation to discuss the proposal and they had prepared the following questions:

- What do we get back for our Head teacher working 2 days a week at Ysgol Llanfynydd?
- Why do the children not come here?
- What will we get in return if we get new children?
- Will we get more staff and more money?
- Will there be a bigger bus from Leeswood to our school as there is sometimes no room on it?

Ian Budd
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



Your Ref/Eich Cyl

Our Ref/Ein Cyf

Date/Dyddiad

10th November 2015

Ask for/Gofynner am

Jennie Williams

Direct Dial/Rhif Union

01352 704015

Fax/Ffacs

Dear School Council

Thank you for meeting with us on the morning of November 10th 2015 to talk about the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd.

We were really interested to hear your opinions and you raised some interesting points for the Council to consider. Enclosed is a summary of the main themes that were discussed for you to keep.

During the session you were provided with booklets about the proposal. They can be completed if you think of anything else you would like to say about Ysgol Llanfynydd or if any other pupils in your classes raise any important points.

Please return them to: the School Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ND or you can Email your comments to: 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk **this has to be done by 2nd December 2015.**

Yours sincerely

Claire Broad
Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner

Jennie Williams
Project Officer – School Modernisation

APPENDIX D

APPENDIX D

Llanfynydd C.P. School
Proposal to close Llanfynydd C.P. School from 31st August 2016
Meeting with affected Primary Schools Headteachers and Chair of Governors
Tuesday, 17th November 2015 at 2.00 p.m. at County Hall, Mold

Present:-

Damian Hughes, Senior Manager School Place Planning and Provision
Jennie Williams, 21st Century Schools Project Officer
Meilir Ashford, Headteacher, Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn
Sue Williams, Headteacher, Bwlchgwyn C.P. School (Wrexham County)
Alison Fisher, Chair of Governors, Bwlchgwyn C.P. School (Wrexham County)

		ACTION
1.	<u>Apologies</u> Dafydd Ifans, Head of Education Transformation and Workforce Development, Wrexham County Borough Council	
2.	<u>Introduction and Welcome</u> DH welcomed the group and advised that he will be meet with the Headteachers and Chair of Governors of the other affected schools Ysgol Estyn, Hope and Abermorddu on Wednesday, 18th November 2015 at 3.30 p.m. at Ysgol Estyn.	
3.	<u>School Modernisation</u> DH advised that Flintshire County Council's Cabinet approved the revised School Modernisation Strategy in January 2015. This document is available at www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation As part of the School Modernisation Programme we are required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure education provision is both high quality and sustainable• Improve the quality of school buildings and facilities• Provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations• Address unsustainable school buildings and supporting infrastructure• Recognise that doing nothing means higher pupil teacher ratios as funding reduces• Ensure that we maximise external funding through the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme.	

	<p>As of PLASC January 2015 the primary school portfolio has 17.15% unfilled places, whilst the national target set by Welsh Government is to reduce this level to under 10%.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Consultation Documents</u></p> <p>The formal consultation period commenced on Wednesday, 21st October 2015 and ends on Wednesday, 2nd December 2015 on the 'Proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd (English Medium, Community School) as of 31st August 2016 with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area subject to parental preference.</p> <p>A formal consultation document along with supporting Impact Assessments (Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Transport Impact Assessment and Community Impact Assessment) and a Children and Young People's document has been produced and is available to view either on-line at www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation or hard copies are available on request by either emailing 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk or telephoning 01352 704134.</p> <p>The majority of the data included within the document is based on information returns provided by the school (i.e. PLASC; My Local School etc.)</p> <p>DH asked the Headteachers of Ysgol Parc Y Llan and Bwlchgwyn for confirmation on the follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school received a copy of the email from School Modernisation on 21st October 2015 at 14.17, requesting that the school make Parents/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents aware of the link to the Consultation documents. • 5 x Hard copies of the Formal Consultation Document, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Community Impact Assessment, Transport Impact Assessment and Children and Young People's Document were hand delivered by the School Modernisation Team on 21st October 2015 and are available to view at the school's reception for Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents. These were also signed for on delivery by a member of staff at the affected school. • The format in which they made Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents aware of the link. <p>Ysgol Parc Y Llan and Bwlchgwyn confirmed they had received the documentation and Parent/Carers/</p>	

	<p>Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents had been made aware of the link via an A5 hard copy note advising of the link.</p> <p>As part of the School Organisation Code Consultation process the Authority is required to consult with the School Council of the affected Schools.</p> <p>The Headteacher of Ysgol Parc Y Llan Treuddyn confirmed that Claire Broad and Jennie Williams had met with the School Council of Ysgol Parc Y Llan on 10th November 2015 at 11.00 a.m.</p> <p>The Headteacher of Bwlchgwyn C.P. confirmed that Claire Broad and Jennie Williams were meeting with the School Council of Bwlchgwyn C.P. on 24th November 2015 at 1.00 p.m.</p> <p>All consultation feedback will be collated and form part of the consultation report which will be considered by Cabinet, who will decide on whether to proceed with the proposal.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Revised Timeline</u></p> <p>DH circulated a copy of the revised (October 2015) anticipated Timetable Statutory Proposals Llanfynydd C.P. showing the key milestones.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Actions for Headteachers/Governors</u></p> <p>As an affected primary school to the proposal, the Authority would be hopeful to receive a response from the Governors.</p>	

Llanfynydd C.P. School
Proposal to close Llanfynydd C.P. School from 31st August 2016
Meeting with affected Primary Schools Headteachers and Chair of Governors
Wednesday, 18th November 2015 at 3.30 p.m. at Ysgol Estyn, Hope

Present:-

Damian Hughes, Senior Manager School Place Planning and Provision
 Jennie Williams, 21st Century Schools Project Officer
 Gareth Jones, Headteacher, Ysgol Estyn, Hope
 Chair of Governors, Ysgol Estyn, Hope
 Ian Roberts, Headteacher, Ysgol Estyn, Hope

		ACTION
1.	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>None</p>	
2.	<p><u>Introduction and Welcome</u></p> <p>DH welcomed the group and advised that he will be meet with the Headteachers and Chair of Governors of the other affected schools Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn and Bwlchwyn C.P. on Tuesday, 17th November 2015 at 2.00 p.m. in County Hall, Mold.</p>	
3.	<p><u>School Modernisation</u></p> <p>DH advised that Flintshire County Council's Cabinet approved the revised School Modernisation Strategy in January 2015. This document is available at www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation</p> <p>As part of the School Modernisation Programme we are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure education provision is both high quality and sustainable • Improve the quality of school buildings and facilities • Provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations • Address unsustainable school buildings and supporting infrastructure • Recognise that doing nothing means higher pupil teacher ratios as funding reduces • Ensure that we maximise external funding through the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme. 	

	<p>As of PLASC January 2015 the primary school portfolio has 17.15% unfilled places, whilst the national target set by Welsh Government is to reduce this level to under 10%.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Consultation Documents</u></p> <p>The formal consultation period commenced on Wednesday, 21st October 2015 and ends on Wednesday, 2nd December 2015 on the 'Proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd (English Medium, Community School) as of 31st August 2016 with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area subject to parental preference.</p> <p>A formal consultation document along with supporting Impact Assessments (Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Transport Impact Assessment and Community Impact Assessment) and a Children and Young People's document has been produced and is available to view either on-line at www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation or hard copies are available on request by either emailing 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk or telephoning 01352 704134.</p> <p>The majority of the data included within the document is based on information returns provided by the school (i.e. PLASC; My Local School etc.)</p> <p>DH asked the Headteachers of Ysgol Estyn, Hope and Abermorddu C.P. for confirmation on the follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school received a copy of the email from School Modernisation on 21st October 2015 at 14.17, requesting that the school make Parents/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents aware of the link to the Consultation documents. • 5 x Hard copies of the Formal Consultation Document, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Community Impact Assessment, Transport Impact Assessment and Children and Young People's Document were hand delivered by the School Modernisation Team on 21st October 2015 and are available to view at the school's reception for Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents. These were also signed for on delivery by a member of staff at the affected school. • The format in which they made Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents aware of the link. 	

	<p>Ysgol Estyn, Hope and Bwlchgwyn C.P. confirmed they had received the documentation and Parent/Carers/ Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents had been made aware of the link via an A5 hard copy note advising of the link.</p> <p>As part of the School Organisation Code Consultation process the Authority is required to consult with the School Council of the affected Schools.</p> <p>The Headteacher of Ysgol Estyn, Hope confirmed that Claire Broad and Jennie Williams had met with the School Council of Ysgol Estyn, Hope on 11th November 2015 at 11.00 a.m.</p> <p>The Headteacher of Abermorddu C.P. confirmed that the school had carried out their own consultation with the School Council and would provide the notes to the School Modernisation Team.</p> <p>All consultation feedback will be collated and form part of the consultation report which will be considered by Cabinet, who will decide on whether to proceed with the proposal.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Revised Timeline</u></p> <p>DH circulated a copy of the revised (October 2015) anticipated Timetable Statutory Proposals Llanfynydd C.P. showing the key milestones.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Actions for Headteachers/Governors</u></p> <p>As an affected primary school to the proposal, the Authority would be hopeful to receive a response from the Governors.</p>	

APPENDIX E

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APPENDIX E

Summary of Issues and Responses

Impact on pupils

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer groups and siblings may be split up. • Breaches the UN rights of the child. • Children will lose friends. • Distress and psychological impact. • Detrimental effect on pupils. • Children will be heartbroken. • Transition and how it can be managed successfully for vulnerable learners. • Timeline changes means less time to find a new school. • There is a high % of additional learning children at the school. • Some pupils have already transferred from large primary schools. • Wish not to send child to large primary school. <p>Positive Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our school would welcome any pupils wishing to transfer. 	<p>When proposing changes to school organisation it is acknowledged that there will be some changes for pupils. Should the proposal be implemented and Ysgol Llanfynydd be closed it would result in changes for the existing pupils such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A marginally longer route to school for pupils who reside in the Llanfynydd area • A shorter journey time for pupils who reside in the Wrexham area • A new school uniform • New teachers and support staff • New learning environment • Friendship groups may be affected, however, new friendships can be formed. <p>The council and affected schools have a duty to support appropriate transition should Ysgol Llanfynydd close.</p>
<p>Pupils comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about impact of closing school. • Concern peer groups and siblings will be split up. • The upset that closing the school would have on us. • Concern over friends being split up. • Sadness and anger should the school close. • It would be strange. • New teachers would not know us that well. • Would be concerned about losing current friends. • Please don't separate us. • Keep us together. • I love my teachers. • I feel safe. <p>Other terminology used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heartbroken, traumatised, devastated, awkward, scary, nervous, annoyed, angry and shy. <p>Positive Comments:</p> <p>Would like to make new friends. Would be happy to make new friends.</p>	<p>The Council would take all practicable steps to ease the transition for all pupils, most especially for vulnerable groups of learners such as Additional Learning Needs (ALN). Should the proposal be implemented the Council would work alongside pupils, their parents, and the relevant schools to make appropriate transition arrangements for pupils to familiarise themselves with their new environments (subject to parental preference).</p> <p>Where pupils have specific ALN needs the resource and support they require would be replicated in their new learning environments.</p> <p>The Council will run a mini admissions cycle to support parents with transition to another school should the school close.</p> <p>The Statutory timeline, complies with the School Organisation code. The timeline allows sufficient time for parent/carers and pupils to select an alternative school and allow effect transition should Ysgol Llanfynydd close.</p>

Strengths of Ysgol Llanfynydd

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school is amazing. • The school has a community/family feel. • The small school environment works for my child. • Quality of the Teaching staff. • School is the hub of the community. • It would be a shame to close a good school. • Small school is good. • High standards at the school. 	<p>The positive responses from consultees regarding Ysgol Llanfynydd are noted.</p> <p>Reviewing the future of any school is controversial and emotive. Pupils, parents, carers and teachers, past and present, have strong ties to local schools as part of their own life-stories. The Council is challenged with balancing the sensitivities of community feeling on the one hand, with providing a high quality education offer which can be sustained and afforded. The Council cannot avoid making decisions for the future which are in the best interests of pupils and students.</p>
<p>Pupils comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has many positives, it's a family school. • It's a lovely community school. The school is in a lovely building. • The school has lovely excellent supportive teaching staff. • We are a small school that can do many things • We raise lots of money for charity, and we have lots of after school clubs. • We are friendly and happy. • We are an Eco School. • I love my school. • It's a historic building. • It's quite small so you get a lot of attention. 	

Alternative Suggestions:

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would should federate with another school. • Federation with Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn. • We are already sharing the Headteacher with Parc Y Llan. • We are proving we can make federation work. • The Council should support community regeneration to help increase the numbers of families in the area. • Offer places to parents out of the area. • Advertise places to overfilled schools. • The school can save more money. 	<p>The Council has given careful consideration to a range of alternative options as part of the development of the current proposal. In considering these options reference has been made to the main investment objectives of the school modernisation strategy which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to raise educational standards • Creating the conditions for school leaders to succeed • Ensuring that school buildings are attractive learning and working environments • Reducing the number of unfilled places and the inequity of variation in cost per pupil; and • Providing resilience against falling revenue funding

In Ofsted's report on Federation (2011) Three main reasons were given for federating. Some schools had been approached by a Council to help a struggling school; others were small schools in danger of closure or unable to recruit high quality staff; and others were seeking to strengthen the overall education of pupils in their communities.

There are clear benefits by working together, through federation and other partnership arrangements, schools can:

- raise their standards, for example, by shared training and working practices, encouraging their staff to support each other and developing integrated curriculum and pastoral policies;
- offer pupils a wider range of opportunities, for example, by holding joint activities or sharing facilities or teachers that might be difficult to sustain individually;
- develop a range of extended services and activities for pupils and the wider community;
- improve their leadership and management, for example, through shared headship; and
- maximise the sharing of resources, taking advantage of economies of scale.

However, Federal arrangements in schools often fail to meet a number of the key drivers of school modernisation. Key issues include:

- **Suitable Buildings –** The 21st Century programme funding arrangements from WG rely on rationalisation of school estate to generate revenue saving to enable access prudential borrowing. Additionally in some cases sale of surplus estate, will also generate capital receipts both are used to find the Local Authority's 50% contribution to the programme. Federal arrangements will not rationalise the estate, therefore the revenue saving will be either nil or limited to small potential savings in the school allocations and only if formula allocations and/ or structures can be changed.
- **Unfilled Places -** As Federal arrangements do not rationalise

	<p>school estate, reducing unfilled places is limited to mothballing areas of schools, this may or may not be achievable in individual schools for operational, practicable or building related reasons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diminishing Resources – Federal arrangements do not support large revenue savings, instead small potential savings in the school allocations could potentially be achievable through the formula allocations if staffing structures were changed. The building related costs would remain as they are currently. <p>At the time of writing this report the Governing body of Ysgol Llanfynydd have not identified a willing partnering school or schools in which to pursue a federation.</p>
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Impact on Community

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School has been an integral part of this community and outlying villages. • Devastating effects on the community and local businesses. • Detrimental impact on the village. • Going against the corporate governance document under responsibilities that the Council should 'work for and with its communities. • School have served the village for years. • If the school closes the Council would be ripping the heart out of the community. • Links with community groups, church etc. would be removed if the school closed. 	<p>A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out and the Council acknowledges that where a school closure is proposed it will have some impact on the local community. The school is not widely used by the community.</p> <p>However, the Council will work with the schools and community to mitigate impacts where possible.</p> <p>The Council have no plans for the site, and will not consider the future of the site until such time as the school's future is determined.</p> <p>The Council could consider transferring the asset or part of the asset to a constituted community group where it can demonstrate a need and ability to take over the running of the site.</p>

Consultation Document

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inaccurate information. • Estyn report is outdated. • Costs for the roof seems overestimated. • Document is negative. 	<p>The School Modernisation Team uses the latest verified data at the time of constructing the consultation documents:</p>

- Document is biased towards closure.
- Document is not balanced.
- Information has been cherry picked.

- **School pupil numbers and more detailed information around pupils (for example Additional Learning Needs, English as an Additional Language and School action/school action plus/statemented) are obtained from the schools own statistical returns (September or January)**
- **Estyn data is obtained from the schools last Estyn inspection. Timing of inspections will depend on Estyn's own inspection cycle.**
- **National Welsh Government categorisation data, is based on the school returns. The Council use the most up to date data at the time of document construction from the Welsh Government website. Welsh Government update their national data base annually.**
- **GwE (The Regional School Improvement Service) data is fed into the Welsh Government's national categorisation system.**
- **The Welsh Government's national Measuring Capacity of Schools in Wales forms are verified by Head teachers, this provides the School Capacity and Admission Number.**
- **Unfilled places are recorded by Welsh Government; the Council provide its returns to Welsh Government annually; they are also based on official school returns.**
- **Birth Information by area is obtained from the Office of National Statistics**
- **Pupil projections are aligned with the methodology as neighbouring Authorities with North Wales**
- **Housing development information is based on actual current housing applications provided from the Planning Officers.**
- **Potential pupils which may be generated from new housing developments is calculated using a formula providing by a partnering Authority (Conwy CBC) who derive the formula based on the latest census returns.**
- **Pupil teacher ratios are provided by publically available statistics on a school (<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk>), provided by Welsh Government and is updated on an annual basis.**
- **Foundation Phase and Core Subject Outcomes are provided by publically available statistics on a school (<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk>), provided by Welsh Government is updated on an annual basis**
- **School Building condition information is provided by an external company who compare the school building condition**

against the building bulletin for Primary and Secondary schools

- Backlog maintenance information is provided by through independent consultants Property Condition Surveys are undertaken on a 5 year cycle.

Priority Codes [definition] are as follows:-

Priority 1: Urgent work required to be undertaken within 1 year

Priority 2: Essential work required to be undertaken within 2 years

Priority 3: Desirable work [deemed as] required to be undertaken within 3 to 5 years

Priority 4: Long term work [deemed as] required to be undertaken outside the 5 year [cycle] period

The element Total 1 - 3 defines a five year financial investment and element 4 defines a six - ten year financial investment.

The roof at Ysgol Llanfynydd has slipping slates due to nail [fixings] fatigue associated with the main duo pitched roof. Additionally the roof has the original old lath and plaster beneath, which would also need to be replaced.

Work items are costed by the Consultant and include for preliminaries, labour, plant and materials etc. These costs are based on the current building cost information service [BCIS] provided by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, [RICS] as the leading provider of cost and price information within the construction and maintenance areas. These costs [Unit Rates] are present within the condition survey software to a default figure and amended/updated as required by the Consultant. The budget costings are exclusive of VAT, updated annually [using inflation indices] and reviewed post completion of work.

- School suitability information is provided from Suitability surveys undertaken independently in line with DffE Asset Management guidance and reviewed by FCC officers and amended if work has been completed at schools post initial survey.

- School Budgetary Work is conducted using agreed formula as per the School budget forum. Cost per pupil data is obtained from the Authority's section 52 budget statements.

- Travel distances between school sites is provided by the Flintshire County Council mapping system Route Finder 3.41

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport costs are provided by the infrastructure unit who administer home to school transport contracts. <p>The Council has demonstrated in its consultation documents that there is sufficient capacity within the local school network to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Llanfynydd should it close, this view is upheld by Estyn. However, additional places if required can be established at Ysgol Parc y Llan, Treuddyn at either no cost or minimum cost.</p>
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Alternative Provision and Educational Standards

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Llanfynydd is a very good school education wise - why are children having this opportunity taken from them. • It's a successful school. • Only one of the alternative schools meet the standards of the school and there is not enough space. 	<p>The consultation document has identified alternative schools that at least maintain the present standards of education provision in the area.</p> <p>Estyn have provided a response it the consultation. It is Estyn's opinion that this proposal is likely to at least maintain the present standards of education provision in the area. Overall, pupil outcomes in all four alternative schools are currently good, with all schools judged as having the necessary capacity to improve further. Pupil attendance in all of these schools is good.</p>

Housing Development

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing development in Abermorddu have been underestimated. • The report does not take into account the Local Development Plan for potential housing developments. • The development in Parc Celyn has not been fully taken into consideration. 	<p>The Council has fully considered school capacity in the area together with potential housing development yield within its consultation documents.</p> <p>Data regarding potential pupils which could be generated from new housing developments is calculated using a housing yield formula. The housing yield formula has been derived from research work based on national census data from a partnering authority. This was applied to all current housing development planning applications approved by the planning authority.</p> <p>The housing yield figures produced are a maximum figure and do not take into account parental choice and/or pupil movement i.e. pupils moving into the new homes but who are already in the local education system.</p>

	<p>The pace of housing developments will be constrained by the plans of the site owners/developers, the housing market, current economic climate and other factors which are unpredictable.</p> <p>The Council is satisfied that should Ysgol Llanfynydd close, the local school network has the capacity to sustain the necessary potential impact of current and future housing developments.</p>
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Consultation Process

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have not held a consultation meeting for the community. The timescales have moved which means less time to sort a new school out for my child. 	<p>The process follows regulatory guidance as set out in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2013.</p> <p>There is no requirement contained within the School Organisation Code to hold meetings.</p>

Family Connections with the School

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school has been open for over 150 years. It's a historic building. Many families have been through the school. All my family have been educated at this school. 	<p>The responses from consultees regarding Ysgol Llanfynydd are noted.</p> <p>Reviewing the future of any school is controversial and emotive. Pupils, parents, carers and teachers, past and present, have strong ties to local schools as part of their own life-stories. The Council is challenged with balancing the sensitivities of community feeling on the one hand, with providing a high quality education offer which can be sustained and afforded. The Council cannot avoid making decisions for the future which are in the best interests of pupils and students.</p>

Admission Process

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The admissions procedure is not clear 	<p>The Admissions information is available on the council's website on the following link: http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Admissions.aspx</p> <p>The council will run a mini admission process once the future of the school has been decided. The Admissions Team will work with each individual family to discuss their options.</p>

Impact of the Proposals on School Numbers

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flintshire's own actions have created an atmosphere of uncertainty for parents of school age children Parents who would have had their children admitted to Llanfynydd have been scared away by the authority's actions particularly since 2012. Current low numbers are at least partly due to the uncertainty about the school's future. 	<p>The Council has to follow the process as defined by the School Organisation Code.</p> <p>The Council acknowledges that statutory consultation around school organisation change will cause a level of uncertainty within the local school community, which can be a contributory factor in pupil number reduction.</p>

Impact of the Proposals on Other Schools

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic will increase in the Abermorddu area. Our classes will increase in numbers. 	<p>Currently there is no free transport provision to Ysgol Llanfynydd. The proposal would mean that some parents would be entitled to free home to school transport (subject to transport policy) for their children, which would reduce the number of parental vehicles transporting children to and from school.</p> <p>An excessive number of unfilled places unproductively tie up resources. As schools funding and provision are largely driven by pupil numbers, unfilled capacity means a disproportionate amount of funding is spent on infrastructure (such as buildings) and the "fixed costs" of running a school (such as leadership and administration).</p> <p>This funding could be better used to ensure that pupil teacher ratios are maximised to make a direct difference to learners. As public service funding reduces over forthcoming years the case for reprioritisation and change becomes even more compelling.</p>

Impact of the Proposals on Transport Costs

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The transport costs do not look correct. 	<p>Transport eligibility is determined by the Authority in which the pupil resides. Seventeen pupils who live in Flintshire would be entitled to free home to school transport based on the assumption that pupils transfer to their nearest school (Ysgol Parc Y Llan) on the basis of the following grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the nearest appropriate available school is more than 2 miles away; That the route to the alternative schools would be considered to be hazardous by the Council due to its rural location which has limited footpaths in and out of the village. <p>The estimated annual costs of transport as a result of the proposal are £16,150. However, actual transport costs can only be fully assessed once all families have chosen their preferred school.</p>

Impact of the Proposals on Teaching Staff

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What will happen to the teaching staff Redundancies 	<p>Should the current proposals be implemented, the Council will work with the current members of staff at Ysgol Llanfynydd, including teaching and support staff, should they seek redeployment opportunities. Staff displaced by the proposal may have the opportunity to be employed in the local primary network.</p>

Other comments

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who will be expected to pay for all the new uniforms, book bags and PE kits. 	<p>A school uniform exchange is available for Flintshire pupils. The School Uniform Exchange aims to encourage the people of Flintshire to recycle and donate unwanted or unused school uniform items rather than putting them in the bin. All donated school uniform is available for sale in Nightingale House. Hospice shops throughout Flintshire at a significantly reduced cost compared to high street prices.</p> <p>It is also fairly typical that most pupils will require new uniforms as they enter into a new academic year, therefore there may be a</p>

	requirement to purchase a new uniform regardless of what school the pupil attended.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ysgol Llanfynydd has an breakfast club and after school club and Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn doesn't 	Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn does have a breakfast club and after school club facility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will happen to the school site should the school close? 	The Council has no plans for the site, and will not consider the future of the site until such time as to the school's future is determined. Should the proposal be implemented Ysgol Llanfynydd (building and site) would be declared surplus to Education and transferred to the Property Asset Team at Flintshire County Council.

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APPENDIX F

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APPENDIX F

Summary of responses to Standard Response Forms

Question 1 Do you agree with the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd by 31st August 2016?

	Total	Percentage
Yes	0	0%
No	35	100%
	35	

Question 2 Please tell us if you are responding as:

Type	Total	Percentage
Pupil	0	0%
Parent/Carer	11	31.4%
Governor	0	0%
Teacher	0	0%
Support Staff	2	5.7%
Local Resident	17	48.6%
Other	11	31.4%
Skipped Question	8	22.9%
	49*	

* Respondents were able to respond in more than one capacity. This explains why the total is greater than the number of respondents.

Comment: All of the respondents who are directly involved with the school (e.g. staff, governors, pupils, parents, carers, guardians) were against the proposal.

Question 3 Please tell us do you have any alternative suggestions for sustainable education provision in Flint Mountain?

Alternative Suggestion	Total	Percentage
Federation	19	54.3%
The school should remain open	5	14.3%
Pupil numbers could be increased by promotion and community regeneration	3	8.6%
Use some space to establish wrap around care, making some income	1	2.9%
The school could try and save more money	1	2.9%
The roof costs are exaggerated and work could be undertaken much cheaper	1	2.9%
Pupil numbers have been detrimentally affected by the inability of previous Governors and teaching staff	1	2.9%

Could the school become an academy	1	2.9%
Consultation document has been commissioned to justify closure and is not objective	1	2.9%
Reduce the schools capacity	1	2.9%
Use the building more effectively	1	2.9%
TOTAL	35	

Comment: Of the 35 respondents, 28 answered the question and 8 skipped the question. The majority of people who responded said that they would like to see Federation with another school as an alternative.

Question 4 Additional comments or views regarding the proposal.

Please note that the responses to this question have been considered as part of the main consultation responses in **Appendix E.**

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APPENDIX G

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Estyn response to the proposal by Flintshire County Council to close Ysgol Llanfynydd, an English medium community primary school as of 31st August 2016

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government.

Introduction/Proposal

- This is a consultation proposal by Flintshire County Council.
- The proposal is that Flintshire County Council close Ysgol Llanfynydd from 31st August 2016 with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area, subject to parental preference

Background

- Ysgol Llanfynydd in a small English-medium primary school situated in the village of Llanfynydd, Flintshire.
- The school currently has 34 pupils on role, a decrease from 42 pupils in January 2015. Predictions indicate that over the next four years, pupil numbers are not set to rise. Capacity at the school is 80 pupils.
- The current individual school budget per pupil is £4,838. This is the highest of all primary schools in Flintshire.
- The Local Authority currently has 17.5% unfilled primary places, which is significantly above the national target of less than 10%. In January 2015, they published a 'Revised School Modernisation Strategy'. To assist with reducing surplus school places, proposals within this strategy include closing any primary school with less than 105 full time places.

Summary/ Conclusion

It is Estyn's opinion that this proposal is likely to at least maintain the present standards of education provision in the area. Overall, pupil outcomes in all four alternative schools are currently good, with all schools judged as having the necessary capacity to improve further. Pupil attendance in all of these schools is good.

The four local schools currently have 58 unfilled places between them with the potential for this to be increased to 63. This would be sufficient to accommodate all pupils currently attending Ysgol Llanfynydd. Based on approved planning applications for new housing developments within the catchments of the four schools, the proposers predict that an additional 15 primary places will be needed. These figures when added to the pupils at Ysgol Llanfynydd, still demonstrate capacity within the existing four schools to manage this increased demand for school places.

The proposers have considered two alternative options:

- Maintaining the status quo

- Federating or amalgamating the school with another school

The proposer outlines the expected benefits and disadvantages of the two options appropriately. The proposal has also appropriately considered the advantages and disadvantages of each option against the key drivers of educational improvement, suitable buildings, unfilled places, diminishing resources and resilient school leadership.

The proposers have also recognised the potential impact of closure on the local community and have completed a community impact assessment. This has identified a number of possible areas where closure could have a negative impact on a small number of local families and the village community as a whole. For example, on long term provision for community groups

Based on this process, the proposal appropriately outlines the reasons for discounting alternative options and the reasons for their preferred option. The Local Authority believes that longer-term benefits for pupils outweigh any disadvantages

The proposer has suitably identified the relevant risks relating to the proposal and has outlined clearly how these risks will be managed. However, the proposer has not clearly identified how they will manage the risk of parents not being able to choose their preferred alternative school

The proposer has given suitable consideration to the impact of the proposal on pupils' travel arrangements and their ability to access the provision. The proposer has clearly identified that for 15 of the current 34 pupils attending Ysgol Llanfynydd, this is not their nearest school. They have predicted that 17 pupils who would have attended Ysgol Llanfynydd in September 2016 would be entitled to free transport to an alternative school. This would incur an annual cost of £16,150. The proposal has identified that for most pupils living in the Llanfynydd area, distance to school would increase but not in excess of Welsh Government guidelines. Routes to and from schools in the area have been considered as hazardous due to its rural location and limited safe walking routes through the village.

The proposer has completed a detailed separate equality and Welsh language impact assessment to consider the potential impact in respect of all areas of equality and Welsh language and the potential ways in which the impact can be limited and a positive impact can be promoted.

This assessment summarises that there are no obvious negative impacts on Welsh Language provision. Subject to parental preference, there is the option for pupils from Ysgol Llanfynydd to access Welsh medium education at other Flintshire schools should the proposal to close the school go ahead.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposal contains useful details about the four alternative schools concerned, including

- Judgements from most recent Estyn reports
- Current Welsh Government categorisation including Standards groups and capacity to improve
- Current level of support from the local authority
- Attendance levels over time
- Class organisation

Three of the four alternative schools are currently in Welsh Government's 'Standards Group 3' with one school in 'Standards Group 1'. All four schools are currently judged as 'yellow' effective schools that know the areas in which they need to improve schools. Their capacity to improve is categorised as good.

The proposer provides detailed information on each of the alternative school's capacity to provide a broad and balanced curriculum at both the Foundation Phase and key stage 2. It outlines judgements made in the most recent Estyn inspection reports and progress that each school has made in addressing their recommendations. The proposal judges that each school has the capacity to at least maintain current standards in terms of curriculum delivery.

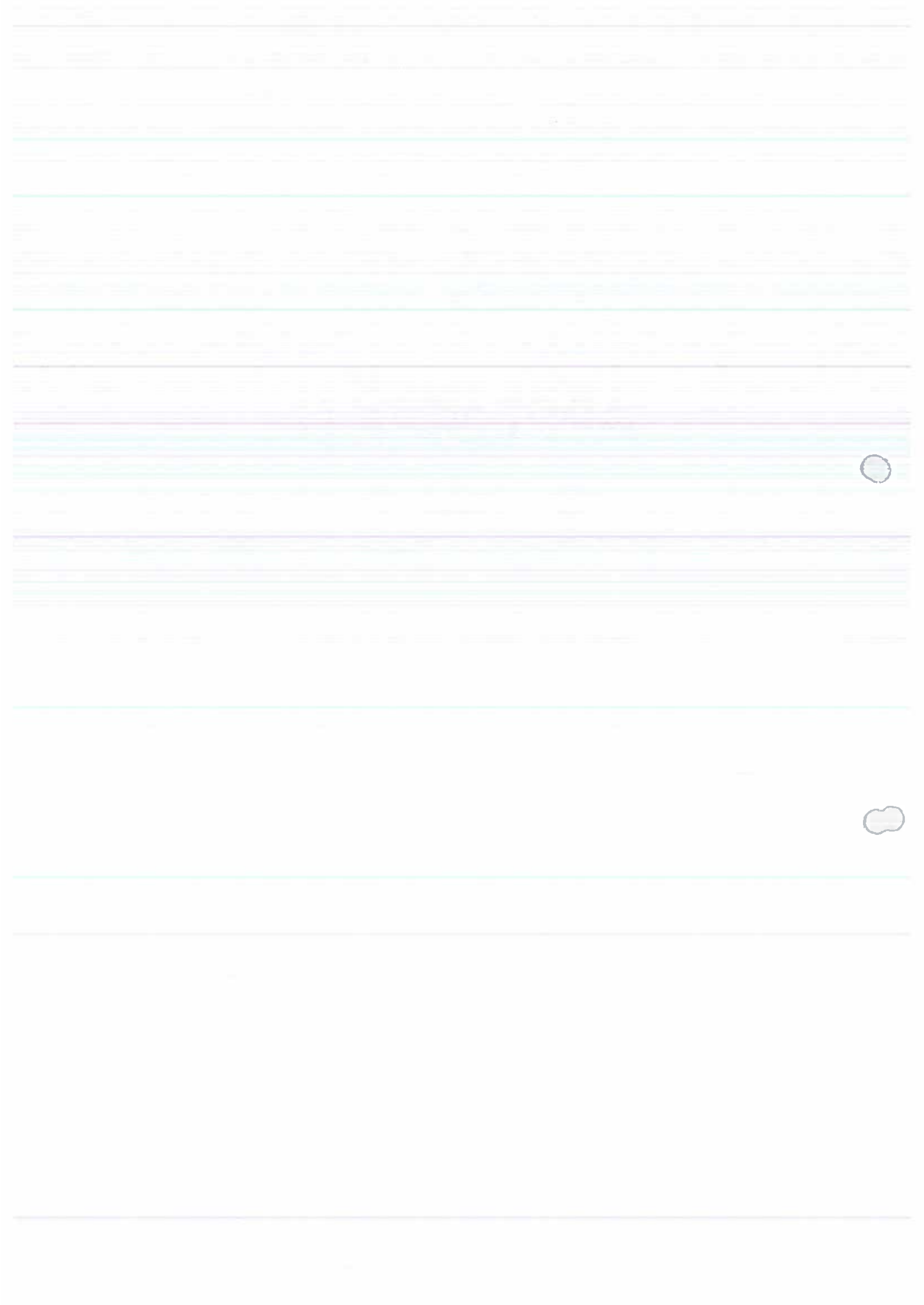
The document also gives a detailed analysis of each school's most recent property building survey. These show that each school is in a similar satisfactory condition fit to effectively deliver the primary curriculum.

The proposer has undertaken a detailed equality impact assessment that carefully considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with special educational needs and with mobility issues. Where available, comments from the most recent Estyn reports from each of the alternative providers, judges their provision for pupils with additional learners needs as good.

The proposer suitably recognises the potential additional challenge of change for many pupils and accurately considers how transition would be managed successfully these more vulnerable groups of learners.

APPENDIX H

DRAFT



Our Ref: DH/HR.fcc.ed.s

Mr Colin Everett
Chief Executive
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
Flintshire CH7 6NF

1st December 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

RE: Ysgol Llanfynydd

I have been approached by two constituents, who are concerned, with regard to the possible closure of the above school. The points raised are as follows:

Estyn status - The schools modernisation agenda document states that where schools are to be closed, the children attending must be offered a space in a school with equivalent or higher Estyn category. I understand that the schools mentioned in the document, Abermorddu, Hope and Bwlchgwn all hold Estyn category 3, whilst Llanfynydd is category 2. Parc y Llan in treuddyn cannot accommodate all the children in Ysgol Llanfynydd. I understand there is also a concern for places for Year 3 children.

Some constituents have two or three children in Ysgol Llanfynydd. Could they be accommodated in the same school, to ease transport difficulties for parents.

The consultation documents state that 44% of the children attending Llanfynydd are not from the immediate area. I understand that all these children are there for a reason, with many of them having been bullied or unhappy in other schools.

I am informed that 16.7% of children at the school have additional needs, higher than many other schools, believed to be due to it being a small supportive school with excellent facilities.

I understand that although not a Welsh medium school, Ysgol Llanfynydd has Welsh speaking staff and it is more widely spoken there than many of the bigger primary's. Llanfynydd embraces this, the children are involved in eisteddfod's every year both within the school, surrounding schools and the county too. My constituents feel that to close the school is an attack on Welsh in itself, as Ysgol Llanfynydd is very much involved, with all the important Welsh days being celebrated at the school.

I understand that Ysgol Llanfynydd is the only primary school in the area that is all on one level with superb disabled access and facilities including a wet room and physio bed. My constituents feel that this should be promoted with the school and in the area!

The consultation papers identify that £80,000 is required to do the school roof in the next year. However, my constituents feel there is nothing wrong with the roof and understand that no one has even looked at the roof. Furthermore, my constituents believe that the papers do not include monies received from Wrexham for children that reside in Wrexham but come to school in Llanfynydd, and are querying why these figures have been omitted from the document.

The papers reference to travel expenses states 17 children will require transport, cost £16,150. However, this is only the children who would have to travel over three miles. The council are also to provide transport for children whose journey to school is not a safe walking route, which would include pretty much every child in the school. Again, my constituents are querying why these have not been included in the travel costs?

My constituents are asking if the school is to be shut and parents send their children to schools which are not their closest, will the County Council remove all provided travel?

I understand that, using the Estyn tables and charts in the consultation papers, Ysgol Llanfynydd has excellent results, including 100% in foundation phase outcome.

With regard to wrap around care, I understand the mini villagers is currently based in the school, and that many of the issues stated regarding Llanfynydd such as no car parking, no soft play area, no covered play area, apply also to other schools in the area. Due to its small size, everyone parks along the main road. There is also a crossing point at the school and an application currently in place to reduce the speed limit to 20 through the village.

The papers talk about the UN rights of a child. Moving my children from the school they are happy in I believe is breaching this. They will lose their friends and have to go to a school where they may not know anyone, this can cause distress and unhappiness in a child. New routines, new staff, new uniform, new children, bigger classes, less support will all cause stress, unhappiness, anxiety and instability for the children, as a paediatric nurse I say this is not right for a child and breaches their rights. I am also aware that children attend Llanfynydd that have moved their children from the other schools the council expect us to use due to them being unhappy or not achieving, where are they expected to send their children? Back to the schools they left? How distressing for the children will that be?

To lose the school would be a huge blow to the community of Llanfynydd. The school has strong links with the church and utilise the post office regularly for teaching Welsh with the children in a real environment, as opposed to just a class room. A variety of local groups also utilise the school building regularly.

My constituents believe that a federation between Llanfynydd and Treuddyn is the way forward, with benefits to both schools and without the expense of another head teacher, reducing costs per child.

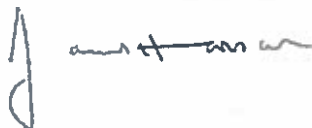
I understand that the deadline for a decision on closure or not has now been moved from January to Easter. My constituents believe this to be unacceptable. In the event of closure, the families of the children in Llanfynydd would have just weeks to find new schools.

Finally, my constituents are questioning who would be expected to pay for new uniforms, books, bags if the school closes?

I would be grateful if the above concerns can be considered, as part of the consultation process, which ends on the 2nd December 2015.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



David Hanson MP
Delyn



Fw: Ysgol Llanfynydd - Consultation
Amanda Davidson to: Customer Services
Cc: Damian Hughes, 21stCenturySchools
Bcc: Jennie Williams

08/12/2015 15:15

Please see letter attached, for logging on the mail system and allocating please to Damian Hughes and 21st Century Schools. The letter has been acknowledged.



ysgol llanfynydd.docx

Many thanks
Amanda

Amanda Davidson

PA to Chief Officer, Education and Youth | Cynorthwy-ydd Personol | Brif Swyddog, Addysg ac Ieuencid
Flintshire County Council | Cyngor Sir y Fflint

Tel | Ffôn | 01352 704601

Email | Ebst | amanda.davidson@flintshire.gov.uk

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk> | <http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk>

<http://www.twitter.com/flintshirecc> | <http://www.twitter.com/csyfflint>

— Forwarded by Amanda Davidson/Environment/Flintshire/GB on 08/12/2015 14:46 —

From: Joanne Pierce/ChiefExecs/Flintshire/GB
To: Amanda Davidson/Environment/Flintshire/GB@Flintshire,
Date: 08/12/2015 14:19
Subject: Ysgol Llanfynydd - Consultation

Hi Amanda

Please see attached letter below from David Hanson, MP in respect of Ysgol Llanfynydd.
Can you please ensure the letter is logged, acknowledged and sent to the appropriate officer for a response.

Thanks Jo

Joanne Pierce

Executive Officer | Swyddog Gweithredol
Chief Executives Suite | Swyddfa'r Prif Weithredwr
Flintshire County Council | Cyngor Sir y Fflint

Tel | Ffôn | 01352 702106

Email | Ebst | joanne.pierce@flintshire.gov.uk

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk> | <http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk>



— Forwarded by Joanne Pierce/ChiefExecs/Flintshire/GB on 08/12/2015 14:18 —

From: "ROBBINS, Helen" <ROBBINSH@parliament.uk>
To: "Joanne_Pierce@flintshire.gov.uk" <Joanne_Pierce@flintshire.gov.uk>,
Date: 02/12/2015 09:04
Subject: Ysgol Llanfynydd - Consultation

For the attention of Mr Colin Everett – Chief Executive

Please see attached letter from David Hanson MP, to be considered as part of the above consultation.

Best wishes,

Helen

Helen Robbins
PA to David Hanson MP
4 Trelawny Square
Flint
Flintshire CH6 5NN
Tel: 01352 763159

UK Parliament Disclaimer: This e-mail is confidential to the intended recipient. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender and delete it from your system. Any unauthorised use, disclosure, or copying is not permitted. This e-mail has been checked for viruses, but no liability is accepted for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this e-mail. This e-mail address is not secure, is not encrypted and should not be used for sensitive data.



ysgol llanfynydd.docx

Colin Everett
Chief Executive
Prif Weithredwr



The Rt Hon David Hanson MP
4 Trelawny Square
Flint
Flintshire
CH6 5NN

Your Ref Eith Cyt DH/HR.fcc.ed.s
Our Ref Eith Cyf IB/AD
Date Dyddiad 8 December 2015
Ask for Gofynner a:n Joanne Pierce
Direct Dial Rhif Union 01352 702106

Dear Mr Hanson,

Ysgol Llanfynydd

On behalf of Colin Everett, Chief Executive, I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 1 December 2015, regarding Ysgol Llanfynydd.

Yours sincerely

Joanne Pierce
Executive Officer

County Hall, Mold, CH7 6NF
www.flintshire.gov.uk
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug CH7 6NF
www.siryfflint.gov.uk



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Mae'r Cynghor yn croeso i gyswlltu yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg

1. Introduction
2. Methodology
3. Results
4. Discussion
5. Conclusion

The study was conducted in a laboratory setting. The participants were recruited from a local university. The data was collected over a period of six weeks. The results show a significant increase in the number of participants who completed the task. This suggests that the intervention was effective in improving performance.

The findings of this study are consistent with previous research. The results indicate that the intervention had a positive impact on the participants' performance. The data was analyzed using statistical methods. The results were compared to a control group. The findings suggest that the intervention was more effective than the control group.

The study was limited by the sample size and the duration of the intervention. The results may not be generalizable to other populations. The study was conducted in a laboratory setting, which may not reflect real-world conditions. The findings suggest that the intervention was effective in improving performance.

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Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

**The Office of Carl Sargeant AM
Alyn & Deeside Constituency**

School Modernisation Team
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
Flintshire CH7 6ND

Our Ref: SARG01001/01150407
(Please Quote in Correspondence)

30 November 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Closure of Llanfynydd School

I have been approached by a constituent whose grand-children attend Llanfynydd School which is currently under review for closure. I am aware that concerns are being raised about where the pupils are to be placed, travel costs, uniform costs, other travel issues if the placements are further away from home than is currently the case, disruptions to education, differences in teaching standards and even discrepancies in E-styn categorising of alternative schools. I am keen to know exactly how these issues are to be resolved and I am seeking assurances that decisions are taken on closures only when matters are effectively resolved.

I look forward to a response.

Yours sincerely


Carl Sargeant AM
Alyn and Deeside

Email: Carl.Sargeant@wales.gov.uk

Constituency Office

70 High Street
Connah's Quay
Deeside ✓
Flintshire CH5 4DD

Tel: 01244 823 547

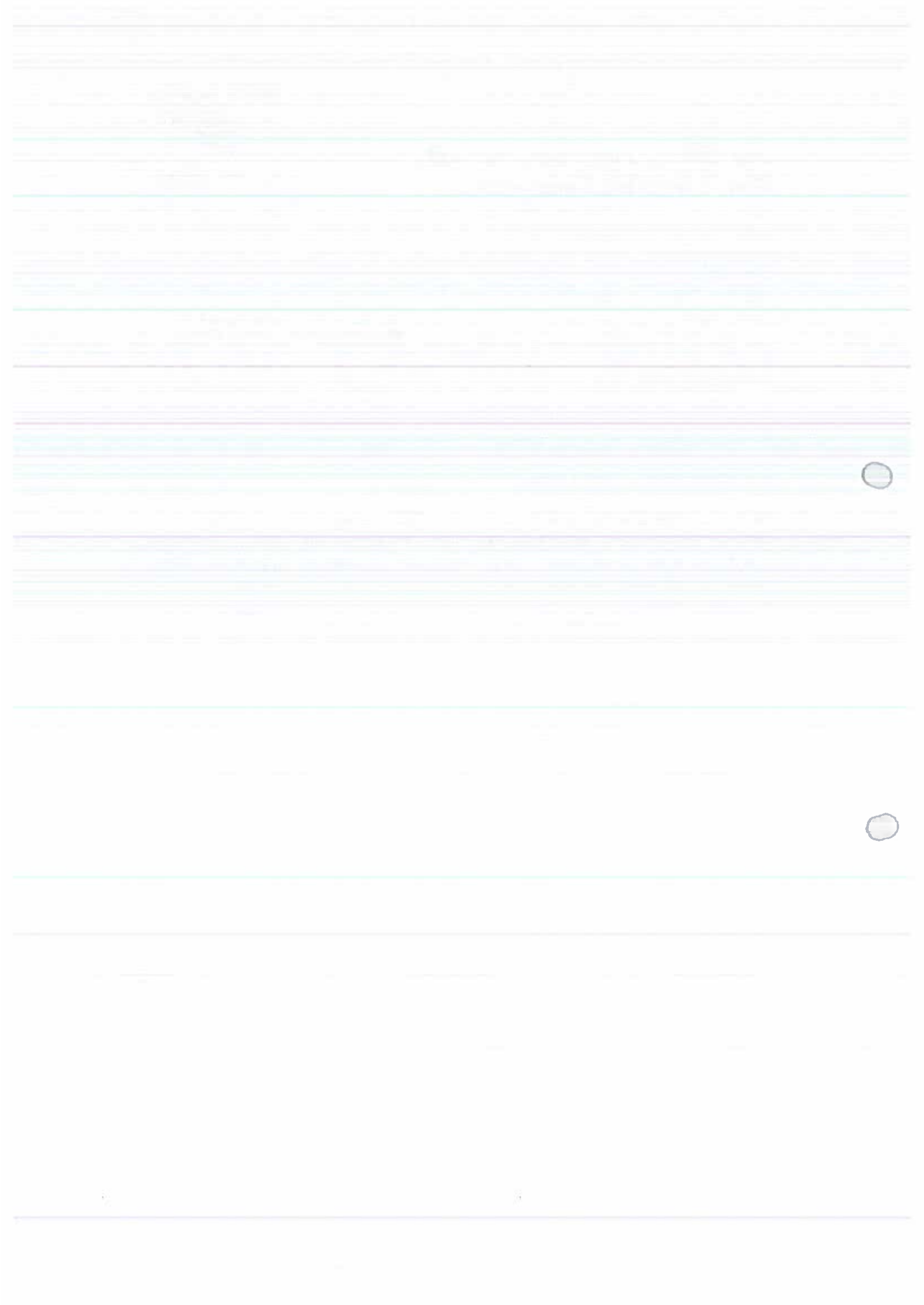
Assembly Office

National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Tel: 029 2089 8292
Fax: 029 2089 8293



If you do not wish to be included on a mailing list for future communications please contact Carl Sargeant at either of the above addresses.



Ian Budd
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



Mr Carl Sargeant AM
Constituency Office
70 High Street
Connah's Quay
Deeside
Flintshire
CH5 4DD

Your Ref/Eich Cyl SARG01001/01150
407
Our Ref/Ein Cyf IB/AD
Date/Dyddiad 18 December 2015
Ask for/Gofynner am Damian Hughes
Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704135
Fax/F facs

Dear Mr Sargeant,

School Organisational Change - Consultation on Proposed Closure of Ysgol Llanfynydd

Thank you for your letter dated 30th November 2015, outlining concerns of a constituent in relation to the above and seeking assurances that decision makers will consider such concerns prior to determination.

The Statutory consultation period for Ysgol Llanfynydd ended on 2nd December 2015.

Thereafter, Officers will prepare a consultation report to Cabinet in the January committee cycle. The consultation report as you will be aware is a requirement of the School Organisation Code and will summarise the key themes from all consultees including the views of Children and Young people, together with the Council's responses.

Additionally decision makers will have access to all consultation responses including those received prior to the official formal consultation period. Cabinet in their decision making will, I'm sure wish to be satisfied that education continuity is unaffected and that robust and effective transitional arrangements are put in place.

I hope this clarifies the situation but should you require any further information or you require a briefing meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me further.

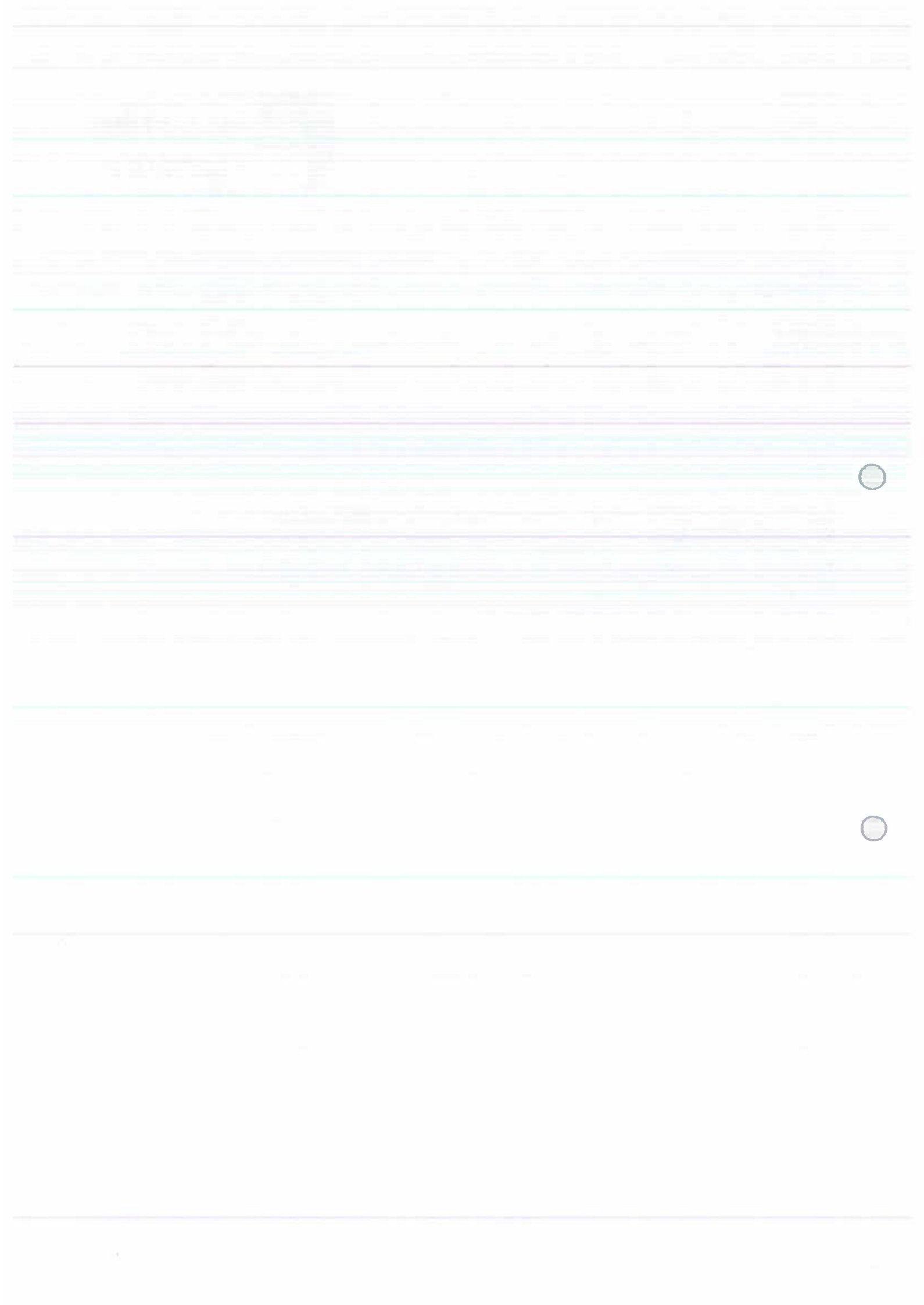
Yours sincerely

Ian Budd
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6ND
www.flintshire.gov.uk
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug, CH7 6ND
www.siryfflint.gov.uk



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Ian Budd
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



David Hanson MP
Constituency Office
64 Chester Street
Flint
Flintshire
CH6 5DH

Your Ref/Ich Cyt DH/HR.fcc.ed.s
Our Ref/Ein Cyf IB/DHRH
Date/Dyddiad 26 November 2015
Ask for/Gofynner am Ian Budd
Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704190
Fax/Ffacs

Dear Mr Hanson,

Ysgol Llanfynydd – School Organisation Proposal

Thank you for your correspondence dated 13th November 2015 regarding the above in which your constituent expresses concerns regarding the possible closure of Ysgol Llanfynydd. I can confirm that we have also received correspondence from Ruth Hodson expressing her views on the proposal.

As you have already observed consultation on the proposal, in relation to Ysgol Llanfynydd has already commenced and is due to end on 2nd December 2015.

During this period of consultation communities will be able to express their views on options in consultation documentation and offer alternative sustainable solutions for future education delivery in the area. During the review period we have already held meetings with the Staff, Governors and Parents and Carers as well as a children's specific consultation event via the school. Other interested parties are able to express their views using the online consultation forms.

You have my assurance that officers will act professionally and with empathy give the nature of the proposals. You will be aware that the Local Authority needs to follow the legal process as defined in Welsh Government's School Organisation Code.

The Council will also be required to reflect on capacity issues within our school estate and we will also be conducting impact assessments on issues such as Community, Transport, Equalities, and of course Language.

I can confirm that Ruth Hodson's email correspondence has been formally logged. All views from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in the form of a consultation report, in order that the Cabinet may consider the views of the communities in their decision making.

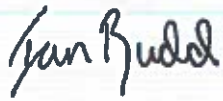
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Mae'r Cyngor yn croeso i chi gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg

Should you have any queries, I am more than happy to discuss through issues with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Budd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.

Ian Budd
Chief Officer, Education & Youth



Our Ref: DH/HR.fcc.ed.s

Mr Colin Everett
Chief Executive
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
Flintshire CH7 6NF

13th November 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

RE: Ruth Hodson, 12 Bryn Barug, Pontblyddyn, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 4GA

I have been approached by the above named constituent, who is concerned, with regard to the possible closure of Ysgol Llanfynydd.

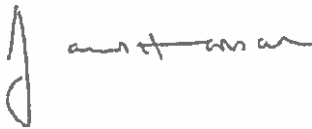
My constituent has set out her concerns, at length, in the attached document, and I would be grateful if they could be taken into consideration, as part of the consultation process.

I look forward to hearing from you, in due course.

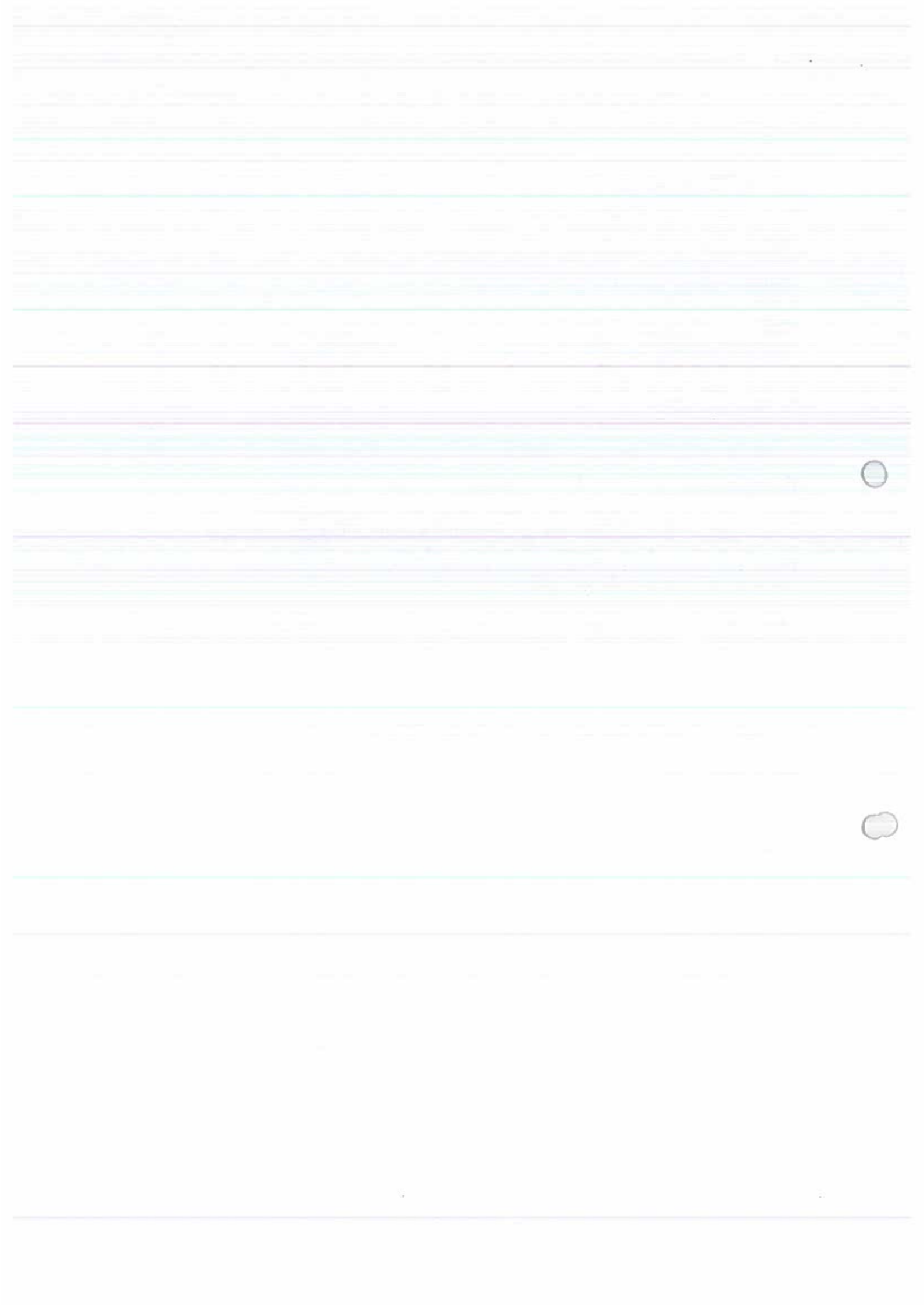
I shall shortly be submitting my own views, for consideration.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



David Hanson MP
Delyn



Compliments, Comments and Complaints

Details

Step 1

Reference number	1511 013179	Type	Request A Service
Title	Mr	Address 1	
Surname	Hanson MP	Address 2	
Forename	David	Town	
E-Mail Address	ROBBINSH@parliament.uk	County	
Phone Number		Postcode	
Is this record in relation to the FCC Welsh Language Scheme?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Service this record relates to	School Modernisation / Schools Review
Confidential?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Restrict to ...	Alan Holden/Corporate Services/GB
Receipt method	Mp/Mep	Language Preference	<input type="checkbox"/> Audio Tape <input type="checkbox"/> Braille <input type="checkbox"/> Disc <input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> Large Print <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh
Received by name	Alan Holden	Received on	16/11/2015
Received by directorate	Community and Enterprise	Received by service	Customer Services

Details

On behalf of Ruth Hodson, 12 Bryn Barug, Pontblyddyn, Mold CH7 4GA , regarding proposed closure of Ysgol Llanfynydd:



ruth hodson - ysgol llanfynydd.docx

Constituent's original email to MP's office:

Good morning David

I hope you are well, I hoped to get to your surgery in leeswood yesterday but a recent accident I am on crutches and was unable to get transport up.

We have contacted you before regarding our children's school Ysgol Llanfy the consultation papers are now out there is to be a consultation meeting at school at 6pm on Nov 23rd, I'm sure you would be too busy to attend but I you you anyway if you would come?

We now desperately need support in order to save this amazing school.

I am now attaching the letter I have sent to the councillors, I am also sending mark tami, Carl sergeant I've also sent it to Cardiff!

There are some important points especially regarding the modernisation of the estyn categories and the consultation documents asylum will see I have addressed in my letter to the council . Thanks for your time and look forward

hearing from you.

The consultation papers regarding the closure of ysgol Llanfynydd are now available. I am writing as a parent of children in the school. To close this is a travesty and there are many points in the consultation papers that need addressed.

The main point being estyn status. In the schools modernisation agenda documents it clearly states that where schools are to be closed, the children attending must be offered a space in a school with equivalent or higher estyn category. The schools mentioned in the document, abermorddu, hope and bwlechwyn all hold estyn category 3. Llanfynydd is category 2 so places in aforementioned schools should using the modernisation agenda be dismissed. This leaves only parc y llan in treuddyn. They currently do not have space for all the children in our school. So please explain to me what will happen in case should you close our school?

According to admissions at county hall there is only one year three space within a five mile radius. (my son is yr three hence using this school year) they say which school this place was available at. Yet within an 8 mile radius there are 7 year three places, so where will the children in year three go to? In sept we will have three children requiring school places can you guarantee they will be placed together if you close the school? In the meeting held at school it was conveyed by councillors that they would not give us a school of our choice we would have to go through standard admissions process and that they would not maintain sibling preferences to keep them together. I am not prepared to transport three children to three different schools. I work full time and have to be in work before 8.30.

In the consultation documents, it says that 44% of the children attending Llanfynydd are not from the immediate area. As my children are amongst that 44% let me tell you why. My eldest son started at Llanfynydd in 2009/2010 we moved to Flintshire, he has autism and dyspraxia. The environment at Llanfynydd changed his life overnight, he went from being a child who was bullied and victimised and I was told would never sit a GCSE, to a flourishing happy child. This was purely down to the school and its staff. This summer he attained 11 GCSEs all A-C, this includes an A in Welsh, he had never heard a word of Welsh before starting at Llanfynydd, I thank Llanfynydd for setting him in the right direction. Although it's not a Welsh medium school they have Welsh speaking staff and it is more widely spoken there than many of the bigger primary's. Welsh isn't just a second language it's a way of life, Llanfynydd embrace this, the children are involved in eisteddfod's every year both with school, surrounding schools and the county too. To close the school is an affront to Welsh in itself as Llanfynydd is so much more involved in the way of life than larger schools. All the important Welsh days are celebrated at the school.

The amazing change in Adams life gave us no doubts whatsoever in sending our second son there (currently in yr 3) he has challenging behaviour, ocd and camhs waiting list for asd assessment. We sent Alfie to Llanfynydd because we knew he would succeed there, receive the support he needs and he would be accepted by the children, as there is a family attitude amongst the children at school. Alfie is indeed doing well. I know for a fact the small school environment and the good ratio of staff to pupils helps and I know in a larger school he

struggle greatly.

I have a child in reception and my youngest set to start nursery in llanfynyc sept 2016.

As the only primary school in the area that is all on one level with superb disabled access and facilities including a wet room and physio bed to close school would be bad news. This should be promoted with the school and in area! The consultation papers identify that 16.7% of children have addition needs this is higher than many of the other schools and I believe it is because parents send their children to llanfynydd due it being a small supportive school with excellent facilities .

All the 44% of children non local attend llanfynydd for a reason, many of the children have been bullied or unhappy in other more local to them schools, is a reason we choose to take our children to llanfynydd and that is because such an amazing environment for our children to learn and grow up. I can't speak for myself but I expect many of the other parents will give you similar reasons!

The document covers many facts and figures regarding costs. This includes apparently £80,000 to do the school roof in the next year , this is interesting; there is nothing wrong with the roof and it's our understanding from the school that no one has even looked at the roof. So please explain .

The papers do not include monies received from Wrexham for the children who reside in Wrexham but come to school in llanfynydd, can you say why these figures were omitted from the document as that will reduce the apparent sum quoted.

The papers do not fully cover the travel expenses. It states 17 children will require transport , cost £16,150 , yet this is only the children who would have to travel over three miles. The council are also to provide transport for children whose journey to school is not a safe walking route, which would include probably much every child in the school, why has this not been put in the travel cost means that the travel expenses is higher than stated.

Whilst discussing the travel, if the school is to be shut, if parents end up sending their children to schools which are not their closest will you remove all council provided travel? Because as it's the council forcing people to move their children and not actually parental choice the council should be providing transport ; try to enforce the parents provide their own transport because they choose , it's a school rule that the council has.

Using the estyn tables and charts in the consultation papers ysgol llanfynyc achieved excellent results, including 100% in foundation phase outcome for 2014 not the other schools achieved this.

The papers state there is no wrap around care, this is incorrect as the mini village is currently based in the school. None of the other schools mentioned provide this as stated in the documents, many of the issues stated regarding llanfynydd such as no car parking, no soft play area, no covered play area, apply to all the other schools in the area, the parking at abermorddu is particularly bad! The whole area near there at start and end of school is dangerous! There was an accident just last week which could easily have resulted in children being hurt there is no crossing point and parents just block the road and walk across regardless of traffic, with the development of the new housing estate next to the school this is now even worse, incidentally how can the council predict this

will only produce 8 children requiring school there? There isn't this issue at Llanfynydd due to its small size and everyone parks along the main road away from the road, there is also a crossing point at the school and an application currently in place to reduce the speed limit to 20 through the village.

The papers talk about the UN rights of a child. Moving my children from their school they are happy in I believe is breaching this. They will lose their friends and have to go to a school where they may not know anyone, this can cause distress and unhappiness in a child. New routines, new staff, new uniform, bigger classes, less support will all cause stress, unhappiness, anxiety and instability for the children, as a paediatric nurse I say this is not right for a child and breaches their rights. I am also aware that children attend Llanfynydd that have moved their children from the other schools the council expect us due to them being unhappy or not achieving, where are they expected to see their children? Back to the schools they left? How distressing for the children that be?

To lose the school is a huge blow to not only our families but the community of Llanfynydd, the school has strong links with the church and utilises the parents' regularity for teaching Welsh with the children in a real environment as opposed to just a classroom. A variety of local groups utilise the school building regardless as you have acknowledged in the documents.

As of this week Mr Ashford has taken over as acting head teacher at Llanfynydd. He is the head at Parc y Llan. A federation between Llanfynydd and Treuddyn believe is the way forward for our school. There are benefits to both schools that haven't even been mentioned in the consultation papers. Our children can stay in their happy safe school environment, their teachers would not end up redundant or shipped out elsewhere, Treuddyn can benefit as if they were children who would thrive better in a quieter environment they could spend at Llanfynydd.

Without the expense of another head teacher it reduces the costs per child. It is very obvious that this whole plan to shut the school is purely about money. It is an extremely successful school with better Ofsted status than most of the schools in the surrounding areas, it's clear that federation would be the best outcome for all.

Since I began writing this letter there has been a change in circumstances brought about by Flintshire council which is of a serious nature. The time line for this procedure has now been changed with a decision on closure or not being made from January to Easter. This is not acceptable. Should the cabinet decide to close the school this gives the families of the children in Llanfynydd just weeks to find new schools and try and sort our children out. This is absolutely not acceptable. John Summers school have been given two years notice of closure yet Llanfynydd may have just one term? 12 weeks? How can the council see this as acceptable? Incidentally who would be expected to pay for all the new uniform, books and PE kits were the school to close? Would the council pay for this? I can't afford to pay out for this for three children all in one go.

I look forward to your reply and hope to see you at the consultation meeting at school later this month.

Ruth Hodson

Good morning David

I hope you are well, I hoped to get to your surgery in leeswood yesterday but after a recent accident I am on crutches and was unable to get transport up.

We have contacted you before regarding our children's school Ysgol llanfynydd , the consultation papers are now out there is to be a consultation meeting at the school at 6pm on Nov 23rd, I'm sure you would be too busy to attend but I ask you anyway if you would come?

We now desperately need support in order to save this amazing school.

I am now attaching the letter I have sent to the councillors, I am also sending it to mark tami, Carl sergeant I've also sent it to Cardiff!

There are some important points especially regarding the modernisation agenda, the estyn categories and the consultation documents asylum will see I have addressed in my letter to the council . Thanks for your time and look forward to hearing from you.

The consultation papers regards the closure of ysgol llanfynydd are now available. I am writing as a parent of children in the school. To close this school is a travesty and there are many points in the consultation papers that need to be addressed.

The main point being estyn status. In the schools modernisation agenda documents it clearly states that where schools are to be closed, the children attending must be offered a space in a school with equivalent or higher estyn category. The schools mentioned in the document, abermorddu, hope and bwlchgwn all hold estyn category 3 . Llanfynydd is category 2 so places in the aforementioned schools should using the modernisation agenda be dismissed. This leaves only parc y llan in treuddyn . They currently do not have spaces for all the children in our school. So please explain to me what will happen in this case should you close our school?

According to admissions at county hall there is only one year three space within a five mile radius .(my son is yr three hence using this school year) they would not say which school this place was available at. Yet within an 8 mile radius there is -7 year three places, so where will the children in year three go to? In sept 2016 I will have three children requiring school places can you guarantee they will be placed together if you close the school? In the meeting held at school it was conveyed by councillors that they would not give us a school of our choice and we would have to go through standard admissions process and that they would not maintain sibling preferences to keep them together. I am not prepared to transport three children to three different schools. I work full time and have to be in work before 8.30 . In the consultation documents, it says that 44% of the children attending llanfynydd are not from the immediate area. As my children are amongst this 44% let me tell you why. My eldest son started at llanfynydd in 2009/2010 when we moved to Flintshire , he has autism and dyspraxia. The environment at llanfynydd changed his life over night, he went from being a child who was bullied and victimised and I was told would never sit a GCSE , to a flourishing happy child. This was purely down to the school and its staff. This summer he attained 11 GCSEs all A-C, this includes and A in Welsh , he had never spoken a word of Welsh before starting at llanfynydd , I thank llanfynydd for setting him in the right direction. Although it's not a Welsh medium school they have Welsh speaking staff and it is more widely spoken there than many of the bigger primary's. Welsh isn't just a second language it's a way of life , llanfynydd embrace this, the children are involved in eisteddfod's every year both within the school, surrounding schools and the county too. To close the school is an

attack on Welsh in itself as Llanfynydd is so much more involved in the way of life than larger schools. All the important Welsh days are celebrated at the school.

The amazing change in Adams life gave us no doubts whatsoever in sending our second son there (currently in yr 3) he has challenging behaviour, ocd and is on camhs waiting list for asd assessment. We sent Alfie to Llanfynydd because we knew he would succeed there, receive the support he needs and he would be accepted by the children , as there is a family attitude amongst the children in the school. Alfie is indeed doing well, I know for a fact the small school environment and the good ratio of staff to pupils helps and I know in a larger school he will struggle greatly.

I have a child in reception and my youngest set to start nursery in Llanfynydd in sept 2016. As the only primary school in the area that is all on one level with superb disabled access and facilities including a wet room and physio bed to close the school would be bad news. This should be promoted with the school and in the area! The consultation papers identify that 16.7% of children have additional needs this is higher than many of the other schools and I believe it is because parents send their children to Llanfynydd due it being a small supportive school with excellent facilities .

All the 44% of children non local attend Llanfynydd for a reason, many of the children have been bullied or unhappy in other more local to them schools, there is a reason we choose to take our children to Llanfynydd and that is because it is such an amazing environment for our children to learn and grow up. I can only speak for myself but I expect many of the other parents will give you similar reasons!

The document covers many facts and figures regarding costs. This includes apparently £80,000 to do the school roof in the next year , this is interesting as there is nothing wrong with the roof and it's our understanding from the school that no one has even looked at the roof. So please explain .

The papers do not include monies received from Wrexham for the children that reside in Wrexham but come to school in Llanfynydd, can you say why these figures were omitted from the document as that will reduce the apparent savings quoted.

The papers do not fully cover the travel expenses. It states 17 children will require transport , cost £16,150 , yet this is only the children who would have to travel over three miles. The council are also to provide transport for children who's journey to school is not a safe walking route, which would include pretty much every child in the school, why has this not been put in the travel costs? This means that the travel expenses is higher than stated.

Whilst discussing the travel, if the school is to be shut, if parents end up sending their children to schools which are not their closest will you remove all council provided travel? Because as its the council forcing people to move their children and not actually parental choice the council should be providing transport and not try to enforce the parents provide their own transport because they choose a school rule that the council has.

Using the estyn tables and charts in the consultation papers ysgol Llanfynydd has excellent results, including 100% in foundation phase outcome for 2014 none of the other schools achieved this.

The papers state there is no wrap around care, this is incorrect as the mini villagers is currently based in the school. None of the other schools mentioned provide this as stated in the documents, many of the issues stated regarding Llanfynydd such as no car parking, no soft play area, no covered play area, all apply to all the other schools in the area, the parking at abermorddu is particularly bad! The whole area near there at start and end of school is dangerous! There was an accident just last week which could easily have resulted in children being hit, there is no crossing point and parents just block the road and walk across regardless of traffic, with the development of the new housing estate next to the school this is now even worse, incidentally how can the council predict this estate will only produce 8 children

requiring school there? There isn't his issue at llanfynydd due to its small size and everyone parks along the main road away from the bed, there is also a crossing point at the school and an application currently in place to reduce the speed limit to 20 through the village.

The papers talk about the UN rights of a child. Moving my children from the school they are happy in I believe is breaching this. They will lose their friends and have to go to a school where they may not know anyone, this can cause distress and unhappiness in a child. New routines, new staff, new uniform, new children, bigger classes, less support will all cause stress, unhappiness, anxiety and instability for the children ,as a paediatric nurse I say this is not right for a child and breaches their rights. I am also aware that children attend llanfynydd that have moved their children from the other schools the council expect us to use due to them being unhappy or not achieving, where are they expected to send their children? Back to the schools they left? How distressing for the children will that be?

To lose the school is a huge blow to not only our families but the community of llanfynydd, the school has strong links with the church and utilise the post office regularity for teaching Welsh with the children in a real environment as opposed to just a class room. A variety of local groups utilise the school building regularly as you have acknowledged in the documents.

As of this week Mr Ashford has taken over as acting head teacher at llanfynydd. He is the head at parc y llan. A federation between llanfynydd and treuddyn I believe is the way forward for our school. There are benefits to both schools, benefits that haven't even been mentioned in the consultation papers. Our children can stay in their happy safe school environment, their teachers would not end up redundant or shipped out elsewhere, treuddyn can benefit as if they had children who would thrive better in a quieter environment they could spend time at llanfynydd .

Without the expense of another head teacher it reduces the costs per child. As it is very obviously that this whole plan to shut the school is purely about money as it is an extremely successful school with better estyn status than most of the schools in the surrounding areas , it's clear that federation would be the best outcome for all.

Since I began writing this letter there has been a change in circumstances as laid out by Flintshire council which is of a serious nature. The time line for this whole procedure has now been changed with a decision on closure or not being moved from January to Easter. This is not acceptable. Should the cabinet decide to close the school this gives the families of the children in llanfynydd just weeks to find new schools and try and sort our children out , this is absolutely not acceptable . John summers school have been given two years notice of closure yet llanfynydd may have just one term? 12 weeks? How can the council see this as acceptable?

Incidentally who would be expected to pay for all the new uniform , book bags and PE kits were the school to close ? Would the council pay for this? I can't afford to pay out for this for three children all in one go.

I look forward to your reply and hope to see you at the consultation meeting at the school later this month.

Ruth Hodson



Allocated to Directorate
Allocated to

Education and Youth
Damian Hughes, Sarah
Thomas, Jennie Williams

Monitoring Form

This monitoring information is required to ensure that we follow an inclusive, robust and transparent process

All of the information contained in the Monitoring Section will only be used for monitoring purposes.

Information Not Provided

Gender

Male Female

Age range

Under 25 25-34 35-49 50-54 55+

Disability

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 defines a disability as:

"a person has a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities".

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? Yes No

Ethnicity

Choose ONE section from A to E then tick the appropriate box to indicate your cultural background.

A White or White British

- English
 Scottish
 Welsh
 Irish
 Any other White background

Please write in

B Mixed

- White and Black Caribbean
 White and Black African
 White and Asian
 Any other mixed background

Please write in

C Asian, Asian British, Asian English, Asian Scottish or Asian Welsh

- Indian
 Pakistani
 Bangladeshi
 Any other Asian background

Please write in

D Black, Black British, Black English, Black Scottish or Black Welsh

- Caribbean
 African
 Any other Black background

Please write in

E Chinese, Chinese British, Chinese English, Chinese Scottish or Chinese Welsh

- Chinese

F Any other background

Any other background

First Language

English BSL
 Welsh Other

Please write in

Nature of Complaint

16/11/2015 12:05:18 Alan Holden
email acknowledgement sent.

16/11/2015 12:10:07 Alan Holden
Reallocated from Alan Holden/CorporateServices/Flintshire/GB to Damian Hughes, Sarah Thomas, Jennie Williams

Last Updated on 16/11/2015

Last updated by Ala

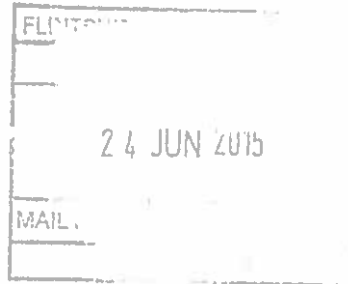


1506 012103.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Colin Everett
Chief Executive
Flintshire County Council
County Hall, Mold
Flintshire
CH7 6NB



Ref: CPMT

18th June 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

I would like to place on record my objection to the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd Primary School. This is a school with deep connections to the village and surrounding area that it serves.

Both of my children attended Ysgol Llanfynydd and I am aware of the importance that it has on the area where I live, it has previously undergone some difficulties but I am aware that the school has worked hard and are now overcoming these problems.

I am also concerned about the impact that the closure of Ysgol Llanfynydd would have on the surrounding area. Abermorddu Primary School and Ysgol Estyn, in Hope are already oversubscribed and with planned building work in the area, there could be a problem for many parents to find a nearby school for their children to attend.

Ysgol Llanfynydd also has excellent facilities for disabled children and the school is all on one level making it easier for children with mobility problems. It would be a great loss to Flintshire if this school was to close.

I also have serious concerns about the impact that this decision would have on the village of Llanfynydd itself. The primary school is at the heart of the village, with many villagers having attending the school itself when they were young. It is used by the whole community and would be dearly missed if it was to be closed.

Yours sincerely


Mark Tami MP
Alyn & Deeside

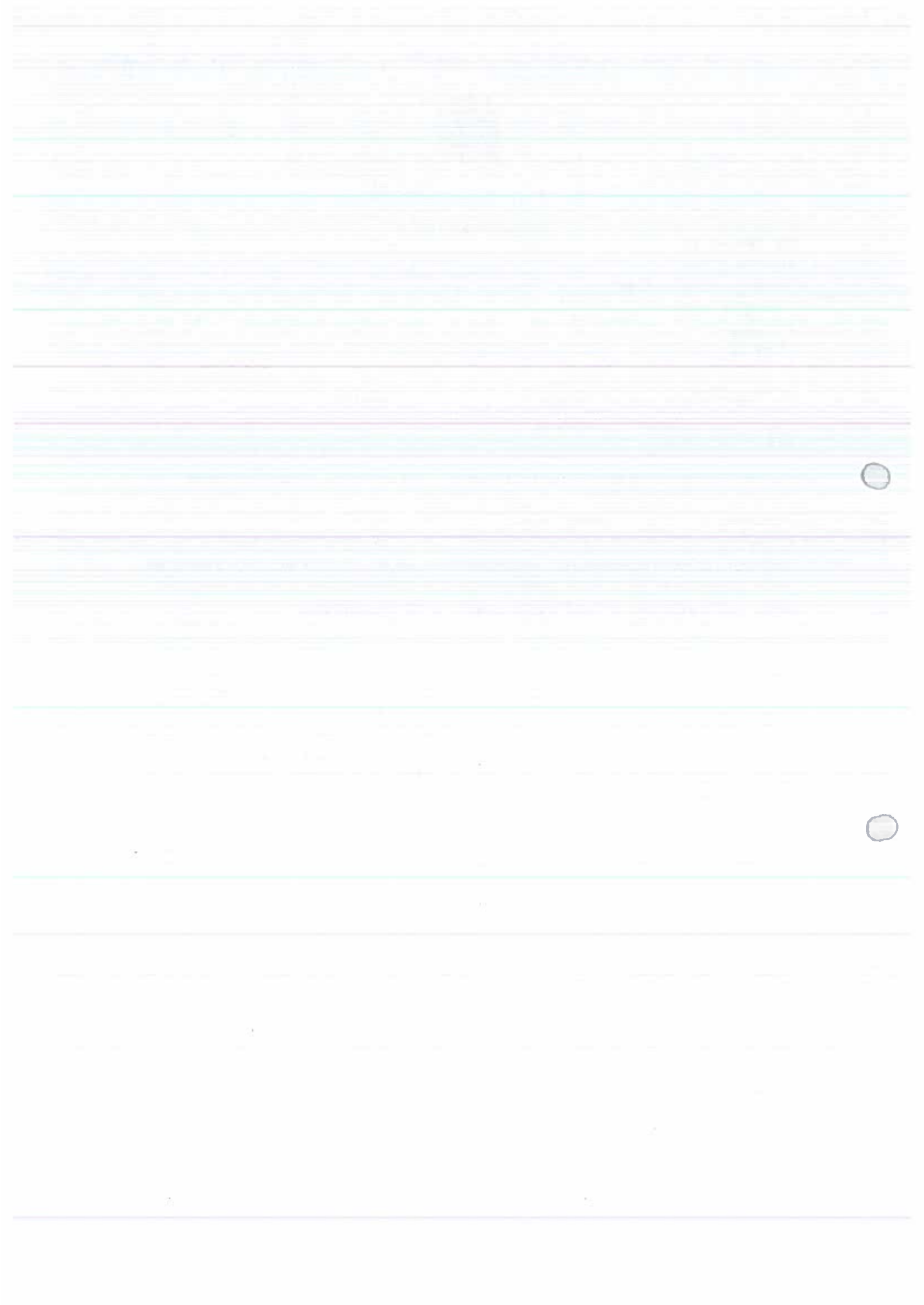
70 High Street []
Connah's Quay
Flintshire
CH5 4DD

Tel: (01244) 819854
Tel: (01244) 836350

[] House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Tel: (0207) 219 8174
Fax: (0207) 219 1943

email: tamim@parliament.uk



Ian Budd
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



Mark Tami MP
70 High Street
Connah's Quay
Flintshire
CH5 4DD

Your Ref Ffôn Cyt CPMT
Our Ref I in Cyt IB/AD/1506 012103
Date Dyddiad 29 July 2015
Ask for Gofynwr am Ian Budd
Direct Dial Rhif Union 01352 704190
Fax Ffôn

Dear Mr Tami,

Forthcoming Review of Ysgol Llanfynydd.

Thank you for your correspondence dated 18th June 2015 in which you wish record an objection to the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd.

Consultation on Ysgol Llanfynydd is due to commence in the Autumn Term in 2015. I will record your objection and will ensure that your views are presented in the required report following consultation. We will also take your views into consideration when working with the school leadership team and governors on developing the review process.

During the period of consultation communities will be able to fully express their views on proposals and offer alternative solutions for future education delivery in the area. All views from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in the form of a consultation report, in order that they may consider the views of the communities in their decision making.

You have our assurance that officers will act both professionally and with empathy given the nature of the proposals. You will be aware that we will need follow the process as defined in Welsh Government's statutory school organisation code.

Picking up the concerns outlined in your letter, I can confirm that it is a requirement to reflect on capacity issues within our school estate. The Authority also conducts impact assessments on issues such as community, transport, equalities and language as part of the review process.

As always, should you have any queries I am more than willing to meet to talk through the programme, statutory requirements and any issues you may have in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

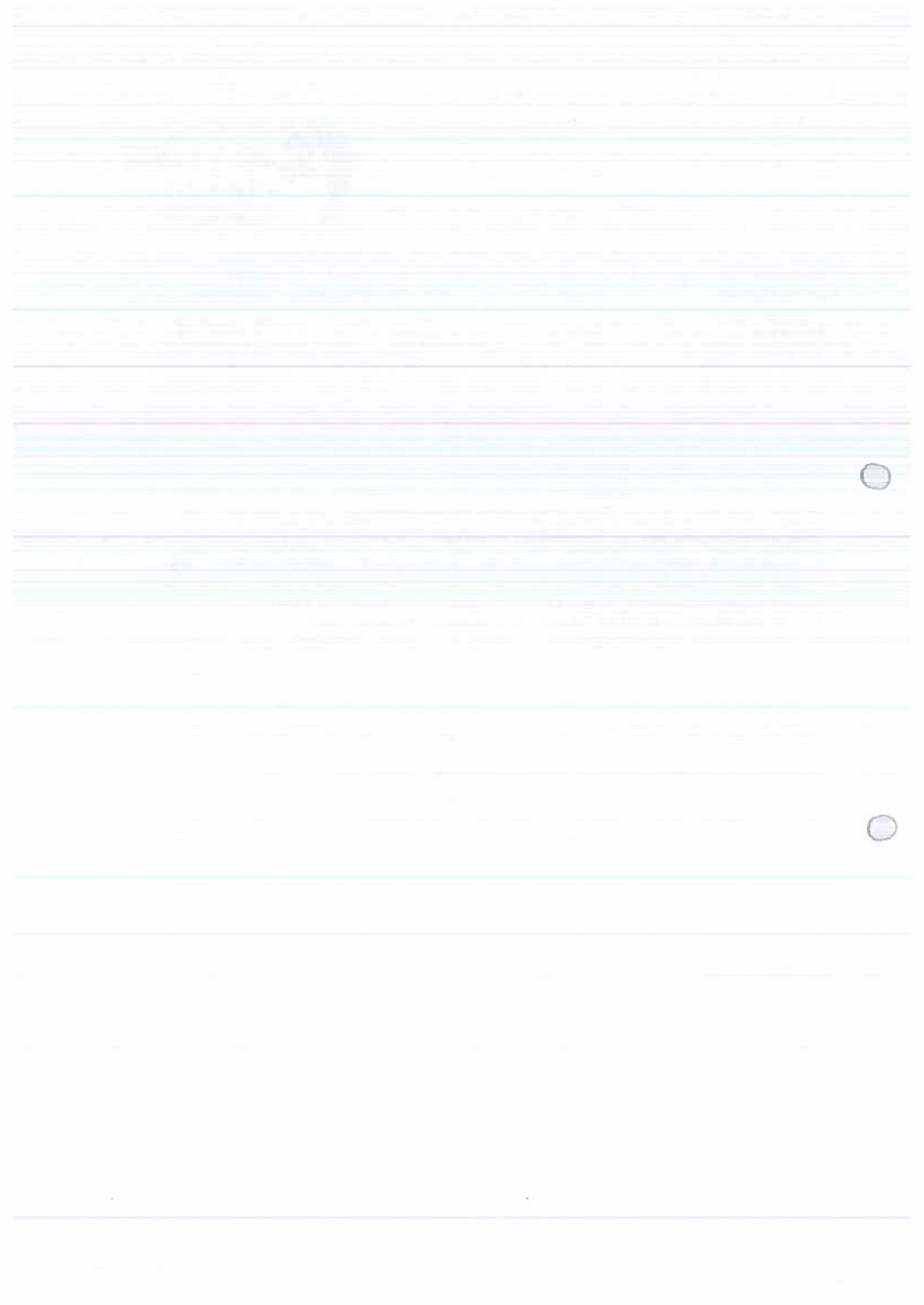
Ian Budd

Chief Officer, Education & Youth

County Hall, Mold CH7 6ND
www.flintshire.gov.uk
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug, CH7 6ND
www.sirymint.gov.uk



The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English
Mae'r Cyngor yn croeso i gyswlltu yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg





THE RT HON DAVID HANSON MP

1506012104

Member of Parliament for Delyn



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tel: 020 7219 5064
Fax: 020 7219 2671

Our Ref: DH/HR.fcc.ed.s

Mr Colin Everett
Chief Executive
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
Flintshire CH7 6NR

19th June 2015

RE: Flintshire County Council – School Modernisation

Thank you for the copy of the School Modernisation Report, from Damian Hughes, which was to be presented to the Cabinet on the 16th June 2015.

I have been approached by a number of constituents, with regard to the above matter. Please find attached copy correspondence. You will see that they have raised real concerns with me, and I have advised them to submit those concerns to the County Council, as part of the consultation process.

In the meantime, I would welcome an update on this matter, now that the cabinet meeting has taken place.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

David Hanson MP
Delyn

Constituency Office:

64 Chester Street, Flint, Flintshire CH6 5DH Tel: 01352 763159 Fax: 01352 730140

E-Mail: david.hanson.mp@parliament.uk Website: www.davidhanson.org.uk

Twitter: David Hanson MP Facebook: David Hanson

2

○

○

ROBBINS, Helen

From: simonphodson@gmail.com
Sent: 16 June 2015 20:45
To: ceri_shotton@flintshire.gov.uk
Cc: HANSON, David; ruthie hodson; welshnews@dailypost.co.uk
Subject: Llanfynydd School

Good Evening Ms Shotton,

I hope you are well?

It is with great distress that I hear the proposal to close this primary school hasn't been abandoned today.

I feel that the arguments for closure are ridiculous and would like some points addressed:

1. There are a number of new houses to be built in the local area with no availability at the local schools, why close the schools that can take those future students.?
2. My eldest child has just finished secondary school, before we moved to Wales in 2010 he went to a primary school where they had written his chances of even sitting GCSE's off because of his Autism; This primary school changed education for him in the space of 1 year and kept him mainstream. If his mocks are anything to go by then he has just bagged a brace of As and Bs. The school performs, why not send more kids there not punish them for achieving!
3. Why is the consultation period set for over the summer holidays? This seems an underhand way to hope that 6-7 weeks of parents not seeing each other and therefore not communicating. Sorry to point this out but OUR little school got over 1000 signatures in under a week and plenty of us intend to fight this decision.
4. Don't the council represent us? The community want the school to stay so let it stay.

Kind Regards

Simon Hodson

Sent from Windows Mail



ROBBINS, Helen

From: Simon Hodson <simonphodson@gmail.com>
Sent: 10 June 2015 09:37
To: HANSON, David
Cc: ruthie hodson
Subject: Ysgol Llanfynydd

Good Morning David,

I hope you are well and enjoying the beautiful weather?

My family moved to this area in January 2010. At the time my eldest boy had been having a hard time in primary school. The primary school were looking to get him a statement and said they doubt he would be able to sit his GCSE's. Five years later and if his mock exam results reflect anything then he will have finished with a braces of A's and B's; not bad for a 16 year old autistic lad in mainstream school, without a statement or extra support. His Name is Adam Hodson and he has just finished at Castell AJun, I invite you to ask the school what they think of him and bet you get a good report.

The point recounting a portion of my family story is because the main people that turned it all around for Adam were the staff at Ysgol Llanfynydd. They were fantastic and should be treasured for their teaching abilities! My wife and I value them so much that we have eagerly sent our next two boys into that school and very much hope our daughter will follow.

Yesterday I went to pick Alfie (our 7 year old) up and was handed a letter that has left us shocked!

"...a recommendation will be made to Flintshire County Council's Cabinet on Tuesday, 16th June 2015, which may affect you. The proposal is that the Council enters into a period of Statutory Consultation about the future of Ysgol Llanfynydd from September 2016."

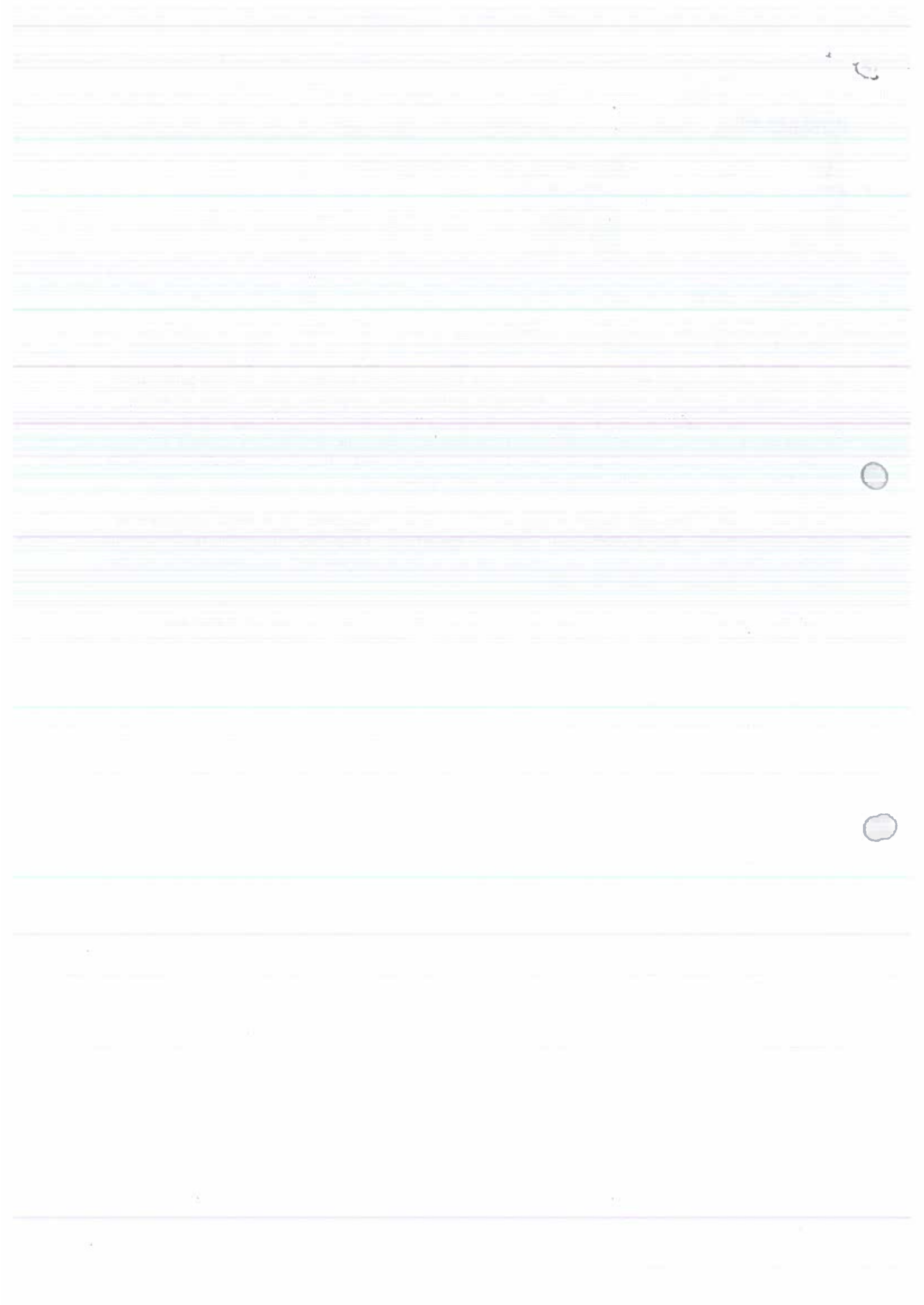
I realise that when any school in your area has it's future questioned, you must get inundated and I will join them all in saying "but our school is the best" but I will say it anyway and perhaps, as a society we should look to not cutting funding to schools at all. I would rather see council tax increase by a couple of pounds than the loss of any performing school.

This is the second time I have emailed you for help and guidance, I wouldn't if I didn't trust in you or your office and ask you for your help.

Kind Regards

Simon Hodson

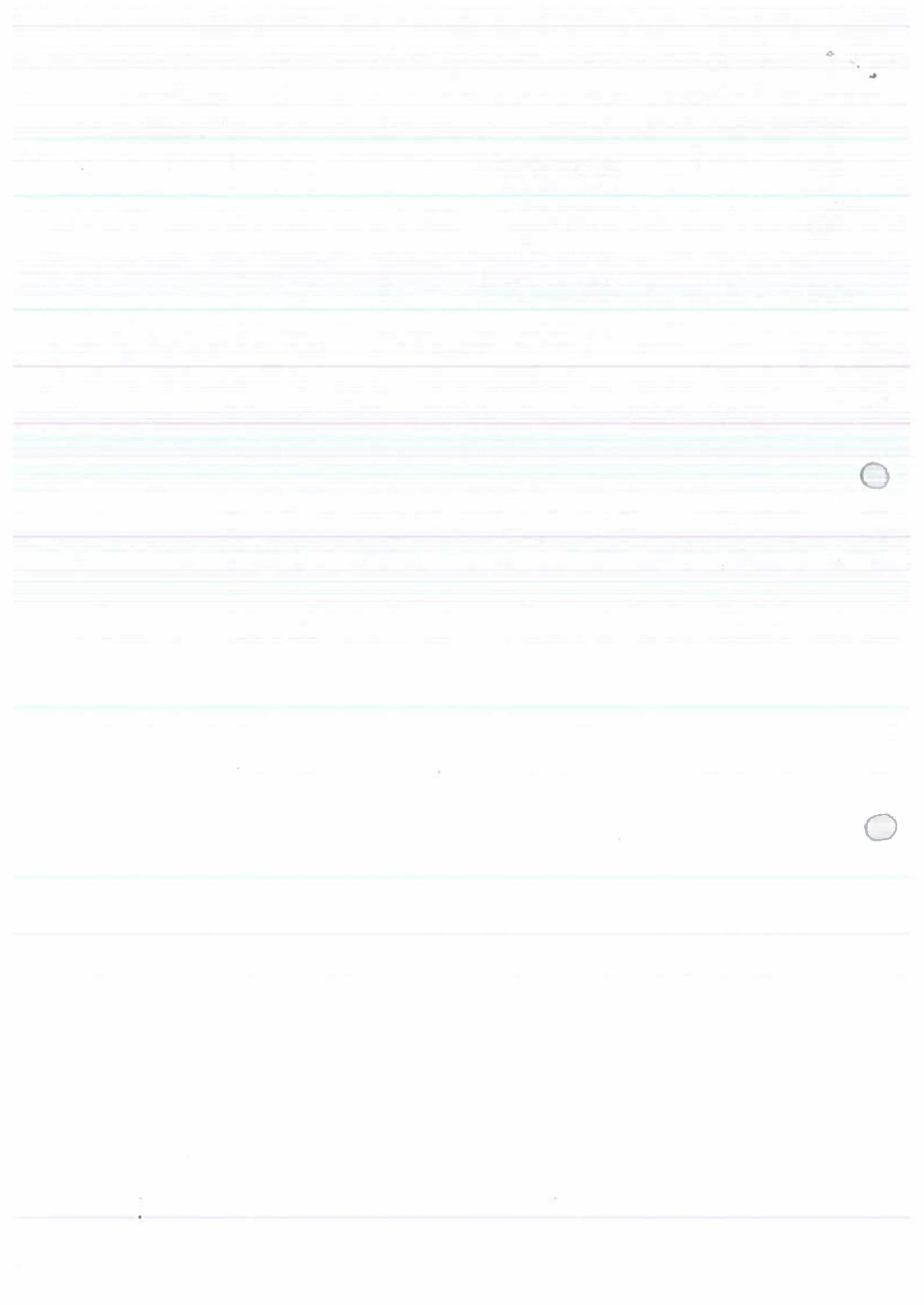
12 Bryn Barug
Pontblyddyn
Mold
CH7 4GA



ROBBINS, Helen

From: GarethR2006@aol.com
Sent: 10 June 2015 15:42
To: HANSON, David
Subject: (no subject)

just read the[sepp blatter] flintshire council are destroying fine village primary schools on your patch and on your watch why? do they want to put incinerators on the sites ?



Ian Budd
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuencid)



David Hanson MP
64 Chester Street
Flint
Flintshire CH6 5DH

Your Ref/Ich Cyl DH/HR.fcc.ed.s
Our Ref/I in Cyl IB/AD/1506 012104
Date/Dyddiad 29 July 2015
Ask for Gofynwr am Ian Budd
Direct Dial Rhif Union 01352 704190
Fax/Ffacs

Dear Mr Hanson MP,

School Modernisation - Flintshire County Council

Thank you for your correspondence dated 19th June 2015, requesting an update.

Cabinet on 16th June resolved to agree the actions identified within the report presented. We are now planning to review provision with pupils, governors and staff and parents and careers within the following communities:

- Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain;
- Ysgol Llanfynydd; and
- Ysgol Mornant, Gwespyr Picton.

Consultation is planned for the Autumn Term in 2015. Communities will be encouraged to express their views on the proposals and are able to offer alternative solutions for future education delivery in the area. All views received during consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in order that they may consider the views of the communities in their decision making. This will be in the form of the required consultation report.

You have our assurance that officers will act both professionally and with empathy given the nature of the proposals. You will be aware that we will need follow the process as defined in Welsh Government's, School Organisational Code.

As part of the process we will be required to report on capacity issues within our school estate and education standards. We will also be conducting impact assessments on issues such as community, transport, equalities and language.

Additionally, Cabinet have also agreed, six monthly reviews for:

- Nercwys VA school; and the
- Lixwm, Rhos Helyg and Brynford area.

County Hall, Mold CH7 6ND
www.flintshire.gov.uk
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug, CH7 6ND
www.siryfflint.gov.uk

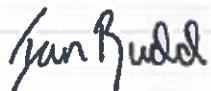


The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English
Mae'r Cyngor yn croeso i w golybhuodi yn y Gymraeg neu i Saesneg.

In these areas, officers will work with the governors of the schools to form options for future education delivery in the area/schools. The intention is that recommendations will be presented to Cabinet in January 2016.

Should you have any queries, we are more than willing to meet to talk through the programme and any issues you may have in more detail.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Budd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.

Ian Budd
Chief Officer, Education & Youth



APPENDIX I

DRAFT

Ysgol Llanfynydd Governing Body,
c/o Ysgol Llanfynydd,
Llanfynydd,
Flintshire.
CH5 5HG
27/11/15

School Modernisation Team,
Flintshire County Council,
County Hall,
Mold,
Flintshire.
CH7 6ND

Response from the Governing Body of Ysgol Llanfynydd to Flintshire County Council's proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd from 31st August 2016

Introduction

This document constitutes the Governors response to the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd from 31st August 2016.

The Governors understand the need to review the provision of education in Flintshire and have regularly indicated a willingness to work in partnership with the council as part of the School Modernisation process. The Governing Body recognises the financial challenges facing the Council and indeed the whole of the public sector and, as such, has been open to considering options for education provision in the area. We are however deeply disappointed that the only proposal given any detail by Flintshire County Council is school closure.

Points arising from the consultation document

Section 2.4 of the consultation document sets out the three factors that need to be considered by the cabinet before they make a decision on this proposal:

- Quality and standards in education
- Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools; and
- Resourcing of education and other financial implications

The Governors feel strongly that considering these three factors the cabinet should not agree with the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd.

Of the four alternative schools proposed only one meets or exceeds the GwE standards of Ysgol Llanfynydd so, coupled with larger class sizes, the disruption of moving schools and splitting up peer groups we believe quality and standards in education will drop.

None of the four schools identified as alternatives can take the entire family of pupils from Ysgol Llanfynydd, in fact, with the exception of reception, no one school can even accommodate an entire year group. This means that the entire school portfolio in the area will be completely full with no flexibility in the system for future growth.

As we can prove, the closure of Ysgol Llanfynydd will have a marginal, if any, impact on the savings required by Flintshire County Council to set a legal budget. Flintshire are looking to save £1.45m from their education budget. Closing Ysgol Llanfynydd in its current form would account for a tiny fraction of this amount.

Section 3.4 sets out the key drivers or criteria for modernisation:

- Educational improvement – Ysgol Llanfynydd has excellent outcomes and GwE assessments – The Estyn report quoted later in the document is so out of date that it is irrelevant, the school has gone through a whole generation of an intake since this was written.
- Resilient School leadership – new ‘shared’ head teacher arrangements are proving very successful and providing significant cost savings to two school’s budgets as well a blue print for a new format of school organisation in the locality
- Suitable Buildings – whilst acknowledging some limitations, this is a suitable building for a small primary school.
- Unfilled places – We acknowledge that Ysgol Llanfynydd has a significant number of surplus places, in fact, the 12th highest in the county. There are two significant ways in which the council could correct this which would have no budgetary impact:
 - Amend the admissions policy to stop year groups in neighbouring schools going over their admission number.
 - Encourage Estyn to perform an inspection, the school has been ready for inspection for 12 months and GwE assessments indicate a favourable outcome. Nothing would improve Ysgol Llanfynydd’s chances of attracting new parents more than a favourable inspection report.

Section 3.5 of the proposal suggests "The primary school portfolio has 1967 (or 17.15%) unfilled places (based on January 2015 PLASC), whilst the national target set by Welsh Government is to reduce this level to under 10%".

This is a key statistic as it is used frequently by the council's officers to explain why the school modernisation process was brought to cabinet in January and is often used to justify why changes must be made.

Flintshire's own documentation however, proves this to be deeply misleading, giving a school capacity total 14877 and pupil numbers of 13931, this equates to surplus places of 946 or 6.46%. <http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Lifelong-Learning/Schools/School-Admissions/List-of-Schools.pdf>

Flintshire have indicated the "1967 places" relates to full time places only, however, that raises two further questions:

Welsh Government target is set as a percentage figure (10%), 1967 as a percentage of 14877 is 13.2% not the published figure of 17.15% (we are told this is an average of the surplus places in each school???)

These figures would suggest that the number of part time places are significantly over subscribed, a number which must feed through to the full time places next year.

We would like the Cabinet to consider if the process of reviewing our school would have started if they had been told in January that the target for surplus places was significantly closer to being met?

Section 3.6 Whilst we're sure this 12 year old report has solid foundation it highlights issues which are unrecognisable to the staff and management at Ysgol Llanfynydd. The benefits of consortium and federated school structures mitigate most, if not all, of these arguments. Recent discussions with staff have highlighted that the largest single factor increasing their workload and restricting professional development is central education team cuts not small school status.

Section 3.8 As our introduction states and the council's officers will confirm, the Governing Body has been open to discussions with regards to modernisation. We have noted that it is now the council's policy to federate schools of less than 105 pupils, with this in mind, we find it difficult to understand why they will not initiate a federation of Ysgol Llanfynydd with another school. The two options for federation laid down in the Welsh Government circular 011/2014 are for 'LA led federation' or 'Governing body led federation'. For Governing body led federation it requires 2 or more willing Governing bodies to agree to federate. Considering the neighbouring schools stand to benefit from Ysgol Llanfynydd closing then, not surprisingly, this has not been forthcoming.

Section 4.2 We appreciate that Ysgol Llanfynydd is a small school with surplus places but percentage figures can exaggerate a problem when used with a small cohort. The capacity measurement for Ysgol Llanfynydd was last updated in 2007, using the Welsh Government document 021/2011 published in 2011 we have calculated our current capacity to be 64. This makes the unfilled places 34%, admittedly still high, but significantly better than 57.5% published in the consultation document. Crucially this also moves Llanfynydd from 4th in the surplus places "league table" to 12th.

This also raises the question about whether surplus places across the primary portfolio are being recorded correctly.

Section 4.3 Budget constraints could have been pushed down from County earlier saving significant sums, our school has been overfunded to the extent of over £1000 per pupil per year giving a false impression of an underlying issue. The actual issue here is the school funding formula and we believe addressing this will save the council considerably more money than closing a handful of small primary school. This has been confirmed this week by Ian Budd quoted in the press about growing surpluses in the primary portfolios budgets. Address this issue and the painful and costly process of closing small primary schools will not be needed.

Section 4.4 part 1.4 of statutory code clearly states: children must be able to receive an education of at least equivalent standards.”. The table provided in section 4.4 clearly states that only Ysgol Parc Y Llan can provide at least equivalent standards of education. Ysgol Llanfynydd staff and Governors have worked very hard over the last few years to drive standards in the school and give pupils the very best opportunity. Closing this successful, high achieving school would have the effect of diluting the overall counties standards which is opposite to the effect everyone is aiming to achieve. As has been discussed in various forums, Flintshire’s officers will insist that “capacity to improve” and “support category” are the same for all of the schools but the statutory code explicitly states “standards”, in this measurement these schools fall short of Ysgol Llanfynydd and so the statutory code defines that they must not be considered as alternatives.

Section 4.6 We strongly believe that where there are over subscribed schools in the local area the Counties admissions policy should direct pupils to schools with surplus places and if appropriate provide transport to these schools. Llanfynydd historically attracted a lot of pupils from Cymau but since transport from Cymau has only been available to Abermorddu this has stopped. The Counties own school modernisation strategy update states that “we need to ... manage school provision through admissions and appeals procedures”. This currently does not happen.

Section 4.7 We find this argument does not sit well alongside the current admissions policy of “parental choice” and driving standards. Llanfynydd has a successful educational track record and hence attracts parents from further afield than other schools and as you would expect being close to a county boundary, this does include children from Wrexham. We should not be criticised for this.

Section 4.8 As detailed in section 4.2 given the nature and seriousness of this proposal we find it incredible that the latest Welsh Government document 021/2011 has not been used to calculate the schools capacity and why a visit has not been made to the school to check facts before issuing such a proposal. We have undertaken this work ourselves and the capacity is 64 not 80 as stated.

Section 4.11 Despite the current uncertainty surrounding the school, nursery intake has increased this year with an intake of 5, the highest for a number of years and two additional children starting after Christmas.

Section 4.14 We have stated in section 3.5 the inaccuracies of this figure but even considering this you do not achieve a significant reduction in a percentage by closing small schools such as Ysgol Llanfynydd who's surplus places account for less than ¼%. By closing Ysgol Llanfynydd, Ysgol Parc Y Llan would become full leaving no spare capacity in the system, this will lead to Flintshire having to spend further funds that they haven't got to increase the size and quantity of classrooms at other schools.

Section 4.16 this covers only active planning permissions and does not include land in the UDP that could have planning and building work commenced with 12 months, especially as the economy continues to improve and the likely central government drive on the quantity of house building.

Section 4.19 The statutory code states that where the proposal is to close a school "admission arrangements at the proposed alternative school" must be published, this consultation document only lists a number of schools and the number of free places, no individual school has the capacity to accept all of the children with several year groups being already oversubscribed. This section of the consultation document does not comply with the statutory code.

Section 5.1

Point 1: This is factually incorrect and cannot be the case when the standards at three out of four of the proposed alternatives have lower standards and the inclusion of additional pupils will increase the pupil/teacher ratio.

Point 2: as stated above the percentage gain would be barely noticeable and the county will have gone through this entire exercise and still not be compliant with the Government's requirements.

Point 3: We have demonstrated different ways to achieve this whilst retaining primary provision in Llanfynydd.

Point 4: as above

Point 5: as above

Point 6: this is a strange argument given that you are quoting a cost increase in the school transport budget of £16,500.

Section 5.2 We strongly believe added to this list should be:

"closure of a well performing school"

Section 5.3 We would like the following Disadvantages/risks added to the list:

Neighbouring schools will be at or over capacity,

A real alternative way of education lost as an option for the local area, many pupils relocate to Ysgol Llanfynydd due to issues at other schools.

Experienced teachers will potentially be lost from the education system with currently very few opportunities for redeployment. Governing bodies make staffing appointments based on ability of the candidates available against a staffing budget, it is difficult to see how the council can assist in this area.

Please do not underestimate what this would mean to a village like Llanfynydd, the community impact assessment answers some questions about the community use of the school. The questions, however, are structured in a way to only look at the impact from a certain angle. Being a small village there are not the wide variety of clubs and associations a larger village would have but that doesn't mean the school is not the heart of the community with pupils going out into the community regularly.

Section 5.5 We fundamentally disagree with this statement. You are proposing making a small budget saving and a negligible impact on the surplus places target whilst destroying the heartbeat of local community, making staff redundancies which will potentially affect them and their families for years to come, splitting up peer groups and downgrading the standards of education in the local area.

Section 6.9. Whilst accepting that the data published is in line with the statutory codes guidelines, the crucial table that parents are interested in the space availability per year group. We have summarised this below.

Ysgol Llanfynydd						
Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
6	3	5	3	4	4	6

Parc Y Llan spare capacity						
Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
3	6	3	-2	0	3	3

Number of children not able to go to PYL						
3		2	5	4	1	3

Hope capacity						
Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
0	3	0	1	1	0	2

Abermoddu						
Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
2	8	-1	5	1	0	1

As you can see the proposal will mean peer groups will inevitably be split up impacting on children's education at a critical point in their life, we find this unacceptable. Flintshire admit they have done

no work to establish if sibling groupings can be kept together, we find this unacceptable. The critical year groups are Years 1, 3 and 4, there is not enough local capacity in Flintshire schools to take all of the children unless you include Wrexham's Bwlchgwyn primary. Considering this school has very recently been in Estyn special measures then parental preference is not likely to select this school.

Section 6.11 Ysgol Llanfynydd has a strong tradition of supporting and nurturing children with ALN, the facilities at Llanfynydd have been upgraded in recent years to provide everything necessary to accommodate children with ALN.

Section 6.14 Given the implications of this consultation we find it unacceptable that the school is being judged on an Estyn report so out of date that an entire school generation has passed through the school since the last inspection. The school should have been inspected to provide an up to date assessment of where the school is at before such an important document was published. GWe assessments indicate the Estyn report would have been very favourable which would only have had a positive effect on the number of pupils. This section of the consultation document has no relevance to the current situation at Ysgol Llanfynydd.

Section 6.21 since the announcement of Mrs Knight leaving Ysgol Llanfynydd the Governors have used this opportunity to showcase how Ysgol Llanfynydd can work as a federated school with a shared head, the initial feedback is very positive from staff, parents and pupils. We strongly urge the cabinet to read our proposal to continue and enhance this federation before making a final decision.

Section 6.22 Ysgol Llanfynydd now we have a wraparound care proposal from Montessori mini villagers which we are currently implementing.

Section 7.2 GWe assessments in section 4.4 and section 6.20 of the consultation document state that this is not the case. Adding in pressure of higher pupil/teacher ratios and a significant number of displaced children entering a school, standards will drop not increase.

Section 7.7 One significant element of school organisation is over looked through this whole document – Consortium working. The Castell Alun Consortium benefits all of the member schools but especially the small schools and mitigates many, if not all, of the disadvantages small schools are labelled with. As detailed at the recent consultation meeting by one of our teachers the many disadvantages to being in a small school environment detailed in this report are not recognisable to the staff that work here.

Section 9 As with the capacity report and Estyn report the Governors are deeply concerned at the out of date nature of reports and information contained in the consultation document. Suitability issues are being based on a report seven years old and in the majority of cases, and where appropriate, have already been addressed. Again, surely, given the impact this document could have, an up to date assessment should have been made. We urge the officers and cabinet members to visit the school, hopefully at our open day this Friday, so we can talk through the suitability issues raised in this document.

Building bulletin 99 is quoted as the reference point for these summaries but this document is a non-statutory guidance for developers of new build school, the vast majority of it is irrelevant to a small village school in excess of 100 years old. The document also states that it is non-statutory.

Section 9.15 The school staff, Governors and parents in the building trade do not recognise any current issues with the roof. We have asked the council for more detail about this issue and it has not been forthcoming. The only information contained in the 2013 condition report indicated a few loose tiles and pointing all of which were addressed last year. Given that this accounts for 45% of

the total savings being made by closing Ysgol Llanfynydd we feel strongly that this saving should be removed from the calculation and a full reassessment made of the financial viability of closing the school.

Section 10 The Governing body have provided a separate confidential document to cabinet discussing financial issues at Ysgol Llanfynydd.

Section 12 We have acknowledged that retaining the Status Quo is not an option and the Governing body have provided a separate confidential document to cabinet discussing alternative proposals for Ysgol Llanfynydd.

Section 12.3 In addition to the stated benefits of Option 2: federation, we would like to add the following points for consideration which we feel makes this the most viable option:

Enhanced opportunities for pupil activities – widens curriculum choice and options for students as schools come together to provide access to each other's courses and facilities, leading to improvements to the quality of learning for staff and pupils.

Enhanced opportunities for staff professional development,

Increased opportunity for middle management development,

Easier recruitment of staff, head teachers and governors with the necessary expertise,

Improved social opportunities for pupils,

Opportunities to maximise resources and professional expertise and achieve financial efficiencies from economies of scale,

Adds capacity and supports efficiency by providing an economy of scale for undertaking key activities,

Schools with strengths can contribute to the learning of others,

This is the way to drive standards up – not school closure.

Option 3: Closure fails to mention the following disadvantages which we believe are critical and why this option is not the most viable.

Standards at neighbouring schools are not as high as Llanfynydd according to GWe

No transition planning has been done with regards to pupils moving schools

Redundancy costs for staff have not been calculated and included in closure costing

Peer groups and sibling sets may need to be split due to low volume of spare places in certain year groups

Cost savings in excess of those published can be achieved by other means.

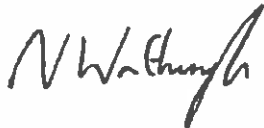
Taking these facts into account we believe that the council's assessment is wrong and Option 2: Federation should be the preferred option.

Conclusion

As we have set out above, the Governing body completely disagrees with the consultation proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd. We feel the document has set out to paint a picture of Ysgol Llanfynydd as a small crumbling school with dwindling numbers and an unsustainable economic outlook. This has mainly been achieved by using outdated reports and emphasising the negatives aspects of the school and ignoring the many positives.

I hope the our responses to a number of these points will enable the Cabinet to see a different picture of Ysgol Llanfynydd, we would stress however that the best way to appreciate this is by visiting our active, vibrant school. I sincerely hope that as many of you as possible will be able to take this opportunity before deciding on Ysgol Llanfynydd's future.

The future for Ysgol Llanfynydd lies in federation with a neighbouring school a process the Governing Body embrace and look forward to working with Flintshire County Council to realise this and sustain an active, high achieving school in the village of Llanfynydd for future generations.



Neil Worthington

Chair of Governors

Ysgol Llanfynydd.



Governors full response to the consultation proposal
Neil Worthington to 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

02/12/2015 16:00

1 attachment



Governors Consultation response.pdf

Kind Regards

Neil Worthington
Director

Tel: 01978 750893 | E-Mail neil.worthington@nw-solutions.co.uk | Web: www.nw-solutions.co.uk

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**Formal Consultation Document for proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd
(Response from Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn)**

Natalie to 21stcenturyschools (Flintshire)

01/12/2015 13:39

Cc: plmail

Please find below the response to the Formal Consultation Document regarding the proposed closure of Ysgol Llanfynydd.

The Governors of Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn are fully aware of the School Modernisation Process being undertaken by Flintshire County Council. We recognise the need for the Local Authority to make decisions that future proof the educational provision for all the young people in the County.

The rationale presented by the Local Authority in the current consultation document regrettably identifies that the current status of Ysgol Llanfynydd is untenable. The future projected pupil numbers highlight serious viability issues for the school's future. Pupil numbers have a huge impact on budget, staffing efficiencies and available resources. Whilst there are other local schools in the area that do have surplus places available, the recommendation for the pupils of Ysgol Llanfynydd to transfer to one of those schools is rationale.

Ysgol Parc Y Llan is already playing a key supporting role to Ysgol Llanfynydd during this most difficult time. our Governing Body agreed to our Headteacher taking on a care taking role as Headteacher at Ysgol Llanfynydd until July 2016.

Ysgol Parc Y Llan is a Category 1 school as identified within the consultation document and is the nearest English Medium school to Ysgol Llanfynydd with surplus places available. We would welcome any pupils wishing to transfer to our school should Ysgol Llanfynydd close. We are confident that in doing so they would continue to receive an excellent education and that the pupils and parents would adjust well, having had the benefit of meeting and working with our Headteacher.

The Governors of Ysgol Parc Y Llan recognise that Ysgol Llanfynydd has been played an important contribution to the community of Llanfynydd and surrounding areas. We also understand the strength of feeling in the Ysgol Llanfynydd community and the concerns expressed by stakeholders.

However we believe that with full commitment and determination from all partners including Ysgol Parc Y Llan and other local schools we will be able to provide a positive future for all young people in Flintshire.

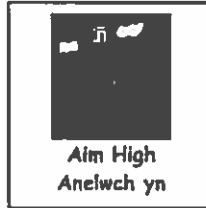
The Governors of Ysgol Parc Y Llan also recommend that should Ysgol Llanfynydd close in 2016; support from the LA with regards to transport arrangements should be provided. This would ensure that no families are financially disadvantaged as a consequence of the children having to travel to an alternative school.

Natalie Jones
Chair of Governors
Ysgol Parc Y Llan

(All correspondence should be directed via Ysgol Parc Y Llan)
Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Ffordd Y Llan, Treuddyn, CH7 4LN

Ysgol Parc Y Llan CP@flintshire.gov.uk

Bwlchgwyn C.P. School
Brymbo Road
Bwlchgwyn
LL11 5UA
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Ysgol Bwlchgwyn
Ffordd Brymbo
Bwlchgwyn
LL11 5UA
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Ysgol Gynradd Bwlchgwyn Bwlchgwyn School

'A caring and supportive community which strives to challenge and inspire!'

e-mail/e-bost:mailbox@bwlchgwyn-pri.Wrexham.sch.uk

Mrs. S.L. Williams, NPQH
Pennaeth Headteacher

School Modernisation Team,
Flintshire County Council,
County Hall,
Mold.
CH7 6ND

Re: Formal Consultation regarding the proposal to close Llanfynydd Community School as of 31st August 2016.

I write on behalf of the Governing Body to express our sadness at the necessity for this consultation. As a body responsible for the running of a school community, we are fully aware of all the problems and constraints that have to be considered, not least ever shrinking budgets. However, we understand the reasons for the proposals and the necessity for such action.

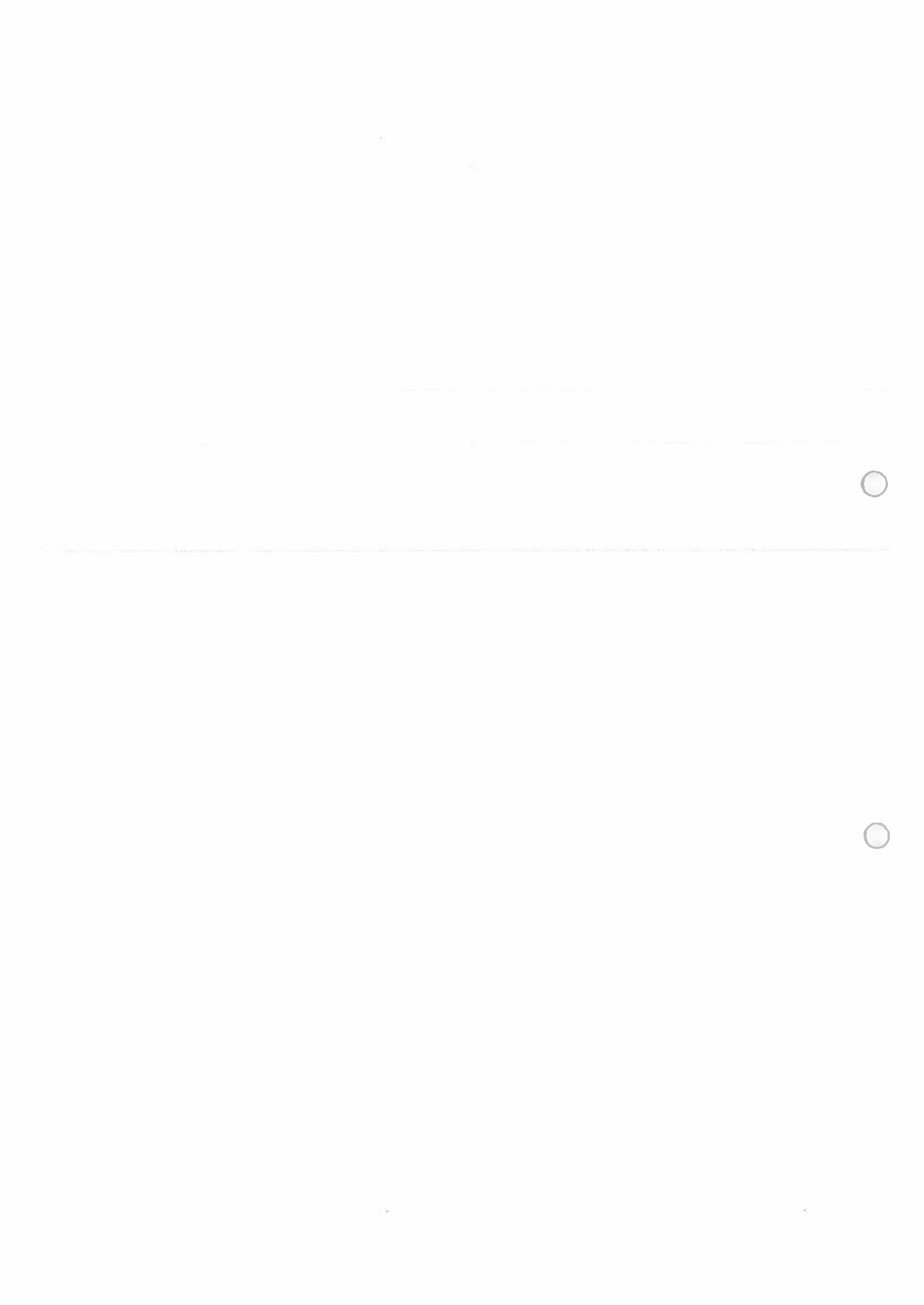
We offer our support to all connected with Llanfynedd school at this time. Our pupils have been consulted through our school council and should the proposal be eventually passed, we will all warmly welcome any pupils and their parents who choose to join our school community.

Yours sincerely,

Susan L Williams

p.p. Bwlchgwyn Governing Bod







Llanfynedd school proposals

BWLCHGWYN Mailbox to 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

02/12/2015 12:29

Cc: "alisonrobinfisher@hotmail.co.uk",
"paul.williams1440@btinternet.com"

1 attachment



Llanfynedd proposal.doc

Please find attached a response to the Llanfynedd consultation from the Governing Body of Bwlchgwyn School

Regards,

Susan Williams

Headteacher
Bwlchgwyn C P School
Brymbo Road
Bwlchgwyn
Wrexham
LL11 5UA 01978 757743

.....

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.....

Mae'r neges e-bost hon, ac unrhyw ffeil sydd ynghlwm wrthi, yn gyfnnachol ac fe'i bwriedir ar gyfer yr unigolyn neu'r sefydliad y cyfeiriwyd hi ato. Os nad chi yw'r derbynnydd priodol ond eich bod wedi derbyn y neges e-bost hon trwy gamgymeriad gwaherddir ei defnyddio, ei lledaenu, ei hanfon ymlaen, ei hargraffu a'i chopio a golynnir i chi gysylltu a'r sawl a'i hanfonodd a dileu'r deunydd o bob cyfrifiadur os gwelwch yn dda. Deallir nad yw Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam yn rhoi na cyn cymeradwyo barn, casgliadau a gwybodaeth arall sydd yn y neges hon nad yw'n ymwneud a'i fusnes swyddogol.

.....





Governors response to consultation

Head AbermordduCP to 21stCenturySchools
Cc huw.keenan@hotmail.co.uk

24/11/2015 10:20

History This message has been replied to.

On Thursday 19th November the governing body of Abermorddu C.P. school met to discuss the Formal Consultation Document on the Proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd.

After careful consideration of the document, the governors are happy that Abermorddu school could meet the educational requirements of any pupils who may wish to attend Abermorddu school should the decision be made to close Llanfynydd school.

The governing body had no further comment to make.

Regards

Ian Roberts
Headteacher

Huw Keenan
Chair of Governors

Flintshire County Council Consultation on the Proposal to Close Ysgol Llanfynydd from 31 August 2016

#31



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 6:49:04 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 6:53:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:55
IP Address: 90.212.115.237

PAGE 1: Consultation Response Form

- Q1: Do you agree with the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd by 31 August 2016?** Yes
- Q2: Please tell us if you are responding as** Other.
If Selected Other (please specify) Headteacher
- Q3: Please tell us do you have any alternative suggestions for sustainable education provision in Llanfynydd?** Respondent skipped this question
- Q4: Please let us have your additional comments or views regarding the proposal. Please tell us why you feel this way.**
I would hope that the county have a short and medium term plan in case local schools become over subscribed. Those schools will require support to manage this situation.
- Q5: Would you like to receive an e-mail link to the formal consultation report when it is published on the Flintshire County Council website?** No
- Q6: If you have answered yes to the above question please provide an email address. If you do not provide an email address we cannot keep you up to date** Respondent skipped this question

RESPONSE FROM YSGOL ESTYN

