



# CONSULTATION REPORT

To the proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain (English Medium, Community School) as of 31<sup>st</sup> 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 the Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015, Cabinet resolved to:

Open a period of formal consultation with key stakeholders for Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain with a future report to Cabinet.

2.2 Consultation was carried out in accordance with the School Organisation Code. The Consultation period commenced on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and ended on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.

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

2.4 A special version of the consultation document, for primary school children, was published on the Flintshire County Council website and a hard copy provided to all pupils at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain with a copy to the School Council at Gwynedd C.P. School, Flint; Cornist C.P. School, Flint and Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop. Both versions of the consultation documents can be found in the school modernisation section of Flintshire County Council website using the following link:-

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Modernisation-Related/Ysgol-Maes-Edwin-Flint-Mountain.aspx>

2.5 Hard copies (5) of the consultation documents were delivered to Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain; Gwynedd C.P. School, Flint; Cornist C.P. School, Flint; and Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop for people to view if they were unable to access the website. Additional hard copies were also

available on request and were either posted or collected from County Hall, Mold.

- 2.6 A postbox was also made available at Ysgol Maes Edwin for consultation responses to be posted and collected by a member of the School Modernisation Team.
- 2.7 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. Links to the survey were also published on the website.
- 2.8 All consultees, received an e-mail with the link directing them to the formal consultation document and supplementary documents on the first day of the consultation (21<sup>st</sup> October 2015).
- 2.9 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 Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain with:

#### **Teachers and support staff and governing body of Ysgol Maes Edwin**

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.

An additional meeting was held with the Governing Body of Ysgol Maes Edwin on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

#### **Parents/carers/guardians of pupils at Ysgol Maes Edwin**

The Parents/Carers/Guardians meeting took place at Ysgol Maes Edwin. Each Parent/Carer/Guardian received a letter containing the date, time, and location asking them to register their attendance for 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.

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

3.2 The Governors of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain requested that the Council did not meet with the School Council of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain. The Governors felt that the pupils had already submitted their views on the proposed closure of the school in letter format. The Governing Body confirmed via correspondence dated 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015 that they were satisfied that the pupils have been able to submit their views with regard proposed school closure. They were firmly of the view that it was not in the children's best interests to experience the anxiety and upset all over again by completing the children's and young person's version of the consultation document.

3.3 Consultation events were also arranged with the school council at Cornist C.P. School and Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop. The events were facilitated by the Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner whose role included engaging and consulting with pupils. A member of the School Modernisation Team was also present at the School Council meetings. Gwynedd C.P. School, Flint chose to facilitate their own meeting with the school council to discuss the proposal.

The Governors letter from and 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. (Gwynedd C.P. School, Flint; Cornist C.P. School, Flint and Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop).

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

#### 4.0 **Consultation responses**

4.1 In total 197 responses were received 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 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	53
Children & Young People's Response Forms	5
Letters and E-mails	56
Letters and E-mails – Children and Young People	83
<b>Total number of contacts</b>	<b>197</b>

## 4.3 The number of contacts made pre, post consultation are listed below

<u>Method of Contact</u>	<u>Pre Consultation</u>	<u>During Consultation</u>	<u>Post Consultation</u>	<u>Total Number of Contacts Received</u>
Consultation Response Forms (Online)	0	53	0	53
Letters and E-mails	15	31	0	46
School Governors Responses	0	3	0	3
Children and Young Peoples Response Forms	0	5	0	5
Letters and E-mails – Children and Young People	80	0	0	80
School Council Responses	0	3	0	3
Union Response	0	1	0	1
Estyn Response	0	1	0	1
AM and MP Response	4	1	0	5
<b>Total number of Contacts</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>197</b>

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

Rank	Issue	Description	Frequency of issue raised
1	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.	30
2	Strengths of Ysgol Maes Edwin	The school has many positives, it's a family school, it's a lovely community school. The school is in a lovely building. The building is DDA compliant. The school has lovely supportive teachers and staff. The school has lots of additional activities/clubs/trips.	57
3	Impact on Community	Closing the school down would significantly affect the local community. The school is at the heart of the community and has been there for 103 years.	13
4	Consultation Document	The information in the consultation document is incorrect. The	13

		information is out of date. The Estyn report for the school is old. The document is biased and negative. The information for the roof repairs seems high and incorrect.	
5	Parental Choice	Parental Choice has been taken away	11
6	Alternative suggestions: Federation for the school	The school should be able to explore Federation.	8
7	Housing Development i.e Croes Atti Development	Local housing developments in the local area have not been fully taken into consideration	8
8	Family connections with the school	Request that siblings should be able to attend this school. Family connections with the school and a number of families attended the school historically.	5
9	Childcare	No transport for pupils to attend extra-curricular activities.	5
10	Condition of building	DDA money spent on School	4
11	Consultation Process	Have correct procedures been followed?	2
12	Other schools are full	Nearby schools have reached their Admission Number is certain year groups	4
13	Traffic and Transport	Additional traffic has not been taken into consideration	1
14	Comments supporting the proposal	Supportive of the proposal. There is clear rationale to support the proposal	1

4.5 An analysis of the frequency of issues being raised within the Children and Young People's correspondence received highlighted the following issues:

Rank	Issue	Description	Frequency of issue raised
1	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.	117

2	Strengths of Ysgol Maes Edwin	The school has many positives, it's a family school, it's a lovely community school. The school is in a lovely building. The building is DDA compliant. The school has lovely supportive teachers and staff. The school has lots of additional activities/clubs/trips.	78
3	Impact on the Community	Closing the school down would significantly affect the local community. The school is at the heart of the community and has been there for 103 years.	8
4	Consultation Document	The information in the consultation document is incorrect. The information is out of date. The Estyn report for the school is old. The document is biased and negative. The information for the roof repairs seems high and incorrect.	4

\* Respondents were able to state more than one reason. This explains why the total is greater than the number of respondents

4.6 An analysis of the frequency of issues being 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	Alternative suggestions	Build an extension on Ysgol Maes Edwin so more pupils can attend	6
		Fundraising event for Maes Edwin to extend their school	3
		Knock the school down and build something else	3
		Close the school, redesign and open it again	10
2	Impact on other schools	More pupils to go to Ysgol Maes Edwin from schools which are full	4
3	Impact on Pupils	Emotional welfare	13
		Losing Friends	7
		Bullying	8
		Where pupils would go to school	3
4		More people supporting our school	3



	Comments supporting the proposal	Make new friends	31
5	Uniforms	Would have to buy new uniforms	2
6	Impact on Teachers and Support Staff	Teachers would lose their jobs	4
7	Community	What would happen to the building	1
8	Transport	Buses run through the village and it takes a long time because of the roads	1
		How would they get to their new school	1

4.7 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 influenced their views on the Proposal and any negative or positive comments they had;
- whether or not they would send their child(ren) to the proposed alternative schools if the proposal was implemented; 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, carer, 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 Councils' 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 proposer has provided a clear rationale when compared with the status quo in relation to finance,	N/A

APPENDIX 2

surplus places and the continuity and progression in pupils' learning.	
The proposal clearly defines the expected benefits of the proposal which link well to the stated purpose of rationale. The local authority has provided sufficient evidence to show that the plan is likely to at least maintain the standard of education in the Flint Mountain, Flint and Northop area.	N/A
The proposal notes appropriately the advantages of the proposal, which include the efficient and effective use of resources; a reduction of unfilled pupil places within the primary school network; at least maintaining the current standards and the quality of education in the area; and the reduction in travel to school for the majority of pupils should they choose their local school.	N/A
The proposer has identified appropriately the disadvantages to the current proposal, which focus on the impact of the closure of Ysgol Maes Edwin on the staff currently employed at the school, the end of English medium primary provision in the village of Flint Mountain and the increase in travel time for a few pupils who live in this village.	N/A
The local authority has provided clear evidence to show that it has considered other alternatives to this current proposal. These include maintaining the status quo and federating Ysgol Maes Edwin with another local school. They have demonstrated clearly the advantages and disadvantages of each option and the reasons for their preferred option.	N/A
The proposer has suitably considered the impact of the proposal on pupil travel arrangements. It intends to support home to school travel in line with the council's transport policy. It further recognises that the proposal will potentially result in reduced travel for most pupils currently attending Ysgol Maes Edwin. However, the proposer recognises that the travel time would increase for a few pupils living in Flint Mountain, but this would not be in excess of the pupil travel guidelines.	N/A
The proposal has appropriately shown how the proposal will affect surplus places by providing pupil numbers and surplus places in 2015 for schools in the area.	N/A
The proposal appears to have taken appropriate account of the impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language and the accessibility of Welsh medium provision in accordance with parental choice.	N/A
The proposer has considered reasonably well the impact of the proposals on the quality of the outcomes, provision and leadership and management at Ysgol Owen Jones. The proposer has considered the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection reports and each school's categorisation in relation to the National School Categorisation system on the quality of leadership and pupil outcomes. The proposer's summary of outcomes for all four schools is clear and compares appropriately with local, national and family of schools averages. However, the proposer has not	Whilst not a specific requirement of the School Organisation Code, in future all consultation reports will include comparison of performance of n-FSM and e-FSM pupils.

commented on comparisons with similar schools based on entitlement to free school meals.	
The proposer has appropriately considered the likely impact of the proposals on standards, wellbeing and curriculum delivery. The proposer reasonably asserts that the proposal would not impact unfavourably on the current standards and provision at Ysgol Gwynedd, Cornist C.P. School and Ysgol Owen Jones.	N/A
The proposer has undertaken an appropriate equality impact assessment, which considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with a disability or special educational needs.	N/A

## 7.0 Responses from Members of Parliament

In total 5 responses were received pre-consultation period and during the consultation period Members of the Parliament. The table below show the methods Members of the Parliament used to respond to the consultation:

### Breakdown of Responses from Assembly Members & Members of Parliament

No	Response Type	Response from Members of Parliament
		MPs
1	Consultation Response Form	0
2	Letters and Emails	5
Totals		5

The correspondence from the Members of Parliament and the authority responses can be viewed in [Appendix H](#).

## 8.0 Responses from Governors

In total 3 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	0
2	Letters and Emails	3
Totals		0

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

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# **APPENDIX A**

**Consultation Document (Adult and Childrens); 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
4	Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority	1
4	School Governing body for Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain	11
4	School Governing body for Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint	11
4	School Governing body for Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop	11
4	School Governing body for Cornist CP School, Flint	11
5	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/Pupils/School Council of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain	150
5	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/School Council of Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint	546
5	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/School Council of Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop	157
5	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/School Council of Cornist CP School, Flint	383
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	1
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	3
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	8
19	Equality and Welsh Language	2
20	Local High School – Headteacher and Chair of Governor	2
21	Local Health Authority	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1360</b>

# **APPENDIX B**

**YSGOL MAES EDWIN, FLINT MOUNTAIN TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF CONSULTATION EVENT, 11 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 4.00 P.M.**

**Flintshire County Council attendees**

Ian Budd, Chief Officer – Education and Youth, Councillor Chris Bithell – Executive Member for Education and Youth, Damian Hughes, Senior Manager School Place Provision and Planning, Claire Homard, Senior Manager School Improvement, Steve Gow, Human Resources Business Partner, Brian Rozier, Human Resources Business Partner, Jennie Williams, Project Officer – School Modernisation, Sarah Thomas, Project Officer – School Modernisation

**Ysgol Maes Edwin attendees**

John Plunkett, Headteacher, Kay Baker, Deputy Headteacher (Foundation Phase Teacher, Rhian Hindley, Teacher, Kelly Cumston, Teacher, Sharon Thorold, Teaching Assistant, Kathryn Aveyard, 1:1 Support, Denise Sides, N.N.E.B+, Rosie Pritchard, 1:1 Support, Lucy Pugh, 1:1 Support, Jessica Kyle, 1:1 Support, Jenny Collins, 1:1 Support, Avril Price, Caretaker/Cleaner, Breakfast Club, Debbie Taylor, Secretary

John Plunkett, Headteacher welcomed Flintshire County Council Officers to the meeting and provided housekeeping points then passed the meeting on to Ian Budd, Chief Officer – Education and Youth.

Ian Budd thanked the Teachers/Support Staff for attending the meeting and Flintshire County Council Officers introduced themselves to the meeting.

Ian Budd provided the format of the meeting.

- Short Presentation
- Questions and Answers;
- Make points
- Human Resources Business Partners would be available for individual discussions following the meeting if required.

Jennie Williams and Sarah Thomas will be noting all the questions and answers and points raised during the meeting, this information will be included in the consultation pack provided to Cabinet Members.

Ian Budd agreed to share a draft version of the minutes with the School.

Ian Budd gave a short presentation.

Damian Hughes advised that the Formal Consultation Period runs from (21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 to 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015).

The Consultation Documents have been assessed by Welsh Government officials and meet the requirements of the School Organisation Code.



It is anticipated that following the closure of the Consultation Period on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 a Consultation Report which summarises the key themes will be taken to Cabinet in January 2016. Additionally all responses received will be provided to the Cabinet to assist their decision making, also included will be the pre-consultation correspondence.

If Cabinet agree to proceed with the Proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain a Statutory Notice will be published for 28 days. During this time, people may formally object or agree to the Proposal. Responses for this period will then be taken to Cabinet in the form of an objection report for a final decision in April 2016.

You can respond to the consultation by either:

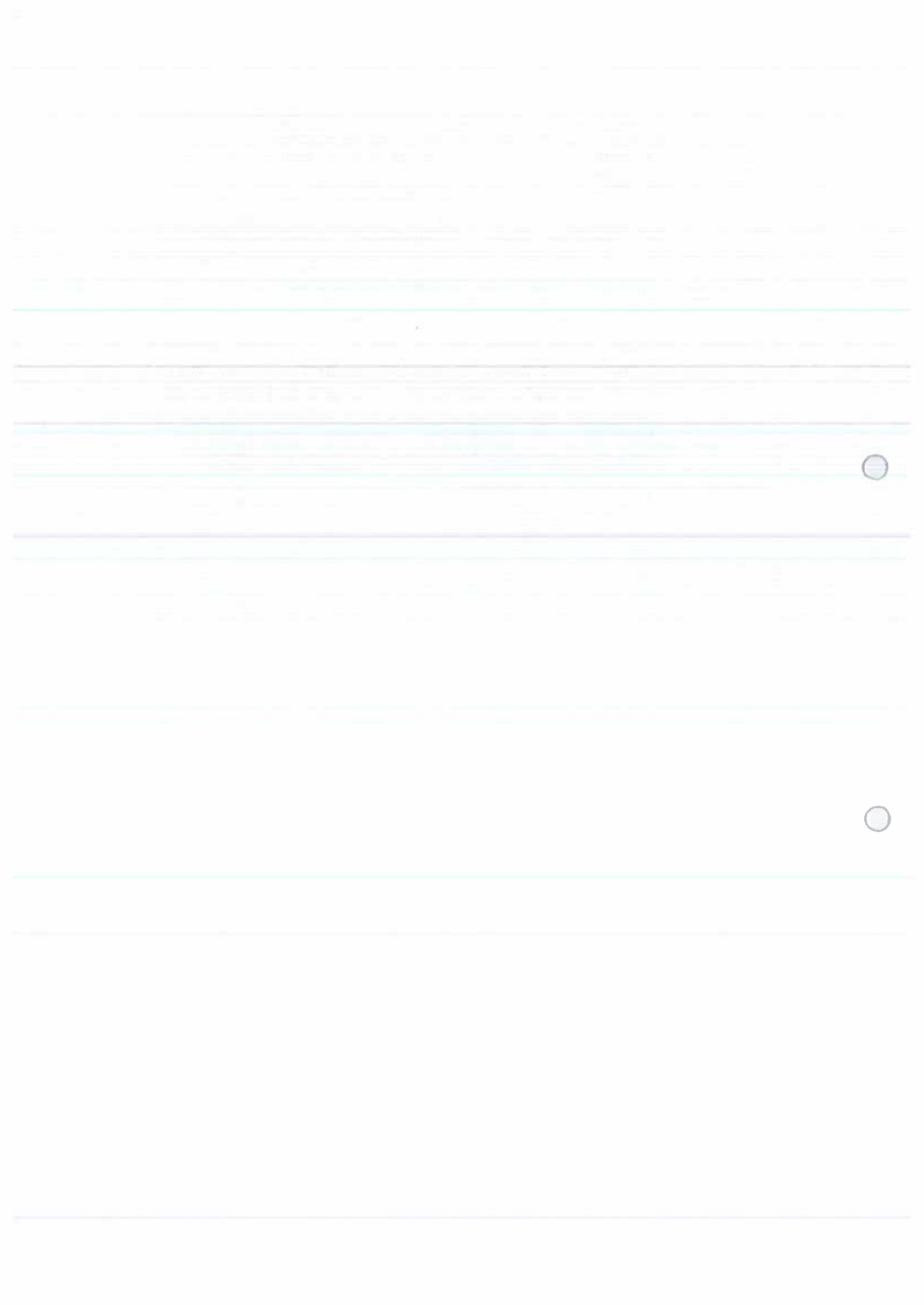
- Placing your response in the School Modernisation postbox at Ysgol Maes Edwin
- Complete the on-line questionnaire at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/53G2H6J](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/53G2H6J)
- Complete a response form and return it to the School Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ND; or
- Alternatively put your responses/questions in writing to the School Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 6ND or Email [21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk)

Q	KB	<b>Are you aware that 46.5% of full time pupils came from other schools?</b>
A	DH	Flintshire County Council's Admissions Team would be aware of the pupil trends.
Q	KB	<b>Of the 46.5% - 77% came from larger schools in Flint. What makes you think parents/carers/guardians who have moved their child from Flint want to return to Flint where they have been dissatisfied with the Quality of Education/Bullying and have chosen to send their child to a smaller school.</b>
A	DH	It is a relevant point that parents/carers/guardians will have selected Ysgol Maes Edwin for a particular reason.
Q		<b>One of the Advantages in the Transport Impact Assessment refers to Pupils being able to walk to school. parents/carers/guardians put a lot of effort into choosing a school. The Local Authority cannot direct parents/carers/guardians to an alternative school if they wanted they could choose another school.</b>
A	DH	Parents and guardians can express a preference for any school. In modelling the Council have to make certain assumptions, we have made assumptions in the document based on the nearest school.
C		<b>There is only 38 places in Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop that is not enough. Ysgol Owen Jones is still a small school</b>

Q	JP	<b>There are 12 primary schools smaller than Ysgol Maes Edwin. What is the future for those smaller (under 105/120 pupils) schools in Flintshire? Are they under threat?</b>
A	IB	All Headteachers will be aware of the School Modernisation Strategy. No reviews of schools can be commissioned without agreement from the Local Authority's Cabinet.
Q	JP	<b>Will there be small schools in Flintshire?</b>
A	IB	Yes
A	DH	School Modernisation will be consider the bigger picture across Flintshire schools based on a continuing programme. The Council we are recommending that Ysgol Maes Edwin is not required in the current education portfolio as there unfilled places within schools within the area.
Q		<b>What do you expect to do with those pupils who have left the larger schools?</b>
A	IB	If Cabinet agree to proceed with the Proposal, the Authority will work with colleagues and individual families on transition arrangements.
Q	KB	<b>Do you know we have 3 new pupils?</b>
A	DH	Yes
Q	KB	<b>Looking in the future there has been very little planning for the pupils generated from housing developments i.e. Croes Atti. What provision has been made for these pupils?</b>
A	DH	Housing pupil yield formula is based on 0.24 pupils per dwelling. This is based on census information collated by a partnering Authority (Conwy CBC). The formula does not take account of the pace of the building works; parental preference and whether the pupils are already attending schools in the area. Based on the modelling work carried the Council feels that the existing schools in the areas are able to cope with the potential pupil yield from the proposed housing developments. This is highlighted in the consultation document.
C	JP	<b>Personal view is that it would be foolish to apply for positions in other schools in Flintshire with less than 100 pupils</b>
A	CH	The School Modernisation Policy and financial challenges facing us that schools would be concerned that they could go into review in the future.
Q		<b>Why are other schools in Flintshire which are 2/3 empty not under review?</b>
A	DH	Cabinet can only agree to a review if the recommendation is put forward to them
Q	JC	<b>Is there a way in which we can keep the school open in a different way?</b>
A	DH	Yes, if you can provide a valid option which is sustainable we will present this proposal to Cabinet.
Q	DT	<b>Why have you spent £200,000 on building works during the Summer?</b>

A	DH	We cannot pre-determine the decision. The school has had physical adaptations to meet the needs of pupil/s with disabilities. Financial investment made in carrying out these adaptations ensures that no pupils are discriminated against or disadvantaged by the buildings in which they occupy. Flintshire County Council is duty bound by law under the Equality Act to address the needs of pupils with a disability.
Q	KB	<b>Does Ysgol Owen Jones have showering facilities?</b>
A	DH	I would need to confirm this, but if a pupil at the school required physical adaptations to meet the needs of their disabilities. Flintshire County Council is duty bound by law under the Equality Act to address the needs of pupils with a disability. Flintshire County Council has an Equality Strategy Group who meet and discuss the needs of pupils.
Q	DT	<b>Can Welsh Government determine what schools close?</b>
A	IB	The Welsh Government delegated the decision to Local Authorities. Welsh Government only make a decision if it affects Post 16 Education.
Q		<b>Are you going to increase the Admission Number at Ysgol Owen Jones and Cornist C.P. School?</b>
A		There will be no change to the Admission Number
C	DS	<b>Emotional comment made by Teacher of 37 years at Ysgol Maes Edwin. The school is a family and the pupils of Ysgol Maes Edwin benefit from this family. The advantages of this school are like no other and the nurturing the pupils have. Other schools might have high statistics/pupil numbers and financial aspects. This all sounds so final and it hurts.</b>
C		<b>I live in Cheshire and I would not want to work anywhere else as we are a family.</b>
A	IB	Thanked them for their emotional stories and the difference they have made to pupils and families and advised that these would be included in the report to Cabinet
Q	DT	<b>What is going to happen to this building?</b>
A	DH	Should the proposal be implemented Ysgol Maes Edwin (building and site) would be declared surplus to Education and transferred to the Property Asset Team at Flintshire County Council. The Council could consider transferring the school asset or part of the asset to a constituted community group where they can demonstrate a need and ability to take over the running of the site.
C	JC	<b>In the disadvantages to pupils the only negative impact on pupils is they may lose friendship groups. I find this shocking!</b>
C	DH	This is the Authority's view. It is important to seek the views of the children and young people during the Consultation period. Estyn also provide a response to the Consultation documents.
Q	JP	<b>How many schools is it going to take to close?</b>

A	IB	We are in a level of austerity – a level that we have not seen before. 5 years ago. There is no one answer.
Q	JP	<b>Leader of the Council looking to the public to find the answers</b>
A	IB	There are other consultation events taking place within Flintshire with the Community. You can view these events on the Flintshire County Council website. <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk">www.flintshire.gov.uk</a>
Q	JC	<b>Are we able to speak with you during the Consultation? Can this process be stopped and delayed?</b>
A	DH	Yes. If you are able to provide a sustainable option with business plan.
C		<b>Children and Young Peoples Consultation – Ysgol Maes Edwin felt that the pupils who receive 1 to 1 support are never going to understand the consultation as they have difficulties communicating. Governors have drafted a response to the Authority and asked for the letters provided pre-consultation.</b>
A	DH	The Children and Young People's consultation would be completed by specialist officers.



**YSGOL MAES EDWIN FLINT MOUNTAIN. GOVERNOR CONSULTATION EVENT,  
11 November 2015, 5.00pm**

**Council attendees:**

Cllr Chris Bithell, Ian Budd; Damian Hughes, Claire Homard; Jeanette Rock, Jennie Williams, Sarah Thomas; Kim Brookes

**Governor attendees:**

John Plunkett; Gareth Jones; Jenny Morgan; Keith Taylor; Sue Williams; Denise Sides; Kay Baker; Terry Renshaw; Vicky Perfect

IB welcomed governors and commented on the thoughtful contributions received from the staff at their meeting earlier. He stated that such a process is not entered into lightly by the Local Authority that Officers are sensitive to emotions of all and will make time to deal with them;

Minutes and any points made during this meeting will be made and shared with all and Cabinet Members;

IB made a short power point presentation which can be made available.

**Questions and Answer session**

**Q: Big schools have more staff but they cannot always provide personal support that this schools offers. This small school is successful, big schools are not the answer I urge to you please consider this, there is an examples including my daughter who has special needs, where they have grown in this school. There are specific children that come to these schools for a reason. English Authorities went down the route of getting rid of small schools, I urge Flintshire not to.**

A: CH heads of big schools would also say they do a good job.

A:IB: Estyn provides a statement on the educational quality and provision and support of vulnerable learners. There is assurance on the quality of provision in schools.

A: JR: vulnerable learners have benefitted from the inclusive nature of schools within Flintshire and vulnerable pupils do go successfully to bigger schools. We cannot blanketly say that big schools don't provide support to vulnerable learners.

**Q: We celebrate the differences in welsh education system and from personal experience my family agonised over finding the right school for my daughter as it could affect the rest of her life.**

A: Whether it is a small or large school issue there is a need for personalised support for individual learners. If changes are made in the area each family will be provided with the support they need.

A: IB: School organisational change this a core responsibility of the Local Authority and is a sensitive and emotive issue. Places for those pupils that are affected by school organisation change will be carefully planned and provided for with our Admissions Officer and Inclusion Support Officers.

**Q: If 10% surplus places being considered by the School Organisation code, why not those schools with 61% surplus places? No space for my 2 daughters who will have to travel further.**

A: DH: There is an on-going process and all schools would need to be considered. In school reorganisation there are different factors to consider which underpin decisions – demographic/geographic/ need for capital investment. Practically we cannot review all schools in one go there has to be a phased approach.

In the next phase of school reviews, there will need to be a deliberation on which ones require capital investment. The pace of change for school organisation change depends on the area and this will be unpalatable for school communities. School modernisation programmes in response to unfilled places in England happened some time ago. Wales doesn't have Academies.

CB: Historically there has been a subsidy provided to small schools and the Local Authority was not exercised historically to deal with this.

IB: Other Council services have also felt the financial austerity and some have been decimated as, education services cannot be continued to be protected and pupil teacher ratios going up.

**Q: What about parents who want to send their children to a small school. Can small schools exist without a federation?**

A: IB Small schools can and will become unsustainable given the future austerity and 10 -15% cuts in funding. Governors of schools will need to consider what their schools will look like with such cuts. Less school sites mean less staffing costs. The Local Authority will model for both large and small schools. The model of schools will mean that leadership costs and shared costs through reducing the schools sites and also reducing staff costs through federation may happen

**Q: As governors we heard about it in the press which was grossly unfair.**

A: IB: There was a careful and sensitive cascade of information to the Headteacher and Chair of Governors prior to the announcement. This happened due to the timing of the reports being made public this would have happened in advance of any media coverage, and required careful and sensitive handling.

**Q: In the consultation document, the criteria and information is jumping all over the place – can you just provide a plain English version?**

A: DH: The consultation document has been written in order to meet the legal requirements under the School Organisation Code, although the document has lots of information and it could be an onerous read this is necessary to ensure all the facts about the school available.

IB: There is also a Children and Young People's version of the document available.

**Q: Do you think there is an acceptable distance of travel by pupils?**

A: DH: There is the Wales Government Learner Measure which sets out the criteria for acceptable travel time for pupils to travel from their home address to their school. As most of the current school demographic is based Flint based, the view is that there are unfilled places in the area that are within acceptable distances to travel.



**Q: I live opposite the Gwynedd School and seen too much going on there, so I don't want to send my children there, so I will have to travel further.**

A: DH: The Local Authority has a duty to ensure that should the school close there are enough spaces in other schools to accommodate these children, it is our view that there are enough places in the system should the school close, it cannot take into consideration every parents preference and where a parent expresses a preference for a school place.

**Q: Does the support to families include emotional support and Early Years support. Children have already been moved from Flint schools, so how will this be dealt with?**

A: IB needs a coherent and consistent approach and the positive goodwill of parents and pupils to work through individual transition plans.

CH: The transition work will include this school, school staff, and the receiving school and the local authority will provide a higher level of support as necessary for these young people learners and will tailor their support.

JR: If the learners through a service level agreement have a statement of need, then the school community and receiving school would need to review their individual needs and plan accordingly, young people are more resilient and are individuals, there will be a role for the school to work with us to identify those needs.

**Q: Are the unfilled places figures up to date?**

A: DH: Yes the unfilled places where up to date at time of writing. Ysgol Northop Owen Jones is full in certain year groups.

IB stated that if governors needed a further meeting then that could be facilitated  
Further answers to questions may be addressed in the Parent/Carer/Guardians meeting.

**Continuation of Governors meeting which took place on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 5.00 p.m. at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain**

**Q: Parents/Carers/Guardians/Staff/Teachers are worried, upset and angry and the message from the parents is that they want to stay together as a family. The parents are not wanting to look around at other nearby schools, as they don't want the big schools**

IB noted the point

**Q: I have attended courses with the other nearby schools and they are say they are full apart from one.**

CH: Data sourced from the Sept 2015 Stat Returns, this figures are always moving. Parents wishing to express an interest in transferring will need to contact the Admissions Team who have an up to date database.

**Q: If there is no space in Year 4 but is space in Year 2 and 1. Would they get in on the sibling rule?**

CH: Not automatically but they could go to appeal and this would be considered by an independent panel

**Q: Why don't the Councillors know about the £93k spent on the school in the Summer?**

A: Councillors are aware of the DDA spend. We cannot pre-determine the decision and we have to meet the needs of the current pupils.



**Q: Confused on process – Why was this school chosen?**

**A: The proposal meets the trigger points of the School's Modernisation Strategy**

**Q: Federation Options – One Headteacher on Board would our framework need to be in by the 2<sup>nd</sup> December?**

**A: You will need to provide as much detail as possible that the proposal is sufficient.**

**Q: In light of recent activities, Governors have resigned and there are very few willing to stand up and become Governors**

**A: It was suggested the School contact Kim Brookes, Governance to discuss in further detail**

## YSGOL MAES EDWIN, FLINT MOUNTAIN - PARENT/CARER/GUARDIANS

CONSULTATION EVENT , 11 November 2015, 18.30pm

### Council attendees:

Councillor Chris Bithell, Ian Budd; Damian Hughes, Claire Homard; Jeanette Rock, Gill Yates, Neal Cockerton (Independent Chair), Jennie Williams, Sarah Thomas, Kim Brookes, Paula Vogt

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.

There will be a Questions and Answer session after a short power point presentation, the presentation 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 trying to manage rises in pupil teacher ratios; with 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/carers/guardians can apply for a pupil space. Each school has an Admission Number (A year group number limit but in limited circumstances a right of appeal to an independent panel; 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 school.

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 not to continue. 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 :

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

**Q: If being amber is an issue can this be improved with the team. Kids are thriving and we are at full capacity.**

**A: CH:** The main driver for the Ysgol Maes Edwin review is not about standards at this school and that is on the record it had a good report from Estyn. This national model of school categorisation is based on a number of factors including foundation phase outcomes. The raw data is on Mylocalschool website. Difficulty is in a small school low numbers affect performance categorisation even though there is good pupil progress. Wales Government prioritise data profile of school and take three years' worth of data including literacy, numeracy and attendance. It is not ideal but it is the system we have to work with. The second criteria which is determined by the Authority and GwE our regional school improvement service. The school has a grade B which is good but the matrix as

determined by the Wales Government gives the overall colour categorisation so 4 for data and B for school improvement will be an amber colour to show support needed which the school can access from the regional service.

**Q: Why doesn't Flintshire recognise dyslexia?**

**A: JR:** we adhere to the guidance from the British Psychological Society which determines that a test on one day is not how we determine if a young person has dyslexia. The assessment we use is if a child's assessment shows a sustained level of targeted support by the school. There is a concern with Wales Government model of measuring those with additional learning needs.

**Q: Do children with autism affect the figures?**

**Q: If children with additional learning needs affect figures why don't you take them out?**

**A: CH:** We have to work with Wales Government Policies, and figures therefore Estyn reports are independent and important as they can give an in-depth report.

**A: IB** stated that Estyn are a statutory consultee and give offer a response to the proposals, this will be made public.

**Q: What is to say that your numbers are wrong?**

**A: CH:** Performance data has been checked based on information submitted by the school to the local authority and appear on 'Mylocalschool' website

**A: DH:** we use capacity figures which are a standard national form, and the capacity assessment has been signed by the school as confirmation, unfilled places are derived from the capacity form against pupil numbers obtained by the schools official returns in January and September.

**Q: Will this increase the Pupil Teacher Ratio in other schools. If are child has autism they will not cope in other large groups. What will happen when 600 houses are built in Oakenholt?**

**A: IB:** One way to manage rising Pupil Teacher Ratio going is through school re-organisation. Pupil led funding keeps the Pupil Teacher Ratio down and re-organisation can take out costs of buildings, administration and leadership.

**A: DH** on page 14 potential future developments we use a formula to predict. Pace of development will be down to a number of factors, so it is difficult to predict when potential housing developments will be built through. We use census information provided by Conwy CBC to derive a formula, this is then applied. What it can't predict is the pace of housing development, parental preference and whether pupils in new housing are already in the local Education system. Therefore we apply maximum figures. Based on these figures the Authority is of the view that the current school network can cope with additional housing developments in the area. Other factors are, reducing pupil projections and declining birth rate.

**Q: I drive past two schools to send my child here. What is parental choice?**

**A: DH** apologies it is parental preference. It is the Local Authority's it is our statutory duty to manage school places, demographics inform the Council and Ysgol Maes Edwin in not required in our local schools estate.

**A: GY** it is parental preference not a right to choose. If there is a place in a school then parents can express a preference up to the Admission Number. If a place is not available, then parents and guardians are advised to pick a second preference.

**Q: I would not send my child to those schools. Does a child have a right to a good education? There is an in-humane pressure for parents, pupils and staff.**

**A: IB:** we are clear it is a sensitive and emotive time and there needs to be a delicate balance in working through issues for staff and families. Wales Government recognise this and hence try to speed up the process for the Authority.

**Q: Why are we here? Are we the only amber school? Other schools meet the "trigger" points**

**A: CH:** you are compared with like schools on 'Mylocalschool' website ([www.mylocalschool.com](http://www.mylocalschool.com))

**Q: What number of schools are we looking at?**

**A: CllrB:** We need to deal with surplus places in primary and secondary. We have not chosen to do this before as it is difficult but we can no longer ignore it because of the dire financial circumstances affects all pupils. There are circa 2,000 surplus pupil places across Flintshire with the Primary sector and Welsh Government are putting increasing pressure upon Local Authority's to reduce them.

**A: IB:** we have reviewed schools in previous years and these are in Cabinet papers. Cabinet cannot have a closed mind and this community needs to look at how you can resiliently address 10% 15% or 30% budget reductions in coming years and Cabinet will look at those plans.

**Q: Saltney Ferry School is worse than us.**

**A: CH:** Saltney Ferry School is now out of Estyn Category and have made good progress.

**A: IB:** there was an area review in Saltney. Any review has to be resilient for the long term.

**Q: Flintshire County Council have a statutory obligation to improve standards for pupils in the school – how will this be improved and provide for pupils at this school as other schools not have enough places**

**A: CH:** we have to show where there is comparable or better provision in the document.

**A: IB:** Councillors have to be satisfied that there is sufficient places / alternative provision within the area.

**A: GY:** there are enough places in the system but we don't know what preferences parents will have. I can work with each parent to look at their preferences and transport support.

**Q: If schools are full why are there diminishing resources?**

**A: IB:** for a statutory notice to be issued Councillors have to be assured there are places for each child.

**Q: Why is Flint Mountain not deemed to be part of Flint?**

**A: IB:** Cabinet members can't take decisions unless they are clear there are suitable alternative places. For many families alternative schools are closer than Flint Mountain

**Q: Data sets are out of date**

**A: DH:** the date sets used at the time of writing to Cabinet in June 2015 were PLASC January 2015. They are a snapshot at a moment in time. We have acknowledged they cause uncertainty and we work in partnership with school to maintain as much surety as we can.

**A: IB:** consultation document contains as required in the Code. Reporting to decision makers will identify the data source, date and will be contextualised.

**Q: I took my child from another local school after years of bullying and received no response from you Mr Budd. All teachers in this school can identify them individually which won't happen in big schools as they are taught in corridors. Up here they have time for them. My child is known to all staff.**

**A: IB:** every parent/carer has put thought into decision to make for their child and heartening to hear. Correspondence with the authority is responded to within ten days as policy. The authority has limited powers with individual school complaints. Estyn will provide an independent report to the decision makers. For me the child should be safe and secure wherever they are placed.

**A: CH:** I must defend heads of large schools who work hard and they know their staff. Some of our biggest schools have fantastic teachers and staff and know their pupils.

**A: Cllr B:** Small schools have a subsidy and your children benefit from that but they are being supported by the other schools and the schools budget forum wish to create a more level funding programme. We need to do right by all our children.

**Q: Can you give me a cost of what the school modernisation project has cost the taxpayer? Can you come back to me with those figures?**

**A: Management of School Places** is a Statutory core responsibility of the Local Authority. There is no additional costs associated with the Ysgol Maes Edwin review as officers are working within their core responsibilities.

**Q: There are four options for primary schools in Flint, but only one option for Flint Mountain**



<p><b>A:</b> DH: looking at demographics small number of pupils come from the locality. Schools have been protected until now from major cuts and that can no longer happen.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> Why close the school and spend £90k on the building?</p>
<p><b>A:</b> IB: we cannot predetermine an outcome and therefore todays money on today's pupils and access for pupils with disability</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> The education standards I take issue with CH statement that other schools in Flint are "better" on standardisation. I am going to rely on Estyn report on this school. Children with autism/dyslexia are not indicated on the statistics. That's why we come to school, that's what's gets me out of bed in the morning, to make a difference to these children. I am unhappy with the data and wasted a few hours with Officers who did not deal with my concerns. I did request that the data in the pack be updated but the actual numbers did not go in as they didn't fit your agenda. We wanted data to show the journey.</p>
<p><b>A:</b> DH: We use data supplied by the school. Our projections methodology is used by other authorities and object that we have wasted time.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> We would like to make clear to Cabinet that the predicted data shows a decline. We don't know whose data was used. Is this made up as parents we say this is far off the mark.</p>
<p><b>A:</b> DH: we use a three year average of intake. If you derive more numbers in September it is a live model and we will change predictions. Logical assumptions are made for financial modelling as funding follows pupils and we have no way of determining parental preference.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> I wrote to Cabinet members and had no replies form individuals only a cut and pasted answer. Why was the school targeted?</p>
<p><b>A:</b> Cllr B: there are surplus places and not serving the locality.</p>
<p><b>A:</b> IB: when I answer the questions I have given personal answers but I am disappointed as review on this school is a cabinet decision and decisions are a public record.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> Tell me which of the five criteria apply. Why are you closing us?</p>
<p><b>A:</b> IB: 16 June report of Cabinet made it clear. It is open to you to make representation and to make alternative resilient case. You need a resilient future plan and hear clearly the views of children and young people. It is a requirement that the governing body has to facilitate consultation with at least the school Council. We have skilled officers that can work with the school council. Children have written to the authority before the consultation began and these will be taken to cabinet.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> We don't want children to be further consulted.</p>
<p><b>A:</b> IB: there has to be a sensitive way of dealing with the legal requirement</p>
<p><b>C:</b> You don't understand and care about the kids. Children were sat up each night for a week crying about the school going to close. This schools has done fantastic and you are all really disappointing.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> I am from the Flint Mountain Community Association. I accept the authority has to look at options. What is role of local community in responding to this? Only a small percentage of Flint Mountain residents send their pupils to this schools. I feel report tone is written to close and not a balanced report of advantages and disadvantages which emphasise decision to close school. Are there enough question marks about the data? The number of developments in this community could bring pupils to the school. We are addressing future of the community and working with the school as the community changes. Development in Northop and we are dynamic. Will houses be built when school closes?</p>
<p><b>A:</b> DH: There is an expectation that you respond to the consultation document. The document is weighty as we have to follow the Code. Councillors have not made any decision on the site. There is the issue of legal ownership of the site. Other housing developments are at outline planning only. Council cannot wait to see if there are housing developments in 15 years. There is no requirement for us to meet but must widely communicate but we welcome the opportunity to meet.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> If you are not going to build on the land then why close the school</p>

A: Cllr B: if proposals go through it will be passed to the Community Assets section who will decide what to do with it.

C. **If you closed another school you could sell land and make money. This would make more financial sense.**

**Q: Report is negative and your mind is made up. Can you not sure where surplus places are.**

A: DH: We cannot do a global review at one time; it causes uncertainty in communities and we acknowledge that. We have an onward programme of modernisation and have to manage the work programme as Cabinet have to deal with decision making relating to cuts in all parts of the authority.

**Q: There are other schools worse than us.**

A: DH: It is not that simple as some require major capital investment to facilitate school organisational change as they are the only school in the area for example and Flintshire needs to be able to secure the money. Maes Edwin is in the first tranche of reorganisation as no capital investment is needed to facilitate school organisational change as there are other schools in the area which can accommodate children.

A: IB: All decisions relating to school modernisation are complex and not easy to make for Cabinet.

A: Cllr B: We understand your concerns

**Q: What about future developments as additional housing are going to be filled with people with children. If there are over 600 houses in the next 2 -3 years where will they go to school?**

A: DH: We have already answered this

**Q: Where are the Projections from on this housing yield?**

A: DH: in the document we show no anticipated timeline on the build but if all houses were built now they would fit into our school estate without Maes Edwin

A: Cllr B: some children could be secondary children or go to a catholic or welsh school

**Q: Is the consultation open to residents? How are residents to respond? How do they know? We have done our own thing to inform them.**

A: IB: there has been significant media interest, and publicity locally

A: DH: required consultee groups have been informed which includes the Community Association and the website. Hard copies of documentation have been provided at the school and further copies can be can be provided upon request.

**Q: Can the process be lengthened? We would only have five months to find another school is that acceptable?**

A: IB: it is not lengthy I agree but can be delivered and need to weigh it up against uncertainty for the school. It is not a fixed timetable and for example additional investigations/consultation to consider any alternative proposals but forward

**Q: Parents do not agree that five months is long enough to find another schools. Will Teaching Assistant support follow if needed?**

A: IB: it is an acceptable length of time against the balance of anxiety and uncertainty. There can be drop in sessions for parents with vulnerable pupils to work on transition and every effort made to negotiate continuity of staffing where possible.

**Q: How many Schools have gone through a review and remained open in Flintshire?**

A: Argoed High School, Saltney Review – Saltney Ferry C.P.

**Q: We don't trust you, you have already made your mind up**

A: IB: we can provide more information as per our roles under the Code

**Q: Where are you planning to put my children. You will see me in court**

A: GY: You can contact me individually as I cannot discuss individuals cases here

**Q: Looks like you have made your decision and leave the children who need support in random schools without support**

**Q: What happens to brothers and sisters who go to different schools and split them up?**

**Q: My child was at and was crying and nobody has done anything about it. Which schools has most empty spaces?**

**A: DH: Flint, Gwynedd**

**A: IB: Governors and Leaders of school want you to stay here and not jump ship as various outcomes can come from a review**

**Q: Can the report influence the Cabinet**

**A: IB: Cllrs need to be confident that sufficient places are available in the area. Not only is it that the consultation report goes to Cabinet but included is Estyn and their comments on education in the area. As parents you have individual decisions to make and as JP said earlier tonight he would rather have Estyn's view**

**Q: Who provides the alternatives?**

**A: IB: any consultees can come up with resilience plans and options to manage the budget reductions ahead for example federation with other schools; joint structures. Cabinet can commission an extension to consider alternatives put forward but this does extend period of uncertainty**

**Q: If unfilled places go down to 10%. Do you get extra funding from the Wales Government?**

**A: IB: revenue funding is via a formula based on pupil numbers therefore nothing to do with surplus places. Capital investment is for new build and refurbishment and is subject to a business case. From 2018 onwards the authority can bid subject to successful business case by case. New school in Holywell is significantly smaller than the previous school.**

**A: IB was requested to put this in writing.**

**Q: School Categorisation is 4 which the Leader of the Council does not understand, so can a summary be included to help decision makers understand the school categorisation system.**

**A: IB: Mylocalschool has a guide for parents**

# **APPENDIX C**



Ysgol Maes Edwin  
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11<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear Damian,

**Re: Ysgol Maes Edwin Consultation Document – Children's version**

Following the meeting on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November with yourself and Cllr Chris Bithell regarding the Children's version of the Consultation document the Governing body wish to make the following statement:

The pupils of Ysgol Maes Edwin have already submitted their views on the proposed closure of our school in letter format. The Governing Body are satisfied that the pupils have been able to submit their views with regard proposed school closure. We are firmly of the view that it is not in the children's best interests to experience the anxiety and upset all over again by completing the Children's version of the Consultation Document.

We trust that our wishes will be respected on this matter as part of the consultation and that the responses from pupils received in letter format will be accepted as their responses to the proposed school closure.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Williams', with the initials 'PP' written below it.

Mrs S Williams  
Chair of Governors



BUDDSODWR MEWN POBL  
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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J.C. Plunkett  
Pennaeth  
Headteacher

30<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear School Modernisation Team,

**Re: Consultation with School Council**

The governing body of Ysgol Maes Edwin would like to confirm that the original children's written responses to the proposed school closure will stand as their responses to this process.

The children have therefore been consulted and responded accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

K Taylor  
Acting Chair of Governors



Your Ref Eich Cyl

Our Ref Ein Cyf

Date Dyddiad

6<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 2015 to talk about the proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain.

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 Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain 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](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk) **this has to be done by 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.**

Yours sincerely



Claire Broad  
Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner



Jennie Williams  
Project Officer – School Modernisation

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6ND  
[www.flintshire.gov.uk](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk)  
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug, CH7 6ND  
[www.siryfflint.gov.uk](http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk)



## **APPENDIX C**

### **School Council Findings**

**Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop – School Council Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

#### **Attendees**

Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop School Council, Claire Broad, Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner, Jennie Williams, Project Officer – School Modernisation, Representative from Ysgol Owen Jones

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this children and young persons consultation was for the Authority to speak with the children in Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop with regards to the consultation to the proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016. This was to help them to voice any concerns that they may have or any suggestions that they would like Flintshire County Council to hear.

The Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner went through the document with the school council representatives. Once the consultation document was looked through, we looked back at what it meant. This helped us to see how the children felt and if they had concerns with the proposal.

Once the consultation document had been explained thoroughly, the Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner went through the questions on the consultation document and helped the children look at the questions and think about what they thought. She emphasised that they can write what they wanted and it was all about their opinions, there was no right or wrong answer.

## Ysgol Owen Jones School Council Consultation

### Summary

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

Responses	Number of Pupils
Sad	1
Mixed emotions	1
Ok	1
I don't mind	5

A vote was also held for the above question:

Responses	Number of Pupils
Thumbs Up (happy)	1
Thumbs in the middle (would not mind)	6
Thumbs down (sad)	1

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

Hopes	Number of Pupils
Happiness (that new pupils would feel happy and current pupils would feel happy)	4
Hope that new pupils would fit in / be friends	2
Hope that nice people would come to YOJ	1
I don't mind	1
Fears	Number of Pupils
Fears of Bullying	4
Fears that new pupils would not be nice	4

**3. Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:**

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Number of Pupils</b>
Build an extension	2
More pupils to go to Ysgol Maes Edwin	1

**This question was also discussed verbally and some of the suggestions were:**

- Could build an extension and make their school bigger
- Could make their classrooms bigger so more children can go
- Could knock their school down and build a new one
- Could they modernise the school like we did with the library
- They could advertise for more pupils

**4. Would you like to say anything else?**

- No further comments made

Q1. How would you feel if ysgol Maes Edwin were to close?

I would feel sad

I would feel OK

I would feel OK but not happy for them because they have a new chance

I would feel sad

I would feel OK

I would feel OK but not happy for them because they have a new chance

I would feel sad

I would feel OK

I would feel OK but not happy for them because they have a new chance

HOPES

FEAR S



10/02/2019  
Normal  
5/11/15

Fear is the  
Tendency to

to avoid  
the  
thing or  
person

They are not the same

They are not the same

That they are not the same

That they are not the same

I am very happy

I am very happy

I am very happy

I am very happy



Any improvements / other suggestions to the proposal?

I would like people would

I would like to see it

I would like to see it

## **APPENDIX C**

### **School Council Findings**

#### **Cornist C.P. School, Flint – School Council Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

##### **Attendees**

Cornist C.P. School Council, Claire Broad, Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner, Jennie Williams, Project Officer – School Modernisation, Representative from Cornist C.P. School

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of this children and young persons consultation was for the Authority to speak with the children in Cornist C.P. School, Flint with regards to the consultation to the proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016. This was to help them to voice any concerns that they may have or any suggestions that they would like Flintshire County Council to hear.

The Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner went through the document with the school council representatives. Once the consultation document was looked through, we looked back at what it meant. This helped us to see how the children felt and if they had concerns with the proposal.

Once the consultation document had been explained thoroughly, the Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner went through the questions on the consultation document and helped the children look at the questions and think about what they thought. She emphasised that they can write what they wanted and it was all about their opinions, there was no right or wrong answer.

## Cornist Park CP School Council Consultation

### Summary

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

Responses	Number of Responses
Concern for pupils at Ysgol Maes Edwin losing their friends	3
Concern for teachers at Ysgol Maes Edwin losing their jobs	2
Concern for where Ysgol Maes Edwin pupils would go	2
Sad face / Disappointed face / Confused face	4
Other:	
• You don't really need a school there as there are lots of other schools that have better quality	1
• If people moved schools they would have to buy more uniforms which costs a bit of money	1
• The children wouldn't have an education!	1
• It could take a while to find a new school	1

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

	Number of Responses
Ok	1
Don't mind	1
Worried	2
Nice	1
Make everyone feel welcome	3
Other:	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There might not be enough room in our school because were nearly full</li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children might really love their school and might feel they don't fit in</li> </ul>	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
They could do a fundraising event for Maes Edwin to extend their school and playground to make it bigger for them	2
They could put a big banner up and welcome everyone to raise money and anyone could go to the school	1

**4. Would you like to say anything else?**

Responses	Number of Pupils
What would happen to the building if it closed	1
The buses run to the village and take a long time to get through because of the roads	1
It wouldn't be good for parents because they would need to buy new uniforms	1
How would they get to their new school	1
What would happen to their teachers	2
I would wish them all the best	1
I would know how they would feel making new friends	1

Comist 26.11.15.

Q1 How would you feel if Ysgol Maes Edwin was to close?



disappointed

If it was to close some schools might not have enough room for more pupils.

If people were to be closed they would have to buy more uniforms which costs a bit of money.

You don't really need a school there because there are lots of other schools that have better facilities.



Cornist 26.11.15

Q1 How do you feel about making new friends?

Children need to be able to have school and might feel that they have to be in

There might not be enough room in our school because we're nearly full.

There might not be enough room in our school because we're nearly full.

There might not be enough room in our school because we're nearly full.

There might not be enough room in our school because we're nearly full.

It would be nice to see some new faces especially if their school had been shut down.

There might not be enough room in our school because we're nearly full.

There might not be enough room in our school because we're nearly full.

There might not be enough room in our school because we're nearly full.

There might not be enough room in our school because we're nearly full.

**Ian Budd**

Chief Officer (Education and Youth)

Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



CYNGOR

**Sir y Fflint**  
**Flintshire**  
COUNTY COUNCIL

Your Ref Eich Cyt

Our Ref Ein Cyf

Date Dyddiad 27<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 2015 to talk about the proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin.

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 Maes Edwin 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](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk) this has to be done **by 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.**

Yours sincerely

Claire Broad  
Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner

Jennie Williams  
Project Officer – School Modernisation

County Hall, Mold, CH7 6ND  
[www.flintshire.gov.uk](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk)  
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug, CH7 6ND  
[www.sirymflint.gov.uk](http://www.sirymflint.gov.uk)



The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English  
Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg

# School Council Meeting Minutes

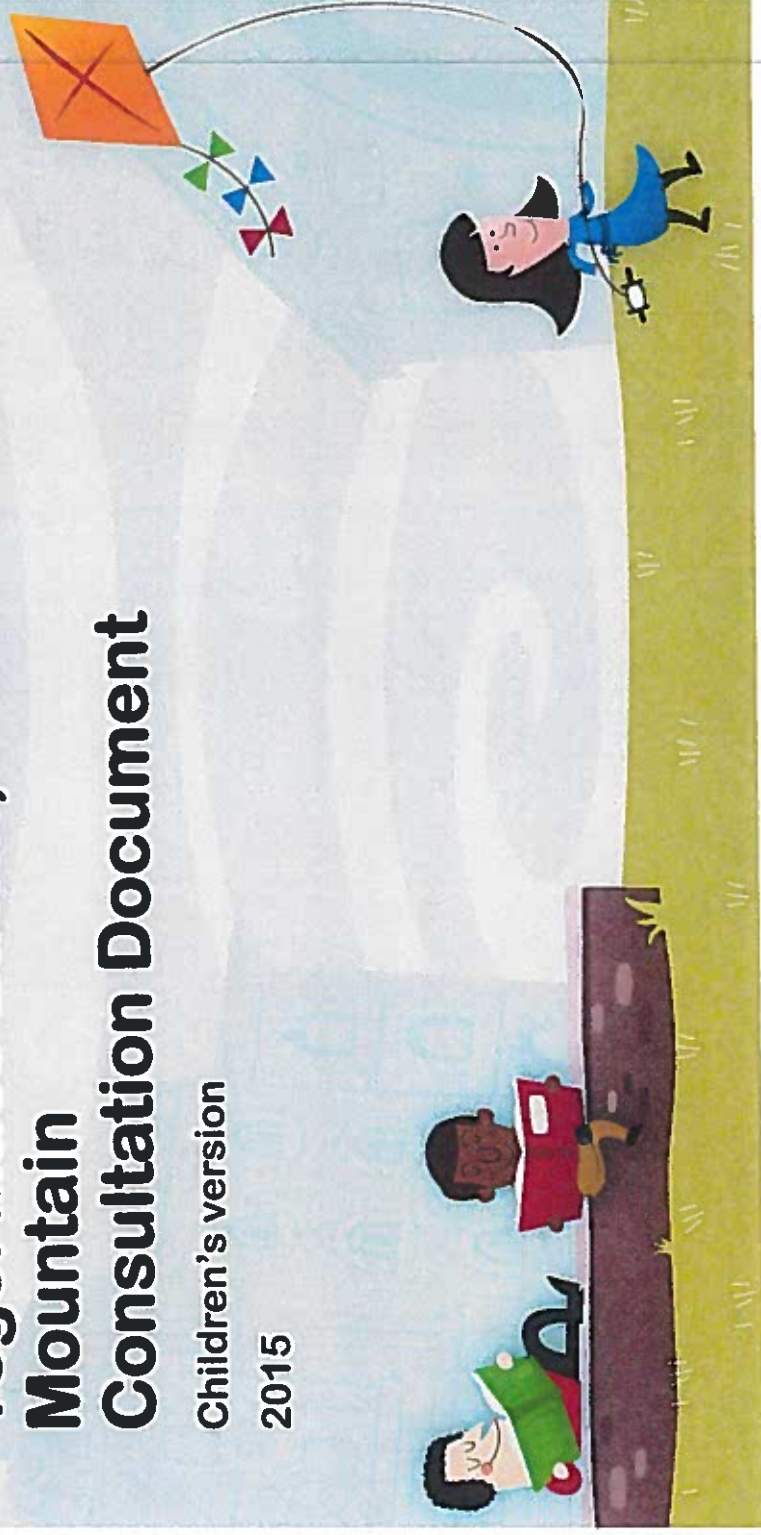
Date: 05/11/15	Number of Children present: 22
1. Badges	They make people realise we are school council. They no to come to us when they are stuck. We get nice comments about them.
2. Questions for survey on Hwb+	How could we make the school better? What new after school clubs shall we have? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Rugby</li><li>- Drama</li><li>- Athletics</li><li>- Girls football and many more.</li></ul>
3. Trip to County Hall	Ask questions to the Chair person. We will decide on questions next week and make a list.
4. Ysgol Maes Edwin	How do we feel if Maes Edwin were to close? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Happy for more children in Ysgol Gwynedd.</li><li>- Excited</li><li>- New Friends</li><li>- New games and ideas</li><li>- They could turn the school into something fun for everyone like a sports club.</li></ul>
5.	
6.	



# Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain 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 Maes Edwin may close in the future.

If Ysgol Maes Edwin was to close, you would go to a different school near to your home address in Flintshire.



# 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?

September 201

January 2016

December 2015

October 2015

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?

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# 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?

Ysgol Gwynedd

Poppy 9/4

Alishia 7/3

KATHYN 10/6

Kitty 10/6

Please write your answers in the box.



# How would you feel if Ysgol Maes Edwin were to close?

I would feel Happy  
Because I would meet  
new friends  
Sad for the other children  
but happy for new friends  
I would feel excited for the  
new children if they were  
to come to this school.  
I'll be happy because  
I'll get to meet new  
friends

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



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

Find an area and build a new building. I think they could extend it and make it better. keep it closed for a couple of weeks.

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



## Would you like to say anything else?

If it did close and more  
children came to our school  
we will make sure . . . . .

- feel welcome
- help them
- make them feel loved
- help them around school
- make them feel not alone
- 
- 

Please write your answers in the box.



# What Happens Next?

Please post your completed booklet to us by **Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk)





**Thank you**





# Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain Consultation Document

Children's version  
2015



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# 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 Maes Edwin may close in the future.

If Ysgol Maes Edwin was to close, you would go to a different school near to your home address in Flintshire.



# 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

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# 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.

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

Ysgol Gwynedd

8, 6, 10, years old

Please write your answers in the box.



## How would you feel if Ysgol Maes Edwin were to close?

Happy, excited, Shy,  
Nervous, More people  
supporting 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?

Yes. We would like it to be knocked down and built in to something else.

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



# Would you like to say anything else?

if it did cure old  
people cure we would be  
very happy and  
welcoming.

Please write your answers in the box.



# What Happens Next?

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# How long do things take?

October 2015      December 2015      January 2016      September 2016

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# 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?

Ysgol Gwynedd  
+afie wrtho  
Ben Nwllan 10  
Zoe Anna 10  
charlie + thomas  
JJ 10  
William?

Please write your answers in the box.



## How would you feel if Ysgol Maes Edwin were to close?

we would be excited because  
there would be new kids and a  
chance to make new friends.

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



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

they could close it and they  
could refer to our previous  
the book is good and they  
open it again.

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



## Would you like to say anything else?

If Ysgol Maes Edwina  
we would give them a  
warm welcome and make  
them feel safe

Please write your answers in the box.



# What Happens Next?

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

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**Thank you**





# Ysgol Maes Edwin, Mynydd y Fflint Dogfen Ymgynghori

Fersiwn i'r Plant  
2015



# Pwy ydym ni?

Cyngor Sir y Fflint sydd yn gyfrifol am yr holl ysgolion yn ein hardal.

Rydym yn rhan o dîm sy'n gweithio i'r Cyngor i gefnogi ysgolion.



# Ein Nodau

- Rhoi'r cyfle gorau i bob plentyn ddysgu mewn ysgolion ardderchog yn ein hardal.
- Sicrhau adeiladau ysgol diogel a chryf.
- Sicrhau bod arian ar gyfer plant ac ysgolion yn ein hardal yn cael ei wario mewn ffordd deg.
- Rhoi llais i bawb a sicrhau eu bod yn cael eu clywed os bydd penderfyniadau yn effeithio arnynt.



# Newidiadau

Nid oes modd i bob ysgol aros fel ag y mae bob amser, ac weithiau mae hyn yn golygu bod rhaid i'r Cyngor wneud newidiadau pwysig iawn.

Gall newidiadau helpu i roi'r cyfle gorau i bawb ddysgu, yn yr ysgol gorau posibl.



# Beth mae hyn yn ei olygu?

Gall hyn olygu y bydd Ysgol Maes Edwin yn cau yn y dyfodol.

Petai Ysgol Maes Edwin yn cau, fe fyddi di'n mynd i ysgol wahanol ger dy gartref yn Sir y Fflint.






# Beth fyddai'n newid?

Petai ti'n mynd i ysgol wahanol, fe fyddai dy ddosbarth yn newid ac fe fyddai gennyt ti athro newydd. Fe fyddai gennyt ti wisg ysgol newydd hefyd.



# Pa mor hir pethau'n cymryd?

Hydref 2015	Rhagfyr 2015	Ionawr 2016	Medi 2016
<p>1. Pobl yn dweud eu barn wrthym.</p> 	<p>2. Rydym yn casglu'r holl ymatebion ac yn dweud wrth bawb beth yw'r prif sylwadau.</p>	<p>3. Bydd y Cyngor yn cynnal cyfarfod i benderfynu beth i'w wneud. Yna byddwn yn gadael i bawb wybod beth yw'r penderfyniad.</p> 	<p>4. Bydd unrhyw newid y cytunir arno yn cychwyn o'r dyddiad hwn.</p> 



# Eisiau gwybod mwy?

Os wyt ti eisiau dysgu mwy, mae gwybodaeth mewn dogfen lawer mwy ar y rhyngwrwd i rieni, athrawon ac aelodau o gymuned eich ysgol. Mewngofnodwch i:

[www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation)





# Beth yw eich barn chi?

Mae'n bwysig iawn ein bod yn siarad gyda llawer o bobl wahanol am y syniad hwn, yn enwedig plant. Mae eich barn yn bwysig i ni.

Yn y llyfryn hwn, gelli ysgrifennu unrhyw beth rwyf yn dymuno ei ddweud wrthym ac unrhyw syniadau sydd gennyt ti.



# I ba ysgol wyt ti'n mynd, a beth yw dy oedran?

Ysgol Glwynedd

Megan England Yr2  
harvey giffings yr2  
leo foyler yr2  
leah harriss yr0

Rho dy atebion yn y boccs.



## Sut fyddet ti'n teimlo pe bai Ysgol Maes Edwin yn cau?

We would feel very  
sad but happy at  
the same time because  
some students would  
be coming to our  
school.

Rho wybod i ni beth yw dy  
farn drwy ysgrifennu dy  
atebion yn y boccs.



# Oes unrhyw beth arall yr hoffet ti ei weld yn digwydd yn hytrach na'r hyn yr ydym ni yn ei gynllunio?

They could close it and then make it better and design it better and then open it again

Rho wybod i ni beth yw dy farn drwy ysgrifennu dy atebion yn y bocs.



## Oes arnat ti eisiau dweud unrhyw beth arall?

IF the school  
CLOSE we could  
make sure we are  
are very very friendly  
and make them welcome.

Rho dy atebion yn y bocs.



# Beth sy'n digwydd nesaf?

Postia dy lyfryn wedi'i lenwi atom erbyn dydd Mercher, 2 Rhagfyr 2015. Yn anffodus, ni fydd gennym hawl i dderbyn unrhyw beth y byddi di'n ei anfon atom ar ôl y dyddiad yma.

**Cyfeiriad:** Tîm Moderneiddio  
Ysgolion, Addysg a Ieuencid, Cyngor  
Sir y Fflint, Neuadd y Sir, Yr  
Wyddgrug, Sir y Fflint CH7 6ND.

Neu gelli anfon dy sylwadau  
ar neges e-bost:

[21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk)



# Diolch







# Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain Consultation Document

Children's version  
2015



# Who are we?

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# Changes

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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 Maes Edwin may close in the future.

If Ysgol Maes Edwin was to close, you would go to a different school near to your home address in Flintshire.



# 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

1. People tell us what they think.



December 2015

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

January 2016

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

September 2016

4. Any changes agreed will start from this date.



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# 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?

Ysgol Gwynedd

Levi = yr 2

Harta = yr 3

Conrad = yr 5

Haidiwa = yr 6

Please write your answers in the box.



# How would you feel if Ysgol Maes Edwin were to close?

Ysgol Gwynedd

Levi = ~~Sad~~ = excited

Martha = excited =

Connor = ~~Sad~~ = Happy

Habibou = Happy

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



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

Ysgol Gwynedd

Levi =

Harta = Kids

Connor =

Habiba = Clubs

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



# Would you like to say anything else?

Ysgol Gwynedd

If the school does ~~close~~ closed  
down and some people come to  
our school we will try our best  
to welcome them to our  
school.

Please write your answers 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.

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**Thank you**





# **APPENDIX D**

**Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain**  
**Proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016**  
**Meeting with affected Primary Schools Headteachers and Chair of Governors**  
**Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 at 4.00 p.m. in Blue Room, County Hall, Mold**

**Present:-**

Damian Hughes, Senior Manager School Place Planning and Provision  
Sarah Thomas, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Project Officer  
Jeremy Griffiths, Headteacher, Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint  
Nicola Thomas, Headteacher, Cornist C.P. School, Flint  
Mr K Pugh, Chair of Governors, Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint  
Mrs D Fearnhead, Chair of Governors, Cornist C.P. School, Flint

		<b>ACTION</b>
1.	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b></p> <p>None</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>Introduction and Welcome</u></b></p> <p>DH welcomed the group and advised that he would be meeting the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of the other affected school Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop on Thursday (5<sup>th</sup> November 2015), as they were unable to make this date.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>School Modernisation</u></b></p> <p>DH advised that Flintshire County Council's Cabinet approved the revised School Modernisation Strategy in January 2015. This document is available at <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation">www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation</a></p> <p>As part of the School Modernisation Programme we are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure education provision is both high quality and sustainable</li> <li>• Improve the quality of school buildings and facilities</li> <li>• Provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations</li> <li>• Address unsustainable school buildings and supporting infrastructure</li> <li>• Recognise that doing nothing means higher pupil teacher ratios as funding reduces</li> <li>• Ensure that we maximise external funding through the Welsh Government's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme.</li> </ul> <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>	

4. **Consultation Documents**

The formal consultation period commenced on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and ends on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 on the 'Proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain (English Medium, Community School) as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area subject to parental preference.

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](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation) or hard copies are available on request by either emailing [21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk) or telephoning 01352 704134.

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.)

ST asked the Headteachers of Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint and Cornist C.P School for confirmation on the follows:

- The school received a copy of the email from School Modernisation on 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

Gwynedd C.P. School, Flint 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 the School's



7.	<p><b><u>Concerns/Feedback/Questions</u></b></p> <p>Chair of Governors at Cornist C.P. School expressed concern that the school (as of today) is currently full to capacity in all year groups and class sizes may get bigger.</p> <p>DH advised that the Admissions arrangements would be dealt with in line with Flintshire County Council's School Admissions Policy.</p>	
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**Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain**  
**Proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016**  
**Meeting with affected Primary Schools Headteachers and Chair of Governors**  
**Thursday, 5th November 2015 at 3.30 p.m. at School Library, Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop**

**Present:-**

Damian Hughes, Senior Manager School Place Planning and Provision  
 Sarah Thomas, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Project Officer  
 Jamie Tennant, Headteacher, Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop  
 Mark Albiston, Chair of Governors, Ysgol Owen, Northop

		<b>ACTION</b>
1.	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b></p> <p>None</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>Introduction and Welcome</u></b></p> <p>DH welcomed the group and advised that he had met already met with the Headteachers and Chair of Governors of the other affected school Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint and Cornist C.P. School on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 at 4.00 p.m. in County Hall, Mold.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>School Modernisation</u></b></p> <p>DH advised that Flintshire County Council's Cabinet approved the revised School Modernisation Strategy in January 2015. This document is available at <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation">www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation</a></p> <p>As part of the School Modernisation Programme we are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure education provision is both high quality and sustainable</li> <li>• Improve the quality of school buildings and facilities</li> <li>• Provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations</li> <li>• Address unsustainable school buildings and supporting infrastructure</li> <li>• Recognise that doing nothing means higher pupil teacher ratios as funding reduces</li> <li>• Ensure that we maximise external funding through the Welsh Government's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme.</li> </ul> <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>	

4. **Consultation Documents**

The formal consultation period commenced on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and ends on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 on the 'Proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain (English Medium, Community School) as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area subject to parental preference.

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](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation) or hard copies are available on request by either emailing [21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk) or telephoning 01352 704134.

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.)

ST asked the Headteachers of Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop for confirmation on the follows:

- The school received a copy of the email from School Modernisation on 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop 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

	<p>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 Owen Jones, Northop confirmed that Claire Broad and Jennie Williams had met with the School Council of Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 9.30 a.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><b><u>Revised Timeline</u></b></p> <p>DH circulated a copy of the revised (October 2015) anticipated Timetable Statutory Proposals Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain showing the key milestones.</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>Actions for Headteachers/Governors</u></b></p> <p>As an affected primary school to the proposal, the Authority would be hopeful to receive a response from the Governors.</p>	
7.	<p><b><u>Concerns/Feedback/Questions</u></b></p> <p>The Headteacher expressed concern that the school has reached the Admission Number in some year groups and due to the layout of the internal classrooms</p> <p>Future housing developments in the area</p> <p>Suitability Grade for the School</p>	





# **APPENDIX E**

## APPENDIX E

### Summary of Issues and Responses

#### Housing Development

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential new housing in area</li> <li>• Application to change use of land in the area from agricultural to building</li> <li>• Croes Atti Development</li> <li>• Expanding residential area</li> <li>• New housing has created younger families</li> <li>• Expected rise in number of school pupil due to housing development</li> <li>• Authority have approved new housing developments in the area</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Council has fully considered school capacity in the area together with potential housing development yield within its consultation documents.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>It is the Council's view that there is sufficient capacity within the local school network to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Maes Edwin should it close. Estyn have commented that;</b></p> <p><b><i>'The local authority has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits when compared with the status quo in relation to finance, surplus places and the continuity and progression in pupils' learning.'</i></b></p>

## Impact on Community

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School land should only be used for a school</li> <li>• School/Community must do more to attract more pupils</li> <li>• Community spirit</li> <li>• Central hub of village</li> <li>• No amenities left in village</li> <li>• School used for clubs/night classes</li> <li>• Essential to the community</li> </ul>	<p><b>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, although the community use of the school is relatively low.</b></p> <p><b>However, the Council will work with schools and community to mitigate issues where possible.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Legal Land ownership issues are still being investigated, it has been noted that some of the site at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is part of the Bryn Edwin Trust. Dependant on the formalisation of such matters, 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.</b></p>

## Strengths of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small class sizes</li> <li>• Pupils mix well together</li> <li>• Pupil Teacher Ratio</li> <li>• Family atmosphere</li> <li>• Growth in pupil numbers</li> <li>• Successful Clubs/Trips</li> <li>• Good Estyn Report</li> <li>• Pastoral Care</li> <li>• Unique Values</li> <li>• Education Standards</li> <li>• Happy children</li> <li>• Lots of pupils with Additional Learning Needs</li> <li>• Good Staff and Teachers</li> <li>• Amazing school</li> </ul>	<p><b>The positive responses from consultees regarding Ysgol Maes Edwin are noted.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p>

## Impact on pupils

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils already transferred from other schools</li> <li>• Bullying</li> <li>• Unable to get into other nearby schools because they are full</li> <li>• Increased travel times to school</li> <li>• Don't want to attend larger schools</li> <li>• Loss of Friendship</li> <li>• Want to be with their siblings</li> <li>• Want get the further support they require</li> <li>• Overcrowded classrooms</li> <li>• Won't get the same standard of education</li> <li>• Disruption to their education</li> </ul>	<p><b>When proposing changes to school organisation it is acknowledged that there will be some changes for pupils. Should the proposal be implemented and Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain be closed it would result in changes for the existing pupils such as :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Shorter journey time to school for pupils who reside in the Flint area</b></li> <li>• <b>A marginally longer route to school for less than 10 pupils who live in the Flint Mountain area</b></li> <li>• <b>A new school uniform</b></li> <li>• <b>New teachers and support staff</b></li> <li>• <b>New learning environment</b></li> <li>• <b>Friendship groups may be affected, however new friendships may be formed.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>The Council will 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).</b></p> <p><b>Where pupils have specific ALN needs the resource and support they require would be replicated in their new learning environments.</b></p> <p><b>Under current transport policy fewer than ten pupils would be entitled to free home to school transport based on the assumption they transfer to their nearest school Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop. This would be on the basis that the route to the alternative school from Flint Mountain would be considered to be hazardous due to its rural location which has limited footpaths in and out of the village.</b></p> <p><b>A mini admissions process will be administered to assist families in transition to other school should cabinet determine closure.</b></p>

## Condition of Building

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent spend on DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) works and maintenance</li> <li>• New classroom and library built in 2000</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Council cannot predetermine an outcome to the proposal and therefore work on the principal of spending today's money is spent on today's pupils.</b></p> <p>The condition surveys are carried out by independent surveyors, commissioned by the Council. They survey schools on a five year cycle in line with national guidance and provide the Council with maintenance priorities. The work to repair the roof was identified as a priority, therefore urgent repair work was programmed accordingly.</p> <p>The Local Authority has a legal duty to consider the Equalities Act, therefore work was completed at the school to facilitate the needs of a pupil.</p>

## Consultation Document

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Out of date figures used in document</li> <li>• Document is biased</li> <li>• Doesn't consider Housing Development</li> <li>• Data is incorrect</li> </ul>	<p><b>The School Modernisation Team uses the latest verified data at the time of constructing the consultation documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•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)</li> <li>•Estyn data is obtained from the schools last Estyn inspection. Timing of inspections will depend on Estyn's own inspection cycle.</li> <li>•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.</li> <li>•GwE (The Regional School Improvement Service) data is fed into the Welsh Government's national categorisation system.</li> <li>•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.</li> <li>•Unfilled places are recorded by Welsh Government; the Council provide its returns</li> </ul>

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.

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

	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•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.</li> <li>•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.</li> <li>•Travel distances between school sites is provided by the Flintshire County Council mapping system Route Finder 3.41</li> <li>•Transport costs are provided by the infrastructure unit who administer home to school transport contracts.</li> </ul>
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## Consultation Process

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process caused stress and upset</li> <li>• Unfairly targeted</li> </ul>	<p>The process follows regulatory guidance as set out in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2013.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that the process around school organisational change can be unsettling for pupils, staff and the school community.</p> <p>The proposal was put forward on the basis of criteria laid down in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unfilled places across the primary school portfolio – Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain as at January 2015 (PLASC) had 66 full time pupils with unfilled places of 13.16%. As of September 2015 the school population has 55 full time pupils with unfilled places at 27.63%;</li> <li>• Diminishing resource criteria (i.e. schools supported by pupils not from their local community and/or small numbers within the community raise concern regarding sustainability within</li> </ul>



	<p>the school's portfolio) - 83.63% of pupils attending Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain are not attending their local school;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Small School Criteria</b> – The School population and capacity of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is lower than national designation of a small school, additionally school numbers do not meet the minimum requirements of primary school models as noted in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy, and</li> <li>• Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is currently (July 2015) in Welsh Government categorisation 4, on a scale of 1 - 4, with 4 being the lowest for educational standards.</li> </ul>
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### Alternative Proposals

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is perfect for a primary education PRU (Pupil Referral Unit) which is needed within Flintshire.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Suggestion noted</b></p> <p><b>However, 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.</b></p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential new housing in area</li> <li>• Application to change use of land in the area from agricultural to building</li> <li>• Croes Atti Development</li> <li>• Expanding residential area</li> <li>• New housing has created younger families</li> <li>• Expected rise in number of school pupil due to housing development</li> <li>• Authority have approved new housing developments in the area</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Council has fully considered school capacity in the area together with potential housing development yield within its consultation documents.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>It is the Council's view that there is sufficient capacity within the local school network to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Maes Edwin should it close. Estyn have commented that;</b></p> <p><b><i>'The local authority has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits when compared with the status quo in relation to finance, surplus places and the continuity and progression in pupils' learning.'</i></b></p>

## Impact on Community

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School land should only be used for a school</li> <li>• School/Community must do more to attract more pupils</li> <li>• Community spirit</li> <li>• Central hub of village</li> <li>• No amenities left in village</li> <li>• School used for clubs/night classes</li> <li>• Essential to the community</li> </ul>	<p><b>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, although the community use of the school is relatively low.</b></p> <p><b>However, the Council will work with schools and community to mitigate issues where possible.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Legal Land ownership issues are still being investigated, it has been noted that some of the site at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is part of the Bryn Edwin Trust. Dependant on the formalisation of such matters, 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.</b></p>

## Strengths of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small class sizes</li> <li>• Pupils mix well together</li> <li>• Pupil Teacher Ratio</li> <li>• Family atmosphere</li> <li>• Growth in pupil numbers</li> <li>• Successful Clubs/Trips</li> <li>• Good Estyn Report</li> <li>• Pastoral Care</li> <li>• Unique Values</li> <li>• Education Standards</li> <li>• Happy children</li> <li>• Lots of pupils with Additional Learning Needs</li> <li>• Good Staff and Teachers</li> <li>• Amazing school</li> </ul>	<p><b>The positive responses from consultees regarding Ysgol Maes Edwin are noted.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p>

## Impact on pupils

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils already transferred from other schools</li> <li>• Bullying</li> <li>• Unable to get into other nearby schools because they are full</li> <li>• Increased travel times to school</li> <li>• Don't want to attend larger schools</li> <li>• Loss of Friendship</li> <li>• Want to be with their siblings</li> <li>• Want get the further support they require</li> <li>• Overcrowded classrooms</li> <li>• Won't get the same standard of education</li> <li>• Disruption to their education</li> </ul>	<p><b>When proposing changes to school organisation it is acknowledged that there will be some changes for pupils. Should the proposal be implemented and Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain be closed it would result in changes for the existing pupils such as :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Shorter journey time to school for pupils who reside in the Flint area</b></li> <li>• <b>A marginally longer route to school for less than 10 pupils who live in the Flint Mountain area</b></li> <li>• <b>A new school uniform</b></li> <li>• <b>New teachers and support staff</b></li> <li>• <b>New learning environment</b></li> <li>• <b>Friendship groups may be affected, however new friendships may be formed.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>The Council will 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).</b></p> <p><b>Where pupils have specific ALN needs the resource and support they require would be replicated in their new learning environments.</b></p> <p><b>Under current transport policy fewer than ten pupils would be entitled to free home to school transport based on the assumption they transfer to their nearest school Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop. This would be on the basis that the route to the alternative school from Flint Mountain would be considered to be hazardous due to its rural location which has limited footpaths in and out of the village.</b></p> <p><b>A mini admissions process will be administered to assist families in transition to other school should cabinet determine closure.</b></p>

## Condition of Building

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent spend on DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) works and maintenance</li> <li>• New classroom and library built in 2000</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Council cannot predetermine an outcome to the proposal and therefore work on the principal of spending today's money is spent on today's pupils.</b></p> <p>The condition surveys are carried out by independent surveyors, commissioned by the Council. They survey schools on a five year cycle in line with national guidance and provide the Council with maintenance priorities. The work to repair the roof was identified as a priority, therefore urgent repair work was programmed accordingly.</p> <p>The Local Authority has a legal duty to consider the Equalities Act, therefore work was completed at the school to facilitate the needs of a pupil.</p>

## Consultation Document

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Out of date figures used in document</li> <li>• Document is biased</li> <li>• Doesn't consider Housing Development</li> <li>• Data is incorrect</li> </ul>	<p><b>The School Modernisation Team uses the latest verified data at the time of constructing the consultation documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•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)</li> <li>•Estyn data is obtained from the schools last Estyn inspection. Timing of inspections will depend on Estyn's own inspection cycle.</li> <li>•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.</li> <li>•GwE (The Regional School Improvement Service) data is fed into the Welsh Government's national categorisation system.</li> <li>•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.</li> <li>•Unfilled places are recorded by Welsh Government; the Council provide its returns</li> </ul>

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.

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

	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•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.</li> <li>•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.</li> <li>•Travel distances between school sites is provided by the Flintshire County Council mapping system Route Finder 3.41</li> <li>•Transport costs are provided by the infrastructure unit who administer home to school transport contracts.</li> </ul>
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### Consultation Process

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process caused stress and upset</li> <li>• Unfairly targeted</li> </ul>	<p>The process follows regulatory guidance as set out in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2013.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that the process around school organisational change can be unsettling for pupils, staff and the school community.</p> <p>The proposal was put forward on the basis of criteria laid down in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unfilled places across the primary school portfolio – Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain as at January 2015 (PLASC) had 66 full time pupils with unfilled places of 13.16%. As of September 2015 the school population has 55 full time pupils with unfilled places at 27.63%;</li> <li>• Diminishing resource criteria (i.e. schools supported by pupils not from their local community and/or small numbers within the community raise concern regarding sustainability within</li> </ul>

	<p>the school's portfolio) - 83.63% of pupils attending Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain are not attending their local school;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Small School Criteria</b> – The School population and capacity of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is lower than national designation of a small school, additionally school numbers do not meet the minimum requirements of primary school models as noted in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy, and</li> <li>• Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is currently (July 2015) in Welsh Government categorisation 4, on a scale of 1 - 4, with 4 being the lowest for educational standards.</li> </ul>
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### Alternative Proposals

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is perfect for a primary education PRU (Pupil Referral Unit) which is needed within Flintshire.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Suggestion noted</b></p> <p>However, 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.</p>



# **APPENDIX F**

## Summary of responses to Standard Response Forms

**Question 1** Do you agree with the proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016?

	Total	Percentage
Yes	1	1.9%
No	52	98.1%
	53	

**Question 2** Please tell us if you are responding as:

Type	Total	Percentage
Pupil	3	5.7%
Parent/Carer	19	35.8%
Governor	3	5.7%
Teacher	2	3.8%
Support Staff	2	3.8%
Local Resident	25	47.2%
Other	7	13.2%
Skipped Question	0	0%
	61*	

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

**Comment:** The majority of 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	11	30.5%
Use the school as a community hub	5	13.8%
There is no need to change	5	13.8%
Close schools that better fit the criteria	3	8.3%
None	2	6%
Pupil numbers are growing leave the school alone	2	6%
Make Chief Executive and Flintshire County Council Officers redundant and redirect the money to Ysgol Maes Edwin	1	2.7%
Sustainable education provision in Flint Mountain can only be achieved by keeping Ysgol Maes Edwin open.	1	2.7%
Mothball school and re-open as pupil numbers increase	1	2.7%

<b>No surplus places need addressing for the benefit of all pupils across Flintshire</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>Don't use incorrect data</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>Nowhere within walking distance</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>Selected unjustly</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>Fill it to capacity</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Comment:** Of the 53 responded, 36 answered the question and 17 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**.

# **APPENDIX G**

## **Estyn response to the proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain, with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area subject to parental preference.**

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 and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

### **Introduction**

The proposal is by Flintshire County Council.

The proposal is to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain from 31st of August 2016 with existing pupils transferring to other schools in the local area, subject to parental preference.

### **Summary**

The proposal is part of Flintshire County Council's School Modernisation Strategy, which aims to ensure that there are a sufficient number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations.

It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.

### **Description and benefits**

The local authority has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits when compared with the status quo in relation to finance, surplus places and the continuity and progression in pupils' learning.

The proposal clearly defines the expected benefits of the proposal which link well to the stated purpose and rationale. The local authority has provided sufficient evidence to show that the plan is likely to at least maintain the standard of education in the Flint Mountain, Flint and Northop area.

The proposal notes appropriately the advantages of the proposal, which include the efficient and effective use of resources; a reduction of unfilled pupil places within the primary school network; at least maintaining the current standards and the quality of education in the area; and the reduction in travel to school for the majority of pupils should they choose their local school.

The proposer has identified appropriately the disadvantages to the current proposal, which focus on the impact of the closure of Ysgol Maes Edwin on the staff currently employed at the school, the end of English medium primary provision in the village of Flint Mountain and the increase in travel time for a few pupils who live in this village.

The local authority has provided clear evidence to show that it has considered other alternatives to this current proposal. These include maintaining the status quo and federating Ysgol Maes Edwin with another local school. They have demonstrated clearly the advantages and disadvantages of each option and the reasons for their preferred option.

The proposer has suitably considered the impact of the proposal on pupil travel arrangements. It intends to support home to school travel in line with the council's transport policy. It further recognises that the proposal will potentially result in reduced travel for most pupils currently attending Ysgol Maes Edwin. However, the proposer recognises that the travel time would increase for a few pupils living in Flint Mountain, but this would not be in excess of the pupil travel guidelines.

The proposer has appropriately shown how the proposal will affect surplus places by providing pupil numbers and surplus places in 2015 for schools in the area.

The proposal appears to have taken appropriate account of the impact of the proposal on the Welsh language and the accessibility of Welsh medium provision in accordance with parental choice.

The proposer has considered reasonably well the impact of the proposals on the quality of the outcomes, provision and leadership and management at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Ysgol Gwynedd, Cornist Community Primary School and Ysgol Owen Jones. The proposer has considered the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection reports and each school's categorisation in relation to the National School Categorisation system on the quality of leadership and pupil outcomes. The proposer's summary of outcomes for all four schools is clear and compares appropriately with local, national and family of schools averages. However, the proposer has not commented on comparisons with similar schools based on entitlement to free school meals.

With the exception of Ysgol Owen Jones, Estyn inspected the other three schools between January 2014 and February 2015. The judgements for the current performance and prospects for improvement were judged as good for these three schools. Estyn inspected Ysgol Owen Jones in May 2010 and judged six out of the

seven key questions as grade 2, with one being judged as grade 1. The local authority has also evaluated each school's performance in relation to the National School Categorisation System. Under the system, schools will be in one of four standards groups (1 to 4), with schools in standards group 1 demonstrating very good overall performance and those in standards group 4 demonstrating the greatest need for improved performance. Ysgol Maes Edwin is currently in standards group 4, Ysgol Gwynedd in standards group 2 and both Cornist Community Primary School and Ysgol Owen Jones in standards group 1.

The proposer has appropriately considered the likely impact of the proposals on standards, wellbeing and curriculum delivery. The proposer reasonably asserts that the proposal would not impact unfavourably on the current standards and provision at Ysgol Gwynedd, Cornist Community Primary School and Ysgol Owen Jones.

The proposer has undertaken an appropriate equality impact assessment, which considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with a disability or special educational needs.

# **APPENDIX H**



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

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

30<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

**RE: Ysgol Maes Edwin**

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

***Size of the School***

I understand there are currently approximately 73 children at Ysgol Maes Edwin School. I would be grateful for your assessment of the average numbers of children at the School over the last five years.

It is anticipated that, by the time the Croes Atti development is complete, there will be a greatly increased demand for schooling, with many of the Croes Atti families living closer to Ysgol Maes Edwin than any other school. I would welcome the County Council's plans for growth capacity, particularly given that both Cornist School and Ysgol Owen Jones are both currently full. The potential loss of the Welsh medium Ysgol Mornant would also be expected to impact on the demand for schooling in Flint.

I would also welcome your understanding of the number of children between the ages of four and eleven in 2011, and how that compares to the anticipated figures for 2020 (given the housing development in the town).

***Quality of Education***

My constituents have shared with me their personal experiences of the very high standard of teaching afforded to their children who have special needs and care challenges.

***Child Care Pressures***

Concerns have also been raised, regarding child care pressures, whereby grandparents and other family members live nearby the school, and drop off and collect children, on behalf of their parents, who live outside the catchment area.

Finally, I would be grateful for your understanding of the level of expenditure at Ysgol Maes Edwin over the last five years, and what the current annual running costs are. In addition, if children were placed elsewhere, what would be the anticipated cost?

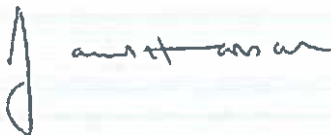
I would be grateful if the above concerns can be considered, as part of the consultation process, which ends on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.

I visited the primary school on the 20<sup>th</sup> November, and an additional point was put to me, with regard to the possibility of federation with Maes Edwin being federated with another primary school. The Head Teacher, Governors and PTA are currently looking at this, as an active possibility, but I would welcome the County Council allowing time for potential partners to be explored.

The School is currently examining potential partnerships with a number of adjacent schools, and it is important that the County Council gives proper consideration to any option that is brought forward.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hanson', written over a horizontal line.

**David Hanson MP**  
**Delyn**

**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/Eich Cyl DH/HR.fcc.ed.s  
Our Ref/Ein Cyf IB/DHYM  
Date/Dyddiad 26 August 2015  
Ask for Gofynner am Ian Budd  
Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704190  
Fax/Ffacs

Dear Mr Hanson,

### **School Organisation Proposals**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 17<sup>th</sup> July 2015 regarding consultation on the proposed statutory closure of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain. Apologies for the delay in responding to your correspondence.

Consultation on the proposal, in relation to Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain has yet to start formally but is due to commence in the autumn term 2015.

During the period of consultation communities will be able to fully express their views on the 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 the Cabinet may consider the views of the communities in their decision making, which will be made available for communities to view.

You have my assurance that officers will act both professionally and with empathy given the nature of the proposals. You will already be aware that we will need to follow the process as defined in Welsh Government's, School Organisational 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 the constituents' 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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[www.siryfflint.gov.uk](http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk)



The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English  
Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu 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 6NR

17<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

I have been approached by a number of concerned constituents, with regard to the proposed closure of Ysgol Maes Edwin.

My constituents, all parents of children at the School, have raised numerous concerns with me, namely:

***Size of the School***

I understand there are currently approximately 73 children at Ysgol Maes Edwin School. I would be grateful for your assessment of the average numbers of children at the School over the last five years.

It is anticipated that, by the time the Croes Atti development is complete, there will be a greatly increased demand for schooling, with many of the Croes Atti families living closer to Ysgol Maes Edwin than any other school. I would welcome the County Council's plans for growth capacity, particularly given that both Cornist School and Ysgol Owen Jones are both currently full. The potential loss of the Welsh medium Ysgol Mornant would also be expected to impact on the demand for schooling in Flint.

I would also welcome your understanding of the number of children between the ages of four and eleven in 2011, and how that compares to the anticipated figures for 2020 (given the housing development in the town).

***Quality of Education***

My constituents have shared with me their personal experiences of the very high standard of teaching afforded to their children who have special needs and care challenges.

### *Child Care Pressures*

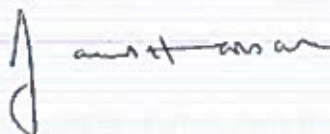
I would also be grateful to know what assessment has been made of child care pressures, whereby grandparents and other family members live nearby the school, and drop off and collect children, on behalf of their parents, who live outside the catchment area.

Finally, I would be grateful for your understanding of the level of expenditure at Ysgol Maes Edwin over the last five years, and what the current annual running costs are. In addition, if children were placed elsewhere, what would be the anticipated cost?

I would be grateful for your review of the above, and look forward to hearing from you, at your earliest opportunity, so that I may respond to my constituents accordingly.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hanson', written over a horizontal line.

**David Hanson MP**  
**Delyn**

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/Eich Cyt DH/BB-fcc/ed/s  
Our Ref/Ein Cyf IB/DAFM  
Date/Dyddiad 26 August 2015  
Ask for Gofyner am Ian Budd  
Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704190  
Fax/Ffôn

Dear Mr Hanson,

**Ysgol Meas Edwin, Flint Mountain – School Organisation Proposal**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 17<sup>th</sup> July 2015 regarding consultation on the proposed statutory closure of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain. Apologies for the delay in responding.

I trust that you have already received correspondence from me dated \* about Ysgol Maes Edwin.

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

Yours sincerely

Ian Budd  
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6ND  
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Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug. CH7 6ND  
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Ian Budd  
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)  
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



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

Your Ref/Eich Cyl DH/HR.fcc.ed.s  
Our Ref/Ein Cyf DH/L200816  
Date/Dyddiad 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015  
Ask for Gofynner am Damian Hughes  
Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704135  
Fax/Ffôn

Dear Mr Hanson,

**RE: Steve and Jenny Lewis, Ashlea, Northop Road, Flint, Flintshire, CH6 5QG**

I refer to your constituents concerns regarding a potential conflict of interest with Councillors on the overview and scrutiny committee whom are also members of school Governing bodies.

As you will be aware all councillors must comply with the national code of conduct for local government the code provides that LEA governors are able to vote on proposals which do not relate solely to their own school. All governors are therefore able to vote on proposals to reorganise other schools even though there may be a knock on impact on their own.

That provision in the code recognises the fact that almost all our councillors are also governors. That relationship strengthens the bond between the council and schools and also provides the councillors with insight. It is therefore important that councillors are able to act in both roles. There is also the practical point that if we were to disbar all governors then hardly any councillors would be able to sit on the scrutiny committee.

I hope this clarifies but please come back to me should your require any further information.

Yours Sincerely

Chief Officer - Education and Youth

County Hall, Mold, CH7 6ND  
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Our Ref: DH/HR.fcc.ed.s

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

28<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

**RE: Steve and Jenny Lewis, Ashlea, Northop Road, Flint, Flintshire, CH6 5QG**

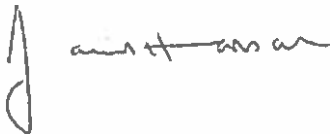
I have been approached by the above named constituents, who have raised a concern with me.

My constituents, whose children attend Ysgol Maes Edwin, are aware that Councillors on the Scrutiny Committee for School Closures are also Governors of local primary schools that may be impacted by additional pupils. They feel strongly that there is a potential conflict of interest.

I understand you are currently looking at this, and I would be grateful for any views you have on guidance given.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hanson', written over a vertical line.

**David Hanson MP**  
**Delyn**



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



**David Hanson MP**  
64 Chester Street  
Flint  
Flintshire CH6 5DH

Your Ref/Ffich Cyl **DH/HR.fcc.ed.s**  
Our Ref/Ffich Cyf **IB/AD/1506 012104**  
Date/Dyddiad **29 July 2015**  
Ask for Gofynner 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.

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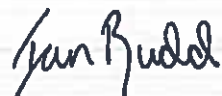


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In these areas, officers will work with the governors of the schools to form options for future education delivery in the area/schools. The intention is that recommendations will be presented to Cabinet in January 2016.

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, slightly slanted style.

Ian Budd  
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

**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/BB-fcc/ed/dj  
Our Ref/Iin Cyt IB/AD  
Date/Dyddiad 9 July 2015  
Ask for/Gofynnwr am Ian Budd  
Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704190  
Fax/Ffacs

Dear Mr Hanson,

**Ysgol Meas Edwin, Flint Mountain – School Organisation Proposal**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 regarding consultation on the proposed statutory closure of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain.

Consultation on the proposal, in relation to Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain has yet to start formally but is due to commence in the autumn term 2015.

During the period of consultation communities will be able to fully express their views on the 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 the Cabinet may consider the views of the communities in their decision making, which will be made available for communities to view.

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

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

Yours sincerely

Ian Budd  
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

County Hall, Mold, CH7 6ND  
[www.flintshire.gov.uk](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk)  
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug, CH7 6ND  
[www.siryfflint.gov.uk](http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk)



The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English  
Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gofreibaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg





Our Ref: DH/BB – fcc/ed/dj

02<sup>nd</sup> July 2015

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

Dear Mr Everett

**Re: Proposed closure of Flint Mountain School**

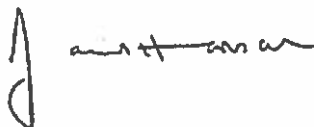
I have been contacted by concerned parents regarding the proposed closure of the above school.

I would be grateful if you could advise the position on this matter, in order that I may advise my constituents accordingly.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hanson', written over a horizontal line.

David Hanson MP  
Delyn





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



19<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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**



**ROBBINS, Helen**

**From:** Neil Griffiths <nwg@ukmcltd.com>  
**Sent:** 11 June 2015 22:22  
**To:** HANSON, David  
**Subject:** Save Our School - Ysgol Maes Edwin Flint Mountain  
**Attachments:** 161023.pdf

Dear David,

I am a resident of Flint Mountain and a local business owner. It has recently come to light that there is a possibility of the local council closing Flint Mountain school, Ysgol Maes Edwin. Can I ask what support you or your colleagues may be able to offer to keep this excellent, albeit small, 102-year old school open? Brief details are attached.

Kind regards,

Neil Griffiths BEng MSc CEng FIMarEST



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M: +44 (0)7786 595 999

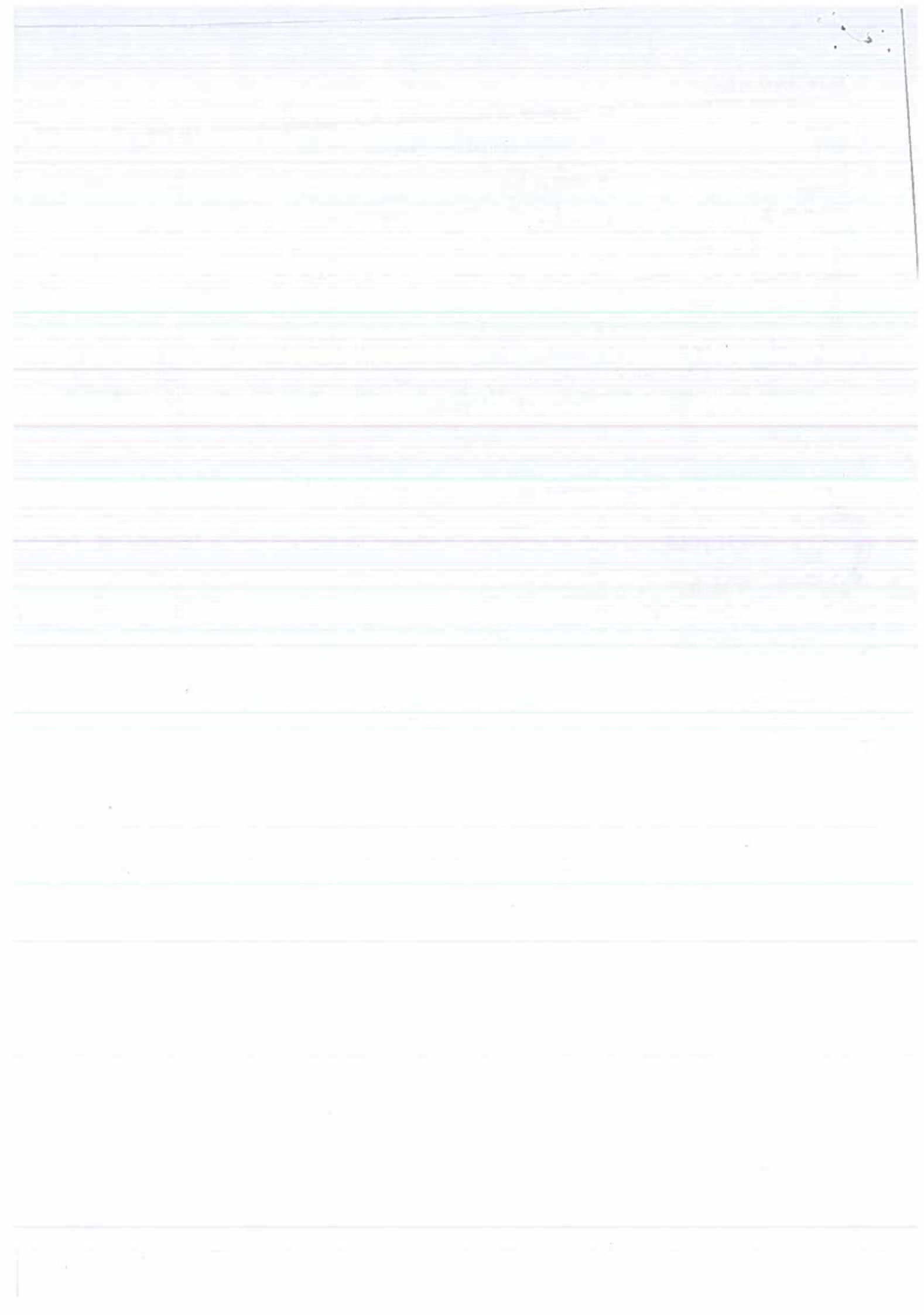
E: [nwg@ukmcltd.com](mailto:nwg@ukmcltd.com)

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Ysgol Maes Edwin  
Lon y Ysgol  
Mynydd y Fflint  
Sir y Fflint. CH6 5QR  
Rhif ffon: 01352 761331  
e-bost:  
fmmail@maesedwin.flintshire.sch.uk



Ysgol Maes Edwin  
School Lane  
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Flintshire. CH6 5QR  
Tel: 01352 761331  
e-mail:  
[fmmail@maesedwin.flintshire.sch.uk](mailto:fmmail@maesedwin.flintshire.sch.uk)



J.C. Plunkett  
Pennaeth  
Headteacher

9th June 2015

Dear Parents,

**Re: Flintshire County Council's - School Modernisation Programme**

Please find attached a letter from Flintshire County Council regarding their **proposed plans for the future of our school**. **Currently, no decision has been made** and therefore we intend to be proactive about securing the long term future of our school. We need you to share your thoughts at one of the meetings below.

In order to engage with as many parents as possible we will be holding two meetings. We would like to invite you to a meeting in our school hall on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June** at either **3.30pm** or **5.00pm** to discuss the content of the letter.

For parents wishing to attend either meeting, we will provide a 'free of charge' hour of supervision for their children either from 3.30-4.30pm or 5.00pm-6.00pm.

This is a crucial meeting about the future of our school and we would urge you to make every effort to attend one of the meetings.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Plunkett  
Headteacher







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



Parents/Carers  
C/o Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain

Your Ref/Eich Cyf

Our Ref/Ein Cyf

Date/Dyddiad

9<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Ask for/Gofynner am

School Modernisation  
Team

Direct Dial/Rhif Union

01352 704134/4015

21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

Dear Parent/Carer,

### School Modernisation Programme

I am writing to advise you that a recommendation will be made to Flintshire County Council's Cabinet on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015, which may affect you. The proposal is that the Council enters into a period of Statutory Consultation about the future of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain from September 2016.

As part of this process you will be given an opportunity to express your views. A consultation report will be developed with the school and made available to you to provide feedback during the Autumn term. Meetings will also be held at the school for parents and carers and other stakeholders during the early autumn.

The report to Cabinet will be available on the Council's website after 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015 (<http://tinyurl.com/ort8bm5>) and paper copies of the report can be viewed at the School from 12 noon from Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

More information will be provided as the Council and school work through this process. Information will be provided through your school and on the County Council website.

Yours faithfully,

Ian Budd  
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6ND  
[www.flintshire.gov.uk](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk)  
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug. CH7 6ND  
[www.siryfflint.gov.uk](http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk)



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



**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 ?



• **Georgie Davies-Jones**

Hi I'm a mum from flint mountain school and have been aware of a proposed closure of the school, flint mountain have been amazing with my children since I moved them to this school as the other school wasn't working. This school has done amazing things for my children and many other children.this school spotted my daughters difficulties and within a couple of weeks has put stuff in place they bend over backwards to help the children and all the children are so happy here please if there is anything you can help our school with all parents and staff would be fully grateful, we don't want to lose this amazing school I really don't know where my daughter would be now without this school our kids needs this school from georgie



21:20

**David Hanson**

I'm not aware of the proposal but I'll look into--ill be in touch soon

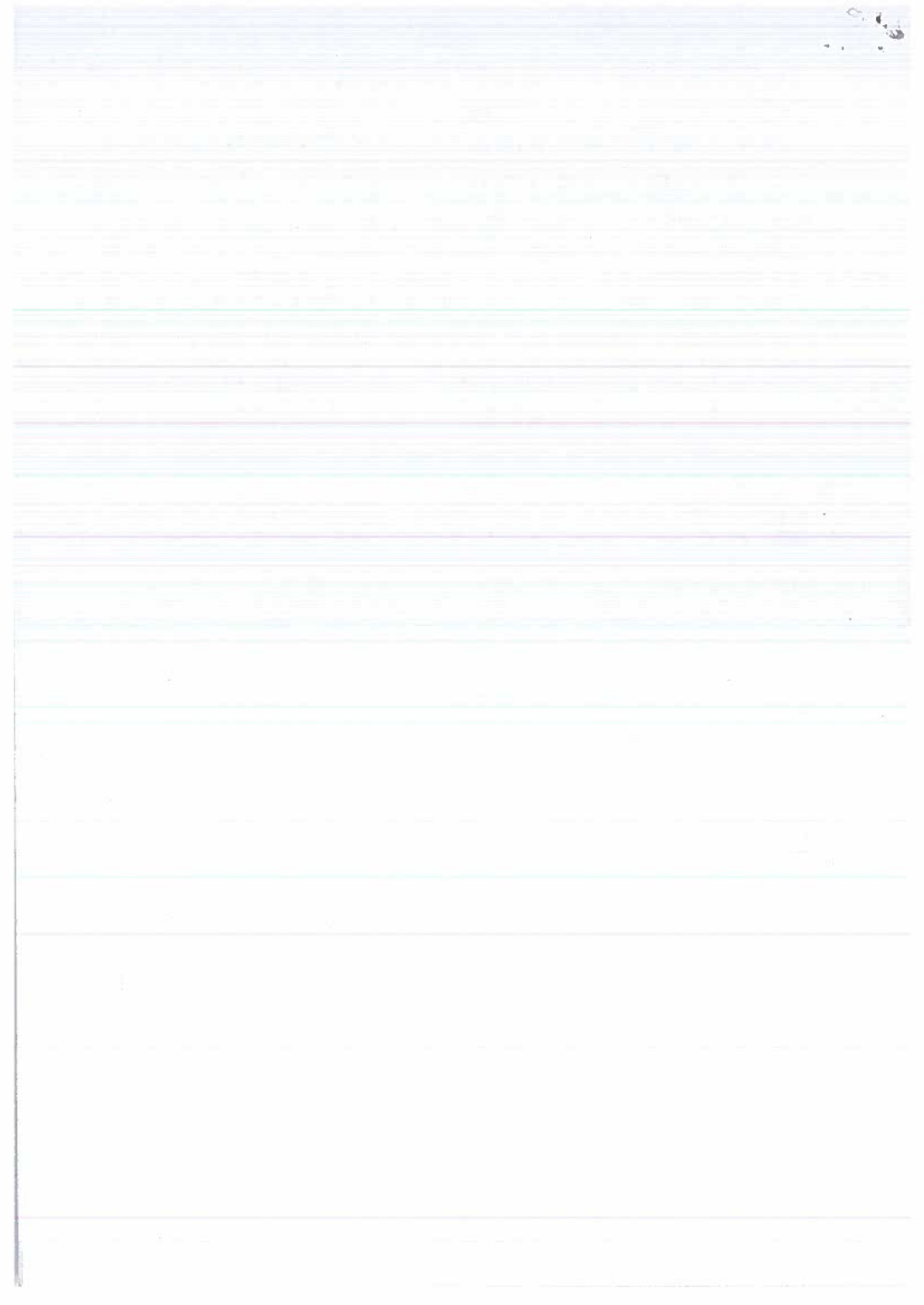


21:21

**Georgie Davies-Jones**

Thank you we just found out today and are absolutely gutted it's an amazing school that can't go

Sent from Messenger



# **APPENDIX I**

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**Consultation response document on behalf of the Governing Body of Ysgol Maes Edwin .**

**The responses below deal directly with the paragraphs mentioned in the Consultation Report and should be read in conjunction.**

4.2 Pupil numbers did reach 72 and we initially have lost pupils due to the consultation. Recently we have though now 5 new pupils join despite the consultation period..

There will never be enough children in Flint Mountain to justify on its own the “right” to have a school. Currently children travel to Northop School purely to suit care arrangements and conversely children travel to Flint Mountain to be near Grandparent’s and other such carers.

With the recent use of an additional classroom the school now has the capacity to include the minimum number of children required. We are sure that without the uncertainty surrounding the school we could achieve the numbers required in the next couple of years.

The school has been in a low category for a number of years now, but is finally starting to improve. It’s a shame now that we have started this improvement that the closure has been proposed.

4.3 With the talent on the governing board now we see the opportunity to improve to the standards expected of a school in Flintshire. We acknowledge that this has not always been the case.

4.4 Whilst we recognise the comparisons in the document it does not indicate the fact that there are a number of schools in Flintshire that perform worse.

4.5 Clearly with the number of pupils that travel to the school from outside the village, having the right schools in the right location has not worked for the schools our pupils have left.

4.6 please see above

4.7 This data is not relevant. The area the children travel from does nothing to discredit Maes Edwin but only emphasise the problems in Flint schools.

4.8 This does not take into consideration that children may come to this school as Grandparents and other carers may live in the village. A good bit of data that only goes to show that this school is worth travelling to!

4.9 An interesting piece of data, but as pointed out by the council reps in our meetings this data was only valid on the date the report was produced. Unfortunately this does not guarantee there will sufficient places available for our children in the “right areas” at the necessary time. If Parental preference indicates the need for small schools will this be available? Are the schools mentioned currently full? We believe they may be! It is noted that there were 34 other schools in Flintshire with greater unfulfilled places. Can the council guarantee that siblings will remain together? We are already hearing of cases were this cannot be guaranteed.

4.10 A good piece of data that shows the increase in numbers at Maes Edwin, and does beg the question why the school didn’t close in 2012? The actual data at the time of the proposal was 73.



The school population actually grew from 17 to 73 in 7 years. The data really doesn't emphasize this enough. No other school in Flintshire has grown to this extent. This growth was not forecasted by the council and is purely down to the success of the school.

4.11 Worthless data as there is no way the graph reflects previous increases and shows that the council cannot predict the number of pupils.

4.12 The council could not have predicted the increase in numbers in recent years therefore this data is completely unreliable and should not have been presented. Despite the consultation process it must be noted that 5 new pupils have joined the school.

4.13 Birth rates are only a percentage of the contribution to the school numbers. Numbers for people moving into the area have not been considered nor has the national increase in birth-rate that has been occurring. We have a well-attended, successful pre-school bringing young children into the school. The data does not capture this.

We have brothers and sister of the current pupils at the school that were likely to attend, as they are from outside the area the data does not capture this either.

4.14 Though this is a true statement, this becomes irrelevant due to the points made above.

4.15 True. But has parental demand been considered as this school is clearly in demand from outside the village. Over 50% of children have transferred from large schools, these children benefit from the ethos of a small school and would prefer not to return to large schools.

4.16 If this is the case then please provide the evidence that closing this school will provide this.

4.17 There is no mention of the change of use application for the land that the school is adjacent too from agriculture to building! This must just be an oversight. The last sentences confirm the real reason why this school has been selected. The Welsh government money will be used to build a new school that the council cannot afford. Demand will push the vacancy rate below 10% and require the building of a new school.

4.18 An un quantifiable risk and is just hearsay. If this was the case £93k would not have been spent on shower and changing facilities in the school last summer. These facilities will need to be provided in any new school and would probably cost another £93k

4.19. Closing Maes Edwin appears to have a very minimum impact on costs as it is such a small school. There must be better options that will have a bigger impact.

4.20 please see above.

5.1.1 With the number of pupils moved to this school for this reason, it is hard to justify this statement.

5.1.2 True but insignificant in number to justify the upset and disruption caused to the children.

5.1.3 Please see above

---

5.1.4 Will depend if capacity is still available where parental preference dictates. Can siblings be kept together? We are not sure they can.

5.1.5 Please see 5.1.2

5.1.6 The statement cannot be proven so is irrelevant.

5.2 All true statements

5.3 No mention of any risk to the quality of education provided to the pupils. This should surely be the most important factor!

5.4 No comment

5.5 Too much guess work and inaccurate data to justify this statement to be considered accurate and worthy of considering.

5.6 please see comments related to sections 2 & 3

5.7 please see comments related to section 12

5.8 see section 12

5.9 No comment

5.10 No comment except we doubt these people will walk to school.

5.11 No comment

6.1 No comment

6.2 please see 4.3

6.3 It must be noted a large proportion of our pupils have moved from this school!

6.4 Cornist does not currently have enough spaces so this data is irrelevant.

6.5 Do they have spaces in the years required?

6.6 A good bit of Data that shows good increase for our school. Thankyou.

6.7 No comment

6.8 forecasts does not reflect the current trend of pupils moving to the school

6.9 With the missing data from previous years we are not sure what this data is telling us.

6.10 Not detrimental to Maes Edwin in any way.

6.11 No comment

6.12 The school is making progress in all these areas since the last inspection.

6.13 No comment

6.14 No comment

6.15 No comment

6.16 The deteriorating data in the 7 year olds category is dragged down by the increase in children with special needs.

6.17 There is an improvement in school performance that will reflect in higher scores in the medium term and increased performance in the longer term.

6.18 No comment

6.19 Little dragons have been introduced since the report date and has proven to be very successful.

7.1 No comment

7.2 It is difficult to argue with the data except that it does not cater for the children that have left other schools to come to Maes Edwin.

7.3 Please see 7.2

7.4 Please See 7.2

7.5 No comment.

7.6 As pupil numbers have increased the mixed age group classes have reduced and performance has improved. This was a significant moment in our road to improvement.

7.7 The quality of staff has improved in recent years and the future with this staff looks very bright.

8.1 No comment.

8.2 No comment.

9.0 No comment

9.1 No comment

9.2 No comment

9.3 No comment

9.4 No comment

9.5 No comment

9.6 Shows Maes Edwin in good condition and as good as other schools. With the £93k spent recently the school is in the best condition since the 2008 reports used for this comparison.

9.7 No comment

9.8 The £93k spent has fixed the issues raised in this report. The school is now in a good condition for the Pupils and staff.

---

9.9 No comments as the data is too old

9.10 This data is too old to be used.

9.11 This data is too old to be used.

9.12 No comment.

9.13-9.16 highlights 1 school is concerning with the amount of money required to be spent. Does this indicate 2 schools have been neglected?

9.17 No comment

9.18 No comment.

9.19 The funding cannot be better used elsewhere as the council claims £50 million has been taken away!

9.20 As the council points out, capacity changes every day therefore it remains to be seen if adequate capacity will be available at the necessary time.

10.1 agreed

10.2 No comment

10.3 No comment.

10.4 This can be improved upon and will be if given the chance.

10.5 This goes to prove that closing this school does not save any significant costs.

10.6 These efficiencies are easily achieved once targeted and we have the potential in the school now to succeed.

10.7 This data is based on declining numbers so is not relevant

10.8 This would not be a concern to the governing body who would look forward to the challenge of achieving it.

10.9 This data is based on trying to predict what schools pupils will choose to go to. This does not take into consideration the schools pupils have left to come to Maes Edwin. They obviously would not want to go back.

10.10 Very hard to predict this as the Parental preference has not been determined and there will clearly work to do to keep the schools in the condition required .

10.11 Agreed

10.12 Please see 10.9.

10.13 Agreed

10.14 Not a huge amount of money if you are trying to save £50 million!

10.15 Just a statement not any facts.

11. Are we sure the council have no plans for the land? The land has been changed from Agriculture to Building.

12.1 Though these categories are correct and sensible, closing Maes Edwin does little to improve any of these.

12.2 Please see 12.1

12.3 Again closing Maes Edwin does little to achieve these goals.

Federation should be considered as the most favourable option. The very little money saved by closing the school would not be worth the upset and torment caused to the Children, staff and parents. There can be significant savings created by a good Federation model. Maes Edwin Governing body are currently in discussion with schools about Federation Options.

13. Agreed

14.1 agreed

14.2 agreed

14.3 agreed

14.4 agreed

14. 5 agreed.

14.6 Except for the 1 to 1 requirements of pupils.

14.7 We would suggest the Governing body may cease as soon as closure is announced. The abuse taken by the governing body to date has been unacceptable. Though the governing body takes some responsibility for the school falling in so many categories the council has been involved longer and should take the responsibilities of closing the school, moving the pupils and making staff redundant.

15.1 This does not take into consideration the Physiological effect on the children.

15.2 After discussions with council officers it is doubtful that the council has the resources to meet this commitment.

15.3 Please see 15.2.

16.1 Please see 15.2

16.2 Agreed.

16.3 Please see 15.2

16.4 Please see 15.2

16.5 Facts Thankyou

16.6 Statements only

16.7 Agreed.

17. Agreed

18.1 agreed

18.2 agreed

18.3 agreed.

19.0 agreed.

Conclusions

It is in the Council's interest, in order to make a viable case for diminishing resources, to predict low pupil numbers from future housing developments. Please.....

Consider our quadrupled numbers

Consider that we have already had children from the new Oakenhalt Estate

Consider the proposed building land in Flint Mountain.

Consider the popularity of our school.

Consider the value added we have given ALL our children.

Consider the younger siblings from outside the village.

Resilient School Leadership

Estyn 2014 – School's current performance – good.

Estyn 2014- School's prospects for improvement – good

*Estyn 2014- 'the headteacher and deputy headteacher provide strong leadership and a clear direction for the school.'*

*Estyn 2014- 'they have the support of a committed staff and an effective Governing Body'*

Improvement capacity B (A-D A being the highest)

GwE – Self Evaluation is thorough and accurate.

Can we afford to lose this school ?

Suitable Buildings

Ysgol Maes Edwin Suitability score – B Condition B

There have been new shower facilities built summer 2015 (Approx £93,000) to cater for our children with severe medical needs.

There has been a new staffroom and office built summer 2015

A new classroom and library were built in approx 2000.

**Viable and Sustainable Options to Secure the Future of Maes Edwin CP School.**

Whilst above we dispute and argue the data and information in the consultation report and oppose closure , We, the Governing Body of Flint Mountain realise that the County Council is facing a huge task to save a large amount of money.

Therefore please give us the opportunity to Federate with a local school.

We feel that the option of Federating with a local school is a viable and sustainable option. It may not save as much money as closing the school ( it is always an unpopular decision to close schools with children, parents, councillors, local community and the general electorate) however it would be a long term strategy which could be adopted by many other schools in the County.

Federation is a compromise and a huge opportunity for progress.

It shows vision.

It would plan for the pupils from future developments in Flint Mountain, Oakenhalt etc.

It would be a success model for other schools under 240 pupils in Flintshire

It had successfully worked in Wrexham and Denbighshire.

The Welsh Government is endorsing Federation between schools and therefore we would have the WG support and backing.

It would enable the Federated schools to have numbers above 210pupils.

It would have the backing of all stakeholders.

With a shared headteacher, a head's salary will be saved.

The cost per pupil will reduce.

There will be a high quality learning and working environment as expertise/resources etc will be shared.

Skills/Responsibilities could be shared therefore reduce costs eg 1 ALNCO , 1 PE specialist etc.

Children would have access to a wider range of specialists

Above all it would be the best option for the children !

We are currently in negotiations with Northop Hall and have already had our first meeting. The Chair of Governors and Head teacher are due to visit our school and are enthusiastic and Energised by the possibility of Federation. Having met the Head I was inspired and impressed by the potential that we have together.

---

The Governing Body of Maes Edwin would like the opportunity to develop a proposal with Northop Hall and submit to Officers in due course.

Thankyou for the opportunity to respond to the consultation document and hope that you do consider our request to Federate. We would appreciate the opportunity to meet and discuss this response and further discussions of Federation.

Keith Taylor

Acting Chair of Governors.





**RESPECT ACHIEVEMENT  
ACHIEVE RESPECT**

**Ysgol Owen Jones  
Llaneurgain  
Yr Wyddgrug  
Flintshire  
CH7 6AU  
Ffon : (01352) 840255**



**Ysgol Owen Jones  
Northop  
Mold  
Flintshire  
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[office@ysgolowenjonescp.co.uk](mailto:office@ysgolowenjonescp.co.uk)  
Twitter – @yowenjones  
Jamie Tennant B.Ed (Hons) N.P.Q.H.  
Pennaeth  
Headteacher*

1<sup>st</sup> December 2015

**Proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain**

Dear Mr Budd,

In response to the above consultation, the Governors of Ysgol Owen Jones have met to discuss the formal consultation document and their response as a Governing body.

Firstly, on behalf of the Governors, I would like to express our support to the Governors, Staff, Parents and Children of Ysgol Maes Edwin in these difficult circumstances and would like to offer the support of Ysgol Owen Jones in helping to secure appropriate places for those children impacted, should the proposal be accepted.

The Governing body has reviewed in detail the proposal put forward by Flintshire County Council in the context of recent trends within the school, in particular pupil numbers and capacity to accommodate additional pupils.

Over recent years, Ysgol Owen Jones has grown progressively, from 83 pupils (PLASC FTE Jan 13) to its current headcount of 118.5 pupils (FTE Nov 15) and the Governors and staff have worked to provide increased teaching and support staff across year groups. The school has also enjoyed a period of stability within its teaching and leadership team during this time. During this period, the school and its staff have worked hard to retain a family ethos and closeness as a school community.

The school is able to provide access to this stable environment for the children and families of Ysgol Maes Edwin across a number of year groups where there are available places. The governors however would like to ensure, with the Flintshire County Council, that appropriate support and facilities are in place to accommodate any significant increase in pupil numbers from the current level.

We will be in touch again when these discussions have been held.

Should you want to discuss the contents of this response in more detail please contact either Mark Albiston (Chair of Governors) or Jamie Tennant (Head Teacher) directly.

Yours sincerely

Mark Albiston  
Chair of Governors







Head Teacher / Prif Athrawes:  
Mrs N Thomas B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

CORNIST PARK SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY  
RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF  
YSGOL MAES - EDWIN FLINT MOUNTAIN  
2015/16

To whom it may concern,

As the Governing Body of Cornist Park School, we appreciate the opportunity to be involved in the consultation process.

We would like at the outset to make it very clear that the view point we have arrived at has been a carefully considered one, which has been difficult to arrive at.

We fully appreciate that the effects of closing any school are numerous and far reaching. We recognise the benefits that small schools such as Ysgol Maes Edwin offer communities, pupils and parents, who have made the decision for their children to be educated in a small village school setting. We also support the view that parents should have a varied choice of school settings when deciding what educational setting is best for their own children. We have also tried to carefully consider and take into account the probable opinions and view points of the pupils, parents, governors and staff of Ysgol Maes Edwin, who we must remember are of course, our colleagues, and how they must view this emotive proposal. We considered the possible effects that closure would have on each of these groups, both individually and collectively, and also the possible effects on the other local schools in the area if closure were to be agreed. As the Governing Body here at Cornist Park, we do not feel that at this time, we can provide a strong enough substantiated argument against the proposals laid out before us.

Before deciding on our viewpoint, we discussed and considered the following points as presented

1. Falling numbers on roll at the school
2. The fact that there are across Flintshire as a whole 17%, unfilled primary places
3. The number of available places in the primary sector in the immediate local area, which would cover the number of places required by the pupils currently attending Ysgol Maes Edwin
4. The available places in local schools would seem to offer a choice of setting if closure were to go ahead, ie larger schools such as Ysgol Gwynedd and at smaller school settings such as Ysgol Owen Jones. (At present Cornist Park is unable to offer any places as we are at our pupil capacity as of today)







Head Teacher / Prif Athrawes:  
Mrs N Thomas B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

5. The data which demonstrates that the vast majority of the pupils in attendance at the school are NOT from the village but the wider Flint area, with an additional percentage drawn from further afield, leaving the percentage of pupils from Flint Mountain village itself as minimal
6. The reality that across Flintshire we are facing unprecedented cuts to Educational funding, therefore for economical reasons we discussed the need to ensure that pupil funding per head becomes more consistent across all schools and that, consideration must be given to the long term viability of small schools and the impact of doing so on the long term budgets of other schools.
7. The data which demonstrates the current performance standards and capacity for future improvement at Ysgol Maes Edwin, against similar data of the other local schools
8. That the intake of possible additional pupils from Ysgol Maes Edwin would not adversely effect the delivery of the curriculum at the other local schools
9. That the Suitability Summaries of the possible affected schools, do not give rise to concerns which would have significant impact on pupil progress, standards, health and safety or well being.

Taking the above into account, it has been difficult for us as a Governing body at Cornist Park School to argue the case presented.

Where as we can see the clearly laid out 'advantages' to closure, we also appreciate the 'disadvantages' that closure will bring to all of those who would be personally affected if such a decision was to be made. We would therefore extend our very best wishes to all of those involved in this process and hope that whatever the outcome, that in time, agreement will be reached on the decision made.

Kindest Regards  
The Governing Body of Cornist Park School



