



Llanfyllin / North Welshpool

Catchment Review

June 2023



Version control

Version	Date	Brief Summary of Change	Author
0.1	19/06/23	Document created	SA
0.2	26/06/23	Version for consideration by Cabinet EMT	SA
0.3	04/09/23	Amends for Cabinet EMT	ME
0.4	13/09/23	Version for Cabinet	SA

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1. Introduction

The Council has been developing plans for the Llanfyllin / North Welshpool catchment since the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys was approved in April 2020. Since then, a number of Cabinet decisions have been taken in respect of the area, however no statutory proposals have been taken forward.

In July 2022, the new Cabinet published a Work Programme for Wave 2 of the Transforming Education Programme, which included a commitment to restart the review of the Llanfyllin catchment.

The purpose of this paper is to review the educational provision in the Llanfyllin catchment and to consider whether the preferred way forward previously identified and the subsequent amendments agreed by Cabinet during the period between September 2020 and March 2022 is still the preferred way forward.

Engagement has also been held with the schools which are within the scope of this work. This has included an engagement meeting for staff and governors at those schools, and visits to each school.

Due to the geographical location of schools in the area, some schools which are considered to be part of the Welshpool catchment area are also considered as part of this review, therefore the review will be known as the 'Llanfyllin / North Welshpool Catchment Review'.

All estimated financial impacts are based on current prices and the current pupil number estimates for 2024-25 financial year. Estimated transport costs are based on current pupils and their home addresses. The actual costs of any option will depend on all these factors at the time of implementation.

2. The Strategic Context

2.1 Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys

Following the inspection of Powys Education Services carried out by Estyn in the summer of 2019, the Council carried out a strategic review of schools during 2019-20, which led to the development of a new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys. The strategy, which was developed following engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, was approved in April 2020.

The Strategy was updated and relaunched by the Council's new administration in July 2022. The Strategy is available on the Council's website at

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/9344/Transforming-Education-Strategy>.

The strategy sets out a Vision Statement and Guiding Principles which will underpin the Council's work to transform the Powys education system over the coming years. The Vision Statement is as follows:

All children and young people in Powys will experience a high-quality, inspiring education to help develop the knowledge, skills and attributes that will enable them to become healthy, personally fulfilled, economically productive, socially responsible and globally engaged citizens of 21st century Wales.

The Guiding Principles are as follows:

- A world class rural education system that has learner entitlement at its core
- Schools that are fully inclusive, with a culture of deep collaboration in order to improve learner outcomes and experience
- A broad choice and high quality of provision for 14 – 19 year old learners, that includes both academic and vocational provision, meeting the needs of all learners, communities and the Powys economy
- Welsh-medium provision that is accessible and provides a full curriculum in Welsh from Meithrin to age 19 and beyond Provision for learners with Special Educational Needs (SEN)/Additional Learning Needs (ALN) that is accessible as near to home as is practicably possible, with the appropriate specialist teaching, support and facilities that enables every learner to meet their potential
- A digitally-rich schools sector that enables all learners and staff to enhance their teaching and learning experience
- Community-focused schools that are the central point for multi-agency services to support children, young people, families and the community
- Early years provision that is designed to meet the needs of all children, mindful of their particular circumstances, language requirements or any special or additional learning needs
- Financially and environmentally sustainable schools

- The highest priority is given to staff wellbeing and professional development

The Strategy sets out a number of Strategic Aims which will underpin the Council's work to transform the education infrastructure over the coming years. One of these Strategic Aims sets out the Council's commitment to developing a network of all-age schools and reconfiguration and rationalisation of primary provision, as indicated by the Strategic Aim '*to improve learner entitlement and experience*'.

This is supported by the following Strategic Objectives:

S.O.1.1 Develop a network of all-age schools based around the 13 current secondary school locations

S.O.1.2 Reconfigure and rationalise primary provision

3. Activity to date in the Llanfyllin / North Welshpool area

The Council has been developing plans for the Llanfyllin / North Welshpool area since the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys was approved in April 2020. Since then, a number of Cabinet decisions have been taken, however no statutory proposals have been taken forward in respect of any of the schools in the area.

The following is a summary of the Cabinet decisions which have been taken over this period:

29th September 2020: Llanfyllin Programme Business Case (PBC) considered and approved by Cabinet. Without requiring Cabinet to make a decision on the future configuration of schools in the catchment, the PBC identified a preferred way forward for the Llanfyllin / North Welshpool area which is as follows:

- A new community campus for approximately 900 pupils aged 4-18 in Llanfyllin, replacing the Ysgol Llanfyllin buildings.
- To establish and build a new 360 place area school, to replace Carreghofa School and Llandysilio C. in W. School and potentially other schools in the Welshpool catchment. Site to be confirmed.
- To establish a new Welsh-medium school on the current Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant site, replacing Ysgol Pennant and Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant Primary School. This may require capital funding to extend the school.
- To provide an extension to Llansantffraid CiW Primary School.
- Possible closure of Llangedwyn CiW School, Llanfechain CiW School and Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

18th March 2021: Cabinet approved a further paper in respect of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School, which considered options for the church schools in the area in light of the PBC for the catchment. This paper set out the Council's intention to take forward the Transformation Programme in the Llanfyllin/North Welshpool catchment on a phased basis as follows:

- Phase 1 – the development and consideration of options for Llangedwyn CIW Primary School and Llanfechain CIW Primary School, along with plans for capital investment in Llansantffraid CIW Primary School
- Phase 2 – the development and consideration of options for Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Ysgol Gynradd Pennant and Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant
- Phase 3 – the development and consideration of options for Llandysilio CiW Primary School, Carreghofa CP School, Arddleen CP school and Brynhafren CP School.

The paper also requested approval to commence the statutory process on proposals to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, and to increase the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School following the completion of an extension to the school. Cabinet also approved the development of a Business Justification Case (BJC) and release of funding to support feasibility and design stages to enable work on the extension to Llansantffraid to commence.

13th July 2021: Cabinet considered a further paper in respect of Phase 2 of the plans for the Llanfyllin catchment, as outlined above. This included an options appraisal relating to Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Ysgol Pennant and Ysgol Llanrhaeadr, which concluded that the Council should not make any changes to Ysgol Pennant or Ysgol Llanrhaeadr at the current time, and also a further options appraisal relating to Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. Following consideration of this options appraisal, Cabinet approved commencing the statutory process on a proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

21st December 2021: Cabinet considered a further paper in respect of the Llanfyllin catchment, and approved the following:

- i) Not to proceed with the planned extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School, based on the outcome of the Feasibility Study
- ii) Not to proceed with the existing planned consultations on the closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Ysgol Bro Cynllaith
- iii) To instruct the Transforming Education Team to bring forward alternative proposals for Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School without delay.

8th March 2022: Cabinet received a further update on Llanfyllin Schools Transformation which advised that, due to officers workload and the need to focus on other proposals, it had not been possible to bring any new proposals to Cabinet.

In July 2022, the new Cabinet published a Work Programme for Wave 2 of the Transforming Education Programme, which included a commitment to restart the review of the Llanfyllin catchment. Given the geographical location of schools in the area, this will now be known as the Llanfyllin / North Welshpool catchment review.

The purpose of this paper is to review the educational provision in the Llanfyllin / North Welshpool area, and to consider whether the preferred way forward previously identified for the catchment and the subsequent amendments agreed by Cabinet during the period between September 2020 and March 2022 is still the preferred way forward.

To support this work, engagement was carried out in the Llanfyllin catchment. This consisted of an engagement session with staff and governors in the catchment, plus visits to all schools in the catchment.

In the engagement sessions, staff and governors were asked to:

- Prepare a SWOT assessment of the current provision in the area
- Identify any local issues the Council needed to know about which could impact on implementation of the previously published preferred way forward
- Provide any suggestions they have about the way forward for schools in the area

A separate report has been prepared which outlines the findings of the engagement with staff and governors.

4. Current provision in the area

4.1 Scope of the review

This review will focus on the following 12 schools:

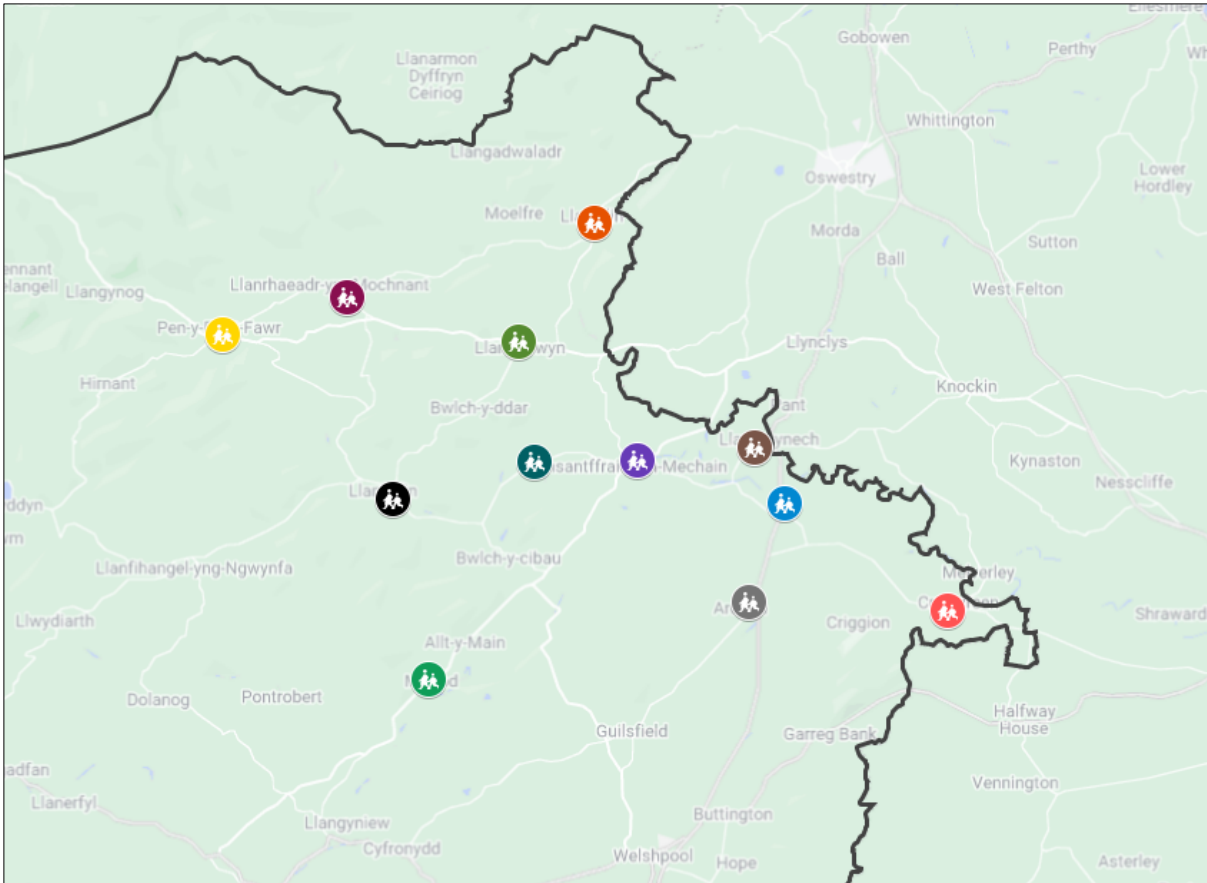
- Arddleen C.P. School
- Brynhafren CP School
- Carreghofa CP School
- Llandysilio C. in W. School
- Llanfechain C. in W. School
- Llangedwyn C. in W. School
- Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- Ysgol Bro Cynllaith
- Ysgol Llanfyllin
- Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant
- Ysgol Meifod
- Ysgol Pennant

The majority of the schools are located in the Llanfyllin catchment area, whilst some are considered to be in the Welshpool catchment area, however due to their geographical location near to the Llanfyllin / Welshpool catchment boundary, they are being considered as part of this review.

Since the original Programme Business Case (PBC) was considered by Cabinet in September 2020, Ysgol Meifod has moved from the Bro Caereinion catchment to the Llanfyllin catchment, so is now within the scope of this review.

The majority of the schools within the scope of this review are English-medium primary schools, with the exception of Ysgol Llanfyllin which is a dual stream all-age school, Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant which is a dual stream primary school and Ysgol Pennant which is a Welsh-medium primary school.

The 12 schools are shown on the following map:



Black – Ysgol Llanfyllin, Yellow – Ysgol Pennant, Dark Red – Ysgol Llanrhaeder-ym-Mochant, Orange – Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Green – Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Dark Blue – Llanfechain C. in W. School, Purple – Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Brown – Carregofa C.P. School, Blue – Llandysilio C. in W. School, Red – Brynhafren C.P. School, Dark Green – Ysgol Meifod, Grey – Arddleen C.P. School

The distances between the schools (in miles) are as follows:

	Ysgol Llanfyllin	Ysgol Llanrhaeder-ym-Mochant	Ysgol Pennant	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	Llangedwyn C. in W.	Llanfechain C. in W.	Llansantffraid C. in W.	Brynhafren C.P.	Carreghofa C.P.	Llandysilio C. in W.	Ysgol Meifod	Arddleen C.P.
Arddleen C.P. School	9.9	13.4	16.1	11.8	9.7	7.5	5.3	5.4	4.4	2.4	8.7	N/A
Brynhafren C.P. School	14.4	17.3	22.9	17.7	13.1	10.8	11.4	N/A	8.3	5.8	13	5.8

Carreghofa C.P. School	8.9	13.6	15.7	10.5	9.9	5.3	3.8	6.6	N/A	1.6	9.4	4.2
Llandysilio C. in W. School	10.7	14.4	16.5	13.2	10.1	6.2	4.1	5.2	1.6	N/A	9.9	2.3
Llanfechain C. in W. School	4.0	9.9	10.4	7.2	4.4	N/A	2.3	10.1	5.3	6.3	7.1	7.5
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	4.7	4.4	6.5	4.0	N/A	4.4	4.6	16.5	9.4	10.1	10.4	10.1
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	5.7	8.6	10.9	6.8	4.6	2.3	N/A	8.2	3.2	4.1	6.4	5.3
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	8.4	5.9	10.2	N/A	3.8	8.5	6.7	14.6	10.5	11.3	12.5	11.8
Ysgol Llanfyllin (Primary)	N/A	6.0	6.6	8.5	4.7	4.2	6.2	17.4	9.2	10.1	5.5	11.4
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	5.6	N/A	2.6	5.9	4.2	9.9	8.8	16.6	13.6	14.3	13.2	14.3
Ysgol Meifod	6.5	10.5	13.1	12.7	10.6	7.2	6.6	13.2	10.2	10.5	N/A	8.7
Ysgol Pennant	6.7	2.6	N/A	10.2	6.4	32.1	11.0	22.9	15.8	16.5	25	31.4

4.2 Data

A summary of key data related to the 12 schools is provided below. Further data is provided in Appendix A.

Data sheets were shared with all schools for verification as part of the engagement exercise carried out.

Pupil Numbers

i) Current pupil numbers¹

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Arddleen C.P. School	13	22	18	14	18	19	11	115

¹ Teacher Centre, 23rd June 2023

Brynhafren C.P. School	4	2	5	3	6	6	5	31
Carreghofa C.P. School	18	20	12	12	10	15	12	99
Llandysilio C. in W. School	8	6	6	14	9	9	5	57
Llanfechain C. in W. School	1	2	7	3	13	8	4	38
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	0	1	2	1	4	2	1	11
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	11	17	15	15	16	12	26	126
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	5	2	5	1	4	4	4	25
Ysgol Llanfyllin (Primary)	18	20	17	19	18	19	29	140
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	15	10	12	9	15	12	6	79
Ysgol Meifod	8	8	9	10	14	8	6	63
Ysgol Pennant	10	8	17	12	8	14	12	81
TOTAL	111	118	125	113	135	128	121	851

	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total
Ysgol Llanfyllin (Secondary)	112	106	100	124	100	55	54	651

ii) **Projected pupil numbers (Live birth info)²**

	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027
Arddleen C.P. School	114	120	116	113	114
Brynhafren C.P. School	36	37	38	37	40

² Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC 2022 & Birth Rates (Reception to Year 6)

Carreghofa C.P. School	90	96	95	98	102
Llandysilio C. in W. School	54	54	48	44	38
Llanfechain C. in W. School	38	39	40	28	30
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	15	16	13	8	8
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	112	101	98	92	88
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	25	24	24	22	25
Ysgol Llanfyllin (Primary)	136	129	122	118	114
Ysgol Llanrhaeadrym-Mochnant	76	84	86	80	81
Ysgol Meifod	67	67	64	60	57
Ysgol Pennant	79	79	79	79	79
TOTAL	842	846	823	779	776

Building Capacity and Condition

i) Capacity

	Capacity³	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Arddleen C.P. School	110	115	-5 (-5%)
Brynhafren C.P. School	96	31	65 (68%)
Carreghofa C.P. School	109	99	10 (9%)
Llandysilio C. in W. School	105	57	48 (46%)

³ Condition, Suitability and Sufficiency – The Transforming Education PowerBI Dashboard – 2022

Llanfechain C. in W. School	47	38	9 (19%)
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	47	11	36 (77%)
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	105	112	-7 (-7%)
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	54	25	29 (54%)
Ysgol Llanfyllin	1102	791	311 (28%)
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	108	79	29 (27%)
Ysgol Meifod	77	63	14 (18%)
Ysgol Pennant	88	81	7 (8%)
TOTAL	2048	1502	546 (27%)

ii) **Building condition⁴**

	Condition	Suitability	Sufficient	Estimated Backlog Maintenance⁵
Arddleen C.P. School	C Poor	B Satisfactory	No	£662,379.66
Brynhafren C.P. School	B Satisfactory	B Satisfactory	No	£265,086
Carreghofa C.P. School	B Satisfactory	B Satisfactory	Yes	£290,266
Llandysilio C. in W. School	B Satisfactory	C Poor	No	£585,116

⁴ Condition, Suitability and Sufficiency – The Transforming Education PowerBI Dashboard – 2022

⁵ As stated in the Annual Built Environment Survey 2022

Llanfechain C. in W. School	C Poor	B Satisfactory	Yes	£440,599
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	C Poor	B Satisfactory	No	£90,430
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	B Satisfactory	C Poor	No	£58,012
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	C Poor	B Satisfactory	Yes	£153,178
Ysgol Llanfyllin	C Poor	B/C Satisfactory/Poor	No	£3,958,261
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	A Good	A Good	Yes	£0
Ysgol Meifod	B Satisfactory	C Poor	Yes	£286,830
Ysgol Pennant	B Satisfactory	B/C Satisfactory/Poor	Yes	£269,272

Financial information

i) Cost per pupil⁶

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Arddleen C.P. School	£419,855	£3,748.71	£17,613	£6,900

⁶ Section 52 Budget Statement, 2022/2023

Brynhafren C.P. School	£258,941	£7,192.81	£24,376	£1,150
Carreghofa C.P. School	£421,826	£4,635.45	£20,335	£12,650
Llandysilio C. in W. School	£266,328	£4,438.80	£13,055	£8,050
Llanfechain C. in W. School	£252,250	£7,006.94	£23,471	£10,350
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	£187,032	£11,689.50	£16,414	£4,600
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	£440,898	£4,159.42	£21,037	£18,400
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	£205,579	£8,565.79	£14,667	£2,300
Ysgol Llanfyllin	£4,212,377	£5,252.34	£127,000	£86,000
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	£440,734	£5,799.13	£14,877	£4,600
Ysgol Meifod	£328,817	£4,631.23	£11,226	£8,050
Ysgol Pennant	£337,584	£4,273.22	£12,246	£3,450

4.3 Planned housing developments in the area

Information about current and planned housing developments in the area has been received from the Council's planning team. The information identifies a number of Allocated Sites and some larger development sites within the Llanfyllin / North Welshpool area granted permission within recent years. This is provided in full in Appendix B.

Should developments be completed on all of these sites, there would be up to 572 additional dwellings in the Llanfyllin / North Welshpool area. This figure includes a number of dwellings which have already been built, some which are currently in construction, and others where there are no current plans to take forward the developments.

It is estimated that each residential unit developed in Powys will generate 0.40 children or young people with educational requirements. Based on this figure, 572

additional dwellings is estimated to result in 229 additional pupils. However, this is the maximum figure. Some of these developments have already been completed, and it is possible that some of the Allocated Sites may not be developed.

This can be broken down by settlements as follows:

Settlement	Total no. of dwellings	No. of dwellings already constructed / in construction	Possible no. of new dwellings
Llanfyllin	79	10	69
Penybontfawr	11	0	11
Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	29	10	19
Llansilin	27	23	4
Llangedwyn	0	0	0
Llanfechain	25	0	25
Llansantffraid	101	60	41
Carreghofa / Llanymynech	44	13	31
Llandysilio / Four Crosses	124	49	75
Crew Green	40	15	25
Llandrinio	48	0	48
Arddleen	44	44	0
TOTAL	572	224	348

The Allocated Sites have until 2026 to be brought forward.

5. The Case for Change in the area

Based on the data for the schools in the Llanfyllin / north Welshpool catchment which is provided in section 4.1 above, the following is a summary of the main challenges:

i) Schools with low pupil numbers

Pupil numbers at the primary providers in the catchment range from 13 to 138. As indicated above, there are less than 35 pupils in 4 of the 10 schools.

ii) Decreasing pupil numbers

As indicated in the table above, total pupil numbers across the 10 schools are projected to decrease over the next 5 years, from 1318 in January 2023 to 1239 in January 2027.

iii) Variations in budget per pupil

The budget per pupil for primary schools in the catchment ranges from £4,159.42 to £11,689.50.

4 of the primary schools listed above have a budget per pupil which is higher than £7,000. The average budget per pupil for Powys primary schools is £4,656.50.

iii) Building condition

As shown in the table above, 4 of the primary schools in the catchment are assessed as being condition C. There is estimated backlog maintenance of £6,200,801 across the schools in the catchment. However, it is recognised that some of these schools have had improvement or remedial works carried out during the last few years.

iv) Surplus capacity

As shown in the table above, there are currently 543 surplus places across the 12 schools which are within the scope of this review.

6. Initial review of the Preferred Way Forward

The original Programme Business Case and subsequent Cabinet papers that were previously considered in respect of the Llanfyllin catchment review have been revisited, and the latest data relating to the schools in the catchment has also been reviewed.

The following is a summary of the latest position in respect of the Preferred Way Forward considered by Cabinet in September 2020:

ii) **Llansantffraid CiW Primary School, Llangedwyn CiW School and Llanfechain CiW School**

The original preferred way forward considered in September 2020 included the provision of an extension to **Llansantffraid CiW Primary School** to maintain access to Church-in-Wales places in the area following the possible closure of **Llangedwyn CiW School** and **Llanfechain CiW School**. Feasibility work was undertaken in respect of the planned extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School, and a paper outlining the findings of this work was considered by Cabinet in December 2021. The feasibility study identified concerns regarding the planned extension, and given the findings, Cabinet agreed not to proceed with the planned extension. Therefore, there is a need to review the preferred way forward for these three schools.

iii) **Ysgol Pennant, Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant and Ysgol Bro Cynllaith**

Since the preferred way forward which was considered by Cabinet in September 2020, further consideration was given to the plans for **Ysgol Pennant** and **Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant**. Cabinet considered an options appraisal in respect of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Ysgol Pennant and Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant in July 2021, which concluded that the Council does not make any changes to the latter two schools at the current time, however the paper included a recommendation to develop a plan to support Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant to increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium provision at the school, with the aim of moving the school along the language continuum.

This position still stands; no further changes will be proposed in respect of Ysgol Pennant and Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

The options appraisal exercise previously carried out for **Ysgol Bro Cynllaith** will be revisited.

iv) **Ysgol Llanfyllin**

The preferred way forward considered in September 2020 included planned capital investment to provide a replacement building for **Ysgol Llanfyllin**. Whilst the Council remains committed to providing a new building, there is no capital funding currently available to achieve this. The project will however be included in the Council's new

nine-year Strategic Outline Programme which will be submitted later this year to the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.

iv) Llandysilio CiW School, Carreghofa CP School, Arddleen CP School and Brynhafren CP School

The previous preferred way forward for the catchment also included a new-build area school to replace **Llandysilio CiW Primary School, Carreghofa CP School, Arddleen CP School** and **Brynhafren CP School**. However, there is no capital funding available to support a new school build at the current time.

Given the low pupil numbers currently attending **Brynhafren C.P. School**, a separate review of the school will be carried out to identify the Council's preferred way forward for the school. Consideration will also need to be given to options for **Arddleen C.P. School, Carreghofa C.P. School** and **Llandysilio C. in W. School** which would not be dependent on a new building.

In addition, Ysgol Meifod has recently moved from the Caereinion catchment to the Llanfyllin catchment. However, as this is a fairly recent change, more time is required to assess its impact, therefore Ysgol Meifod remains outside the scope of this current review, but further consideration will need to be given to future options linked with developments at Ysgol Llanfyllin.

The schools will be considered in groups, as follows:

Group 1 – Llangedwyn CIW Primary School, Llanfechain CIW Primary School and Llansantffraid CIW Primary School

Group 2 – Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Ysgol Pennant, Ysgol Llanrhaeadr

Group 3 – Brynhafren C.P. School, Arddleen C.P. School, Carreghofa C.P. School and Llandysilio C. in W. School

Group 4 – Ysgol Llanfyllin. Options for Ysgol Meifod will be considered as part of this development.

The remainder of this document will focus on identifying a revised preferred way forward for these schools, which will lead to identifying a new preferred way forward for the catchment.

Any preferred options identified for individual schools would be subject to further consideration, including the statutory process as outlined in the School Organisation Code, before they could be implemented.

7. Llangedwyn CIW Primary School, Llanfechain CIW Primary School and Llansantffraid CIW Primary School

7.1 Llangedwyn C. in W. School

Pupil numbers at Llangedwyn C. in W. School have decreased in recent years. Whilst it is part of a formal federation with Llanfechain C. in W. School, there are currently just 11 pupils attending the school, therefore there is a need to consider future options for the school.

7.1.1 Identification of options

The following options have been identified for Llangedwyn C. in W. School:

Option	Description
1	Status quo – continue as part of a federation with Llanfechain C. in W. School
2	Merge with Llanfechain C. in W. School to establish a new school on two sites
3	Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, but retain the site as part of Llanfechain C. in W. School
4	Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School
5	Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

7.1.2 Assessment against Critical Success Factors

The identified options have been assessed against the Critical Success Factors which are outlined in Appendix C.

The assessment for each option is as follows:

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	x	x	x	✓	✓
2 – Value for money	x	x	x	✓	✓

3 – Potential achievability	✓	?	?	✓	✓
5 – Potential affordability	x	x	x	✓	✓
Total ✓	1	1	1	4	4
Total x	3	4	3	0	0
Outcome	Discount	Discount	Discount	Possible	Possible

Whilst option 4 and 5 are both identified as possible options, SWOT assessments of all 5 options will be carried out.

7.1.3 SWOTs

SWOT assessments of the 5 options are provided below:

Option 1: Status quo – continue as part of a federation with Llanfechain C. in W. School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Llangedwyn - There would be no additional transport costs - No requirement for a reorganisation process - No change for staff - No impact on pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers at Llangedwyn C. in W. School would continue to be very low - Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision - Would still need to maintain the Llangedwyn building - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not lead to a financial saving - Would not address the high budget per pupil
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration with other neighbouring schools to provide increased opportunities for pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school would continue to be a very small school

Option 2: Merge with Llanfechain C. in W. School to establish a new school on two sites

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would retain provision in Llangedwyn – Would build on the federation which is already in place – There would be no additional transport costs – All staff would have the opportunity to secure positions in the new school – Pupils would continue to attend school in the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Small numbers would remain on the Llangedwyn site – Llangedwyn pupils would still be taught separately – Would not reduce surplus places – Would still need to maintain the Llangedwyn building – Both schools would lose their identity – Would also impact on the staff of Llanfechain School – May not be attractive to Llanfechain School – Additional costs associated with establishing a new school – More officer support would be required to support establishing a new school
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opportunity to develop a new school identity – More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils due to age range of pupils in mixed age classes

Option 3: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, but retain the site as part of Llanfechain C. in W. School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would retain provision in Llangedwyn – Would build on the federation which is already in place – There would be no additional transport costs – Pupils would continue to attend school in the same location – Minimal impact on staff at Llanfechain School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Small numbers would remain at the Llangedwyn – Llangedwyn pupils would still be taught separately – Would still need to maintain the Llangedwyn building – Would not reduce surplus places – May not be attractive to Llanfechain School
Opportunities	Threats

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils due to age range of pupils in mixed age classes
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Option 4: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn – Would increase pupil numbers at Llanfechain – Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools – Revenue saving to the Council – The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn building – Pupils would attend a larger school where they would be part of larger cohorts of pupils – Pupils would transfer to a school they are already familiar with – Pupils would continue to access C. in W. provision – Likely to be acceptable to the Diocese of St Asaph 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llangedwyn is currently the closest school – Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn would have to transfer to alternative provision – Loss of provision from Llangedwyn – Impact on the current staff of Llangedwyn – Impact on the Llangedwyn community
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to develop links between Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School in the future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some pupils may choose to transfer to other schools

Option 5: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn – Would increase pupil numbers at Llanfechain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llangedwyn is currently the closest school

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools – Revenue saving to the Council – The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn building – Pupils would attend a larger school where they would be part of larger cohorts of pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn would have to transfer to alternative provision – Loss of provision from Llangedwyn – Impact on the current staff of Llangedwyn – Impact on the Llangedwyn community
Opportunities	Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pupils may choose to transfer to a number of different schools, which could be more difficult in terms of transition – Pupils may choose to transfer to schools which are not C. in W. Schools – The Diocese of St Asaph may not be supportive

7.1.4 Financial Evaluation

Current indicative formula funding 2024-25:

	Indicative Formula Funding 2024-25 (£)
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	£131.6k

Options 4a, 5 and 6 have all been assessed for their estimated impact on the ongoing formula funding and other revenue funding requirements for the schools.

Recurring revenue costs/savings

Option 1: Status quo – continue as part of a federation with Llanfechain C. in W. School

Estimated funding for standalone school 24/25	£131.6k
Estimated funding for Option 1 24/25	£131.6k
Saving/(Cost)	£0

Option 2: Merge with Llanfechain C. in W. School to establish a new school on two sites

Estimated funding for both standalone schools 24/25	£347.4k
Estimated funding for Option 2 24/25	£347.4k
Saving/(Cost)	£0

Option 3: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, but retain the site as part of Llanfechain C. in W. School

Estimated funding for both standalone schools 24/25	£347.4k
Estimated funding for Option 3 24/25	£347.4k
Saving/(Cost)	£0

Option 4: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School

Estimated funding for both standalone schools 24/25	£347.4k
Estimated funding for Option 4 24/25	£256.5k
Saving/(Cost)	£91.0k
Estimated Catering Saving TBC but not expected to be significant	£0
Estimated Transport Costs	(£34.6k)
Total Saving/(Cost)	£56.4k

Option 5: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

Estimated funding for standalone school 24/25 + others	£6,025.0k
Estimated funding for Option 5 24/25 + others	£5,925.4k
Saving/(Cost)	£99.6k
Estimated Catering Saving TBC but not expected to be significant	£0

Estimated Transport Costs	(£37.2k)
Total Saving/(Cost)	£62.4k

One-off costs

Merging schools would involve the existing schools closing and being re-opened. There would be a range of one-off costs related to this process including ICT implications, providing cover for headteacher time required to establish the new school, new signage / branding, establishing a temporary governing body for the new school and so on. These are expected to amount to approximately £60,000. In addition, any teaching and learning responsibility (TLR) payments for existing staff are usually protected for 3 years following such a process.

If the decision was made to proceed with any of the options, there would also be the cost implication to the Council of writing off the current schools' deficits/surpluses. The table below sets out the estimated cumulative positions as of 31 March 2024 which will be detrimentally impacted by the current challenging public finance environment.

	Estimated Cumulative Surplus / (Deficit) as at 31 March 2024 (£)
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	(£30k)

7.1.5 Conclusion

Based on the assessments above, the preferred option in respect of Llangedwyn C. in W. School is

Option 4: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School

It is therefore suggested that the Council proceeds with developing a proposal paper in respect of the preferred option.

The preferred option for pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School would mean that pupils would continue to access Church in Wales provision. It would also enable pupils to transfer to a school which is currently federated with Llangedwyn C. in W. School, ensuring that pupils would be familiar with the alternative school, its staff and its pupils.

7.2 Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School

Without prejudice to any future Cabinet decisions in respect of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, if there is no school in Llangedwyn in the future, consideration would need to be given to options for Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School.

The capacity of Llanfechain C. in W. School is 47 places, which means that the school would be slightly over capacity if all the current Llangedwyn C. in W. pupils transferred to Llanfechain. Should this be the case, the Council would discuss with the school's governing body to understand how the pupils could be accommodated at the school. Llansantffraid C. in W. School has had issues with being over-capacity for a few years, with limited outdoor space a particular concern. Consideration was previously given to providing a 3 class extension at Llansantffraid C. in W. School to address the capacity issues at the school but also to potentially include pupils from both Llangedwyn and Llanfechain C. in W. Schools – this would have ensured that there was sufficient Church in Wales places in the area. However it was determined that a 3 class extension would not be feasible due to site and access constraints and investigations started to find a new site for a replacement school – this has not progressed further.

The case still remains that a replacement school building would need to be provided in the Llansantffraid area in the future to accommodate projected pupil numbers, and it would therefore be prudent to consider whether a new school building could provide sufficient Church in Wales places for the wider area.

It is therefore recommended that once the way forward in respect of Llangedwyn C. in W. School is clearer, the Council works with Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and the Diocese of St. Asaph to explore the possibility of initially merging the two schools at their existing locations, whilst investigations into possible sites for a new school building are re-commenced.

7.3 Overall Conclusion

The preferred way forward for Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School is as follows:

- To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School.
- To explore with Llansantffraid C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School the possibility of establishing a dual sited school in the area.
- To provide a new building in the future to replace Llansantffraid C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.

8. Ysgol Pennant, Ysgol Llanrhaeadr and Ysgol Bro Cynllaith

8.1 Ysgol Pennant and Ysgol Llanrhaeadr

An options appraisal in respect of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Ysgol Pennant and Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant was considered by the Council's Cabinet in July 2021. This concluded that the Council should not make any changes to Ysgol Pennant and Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

The paper included a recommendation to develop a plan to support Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant to increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium provision at the school, with the aim of moving the school along the language continuum.

This position still stands. The preferred way forward for these two schools is for Ysgol Pennant and Ysgol Llanrhaeadr to continue to operate as standalone schools. However, the Council will support Ysgol Llanrhaeadr to move along the language continuum.

It is recognised that the Council faces a challenge recruiting Headteachers, in particular Welsh-speaking Headteachers. Should there be an opportunity to consider sharing leadership across the two sites in the future, this will be explored at that time.

8.2 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith

Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is a small school, with less than 30 pupils, therefore there is a need to consider future options for the school.

8.2.1 Identification of options

The following options have been identified for Ysgol Bro Cynllaith:

Option	Description
1	Status quo – continue as a standalone school
2	Federation with Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School
3	Merge with Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School to establish a new school on two sites
4	Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, but retain the site as part of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School

5	Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools
6	Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools in Powys
7	Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils to attend Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School

8.2.2 Assessment against Critical Success Factors

The identified options have been assessed against the Critical Success Factors which are outlined in Appendix C.

The assessment for each option is as follows:

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 7
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	x	x	x	X	?	✓	✓
2 – Value for money	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓
3 – Potential achievability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5 – Potential affordability	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓
Total ✓	1	1	1	1	4	4	4
Total x	3	3	3	3	0	0	0
Outcome	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Possible	Possible	Possible

Whilst options 5, 6 and 7 are identified as possible options, SWOT assessments of all 6 options will be carried out.

8.2.3 SWOT assessments

SWOT assessments of the 6 options are provided below:

Option 1: Status quo – continue as a standalone school

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Llansilin - There would be no additional transport costs - No requirement for a reorganisation process - No change for staff - No impact on pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would continue to be low - Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision - Would still need to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not lead to a financial saving - Would not address issues with the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building - Would not address the high budget per pupil
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration with other neighbouring schools to provide increased opportunities for pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school would continue to be a small school

Option 2: Federation with Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Llansilin - There would be no additional transport costs - More opportunities could be provided to pupils and staff - Ysgol Bro Cynllaith pupils would continue to attend school in the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would continue to be low - Ysgol Bro Cynllaith pupils would still be taught separately - Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision - Would still be required to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not lead to a financial saving - Would not address issues with the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith school building - Would not address the high budget per pupil - May not be attractive to Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School - The schools are different language categories
Opportunities	Threats

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration between the two schools to provide increased opportunities for pupils - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school would continue to be a small school
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Option 3: Merge with Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School to establish a new school on two sites

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Llansilin - More opportunities could be provided to the pupils - There would be no additional transport costs - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Opportunity for all staff to secure positions in the new school - Pupils would continue to attend school in the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain on the Llansilin site - Llansilin pupils would still be taught separately - Would not reduce surplus places - Would still need to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building - Both schools would lose their identity - Would also impact on the staff of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School - May not be attractive to Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School - The schools have different language categories
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff - Opportunity for increased leadership time for the headteacher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils due to age range of pupils in mixed age classes

Option 4: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, but retain the site as part of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Llansilin - More opportunities could be provided to the pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain at the Llansilin - Llansilin pupils would still be taught separately

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There would be no additional transport costs – Could provide a financial saving to the Council – Minimal impact on staff at Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School – Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School would retain its identity – Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would still need to maintain the Llansilin building – Would not address issues with the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building – Would not reduce surplus places – Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would lose its identity – May not be attractive to Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School – The schools have different language categories
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites – More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff – Opportunity for increased leadership time for headteacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils due to age range of pupils in mixed age classes

Option 5: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would address the issue of low pupil numbers – Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools – Revenue saving to the Council – Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum – Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities – Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation – Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Additional travel for those pupils for whom Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the closest school – Pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would have to transfer to alternative provision – Loss of provision from Llansilin – Impact on the current staff of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith – Impact on the Llansilin community – Some pupils may be closer to schools in Shropshire should the Council also proceed with closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School
Opportunities	Threats

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opportunity for the Council to realise a capital receipt from sale of the school site 	
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Option 6: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools in Powys

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would address the issue of low pupil numbers – Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools – Revenue saving to the Council – Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum – Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities – Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation – Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages – Pupils would be able to continue to access provision in Powys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Additional travel for those pupils for whom Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the closest school – Pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would have to transfer to alternative provision – Loss of provision from Llansilin – Impact on the current staff of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith – Impact on the Llansilin community
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opportunity for the Council to realise a capital receipt from sale of the school site 	

Option 7: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils to attend Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would address the issue of low pupil numbers – Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools – Revenue saving to the Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Additional travel for those pupils for whom Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the closest school – Pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would have to transfer to alternative provision

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum – Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities – Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation – Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages – Pupils would be able to continue to access provision in Powys – Pupils would have the opportunity to transfer to the same school, which would improve transition arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Loss of provision from Llansilin – Impact on the current staff of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith – Impact on the Llansilin community – Impact on Welsh language ethos of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opportunity for the Council to realise a capital receipt from sale of the school site – Opportunity to offer Trochi provision to enable pupils to transfer to Welsh-medium provision at Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity at Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School – would need to review current capacity calculation

8.2.4 Financial Evaluation

Current indicative formula funding 2024-25:

	Indicative Formula Funding 2024-25 (£)
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	189.9k

Options 4a, 5 and 6 have all been assessed for their estimated impact on the ongoing formula funding and other revenue funding requirements for the schools.

Recurring revenue costs/savings

Option 1: Status quo – continue as a standalone school

Estimated funding for standalone school 24/25	£189.9k
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Estimated funding for Option 1 24/25	£189.9k
Saving/(Cost)	£0

Option 2: Federation with Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School

Estimated funding for standalone school 24/25	£189.9k
Estimated funding for Option 2 24/25	£189.9k
Saving/(Cost)	£0

Option 3: Merge with Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School to establish a new school on two sites

Estimated funding for both standalone schools 24/25	£669.8k
Estimated funding for Option 3 24/25	£669.8k
Saving/(Cost)	£0

Option 4: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, but retain the site as part of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School

Estimated funding for both standalone schools 24/25	£669.8k
Estimated funding for Option 4 24/25	£669.8k
Saving/(Cost)	£0

Option 5: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

Estimated funding for standalone school 24/25 + others	£321.5k
Estimated funding for Option 5 24/25 + others	£186.1k
Saving/(Cost)	£135.4k
Estimated Catering Saving TBC but not expected to be significant	£0

Estimated Transport Costs	(£69.2k)
Total Saving/(Cost)	£66.2k

Option 6: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools in Powys

Estimated funding for standalone school 24/25 + others	£321.5k
Estimated funding for Option 6 24/25 + others	£208.1k
Saving/(Cost)	£113.4k
Estimated Catering Saving	£0
Estimated Transport Costs	(£69.2k)
Total Saving/(Cost)	£44.2k

Option 7: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils to attend Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School

Estimated funding for standalone school 24/25 + others	£669.8k
Estimated funding for Option 7 24/25 + others	£548.8k
Saving/(Cost)	£120.9k
Estimated Catering Saving TBC but not expected to be significant	£0
Estimated Transport Costs	(£37.2k)
Total Saving/(Cost)	£83.7k

One-off costs

Merging schools would involve the existing schools closing and being re-opened. There would be a range of one-off costs related to this process including ICT implications, providing cover for headteacher time required to establish the new school, new signage / branding, establishing a temporary governing body for the new school and so on. These are expected to amount to approximately £60,000. In

addition, any teaching and learning responsibility (TLR) payments for existing staff are usually protected for 3 years following such a process.

If the decision was made to proceed with any of the options, there would also be the cost implication to the Council of writing off the current schools' deficits/surpluses. The table below sets out the estimated cumulative positions as at 31 March 2024 which will be detrimentally impacted by the current challenging public finance environment.

	Cumulative Surplus / (Deficit) as at 31 March 2024 (£)
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	£34k

8.2.5 Conclusion

Based on the assessments above, the preferred option in respect of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is

Option 7: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils to attend Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School

It is therefore suggested that the Council proceeds with developing a proposal paper in respect of the preferred option for consideration by Cabinet.

Should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close, consideration would need to be given to ensuring that pupils can transfer to Welsh-medium provision, by ensuring that late immersion ('Trochi') provision is available to them. This would support the Council's aspiration to increase Welsh-medium pupil numbers at Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, with the aim of supporting the school to move along the Welsh language continuum.

8.3 Overall Conclusion

The preferred way forward for Ysgol Pennant, Ysgol Llanrhaeadr and Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is as follows:

- Ysgol Pennant and Ysgol Llanrhaeadr to continue to operate as standalone schools. Support Ysgol Llanrhaeadr to move along the language continuum.
- To consider, when appropriate, the possibility of establishing a dual sited school in the future.
- To close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Powys-based pupils to transfer to Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School. Trochi support to be provided to enable pupils to transfer to the Welsh-medium stream if they wish to do so.

9. Brynhafren C.P. School, Arddleen C.P. School, Carreghofa C.P School, Llandysilio C. in W. School

9.1 Brynhafren C.P. School

Pupil numbers at Brynhafren C.P. School have decreased significantly in the last few years, from 59 in January 2016 to 31 in January 2023. Due to the school's low pupil numbers, there is a need to consider future options for the school.

9.1.1 Identification of options

The following options have been identified:

Option	Description
1	Status quo – continue as a standalone school
2	Federation with Arddleen C.P. School ⁷
3	Merge with Llandysilio C. in W. School to establish a new school on two sites
4	Merge with Arddleen C.P. School to establish a new school on two sites
5	Close Brynhafren C.P. School, but retain the site as part of Llandysilio C. in W. School
6	Close Brynhafren C.P. School, but retain the site as part of Arddleen C.P. School.
7	Close Brynhafren C.P. School, pupils to attend their nearest alternative schools
8	Close Brynhafren C.P. School, pupils to attend their nearest alternative schools in Powys

9.1.2 Assessment against Critical Success Factors

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 7	Option 8
1 – Strategic fit and	x	x	x	x	x	x	?	✓

⁷ As Brynhafren C.P. School is a Community Primary school and Llandysilio C. in W. School is a Church in Wales primary school, it is not possible to federate these two schools, so the option to federate Brynhafren C.P. School with Llandysilio C. in W. School is not considered.

business needs								
2 – Value for money	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓
3 – Potential achievability	✓	✓	?	✓	?	✓	✓	✓
5 – Potential affordability	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓
Total ✓	1	1	0	1	0	1	4	4
Total x	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	0
Outcome	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Possible	Preferred option

Whilst options 7 and 8 are identified as possible / preferred options, SWOT assessments of all 8 options will be carried out.

9.1.3 SWOT assessment

SWOT assessments of the 8 options are provided below:

Option 1: Status quo – continue as a standalone school

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Crew Green - There would be no additional transport costs - No requirement for a reorganisation process - No change for staff - No impact on pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers at Brynhafren C.P. School would continue to be low - Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision - Would still need to maintain the Brynhafren C.P. School building - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not lead to a financial saving - Would not address issues with the Brynhafren C.P. School building - Would not address the high budget per pupil
Opportunities	Threats

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration with other neighbouring schools to provide increased opportunities for pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school would continue to be a small school
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Option 2: Federation with Arddleen C.P. School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Crew Green - There would be no additional transport costs - More opportunities could be provided to pupils and staff - Brynhafren C.P. School pupils would continue to attend school in the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers at Brynhafren C.P. School would continue to be low - Brynhafren C.P. School pupils would still be taught separately - Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision - Would still be required to maintain the Brynhafren C.P. School building - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not lead to a financial saving - Would not address issues with the Brynhafren C.P. School school building - Would not address the high budget per pupil - May not be attractive to Arddleen C.P. School - The schools are different language categories
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration between the two schools to provide increased opportunities for pupils - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school would continue to be a small school

Option 3: Merge with Llandysilio C. in W. School to establish a new school on two sites

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Crew Green - More opportunities could be provided to the pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain on the Brynhafren site - Brynhafren pupils would still be taught separately

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There would be no additional transport costs – Could provide a financial saving to the Council – Opportunity for all staff to secure positions in the new school – Pupils would continue to attend school in the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would not reduce surplus places – Would still need to maintain the Brynhafren building – Both schools would lose their identity – Would also impact on the staff of Llandysilio C. in W. School – May not be attractive to Llandysilio C. in W. School – Brynhafren is a C.P. School whilst Llandysilio is a C. in W. School
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites – More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff – Opportunity for increased leadership time for the headteacher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils due to age range of pupils in mixed age classes

Option 4: Merge with Arddleen C.P. School to establish a new school on two sites

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would retain provision in Crew Green – More opportunities could be provided to the pupils – There would be no additional transport costs – Could provide a financial saving to the Council – Opportunity for all staff to secure positions in the new school – Pupils would continue to attend school in the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Small numbers would remain on the Brynhafren site – Brynhafren pupils would still be taught separately – Would not reduce surplus places – Would still need to maintain the Brynhafren building – Both schools would lose their identity – Would also impact on the staff of Arddleen C.P. School – May not be attractive to Arddleen C.P. School
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites – More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils due to age range of pupils in mixed age classes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opportunity for increased leadership time for the headteacher. 	
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Option 5: Close Brynhafren C.P. School, but retain the site as part of Llandysilio C. in W. School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would retain provision in Crew Green – More opportunities could be provided to the pupils – There would be no additional transport costs – Could provide a financial saving to the Council – Minimal impact on staff at Llandysilio C. in W. School – Llandysilio C. in W. School would retain its identity – Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Small numbers would remain at the Brynhafren site – Brynhafren pupils would still be taught separately – Would still need to maintain the Brynhafren building – Would not address issues with the Brynhafren building – Would not reduce surplus places – Brynhafren C.P. School would lose its identity – May not be attractive to Llandysilio C. in W. School – Brynhafren C.P. School is currently a community primary school, whilst Llandysilio C. in W. School is a Church in Wales school
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites – More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff – Opportunity for increased leadership time for headteacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils due to age range of pupils in mixed age classes

Option 6: Close Brynhafren C.P. School, but retain the site as part of Arddleen C.P. School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would retain provision in Crew Green – More opportunities could be provided to the pupils – There would be no additional transport costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Small numbers would remain at the Brynhafren site – Brynhafren pupils would still be taught separately

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Could provide a financial saving to the Council – Minimal impact on staff at Arddleen C.P. School – Arddleen C.P. School would retain its identity – Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location – Both schools are community primary schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would still need to maintain the Brynhafren building – Would not address issues with the Brynhafren building – Would not reduce surplus places – Brynhafren C.P. School would lose its identity – May not be attractive to Arddleen C.P. School
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites – More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff – Opportunity for increased leadership time for headteacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils due to age range of pupils in mixed age classes

Option 7: Close Brynhafren C.P. School, pupils to attend their nearest alternative schools

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would address the issue of low pupil numbers – Would reduce the Council’s overall surplus capacity in primary schools – Revenue saving to the Council – Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum – Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities – Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation – Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Additional travel for those pupils for whom Brynhafren C.P. School is currently the closest school – Pupils currently attending Brynhafren C.P. School would have to transfer to alternative provision – Loss of provision from Crew Green – Impact on the current staff of Brynhafren C.P. School – Impact on the Crew Green community – Some pupils may be closer to schools in Shropshire
Opportunities	Threats

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opportunity for the Council to realise a capital receipt from sale of the school site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May be difficult for pupils to access alternative provision during bad weather due to flooding in the area
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Option 8: Close Brynhafren C.P. School, pupils to attend their nearest alternative schools in Powys

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would address the issue of low pupil numbers – Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools – Revenue saving to the Council – Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum – Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities – Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation – Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Additional travel for those pupils for whom Brynhafren C.P. School is currently the closest school – Pupils currently attending Brynhafren C.P. School would have to transfer to alternative provision – Loss of provision from Crew Green – Impact on the current staff of Brynhafren C.P. School – Impact on the Crew Green community
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opportunity for the Council to realise a capital receipt from sale of the school site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May be difficult for pupils to access alternative provision during bad weather due to flooding in the area

9.1.4 Financial Evaluation

Current indicative formula funding 2024-25:

	Indicative Formula Funding 2024-25 (£)
Brynhafren C.P. School	198.4k

The options have been assessed for their estimated impact on the ongoing formula funding and other revenue funding requirements for the schools.

Recurring revenue costs/savings

Option 1: Status quo – continue as a standalone school

Estimated funding for standalone school 24/25	£198.4k
Estimated funding for Option 1 24/25	£198.4k
Saving/(Cost)	£0

Option 2: Federation with Arddleen C.P. School

Estimated funding for standalone school 24/25	£198.4k
Estimated funding for Option 2 24/25	£198.4k
Saving/(Cost)	£0

Option 3: Merge with Llandysilio C. in W. School to establish a new school on two sites

Estimated funding for both standalone schools 24/25	£528.9k
Estimated funding for Option 3 24/25	£528.9k
Saving/(Cost)	£0

Option 4: Merge with Arddleen C.P. School to establish a new school on two sites

Estimated funding for both standalone schools 24/25	£627.3k
Estimated funding for Option 4 24/25	£627.3k
Saving/(Cost)	£0

Option 5: Close Brynhafren C.P. School, but retain the site as part of Llandysilio C. in W. School

Estimated funding for both standalone schools 24/25	£528.9k
Estimated funding for Option 5 24/25	£528.9k
Saving/(Cost)	£0

Option 6: Close Brynhafren C.P. School, but retain the site as part of Arddleen C.P. School

Estimated funding for both standalone schools 24/25	£627.3k
Estimated funding for Option 6 24/25	£627.3k
Saving/(Cost)	£0

Option 7: Close Brynhafren C.P. School, pupils to attend their nearest alternative schools

Estimated funding for standalone school 24/25 + others	£2,469.9k
Estimated funding for Option 7 24/25 + others	£2,367.2k
Saving/(Cost)	£102.7k
Estimated Catering Saving	£0
Estimated Transport Costs	(£73.4k)
Total Saving/(Cost)	£29.3k

Option 8: Close Brynhafren C.P. School, pupils to attend their nearest alternative schools in Powys

Estimated funding for standalone school 24/25 + others	£2,469.9k
Estimated funding for Option 8 24/25 + others	£2,367.2k
Saving/(Cost)	£102.7k
Estimated Catering Saving	£0
Estimated Transport Costs	(£73.4k)
Total Saving/(Cost)	£29.3k

One-off costs

Merging schools would involve the existing schools closing and being re-opened. There would be a range of one-off costs related to this process including ICT implications, providing cover for headteacher time required to establish the new school, new signage / branding, establishing a temporary governing body for the new school and so on. These are expected to amount to approximately £60,000. In addition, any teaching and learning responsibility (TLR) payments for existing staff are usually protected for 3 years following such a process.

If the decision was made to proceed with any of the options, there would also be the cost implication to the Council of writing off the current schools' deficits/surpluses. The table below sets out the cumulative positions as at 31 March 2022 which will be detrimentally impacted by the current challenging public finance environment.

	Cumulative Surplus / (Deficit) as at 31 March 2023 (£)
Brynhafren C.P. School	(123k)

9.1.5 Conclusion

Based on the assessments above, the preferred option in respect of Brynhafren C.P. School is

Option 8: Close Brynhafren C.P. School, pupils to attend their nearest alternative schools in Powys

It is therefore suggested that the Council proceeds with developing a proposal paper in respect of the preferred option.

9.2 Arddleen C.P. School, Carreghofa C.P. School and Llandysilio C. in W. School

The Council's original preferred way forward for the Llanfyllin catchment included a possible new build area school to replace these schools. The engagement carried out when developing this paper identified concerns about the practicalities of this, due to issues with flooding in the area and housing developments planned in the area, plus the potential of losing pupils to England due being so close to the border.

In addition, the Council does not currently have funding available to support a capital development in this area.

However, during the engagement, it became apparent that there may be scope to consider establishing one multi-sited school in the area, and that consideration could also be given to including other schools in the area as part of this discussion.

Llandysilio is a Church in Wales School therefore consideration would also need to be given to how best to ensure the provision of Church in Wales places in this area.

Another factor in this area is that there is no Welsh-medium primary provision or Welsh-medium early years provision, and therefore opportunities to develop provision in this area would align with the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).

A complicating issue in this area is that the schools are feeder schools to both Ysgol Llanfyllin and Welshpool High School, therefore the impact on secondary provision will need to be carefully considered in any future reorganisation.

In summary, the preferred way forward for these schools is to continue to explore the possibility of establishing a new multi-sited school in this area in the future, with the potential of a new-build at a later stage. Consideration should also be given to the development of Welsh-medium early years/primary provision.

9.3 Overall conclusion

The preferred way forward for Brynhafren C.P. School, Arddleen C.P. School, Carreghofa C.P. School and Llandysilio C. in W. School is as follows:

- To close Brynhafren C.P. School, pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools in Powys
- To explore with Arddleen C.P. School, Carreghofa C.P. School and Llandysilio C. in W. School the possibility of establishing a new multi-sited school in the area, with the potential of a new build at a later stage.
- To explore the possibility of establishing Welsh-medium early years/primary provision in the area

10. Ysgol Llanfyllin and Ysgol Meifod

The Council's previous preferred way forward for the catchment included a commitment to a new build in Llanfyllin. Whilst this remains the preferred way forward, this is dependent on capital funding. This was included in the Council's revised Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, which was approved by Cabinet in September 2020.

However, the revised SOP has not been approved by the Welsh Government yet.

The Welsh Government is moving to a new way of funding capital projects via The Council will soon be developing a new Strategic Outline Programme outlining its priorities for the next 9 years.

The Welsh Government is moving to a new rolling programme for funding the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. As part of this, local authorities will be required to prepare a new Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) outlining their priorities for the next 9 years of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. The plan to provide a replacement building in Llanfyllin will be included in the revised SOP.

Over the last few years, Ysgol Llanfyllin has been exploring the potential of moving the primary phase along the language continuum (the school is a dual-stream school). The Council is fully supportive of this aspiration and will continue to support Ysgol Llanfyllin with this aspect.

Ysgol Meifod will continue as a standalone school for the time being. However, options for the school will be considered alongside the development of a new building in Llanfyllin in the future.

11. Conclusion and Next Steps

11.1 Conclusion

Based on the earlier Programme Business Case in respect of the Llanfyllin catchment and the further work carried out subsequently, including Cabinet papers considered between September 2020 and March 2022 and the further assessments carried out above, the revised preferred way forward for the Llanfyllin / North Welshpool catchment is as follows:

Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School, Llansantffraid C. in W. School

- To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School.
- To explore with Llansantffraid C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School the possibility of establishing a dual sited school in the area
- To provide a new building in the future to replace Llansantffraid C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School

Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Ysgol Pennant, Ysgol Llanrhaeadr

- Ysgol Pennant and Ysgol Llanrhaeadr to continue to operate as standalone schools. Support Ysgol Llanrhaeadr to move along the language continuum
- To consider, when appropriate, the possibility of establishing a dual sited school in the future
- To close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Powys-based pupils to transfer to Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School. Trochi support to be provided to enable pupils to transfer to the Welsh-medium stream if they wish to do so.

Brynhafren C.P. School, Arddleen C.P. School, Carreghofa C.P. School, Llandysilio C. in W. School

- To close Brynhafren C.P. School, pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools in Powys
- To explore with Arddleen C.P. School, Carreghofa C.P. School and Llandysilio C. in W. School the possibility of establishing a new multi-sited school in the area, with the potential of a new build at a later stage.
- To explore the possibility of establishing Welsh-medium early years/primary provision in the area.

Ysgol Llanfyllin

- Provide a new building for pupils aged 4-18 in Llanfyllin, replacing the current Ysgol Llanfyllin buildings
- To support Ysgol Llanfyllin to move along the language continuum

- Options for Ysgol Meifod to be considered alongside the building development in Llanfyllin

11.2 Next Steps

This is an indicative preferred way forward, and statutory processes as outlined in the School Organisation Code would need to be completed in order to take this forward. Proposal papers will need to be prepared in respect of each of the individual proposals, to consider the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code.

It is recommended that proposal papers relating to the proposals to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith and Brynhafren C.P. School are developed for consideration by Cabinet.

Appendix A – Data

Pupil Numbers

i) Current pupil numbers⁸

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Arddleen C.P. School	13	22	18	14	18	19	11	115
Brynhafren C.P. School	4	2	5	3	6	6	5	31
Carreghofa C.P. School	18	20	12	12	10	15	12	99
Llandysilio C. in W. School	8	6	6	14	9	9	5	57
Llanfechain C. in W. School	1	2	7	3	13	8	4	38
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	0	1	2	1	4	2	1	11
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	11	17	15	15	16	12	26	126
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	5	2	5	1	4	4	4	25
Ysgol Llanfyllin (Primary)	18	20	17	19	18	19	29	140
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	15	10	12	9	15	12	6	79
Ysgol Meifod	8	8	9	10	14	8	6	63
Ysgol Pennant	10	8	17	12	8	14	12	81
TOTAL	111	118	125	113	135	128	121	851

	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total
Ysgol Llanfyllin (Secondary)	112	106	100	124	100	55	54	651

⁸ Teacher Centre, 23rd June 2023

ii) Historical pupil numbers⁹

	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022
Arddleen C.P. School	84	83	86	96	93	99	111
Brynhafren C.P. School	59	56	39	47	44	41	35
Carreghofa C.P. School	113	115	101	101	86	103	107
Llandysilio C. in W. School	89	85	81	79	72	63	58
Llanfechain C. in W. School	40	44	39	39	44	39	36
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	31	26	28	31	18	23	17
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	119	108	100	118	120	122	123
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	38	32	29	30	26	26	23
Ysgol Llanfyllin (Primary)	165	165	153	147	148	139	146
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	80	85	75	71	75	73	76
Ysgol Meifod	75	85	73	79	82	75	70
Ysgol Pennant	68	70	70	70	70	84	79
TOTAL	961	954	874	908	878	887	881

iii) Projected pupil numbers (Live birth info)¹⁰

	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027
Arddleen C.P. School	114	120	116	113	114

⁹ PLASC

¹⁰ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC 2022 & Birth Rates (Reception to Year 6)

Brynhafren C.P. School	36	37	38	37	40
Carreghofa C.P. School	90	96	95	98	102
Llandysilio C. in W. School	54	54	48	44	38
Llanfechain C. in W. School	38	39	40	28	30
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	15	16	13	8	8
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	112	101	98	92	88
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	25	24	24	22	25
Ysgol Llanfyllin (Primary)	136	129	122	118	114
Ysgol Llanrhaeadrym-Mochnant	76	84	86	80	81
Ysgol Meifod	67	67	64	60	57
Ysgol Pennant	79	79	79	79	79
TOTAL	842	846	823	779	776

Building Capacity and Condition

i) Capacity

	Capacity ¹¹	Currently Filled ¹²	Surplus Capacity ¹³
Arddleen C.P. School	110	115	-5 (-5%)

¹¹ MSCW Capacity Jan. 2022 from the Welsh Government Planning of School Places Return – October 2022

¹² Based on current pupil numbers – June 2023

¹³ Based on current pupil numbers – June 2023

Brynhafren C.P. School	96	31	65 (68%)
Carreghofa C.P. School	109	99	10 (9%)
Llandysilio C. in W. School	105	57	48 (46%)
Llanfechain C. in W. School	47	38	9 (19%)
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	47	11	36 (77%)
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	105	112	-7 (-7%)
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	54	25	29 (54%)
Ysgol Llanfyllin	1102	791	311 (28%)
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	108	79	29 (27%)
Ysgol Meifod	77	63	14 (18%)
Ysgol Pennant	88	81	7 (8%)
TOTAL	2048	1502	546 (27%)

ii) **Building condition¹⁴**

	Condition	Suitability	Sufficient	Estimated Backlog Maintenance¹⁵
Arddleen C.P. School	C Poor	B Satisfactory	No	£662,380

¹⁴ Condition, Suitability and Sufficiency – The Transforming Education PowerBI Dashboard – 2022

¹⁵ As stated in the Annual Built Environment Survey 2022

Brynhafren C.P. School	B Satisfactory	B Satisfactory	No	£265,086
Carreghofa C.P. School	B Satisfactory	B Satisfactory	Yes	£290,266
Llandysilio C. in W. School	B Satisfactory	C Poor	No	£585,116
Llanfechain C. in W. School	C Poor	B Satisfactory	Yes	£440,599
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	C Poor	B Satisfactory	No	£90,430
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	B Satisfactory	C Poor	No	£58,012
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	C Poor	B Satisfactory	Yes	£153,178
Ysgol Llanfyllin	C Poor	B/C Satisfactory/Poor	No	£3,958,261
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	A Good	A Good	Yes	£0
Ysgol Meifod	B Satisfactory	C Poor	Yes	£286,830
Ysgol Pennant	B Satisfactory	B/C Satisfactory/Poor	Yes	£269,272

Financial information

i) **Cost per pupil¹⁶**

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Arddleen C.P. School	£419,855	£3,748.71	£17,613	£6,900
Brynhafren C.P. School	£258,941	£7,192.81	£24,376	£1,150
Carreghofa C.P. School	£421,826	£4,635.45	£20,335	£12,650
Llandysilio C. in W. School	£266,328	£4,438.80	£13,055	£8,050
Llanfechain C. in W. School	£252,250	£7,006.94	£23,471	£10,350
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	£187,032	£11,689.50	£16,414	£4,600
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	£440,898	£4,159.42	£21,037	£18,400
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	£205,579	£8,565.79	£14,667	£2,300
Ysgol Llanfyllin	£4,212,377	£5,252.34	£127,000	£86,000
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	£440,734	£5,799.13	£14,877	£4,600
Ysgol Meifod	£328,817	£4,631.23	£11,226	£8,050
Ysgol Pennant	£337,584	£4,273.22	£12,246	£3,450

ii) **Current budgetary position (as of 1st May 2023 submittal by full governing body)¹⁷**

¹⁶ Section 52 Budget Statement, 2022/2023

¹⁷ Learning and Skills Scrutiny Report – School Outturn Positions - 21st July 2023

	2022/23 Actual Cumulative Outturn (£)	2023/24 Projected Cumulative Outturn (£)	2024/25 Projected Cumulative Outturn (£)	2025/26 Projected Cumulative Outturn (£)
Arddleen C.P. School	72,809	38,385	44,431	28,879
Brynhafren C.P. School	(123,492)	(139,211)	(168,124)	(206,118)
Carreghofa C.P. School	94,933	74,710	63,214	48,245
Llandysilio C. in W. School	(9,350)	(13,667)	5,443	27,949
Llanfechain C. in W. School	62,211	39,722	782	(46,590)
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	3,597	(30,365)	(95,900)	(166,840)
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	50,877	10,745	(26,582)	(65,711)
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	30,618	35,748	42,680	21,520
Ysgol Llanfyllin	540,021	357,650	223,013	55,574
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	104,518	92,426	104,659	111,969
Ysgol Meifod	(5,629)	(7,200)	(6,042)	(1,484)
Ysgol Pennant	147,489	80,861	57,651	22,004

Equalities Information

i) Free School Meals¹⁸

	Number of pupils who had a free school meal on Census Day
Arddleen C.P. School	8.1%

¹⁸ PLASC 2022

Brynhafren C.P. School	17.1%
Carreghofa C.P. School	13.3%
Llandysilio C. in W. School	15.5%
Llanfechain C. in W. School	11.1%
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	23.5%
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	12.7%
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	8.7%
Ysgol Llanfyllin	15.3%
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	19.7%
Ysgol Meifod	10.0%
Ysgol Pennant	2.5%

ii) Pupils in care¹⁹

	Number of pupils in care
Arddleen C.P. School	1
Brynhafren C.P. School	0
Carreghofa C.P. School	0
Llandysilio C. in W. School	2
Llanfechain C. in W. School	0
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	1
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	0
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	0
Ysgol Llanfyllin	12

¹⁹ PLASC 2022

Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	0
Ysgol Meifod	0
Ysgol Pennant	0

iii) **SEN/ALN²⁰**

	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement	IDP School	IDP LA
Arddleen C.P. School	9.1%	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Brynhafren C.P. School	5.7%	5.7%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Carreghofa C.P. School	7.5%	2.8%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Llandysilio C. in W. School	13.8%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Llanfechain C. in W. School	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%	2.8%
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	11.8%	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	4.2%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Ysgol Llanfyllin (Primary)	7.1%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	7.9%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Ysgol Meifod	18.6%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Ysgol Pennant	16.5%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

²⁰ PLASC 2022

Appendix B – Planned Housing Developments in the area

Powys' Local Development Plan (Adopted 2018) identifies suitable locations for new housing within the settlement hierarchy to support the delivery of a sustainable pattern of development. The type and scale of development permitted within each tier is commensurate to a settlement's place in the sustainable settlement hierarchy and controlled through directs housing growth in Towns and Large Villages to **allocated sites**.

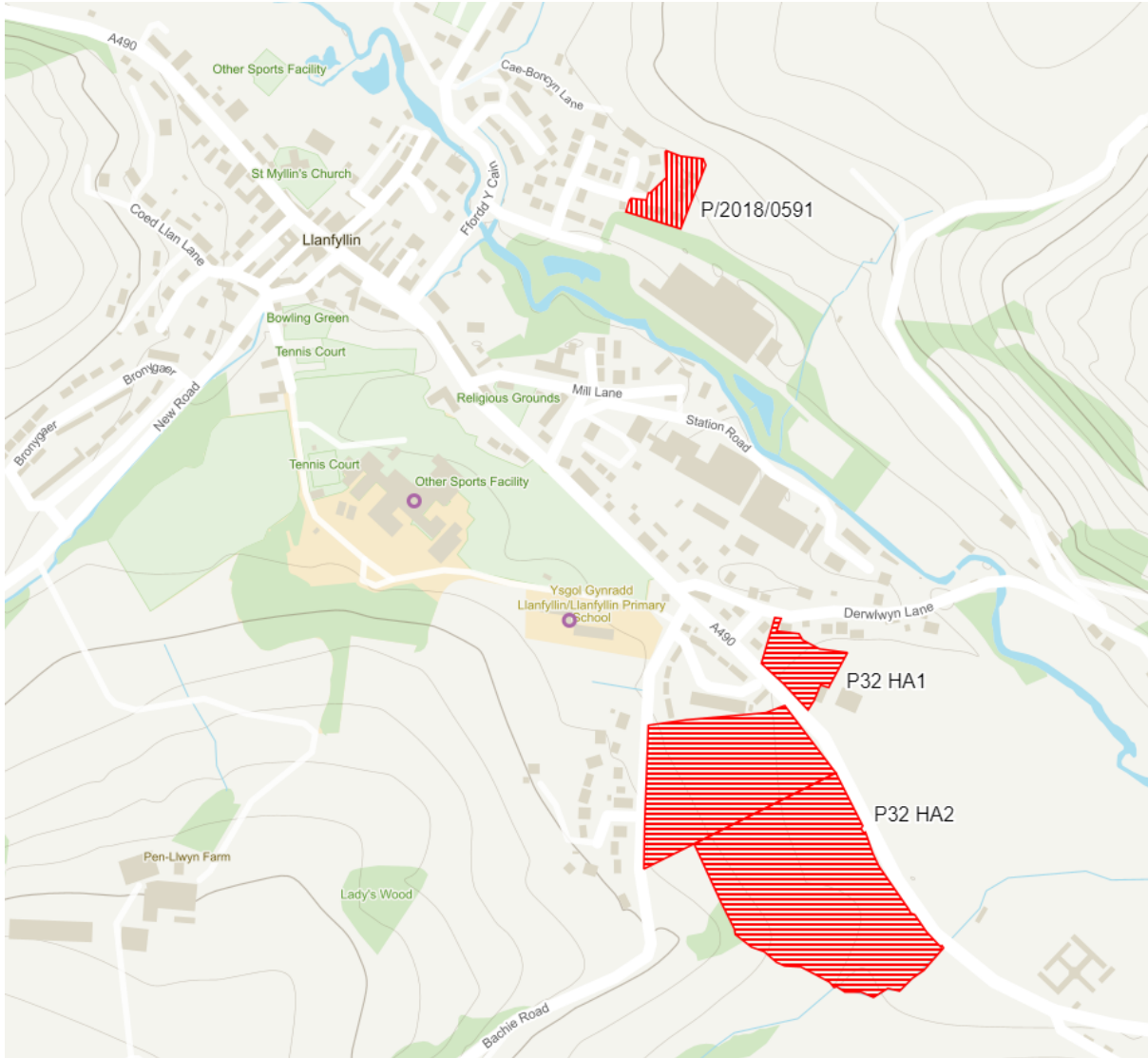
Development in Small Villages will be restricted to small infill sites may be suitable for one or two open market dwellings but larger infill sites if developed for housing should be developed for no more than five dwellings and must contribute to meeting local affordable housing needs. Small scale development of no more than five affordable homes may also be permitted on exceptions sites forming logical settlement extensions.

To provide a consistent policy approach towards the development of open market housing in Small Villages, the Council is prepared for larger infill sites (up to five dwellings maximum) as referred to in 2 ii) to accommodate mixed schemes of open market and affordable dwelling types provided the open market element of the development is for no more than two dwellings. In such circumstances and to protect the underlying principles of the policy, the planning consent will be conditioned, or other mechanisms used to ensure that the affordable homes are provided alongside or in advance of open market housing on the site.

The 2021 Census data, together with up-to-date population projections are robust data sources which are used to assess the number and age of additional children likely to arise from new housing development across all school age groups. It is expected that on average each new residential unit developed within Powys will likely generate 0.40 children or young people with educational requirements.

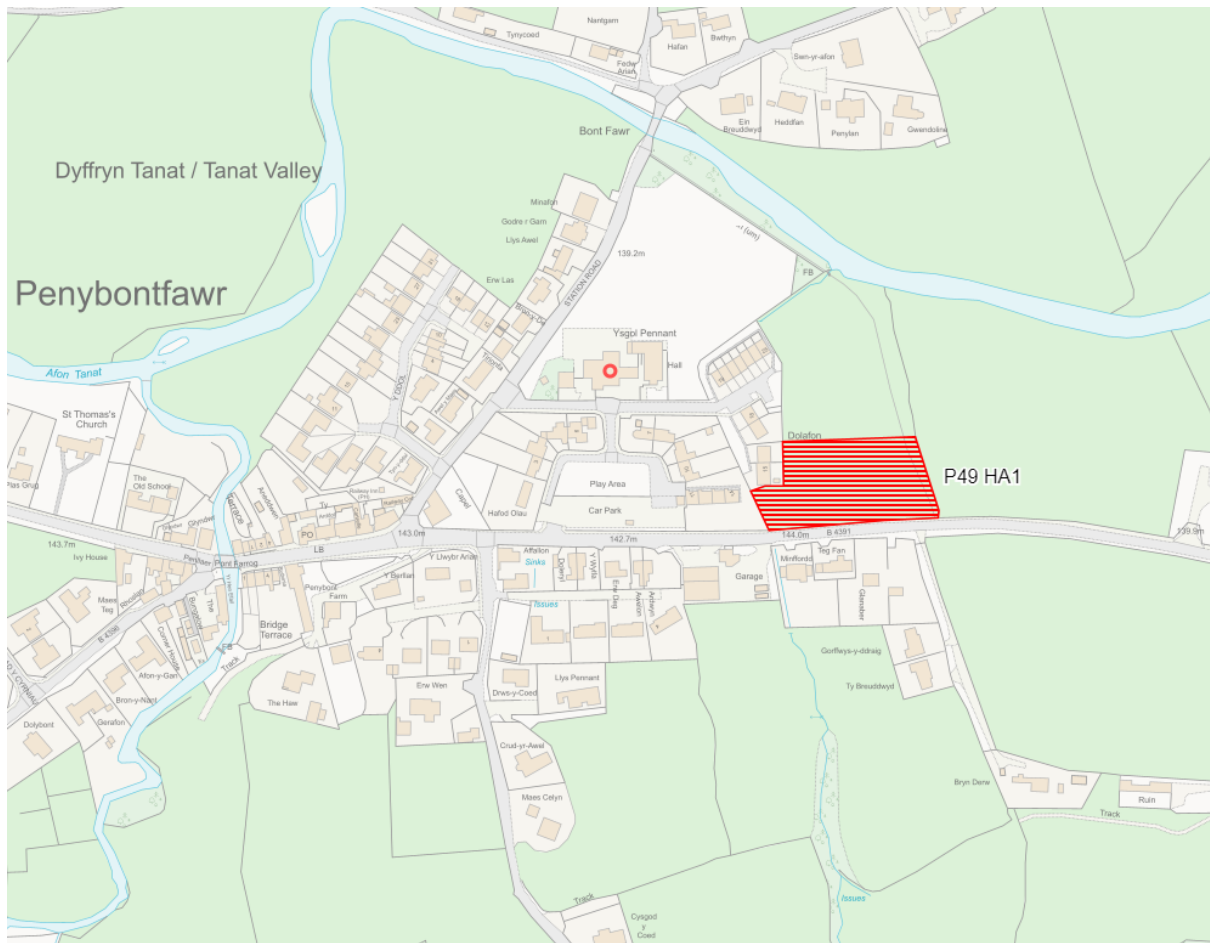
The following is an overview of the allocated sites and some larger development sites granted permission within the settlements of the Llanfyllin / north Welshpool area within recent years:

Llanfyllin



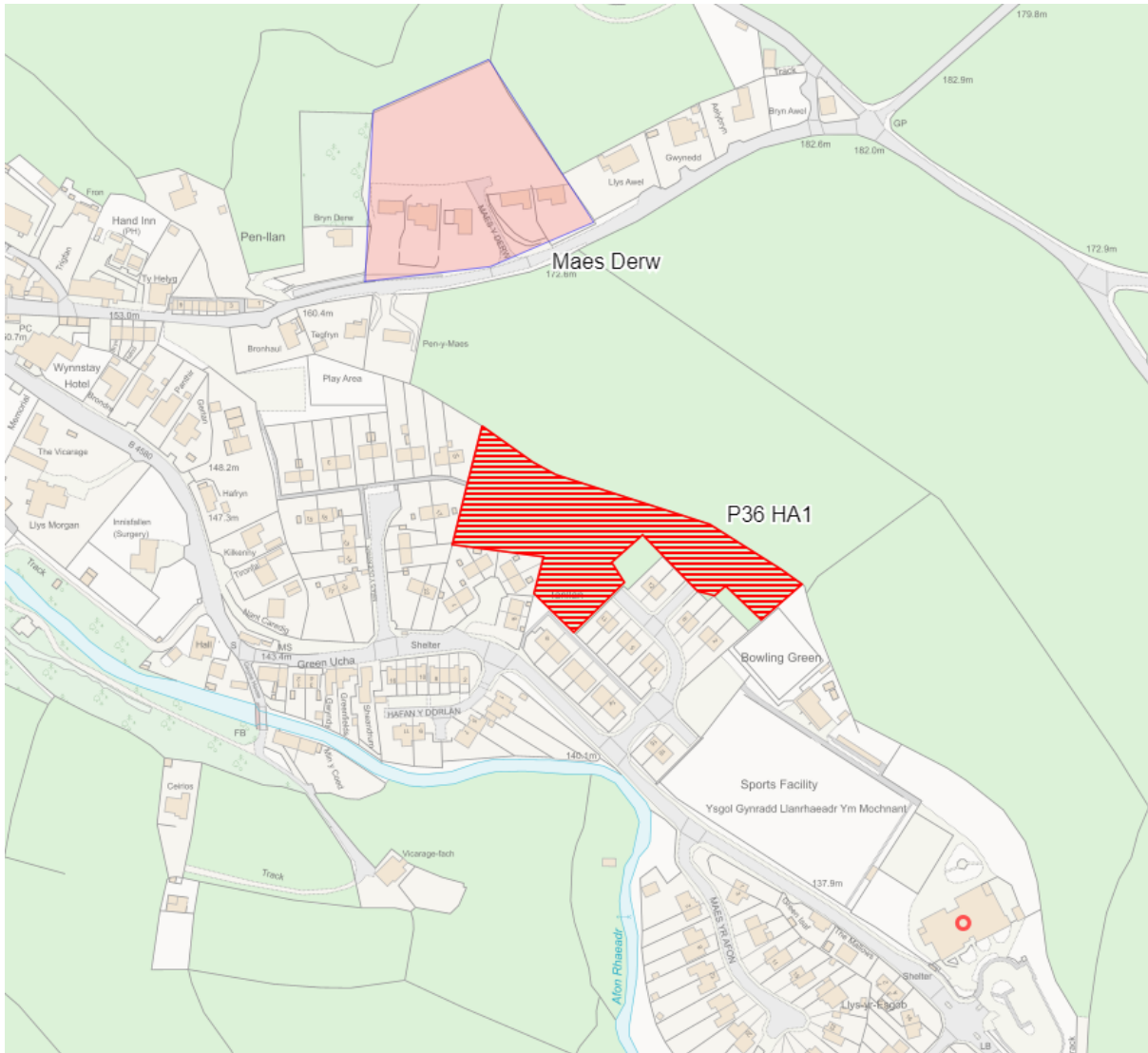
Identifier	Description	No. of Dwellings	No. of Pupils (Formula)
P32 HA1	14 dwellings site likely to come forward soon, number of dwellings may increase up to 16.	14	5.6
P32 HA2	No action on this site from the landowner to bring the site forward.	55	22
P/2018/0591	10 dwellings complete 2021.	10	4

Penybontfawr



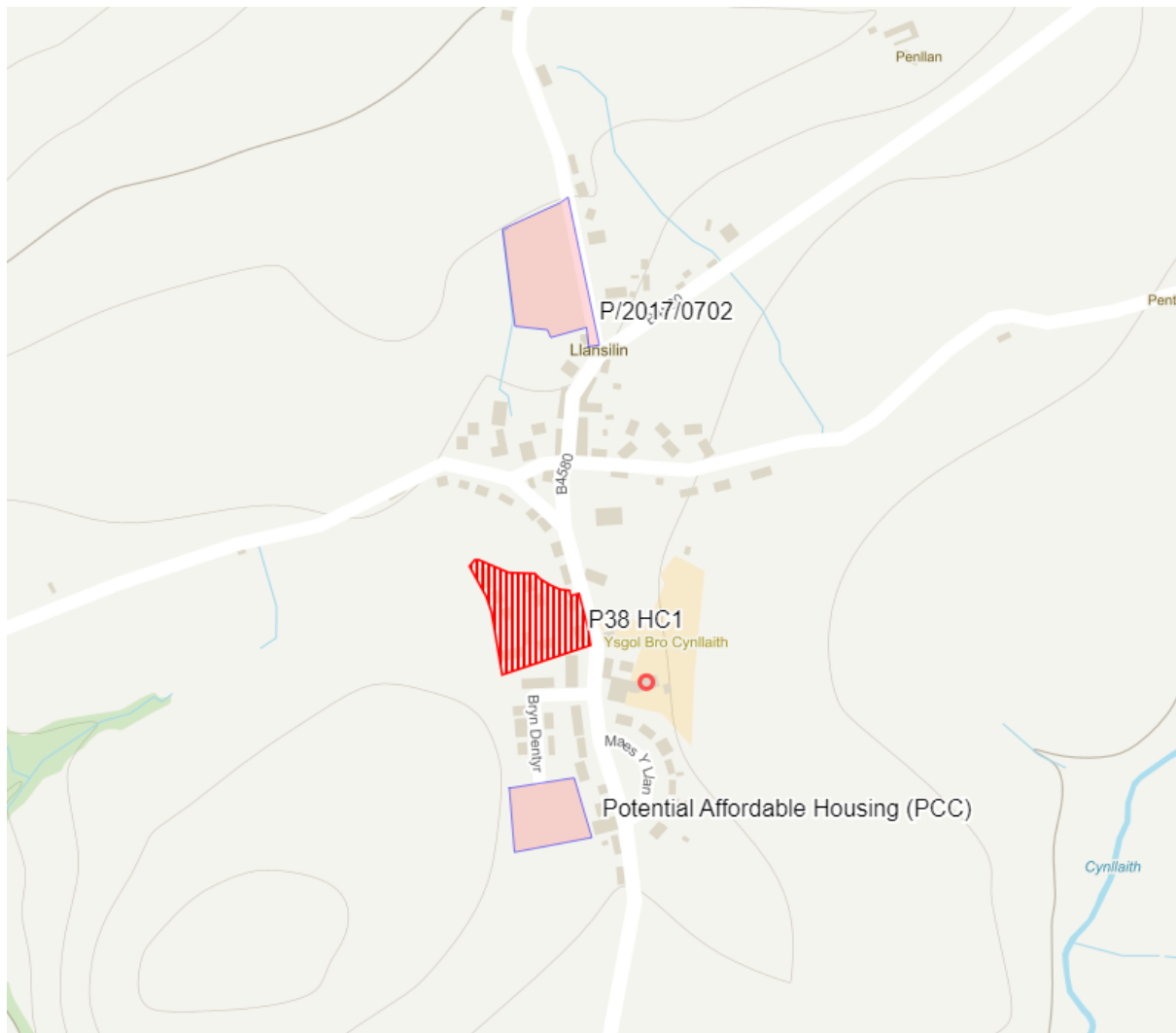
Identifier	Description	No. of Dwellings	No. of Pupils (Formula)
P49 HA1	No action on this site from the landowner to bring the site forward.	11	4.4

Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant



Identifier	Description	No. of Dwellings	No. of Pupils (Formula)
P36 HA1	Located for 19 dwellings. Site likely to come forward over the next few years, number of dwellings may increase up to 26.	19	7.6
Maes Derw	1-5: 5 plots have gradually been built out over last few years. Plots 6 - 10 (Maes Derw) – further 5 plots works have commenced (plots for sale on right move).	10	4

Llansilin

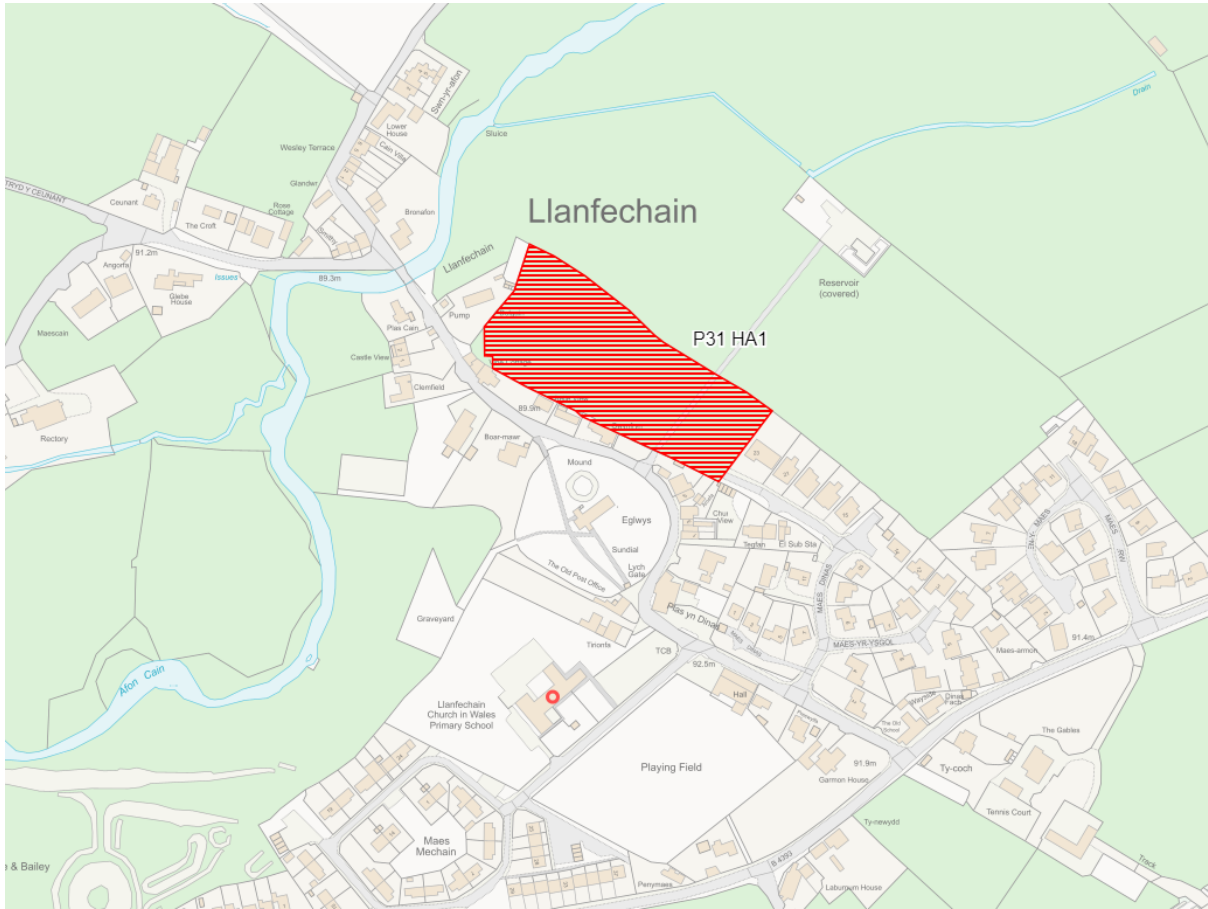


Identifier	Description	No. of Dwellings	No. of Pupils (Formula)
P38 HC1	23 dwellings nearing completion.	23	9.2
P/2017/0702	4 dwellings likely to start work soon.	4	1.6

Llangedwyn

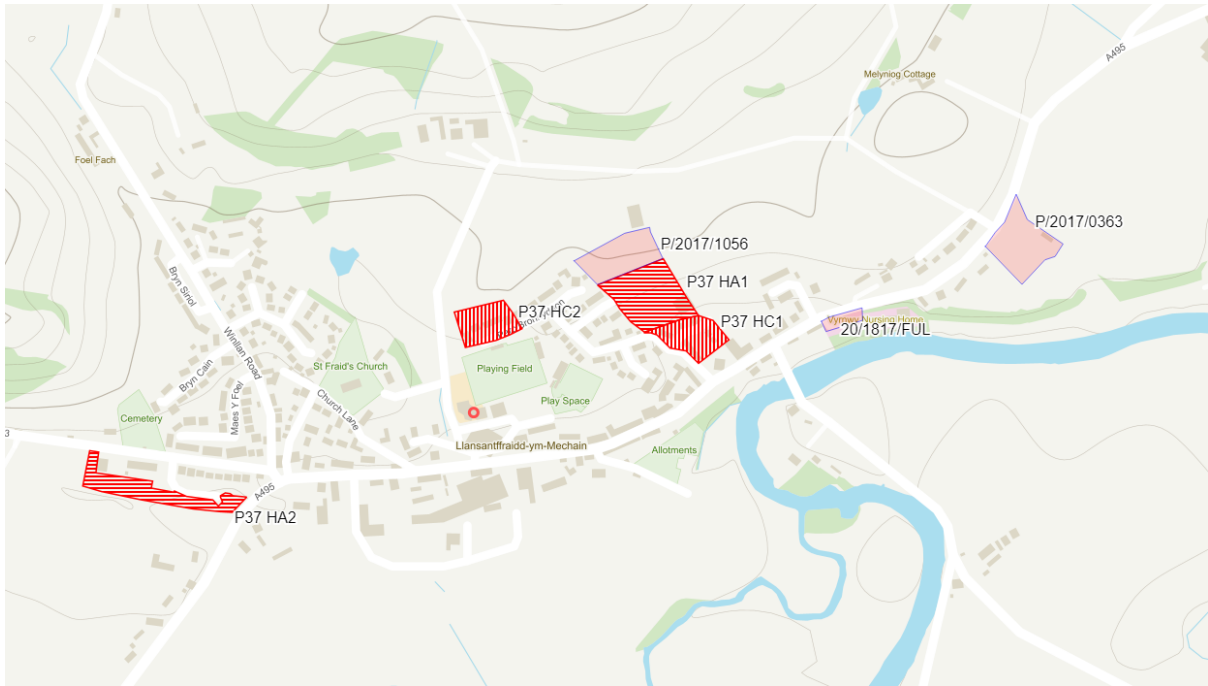
Small Village no planned growth and only developments of five or less will be permitted.

Llanfechain



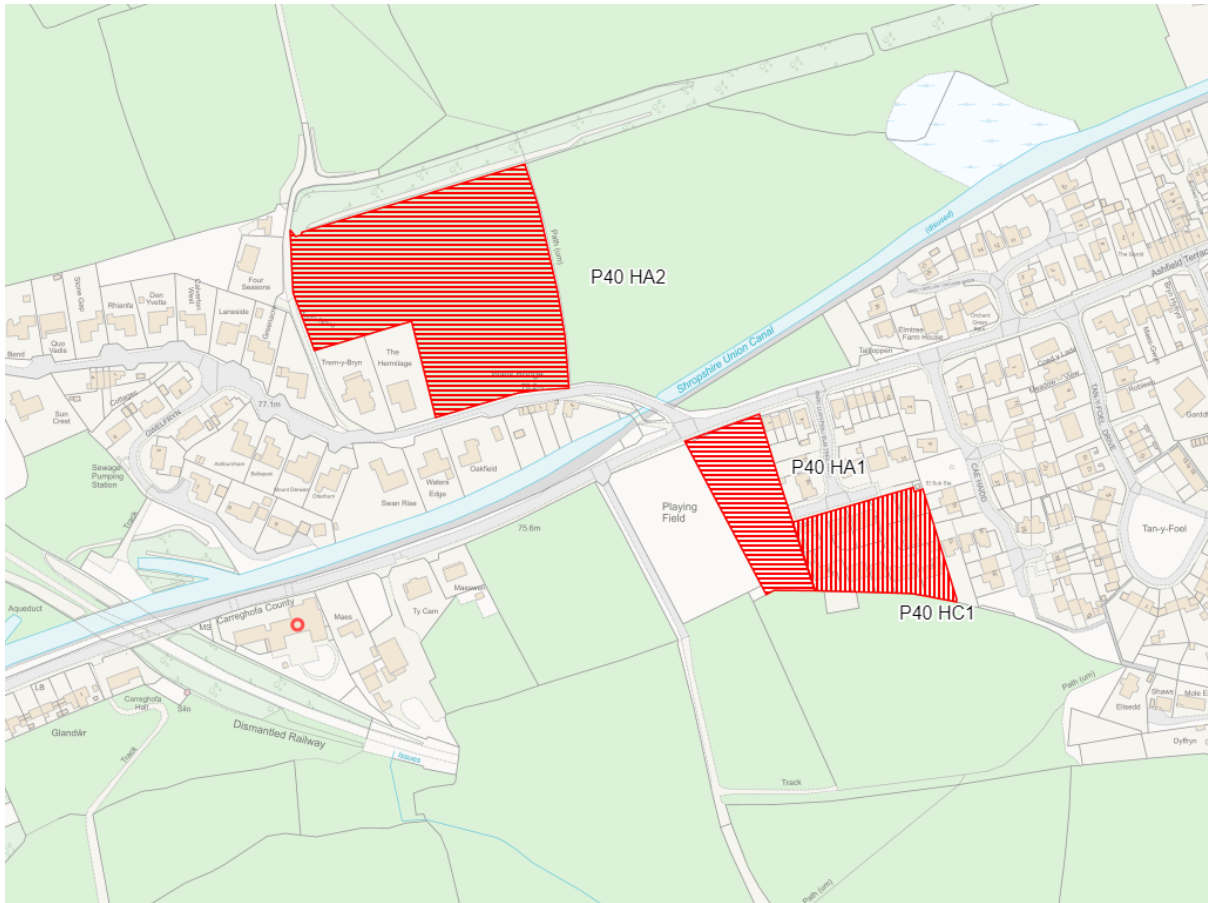
Identifier	Description	No. of Dwellings	No. of Pupils (Formula)
P31 HA1	Allocated for 25 dwellings. Positive correspondence from agent but no planning application received to date to indicate works will commence any time soon.	25	10

Llansantffraid



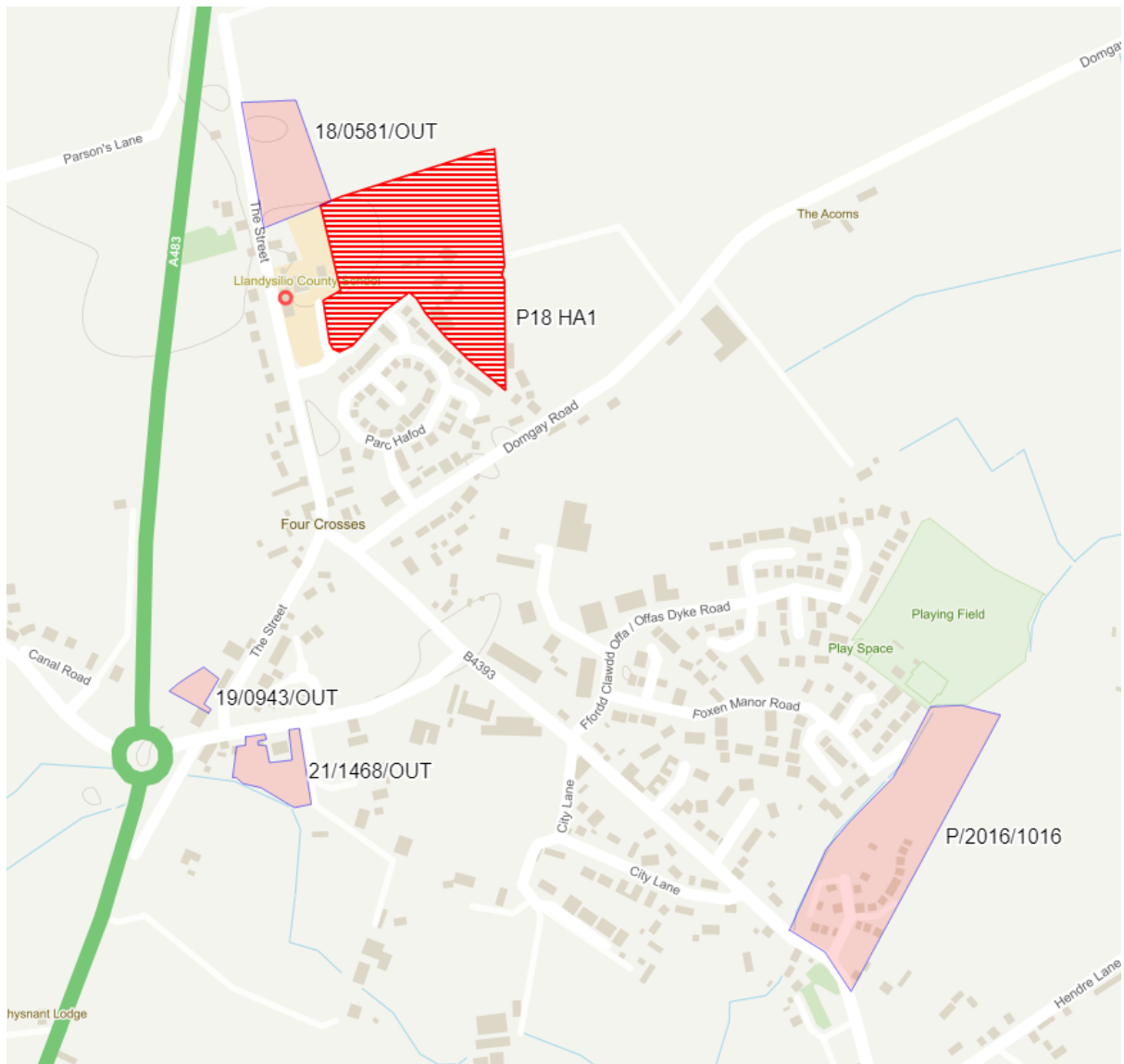
Identifier	Description	No. of Dwellings	No. of Pupils (Formula)
P37 HA1	No action on this site from the landowner to bring the site forward	22	8.8
P37 HA2	No action on this site from the landowner to bring the site forward	13	5.2
P37 HC1	Site complete beginning 2017	12	4.8
P37 HC2	Site complete beginning 2021	5	2
Maes Y Cledrau	26 dwellings complete November 2022	26	10.4
P/2017/1056 , Parc Bronydd	6 dwellings could commence works soon	6	2.4
20/1817/FUL, Vyrnwy House	8 flats complete 2022	8	3.2
P/2017/0363, Breidden View	9 dwellings under construction	9	3.6

Carregofa/ Llanymynech



Identifier	Description	No. of Dwellings	No. of Pupils (Formula)
P40 HC1	Complete 2015	13	5.2
P40 HA1	No action on this site from the landowner to bring the site forward.	11	4.4
P40 HA2	No action on this site from the landowner to bring the site forward.	20	8

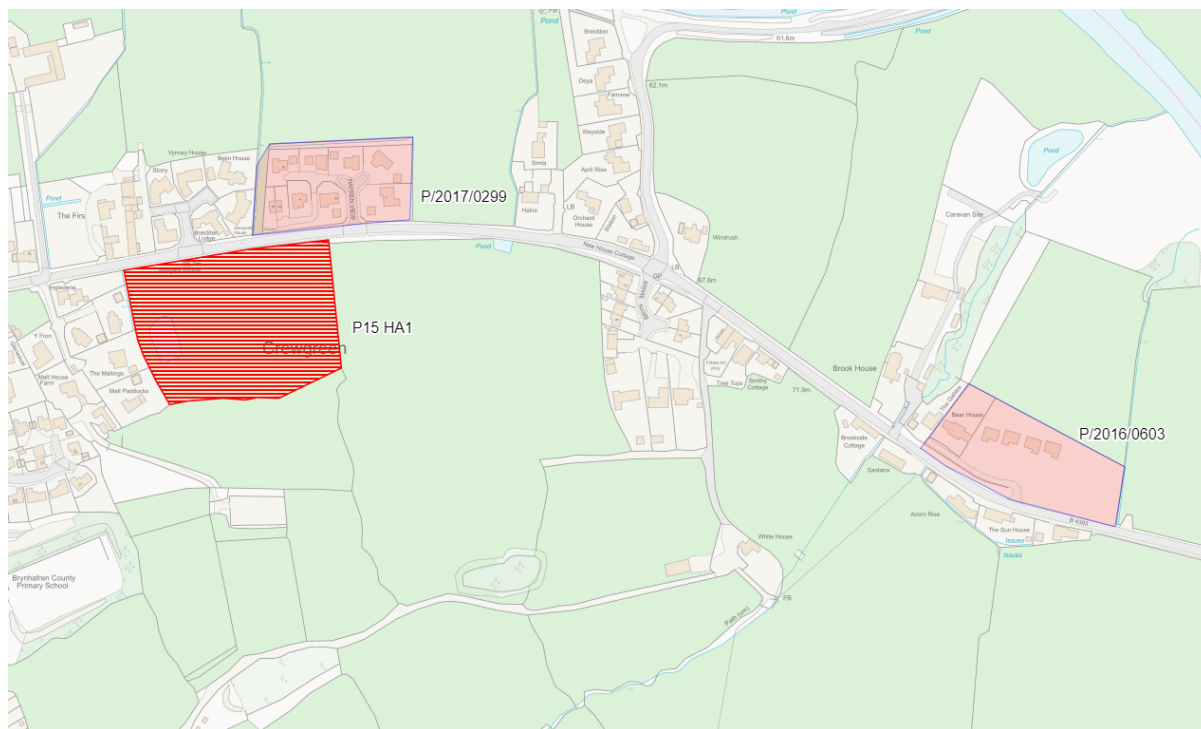
Llandysilio / Four Crosses



Identifier	Description	No. of Dwellings	No. of Pupils (Formula)
P18 HA1	No action on this site from the landowner to bring the site forward.	32	12.8
P/2016/1016, 1-37 MAES SARN WEN & 1 -12 PEN SARN WEN	49 dwellings commenced (Sept 2020) about 4 or 5 left to complete.	49	19.6
18/0581/OUT, Land 200 Meters West of Oldfield Farm	24 dwellings need further permissions before development can commence.	24	9.6
19/0943/OUT, Land Adjacent to Four Crosses Inn	7 dwellings need further permissions before development can commence	7	2.8

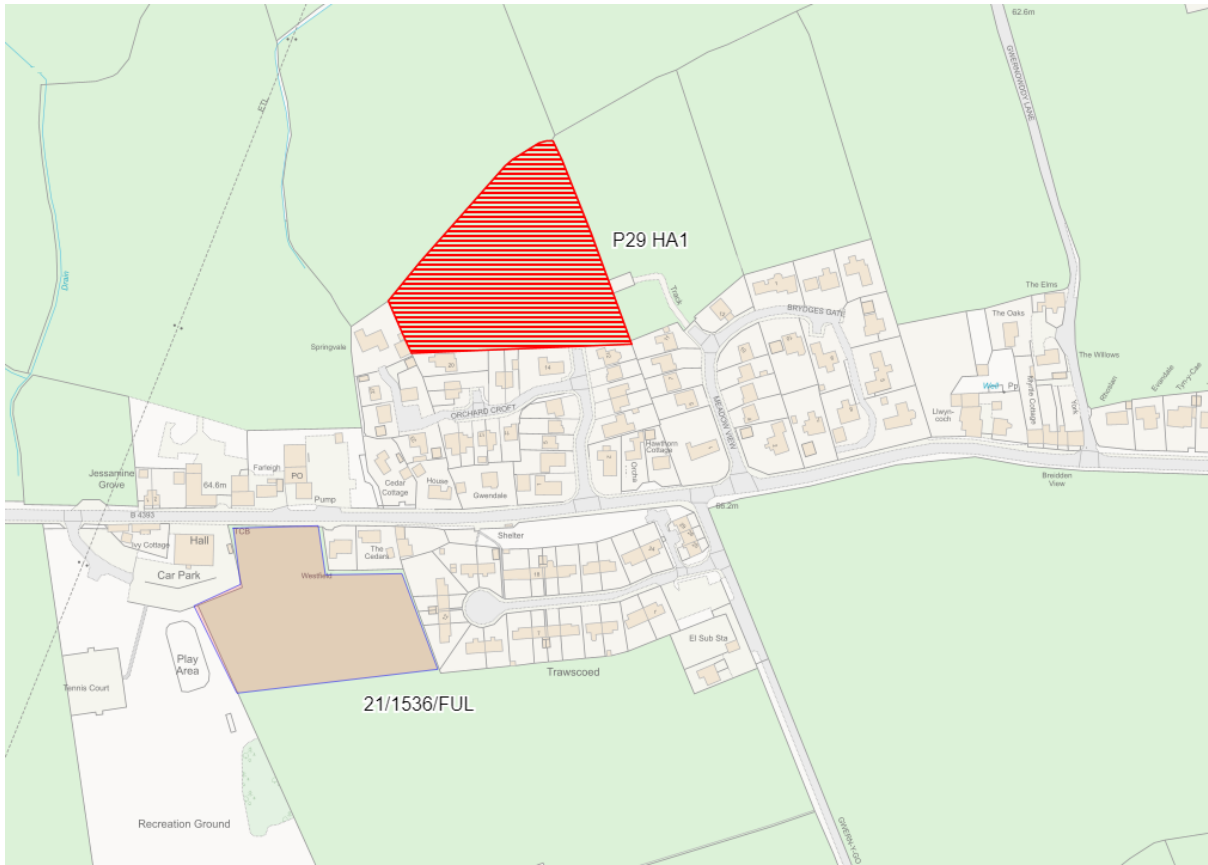
21/1468/OUT, Land at Wychwood	12 dwellings need further permissions before development can commence	12	4.8
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Crew Green



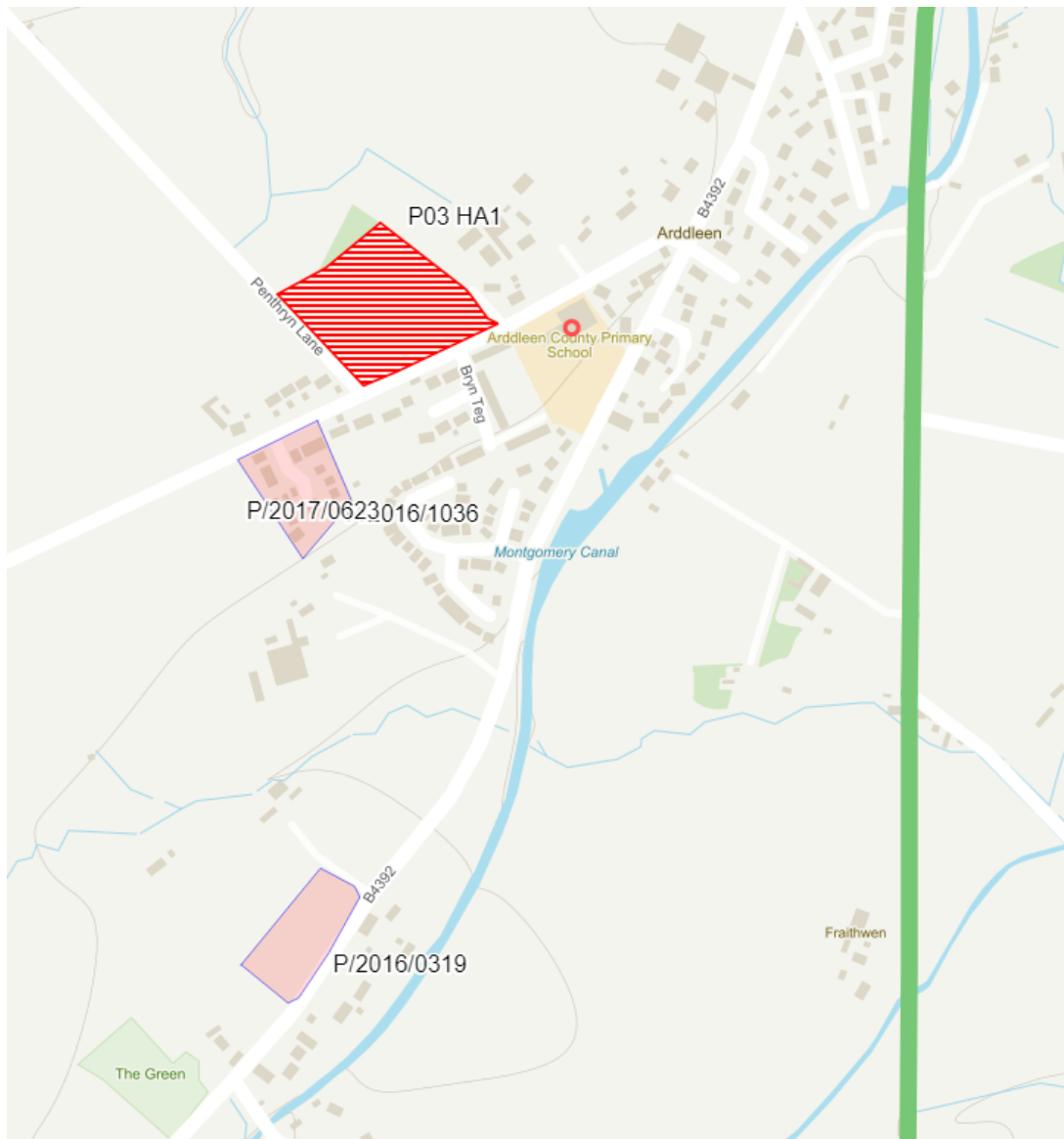
Identifier	Description	No. of Dwellings	No. of Pupils (Formula)
P15 HA1 - 22/2032/FUL	Recently received permission 23 dwellings.	23	9.2
P/2017/0299, 1-9 HAFREN VIEW	9 dwellings complete 2022.	9	3.6
P/2016/0603, SEVERN VIEW	8 dwellings 3 complete 2022, 3 under construction, 2 not started.	8	3.2

Llandrinio



Identifier	Description	No. of Dwellings	No. of Pupils (Formula)
21/1536/FUL (includes P29 HA1)	Land at Trawscoed and At Orchard Croft –	48	19.2

Arddleen



Identifier	Description	No. of Dwellings	No. of Pupils (Formula)
P03 HA1 - P/2017/0977	17 dwellings under construction	17	6.8
P/2016/1036 - Badgers Field	9 dwellings complete 2022	9	3.6
P/2017/0623 – Badgers Field (phase 2)	9 dwellings complete 01/09/2022.	9	3.6
P/2016/0319 - MAES BURGEDIN	9 dwellings almost complete	9	3.6

Appendix C – Critical Success Factors

Critical Success Factor	Description
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must align with the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030, to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address the challenges facing education in Powys, as outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 - Align with the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 - Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 • The option must optimise the benefits of the Council’s Transforming Education Programme
2 – Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must optimise the resources available for the delivery of learning • The option must provide value for money in the delivery of learning
3 – Potential achievability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must be achievable within current legislation • The option must be operationally achievable • The option must be physically achievable
4 – Potential affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the option is affordable within the Council’s forecasted revenue • The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted capital funding available to the Council

Each option has been assessed against the Critical Success Factors based on the following criteria:

✓ – Meets ? – Could meet x – Does not meet