

Appendix C – Draft Community Impact Assessment



Draft recommendation to close Nantmel C in W School

Draft Community Impact Assessment

1. Introduction

The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) has been reviewing Nantmel C in W School in accordance with the School Transformation Policy (2014) during 2015.

The SORP's draft recommendation is to close Nantmel C in W School from the 31st December 2016, with Rhayader C in W School to be named as the receiving school for pupils currently attending Nantmel C in W School. Free transport would be provided for qualifying pupils to Rhayader C in W School or their nearest alternative school.

In accordance with the Authority's School Transformation Policy (2014), Cabinet is required to consider a draft impact assessment assessing equality issues and impact on the community when determining whether or not to proceed with the formal statutory process.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced separately. This document considers the impact on the Community. The Assessment has been carried out based on the guidelines provided in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2013).

2. The Affected Communities

2.1 Nantmel

Nantmel is a small village located approximately 5 miles from the town of Rhayader in Mid Powys. According to the 2011 Census, there are 637 residents in the area served by Nantmel Community Council¹.

¹ 2011 Census information for the Nantmel Community Council area, taken from <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/statistics/view-statistics-about-your-area/detailed-census-information/>

English is the main language spoken in the area, however according to the 2011 Census, 19% of the population have one or more skills in Welsh. 0.94% of the population belong to ethnic groups other than White.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014 ranks areas known as Local Super Output Areas (LSOA) in terms of deprivation, where 1 is the most deprived and 1909 is the least deprived. The Nantmel LSOA is ranked as follows²:

Local Super Output Area (LSOA)	WIMD Rank 2014
Nantmel	1222

Nantmel C in W School is a Voluntary Controlled Church in Wales English-medium Primary School.

2.2 Rhayader

Rhayader is a small town located in Mid Powys. According to the 2011 Census, the Rhayader Community Council area had 2088 residents³.

English is the main language spoken in the area, however according to the 2011 Census, 20% of the population of Rhayader have one or more skills in Welsh. 1.15% of the population belong to ethnic groups other than White.

There is 1 Local Super Output Area within the town of Rhayader. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation ranks the Rhayader LSOA as follows, where 1 is the most deprived LSOA and 1909 is the least deprived⁴:

Local Super Output Area (LSOA)	WIMD Rank 2014
Rhayader	1007

Rhayader C in W School is a Voluntary Controlled Church in Wales Primary School. It is a dual stream school, which means that pupils are either taught through the medium of Welsh or English.

2. Community Impact Assessment

2.1 Impact on pupil travel

² <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/WIMD-2014>

³ 2011 Census information for the Rhayader Community Council area, taken from <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/statistics/view-statistics-about-your-area/detailed-census-information/>

⁴ <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/WIMD-2014>

The home addresses of the 33 children that were attending Nantmel C in W School at the last PLASC counting day in January 2015 were analysed by the council's Research and Information Unit. This analysis showed that Nantmel C in W School was only the closest school for 20 pupils, which is 61% of the pupils attending the school. The closest schools for all of the 33 pupils is summarised in the following table:

Closest School	Number of Pupils
Nantmel C. in W. School	20
Rhayader C. in W. School	4
Crossgates C.P. School	3
Llandrindod Wells C.P. School Cefnlllys	3
Llandrindod Wells C. in W. School Trefonnen	2
Newbridge-on-Wye C. in W. School	1

Based on this analysis, the average one way journey to school per child for pupils attending Nantmel C. in W. School in January 2015 was 2.98 miles.

If there were no school in Nantmel, the next closest school for the children that were attending Nantmel C. in W. School in January 2015 would be as follows:

Closest School	Number of Pupils
Crossgates C.P. School	15
Rhayader C. in W. School	9
Llandrindod Wells C.P. School Cefnlllys	3
Llandrindod Wells C. in W. School Trefonnen	3
Newbridge-on-Wye C. in W. School	3

Based on this analysis, the average one way journey to school per child for the pupils that were attending Nantmel C. in W. School in January 2015 would be 3.23 miles.

Should there be no school at Nantmel C. in W. School, there would be an increase in travel for the 20 pupils for whom Nantmel C. in W. School was their closest school. However, there would be a reduction in travel for the remaining 12 pupils, should they transfer to their closest school.

2.2 Extra-curricular activities provided by the schools

Nantmel C in W School

The following clubs are provided by the school outside school hours:

- i) Sports Clubs (some run by the pupils who have been elected as Sports Ambassadors), including Dragon Sports – cricket, netball, athletics, rounders
- ii) PE Club
- iii) Gardening Club
- iv) Other activity sessions, including craft, cookery, computer skills

The following extra-curricular activities are provided by the school: Guitar Club; Recorder Lessons; Chess Club; Cross-county Running; Swimming Lessons & Gala; Singing; Activities at the Willow Globe.

Rhayader C in W School

The following clubs are provided by the school after school hours:

- i) Art Club
- ii) Gardening Club
- iii) Clwb yr Urdd
- iv) Dance Club
- v) Running Club
- vi) Sports Club

The following extra-curricular activities are provided during the school day:

Lego Club (lunchtime); Running Club (lunchtime); Sports activities (lunchtime); Singing/Music Lessons (lunchtime); Badminton Club (lunchtime)

2.3 Community Use of the School Building

Nantmel C. in W. School

The school's facilities are used by the community for the following activities:

'Play Radnor' use the school during the school holidays, as well as after school and lunchtimes, and they enjoy the benefit of the outdoor grass area.

A pre-school play group and a mother and toddler group meet at the school.

In addition, the school's facilities are used by the community regularly for the following activities:

Evening classes for children e.g. jewellery making; Children's parties; Charity auction; Women's Institute (monthly); Community Council meetings; Nantmel Show Committee meetings; Marquee section of Nantmel Show moved to the school in adverse weather; Golden Hour; Church services held in the school when St Cynllo's Church is inaccessible due to snow & ice; fundraising events for the church; refreshments and receptions after Harvest and Carol services, funerals, christenings, special occasions such as retirements.

Rhayader C in W School

The school's facilities are used by the community for the following activities:

Community Nursery, Cylch Meithrin, Junior Football, Rhayader Running Club; Young Farmers Club

2.4 Other links with the community

Nantmel C in W School

The school has strong links with the community, which include the following:

Significant number of entries to the Nantmel Show; Current and former pupils help with setting up the Nantmel Show; Voluntary support for the school by members of the community – reading, after school clubs and sports, repair work on buildings and grounds; talks in support of the school garden; Annual school and community BBQ – WI involved in refreshment provision; Used as a Polling Station by Powys County Council; The school provides storage for tables, chairs and crockery which are used for community events; The school uses the Church for special school services, e.g. Harvest Service; Carol Service; mock weddings, Eisteddfod.

Rhayader C in W School

The school has links with a number of organisations within the community, which include the following:

Church, Carad, Community Support, Carnival, Elan Valley Trust, YFC, Community Nursery, Male Voice Choir, Cylch Meithrin, Dyfed Powys Police, Rhayader RFC, Rhayader Under 5's, Rhayader Leisure Centre, Rainbows/Brownies & Scouts, WI & Mothers Union

2.4 Support that could be offered by the receiving school to Parents and Pupils that currently attend Nantmel C in W School

Pupils from Nantmel C in W School and Rhayader C in W School are already participating together in a number of activities, such as Orienteering, School Discos, Cross Country, Residential Trips and Visits.

2.5 Conclusion

The authority acknowledges that the closure of any school will have a detrimental impact on the facilities available in the local community. It is clear that the community of Nantmel makes extensive use of Nantmel C. in W. School's facilities for a wide range of activities and events, due to the fact that there is no other suitable location to hold these activities in the village. It is currently unclear where these activities could take place should Nantmel C. in W. School close.

In terms of extra-curricular activities, a wide range of activities are offered by both schools, and the authority is satisfied that pupils would have the opportunity to take part in a similar range of activities at the proposed receiving school. However, as many of these are offered after school, it is acknowledged that it would be more difficult for those pupils for whom Nantmel C. in W. School is their closest school to access these activities if they were reliant on home to school transport.