

LOG OF RESPONSES TO FORMAL CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO CLOSE LLANGEDWYN C IN W SCHOOL

REF	COMMENT
L1	<p>Llangedwyn School is a vital link in the community. It has developed many interactive activities and partnerships for children's learning and development including twinning group with Omerville in Normandy, "Village Voice" Newsletter, Educational visits, out of hours provision such as Physical Education and School Sport, Dragon Sports and work related education links. It has promoted sustainable development. The school has received an Eco Bronze award. The school was over capacity in 2008. Numbers fell when a long standing headteacher announced his retirement and at the same time news of the proposed consultation on closure was made public.</p> <p>The school is the only faith school in the Tanat Valley and the school's closure would impact not only on Llangedwyn but on families who wish their children to have a faith based education. The Community Council also has great concerns about the proposed closure.</p> <p>The school provides a breakfast and after school club which is well attended and fully supervised until 5.30 pm. There is no other school in the Tanat Valley or surrounding area that provides both the breakfast and the after school club. The school provides employment for two members of the community. For many families whose children attend Llangedwyn School the economic effect on households of having to move their children to any of the alternative schools would be profound as none of the three alternative schools offer both breakfast and after school clubs.</p> <p>In the last Estyn Report (18.6.2007) the school was awarded Grade 2. Llangedwyn School has an excellent headteacher which the governing body fully support and governors feel the school has a healthy future if allowed to remain open as the general school population is expected to rise in the next few years. Given the strong feeling in the community, respondent asks PCC to take the views of the community into consideration and to consider the wider implications should Llangedwyn C in W School close.</p>
L2	<p>The review procedure has been conducted outside PCCs own policies and procedures and has breached WAG guidelines. Llangedwyn School was linked with Llanfechain in order to "promote fairness" but PCC's "apparent predisposition to close Llangedwyn School appears to have led to bias and inconsistencies which disadvantage Llangedwyn."</p> <p>The decision to retain Llanfechain and proceed to review Llangedwyn appears to be based on erroneous information and inaccurate data supplied by officers to the Cabinet.</p> <p>The closure of Llangedwyn School will provide not financial saving but will increase the cost of educating children from Llanfechain. Accurate data relating to the proposal sought through an FOI enquiry and provided by PCC added to research conducted by the governing body highlight the "sloppy, erroneous and misleading information presented to the Cabinet by the officers and does not ensure the efficient use of council resources".</p> <p>The increase in PCC's school transport costs should the closure of Llangedwyn School take place, provides an additional and unnecessary burden on all Council Tax payers. At present the transport costs are zero. The additional transport necessary to any of the proposed receiving schools would involve travel on B class and unclassified roads which are not gritted and would present unnecessary danger to young children, when travelling.</p>

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<p>L3</p>	<p>Respondent opposes the proposal to close the school. Llangedwyn School's academic achievement is not in doubt. The school has high expectations of good behaviour and manners and these are met. The children mix well and their social interaction is excellent. Parents are supportive and do much to participate in the life of the school. The school is the centre of the Llangedwyn community and its loss would be a great blow to rural community life in the village. Although pupil numbers are a "little low" at the moment, pupils numbers fluctuate and Llangedwyn is still a "happy and thriving" school.</p> <p>The alternative schools are far from ideal for reasons of transport, facilities and differences in the community. Transporting children from just four years of age some distance on their own with only a driver on local treacherous road in winter is "untenable".</p>
<p>L4</p>	<p>As a Behaviour Support Practitioner for Resolve Cymru, Llangedwyn School stands out as a place that not only caters to the learning needs of the pupils but to their social and emotional needs. There is a culture of caring, respect and citizenship in the school that is immediately apparent. The children are polite confident and a very caring. The older children look after the younger ones in a very mature way. Staff nurture this ethos and the school seems to be very much an important part of the local community. The closure of the school would be a huge loss, not only to the pupils but also to the whole area.</p>
<p>L5</p>	<p>There is strong parent involvement at Llangedwyn School and if children have to travel to alternative school outside the area this may not continue which would be detrimental to the children. Respondent's grandson has health problems and his mother has often has to visit the school on an urgent basis. If there was a distance to travel to school this could be a risk to the child. Also teachers sometimes ask parents to come into school to administer medication which would be a problem if at a distance.</p>
<p>L6</p>	<p>The "progressive nature" of the school with its breakfast and after school club facilities has meant that staff who work at the respondents' business have been able leave their children at the breakfast and after school club and give time to the business. Llangedwyn School gives local people the flexibility that enables them to work a full day whilst knowing that their children are in a safe and nurturing environment. If it had not been possible to employ local staff, respondent's business would have located in either Oswestry or Shrewsbury. If the school closes there will be no option but to relocate the business to either of the above towns where there is a larger workforce that does not suffer from restriction of a rural community and the lack of childcare provision. The breakfast club and the after school club play a big part in the popularity of Llangedwyn School but so does Faith (Church in Wales) involvement and the non-segregation/streaming of English/Welsh. The impact of closure of Llangedwyn School could be very far reaching for a lot of people on many different levels.</p>
<p>L7</p>	<p>Llangedwyn School is the heart of the village and the surrounding area. Llangedwyn school is an integral part of the Jubilee Club for senior citizens, of the local twinning association fostering foreign exchange, of the Antur Tant Cain partnering fundraising and social events. All these activities help children to become caring and active members of the community in future years. Llangedwyn School's breakfast and after school clubs are essential and much valued services. There is little employment in the Tanat Valley and these clubs offer parents a lifeline giving them time to travel to nearby towns to work. The clubs and the school also provide precious local jobs. Llangedwyn school offers children the opportunity to learn, to flourish and to develop as part of the local community. Please take into consideration the enormous impact that the closure of the school would have on a small rural community.</p>

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<p>L8</p>	<p>The proposed closure is short sighted. The school offers a very high quality provision both in terms of academic standards and pastoral care. As a teacher at the school respondent states she is aware that the school is able to offer a higher standard of education to the children as the school is small. Each child is personally known to all members of staff, any concerns about welfare or educational progress are quickly picked up and the appropriate attention and care can be given. The family atmosphere in the school is very strong with the older children interacting with the younger ones in a “very natural and caring way”. Levels of “bullying” and “falling out” are very low as any incidents are quickly picked up and dealt with. There is a happy atmosphere in the school and even the shyest child is not afraid to speak out.</p> <p>The number of children with additional learning needs in the school is disproportionately high and the school is able to support these children to a very high standard to make sure they have all the skills to develop to their highest potential. In a larger school some of these children would be in danger of “falling through the crack” or falling into habits of poor behaviour. Some of them might end up in special education which would result in increased expense and may not be the best option for the children and their family. Powys CC has a duty to offer an education system that meets the needs of its rural communities. The county is made up of many small village communities and to shut their schools and transport children from these communities to larger schools does not reflect the area they live in. Shutting schools may save money in some areas but it creates additional expenses in others. It would be better to develop a more creative way of saving money and one that protects local communities e.g. shared headships.</p> <p>Llangedwyn School is an integral part of the village community. The school is used by the community and the community supports the school. 7.5 people for each child attended the public consultation meeting on the proposal to close the school which indicates the level of support for the school. The school is a vital part of the community and closing it would devastate the community social and economically. Since the threat of closure was announced over a year ago 3 new families have joined the school and 8 new children. This shows the school has potential to grow rather than fall into decline. If the school is able to attract this number of children whilst under threat of closure it would surely attract more if its future was secure. There are already 3 new children planning to join the school within the next 6 months.</p>
<p>L9</p>	<p>The Diocese of St Asaph is opposed to the proposed closure of Llangedwyn School. The school is thriving at the moment. It currently has around 30 pupils with new pupils starting in since the review began. The last Estyn inspection was good and the new headteacher is continuing to make improvements to the school in terms of learning and teaching. The school is particularly responsive to pupils with additional learning needs and to the children of working parents. The school offers an education with a religious character, where the Christian ethos is celebrated and enacted. If Llangedwyn School was closed, the county would not be able to offer a place to all children in a church school.</p>
<p>L10</p>	<p>Supports the retention of Llangedwyn School as the educational hub of the Tanat Valley and the spiritual social hub of the village. Llangedwyn School is within easy and safe walking distance from home for most of the pupils who attend the school. For those parents who drop off their children for pre and post school activities there is the security of dropping off their children at the school gates. Closing the school will mean that all the children will need to be transported to other schools and their education will probably be curtailed over the winter months when busy routes to alternative schools become dangerous.</p> <p>Closing Llangedwyn School will not only remove the opportunity for children to take part in pre and post school activities with their friends but will prevent many parents from maintaining the level of employment that would be considered “normal” for other parts of Wales, and the UK. Should the school close and take scarce working parent-centred facilities away then it is likely that its children will be brought up in families who career hopes</p>

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	<p>have been limited. Children in turn may be forced to drift into future unemployment if they stay locally or will learn from their parents that the only way of finding work will be to move away from the area.</p> <p>The levels of educational achievement at the school are much higher than others in the valley. By “dismembering” such a successful, diverse and pupil-centred community school we are sending out the wrong signals to children. They will come to think that their education is less important than saving money. Investing less in their success at this early stage limits their future employment opportunities. I would like to think that long term risks of closing Llangedwyn School have been fully quantified and taken into account.</p> <p>The children who attend Llangedwyn School have privilege of living their early years as part of a small, cohesive and interdependent community. Knowing that they belong is fundamental to their development into happy healthy individuals.</p> <p>Respondent is impressed by the care the children of the school show for each other and the “easy” respect in which they hold their teachers. Many of the most important gifts the school brings to the valley are immeasurable and intangible. It would be a shame to lose what we have in the school, and what it brings to the community in the long-term for the sake of “short term easy win gains”</p>
L11	<p>Llangedwyn School is an excellent school for the children of Llangedwyn and the district. As well as teaching the children it has recognised the needs of the 21st Century in that it has a breakfast club and after school facilities. It has a good solid building (no mobiles) It plays an important part in the community and its closure would be a great loss.</p>
L12	<p>There is some question about the figures that the decision is based on. If the figures aren't correct then the decision making will be poor. The figures need to be revised and audited by someone who doesn't put them together. If the mileage between villages is incorrect, it gives no confidence in the rest of the figures.</p> <p>The school provides facilities for working parents. As a local businessperson respondent hopes to expand his business in future and to employ local people. Without the breakfast club and after school facilities at the school it will be difficult for him to employ local people if they have children. Threat of closure is self-fulfilling because parents won't put their children into a school they think is going to close.</p> <p>Standards at the school seem good. Why close a good school which is well supported by the local community for questionable cost savings?</p> <p>Use Llangedwyn School as an opportunity to retain small schools with smaller class sizes to drive up standards.</p> <p>The school is used by community groups and this should be extended. The school is a central point in the community. Events that happen at the school are an added attraction to bringing money into the valley.</p> <p>The alternative Church in Wales school needs some building work to bring it up to the same standard as Llangedwyn School and the extra cost of doing this should be considered.</p> <p>With the population likely to increase short-term decisions can be regretted in the future.</p>

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	<p>A sense of place is a really important differentiator for Wales. The school is the heart of this community with residents meeting twice a day to pick up their children. Community members are invited to school functions; not just parents, and this would disappear if the school closes.</p>
L13	<p>Respondent strongly opposes the potential closure of Llangedwyn School. School means a lot to her family. She was able to make arrangements at very short notice for her children to stay in the after school club when facing a family illness. The school know the family well and know the situation the family is facing – no questions were asked and at a critical time she did not need to be concerned about child care. The sort of community support offered by Llangedwyn’s after school club is not available at any of the schools that Powys is suggesting as alternatives for the children’s education. The closure of Llangedwyn School will have a devastating impact on the community.</p>
L14	<p>It is acknowledged that Llangedwyn School provides a good education for its pupils. In the last Estyn inspection the school received grades 2 through. The new headteacher is making an impressive contribution to the quality of teaching learning and achievement in both key stages and officers of the Authority are thoroughly satisfied with the standard of education currently and the prospect of the continued improvement in future. The school has above average number of pupils with additional learning needs and being small the school is able to support these pupils learning in a “distinctive and valuable way.” Should the school close it would impact on the level of provision the pupils with additional learning needs receive.</p> <p>The school has developed a range of additional provision outside the normal school day which contributes vastly to the local economy. Its breakfast and after school clubs allow many parents to work full time. A significant number of parents own small businesses which employ others. No other schools in the locality offers exactly the same provision.</p> <p>All parents of primary school aged children in the Diocese of St Asaph should have the choice of selecting a faith based education, specifically in a diocesan voluntary controlled or voluntary aided school. Many of the parents of pupils at Llangedwyn School have chosen the school because of its Christian ethos. If the school closes there will not be sufficient church school places in north Powys to accommodate all of the children even if the provision at Llanfechain and elsewhere is taken into account.</p> <p>Respondent strongly supports retention of Llangedwyn School.</p>
L15	<p>It is impossible to find another school in the area which offers the same breakfast and after school club facilities as Llangedwyn. Respondent’s daughter is upset about the prospect of being separated from her friends if they go to different alternative schools.</p> <p>Closing Llangedwyn School and transferring pupils to schools outside the immediate community will increase the carbon footprint. There are children attending Llangedwyn School from outside the area whose parents have chosen Llangedwyn School because their local schools are “not suitable”. These children will be travelling even further to find a school with the same standards of education. “Worse still” children could be taken to “unsuitable schools” causing disruption to their children’s education.</p> <p>As a taxpayer respondent expresses concerns that PCC employees are “changing their policies, wasting money and causing more paperwork to justify their existence.” He does not believe the cuts should be against schools that are educating “future taxpayers”.</p>

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<p>L16</p>	<p>Why is the closure of the school even being considered when it is in a better financial state than other schools which have been given the “all clear”?</p> <p>Strongly objects to the closure of Llangedwn School. Llangedwyn School boasts many attributes, namely its ability to offer “a unique and supportive learning environment” to children with special needs. Needs that have not been “easily met” in neighbouring schools. The early morning breakfast club and after schools activities provide considerable support to working families, which is a support offered by no other school in the area. Without these facilities it would mean many families would not be able to afford to stay in the village.</p> <p>The PTA is one of the best in the area raising thousands of pounds each year to subsidise the running of the school. This demonstrates the commitment of the community to the school.</p> <p>The school is in a good location at the heart of the village. Its position on the main road in a flat area location enables it to remain open in the most severe of weather conditions.</p> <p>Respondent considers that the pupil numbers are on account of the threatened closure of the school. Families who might have enrolled their children at the school have been put off by the threat of closure. Action of proposing closure has been damaging and the only way to repair the damage is to praise Llangedwyn School and promise future support for it.</p> <p>The Church is proud of Llangedwyn School. In a times where Christianity and morality are struggling, a community like Llangedwyn where the church and a school can work together to support families and be a positive influence to people should be cherished not abolished.</p> <p>The school offers community facilities in terms of adult education and social classes. The classes operate at not extra cost to Powys CC but give money to the school and make the village a cultural and more interesting place to live.</p> <p>The plan to close the school and send children further afield to school will increase the amount of transport and pollution. There are no financial, practical social or environmental reasons to close the school. The proposal to close the school is financially short sighted and not in the best interest of people the Council represents. To close the school will mean losing faith of the residents and potentially driving people out of Wales.</p> <p>In France small village schools are regarded as highly important and with low numbers of the pupils the school of the village twinned with Llangedwyn has never been under threat of closure and is at the heart of its community.</p> <p>The village school in Llangedwyn means everything to its community and without it village life would never be the same again.</p>
<p>L17</p>	<p>Respondent operates a business in the area. The “progressive” nature of the school with the breakfast and after school club facilities has meant that staff with children have been able to give the business the time it needs.</p> <p>The facilities at Llangedwyn School give local people the flexibility that enable them to be able to work knowing that their children are in a safe and nurturing environment. If the business cannot recruit local staff because the school and its facilities are closed it will need to relocate to a less rural</p>

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	<p>area. The after school and breakfast club play a big part in drawing in pupils from other villages but so does the Faith involvement and the non-segregation/streaming of English/welsh. The impact of the closure of the school could very far-reaching.</p>
L18	<p>Respondent expresses “grave concern” about the possible closure of Llangedwyn School. Respondent is completely reliant on both the breakfast and afterschool club offered at the school as she has to commute 50 minutes each way to work. There is no other school in the area which offers the same provision and can accommodate her daughter. If Llangedwyn School was to close she would either have to move from the area or give up her job.</p>
L19	<p>Potential closure of Llangedwyn School is short sighted with damaging consequences for the children, the community and local businesses. Many self employed parents need or will need in future the extra benefits of the afterschool and breakfast club. Respondent has had four children who have all been pupils at Llangedwyn School. He has another child who is due to start in 12 months and has been told that he will have to be placed in an “inferior school with no proper head in a sub standard building without the benefits of the breakfast and afterschool club.” He requests that the Authority helps the children, local tax paying businesses and preserves the community by not closing Llangedwyn School.</p>
L20	<p>Respondent intends to run an adult education evening class at Llangedwyn School from September, 2012. She urges PCC to reject the proposal to close the school and to instead recognise the valuable role the school plays in its local community. She describes Llangedwyn School as a “centre of excellence” which must not be undermined.</p>
L21	<p>To close the school would result in the end of a thriving Welsh village which contributes to the economy. The school enables the development of “confident, well rounded, sociable, hard working and happy children” and if it was closed this would have a detrimental effect. Children in small schools thrive better than children in large schools. Children in large schools become just a number where all that matters are the school's results, not whether they are content emotionally, physically and socially. Llangedwyn Primary School provides everything a child needs to become an outstanding pupil when they reach High School. The happiness of the children is of paramount importance. Respondent's son has special educational needs and she is of the view these would not have been recognised in a larger school and he would not have received the support he has received in Llangedwyn. Respondent has mobility problems. The short distance to Llangedwyn school means she can pick up the children from school in her motability car. She would struggle to drive any longer distances to another school and she would not be happy for her young children to travel to school on the bus. The closure of Llangedwyn School would impact on their daily lives in caring for their children and on her husband's business.</p> <p>Educational standards at Llangedwyn School are “second to none”. The Parents, Teachers and Friends Association regularly raise funds for the school. The school has a breakfast and after school club which many parents take advantage of and these facilities jointly do not exist in any other school in the Llanfyllin area. The school also has a toddler group which was a good way to introduce her children into school life and for her to become fully involved in the community.</p> <p>Closing Llangedwyn School would save very little money. The building is owned by St. Cedwyn's Church and the grounds are owned by the Llangedwyn Estate, therefore no lucrative deal could be done on the sale of the school. The cost per pupil at Llangedwyn School is one of the lowest in the region. The Council has not considered in fine detail what the additional costs there would be as a result of having to transport children to alternative schools. Many parents currently walk to Llangedwyn School with their children. Has the cost to the environment of all the additional journeys been considered? Many parents do not want their young children travelling on a bus mixed with High School children with only one bus</p>

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	<p>driver to look after them or deal with any disruption. In her view this is “unsafe and untenable”. What would the cost of all the additional bus routes be to provide transport for those pupils whose parents do not have access to a car?</p> <p>She does not believe that the Council has considered any of the above factors prior to decision being made to commence consultation on closure of the school. In her view PCC just wants to save money and the education and social well-being come “far down on the list of the Council’s priorities”.</p>
L22	<p>Llangedwyn School is unique. It is flourishing into a “wonderful school with wonderful children”. The community is fully involved with the school and is built around it. Taking away the school will deeply affect the community and the local children in Llangedwyn. The school provides a “fantastic education” and also playschool, after school club, breakfast club and youth club. The school allows working parents to feel at ease to be able to leave their children in caring and responsible environment within working hours and not to have to worry about finding childcare in the area, where it would be “impossible” to do so.</p> <p>The added cost of having to send children to a different school would be £90 per month in extra petrol. Respondent would have to reduce her working hours to ensure she could take and collect her children from school resulting in £200 less per month in wages.</p> <p>The impact on the children would be detrimental; the emotional trauma of the children being split up and sent to schools where they don’t know anybody. The closure of the school would also cause stress to working parents. The land is owned by the Church so PCC doesn’t have the outgoings for Llangedwyn School that it has for most other schools.</p>
L23	<p>Respondent’s family is new to the village and considered very carefully which school would be best for their children. Llangedwyn is a church school with a good ethos and family values. Respondents’ children have special educational needs and the children are benefitting from being at Llangedwyn School due to the small class size where they receive more one to one attention. The school has a breakfast club and after school club which are needed for working families. This is not available at other schools in the area. Closing the school would mean that one parent would not be able to fulfil required hours at work as they have no alternative child care. Children will need to travel further to school should Llangedwyn School close, which will mean longer travelling time and increased carbon footprint. Llangedwyn School is a very good school with high standards and all of the pupils are happy and doing well. Some children do not thrive in large classes. If all of the small schools that are doing well are closed, what will happen to those children?</p>
L24	<p>Respondent runs a business in Llanfyllin and that has taken on people in the area who were previously unemployed and had found it difficult to find work within the local community. The company has been able to grow and employ staff because he and his staff all have children in Llangedwyn School and have been able to use the pre-school and after school facilities ie breakfast club and after school club. Without these clubs the business could not have continued to operate because staff would not have been able to afford to pay for child minders. Losing staff could mean that he will have to relocate his family and business to a larger town across the border as no other school in the area offers the pre school and after school facilities.</p> <p>Respondent’s two children have received excellent education at Llangedwyn School and they are extremely happy there. Closing down local schools and services will deter businesses from staying in the area or coming to the area. Parents cannot work in full time jobs if there are no pre-school and after school facilities or if they have to travel several miles to take their children to school before they can get to work and then pick them up after</p>

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	<p>work.</p> <p>Respondent is not happy at the prospect of his 5 and 6 year old children having to share transport with pupils from the secondary school who could be up to 18 years old. He thinks it is not acceptable for Powys County Council to think it is adequate for one person who should be concentrating on driving a bus to be in charge of his children without a second CRB checked adult to supervise.</p> <p>PCC has not taken into account the road and routes the children would be expected to travel during the winter months. At least 50% of the existing pupils at the school are able to walk to the school at no cost to PCC. If the school closed all the children would need to be transported with some children having to travel about 15 miles along a winter route to get to a school only 5 miles away. Many roads in the area are not gritted and are single track roads which are not suitable for school buses. A good school should be protected by PCC. The people who live in Llangedwyn and the business that employ people in the area all pay taxes and the council tax and the main return for the taxes paid is for the local school which is rated as one of the best schools in the area.</p> <p>In respondent's view PCC does not care about good education, about the farming community, the local economy, people's lives or sustaining /creating jobs in Llangedwyn or Powys. PCC should "stop wasting tax payers' money by undertaking this "nonsense of a consultation process for closure". A good community school brings people to a community and it can also bring jobs not just directly within the school but all around it.</p>
L25	<p>Llangedwyn School has provided a nurturing environment which has encouraged respondent's daughter to develop both academically and socially. She chose Llangedwyn School because the school is linked to a friendly community and the cultural heritage of the area and gives her daughter an opportunity to "stay connected with her family roots and the Welsh language". The school has a welcoming atmosphere and is at the heart of the community which brings people together. The closure of the school would take this away. Sending children to alternative schools out of the immediate area would mean the loss of a close and essential network of support provided by the staff and parents. As a single working parent the removal of this would have major consequences and could result in her having to leave the community.</p>
L26	<p>Llangedwyn School is a "unique, supportive, family School and provides an irreplaceable wonderful learning environment." Respondent's eldest daughter is excelling academically at the High School which is proof that Llangedwyn School is doing an "admirable job of preparing young children for the greater academic demands of the secondary school." Closing the school will leave a village and community without a heart. Localism should be encouraged over centralism in the current climate of increasing costs. Respondent is concerned her daughter will have to travel further to school if Llangedwyn School is closed.</p>
L27	<p>Llangedwyn School is "so friendly and the children there are so happy". This was the only school in the area to which respondents wanted to send their children. Her children have all been very happy to attend Llangedwyn School. The children at the school are "very caring, polite and socialise together". Her children have also achieved academically at the school. Respondent's relatives who have recently moved to the area are all impressed with friendliness of Llangedwyn School and are involved in school activities, plays and concerts. The after school club is affordable and staff are helpful. No other school in the area provides these facilities. Her children tell her that "Llangedwyn is the best school in the world". Her eldest daughter had a week's work placement at the school and thoroughly enjoyed it.</p>

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<p>L28</p>	<p>Respondent describes school as a “second home” for her family. It has allowed her family to be involved in their community and to make friends through school activities and fundraising for the school and local community. If Llangedwyn School was closed “the fabric of village life” would be “shattered”.</p> <p>The school offers a lot of local people part-time jobs. These people would have to travel further afield to find work and with rising fuel costs this would have an impact on family budgets.</p> <p>Respondent believes it is in the best interests of her child to send him to his local school to grow up in a “safe environment that reaches beyond learning the national curriculum”. It is where he will learn the values of living and caring for his local community too.</p>
<p>L29</p>	<p>Even though the respondent’s family moved to Oswestry they kept her daughter in Llangedwyn School for a while after they moved because she was so happy there. After moving to a school in Oswestry, her daughter’s educational attainment “went backwards” so she moved her daughter back to Llangedwyn School. She has continued to commute from Oswestry to Llangedwyn on a daily basis because of the good standards at Llangedwyn School. Respondent works for a company local to the school and this has only been possible because of the breakfast and after school club facilities offered at Llangedwyn School. If Llangedwyn School closes not only would the children suffer but local businesses would also suffer. No young families would want to stay in Llangedwyn if there was no school there.</p>
<p>L30</p>	<p>Llangedwyn School is central to the village and has an interactive relationship with many local organisations. The exchange arrangements offered by the Llangedwyn Twinning Group would be in jeopardy if the school was lost and the children would miss valuable cultural experiences they gain from close interaction with a different culture.</p> <p>The community council is concerned about the possibility of closure of the school. Only in 2008 the school was over capacity and it was difficult to accommodate any more local children. Pupil numbers only fell last year when a very popular headmaster retired and at the same time news of the proposed consultation on closure was leaked to the press. Although the school has since appointed an “excellent new head” several pupils were lost to the school because parents decided because of the uncertainty to take up scarce places in the only other local Church in Wales school with a similar record and after school facilities. Respondent considers Llangedwyn School has a “healthy future” as the school population is expected to rise in the next few years.</p> <p>The school is the only faith school in the Tanat Valley and the closure would impact not just on Llangedwyn but on other families who want a faith based education for the children.</p> <p>Llangedwyn School has strong links with Antur Tanat Cain and Llangedwyn Mill. The children of the school are involved in helping to produce the Village Voice newsletter, which is an essential free communication that allows small businesses to advertise at no cost to the local community. Many fundraising and school social events are held in partnership with Antur Tanat Cain. These are important opportunities that allow local businesses members of the community and children to work together for the good of the school and the community.</p> <p>Tenants at Llangedwyn Mill support the school in running craft classes for the pupils. At present there is one long term tenant at the mill who has a</p>

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	<p>successful business and is a single parent with a child due to staff at Llangedwyn School next year. She will find it difficult to continue with her business if the school closes as there is no other school in the Tanat Valley with both a breakfast and an after school club.</p> <p>The school children visit and entertain members of the Jubilee Luncheon Club which is for senior citizens and other people with social need in the community. The visits are appreciated by the members who make an effort to attend all the school productions and events both in the school and the local church. If the school closes the elderly would lose contact with the younger generation of the village. Because of this close association within the village, many of the families support the older generations and there is a feeling of "community warmth and support" due to the ongoing link the pupils have with the Jubilee Luncheon Club.</p> <p>There is no other facility with pupil capacity in the area which offers the provision of the existing after school club. Parents rely on this service and the impact of closure would be enormous and would lead to many parents having to reduce working hours or having to give up their jobs. Llansantffraid School offers an after school club but this is oversubscribed.</p> <p>Respondents feel the closure of Llangedwyn School would be "short sighted" and a costly measure in both personal and educational terms. Additional transport costs and socio-economic impacts would significantly erode the savings projected by closing the school.</p>
<p>L31</p>	<p>The quality of education at Llangedwyn School has been of a high standard, not only academically but also socially and spiritually. The family atmosphere and fostering of good relationships with others has given children a good, strong base from where to move on to the next stage of life with confidence. The school provides a good grounding in the Christian faith but with an exploration of other ways of experiencing religion which nurtures tolerance and understanding. The mother and toddler group "Little Hedgehogs" at the school offers children opportunities for them to mix with their future classmates. Llangedwyn School is the hub of the local community. It is a focal point of a scattered community and the school concerts, coffee morning, sports days and Christmas Fayres provides opportunities to bring the community together and promotes community cohesion. There are strong links between Llangedwyn School and the local church. The school regularly holds services in church and these are valued by the congregation. Without the children attending the church and the faith teaching at the school it may not be possible to maintain a viable church in Llangedwyn in a few years time. Llangedwyn is a village which still maintains a strong community ethos. This could be irreparably damaged if the school closed.</p>
<p>L32</p>	<p>Respondents are parents who have been pleased with Llangedwyn School's performance, its supportive environment, the conduct of the staff and its creative and community based activities. The leadership and commitment of the headteacher guides the school forward despite the uncertainty about the school's future. Llangedwyn School has many strengths including its "unique educational environment and its commitment to the local community". The school buildings are good as are the Estyn inspection grades.</p> <p>Ysgol Bro Cynllaith has buildings of a lower standard and weaker grades for educational attainment. Additional transport to alternative schools would be costly and treacherous in winter. Demographic trends rise and fall and although the number of children of primary school age is currently very low, they are set to rise again next year. "Short term thinking and knee jerk reactions come to mind when considering the implications of shutting such a valuable community school". If money has to be saved look elsewhere for more "ethical savings".</p> <p>Respondent's household income would be adversely affected by the loss of the after school club provision offered at Llangedwyn School. The</p>

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	<p>Council faces challenges in reducing overheads but the proposal to close Llangedwyn School is “immoral” on the grounds that it has no benefit to the community that the Council serves, only detriment.</p>
L33	<p>Llangedwyn School provides a caring and creative educational environment. Although not the nearest school to respondents’ home, it is the “most desirable school”. It provides an after school club which is an essential asset which supports respondents’ self employment. Closure of the school would mean increased fuel and travel costs and an increase in unnecessary traffic during rush hours on small country roads. In poor weather this increases the risk of accidents.</p> <p>The school provides a social and charitable function in the community; regularly organising events which recycle and network materials and resources between individuals. These support community cohesion and intergenerational communication.</p> <p>Loss of the after school club facilities would mean a reduction in the family income.</p>
L34	<p>Closure of Llangedwyn School would be a “catastrophic blow to a close knit and vibrant community”. Llangedwyn School provides a focus for the whole community, giving local people a chance to get together at occasions organised by and for the school. The school building is an essential asset to the local community hosting, Parochial Church Council meetings, Tai Chi groups and providing an alternative venue for meetings and groups when the very busy village hall is booked up.</p> <p>The school provides a first class education and helps to support the Christian ethos which is central to respondent’s family life. The fact that Llangedwyn School has close connections to the Church is a very important part of life education and matters to the respondent. There are no other viable options for a faith school and to deny her child the opportunity to be taught in a faith school is “contradictory to both Welsh Government and national educational policies and tantamount to undermining the Christian faith in the local area.”</p> <p>Llangedwyn School is the only school in the area which provides both before and after school clubs which is vital to respondent’s ability to return to full-time employment.</p> <p>Respondent’s child currently attend Little Hedgehogs playgroup and has benefited from the social interaction with other children at the playgroup and with the school children. The school children at Llangedwyn have been welcoming and caring towards the younger children at the playgroup. Respondent’s child has already made friends with the children from the school. If Llangedwyn School was closed then the friendship bonds would be broken with children being sent to different alternative schools. Closure of the school would lead to destruction of a school community that is “warm welcoming and an asset to Wales”.</p> <p>Llangedwyn School’s excellent reputation attracts young families to the area and encourages growth in the local economy. The loss of the school would be “catastrophic both socially and economically”. The more people who settle in Llangedwyn and its environs the more council tax for the local authority so retaining the school at Llangedwyn is a benefit both locally and to Powys as a whole.</p>
L35	<p>Llangedwyn School is the “hub” of the village with many different social events throughout the year. The Church is also an important part of the school.</p>

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<p>L36</p>	<p>“Little Hedgehogs” is a volunteer toddler and parent/carer group that operates weekly within the school. The group is very important to the area. Most of the children who attend the parent and toddler group go on to Llangedwyn School. The group benefits the children as they are already familiar with the school building when they start school, which enables them to settle in more quickly to the school environment. Most of the parents of children who attend the group do not use formal childcare due to their financial circumstances. There is very little funded nursery care for 3 year olds in the area. For some children this will be the first and possibly only time they will socialise with peers before commencing full time education.</p> <p>Specialist play sessions run by the Welsh Assembly initiative Language and Play are provide from “Little Hedgehogs.” These promote literacy and numeracy through play. The close proximity to where the families actually live mean these sessions are accessible to everyone, even those on stretched family budgets. For some children attending the group the sessions it may be their introduction to language and numeracy. Discretion is used in relation to charging of fees to remove barriers from the poorest families. The group is non profit making only charging £1 to cover refreshments. If the school was to close, the group would discontinue.</p>
<p>L37</p>	<p>Education offered at Llangedwyn School is “second to none”. Both of respondent’s children are very settled at the school, happy and achieving well academically. She is not convinced that the PCC can match or better the educational experience that her children receive at Llangedwyn School.</p> <p>The loss of the breakfast club would have an impact on the respondent’s availability for work and would mean her children would not be able to enjoy the benefits of a breakfast club. She could not afford to transport her children to a “replacement school” either in terms of fuel cost or delay to her commuting time to work. Additional car journeys are not in line with the Council’s aim to increase “its green credentials”. Respondent’s employer would be affected by the decision to close the school as she would need to reduce her working hours or possibly lose her job. The reduced income would limit the amount of money she has available to spend on her children. Closure of Llangedwyn School would have an immeasurable impact on families whose children attend the school – both on the children’s education and on income levels of affected families.</p>
<p>L38</p>	<p>Llangedwyn School has provided support for respondent’s son who has special educational needs and his progress has been “fantastic”. The staff and the pupils at Llangedwyn School were supportive and caring. Respondent’s daughter describes her last year at Llangedwyn School as the best in her life and she made new friends and formed firm bonds with her teachers. Llangedwyn School has a high percentage of pupils with special educational needs as compared with other schools in the area and respondent suspects that other schools may be “ill equipped to assess a child’s special needs”. Respondent can recall 5 children in recent years who transferred to Llangedwyn School as they were labelled as being either disruptive or under achieving in other schools, only to discover that they have special needs or are talented in way that were missed by other schools.</p> <p>No other schools offers a suitable alternative for her son’s schooling. Respondent is a practicing Christian who believes it is important children are given the opportunity to practice their faith within the school. The nearest alternative faith school would be Llanfechain. Respondent would be unable to commute twice daily to Llanfechain as it would affect her work. She would therefore be forced to change either to a closer school, which would not be a Church in Wales School or reduce her hours of work. Respondent considers that her right to a choice of a faith school is being ignored.</p> <p>Respondent and her husband run a business in the local area which employs 5 members of staff. Young families are leaving the Tanat Valley due to lack of employment. If Llangedwyn School closes the family would be considering a move over the border and this would be detrimental to the staff the business employs, to the community and to her family. Powys would lose another small family business which provides a service for the</p>

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	<p>community. "Communities are being diluted, almost rubbed out in the name of progression."</p> <p>Llangedwyn School isn't just a special school; it is a family orientated meeting place for all ages. It is the centre for computer training, Tai Chi class, playgroup in the village and offers provision for children to be cared for when parents are at work.</p>
L39	<p>Llangedwyn school is a "happy welcoming school". Children who have found it difficult to cope in other schools have flourished in Llangedwyn School. Pupils with disabilities thrive in the small environment of Llangedwyn School. The mixed age range within the classroom helps children in their learning as they support each other. Pupils are treated as individuals and given individual attention. Past pupils return to Llangedwyn school for school events because it is special and is very much needed to keep alive the future community within the Tanat Valley. If the school closes the post office in the village will lose trade and the village hall will be used less. The Church's congregation will suffer as it plays a big part in the life of the school.</p>
L40	<p>Because Llangedwyn School is a small school pupils receive individual attention. The school has a caring ethos. The staff and pupils are hospitable and welcoming to new pupils. Teachers provide a "one to one" service to parents, constantly updating them on the children's welfare and progress. In respondent's view no other local school could provide this comprehensive facility. If the school closes it will be detrimental to the village, Church and community as a whole. Many of the pupils walk to school. If children have to be bussed to alternative schools this will incur additional cost in terms of fuel and wasted time. Pupils will be upset by being separated from their friends.</p> <p>Llangedwyn School is the only school in the area which offers both a breakfast and an after school club. If this facility is not available this would impact on working parents. Llangedwyn community is centred around the church controlled school and if it were to close, the village would become a "drive through".</p>
L41	<p>Llangedwyn School has always been "a pivot of happiness and a wonderful example to other schools. Respondent's grandchild attends the school and loves to go there. She is concerned for her grandchild's and other children's future happiness if the school closes. Closure of the school will have a negative impact on the community and family life. During difficult economic times cut backs should "start from the top".</p>
L42	<p>Llangedwyn School has been in the heart of the village and community for a very long time. The closure of the school would greatly affect respondent's family. His daughter is happy there and in his view is receiving a very good primary education. At the moment his child walks to school every day. If the school closes this would not be possible. The environment would suffer if pupils need to be transported to alternative schools. Additional journeys would incur costs in fuel and in time. Llangedwyn village is a close-knit community. The school holds events which are well attended by other community members as well as parents. The Church holds events and these are attended by parents as well as community members. If the school closes the whole community is affected.</p>
L43	<p>The school is integral to educating local children and maintaining the communal environment of the village. Respondent is an ex pupil of the school and she made invaluable friendships there. If the school closes it would have a detrimental effect on the community. New people would not be encouraged to come and live in the area and it would have a negative impact on local businesses. The school's closure would add to family's travel costs because they would need to find an alternative school for respondent's sister and the closure of the school may mean that her parents could have to change their working hours. The school is the focal point of the village. If the school closes families will move out of the village.</p>

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L44	<p>The quality of life of the community and the “spiritual health” of the community would suffer greatly if the school closed. The school has at its core a foundation of faith through its connection with the Church in Wales. This connection makes a clear and positive difference in children’s lives which parents value in their choice of school. The parents would be deprived of this choice if the closure of the school goes ahead as the school is the only Church in Wales school in the Tanat Valley. The input of faith is seen in the teaching of such values in areas of life such as respect, service, teamwork, responsibility for actions and citizenship. Respondent believes that a faith based education is indispensable in the preparation of young people for adult life and that this preparation commences at primary school. It would therefore be a great loss if Llangedwyn School closed.</p>
L45	<p>Respondent helps to run the breakfast club and runs the successful after school club. If Llangedwyn School closes she will have no job. Former pupils of Llangedwyn School have done “extraordinarily well” at Secondary level. If the school closes, it will have a “devastating” effect on everyone within the school and the local community. Has anyone considered the psychological effect on the pupils attending the school if the closure goes ahead? The pupils are very happy in Llangedwyn School and should be left to enjoy their education where they will stay happy.</p> <p>The after school club is extremely popular and successful. It is an essential service for many for the families at the school who are working over school hours. Many parents at the school would be struggling to find after school childcare if the club was not there. Other schools in the area do not offer the same facilities.</p>
L46	<p>Respondent was impressed by the confident and mature manner in which the children conducted interviews in the survey of customers attending the local farmers markets. She considers that it was a “splendid example of the advantage of a small school in coaching and developing skills” and suggests that it is doubtful that this could have been achieved in a larger school. Respondent is impressed by the quality of education provided at Llangedwyn School. There are strong links between the school and the church. The children of the school participated in the RoadPeace service held in church and it was evident the children had taken seriously the road traffic awareness sessions held at the school. Copies of the pupil’s work will be included in a future edition of “Village Voice” which is a local newsletter produced and distributed from the school. The closure of Llangedwyn School would result in the loss of this amenity and other essential links connecting a scattered rural community.</p>
L47	<p>Respondent is a past pupil of Llangedwyn School which was also attended by her grandfather, father and other members of her family. Respondent considers that the good foundation provided by Llangedwyn school followed her throughout her future schooling. The events held by the existing school are well supported by everyone in the community. A culture of “expected excellence” is very prevalent in all the activities provided by the school. The pupils of the school develop into confident young people. Respondent feels she benefited greatly through her life from the experiences at “this small, family friendly, community-based school” and she is pleased that existing pupils are able to benefit in the same way. Not only is the formal education very good but the school encourages the pupils to focus on concerns of the surrounding community because of its closeness as a school to the community. She hopes the school is given the opportunity to continue the “wonderful work it does in nurturing its pupil’s education and development.”</p>
L48	<p>Llangedwyn School’s happy, welcoming atmosphere influenced the respondent in choosing the school for her child’s education. She believes if children are happy at school they will be confident in their learning. Respondent’s son left Llangedwyn School as a “confident and articulate pupil”. She believes that smaller schools advantage children and her son had an easy transition to Secondary School which she attributes to the confidence that his experience at Llangedwyn School gave him. Without access to Llangedwyn School breakfast club, she would not be able to get to work on time as there are no child minders in the area who would be able to assist with school travel. She also makes use of the after school club and would</p>

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	find it very difficult to manage if this facility was not available. None of the suggested alternative schools offer a regular after school club. If her child has to move school it will mean extra costs in travel for her family as they live in England and will not qualify for school transport. She may need to move her child to a primary school in England.
L49	Respondent's son is very upset about the possibility he may have to move from a school where he is happy and about the prospect of being separated from his friends. Her daughter has special educational needs. Respondent has great concerns about the effect of a change in education for her daughter. School transport would not be suitable for her daughter, aged 5, which would lead to additional transport costs and would have a big impact on the family's income. Many of the routes to alternative schools are impassable in the winter months. At the moment the family are within walking distance of Llangedwyn School. If Llangedwyn School is closed, the family would need to purchase another car, which would mean additional cost. The family may need to consider moving from the Tanat Valley to be closer to an alternative school, which would impact on their children's social connections. Closure of Llangedwyn School would result in empty houses in the village and a loss to local businesses. Children have a right to attend their local community school and respondent urges PCC not to deny this right.
L50	Loss of Llangedwyn School will mean a loss of uniqueness of the village of Llangedwyn as the school is a major part of its identity. The loss of the school will have an impact on respondent's business (he runs the local pub and families support it by using the facilities throughout the year). Unless PCC provide safe reliable transport to an alternative school, suitable for a four year old child, he will need to transport her to school himself, which will incur cost and mean the opening and closing times of his business will be affected to accommodate the additional time needed to take his child to and from school. Respondent also expresses concern about negative environmental impact as a result of additional journeys for parents to and from alternative schools.
L51	To close Llangedwyn School would leave a tremendous hole in the community. The school is vital for the community. The staff at the school are always welcoming and grateful to past parents and pupils for help. Respondent's son was a former pupil of the school and she continues to help with fundraising. Her son was bullied at other schools but was settled and happy at Llangedwyn School.
L52 & L53	Respondents' daughter, who suffers from cerebral palsy, is undertaking work experience at the school's breakfast and after school club. It is their view that if the Llangedwyn School closes this would be illegal under the Equal Opportunities Act because it would deny his daughter opportunity of a work placement in her local community.
L54	<p>The closure of the school would have massive impact on the community as it is a place where parents and community members meet. At present family live within walking distance of the school. If respondent's child had to go to an alternative school, he/she would need to go by bus or by car. Respondent considers the bus would need to have an escort with the children as well as a driver to ensure her child is "safe at all times". If she needed to take her child to school by car this would incur additional cost and could be unsafe on roads which are dangerous in winter months. Respondent's son has special needs (difficulties with communication). If he had to go to a larger primary school she does not consider he would receive as much individual support as he has at Llangedwyn School. He is happy to go to school as he receives a lot of emotional support for his teachers and peers at Llangedwyn School. He thrives in the small environment of the school. Respondent considers if her son was not to receive the same level of support he receives in Llangedwyn School his behaviour would be affected and we would become withdrawn. When her son has to transfer to High School she believes he will be given dedicated emotional and educational support from staff at Llangedwyn school.</p> <p>Respondent uses the breakfast and after school club at Llangedwyn School on a regular basis and the same facilities are not offered at other schools in the area. Her son also attends the Youth Club at Llangedwyn School which gives him an opportunity to mix with his friends and improves his social</p>

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	<p>interaction. The school runs classes out of school hours e.g. IT. Respondent has attended the IT class at the school which she has found "invaluable". If Llangedwyn School closes she considers this could have a detrimental psychological effect on her son as he has special needs and he would be separated from his friends. She considers that all the "hard work the school has done with her son" in relation to his special education needs "would all go to waste"</p>
<p>L55</p>	<p>Finances: Llangedwyn School is showing a healthy budget. Llangedwyn School has a sustainable financial future.</p> <p>Staffing costs: In a document presented by the Authority on 4.10.2011 it stated the school would have a 40% increase in staffing costs over the next few years. The school can find no evidence to merit this statement with any validity. There is due to be only a nominal percent increase in staffing costs over the new few years. Staff "believe that hard work and dedication is the key to a successful school and that as a staff" they "consistently and willingly deliver excellent results because of the children" they "work with and not because of" their "wages"</p> <p>Special Educational Needs: 36% of the pupils on roll have SEN. Several parents have moved their children to the school because the children have experienced difficulties in other primary school settings. 50% of the children with special needs at Llangedwyn School have moved there from other primary schools. Parents have stated that they have moved their children because from other schools because they were unhappy and unwilling to attend school but since moving to Llangedwyn School these pupils are enthusiastic to attend school and are making good progress. 58% of the children in the Foundation Phase class at the school have special educational needs. 2 pupils who have recently left Llangedwyn School to go to High School attained level 5 in all subjects in Year 6 and when they joined the school in years 3 and 4, one child had a number of behavioural and learning difficulties and the other labelled with potential ADHD and severe behavioural problems at another local school. The inclusive nature of Llangedwyn School underpins its approach to learning. Staff believe that pupils leaving Llangedwyn School are "equipped emotionally and educationally ready continue their learning both at the High School and in life" and that is why many parents whose children have experienced difficulties choose to send their children to the school.</p> <p>Standards: In 2010 66% of pupils made 3 levels progress in reading, writing and English Y2 – Y6 (L2-L5). In 2011, 42% of pupils made 3 levels progress (L2-L5 and L1 to L4) in English, writing, reading and maths. All pupils in 2011 made the expected 2 levels progress from Y2 to Y6 in all subjects and all pupils in KS1 made the expected progress from their baseline scores. Over the past 3 years there has only been one year when Llangedwyn School hasn't performed at a significantly higher level than both Wales and Powys in all subjects at the end of KS2 and during the other year Llangedwyn School performed in line with standards in Wales and Powys.</p> <p>Behaviour: School staff have high expectations of pupils' behaviour and the school has an "exceptional reputation for good behaviour, not just in the community but on school trips when the good behaviour of the children is frequently commented on." The school has had no exclusions of any kind over the past year.</p> <p>Community Use: Llangedwyn School has strong links with the local community. The school is used as a base for many community activities and the school grounds are enjoyed by the whole community on a regular basis. The school is offered as a free resource for the community as it allows small local groups to meet in the school free of charge e.g. the Tai Chi group. The school building is also used for a number of classes and community events including adult education classes. It is the only school in the area that offers so many affordable opportunities for the community at the local primary school. Many of the events are run by staff, parents and governors of the school, often voluntarily. If the school was closed most of the</p>

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events could not be held at another venue due to the cost and loss of volunteers.

Little Hedgehogs: The school has a volunteer run parent and toddler group which is well supported. If the school was to close the group would be lost to the community.

Parent Teachers and Friends Association: The school's PTFA has raised significant sums of money for both the school and various charities and demonstrates the high level of support and commitment the school engenders.

Village Voice is a community magazine is published solely by the school on behalf of the local community and is a free publication. The publication would be lost if Llangedwyn School closes.

Equal Opportunities: The school offers a voluntary work placement at its breakfast and after school club for a young person with learning difficulties. If Llangedwyn School was to close staff believe that this would be indirect discrimination as a local provision to provide work experience for a person with a disability would be withdrawn.

After School Club – wraparound care from 8am to 5:30 pm

Llangedwyn School is the only school in the Tanat Valley that offers full wraparound care for pupils. This is a vital resource to the local community and its loss would cause great detriment to the local rural economy. Working parents would find it difficult to manage without this essential facility.

Travel:

At present all pupils either walk to the school or live close enough to car share or are transported by their parents. If the children had to travel to alternative schools this would incur cost to the Authority's transport budget. The roads to the majority of the alternative schools are poor. Many of the roads are single track and impassable in winter resulting in an even longer journey to school during cold winter months. Potentially many school hours could be lost due to bad weather. Close working relationships with parents will be lost if pupils have to travel by bus to another school. For four of the pupils at Llangedwyn School who have significant learning difficulties the experience of having to travel on a bus to school each day and no regular parental contact with the school at the beginning and end of each day would have a severe detrimental effect on their education.

Pupil numbers: Since the news that Llangedwyn School would be reviewed was released by the press in January, 2011, the school has significantly increased pupil numbers. 8 new pupils have joined the school and 2 more will be joining in September, 2012.

Unique provision: Llangedwyn School has a strong link with the community church and this aspect of faith is reflected in all areas of school life. The school has a clear ethos of respect, understanding, empathy tolerance, support and patience. The ethos and atmosphere is commented on by visitors to the school. The ethos makes Llangedwyn an irreplaceable school with many qualities that cannot be matched by any surrounding schools. The school has an "inclusive" nature and pupils with difficulties, some with extreme difficulties, settle quickly into the school and are accepted wholeheartedly by their peers.

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	<p>Pupils at Llangedwyn School are offered opportunities that are not available at other equivalent local schools: wooded area, stream, adventure playground, large field, links with local businesses, ambassador school status, annual residential trip, regular educational visits.</p> <p>Children at Llangedwyn are offered a clear pupil voice. There are clear lines of communication through the School Council. Children have developed a Youth Club and After School Tuck shop that raises money for charities that are important to them. The children deserve to attend the school of their choice and where they are happy, nurtured and enabled to become successful members of the community and lifelong learners.</p>
<p>L56</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In deciding to include Llangedwyn School in the review PCC did not follow their stated policies or their own procedure laid down for such a review. • It did not follow Welsh Government guidelines in respect of consultations with interested parties. • The decision making process was flawed in that the information presented to the Cabinet and used to inform the decision was incorrect and the manner in which the information about Llangedwyn and Llanfechain CIW Schools was inconsistent and led to bias. • The decision made was incorrect because it cited “lack of capacity in receiving schools and opportunity for savings by formalising collaborations” in deciding to retain Llanfechain; whilst citing as the reasons for proceeding with consultation on review of Llangedwyn “ to ensure the efficient use of council resources, through the reduction of the number of available spaces and an estimated revenue saving of £58K.” • The different outcomes for the two schools cannot be justified. If lack of capacity in receiving schools was a reason to retain Llanfechain, it should likewise have been a reason to retain Llangedwyn. • Llanfechain was retained due to a possible saving of £6500 if collaborative arrangements were formalised, but even with that saving, there would still have been an overall saving of £68K if Llanfechain was closed, whereas, the decision was taken to proceed to consultation for Llangedwyn due to a saving of £58K; 10K less than the savings which would have been made if Llanfechain was closed. • One of the reasons for taking the decision to review Llangedwyn was to reduce the number of available places, but governors believe Llanfechain has a higher number of surplus places than Llangedwyn, so Llanfechain School should also have been reviewed. • There is no justifiable reason for the decision by PCC to retain Llanfechain and proceed with the review of Llangedwyn. Both schools should have been treated consistently and the same decision reached on both schools. • The information used by PCC was wholly inaccurate. • In making this decision PCC failed to place sufficient weight on the impact of the closure on the Llangedwyn community, particularly in terms of social inclusion and the economic effects of the withdrawal of the services to the community provided by the school. • Governors are of the opinion that PCC failed to fulfil its responsibility: to ensure the review carried out by its officers was within the policies and regulations of both PCC and WAG; that its officers were competent and diligent in undertaking the review particularly in respect of checking information presented to them by both the governing bodies and from within PCC. PCC failed to ensure that the information presented to the Cabinet on 4.10.11 was correct, impartial and reflected the true situation in both Llangedwyn and Llanfechain schools and failed to demonstrate that the decision to commence consultations on the closure of Llangedwyn at that meeting whilst retaining Llanfechain School was properly made. • The 11 schools identified for review at the meeting of the LICPB in January 2011 and which included Llangedwyn, were identified for review based on the fact that the schools had been identified as having projected numbers of 30 pupils or less at some point over the next 3 school

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	<p>years; not 35. Had the Council intended that the review should relate to schools with less than 35 pupils, the schools identified for review on 18th January, 2011, by the LICPB should have included all primary school with 35 pupils or less, not just those with under 30.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By identifying schools for review which were projected to have 30 pupils or less and making a decision to review on that basis, it was procedurally and legally unfair to then change the review criteria for those schools to 35 pupils or less, without bringing into the review all other schools having pupil numbers of 35 or less.• Governors are of the view the current Council adopted policy on primary school reorganisation does not include a policy approving the review of small schools when pupil numbers fall or are projected to fall below 35 and this is not a policy which the Council has formally adopted or consulted upon.• Governors are of the opinion that the minutes of the LICPB meeting on 18th January, 2011, make it clear that the LICPB only intended to review schools with projected numbers of 30 or less; not 35 or less.• It was only at a meeting of the LICPB on 24th May, 2011, 4 months after the 11 schools had been identified for review that reference is made to the figure of 35 with regard to projected pupil numbers.• At this stage no other schools were brought into the review, it remained those 11 schools identified based on projected numbers of 30 or less.• By identifying schools for review which were projected to have 30 pupils or less and making a decision to review on that basis, it was procedurally and legally unfair to then change the review criteria for those schools to 35 pupils or less, without bringing into the review all other schools having pupil numbers of 35 or less.• In identifying the schools to be considered in January 2011 based on pupil number of 30 or less, those schools identified which were able to show project numbers of 30 or more during the review process should have been removed from the review, or the Council should have restarted the review process and included all schools with 35 pupils or less.• The governors of Llangedwyn School based their initial discussion and consultations from January until April 2011 on that basis and were confident that provided they could evidence pupil numbers in excess of 30 in each of the next 3 school years, the school would be safe from the proposed closure consultations.• At a meeting with the governing body on 13th April, 2011, with Gareth Jones, governors were not aware that the criteria had been altered with regard to pupil numbers and still believed that the school would be safe provided it could be evidenced that pupil numbers were in excess of 30.• It was only at the meeting with governors, held on 15th June, 2011, that it became clear that the Council's position was that evidence of 30 or more pupils over the next 3 years would not be sufficient to take Llangedwyn out of the review and that the Council's position was that evidence of pupil numbers in excess of 35 would be required and no adequate explanation for the change was provided.• Clarification is required as to why Llangedwyn was identified as being a school with actual or projected numbers of less than 30 by the LICPB on 18th January, 2011, as the pupils projections provided by Gareth Jones and presumably those upon which the decision to include Llangedwyn in the review was taken show that the projected pupil numbers do not fall below 30 in any of the next 3 school years.• The current Council adopted policy on primary school reorganisation doe not include a policy approving the review of small schools when pupil numbers fall or are projected to fall below 35 and this is not a policy which the Council has formally adopted or consulted upon.• At no point in the meeting of the Council's Board held on 15th July, 2008, did members approve the review of individual small schools when the pupil numbers fall below or are projected to fall below 35.
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- The Board's decision on 10th November, 2009, was that officers should undertake informal discussions with governing bodies of schools having pupil numbers of 35 or less and which were not in the area review process. The Board did not approve the review of individual small schools when pupil numbers fall or are projected to fall below 35.
- PCC do not now, nor have they ever adopted a policy providing for school with less than 35 pupils to be subject to review. Furthermore, to identify schools with 30 or less pupils for review and change the criteria to 35 pupils part way through the process, based on this being within policy, is clearly incorrect and not within policy as consulted upon and adopted by the Council.
- Llangedwyn School's projected pupil numbers on roll for the three years identified when the review commenced showed pupil numbers in excess of 30 in each of those years and as such, Llangedwyn School should have been removed from the review process.
- PCC failed to ensure it had followed consultative procedure for school review as determined by Welsh Government.
- Section 1.11 of Circular 21/2009 states that consultation should include "the view of those most directly affected, including children and young people. In conducting the review of Llangedwyn CIW School, PCC has taken no steps whatsoever to follow the terms of WAG Circular 21/2009 in respect of undertaking a consultation with the pupils of Llangedwyn about the closure of their school. This is a material failure to comply with the procedures for such review as determined by the Welsh Assembly Government.
- The decision to commence the statutory consultation process on the closure of Llangedwyn C in W school was not taken with due diligence. The information put before the Cabinet on 4th October, 2011 contained factual errors and inconsistencies when compared to the information provided for Llanfechain School. The lack of parity in terms of how the material was presented and used by the Cabinet and PCC officers and the ultimate decisions reached on Llanfechain and Llangedwyn schools discriminated against Llangedwyn and led to a different decision being taken on each of the schools, which cannot be justified based on the evidence available.
- Llangedwyn governors contend that the necessary and expected levels of scrutiny and due diligence were not apparent when the seven Cabinet members took their decision on 4th October, 2011.
- The decision in respect of Llanfechain School was delayed in order to allow that the future of Llanfechain and Llangedwyn School could be considered together and this took place on 4th October, 2011. The delay afforded opportunities for the original report from Llangedwyn School governors to be amended. Page 3 of the document attached to the report considered by the Cabinet on 4th October gives the date of submission as 19th July and states that it had been updated to reflect the most recent information available to the governors at time of writing. The governors of Llanfechain School had a period of at least 7 months in which to draft and amend their response to the report ultimately presented to the Cabinet on 4th October, 2011 but the amount of time available to the governing body of Llangedwyn School to respond to the school's review was only a little over 4 weeks and was prejudicial to Llangedwyn.
- Tables showing current and projected pupil numbers for Llangedwyn and Llanfechain Schools included in the report to Cabinet on 4th October were not calculated using the same base data. There is an issue with the figures produced for January 2015 in Llanfechain School's table, which in the view of Llangedwyn governing body members, indicated a "sudden influx of pupils that runs against the previous year" demographic trend.
- The result of these presentational differences is that the final total of pupils in the table for Llanfechain is 40 and for Llangedwyn it is 34, which gives the impression that Llanfechain will have significantly more pupils on roll in future years. This view is not supported by the current figures for Llanfechain which shows in January, 2012, 29 pupils on roll and 27 in January, 2013.
- There is a lack of parity between the data in the report presented to the Cabinet on 4th October as the criteria used for calculating the projected

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	<p>pupil numbers for each school was not the same and figures for Llanfechain School have been inflated against those of Llangedwyn School. It was incumbent upon PCC to ensure that the pupil numbers for both schools were calculated in the same way and this they failed to do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Governors of Llangedwyn School are “dismayed that the decision made by the 7 Councillors” at the Cabinet meeting held on 4th October, 2011, “went against Llangedwyn School.”• It is the view of governors that “a disturbing series of errors and statements in the two reports created a more favourable picture for retention of Llanfechain School and appear to have prejudiced Llangedwyn”.• By only presenting certain information for Llangedwyn and not equivalent information for Llanfechain, Cabinet members cannot gain a fair comparison.• Governors dispute the percentage surplus places figures of 34% given in the report.• Llangedwyn Governors dispute the distance between Llangedwyn School and Ysgol Bro Cynllaith quoted in the report.• Llanfechain’s report explores the potential impact of “prospective” housing development in the school’s catchment and of UDP allocations in adjoining catchments on pupil numbers but no reference is made in Llangedwyn’s report of the actual UDP housing allocation in Llangedwyn or in the catchment of its two nearest schools.• The decision made on 4th October 2011, was to keep Llanfechain School open. The reason given was lack of capacity in receiving schools and opportunity for saving by formalising collaboration arrangements but governors contend that, in terms of receiving schools Llanfechain and Llangedwyn school are in identical positions and therefore if lack of capacity in receiving schools was given as a reason to retain Llanfechain, it should also have been given as a reason to retain Llangedwyn.• The governors of Llangedwyn School were assured by Gareth Jones at the meeting on 15th June, 2011, that the temporary arrangements between Llansantffraid School and Llanfechain school were temporary and confirmed that these arrangements would have no bearing on the decision to be taken for either school but despite such assurance these arrangements were cited as a reason for retention of Llanfechain, specifically thereby prejudicing Llangedwyn.• There is no justification for reaching a different conclusion for each school based on reduction of surplus places.• Reaching different decisions at the same meeting for Llanfechain and Llangedwyn schools based on costs savings cannot be supported by evidence.• Governors of Llangedwyn School contend that in deciding to include Llangedwyn School in the review PCC did not follow their stated policies or their own procedure laid down for such a review.• PCC did not follow the WAG guidelines particularly in respect of consultation with interested parties.• The decision making process was flawed, in that the information presented to the Cabinet and used to inform the decision was incorrect and the manner in which the information about Llangedwyn and Llanfechain CIW Schools (being the school that PCC had decided to consider together to ensure fairness and consistency) was inconsistent and led to bias.• There can be no objective or justifiable basis upon which PCC should reach different conclusion in relation to Llanfechain and Llangedwyn Schools having taken the decision to consider the two schools together to ensure fairness and equal treatment of each school.• Having taken the decision to retain Llanfechain School on 4th October, 2011, and considered all representations since that date, PCC should ensure consistency between the two schools by concluding that in relation to Llangedwyn School the council should “take no further steps towards closure of the school but monitor the situation in terms of number of pupils on roll and that officers work with the school to identify ways
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	<p>to reduce surplus capacity.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The governors and community accept that the school cannot be immune from future review but believe that Llangedwyn School should be treated equally with other schools and, in particular be considered, if appropriate in future, as part of an area review with all other schools in the catchment. • In May 2011, Llangedwyn School recruited a fully qualified permanent Head Teacher with a view to taking the school forward into the future. Other schools in the Llanfyllin catchment area have been unable to recruit a permanent headteacher. • Llangedwyn Governors cite a document entitled “The Perfect Antidote to Toxic Childhood” by Mervyn Benford, Information Officer for the National Association for Small Schools, in support of education in small schools. • Educational standards: Using “Value Added Data”, at Llangedwyn School, over the past few years, a number of children have made greater than expected progress at the end of KS2. In 2010 66% of pupils made 3 levels of progress from Y2 – y6 (L2 –L5) in reading, writing and English. In 2011, 42% of pupils made 3 levels of progress (L2-L5 and L1-L4) in English, writing reading and mathematics. All pupils in 2011 made expected 2 levels of progress from Y2-Y6 in all subjects and all pupils in KS1 made the expected progress from their baseline scores. Over the past three years, there has only been one year when the school has not performed at a significantly higher level than both Wales and Powys in all subjects at the end of KS2. During the other year the school performed in line with standards in Wales and Powys. The school’s educational standards and performance are above average for Powys even taking into account the School’s pupils with special education needs and additional learning needs. • Special Education needs: • 36% of the pupils on Llangedwyn School role have special educational needs and 50% of children with special needs have arrived at Llangedwyn having attending other schools. A close “family” ethos permeates the school and provides a secure inclusive environment in which children with SEN and additional learning needs can be supported by the whole school and the wider community”. • Governors quote WAG circular 21/2009 key principles 1.32 that states “consideration should be given to how changes to schools are likely to impact on all other services provided by the Authority for pupils with disabilities and/or SEN. Any change should not be detrimental to the standard of these services”. PCC would have to demonstrate that alternative schools are equivalent or higher for children with SEN and ALN and that any change would not be detrimental to education and support of these children. Many children admitted to Llangedwyn School are brought there by parents who state support and provision has been lacking in their previous schools. • Social Inclusion: Llangedwyn School places great importance on social inclusion within the school and in the wider community. This is evidenced not only with regard to the children but also continued work the school undertakes for those adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in the community. The school currently offers a volunteer work placement for a young woman with disabilities. The school’s inclusive approach creates a space where participants of all ages and abilities are valued within a supportive community. • Extra-curricular activities: The pupils of the school are offered numerous and varied activities in additional to the normal curriculum which are not offered in their entirety by other schools in the area. • Catchment area: In the PCC presentation at the consultation meeting of 8th February PCC stated that “over half of pupils are from out of the catchment”. This is incorrect. Currently 25 pupils out of 28 being educated at the school are either within the Llangedwyn catchment area or lived there originally when they started school. The remaining pupils are from the surrounding area. Given that 89% of children are from within
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Llangedwyn catchment area or lived there originally when they started school, the impact of a school reorganisation would have a devastating effect on the community.

- Cost per pupil: In the Community Impact Assessment by Powys County Council, it stated that the cost to the County Council per pupil in Llangedwyn C in W School for 2011/12 is £4785; 32.5% higher than the Powys average of £3612.

It should be noted that 30% of PCC schools had a spend per pupil of more than £4000 in 2011/12. With respect to Llangedwyn School, this equates to £700 per child therefore comparing it to the mean creates a statistical skew which masks the true picture of cost and disadvantages Llangedwyn School.

Community facilities in Llangedwyn: In Llangedwyn village there is a village Hall, St Cedwyn's Church, a craft centre and a post office as well as the school, which provides a focus for the community. The village hall holds larger community events plus karate and line dancing classes. The village hall is available for large local functions however the layout of the church does not lend itself to this type of use. The school's inclusive approach creates a space where participants of all ages and abilities are valued within a supportive community.

Governors agree with the view that "once you lose the school within the immediate community, the whole community feeling among the children and their parents is lost"

School facilities: Llangedwyn School has been a vital resource for the community for a number of years. The school hosts a number of classes and community events including adult education classes, parent toddler group breakfast and after school club and a youth club for primary aged children. The majority of these activities take place at minimal or no cost to the participants because the school is available for small groups of this nature without the charge that they would have to pay if they used the larger village hall for which a fee is charged. It is unlikely therefore that Little Hedgehogs Parents and Toddler group would be able to transfer to the village hall as the voluntary costs of this is £1 per child. The small numbers participating in Tai Chi classes would be unable to support a move to the village hall. The school also provides facilities that are not available in the village hall such as an IT suite which enables adult ICT class and genealogy research classes.

The school helps with the production of the Village Voice newsletter which is a source of local news and information and allows small businesses to advertise at no cost to the local community. This is of assistance to new businesses and the self employed in the area who cannot afford to advertise in the local press. This service would cease if the school closes.

Many fundraising and school social events are held in partnership with Antur Tanat Cain at Llangedwyn Mill which allows local businesses members of the community and children to work together for the good of school and the community. The Jubilee Luncheon Club was founded at Llangedwyn Mill for senior citizens and other people with social need in the community. The children of the school have visited and entertained regularly at the Jubilee Luncheon club. If the school closes, these events will no longer take place.

Llangedwyn is twinned with a town in Normandy and children have taken part in annual exchanges with the children from the school in France. This exchange would be in jeopardy if Llangedwyn School closes.

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The Friends of Llangedwyn meets on a monthly basis to discuss issues affecting the village school and surrounding area and the school is a focal point of this group.

The school offers a well attended breakfast and after school kids club. The after school is totally self sustaining and provides employment for two members of the community. Parents can leave their children at the school from 8 am to 5:30 pm. There is no other school in the Tanat Valley or surrounding area that provides either of these facilities. Almost 90% of the children who attend Llangedwyn School rely on the school's breakfast and after school kids club. (There is only one family who do not use these facilities)

Children: PCC should take into consideration the psychological impact that the school reorganisation would have on the children.

The Governors state that "at no point during the PCC process to date (March, 2012) have the children of Llangedwyn C in W School been consulted."

Economic and business impact: 94% of parents of the current pupils at Llangedwyn C in W School are either employed or self employed. Of the total number of working parents, 48% of those are self employed and run their own business and sometimes two businesses within the same family in the Tanat Valley or surrounding area. This equates to 16 different businesses in the Tanat Valley or surrounding area; a major contribution to the economy of Powys. The school currently supports all of these local businesses which are run by parents whose children attend the school or will be attending the school by offering the flexibility of the breakfast and after school kids club to enable extended working hours to the self employed and those running small business. Many parents feel their employment and training opportunities have been improved with the existence of these school facilities. For many families whose children presently attend Llangedwyn School, the economic effect upon their households of having to move their child to any of the alternative schools would be profound. The extended school day at Llangedwyn allows parents to leave their child at school, travel to their place of employment, undertake a fully working day, collecting their child on the way home. Businesses are considering relocation away from Powys due to the school reorganisation programme. The lack of breakfast provision at the suggested alternative schools the extra travel time required to get to and from the alternative schools, the lack of after school provision, would mean that parents would have to find employment with shorter working hours, cease working altogether or find expensive childcare. No other school in the local and surrounding area offers the facilities of the breakfast and after school club. Closure of Llangedwyn School would result in enterprising parents being forced to curtail the growth within their businesses and employed parents being faced with many difficult decisions regarding the future of their jobs and therefore, their children's futures. Llangedwyn School is a "Family Friendly School" not only are the needs of the child met, but consideration given to self employed and working parents, which is a "glowing example" of sustainability and regeneration within the Llangedwyn community.

Faith considerations: Llangedwyn School is the only Faith school in the Tanat Valley. The religious character of the school is of great significance to its parents, staff and governors. One parent states "to deny our children the opportunity to be taught in a Faith school is contradictory to both WAG and national educational policies and this is tantamount to undermining the Christian faith in this area" There are very close links between the school and the Church. The Diocesan Director of Education, Carol Burgess, and the Bishop of St Asaph both support the retention of Llangedwyn School.

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Transport:

PCC do not fund any transport for children attending Llangedwyn School. With regard to the pupils that currently attend Llangedwyn School and based on the three schools that PCC have stated as alternative schools, 23 out of 28 pupils would require transport to their nearest school because their nearest school is outside the threshold of 2 miles from their home.

Transport costs: PCC does not fund any transport for pupils attending Llangedwyn School at present. In the report presented to the Cabinet on 4.10.2011, the additional transport costs were stated to be £38K. However governors understand that there would be 2 extra bus routes required to transport the children currently attending Llangedwyn School - route 1 at a cost to PCC of £38K and route 2 at a cost of PCC of £12K. There would be a total of £50K additional transport costs to PCC. Closing the school would exacerbate the transport budget which is already overspent.

As Llangedwyn School has 36% pupils with SEN and ALN there would be an additional cost incurred by PCC on top of the transport costs of £50K to take into account the use of escorts on buses for those children with SEN and Additional Learning Needs and this has not been taken into account by PCC.

Transport considerations for pupils: Travelling via bus would cause undue stress to all of the children of Llangedwyn School who have never had to use this mode of transport without the security of their parents.

Environmental impact: Regardless of whichever school PCC choose to select as the alternative school, all of the children would have to be transported either via free transport on a bus or by car. Therefore to send Llangedwyn pupils to any one of the three schools nominated by PCC would result in an increase of mileage by an average of over 53,000 miles per year and this is based on normal routes i.e. excludes the extended winter routes on more suitable roads. This would impact on road systems, carbon emissions and the amount of time that children spend travelling to and from school and goes against WAG's objectives to reduce traffic congestion, carbon emissions and promote alternatives to the car. Travelling by car would also result in additional fuel costs for individual families.

Hazardous routes: Living in rural surroundings with many single track lanes, not all routes to schools are safe particularly in the winter. Many of the routes to some of the alternative schools are either B or unclassified roads and not gritted when there are icy conditions. Travelling longer routes during the winter months would add to travelling time for children if they travelled on the bus or additional travelling time for parents if they chose to travel by car.

Transport to denominational schools: According to the Equality and Impact Assessment – under the heading of “Provisional Assessment Result”, it states that “some adverse impact was identified with regard to religion or belief. This adverse impact can be justified as there is a good faith school within reasonable travelling distance.” Given that all parents of pupils in Llangedwyn School choose to take their children to a faith school, this would result in parents driving their children by car to the alternative faith school named by PCC. This would incur a total mileage of 314 miles per day (round trip) for all of the children during the summer months and a total of 564 miles per day (round trip) during the winter months. Given this extensive mileage, governors do not consider this as a “reasonable travelling distance”

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<p>Equal Opportunities and Social Diversity: Should Llangedwyn School close, there would be a loss of choice for those parents not wishing to send their children to a school with an emphasis on Welsh medium teaching. Concerning the three alternative schools offered by PCC, the communities in which these schools sit and including Llangedwyn School, are all culturally and linguistically extremely diverse.</p> <p>Reuse of School Buildings: The school site cannot be developed due to the covenant on the school buildings. Therefore no monies could be reinvested in the School Modernisation Programme should closure be pursued.</p> <p>Former Chair of Governors of Llangedwyn School, Len Lewis, said "The building is in much better condition than some locally built in the 50s and 60s and will need less refurbishment going into the future. It also lends itself to extension, outwards or upwards, if needed in the future."</p> <p>Regeneration: The area is classified as a rural ward in the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013 enabling enterprises and groups to seek support from a number of Powys Regeneration Partnership initiatives. However the site cannot be reused for non-educational purposes due to the covenant on the school building.</p> <p>Conclusion: the closure of Llangedwyn School would have significant impact on the local community through loss of a centre of education for its young people, as a meeting place, the services to the local community provided by the school and ultimately the local economy. There is strong evidence that children flourish in a small schools, as this allows for bespoke education that caters for the individual child's needs and a personal approach to learning.</p>
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