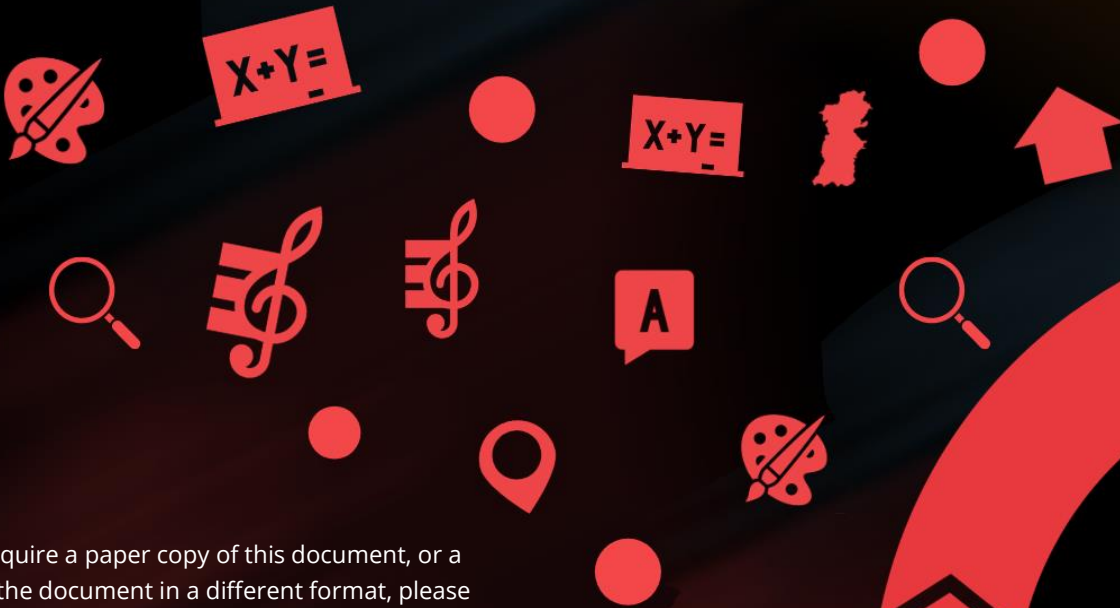




Closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith Consultation Report



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Consultation on the closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith

Contents

1. OVERVIEW OF THE CONSULTATION	3
i) Consultation methods	3
ii) Responses received	3
iii) Summary of issues raised.....	3
2. CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM	7
3. CONSULTATION WITH PUPILS	10
4. CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH STAFF AND GOVERNORS	13
i) Consultation meeting with Staff of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.....	13
ii) Consultation meeting with Governors of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	15
5. ESTYN	18
6. ISSUES RAISED DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD	21
7. FURTHER ASESMENT AND CONCLUSION	128

Consultation on the closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith

1. OVERVIEW OF THE CONSULTATION

Powys County Council consulted on a proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. The proposal is as follows:

- To close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith from 31st August 2025, with Powys-based pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative school in Powys.

The consultation took place between the 3rd of October 2024 and the 25th of November 2024.

i) Consultation methods

The consultation documentation was available on the Council's website throughout the consultation period, and was distributed to stakeholders, as required by the School Organisation Code (2018). Separate versions for children and young people were also available on the Council's website throughout the consultation period.

Consultees were invited to respond to the consultation by either completing an online response form, filling in a paper copy of the form and returning it to the Transforming Education Team at County Hall, or by e-mailing / writing to the Transforming Education Team.

Meetings were held with the following:

- Staff of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith – 17th October 2024
- Governors of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith – 17th October 2024
- Pupils from Ysgol Bro Cynllaith – 17th October 2024

ii) Responses received

A total of 81 written responses were received. 35 respondents completed the online response form and 20 respondents completed the Word version of the consultation response form. 26 other written responses were received, which included a response from Estyn.

The response received from Estyn is provided on page 15, in-line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.

iii) Summary of issues raised

The issues raised in the consultation responses are listed in detail in section 6 on page 18 onwards. This includes the Council's response to each issue.

The following is a summary of the issues raised:

1. Comments about the school
 - 1.1 General positive comments about the school
 - 1.2 Ability to deliver the new Curriculum for Wales
 - 1.3 Comments about extra-curricular provision at the school
 - 1.4 Comments about pupil numbers / capacity
 - 1.5 Comments about the use of Welsh at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith
 - 1.6 Comments about support for ALN pupils
 - 1.7 Comments about the experiences of past pupils
 - 1.8 Comments about the quality of provision at the school
 - 1.9 Comments about the school being a small school
 - 1.10 Comments about the school buildings / grounds
 - 1.11 Comments about the school's location
 - 1.12 Everyone is friends at the school
 - 1.13 Links between the school and the community
 - 1.14 Reference to pupils that have transferred to the school from other schools
 - 1.15 The school is the closest school for almost all pupils
2. Impact on pupils
 - 2.1 Concern about access to extra-curricular provision
 - 2.2 Concern about the impact on pupils of having to move to a different school
 - 2.3 Concern about the impact on the quality of education for pupils
 - 2.4 Concern that pupils would be separated from their friends
 - 2.5 Concern that pupils would transfer to schools in Shropshire and would miss out on the Welsh curriculum
 - 2.6 Other comments about the impact on pupils
3. Impact on the community
 - 3.1 General concern about the impact on the community/village
 - 3.2 The school is the heart of the village/community
 - 3.3 Comments about the impact on the village hall
 - 3.4 Closure of the school would mean that people would not want to live in the area
 - 3.5 Comments about housing developments in the area
 - 3.6 Comments about the impact of previous school closures on communities
 - 3.7 Comments about the impact on local businesses
 - 3.8 Queries about what would happen to the school building should the school close
4. Impact on staff

5. Impact on parents / families
6. Comments about early years provision
7. Comments about small / rural schools
 - 7.1 Positive comments about small/rural schools
 - 7.2 Parents should be able to choose a small/rural school
 - 7.3 Other comments about small/rural schools
8. Comments about other schools
 - 8.1 Comments about Ysgol Llanrhaeadr
 - 8.2 Comments about other schools
9. Travel implications
 - 9.1 The proposal would lead to additional travel
 - 9.2 Concern about the impact on the environment
 - 9.3 Concern about the impact on pupils' access to after school activities
 - 9.4 Concern about pupil safety on home to school transport
 - 9.5 Comments about additional transport costs
 - 9.6 Queries about the Council's Home to School Transport Policy
 - 9.7 Other comments about travel implications
10. Financial implications
 - 10.1 Comments suggesting the only reason for the proposal is to save money
 - 10.2 Other comments
11. Criticism of Powys County Council
 - 11.1 Criticism of the Council's approach to small / rural schools / communities
 - 11.2 Criticism of the Council's treatment of the school
 - 11.3 Other criticisms of Powys County Council
12. Comments about the Consultation Documentation
13. Comments about impact on Protected Characteristic Groups
14. Comments about impact on the Welsh language
 - 14.1 Comments about the area's cultural significance
 - 14.2 Concern that the proposal would have a negative impact on the Welsh language
 - 14.3 Suggested improvements which would have a positive impact on Welsh
 - 14.4 The proposal would not have a negative impact on the Welsh language

14.5 Other comments about impact on the Welsh Language

15. Alternative options

- 15.1 Retain the status quo
- 15.2 Develop the provision at the school
- 15.3 Shared leadership
- 15.4 Federation / merger with another school
- 15.5 'Classroom in the countryside'
- 15.6 Develop Welsh-medium provision
- 15.7 Other alternative options

2. CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

A total of 55 respondents completed the consultation responses form. 34 respondents completed the English online consultation response form, and 1 respondent completed the online form in Welsh. 20 respondents sent the consultation response form by email.

Information about those that completed the consultation response form is provided below.

Written comments were also provided in the consultation response forms. The issues raised in these comments are included in Section 6 of this report.

Part 1 – About you

1. Please indicate how you are associated with the schools affected by this consultation:

Response	No.	%
Governor	3	5.45%
Member of staff	4	7.27%
Member of the community	17	30.91%
Organisation e.g. Community Council	1	1.82%
Other	9	16.36%
Parent, carer, or guardian	17	30.91%
Prospective parent, carer, or guardian	4	7.27%
Total responses	55	100%

2. Please specify which school you are associated with:

Response	No.	%
Another School	4	7.27%
No Association	4	7.27%
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	47	85.45%
Total responses	55	100%

3. Please provide your postcode:

Response	No.	%
Llanfechain	1	1.82%
Llanfyllin	3	5.45%
Llangedwyn	6	10.91%
Llanrhaedr-Ym-Mochnant	2	3.64%
Llansantffraid-Ym-Mechain	1	1.82%
Llansilin	24	43.64%

Llanwddyn	1	1.82%
Llanymynech	2	3.64%
Meifod	1	1.82%
Not Supplied	4	7.27%
Oswestry	9	16.36%
Shrewsbury	1	1.82%
Total responses	55	100%

Part 3 – About you

12. How old are you?

Response	No.	%
16-24	1	1.82%
25-34	13	23.64%
35-44	8	14.55%
45-54	5	9.09%
55-64	15	27.27%
65-74	5	9.09%
75-84	1	1.82%
Not answered	3	5.45%
Prefer not to say	4	7.27%
Total responses	55	100%

13. What is your gender?

Response	No.	%
Female	39	70.91%
Male	11	20.00%
Not answered	3	5.45%
Prefer not to say	2	3.64%
Total responses	55	100%

14. Can you understand, speak or write Welsh?

Response	No.	%
No	26	47.27%
Not answered	2	3.64%
Prefer not to say	8	14.55%
Ye	19	34.55%
Total responses	55	100%

15. If you have school-aged children, are they entitled to receive free school meals?

Response	No.	%
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No	20	36.36%
Not answered	19	34.55%
Prefer not to say	5	9.09%
Yes	11	20.00%
Total responses	55	100%

16. If you have school-aged children, do they have any additional learning needs?

Response	No.	%
No	20	36.36%
Not answered	19	34.55%
Prefer not to say	5	9.09%
Yes	11	20.00%
Total responses	55	100%

17. Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

Response	No.	%
No	45	81.82%
Not answered	5	9.09%
Prefer not to say	1	1.82%
Yes	4	7.27%
Total responses	55	100%

18. What is your ethnic group?

Response	No.	%
Not Answered	3	5.45%
Other	1	1.82%
Prefer not to say	2	3.64%
White	49	89.09%
Total	55	100%

3. CONSULTATION WITH PUPILS

Local authority officers met with pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith on the 17th October 2024. The notes of the meeting are provided below:

Present:

Marianne Evans, Sarah Astley, Lynda Baker, Ffion Evans – Powys County Council
Rhian Jones – Headteacher, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith

Officers met with pupils to discuss the proposal concerning Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

They explained that the Council is thinking about closing Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. They explained that this was just an idea at the moment, and they are asking people to let them know what they think about this idea.

Pupils were asked to respond to some questions and give their thoughts on the proposals.

The following is a summary of the comments made:

What do you think is good about Ysgol Bro Cynllaith?

- It's a smaller school so you know everybody.
- Mixture of year groups in classes.
- The older you get, the more work you get.
- Every child has a different personality
- We can do lots of other activities:
 - We go swimming to Oswestry on Fridays
 - Table tennis
 - Other sports like netball
- There is a breakfast club
 - Breakfast club is every day
 - Most pupils go to the breakfast club
- We have after school clubs
 - After school clubs is every Thursday and Wednesday
 - We do crafts and games at the after school club
- We like the 'panda' area
- Because we are so close to the hall we use the hall for lots of things:
 - Table tennis in the hall on Wednesdays
 - Lunch in the hall every day
 - Use the hall for school concerts
- The school dinners are good

- They do a lot of Welsh – a lot of pupils can understand and speak Welsh but not fluently
- Most pupils live in the village or the surrounding area, so can walk / cycle to school
- Not many pupils come to school on a school bus.

Is there anything you don't like about Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, or that could be better?

- Don't like that people don't keep the school tidy.
- Prefer to be outside than in lessons.
- Don't like the Welsh language and having to learn Welsh in school.
- Some pupils didn't like that it is a small school – they think the school is too small.

How would you feel if there wasn't a school here anymore and you had to go to a different school?

- Pupils said they would feel upset if they had to go to a bigger school
- There would be lots of people they don't know in the other schools
- They would feel sad, as they've been in Ysgol Bro Cynllaith since Reception
- We wouldn't know anyone at the other school
- We wouldn't know our way around, how to get to classrooms etc
- We'd have to get up earlier to get to school as it would be further away.
- There would be too many people in the school
- It could affect some parents as some have to go to work early
- The staff would have to try and find new jobs and they'd be worried.

Is there anything you think would be better about being in a bigger school?

- We would make more friends
- We would have more friends to go to High School with.

What do you think the impact would be on the community in Llansilin if there was no school here?

- The village would be destroyed.
- People would move out of the village to be nearer to other schools.
- Lots of things would break in the village.
- Llansilin would feel very small.
- It would feel like there are only houses here, lots of new builds going up.

Pupils were asked whether they knew which other schools they might go to if there was no school in Llansilin.

- Some would go to schools in Shropshire
- Some would go to Ysgol Llanfyllin because this is where they are going to high school

What would happen if you went to School in England there would be no Welsh, are you concerned?

- If there was no Welsh in school, I'd feel bad as the whole family speak Welsh.
- Some would be happy if they didn't want to learn Welsh.

If you were the Council, what would you do?

- I wouldn't close the school because it's great. I would want other kids to have the opportunity to go here.
- I would close the school because it's too small. Make the school a bit bigger so more people can come to the school, it attracts more children.

Pupils were reminded that the consultation is open until the 19th November 2024, and were encouraged to send any further comments they had on the plans on to the Council.

4. CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH STAFF AND GOVERNORS

Consultation meetings were held with the staff and governors of the school.

The issues raised at these meetings are summarised below:

i) Consultation meeting with Staff of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith

- **Comments about the consultation process**
 - Concern that the Council won't take any notice of the responses, that it's a foregone conclusion so there's no point responding.
 - There has been uncertainty surrounding the school since 2020. Please either leave us alone or do it!
- **Concern about the impact on the community**
 - It's a really strong community here.
 - Closing the school would kill the village.
- **Pupils would no longer be able to walk to school**
 - Most pupils currently walk to school, however they would have to travel to other schools on a bus
 - All pupils are in the school's catchment
- **Comments about the Stay and Play Group**
 - There is a new Stay and Play Group in the village. They have had 90 children through their books in a year and a half, and about 20 have said they intend to send their children here.
- **Comments about impact on staff**
 - Many of the staff live within a few miles of the school, but would have to travel much further to work somewhere else
 - Comments / queries about the HR process that would be carried out should the school close
 - Concern that the proposed timeline for the process would put teachers in a difficult position looking for teaching jobs if a decision isn't made until May, because the jobs will come out in April.
 - Do people in this position tend to start looking for jobs before a final decision has been made?
 - If staff are made redundant, is it correct that they can't work for Powys for a year after?

- **Comments about the curriculum**
 - The new curriculum includes a focus on the local area, however pupils won't get to learn about their local area in the same way if they all transfer to different schools
- **Comments about alternative schools**
 - Why was Llanrhaeadr picked as the alternative school for pupils?
 - Most pupils would go to Llanfyllin not Llanrhaeadr
 - Llanrhaeadr is in the wrong direction for most parents
 - Llanrhaeadr has two teaching groups – a Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 class – the same as us
 - Is there room in Llanrhaeadr for all pupils?
 - 2 pupils started Reception here this year because they were refused a place in Llanrhaeadr, yet you're now telling them to go to Llanrhaeadr
- **Financial considerations**
 - Whilst the school has had to juggle things, budget wise, we have always managed to get there. We are coping.
- **People have moved to the area to come to the school**
 - People have moved here because they want their child to experience a small rural school.
 - People that have moved here aren't familiar with the area, so are having to think where to send their child now.
- **Alternative options**
 - Reference to 'Classroom in the Countryside' model, to keep provision in the village
 - The school would become a satellite.
 - This would also mean that pupils would continue to access education in Wales and would continue in the secondary sector in Powys
- **Comments about the Welsh language**
 - If Ysgol Bro Cynllaith was a Welsh-medium school, would we have been left alone?
 - Welsh is very good at the school.

- If pupils transfer to schools in England, they won't learn any Welsh
- If we had Welsh-medium education in this school, maybe we'd gain back children that have gone to Llanrhaeadr.
- There's lots of Welsh history in this area.

ii) **Consultation meeting with Governors of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith**

- **Comments about a public meeting**

- Will there be attendance at the public meeting which is being arranged locally?
- In terms of bringing the community along, it would be beneficial if there was representation
- You've met with pupils, staff and governors, but parents should also have this opportunity

- **Comments about impact on the community**

- Closure of the school would destroy the school
- If there wasn't a school here, people wouldn't move here
- School events and activities help people moving to the area to settle quickly
- Concern that the average age in the village will rise as young people won't want to move to the area
- A lot of housing is being built in the area
- £10,000 if paid by the Council every year for rental of the hall. If the school closed and the Council no longer contributed this amount, the hall would have to make drastic changes

- **Comments about impact on staff**

- Queries about the timescales and whether there would be sufficient time to give a full term's notice for teaching staff
- The teachers and support staff have done well managing so much uncertainty over so many years
- Acknowledgement that the administration, governance, leadership arrangements are more difficult in a small school because there are less staff

- **Comments about alternative schools**

- Queries about timescales for parents to find places in alternative schools as it would be outside the usual primary school admissions window, particularly for parents that choose to go to Shropshire.

- There are a number of other schools that are closer than Llanrhaeadr
 - Llanrhaeadr also has mixed age classes
 - Pupils are in mixed age classes of 15 here, whereas they would be in mixed age classes of 30 over in Llanrhaeadr, how can that be more beneficial to our pupils?
 - Don't think Llanrhaeadr run any after school activities at the moment.
 - If Llanrhaeadr moves along the language continuum to become Welsh medium, there would be no English medium or dual stream provision in this area for children.
 - We've asked for an idea of where pupils would go if the school closed. Most said they would go over the border.
 - If pupils go to Shropshire primary schools, they'll go to Shropshire secondary schools too.
- **Comments about Ysgol Bro Cynllaith being a smaller school**
 - Neurodiversity and ADHD and similar will get lost in a big school
 - As it's a small school, complexity can be managed
 - It's easier to work at 'stage not age' because it's a smaller school
 - There is a lot of research that supports the view that mixed age classes are beneficial for children.
 - Don't agree that bigger is better when it comes to education.
- **Comments about impact on pupils**
 - The process has brought uncertainty for the children.
 - Some children have had this uncertainty three times since they joined the school
 - Pupils have been in tears knowing you were coming in today.
- **Comments about extra curricular provision**
 - There's a lot of extra curricular provision here which pupils can access.
 - Pupils would be unable to access extra curricular provision in Llanrhaeadr because they'd be reliant on transport.
- **Alternative options**
 - Suggestion of 'classroom in the country' option
 - Classroom in the country would solve the issue of teachers being stretched, and would reduce costs.

- **Comments about the Welsh language**
 - Suggestion that Welsh-medium provision is introduced in the school

- **Comments about transport arrangements**
 - Queries about the arrangements re transport arrangements, and that parents would be unable to get hold of anyone and not able to get a decision on transport arrangements over the summer holidays
 - Concern about pupils having to travel for an hour on a school bus unsupervised, apart from the driver.
 - A bigger bus stop would be needed in the village to accommodate an increase in pupils travelling.

- **Comments about building condition**
 - Much of the information about the building is outdated – we've had a new roof, new LED lights since the last condition survey.
 - Disagree that the building is in 'poor' condition.

5. ESTYN

Estyn's response to the consultation is provided below:

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

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

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

Summary/ Conclusion

The proposal is to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith from the 31st of August 2025, with Powys based pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative school in Powys of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

It is Estyn's view that this proposal is likely to maintain the standard of education provision and outcomes for pupils in the area.

Description and benefits

The council has presented a suitable rationale outlining the reasons for the school closure. These reasons are named as low pupil numbers, currently, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith has 26 pupils, significantly below the 'small school' threshold of 91, with numbers not expected to increase soon. There is a high budget per pupil, the school's budget share per pupil is £8,000, much higher than the Powys primary school average of £4,799.78, ranking it 3rd highest in the county.

The council has provided a suitably detailed description of the proposal. It has presented a background to the proposal and included an estimated timetable for statutory procedures. The main advantages for the council are linked with reducing the costs associated with providing a school for low numbers of pupils, namely reducing the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools, generating revenue savings for the Council and eliminating the need to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building. The main advantages for the pupils are linked with attending a larger school, namely a school better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum, access to a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities, being able to access

education provision in Powys. The main disadvantages of the proposal for the council are associated with negative impacts on the wider community that losing educational provision may bring as well as impact on current staff and additional transport costs. The main disadvantages for the pupils are those linked to transferring to another school and the extra travel time this would create daily.

The council's proposal lists several options in addition to the status quo but considers in detail one alternative of closing Ysgol Bro Cynllaith with Powys based pupils to attend the nearest alternative schools in Powys which would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant. The exclusion of other options is appropriately considered within the proposal documentation. It is important to note here that the closest schools to Ysgol Bro Cynllaith are not necessarily in Wales and the council has considered suitably the potential outcomes for pupils who are not educated within the Welsh education system but who live in Wales. The proposals consider suitably any financial costs and any potential savings.

The proposal and its Impact Assessment consider suitably the risks associated with the proposals for the pupils and their community. The council presents suitable actions as mitigations against these risks.

The council has considered the impact of the changes on learner travel arrangements and accessibility of provision. The proposals state there would be free home to school transport provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy. The council acknowledges there would be additional time needed to travel to the new school and additional travel requirements for pupils to attend after-school events as well as for parents in order to access school activities / events.

In regard to future places at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, the council's proposal states the latest projected pupil numbers suggest that pupil numbers are not expected to increase significantly over the coming years.

Within its Impact Assessment document, the council has taken some appropriate account of the impact of the proposals on Welsh medium provision within the local authority and the extent to which the proposal would support the targets in the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). The council acknowledges that Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is an English-medium school and the proposal would be for pupils to transfer to their nearest school in Powys, which for most pupils would be Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, a dual-stream school. In its risk assessment document, the council acknowledges that should pupils choose to transfer to Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant's English-medium stream, it would increase the proportion of pupils at this school taught through the medium of English, which could impact the school's Welsh language ethos. However, the document states the Council's long-term plan is to support Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-

ym-Mochnant to move along the language continuum eventually becoming a Welsh-medium school. The Impact Assessment document does not consider closely enough the long-term implications of pupils being educated within a single language stream system.

The local authority has provided a Welsh Language Impact Assessment and a Community Impact Assessment integrated as part of its impact assessment for this proposal.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The council appears to have considered the quality of outcomes, provision, leadership and management at the school. They have included the outcomes of the last Estyn inspection report for Ysgol Llanrhaedr-ym-Mochnant in June 2022 and Ysgol Bro Cynllaith in December 2023 appropriately.

It has included the impact of the proposal on quality and standards in education including separate sections on standards in outcomes, provision and leadership and management.

Whilst considerations in most sections appear to be reasonable, the sections on the Impact on vulnerable groups, including children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Standards of outcomes for learners are too generic and do not focus specifically enough on support required for those learners who have a LA IDP, such as how the needs of this group of learners could be met when transferring to a different setting.

The council has undertaken an impact equality assessment to consider the impact of the proposal on the protected characteristics. As a result of this assessment, it has been concluded that the proposal is unlikely to have any impact on the protected characteristics. With regards to additional learning needs (ALN), the council states that as the proposal includes moving to a larger school there is no reason to believe that the alternative school would not be equipped to meet the needs of pupils belonging to the protected characteristics group that would be affected, including with ALN. This appears to be appropriate but would benefit from further detail to ensure the needs of pupils can be met.

6. ISSUES RAISED DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD

The following tables list the issues raised during the consultation period and provide the local authority's response to these issues:

1. COMMENTS ABOUT THE SCHOOL

1.1 General positive comments about the school

Ref	Comment	Council Response
1.1.1	I chose this school for my child due to the history of our family's attendance, the influence of Welsh speaking for my child and the option of a smaller school due to the emotional needs of my child.	The Council notes these positive comments about the provision at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.
1.1.2	The school is friendly and warm and to date is one of the nicest schools I have been to.	As above.
1.1.3	The school not only provides a great education but it's tailored to each child's needs. Children mix with all ages so are kind and considerate to all.	As above.
1.1.4	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is a lovely village school and a real asset to Llansillin.	As above.
1.1.5	Learning to live thoughtfully and kindly with each other is at the heart of the school's ethos and daily experience.	As above.
1.1.6	All the children are united with a common sense of belonging.	As above.
1.1.7	In the short time I have known the school I have found it to be a caring and attentive environment with great community spirit, they encourage and praise pupils in every aspect of their learning and my child always comes home smiling and happy with his day.	As above.
1.1.8	The school provides a close-knit community for both children and parents.	As above.

1.1.9	The school is extremely well regarded and has provided a bedrock of solid education over generations.	As above.
1.1.10	Pupils at the school benefit from the nurturing and community atmosphere that it creates.	As above.
1.1.11	All the children who attend the school are happy and in a great learning environment, right on their doorstep.	As above.
1.1.12	We may be a small school but we are solid and happy and by the time children move on to high school, they are confident, well rounded young people with a good foundation beneath them.	As above.
1.1.13	Llansilin Primary school provides an environment where children can thrive and develop their interests in a peaceful and supportive atmosphere.	As above.
1.1.14	There is a consensus that the teaching at the school has been and continues to be excellent.	As above.
1.1.15	Although the school has always had to juggle things budget wise, we have always managed to get there – we are coping.	Comment noted.

1.2 Ability to deliver the new Curriculum for Wales

Ref	Comment	Council Response
1.2.1	The new Curriculum for Wales is being successfully delivered – see the school’s Estyn Report.	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith were inspected by Estyn in December 2023. The outcome of the inspection was that the school were placed in Estyn Review. This means the school have some significant areas that need to be addressed and will be monitored by Estyn and the local authority.

		<p>The school have 4 recommendations to address and two of these are directly related to teaching and learning. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the standards of pupils' writing across the school • Provide appropriate challenge and regular opportunities for pupils to develop their independent learning skills <p>Estyn commented that as pupils 'move through the school, most pupils, including those with ALN, make sound progress in their literacy and numeracy skills.'</p> <p>They also stated the following:</p> <p>'However, teachers do not always plan effectively enough to ensure regular and cohesive opportunities for pupils to develop their extended writing skills progressively. The consistent use of worksheets and the over-direction of teaching at times hinder pupils to develop their independent learning skills. As a result, a minority of pupils do not make the progress they are capable of, especially in their writing skills.</p> <p>Teachers organise their classrooms well to create an effective environment and a positive ethos for learning. Most use resources effectively to support pupils' learning. However, teachers do not provide enough opportunities for pupils to develop their independent learning skills consistently, especially in the extensive outside areas throughout the year.'</p>
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		They also stated that, 'In response to curriculum reform, the school is working suitably towards a purposeful curriculum that matches the principles of the Curriculum for Wales.'
1.2.2	There are challenges that a small school presents with a heavy workload on staff to be able to have oversight of all the curriculum areas, however with the cluster-working and strong leadership, as highlighted in the recent Estyn report, "Work to develop the Curriculum for Wales alongside local schools is thorough and systematic." And "In response to curriculum reform, the school is working suitably towards a purposeful curriculum that matches the principles of the Curriculum for Wales," the curriculum for Wales is being well delivered in Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.	There are significant challenges for a two-teacher school to deliver the curriculum, especially around workload for the teachers. The school has worked successfully as part of their cluster to develop planning for the new curriculum. However, the workload to deliver the curriculum, attend cluster meetings around curriculum planning, delivery, monitoring and assessment still rests with those members of staff. Estyn use the term 'suitably' to describe the implementation of the curriculum but do not use the term 'delivered well'.
1.2.3	While it is clear that the numbers at the school are lower than the Welsh Government ideal, it is not impossible to deliver good-quality education through whole key stage classes.	The point made is correct. It is not impossible however it is challenging to deliver the new curriculum within whole key stage classes.

1.3 Comments about extra-curricular provision at the school

Ref	Comment	Council Response
1.3.1	At Ysgol Bro Cynllaith in the last year, pupils in the school have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had weekly swimming lessons for the entire year, • Lifeline at Park Hall (year 6s), • Participated in Treasure Hunt at Llanfyllin Open Evening, 	The Council notes these comments about the extra-curricular activities available to pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football / Netball tournament Llanrhaeadr, • Harvest Festival in Hall with donations for food bank, • Children were filmed singing the Urdd Jambori song – televised, • Went to the Christmas Panto in Shrewsbury, • Took part in Musical Monday with Toots (musical instruments) – culminating in a concert in December, • Mrs Eyres class visited by Stay and Play group, • All took part in our Christmas play, • Mrs Eyres class litter pick (December), • Took part in a Boudicca The Warrior Queen production in the Hall, • Made bird boxes again (January), • Baked Welsh Cakes for the Over 60s group having bought ingredients from community shop and from Eirian Glennie’s shop, • Park Hall trip, • Took part in Red Nose Day, • Most attended the After School Club Easter Bingo, • Baked Easter Cakes, • Most attended the village Duck Race, • British Ironworks trip (May), • Baked cakes for the Hope House fundraising sale, • Won 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Arts and Crafts entries for the Meifod Eisteddfod, • Foundation class took part in Pennant funday football tournament, • Harvested their produce from the garden and tasted, • Had singing lessons with Aled Phillips (John’s Boys) and sang at the Leaver’s Service (July 24), 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross County running at Llanfyllin • 	
1.3.2	<p>Pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith also have access to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After School Club (twice a week), • Breakfast Club (daily), • Dragon Sports, • Table Tennis lessons after school, • Music Lessons, • Eco-Club – Gardening, • Dance Club – pupil run, • Drama Club – pupil run, • Tennis, • Criw Cymraeg – Welsh Games, • 5-a-Side Football, • Film Club, • Code Club, • ICT Club, • Craft Club, • Cooking, • Welly Wednesday when the children get to explore the local environment and learn about nature • 	<p>The Council notes these comments about the wraparound / extra-curricular activities available to pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p>
1.3.3	<p>You will surely have seen the extensive list of activities / clubs etc from our community impact questionnaire. Do you REALLY believe the children at Bro Cynllaith are disadvantaged somehow?</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments about the extra-curricular activities available to pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p>

1.3.4	There is a weekly table-tennis after-school club run for free by a local member of the community.	The Council notes these comments about the extra-curricular activities available to pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.
1.3.5	Despite being a small school I always felt that we had so many opportunities to do things, and when doing our singing or school performances we believed that they were very professional and to a high standard.	The Council notes these comments about the extra-curricular activities available to pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.
1.3.6	Our breakfast club is extremely well attended and its obvious that it provides a much needed commodity for our working parents. We have on average 9 children a day – the most we have had is 17 and the least 7.	The Council notes these comments about the breakfast club at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

1.4 Comments about pupil numbers / capacity

Ref	Comment	Council Response
1.4.1	It is not correct that the school has declining pupil numbers. Llansilin is a thriving, growing village with huge future potential.	<p>Historical pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith were included in the Consultation Document. These do not indicate that pupil numbers have increased. Pupil numbers over the last 5 years have been as follows:</p> <p>Jan 2020: 26 Jan 2021: 26 Jan 2022: 23 Jan 2023: 27 Jan 2024: 25</p> <p>This does not indicate that there has been any significant change in pupil numbers in the area in recent years. In addition, the Council's latest projected pupil numbers for the school do not indicate that any significant increase is expected in pupil numbers in the coming years.</p>

		Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the smallest school in Powys, and has the highest cost per pupil of Powys schools.
1.4.2	Whilst it is a sad fact for our schools sector that many of our constituency's villages are witnessing an overall reduction in the school-age population, Llansilin – in many ways – bucks this trend.	As above.
1.4.3	It is not a declining school, as some are in the area – but rather is a small school serving a specific pocket of population.	As above.
1.4.4	There is no denying that the school is a small school. But the numbers have remained fairly consistent and current projections suggest this will continue.	As above.
1.4.5	The school maintains steady pupil numbers, with projections suggesting an increase to around 40 students in the next five years, challenging the council's rationale for closure based on declining enrolment the consultation proposal does not seem to take into consideration the fact that several new young families with toddlers have recently moved into a new housing estate directly opposite the school.	As above.
1.4.6	The potential for new pupils has not been considered (8 exist within the cul de sac I live in, in Llansilin)	As above.
1.4.7	There are enough children in the catchment area to have a vibrant, thriving school again.	As above.
1.4.8	There is a large number of young children in the area that will wish to use the school in the next couple of years, as shown in the Llansilin stay and play group.	As above.
1.4.9	We have had phone calls from parents who are well aware that we are under threat, but who are still prepared to put their children's names down for Bro Cynllaith because they	As above.

	want their child to have a small rural school experience. If we were to close, I wouldn't know where these parents would then decide to send their children. As of today (14.11.24) we have two sitting in admissions on Teacher Centre and there are another two we know of who will be applying for a place in September 2025.	
1.4.10	In September 2026/2027 there will be 8 children who will be looking to start with us. That I believe is the maximum we can accept in a year group. Numbers are not declining.	<p>Comment noted. It is correct that the school's PAN number is 8, therefore this is the maximum number of pupils that would be admitted to the school in each year group.</p> <p>Historical pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith show that pupil numbers at the school have been fairly stable over the last few years, however there has been no significant increase in pupil numbers. Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the smallest school in Powys, and has the highest cost per pupil of Powys schools.</p>
1.4.11	A recent informal survey of these families suggested that 19 children would be enrolling at the school in the next five years, eight for 2026 alone which is our maximum capacity.	As above.
1.4.12	Figures gathered from the stay-n-play suggest that the projected numbers of pupils at the school could be in the 40's within five years.	As above.
1.4.13	The reason the school has become smaller is because many parents who wish their children to have a Welsh medium education have to send them elsewhere.	The Council notes these comments, and acknowledges that the nearest provider of Welsh-medium education for pupils in the Llansilin area is Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, that a number of pupils from the area already attend this school in order to access Welsh-medium education, and that this will have impacted on pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.
1.4.14	A lack of Welsh provision has put some people off sending their children to the school.	As above.

1.4.15	Parents drive their children past Llansilin for bilingual education.	As above.
1.4.16	A minibus of children in the area are taken to the Welsh stream in Llanrhaeadr every day.	As above.
1.4.17	The numbers are low because the education authority does not allow the school to serve its community.	As above.
1.4.18	The recent decline in pupil numbers is due to a combination of factors such as uncertainty over the school's future and this issue of Welsh language, rather than to a declining population or declining potential demand.	As above.
1.4.19	After a proposal many years ago to close the school when my children attended the school shortly after an additional classroom was added due to numbers increasing.	Comment noted, however Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the smallest school in Powys, and has the highest cost per pupil of Powys schools.

1.5 Comments about the use of Welsh at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith

Ref	Comment	Council Response
1.5.1	Welsh is used a lot in Llansilin school.	The Council notes these positive comments about the use of Welsh at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.
1.5.2	Currently the children are exposed to a large amount of Welsh in the school, even though it is an English-medium primary.	As above.
1.5.3	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, while an English-medium school, provides significant Welsh language education and has been recognised for its achievements in the Cymraeg Campus Silver Award and the Siarter Iaith Gold Award.	As above.
1.5.4	Bro Cynllaith have achieved their Cymraeg Campus Gwobr Efydd and Gwobr Arian and are currently working towards their Cymraeg Campus Gwobr Aur.	As above.
1.5.5	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith's latest Estyn report (Dec 2023) showed that 0% of the children spoke Welsh at home and yet,	As above.

	“Nearly all pupils make strong progress in developing their use of spoken Welsh and show great enjoyment in learning and using the language. The younger pupils often use Welsh in their daily routines, including singing songs and rhymes, and quickly become familiar with a good range of words and phrases. Most older pupils use a sound range of words and sentence patterns in Welsh to discuss various topics.”	
1.5.6	Anecdotally, the level of Welsh language of those transitioning from Ysgol Bro Cynllaith to year 7 at Ysgol Llanfyllin has always been very well regarded.	As above.
1.5.7	The present format of English medium with Welsh lessons is ideal for such a borderland community where many families are not Welsh speaking.	As above.
1.5.8	Many parents chose Ysgol Bro Cynllaith precisely because we like the balance of the English and Welsh language within the school.	As above.
1.5.9	For many moving to the area the school provides the awareness that the Welsh language exists let alone be used.	As above.
1.5.10	There is little Welsh teaching in the school.	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is an English-medium school, therefore the expectation is that English would be the main language used for teaching in the school. Welsh-medium education is available in the area at Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant and Ysgol Llanfyllin, both of which are dual stream schools, and Ysgol Pennant, which is a Welsh-medium school.
1.5.11	Children who go to Ysgol Bro Cynllaith don't have the opportunity to be bilingual despite the depth of research that is best for the brain.	As above.

1.5.12	Welsh over the years has been treated much less favourably than English at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.	As above.
1.5.13	The Vale of Llansilin is a Welsh-speaking area with a strong community but the school undermines this, forcing parents to choose between community and language, when it is both are intertwined and so important.	As above.
1.5.14	The lack of Welsh-medium education at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith has contributed enormously to the demise of the Welsh language in the area.	As above.
1.5.15	The lack of Welsh-medium education at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith has split the children of the area, and has meant that children don't know their neighbours.	As above. The Council acknowledges that currently, pupils in Llansilin that access Welsh-medium and English-medium education attend different schools, which may mean that children that attend different schools don't know each other.
1.5.16	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is artificially small because of its historical approach to Welsh.	As above. It is acknowledged that a number of pupils from the Llansilin area attend other nearby schools such as Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant to access Welsh-medium education, and that this has impacted on pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.
1.5.17	If Ysgol Bro Cynllaith was a Welsh-medium school, would we have been left alone?	The Council has a duty to review all school provision, regardless of language category. Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the smallest school in Powys, so it is likely that the school would still have been reviewed if it was a Welsh-medium school, had pupil numbers been the same.

1.6 Comments about support for ALN pupils

Ref	Comment	Council Response
1.6.1	I interacted with some ALN children in Bro Cynllaith who really benefitted from the smaller school community where they were properly supported in small classes with pupils and teachers who understood them.	<p>Whilst working in smaller groups has its place as part of a holistic plan in supporting learners with Additional Learning Needs, smaller class sizes are not the only factor in providing effective support for ALN children. This would also include:</p> <p>Quality of Support:</p> <p>The quality of support provided by teachers and support staff is crucial. Well-trained and experienced educators can effectively manage larger classes while still providing individualised attention and support to learners with ALN. The Council’s strategy focuses on enhancing the capacity of mainstream schools through comprehensive training and resources to ensure that all staff members are equipped to support ALN students effectively.</p> <p>Resource Allocation:</p> <p>Smaller class sizes require more resources, including additional teachers and classroom space. This can lead to challenges in resource allocation and may not be feasible for all schools. By focusing on improving the overall quality of support and providing targeted interventions, we can ensure that resources are used efficiently to benefit all learners.</p> <p>Social Integration:</p>

		<p>Larger class sizes can provide opportunities for social integration and peer interactions, which are important for the social and emotional development of children. Being part of a diverse and inclusive classroom environment can help ALN learners develop social skills and build relationships with their peers.</p> <p>Equity of Access:</p> <p>Ensuring equitable access to high-quality education for all learners is a priority. Smaller class sizes in certain schools may lead to disparities in the level of support available to learners in different areas. Our strategy aims to provide consistent and equitable support across all schools, regardless of their size or location.</p> <p>Specialist Provision:</p> <p>For learners with more complex needs, specialist provision and targeted interventions are essential. Our strategy includes the utilisation of specialist provision to provide high-quality support for learners with the most complex needs. This ensures that all learners receive the appropriate level of support based on their individual needs. We are committed to creating an inclusive education system where every child can succeed, regardless of class size. By focusing on the quality of support, resource allocation, social integration, equity of access, and specialist provision, we aim to provide a comprehensive and effective approach to supporting all ALN learners.</p>
1.6.2	This small school has the ability to recognise when a child needs extra support due to things like dyslexia, anxiety and	As above.

	any other mental health issues that arise, whereas a large school can not identify such issues within a large class of pupils, so pupils may not get the support they need.	
1.6.3	The school has done remarkable work with my child whose progress has gone beyond my expectations due to late development in the early years.	As above.
1.6.4	They have supported my child using techniques and understanding as my child is under review with different agencies due to his late development and sensory issues.	As above.
1.6.5	My child struggled socially within nursery attendance due to missing a lot through covid, and has only just built up the confidence and self-esteem to be able to emotionally go to school independently. This is all down to the impact this school and the teaching staff have on the children of Llansillin.	As above.
1.6.6	Children receive more individualised attention in a small school like Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. This is particularly important for children with any kind of additional needs, including ADHD and forms of autism.	As above.
1.6.7	The staff know the children and their families. At a recent public meeting, two families with children with special educational needs who had recently moved into the area described how the school had transformed their children's education. This was partly because of its small size. Small mixed age classes can be hugely beneficial in this respect.	As above.
1.6.8	It is easier to identify potential problems with a child. Time and again we have picked up on a whole range of issues with some of the children, virtually from the first week they are with us. By the time they reach high school their support is already in place. This was voiced by at least 3 parents at a recent public meeting regarding the potential school closure.	As above.

1.7 Comments about the experiences of past pupils

Ref	Comment	Council Response
1.7.1	I came out having formed strong bonds, and I felt when I experienced high school I was more than prepared for any of the challenges, and I definitely felt further ahead than many other students that had moved up from different years.	The Council notes these comments about the experiences of pupils that previously attended Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.
1.7.2	How blessed I was to be educated in my home village school. Likewise how blessed to be at a school which was an integral part of the village!	As above.
1.7.3	What a shame it would be to close this school when past pupils were straight A students and managed to go to the top Universities in the country.	As above.
1.7.4	The school enables our children to continue to achieve their full potential and get fantastic GCSE results when they progress to high school, just like children who have attended Ysgol Bro Cynllaith did this year.	As above.
1.7.5	As a former student I felt the education I received was incredible.	As above.
1.7.6	Because of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith being a small school with caring teachers we were given the opportunity to be a very academic year (with the roots coming from primary school), so much so a lot of us would be gifted and talented with today's provision.	As above.
1.7.7	Our two daughters both attended Ysgol Bro Cynllaith and received a good and lasting educational experience.	As above.
1.7.8	My own children went to this school and received a great education and start in life as well as feeling a sense of community	As above.

1.7.9	Both our children attended the school and we all feel they had a very good and well-rounded education. They found it very positive to be in classes with different ages – learning together and feeling it was normal to help other children, an essential part of community.	As above.
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1.8 Comments about the quality of provision at the school

Ref	Comment	Council Response
1.8.1	First there is the quality of education offered by Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. There is a consensus that the teaching has been and continues to be excellent.	<p>Ysgol Bro Cynllaith were inspected by Estyn in December 2023. The outcome of the inspection was that the school were placed in Estyn Review. This means the school have some significant areas that need to be addressed and will be monitored by Estyn and the local authority.</p> <p>The school have 4 recommendations to address and two of these are directly related to teaching and learning. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the standards of pupils’ writing across the school • Provide appropriate challenge and regular opportunities for pupils to develop their independent learning skills <p>Estyn commented that as pupils ‘move through the school, most pupils, including those with ALN, make sound progress in their literacy and numeracy skills.’</p> <p>They also stated the following:</p>

		<p>'However, teachers do not always plan effectively enough to ensure regular and cohesive opportunities for pupils to develop their extended writing skills progressively. The consistent use of worksheets and the over-direction of teaching at times hinder pupils to develop their independent learning skills. As a result, a minority of pupils do not make the progress they are capable of, especially in their writing skills.</p> <p>Teachers organise their classrooms well to create an effective environment and a positive ethos for learning. Most use resources effectively to support pupils' learning. However, teachers do not provide enough opportunities for pupils to develop their independent learning skills consistently, especially in the extensive outside areas throughout the year.'</p> <p>They also stated that, 'In response to curriculum reform, the school is working suitably towards a purposeful curriculum that matches the principles of the Curriculum for Wales.'</p> <p>Estyn's response to the consultation is included in this consultation report. This response states that:</p> <p>'It is Estyn's view that this proposal is likely to maintain the standard of education provision and outcomes for pupils in the area.'</p>
1.8.2	The paper suggests that with the school closing, 'pupils would attend a larger school which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum'. I would like to see the evidence that bigger is automatically better. For	As above.

	<p>sure, there are challenges that a small school presents with a heavy workload on staff to be able to have oversight of all the curriculum areas, however with the cluster-working and strong leadership, as highlighted in the recent Estyn report, “Work to develop the Curriculum for Wales alongside local schools is thorough and systematic.” 3 And “In response to curriculum reform, the school is working suitably towards a purposeful curriculum that matches the principles of the Curriculum for Wales,” the curriculum for Wales is being well delivered in Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p>	
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1.9 Comments about the school being a small school

Ref	Comment	Council Response
1.9.1	<p>Many parents chose for their children to attend Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, not only because it was on their doorstep but also for the size of the school.</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments about Ysgol Bro Cynllaith being a small school and the perceived benefits of pupils attending small schools. However, as stated in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, the Council faces a challenge due to the high proportion of small schools in the county and the lack of equity amongst schools.</p> <p>Ysgol Bro Cynllaith has 26 pupils, and is currently the smallest school in Powys. With such low pupil numbers, the teacher-pupil ratio is notably different to other schools in the area, and due to the Council’s funding formula, the school’s funding per pupil is higher than the Council’s average. This does not provide equity across the education – teachers in larger schools are required to provide the same education as smaller schools for less funding per pupil. The Council’s</p>

		Strategy is intended to improve equity across the education system.
1.9.2	That family feel, where everyone knows everyone and helps each other is just not the same in a big central school.	As above.
1.9.3	We moved to the area to use a smaller local school as the education was excellent and it creates fantastic community feel.	As above.
1.9.4	The best thing about the school is how small it is.	As above.
1.9.5	The school knows every family and can therefore offer pastoral care and support.	As above.
1.9.6	Children thrive in small schools – the latest Estyn report is very favourable to school. Attendance figures for Llansilin children are outstanding.	As above.
1.9.7	The school isn't over run with students and staff and intimidating as some other schools with over 30 pupils in each class therefore All students have a better chance for learning as some may feel intimidated asking for help if there is a large amount of pupils in their class.	As above.
1.9.8	Many pupils benefit from the small class sizes, whereas in a large school with large classes they would be unable to learn as effectively and therefore, unable to reach their full potential.	As above.
1.9.10	Because of the small class sizes, everyone gets the opportunity for all of the extra curricular events and better individual support to achieve their full potential. This is a main selling point that the private sector is really winning over pupils from state education, even when the parents can't really afford it.	As above.
1.9.11	With reference to educational quality, it could be argued that the smaller class sizes and mixed-age learning environments at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith provide educational benefits that the larger school may not offer, there is	As above.

	previous research that can be cited which supports the advantages of small schools.	
1.9.12	I would like to highlight the added values of learning in a mixed-age class setting as seen at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.	As above.
1.9.13	The current working practise does not allow for much flexibility of contingencies for anything unplanned such as staff going on long term sick. Whilst there is staff absence insurance for the two teaching staff, there would be a detrimental impact on the teaching quality and consistency.	The Council fully acknowledges these challenges relating to staffing, which are common to all small schools.

1.10 Comments about the school buildings / grounds

Ref	Comment	Council Response
1.10.1	With reference to the current building condition and investments, contrary to the council's assessment, significant investments have been made in the school's infrastructure, including new windows, roofing, and a safety system, improving the building's condition.	<p>Comment noted. The Building Condition information that was provided in the Consultation Document was based on the latest information available to the Council, however it is acknowledged that this was information from a survey carried out a number of years ago.</p> <p>The Council has recently commissioned updated condition assessments of all Powys schools, and has now received the report following the recent condition assessment of the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building. This provides an overall condition assessment of B. However, the updated assessment does still identify an estimated £127,456 of backlog maintenance costs.</p> <p>Whilst this indicates that the condition of the building is better than the condition rating provided in the consultation document, the condition of the building wasn't one of the challenges identified in respect of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p>

<p>1.10.2</p>	<p>I would question the ‘Poor’ ‘C’ rating as to condition of Bro Cynllaith building. As I understand it, the information contained within the report is eight years out of date! There has been extensive works carried out within the last 8 years which obviously can’t have been taken into account, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New roof over both classrooms and office – 2019 • New lighting – 2019 • New carpet tiles – 2019 • New boiler/heating system – 2018 • New flat roof over staff room and replacement ceiling – 2021 • Total replacement of water pipes from road up to school boiler room – between 2018 and 2021 • Resurfacing of driveway – 2021 • Astro turf to panda area so children have all weather area to play – 2022 • New door fob safety system – 2024 • Security fencing expected – 2024 	<p>As above.</p>
<p>1.10.3</p>	<p>Since the survey that drives this classification was carried out, there has been significant investment in developing the school building including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New windows and blinds – Circa 2015/16, • Foundation phase windows replaced – 2016, • New roof over both classrooms and office – 2019, • New lighting – 2019, • New carpet tiles – 2019, • New boiler system – 2018, 	<p>As above.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New flat roof over staff room and replacement ceiling (due to leak) – 2021, • Total replacement of water pipes from road up to the school boiler room – between 2018 and 2021, • Resurfacing of driveway 2021, • Astroturf to Panda outdoor area so children have an all weather area to play – 2022, • Touch screen whiteboards installed – 2022, • New door fob safety system – 2024 	
1.10.4	The paper suggests that the building condition of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is C - poor. This however is based on data that is eight years old.	As above.
1.10.5	I had also read somewhere in the papers that there is a maintenance backlog of around £153,000. Although we have asked, we have never been told what this is for. I would ask that we could have sight of what is on the maintenance backlog. Powys cannot make statements like this and then not back them up.	As above.
1.10.6	Most recently, following Estyn's safeguarding concerns raised, the council have committed to installing necessary security fencing – further adding to the quality of the school grounds and providing a truly available outdoor space for independent learning.	Comment noted.

1.11 Comments about the school's location

Ref	Comment	Council Response
1.11.1	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith covers an area very close to the Welsh/English border.	The Council notes these comments about Ysgol Bro Cynllaith's location, and in particular its proximity to the border with England.

1.11.2	This school is an essential part of the community providing English led education in the most northerly tip of Powys.	As above.
1.11.3	This one is on the border.	As above.
1.11.4	Our local town is Oswestry never mind that it's in England.	As above.
1.11.5	The significance of the placement of the school really cannot be emphasised enough. The school is within a stonethrow of the border with Shropshire and indeed, the nearest town for shopping, leisure and work is over the border in Oswestry.	As above.
1.11.6	The school is one of the few schools in Powys near to the English Border and it supports a bilingual community.	As above.
1.11.7	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is in a unique position geographically, a great distance from other schools.	The Council notes these comments about Ysgol Bro Cynllaith's location, and the distance between the school and other schools. Whilst it is true that the school is in a very rural location, there are a number of schools within 10 miles of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, including schools in Powys and over the border.
1.11.8	It is not near alternative Powys schools.	As above.

1.12 Everyone is friends at the school

Ref	Comment	Council Response
1.12.1	Friendships made between these children will last a lifetime and set them up well to manage rural living in the future with a great support network around them.	Comment noted.
1.12.2	The school is an important parameter for children's networks. Children play with other children from the same school. Children who have friends at a greater distance from their home spend less time where they live. Children link social relations to places where they spend time. This is another reason why our village school is a hub.	Comment noted.

1.12.3	Children will form relationships with people in their class not necessarily with people from their village. In this way children will become less connected to the village, more to a specific age group at school.	Comment noted.
1.12.4	The majority of the children who attend Llansilin school also play out of school and they all have a strong friendship and bond not only with the children but also the families.	Comment noted.
1.12.5	The community is what it is today because of the friendships that started at Llansilin school!	Comment noted.
1.12.6	If they go to school locally, their friends will live locally, then the whole community is strengthened by these friendships and the support that families give to each other.	Comment noted.

1.13 Links between the school and the community

Ref	Comment	Council Response
1.13.1	There have always been significant ties with the local community and this has been listed extensively in the impact assessment carried out by Powys CC.	The Council notes these comments about the school's links with the community.
1.13.2	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith has strong links within the community, including with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Shop – the children take it in turns to help out in the shop on Tuesday's with pricing, sorting, serving customers etc. This is such a lovely thing for the children and the people who use the shop. A good 'coming together' of all ages, mixing the pupils with the mostly elderly customers; • St Silin's Church – we have frequent visits from Reverend Norman who comes to do assemblies with the children. We also are able to use the church for 	As above.

	<p>Harvest Festivals and Christmas nativities. We also, where possible, submit entries into the August bank holiday show weekend. There is also a lot of history surrounding St Silin's. We have a very strong bond with the church and always have done;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wynnstay Inn – The children spend a great deal of time at events in the pub. Currently the After School Club run numerous fundraisers including a very popular Halloween night where they have a party with games and prizes for fancy dress etc. This is mutually beneficial to both club and pub. There is also a very popular Santa Hunt on Christmas Eve which brings the whole village together – the pub supplies food and the organisers supply a present for each child in the village. Several of the school children also opt to have their birthday parties in the pub, a great plus for the Wynnstay. 	
1.13.3	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith does and always has fostered strong community ties, with pupils participating in local activities like visiting the community shop and litter picking, which contribute to their social and educational development.	As above.
1.13.4	The school has always been very active in the community, the church, the village hall, the residents and more recently the community shop.	As above.
1.13.5	From the perspective of village life, we have been astounded at extent and variety and welcome of Llansilin community life, with the school intrinsically at its heart. We have attended and enjoyed countless events and activities arranged by the school, which have the ability to bring together all generations and outlooks (unlike the church or pub activities) in support and celebration of the joy of youth,	As above.

	educational development, the natural rhythms life, and inter-generational understanding.	
1.13.6	In relation to the links that the school has to the community, they go so much deeper than perhaps Powys realise.	As above.
1.13.7	One of the main reasons for the school's success is the close connection it has with the village this is partly because of personal ties but also because the school makes good use of local facilities such as the village hall next door, the garden and field, the church, which in turn help keep these facilities viable for the wider community. It is easy for children to attend pre and after school activities on the school site and in these other places, because most of the children live within walking distance. This is a precious boon.	As above.
1.13.8	Community help with the maintenance and up keep of the school to help cut cost.	As above.
1.13.9	I have continued contact with YBC as a volunteer on Wednesday mornings, listening to the children read.	As above.
1.13.10	There are four people from Llansilin who come to Bro Cynllaith to offer their help voluntarily with reading and with table tennis sessions. Three of these are parents of past pupils.	As above.
1.13.11	Various local individuals volunteer their time weekly to listen to children read, others to maintain the school grounds and the children even get to enjoy visits from a local artist.	As above.
1.13.12	As parent I was able to engage at the school gates with other parents/carers and teachers and volunteer to listen to pupils reading.	As above.
1.13.13	The community are heavily involved so there is a real and proper village feel – they say it takes a village to raise a child.	As above.
1.13.14	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith provides important employment and volunteering opportunities for members of the community	As above.

	including those with no access to private transport and contending with our minimal public transport provision.	
1.13.15	School events and activities help people moving to the area to settle quickly.	As above.
1.13.16	Pupils from the school routinely litter pick around the village and recently ran a successful poster campaign to help highlight the need for people to clear up after their dogs.	The Council notes these comments about Ysgol Bro Cynllaith pupils and their contribution to the local community.
1.13.17	The children helped in the local community and I could see the benefits of this after the school day had ended when I would see them playing in the parks or fields talking to members of the community from all generations.	As above.
1.13.18	At present the children are able to visit the local community shop to help price, sort goods, clean, check stock and ring orders through the till. This kind of hands-on mathematical learning is invaluable, aside from the social and community aspects it brings.	As above.
1.13.19	Last year, children from the infants class made musical instruments and hosted a morning for the stay-and-play to come and sing some Welsh songs in the school.	As above.
1.13.20	The school regularly uses the adjoining village hall which ensures the viability of that facility, as already mentioned.	The Council notes these comments about school use of the adjoining village hall.
1.13.21	The school uses the local village hall for lunch times, sports, concerts and community events.	As above.
1.13.22	I don't think I need to go into the liaison with the Memorial Hall as you will already be aware of this strong link and the future consequences if we were to close. This is a massive issue and should not be ignored.	As above.
1.13.23	The ties the school has to the village hall strongly knits this ancient and historic community together in a time when rural communities are being emasculated by council cuts and big changes.	As above.

1.14 Reference to pupils that have transferred to the school from other schools

Ref	Comment	Council Response
1.14.1	We came from an urban environment with a large primary and moving to a small one ours have flourished.	The Council notes these comments about the positive experiences of pupils who have transferred to Ysgol Bro Cynllaith from other schools.
1.14.2	Our children have come from a mainstream school of over 300 children and are far happier where they are now. Their whole attitude and quality of / to learning has changed for the better.	As above.
1.14.3	One constituent cited how their family relocated to the village from a city. This constituent has praised the school and the positive effect it has had on their children: 'Their whole attitude to learning has changed, they enjoy school now and are excited to learn new things! They look forward to school everyday and have made some lovely friendships.'	As above.

1.15 The school is the closest school for almost all pupils

Ref	Comment	Council Response
1.15.1	All children attending Llansilin are in catchment.	The Council notes these comments, and acknowledges that the pupils attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith are predominantly from within the school's catchment area, and that this means that many pupils are able to walk to school.
1.15.2	Many of the current pupils are from the local community.	As above.
1.15.3	Note also that 100% of the pupils in Bro Cynllaith live in the Llansilin catchment area. This is virtually unique I believe.	As above.
1.15.3	Nearly all the children live locally and can walk to school.	As above.
1.15.4	Most Llansilin children can walk to school saving lengthy and costly transport.	As above.

1.15.5	The majority of the pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith currently walk to school which, aside from the green-credentials (the School currently holds a Platinum Eco Award), it also fosters a very strong affinity for the pupils with their local environment and the community – a strong aspect of the new Welsh Curriculum.	As above.
1.15.6	12 out of 25 walk or bike to school (48%), 8 out of 25 use school transport 2 x mini buses (32%), 5 out of 25 are driven to school (3 cars) (20%)	As above.
1.15.7	Do not close the school let young learners go to a school that they can walk to where their friends live in the same village	As above.
1.15.8	No where else could we live in such beautiful countryside and still be able to walk our children to school.	As above.
1.15.9	Parents can drop them off and collect them before and after work in a way that would not be possible if the children were bussed to Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant or Oswestry.	The Council acknowledges that given that pupils attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith predominantly live within the school's catchment area, the school is convenient for pupils and their families.
1.15.10	Having a local school means that parents can be involved, can be on-hand if needed to intervene, or available if there is an issue. This is important for the stability of children.	As above.

2. IMPACT ON PUPILS

2.1 Concern about access to extra-curricular provision

Ref	Comment	Council Response
2.1.1	The children in the school currently have access to breakfast club, after school clubs and a whole host of extra-curricular activity during the day. If the school were to close, they would no longer be able to access these due to the travel	The Council notes these comments about the extra-curricular / wraparound provision currently available to pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, and notes that it is easier for pupils to access this provision as the school is near

	distance. This would also impact parents being able to work as they wouldn't be able to make use of wraparound care.	to their homes and they are not reliant on home to school transport. The nearest alternative Powys school is Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, which serves a large rural area, and whilst pupils would need to travel to school, the school is already the provider of Welsh-medium education for pupils from the Llansilin area, so has experience of meeting the needs of pupils from this area who are reliant on home to school transport.
2.1.2	Due to being reliant on the bus to get to and from school, these children would then not be able to access any extra-curricular clubs in a new setting because they would not be able to stay after school.	As above.
2.1.3	Pupils pursuing their education in alternative schools will have much reduced opportunities to engage in after-school activities, as these will be significantly affected by the need to comply with school transport pick-up times.	As above.
2.1.4	It has been stated that pupils would benefit from having a vaster range of facilities/activities. The children at Bro Cynllaith are involved in so many activities here, I really don't think they are missing out at all. They would be missing out if they weren't here.	As above.
2.1.5	The paper goes on to suggest that 'Pupils would attend a larger school, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities.' This just isn't the case.	It is acknowledged that a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities are provided at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.
2.1.6	Pupils would also miss out on all the extra-curricular activity that a close connection to the community brings.	It is acknowledged that a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities are provided at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, and that pupils benefit from close links with the community, particularly given that Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the closest school for almost all pupils.

2.2 Concern about the impact on pupils of having to move to a different school

Ref	Comment	Council Response
2.2.1	This school is a happy school where children thrive and enjoy learning. I really feel that the closure of facility and having to transfer to alternative schools will have a detrimental effect on the children's welfare.	<p>The Council acknowledges that pupils that currently attend Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would go through a period of change should the school close, and understands that this is a real concern for pupils.</p> <p>Should the school close, all receiving schools would work with the closing school, the pupils themselves and their families to ensure a smooth transition and help pupils settle into their new schools.</p>
2.2.2	The implications of having the pupils to adjust to a new school environment, I do not know for definite how my child would adapt or the other pupils however, if there is the possibility that it could have a negative impact on their learning development and emotional well-being, what would you have in place to ensure that all pupils aren't affected by this change?	As above.
2.2.3	It is an unsettling thought to think that the school board would be willing to send a child to this school with the knowledge that a proposal for closure a year later would be considered.	<p>The Council's recent proposal to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School proposed Llanfechain C. in W. School as the receiving school. However it is acknowledged that some pupils chose to transfer to Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. Pupils can apply for a place at any school they choose, and the Council is required to allocate a place to them if there is a place available.</p> <p>The Council's Cabinet agreed an indicative preferred way forward for the Llanfyllin catchment in 2020, which was updated and reconsidered by Cabinet in 2022. Both versions of the indicative preferred way forward</p>

		included the potential closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, so the possibility that the Council would be reviewing the school's future has been in the public domain for a number of years, and since before the Council carried out the statutory process to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School.
2.2.4	I worry about the emotional well-being of pupils that have to move schools again.	<p>The Council acknowledges that pupils that currently attend Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would go through a period of change should the school close, and understands that this is a real concern for pupils, particularly for pupils who have already moved schools for whatever reason.</p> <p>Should the school close, all receiving schools would work with the closing school, the pupils themselves and their families to ensure a smooth transition and help pupils settle into their new schools.</p>
2.2.5	Children need stability and familiarity in their early years. They don't respond well to uncertainty and disruption. The children we have had here over the years who, for whatever reason, have moved schools once or more in their early years, mostly prove to be the ones who need support with their mental health and/or behaviour issues. If this is all about the children, then stop right now and consider this.	As above.
2.2.6	Concern that pupils would be forced to attend a large, busy school or travel over an hour for more suitable provision.	<p>As above.</p> <p>Should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close, pupils would not be 'forced' to attend any school – pupils and their parents would be able to apply for a place at any alternative school.</p> <p>There are a number of schools located within 10 miles of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. This includes schools located in</p>

		Powys and schools outside Powys, schools of a variety of sizes, community schools and church schools, English-medium schools and schools that offer Welsh-medium provision, and many of these schools primarily serve rural communities, therefore pupils / parents would continue to have freedom of choice in terms of which school they wish their children to attend.
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2.3 Concern about the impact on the quality of education for pupils

Ref	Comment	Council Response
2.3.1	It won't save the money you think it will and will be to the detriment of the children's education and welfare in the long run.	<p>The Council's view is that pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would be able to access provision which is at least of equivalent quality at alternative schools. This is supported by Estyn, who state in their response to the consultation: 'It is Estyn's view that this proposal is likely to maintain the standard of education provision and outcomes for pupils in the area.'</p> <p>It is acknowledged that should the school close, pupils currently attending the school would go through a period of change. The Council understands that this is a real concern for pupils. Should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close, all receiving schools would work with the closing school, the pupils themselves and their families to ensure a smooth transition and help pupils settle into their new schools.</p>
2.3.2	We understand that the level of education that local children receive is of the highest standard. Can PCC guarantee that same level of education and wellbeing elsewhere? Probably not.	As above.

2.4 Concern that pupils would be separated from their friends

Ref	Comment	Council Response
2.4.1	If the school closes children would have to go to a school without children they have grown up with.	<p>The Council acknowledges that pupils that currently attend Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would go through a period of change should the school close, and understands that this is a real concern for pupils.</p> <p>It is also acknowledged that should the school close, pupils and their parents might choose different alternative schools, which would mean that pupils would transfer to different schools to their friends. Whilst acknowledging this concern, pupils would still be able to be friends even if they transferred to different schools, and there would also be an opportunity to be part of new friendship groups at their new schools.</p> <p>Should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close, all receiving schools would work with the closing school, the pupils themselves and their families to ensure a smooth transition and help pupils settle into their new schools.</p>
2.4.2	You are also going to have the impact of changing peer groups as not all the children who started together may end up going to the same school.	As above.
2.4.3	Whichever way you look at it, it seems that sadly all the pupils at Bro Cynllaith would end up in different schools. This would be very damaging to our children who have formed such close friendships both in and out of school.	As above.
2.4.4	I believe this would have a massive impact on the children's friendships as well as their mental health as well as separation anxiety on the children who currently live in the	As above.

	village because they may not all go to the same new school or may move to different locations.	
2.4.5	They should be making bonds within their own village.	As above.

2.5 Concern that pupils would transfer to schools in Shropshire and would miss out on the Welsh curriculum

Ref	Comment	Council Response
2.5.1	Many parents work across the border into England and are likely to take their children with them whilst on their daily commute. This would therefore reduce pupil numbers in Wales and the next generation of Welsh speakers.	<p>'Pupils may choose to transfer to schools located out of Powys / Wales instead of attending alternative schools in Powys' was recognised as a risk in the consultation document published in respect of the current proposal, particularly given Ysgol Bro Cynllaith's location, and given the fact that there are a number of schools located outside Powys which would be closer for pupils than the nearest alternative school in Powys.</p> <p>It is also acknowledged that should pupils choose to transfer to alternative schools located outside Wales, pupils would no longer access the curriculum, and in particular, this would mean that they wouldn't have an opportunity to learn Welsh.</p> <p>Whilst recognising that parents / pupils would be able to choose any alternative school should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close, the Council's preference is for pupils in Llansilin to attend alternative schools located in Powys, and home to school transport would be provided to the nearest alternative school in Powys in order to facilitate this, and to ensure that pupils in the area could continue to access the Welsh curriculum and have the opportunity to learn Welsh.</p>

2.5.2	I think it is very concerning local infant and junior school children will have to be bussed to their nearest schools which will be in England	As above.
2.5.3	Also the nearest school is now in Shropshire with no Welsh aspiration and a really bad option for Powys residents.	As above.
2.5.4	Llansilin children would be lost to Shropshire!	As above.
2.5.6	Schools in Shropshire are nearer and easier to get to.	As above.
2.5.7	Another concern about closing the school and delivering children to their nearest school is that some pupils may go to a school in Shropshire, if it is the nearest school to their home or for parents' convenience if they work in the vicinity of Shrewsbury.	As above.
2.5.8	I'm concerned that parents will send their children to schools in England, instead of travelling further to get to a school in Wales.	As above.
2.5.9	The closure of the school would mean most pupils would attend education in England and therefore stop using the Welsh language in education.	As above.
2.5.10	Closure will result in most of the current pupils going to Shropshire schools and learning no Welsh at all.	As above.
2.5.11	Any children moving into Shropshire schools would lose that connection with Welsh.	As above.
2.5.12	The school's location near the Shropshire border means that for many students, the closest alternative schools are in England, potentially leading to a loss of Welsh language and cultural education.	As above.
2.5.13	If the majority of the children go to English schools which are much closer than Llanrhaeadr, then they will have no access to the Welsh language (or culture) at primary level or at secondary level since they will probably go on to the Marches in Oswestry.	As above.

2.5.14	Children will end up travelling to Shropshire for education, possibly increasing travel/ education costs for Powys or oversubscribing other schools in area.	As above.
2.5.15	Likely to lead to loss of pupils to English schooling system so reduce Welsh language and cultural education but Powys CC still have to pay transport costs.	As above.
2.5.16	Most, if not all, of the children will travel the shorter distances to England - to either Trefonen or Selattyn primary school.	As above.
2.5.17	Most children will go over the border to Trefonen or Selattyn - not to Llanrhaeadr.	As above.
2.5.18	If the school were to close pupils will go over the border to English schools such as Trefonen Church of England school and Selattyn Church of England school which are nearer than the next nearest school in Powys. This would have a detrimental effect on the learning of the Welsh language and using the Welsh language	As above.
2.5.19	Many parents would choose to take their children over the border to Shropshire if the school closed as there are 7 primaries closer to us than Llanrhaeadr is.	As above.
2.5.20	Having spoken with other parents from the school, it is clear that the closure would result in a fair number of children being sent to school in England, thus leaving the Welsh education system entirely.	As above.
2.5.21	Many English speaking families would be likely to send their children over the border to one of the several Shropshire primary schools nearer than Llanrhaeadr, and would then very likely go on to secondary school in Oswestry rather than Llanfyllin and thus not receive a Welsh education at all.	As above.
2.5.22	Without the school in the village, the very real danger is that students will migrate to England and so miss out on any access to the Welsh education and language.	As above.

2.5.23	So much would be lost with closure. Many parents would send children to schools in Oswestry, children would lose the strong early connection with other local residents.	As above.
2.5.24	The primary schools around Oswestry cannot be deemed an appropriate alternative for every child.	As above.
2.5.25	Owing to the location of the school, and the lack of capacity available for English-medium education, it may be more viable in reality for children to attend a school over the border instead if this school does close.	As above.
2.5.26	The risk that parents will elect to school their children over the order in Shropshire to the detriment of Welsh culture and the ethos of the local community has been underestimated.	As above.
2.5.27	There are primary schools around Oswestry which are either nearer, or as near as the Powys alternatives. I do not believe that these schools are viable alternatives for the overwhelming majority of my constituents. If forced over the border to a school in England, Welsh children would be deprived of Welsh education. This is wrong.	As above.
2.5.28	Llansilin is within a very short distance of the English border. If Ysgol Bro Cynllaith closes, parental travel and work patterns will almost certainly mean that the majority of the pupils do not transfer to the proposed alternative Powys schools, but to schools in Oswestry, and are deprived of the opportunity of learning in a Welsh linguistic, cultural and curriculum environment. This likelihood is not addressed in the consultation document. Similar circumstances prevailed when closure of Churchstoke school was under consideration and were deemed sufficient reason to pause that process.	As above.

2.6 Other comments about the impact on pupils

Ref	Comment	Council Response
2.6.1	As a parent, I have shielded my children from all the stress, worry and uncertainty that these periods have caused until this current consultation, when it became apparent that the children would meet with some of the transformation team.	The Council acknowledges that pupils that currently attend Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would go through a period of change should the school close, and understands that this is a real concern for pupils.
2.6.2	The process has brought uncertainty for the children.	As above.
2.6.3	Pupils were in tears the day the transformation team were coming to meet with them.	As above.
2.6.4	Our children will be the ones to suffer!	As above.
2.6.5	You are making the children suffer.	As above.
2.6.6	The closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is not looking after the children of the future.	The current proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is in accordance with the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which aims to ensure the best possible opportunities are available to all Powys learners, and aims to improve equity across Powys schools. The cost per pupil at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently significantly higher than the average cost per pupil across Powys schools.
2.6.7	The pupils and their parents would lose their sense of family and belonging.	Comment noted.
2.6.8	The School Council are passionate about Llansilin, about the history and about the upkeep of the village. They often litter pick and have also raised some safety issues with the Community Council. I fail to see that they would be so passionate about a place in which they didn't live.	Comment noted.
2.6.9	Children are not old enough to voice their opinions and if they were, we doubt that anyone from PCC would listen to them.	A consultation meeting was held with pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith as part of the consultation process. The comments made by the pupils are included in this Consultation Report and will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

3. IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

3.1 General concern about the impact on the community/village

Ref	Comment	Council Response
3.1.1	If the closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith was to go ahead, the local community would also be impacted.	<p>The potential negative impact on the community should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close has been recognised in the draft Community Impact Assessment considered by Cabinet when agreeing to proceed to consultation on the current proposal and published as part of the consultation documentation.</p> <p>The draft Community Impact Assessment will be updated to reflect information received as part of the consultation process, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposal.</p>
3.1.2	This would be an awful decision for the community.	As above.
3.1.3	It would be disastrous for the Llansilin community.	As above.
3.1.4	It would be 'a nail in the coffin' for Llansilin.	As above.
3.1.5	Closing Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would have significant detrimental effects on the community and students.	As above.
3.1.6	It is a really local school and its destruction would be a hammer blow to the village.	As above.
3.1.7	Children and families in Llansilin and the community will suffer considerably if the school closes. Please think again.	As above.
3.1.8	It will be a profound and devastating moment in the history of Llansilin, if Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is to close.	As above.
3.1.9	The long-term effects on the community will be far-reaching and substantially detrimental to village life.	As above.

3.1.10	Our school here is an integral part of our community and is fully supported by the residents. This will change if the children are forced to attend school in another community.	As above.
3.1.11	The closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would be a huge disaster for the fabric of our cohesive vibrant Welsh community of Llansilin.	As above.
3.1.12	Closure of Llansilin school would greatly affect life in the village.	As above.
3.1.13	Losing the school will damage the village.	As above.
3.1.14	Concern about the impact of closure on the village and participation in community-organised events.	As above.
3.1.15	Current pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith are largely from the local community. Closure of the school will significantly affect interaction between those of school age and the rest of the community, as school-based events cease to take place in the village, and the school ceases to be a participant in community-organised events.	As above.
3.1.16	Loss of engagement of children with their Llansilin community with school concerts, plays, eisteddfod, fairs and sports days and their weekly attendance at Llansilin Community Shop where I also volunteer.	As above.
3.1.17	Concern that activities associated with the school will no longer be part of village life.	As above.
3.1.18	If you close the school the community will not be what it's been for many years which is a happy friendly community where everyone knows everyone all the children play together.	As above.
3.1.19	During lockdown when the school was closed, it was noticeable by its silence, no sound of children in the playground or at drop of and pick up time. To think that this may become a permanent possibility is unthinkable.	As above.

3.2 The school is the heart of the village / community

Ref	Comment	Council Response
3.2.1	It is the heart of the village.	The Council notes these comments about the school's role in the community. A draft Community Impact Assessment has been prepared which recognises the school's role in the community, and the impact should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close. This will be updated to reflect information received as part of the consultation process, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposal.
3.2.3	It is at the centre of the local community.	As above.
3.2.4	The school is essentially the heart of the community.	As above.
3.2.5	The school is the hub of the community.	As above.
3.2.6	The school has been a central part of village life for so many years and is a huge asset.	As above.
3.2.7	This school is a happy inclusive school that is at the heart of our community.	As above.
3.2.8	Surely this is a time when communities need to be stronger and continue to grow. This school is so much a strong heart of the village.	As above.
3.2.9	The school is such an important part of the local Llansilin community. It is quite literally the heart of the village.	As above.
3.2.10	I think its a really bad idea: it is the centre of the local community.	As above.
3.2.11	As a rural community the school and its pupils are really at the heart.	As above.

3.2.12	A village without a school soon becomes a village without a shop, a village without a community hall, a village without a pub, a village without a church...a village without a heart!	As above.
3.2.13	The school is the life blood of any village and without this the village will be worse off.	As above.
3.2.14	In a small village, a thriving school contributes greatly to a vibrant village life.	As above.
3.2.15	The school is the focal point of the village and such a vital part of the community. You must please consider the impact this will have on the community if this will go ahead.	As above.
3.2.16	Our village school is a hub connecting different projects and people and is part of the village's everyday life. It even connects generations, keeping local history and places alive.	As above.
3.2.17	The school is the glue that holds together different ages, ways of life, and families with a long local history with newer residents like ourselves.	As above.
3.2.18	Having moved out of the village to live in a big town, I can now fully appreciate how important the community is and that the school is at the forefront of that community.	As above.
3.2.19	The council surely has a duty to promote cohesive communities. Having a school, especially a primary school, at the heart of the village, is essential for this, both because children form close ties with their peers from the same village, and develop a sense of belonging which can stay with them into adulthood, but also because the school itself is a hub for community activity.	As above.

3.3 Comments about the impact on the village hall

Ref	Comment	Council Response
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3.3.1	There would be a considerable impact on the community especially Community Hall.	<p>The Council acknowledged the potential impact on the viability of the village hall in the consultation document, which stated that:</p> <p>‘There is a Memorial Hall in Llansilin which would continue to be available to the community should the school close. However, the school has indicated that closure of the school would make it virtually impossible for the hall to continue.’</p> <p>Should the school close, there would be a need to terminate the lease which currently commits the Council to part funding the upkeep of the village hall building, which would impact on the hall’s income. Ensuring the viability of the hall would then be a matter for the hall’s management committee. It is acknowledged that this would impact on other groups that use the hall.</p>
3.3.2	The school is also a big contributor to the income of our village hall and institute and its closure may well threaten the other resources that the hall can currently provide to the community.	As above.
3.3.3	£10,000 is paid by the Council every year for rental of the hall. If the school closed and the Council no longer contributed this amount, the hall would have to make drastic changes.	As above.
3.3.4	Without financial input from the school, the village hall would struggle to stay open.	As above.
3.3.5	The school and Memorial Hall are inextricably linked with the school providing much of the Halls income, closure of the school would end this and put the Memorial Hall on a far from certain future.	As above.

3.3.6	The closure of the school will also have a serious impact on the viability of the hall's finances.	As above.
3.3.7	Concern about loss of income to Llansilin Village Hall as PCC pays 50% of maintenance costs, possibly threatening viability and others resources hall can currently provide to the Llansilin community.	As above.
3.3.8	Without the rent coming to the Hall through the arrangement with the school the maintenance costs of the Hall would mean an increase in costs for community groups for use in the evenings and weekends.	As above.
3.3.9	If the school was to close this could impact the community village hall where many groups meet from the over 60 to table tennis club	As above.
3.3.10	The closure of the school would adversely affect the ability of the village hall to continue functioning in its current capacity.	As above.
3.3.11	There is concern that the fate of the village hall could be tied to that of the school, so closure could mean the village loses not one, but two parts of its life blood.	As above.
3.3.12	If the memorial hall were to be lost, it would spell the end of any cultural events such as choir concerts and the art and crafts of local people exhibited every year in the village show. The show itself may well become unfeasible without a covered venue, this would be a huge loss to the cultural calendar of the area.	As above.

3.4 Closure of the school would mean that people would not want to live in the area

Ref	Comment	Council Response
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3.4.1	The lack of a school will deter others from moving to the village.	The Council notes this concern that closure of the school would mean that pupil would not want to live in the area. The draft Community Impact Assessment will be updated to reflect information received as part of the consultation process, including this issue, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposal.
3.4.2	I greatly fear that if the school were to close, house values would drop and young families would not move to the area in the future.	As above.
3.4.3	I think it will have a negative impact on the community as a whole and may put younger people off moving to the area.	As above.
3.4.4	I am deeply concerned and distressed at the thought of the school closing and I know that many other young families who are thinking of moving to the area will reconsider if there is no school available.	As above.
3.4.5	Villages with minimal amenities have less appeal, and could possibly limit people wanting to live there.	As above.
3.4.6	People come to live in the village because it is a way of life they wish to lead and the most important point to anyone considering a move to a small village is how are their children going to be educated and where.	As above.
3.4.7	PCC model should be to encourage newcomers with families into communities. Working from home has changed the world of work. No school will mean few incomers except elderly retired.	As above.
3.4.8	These days many people work, at least partially, from home and if we are to attract people to live in the area we must provide them with services such as a local school.	As above.

3.4.9	We will become a place where the age demographic will be predominantly retired and older people.	As above.
3.4.10	We don't want Llansilin to become a retirement community.	As above.
3.4.11	Should the school close, the village would become less desirable to young families.	As above.
3.4.12	It is imperative for the health of the village that we have young families and children here.	As above.
3.4.13	It's important to have the facilities for the younger families in the village and having the school keeps this community alive with a mix of age groups.	As above.
3.4.14	I strongly believe that if Llansilin school closed a lot of the community would leave to be closer to the new school.	As above.
3.4.15	Closure of the school would cause a fracturing of the community in Llansilin. Without a school, and if shops close too, the area is a lot less appealing for many people, especially those who don't drive. People will inevitably start moving away, as the village is impoverished by lack of investment.	As above.

3.5 Comments about housing developments in the area

Ref	Comment	Council Response
3.5.1	A number of new family homes have been built in Llansilin recently, these homes will provide pupils for the school.	It is recognised that there has been recent housing developments in the village of Llansilin and that some of these may be occupied by young families. 26 new houses have been built since 2022 and another 4 are currently being built. However, it would not be expected that the number of children would increase to a point where the school is considered viable. In planning terms, a figure of 0.45 children per new build house is used to estimate the average number of school aged

		children from housing developments, however this would include primary and secondary aged pupils.
3.5.2	It is entirely counter intuitive to close a primary school when the new housing estate has a number of young families with children who will enter the education system within the next few years.	As above.
3.5.3	With new houses having just been built in the village and other new houses in the process of being built it feels shortsighted to close the school without at least seeing the impact of these new houses on the school intake.	As above.
3.5.4	It is madness that the village is being rapidly expanded and yet you are closing the local schools.	As above.
3.5.5	The population is growing with the new housing and we have a large toddler group ready to start the school.	As above.
3.5.6	The village is expanding and there are more children.	As above.
3.5.7	There is now a new housing development here now too so it has to stay.	As above.
3.5.8	New houses have just been built in the village bringing more families in.	As above.
3.5.9	The village itself has grown over the past few years and so there are more young families in the area.	As above.
3.5.10	The village of Llansilin is beginning to thrive again with the new housing estate recently finished and a second housing development just getting started.	As above.
3.5.11	Powys council have given planning permission for new family homes to be built in the village which would support our school.	As above.
3.5.12	More houses are planned to be built on the far side of the village.	As above.
3.5.13	We note that Llansilin is a growing village. There are currently 23 new homes being built with 12 already on the market. It is probable that further children will be added to	As above.

	the school intake besides those below 5 years old that are already in or close to the village.	
3.5.14	It seems amazingly stupid that Llansilin School should be threatened with closure when over 30 houses are being built in the village.	As above.
3.5.15	The new housing development opposite the school has already generated 3 new children with younger siblings set to join us within the next couple of years. There is another family moving in soon too I believe. There are also four new family homes being built at the top end of the village which will bring new pupils in time.	As above.
3.5.16	7 houses were recently built in the village, some of them are so new that no families have yet moved in and even prior to this, the village had seen several new families moving in.	As above.
3.5.17	On the Powys County Council Local Development Plan there will be housing developments in Llanfechain (2), Llanfyllin (1), Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant (2), Llansantffraid (8) and Llansilin (1). In the medium-term, some of these other primary schools – cited as viable alternatives – may not have as many surplus places as they currently possess.	As above. The Council's latest projected pupil information suggests that pupil numbers will decrease over the coming years, suggesting that there will be a reduction in demand for places in primary schools over the coming years.

3.6 Comments about the impact of previous school closures on communities

Ref	Comment	Council Response
3.6.1	I feel that closing the school will be detrimental to the community, and will replicate the other local areas such as Moelfre, whereby the buildings used will deteriorate and be difficult to maintain with less revenue coming.	The Council notes these comments about the impact of previous school closures on the communities in which they are located. A draft Community Impact Assessment has been prepared which considers the proposal's impact on the community. This will be updated to reflect information

		received as part of the consultation process, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposal.
3.6.2	We have come from a village where the school was forced to close and it had a huge impact on the village way of life. This still decimated the village and now the village has just become a place to reside and not a place to be part of a community and all that life entails. Shortly after the school closed the post office and shop followed.	As above.
3.6.3	When villages lose their primary school, they often go on to lose their Post Office, their local shop and many other amenities as proposals such as this one can sometimes lead a village to go into a slow but terminal decline.	As above.
3.6.4	As stated above, very often, if the school goes, the Post Office goes, other amenities go, younger families do not move into the village and the community goes into decline.	As above.

3.7 Comments about the impact on local businesses

Ref	Comment	Council Response
3.7.1	As far as wider impact on the community, Llansilin Community Shop could lose the custom of the parents who patronise our shop on Tuesday and Thursday mornings often after they have dropped their children off at school next door.	<p>The Council notes these comments about the potential impact on other local businesses should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close.</p> <p>A draft Community Impact Assessment has been prepared which considers the proposal's impact on the community. This will be updated to reflect information received as part of the consultation process, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposal.</p>
3.7.2	If parents have to travel to take their children to another village, then they are very likely to do their shopping on the	As above.

	same trip. This would cause a reduction in sales in the 2 local food shops, which have thrived during lockdown, and become a genuine lifeline to many local people. If these shops have a noticeable drop in sales, especially once the covid threat is gone, they may well be forced to close, which leaves local residents vulnerable should another pandemic or some other wider threat appear.	
3.7.3	There is also a newly refurbished pub and new car garage recently opened.	As above.

3.8 Queries about what would happen to the school building should the school close

Ref	Comment	Council Response
3.8.1	On the subject of land, Powys should also note that when the two parcels of land were sold to Denbighshire Council in 1970 (the playing field from the Brewery and the plot where the school building stands from Hughes Brothers garage) it is noted on both Conveyances that this was sold for 'Educational Purposes'. If Powys were thinking of demolishing the existing school building and developing the site for houses then they need to think long and hard about the implications here – not only legally but the local objections that there will be. Note the playing field is the only green space within the village and has been for many years.	Comment noted. If the school was to close, then the Council would need to follow the steps outlined in its Asset Management Policy i.e. initial consideration of a community asset transfer if the community had an interest in the asset; consideration of any alternative use by other services in the Council/partner organisations and then potentially sale of the asset on the open market. Any legal restrictions related to the land would need to be explored when considering future plans for the site, should the school close.
3.8.2	It is reasonable to suggest that Powys CC will struggle to sell the building off due to its proximity to the only green space in the village – and in fact with a 7 statement of 'to be used for the purpose of education' on the title sales for both the field and the building space, I think there would be a struggle for any developer to get planning through for anything other than a community use.	As above.

3.8.3	The land cannot be sold as it is leased for a peppercorn rent.	As above.
3.8.4	The proposal to sell off the land would surely lead to more housing, more new members of the community and more children. With no local school.	As above.

4. IMPACT ON STAFF

Ref	Comment	Council Response
4.1	Obviously, closure will have an immediate effect on the current pupils, their parents and, of course, the salaried staff employed by the council.	<p>The Council recognises that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for staff and parents and that staff currently employed at the school would be subject to a management of change process should the school close.</p> <p>A consultation meeting was held with staff during the public consultation period which gave them the opportunity to let the Council know their views, and support has been provided by the HR team during the process. In addition, support is available for staff through Vivup, the Council's employee assistance programme, Heads for Heads which provides support for Headteachers and Education Support. Support will be offered to the affected staff on an ongoing basis.</p>
4.2	There are four people living in Llansilin whose work is either in the school or linked to the school and whose jobs would be lost straight away.	As above.
4.3	Many of the staff live within a few miles of the school, but would have to travel much further to work somewhere else.	All affected staff will have access to the Council's Redeployment Scheme in order to identify any suitable alternative positions for them. The suitability of any posts will depend on the circumstances of each

		individual employee. Discussions will be held with each member of staff so that they can be supported in line with their individual requirements.
4.4	The proposal timeline for the process would put teachers in a difficult position looking for teaching jobs if a decision isn't made until May, because the jobs will come out in April.	<p>When consultation processes of this nature are undertaken, the people at the centre of them naturally respond differently. In some cases this might include seeking alternative roles, however this is a decision that is made on an individual basis and the Council has no influence over this.</p> <p>Unfortunately the timescales related to this process are such that it may not be possible to confirm employment decisions until the end of May however staff may decide to seek alternative employment before notice is given (though there is of course no requirement for them to do this). The Council and the Schools' HR Team will make every effort to support the redeployment of all staff to suitable alternative roles.</p>
4.5	Do people in this position tend to start looking for jobs before a final decision has been made?	When consultation processes of this nature are undertaken, the people at the centre of them naturally respond differently. In some cases this might include seeking alternative roles, however this is a decision that is made on an individual basis and the Council has no influence over this.
4.6	If staff are made redundant, is it correct that they can't work for Powys for a year after?	Powys County Council currently has a Re-Employment of Former Employees Policy which states that where an employee has received a severance payment (for example a redundancy payment), they cannot be employed in a similar role by Powys County Council or a school that has adopted the policy for a period of 12 months.

4.7	Given the timescales, would there be sufficient time to give teaching staff a full term's notice?	In the event that it is not possible to give notice within the required timescales either agreements will be reached with the affected staff or the process will be extended to allow for the full notice period to be given.
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5. IMPACT ON PARENTS / FAMILIES

Ref	Comment	Council Response
5.1	A massive impact will be felt by working families.	<p>The Council recognises that any school reorganisation process creates a period of uncertainty for all involved, including the families of pupils affected by any proposals. It is also acknowledged that Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is the closest school for the majority of current pupils, and therefore that additional travel would be required to access alternative provision should the school close.</p> <p>Whilst home to school transport would be provided for pupils, it is acknowledged that there would be an impact on parents in terms of travel to the alternative school to access school activities, and that this would be a particular challenge for families without access to a car.</p>
5.2	Closing the village school will impact on the parents and their existing life/work commitments, which have been developed around the village school.	As above.
5.3	A huge detrimental effect on families' health and wellbeing as they would no longer enjoy the beauty of being able to walk their children to school (something we are all being encouraged to do!).	As above.
5.4	For children, parents are a resource. For school age children in rural areas, the parents ability to drive them to activities is essential.	As above.

5.5	Parents and carers will have a considerable burden placed on them in relation to attendance at parents' evenings and school events. This is acknowledged in the consultation but its impact insufficiently acknowledged.	As above.
5.6	There would be an impact on parents' ability to pick up children to attend medical and similar appointments and in cases of illness and other emergencies. This is very discriminatory including towards poorer families already struggling because of the appalling lack of public transport in the locality.	As above.
5.7	Closing the school at a time when new homes are being built, education continues to suffer from effects of the pandemic and families continue to struggle with the cost of living, all of which is disruptive to pupils' wellbeing is a negative proposal which will only cause further stress and anxiety to parents and children.	As above.
5.8	Concern about the timescales and that parents would be unable to get hold of anyone over the summer to get a decision on transport arrangements to alternative provision.	The Council notes this concern about the timescales and the time that would be available for parents to make alternative arrangements should a decision be made to proceed with closure of the school from August 2025.
5.9	Concern about timescales for parents to find places in alternative schools, as it would be outside the usual primary school admissions window, particularly for parents choosing to go to Shropshire.	As above.
5.10	People that have moved here aren't familiar with the area, and are now having to think about where to send their child if the school closes.	Comment noted.

6. COMMENTS ABOUT EARLY YEARS PROVISION

Ref	Comment	Council Response
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6.1	Powys will have noted that we have an incredibly well attended Stay and Play group in the village now. It has only been running since March 2023 and has already had over 90 children through the doors. I am in no way suggesting that every one of these children will come to Bro Cynllaith, but a large number will, and this cannot be ignored.	The Council notes these comments about the Stay and Play group which meets in Llansilin.
6.2	We currently have around 16 children attend the Stay and Play group on both days that we run.	As above.
6.3	Close connections have been forged with the growing stay-and-play (0-4 year olds) in the memorial hall which runs twice a week and has seen 90+ children through the doors since it began in May 2023.	As above.
6.4	There is a new Stay and Play Group in the village. They have had 90 children through their books in a year and a half, and about 20 have said they intend to send their children to Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.	As above.

7. COMMENTS ABOUT SMALL / RURAL SCHOOLS

7.1 Positive comments about small / rural schools

Ref	Comment	Council Response
7.1.1	We need to protect the small schools not shut them.	<p>The Council notes these comments about small schools and their perceived benefits. However, as stated in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, the Council faces a challenge due to the high proportion of small schools in the county and the lack of equity amongst schools.</p> <p>Ysgol Bro Cynllaith has 26 pupils, and is currently the smallest school in Powys. With such low pupil numbers,</p>

		the teacher-pupil ratio is notably different to other schools in the area, and due to the Council's funding formula, the school's funding per pupil is higher than the Council's average. This does not provide equity across the education – teachers in larger schools are required to provide the same education as smaller schools for less funding per pupil. The Council's Strategy is intended to improve equity across the education system.
7.1.2	The small school best serves the local community who are growing up around agriculture and need teachers and a school who embrace that.	As above.
7.1.3	It is acknowledged that it is more difficult to ensure that all pupils are appropriately challenged and have opportunities to work collaboratively with pupils of similar ability, but small schools can achieve this successfully.	As above.
7.1.4	Small Primary Schools are far more valuable than administrators (who only see the immediate financial status) realise. In the long term they benefit children, particularly those who might get lost in the bigger systems.	As above.
7.1.5	Primary school aged children benefit from being in a smaller school. They respond better to a close knit environment and learn to interact with children of all ages, learning tolerance and compassion from an early age.	As above.
7.1.6	There is a plethora of research available to support the notion that at primary level, and most specifically infant level, smaller class sizes are actually better.	As above.
7.1.7	There are many advantages of multi-age classrooms, including focus on discovery and curiosity instead of competition as children are exposed to a variety of interests, talents and personalities of their peers; Acquisition of flexibility and resilience as children perceive the differences	There are advantages and disadvantages of having mixed age classes. However, in terms of curriculum delivery, having multi-age classes is more difficult in a two-teacher school as there is a wider age range and ability range across four year groups within one class.

	<p>in their developmental levels and competencies and adjust their expectations of one another. Over time, these relationships are opportunities for ingraining empathy, patience, perspective taking and partnership; Development of an attitude that progress, skills and traits are not inborn but come from learning. As children work with a diverse group of peers, they start to understand that neither ability nor skills are fixed, but they can be learned and developed over time.</p>	<p>Also, at times, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith have all pupils in one class taught by one teacher which widens the age range and ability range of the pupils within that class.</p>
7.1.8	<p>Mixed-age classrooms help stimulate the children's cognitive development. This time to collaborate, observe, teach and dialogue drives the learning, where children are challenged, excited and willing to take risks. Younger children watch older children perform a variety of complex tasks and try those out for themselves, inviting support from their older peers.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
7.1.9	<p>Studies of rural village schools show as well as providing education, the school functions as a meeting place connecting home's, people and places, in the school catchment area.</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments about the role rural schools play in communities.</p> <p>The potential negative impact on the community should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close has been recognised in the draft Community Impact Assessment considered by Cabinet when agreeing to proceed to consultation on the current proposal and published as part of the consultation documentation.</p> <p>The draft Community Impact Assessment will be updated to reflect information received as part of the consultation process, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposal.</p>

7.1.10	People who live in the same rural area for most of their lives view their local school as a symbol of their local culture, their origin and their childhood, as well as a symbol of the future of the village. Creating a symbiotic relationship between school and community.	As above.
7.1.11	Schools are multifunctional community centres, central for identity formation and social patterns in rural communities.	As above.
7.1.12	It is important to reiterate how the village school plays a very important function in rural life.	As above.
7.1.13	Outside of 07:50-15:30, many rural schools are vital village hubs (and – as is also the case here – the Village Hall often has a symbiotic relationship with the primary school), with the building being used by other community groups for various activities.	As above.
7.1.14	I believe rural primary schools even small ones are important for the well-being of rural areas, providing education from earliest years and integrating the community across all age groups.	As above.

7.2 Parents should be able to choose a small / rural school

Ref	Comment	Council Response
7.2.1	This proposal takes away the freedom of choice for parents to have a choice of where they wish to send their children for their education, I uphold my appreciation to rural schooling as I believe it gives something to a small community and can bring families to the area which in turn has a positive effect.	<p>Should the Council proceed with the current proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils / parents would be able to choose to attend any alternative school. Applications would need to be made in accordance with the relevant Admissions Policy, and applications would be considered in accordance with this policy.</p> <p>There are a number of schools located within 10 miles of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. This includes schools located in Powys and schools outside Powys, schools of a</p>

		variety of sizes, community schools and church schools, English-medium schools and schools that offer Welsh-medium provision, and many of these schools primarily serve rural communities, therefore pupils / parents would continue to have freedom of choice in terms of which school they wish their children to attend.
7.2.2	Children should have the choice to go to a small school where there is time for the educators to spend with the child in a small group. Not one of thirty kids in a huge school.	As above.
7.2.3	Is it not our duty to do all we can to give the children their right to receive an education in their own communities?	As above.
7.2.4	This is absolutely ridiculous for small children, who should have the right to attend a school in their village.	As above.
7.2.5	There are now few schools to choose from and this one in particular is on the border with Wales and hugely important.	As above.

7.3 Other comments about small/rural schools

Ref	Comment	Council Response
7.3.1	I strongly feel local village schools are so important and must be protected.	Comment noted.
7.3.2	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith was not listed as a rural school in the School Organisation Code because there is a significant population in the surrounding area.	It is unclear why Ysgol Bro Cynllaith was not listed as a rural school in the School Organisation Code. However, even though the school is not listed as a rural school, the Council's view is that the school is a rural school, so the Council has followed the additional requirements outlined for rural schools in respect of the current proposal.

8. COMMENTS ABOUT OTHER SCHOOLS

8.1 Comments about Ysgol Llanrhaeadr

Ref	Comment	Council Response																																				
8.1.1	I know that there are already a number of local families, wanting their children to receive their education in Welsh, who already send them to Ysgol Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant.	It is correct that the nearest provider of Welsh-medium education for pupils in the Llansilin area is Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, and that a number of pupils from the area already attend this school in order to access Welsh-medium education.																																				
8.1.2	It is likely if pupils from Ysgol Bro Cynllaith have to transfer to Ysgol Llanrhaeadr they would most likely choose to enter the English stream over the Welsh stream. From the proposal, it does not appear that there would be sufficient capacity within the English stream at Ysgol Llanrhaeadr to accommodate this choice?	<p>Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is a dual-stream school with 2 English-medium and 2 Welsh-medium classes. The current Pupil Admissions Number (PAN) is 15, which is based on the published capacity figure of 108. Following a review of capacity in June 2024, the school's capacity has increased to 120 with a PAN of 17. The PAN is whole school not per stream.</p> <p>Should all current pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith transfer to Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, pupil numbers at the school would be as follows, based on current pupil numbers at the two schools¹:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>R</th> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>3</th> <th>4</th> <th>5</th> <th>6</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ysgol Llanrhaeadr</td> <td>15</td> <td>9</td> <td>13</td> <td>11</td> <td>14</td> <td>8</td> <td>14</td> <td>84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ysgol Bro Cynllaith</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>18</td> <td>11</td> <td>19</td> <td>13</td> <td>20</td> <td>10</td> <td>19</td> <td>110</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Ysgol Llanrhaeadr	15	9	13	11	14	8	14	84	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	3	2	6	2	6	2	5	26	TOTAL	18	11	19	13	20	10	19	110
	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total																														
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr	15	9	13	11	14	8	14	84																														
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	3	2	6	2	6	2	5	26																														
TOTAL	18	11	19	13	20	10	19	110																														

¹ Teacher Centre, September 2024.

		<p>Whilst this information shows that the year groups would be above the revised PAN of 17 in a number of year groups, the Council would work with the school / governing body to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Bro Cynllaith wishing to transfer to Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.</p> <p>As Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is a dual stream school, the school may need to review its class structure should implementation of the proposal result in an increase in English-medium pupils at the school.</p> <p>Combined pupil projections for the two schools are as follows²:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Jan 2024</th> <th>Jan 2025</th> <th>Jan 2026</th> <th>Jan 2027</th> <th>Jan 2028</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant</td> <td>86</td> <td>86</td> <td>78</td> <td>78</td> <td>74</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ysgol Bro Cynllaith</td> <td>27</td> <td>26</td> <td>24</td> <td>27</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>113</td> <td>112</td> <td>102</td> <td>105</td> <td>98</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This suggests that total pupil numbers across the two schools are expected to decrease over the next 5 years.</p>		Jan 2024	Jan 2025	Jan 2026	Jan 2027	Jan 2028	Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	86	86	78	78	74	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	27	26	24	27	24	TOTAL	113	112	102	105	98
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<p>8.1.3</p>	<p>I have been notified that one of the classes at Llanrhaeadr is already full to capacity. Is this the English Medium stream? Would the school's English Medium stream have the capacity to take all of the children from Ysgol Bro Cynllaith?</p>	<p>As above.</p>																								

² Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC Jan 2023

8.1.4	I am informed that there is insufficient capacity to accommodate the pupils from Bro Cynllaith in the English stream at Llanrhaeadr.	As above.
8.1.5	There are capacity limitations at Llanrhaeadr	As above.
8.1.6	The current proposal to nominate Llanrhaeadr as the catchment school therefore is short-sighted and untenable with only 35 spare places there across both the English and Welsh stream.	As above.
8.1.8	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is a 2 classroom school and you are naming Llanrhaeadr as the school for the children to move to. This is also a 2 classroom school, with some of the year groups being full.	As above.
8.1.9	The next rationale for closing the school presented is that 'pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages' but the suggested new school, Llanrhaeadr, is also a two-class school. So the pupils will still be taught in key stages rather than year groups.	<p>As above.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that pupils in Llanrhaeadr are also taught in key stages rather than in individual year groups due to the school's dual stream delivery model, however Llanrhaeadr is a 4 class school. Pupils are part of a larger school, and therefore a larger cohort of pupils of the same age across the whole school.</p> <p>There are significant challenges for a two-teacher school to deliver the curriculum, especially around workload for the teachers. The school has worked successfully as part of their cluster to develop planning for the new curriculum. However, the workload to deliver the curriculum, attend cluster meetings around curriculum planning, delivery, monitoring and assessment still rests with those members of staff.</p>
8.1.10	Llanrhaeadr is no different to Llansilin re classes. It is dual stream yes, but there are only two classes in each stream.	As above.

	This is exactly the same as us. So the children would still be in classes of mixed ages with mixed abilities.	
8.1.11	At Llanrhaeadr, they would go from a class of 15 (mixed ages), being taught by one teacher to a class of 30 (mixed ages) being taught by one teacher so the ability of the teacher to differentiate and adjust the teaching for each child will, in fact, be diminished.	Although correct that pupils would be within a class of 30 pupils, there would be a teacher and teaching assistant. There would be greater opportunities for pupils to work of similar age and ability, therefore increasing opportunities to share with and work in pairs and groups of similar ability.
8.1.12	The Council set out the placement for my child to attend Ysgol Bro Cynllaith and refused my child a placement twice for Ysgol Llanrhaeadr.	We are unable to comment on specific admissions issues, however, places are allocated in accordance with the Council's Admissions Policy.
8.1.13	A pupil started at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith this year having been refused a place at Llanrhaeadr as there were at capacity in his year.	We are unable to comment on specific admissions issues, however, places are allocated in accordance with the Council's Admissions Policy.
8.1.14	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith took in a Reception year child in September who had applied to Llanrhaeadr for a place but was told they were full. How can you then turn around and tell this parent that actually there is space. I believe the capacity of Llanrhaeadr is 120 with current numbers standing at around 85/90 but it isn't clear of the split between the Welsh and English stream.	We are unable to comment on specific admissions issues, however, places are allocated in accordance with the Council's Admissions Policy. See response 8.1.2.
8.1.15	Some children at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith have chosen the school over Ysgol Llanrhaeadr having attended taster days at the school.	Comment noted.
8.1.16	The decision to have children transported to Llanrhaeadr school does not meet the needs of the parents, many who work across the border.	Comment noted. Should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close, whilst the Council's preference would be for pupils to attend alternative provision in Powys, parents could apply for a place for their child at any alternative school, so would be able to apply for a place at the school which fits in best with their own travel patterns.
8.1.17	There are 7 schools in Shropshire and Wrexham that are closer to Bro Cynllaith than Llanrhaeadr.	Comment noted. The Council fully acknowledges that there are a number of schools located out of Powys which would be closer for pupils than Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-

		Mochnant, including a number of schools located in Shropshire. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, the preference would be for pupils to attend alternative provision in Powys, and transport would be provide to facilitate this.
8.1.18	There are six schools closer than Llanrhaeadr across the border in other counties 5 in England and one in Wrexham.	As above.
8.1.19	Llanrhaeadr is the closest school for only 4 out of 25 pupils (16%). For 13 out of 25 pupils, the closest school is Trefonen, Shropshire (52%); 3 out of 25 pupils closest school is Llanarmon, Wrexham (12%); 5 out of 25 pupils closest school is Selattyn, Shropshire (20%)	As above.
8.1.20	For 89% of the pupils, their closest school aside from Ysgol Bro Cynlliath, is over the border. In fact there are seven primary schools in England and Wrexham, closer to the majority of pupils than Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is.	As above.
8.1.21	It should not be assumed that all pupils will transfer to Llanrhaeadr. We have established that the majority will opt to take their children to Trefonen in Shropshire, because (a) it is their closest school and (b) it is their most convenient route to place of work. There are of course some who will make the suggested move to Llanrhaeadr, but some will also choose Llanfyllin in preference because older siblings are already there.	As above.
8.1.22	Pupils would not be able to access breakfast club at Llanrhaeadr – parents would not take them in that direction and then double back to go to work.	It is recognised that accessing breakfast club provision at Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant may be inconvenient for some families who live in Llansilin and vicinity, especially if they work in the Oswestry area.
8.1.23	If Llanrhaeadr School becomes Welsh only, any children wanting English education will need to travel further for a school.	Comment noted. Whilst the Council’s long term aspiration is for Llanrhaeadr to become a Welsh-medium school, a further process would be required to enable this change to

		happen, which would provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to let the Council know their views on the proposal.
8.1.24	It has been noted that the desire by Powys CC is for Llanrhaeadr to move along with the Welsh language continuum in due course. This would in effect mean that there would be no English medium primary education available to those in north Powys and will force parents to take their children across the border.	As above.
8.1.25	Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is a bilingual/dual stream school. Meaning that a large part of their school population is educated through the medium of Welsh. As with religious denomination-based education (discussed above), some of my constituents will favour Welsh Medium education for their children, others will not deem it appropriate or desirable. What is important to me, is that the constituents I represent have the choice.	Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is a dual stream school, so all pupils attending the school can choose either the Welsh-medium or English-medium stream.
8.1.26	When the previous Llanrhaeadr primary school closed and the new one was built, in or around 2009, the cost of buying the farmer's land alone was £1m, and that was before any building works started. If Llansilin's school had been extended/improved at the time there could have been huge savings for Powys.	Comment noted.
8.1.27	Why was Llanrhaeadr named as the alternative school for pupils?	Llanrhaeadr was named as the alternative school as it is the closest school in Powys for almost all pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.
8.1.28	I don't think Llanrhaeadr run any after school activities at the moment.	Comment noted.
8.1.29	There are a number of houses/bungalows due to be built within a stone's throw of Llanrhaeadr school in the coming years. These will undoubtedly produce some children.	According to the Powys Replacement LDP Housing Commitments as at June 2024, planning approval had been obtained for the development of 5 new houses in Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant. The planners use a ratio of 0.45

	Have Powys considered where these children will go if Llanrhaeadr is at full capacity?	child per new house to estimate the number of school age children from new housing developments, however this would include primary and secondary aged children.
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8.2 Comments about other schools

Ref	Comment	Council Response
8.2.1	Many of their children would flounder at Ysgol Llanfyllin, where the primary class is 28 pupils.	The transition of pupils from Ysgol Bro Cynllaith to any receiving school would be supported to ensure pupils are able to adjust to their new school/class.
8.2.2	This could have an adverse impact on Llanfyllin High School as parents would be forced to send their children to England to primary schools which may result in a permanent loss of those pupils to the Welsh Education system.	It is acknowledged that there may be an impact on pupil numbers at Ysgol Llanfyllin's secondary phase in the future should pupils from Ysgol Bro Cynllaith choose to transfer to alternative primary schools located in Shropshire rather than to their closest schools in Powys, and subsequently attend secondary school in Shropshire. Whilst acknowledging parental choice, the Council's proposal is for pupils to transfer to alternative provision in Powys, and transport would be provided to facilitate this.
8.2.3	Concern that pupils will attend schools in England and therefore will be lost to Welsh education and to Ysgol Llanfyllin.	As above.
8.2.4	Concern that pupils would attend schools that were not feeder schools for Ysgol Llanfyllin.	As above.
8.2.5	The closest Powys school to Bro Cynllaith is actually Llansantffraid, however, this is a Church in Wales school which I assume is why it hasn't been mentioned?	Information about Llansantffraid C. in W. School is provided in the consultation document, however Ysgol Llanrhaeadr is the closest alternative school in Powys for almost all current pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

8.2.6	Llansantffraid is also full to capacity at the moment and would struggle to take any more children.	Comment noted. Data about Llansantffraid C. in W. School was included in the Consultation Document, which indicated that the school was over capacity.																									
8.2.7	Do the local Powys schools have capacity to take these children? Llangedwyn would have been the closest, however this has closed recently. A recent study of Llansantffraid school showed there was no capacity to build a bigger school.	<p>It is correct that Llansantffraid C. in W school is at capacity and a recent feasibility study indicated that it was challenging to extend the school by more than one classroom.</p> <p>Information about pupil numbers and capacity at schools in the local area was provided in the consultation document, and is as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th>Capacity¹</th> <th>Current pupil numbers²</th> <th>Available spaces</th> <th>Available capacity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant</td> <td>120</td> <td>85</td> <td>35</td> <td>29%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Llanfechain C. in W. School</td> <td>47</td> <td>43</td> <td>4</td> <td>9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</td> <td>105</td> <td>106</td> <td>-1</td> <td>-1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ysgol Llanfyllin (All-through)</td> <td>1102</td> <td>774</td> <td>320</td> <td>30%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	School	Capacity ¹	Current pupil numbers ²	Available spaces	Available capacity	Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	120	85	35	29%	Llanfechain C. in W. School	47	43	4	9%	Llansantffraid C. in W. School	105	106	-1	-1%	Ysgol Llanfyllin (All-through)	1102	774	320	30%
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8.2.8	Llanfechain and Llansantffraid cannot be considered viable alternatives for pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith as they are CiW schools. Non-Christian or non-religious constituents should not have to send their children to a CiW school if they do not want to.	Parents/carers are able to apply for a place at any school. It is correct that both Llanfechain and Llansantffraid are Church in Wales schools, however there are also alternative places available in the catchment area at Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant and Ysgol Llanfyllin, which are both community schools.																									

8.2.9	Both Llanfechain and Llansantffraid are voluntary aided faith schools, which means that they have the capacity to select whether or not they admit individual new students. So these are not schools that Ysgol Bro Cynllaith students can definitely go to, as they can determine who they admit, based on religious denomination.	Whilst Llansantffraid C. in W. School is a voluntary aided school, Llanfechain C. in W. School is a voluntary controlled school, and admissions to this school are administered by the Council. All faith schools are required to publish their own admissions arrangements and criteria for over-subscription.
8.2.10	Where are the kids supposed to go?	The proposal is for the pupils of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith to transfer to their nearest alternative provision in Powys. For the majority of pupils, their nearest school is Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochant.
8.2.11	Can the others take the capacity?	See 8.2.7
8.2.12	As the consultation document shows, proposed receiving schools do not have the capacity to receive the full complement of potential transferring pupils if all these opt for English medium education. Notwithstanding the additional support proposed to be given, the probability is that this will lead to adverse learning experiences both for existing and transferring pupils.	The Council does not have any concerns about adverse learning experiences.
8.2.13	The following schools are within 10 miles of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith - Out of County: Trefonen C of E Primary (5.1 miles), Selattyn C of E Primary (5.8 miles), Ysgol Llanarmon (6.1 miles), Morda C of E Primary (6.3 miles), Woodside Primary (6.3 miles), The Meadows Primary (7.3 miles), Holy Trinity CofE Primary (7.3 miles), Ysgol Cynddelw Primary (8.6 miles), Whittington C of E Primary (8.7 miles), Bryn Offa C of E Primary (9.3 miles, Gobowen Primary (9.6 miles)	It is acknowledged that there are a number of alternative schools located within 10 miles of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, including schools located in Powys and schools located outside Powys.
8.2.14	Primary Schools within 10 miles of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith - Powys: Llantsanffraid (6.7 miles), Llanrhaeadr (7.4 miles), Llanfyllin (8.4 miles), Llanfechain (8.4 miles), Carreghofa (9.7 miles)	As above.

8.2.15	If Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is closed, the entire Tanat Valley will be served by only two schools, within two and a half miles of each other.	Comment noted.
8.2.16	The new curriculum includes a focus on the local area, however pupils won't get to learn about their local area in the same way if they all transfer to different schools.	If pupils transfer to their nearest alternative schools in Powys, and for the majority this would be Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, then they would continue to be able to learn about their Cynefin as part of the new Curriculum for Wales – Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochant's catchment area would then include the current Llansilin catchment area. However, if pupils transferred to schools in England, then the Cynefin aspect of the curriculum would not be available to them in the same way.

9. TRAVEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The proposal would lead to additional travel

Ref	Comment	Council Response
9.1.1	It is unacceptable that 4 year old children will be put on a bus with students up to the age of 18 for 30-40 minutes at the start and end of the day.	<p>The Council transports many learners aged between 4 and 18 safely across Powys every day. These learners travel together without issues.</p> <p>If learners currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith were to be transported to Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, the journey from Llansilin to Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, via the B4580 and B4396, is approximately 7.5 miles, with a driving time of about 15 minutes. Considering the slower pace of a minibus, the travel time between Llansilin and Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnantis estimated to</p>

		<p>be 20 minutes. This is not considered an unreasonable duration for learners</p> <p>When determining distances from home to school, measurements are taken from the nearest point outside the home address to the school gates. Using current student addresses, the average distance from home to Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant is 6.4 miles, with the shortest distance being 3.9 miles and the furthest 9.03 miles.</p>
9.1.2	Four year old children should not have to spend 40 mins on a bus to get to primary school before and after tiring days.	As above.
9.1.3	Without the school children as young as 4 will be put on a bus at around 8am returning at around 3.45 such a long day for young children.	As above.
9.1.4	If the school is closed then my 6 yr old is looking to be on a bus for 45 minutes to get to the next nearest school in Powys with no support other than the bus driver with children of ages up to 11 yrs old.	As above.
9.1.5	No child should have to travel almost an hour to school (yes it would take that long for mine) and certainly not children under 12.	As above.
9.1.6	Requiring a child of 4/5 to go on a school bus for up to an hour each way each day is unfair and will reduce their ability to engage with learning once there. They will be overtired, unsupervised on the bus and I have real safeguarding concerns regarding it.	As above.
9.1.7	Should a young child be subject to very early morning start to a day and late arrival home due to extended travel times?	As above.
9.1.8	The length of the journey really needs to be looked at for these young children. This is what prevented the school	As above.

	being closed 20 years ago – this unacceptable journey has not changed in any way.	
9.1.9	The children's schooling hours would be considerably longer as its quite a journey along small roads already.	As above.
9.1.10	The travel time to Llanrhaeadr is too long, especially for younger children. This is as much a factor of the state of the intervening roads as the distance involved.	As above
9.1.11	The weather is already causing more problems and transport will be increasingly problematic and expensive.	Comment noted.
9.1.12	As acknowledged in the consultation document, this will have an impact in terms of transport, ability of parents to attend events, and access to after-school activities for pupils who have to travel a considerable distance.	Comment noted.
9.1.13	If the children have to travel by bus the parents will not know the teaching staff and the teachers will not know the parents and therefore any issues or problems a child may have can not be discussed at drop off or pick up time and therefore could affect the child's education.	Comment noted, however Powys is a rural county, and many pupils across Powys are transported to school by bus, including primary and secondary aged pupils. This does not mean that parents don't know the teachers.

9.2 Concern about the impact on the environment

Ref	Comment	Council Response
9.2.1	Concern about the impact of additional home to school transport on the carbon footprint.	<p>It is acknowledged that the additional travel required would have an environmental impact, and that pupils for whom Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the closest school would no longer be able to walk / cycle to school.</p> <p>As indicated in the Consultation Document:</p> <p><i>'For those pupils for whom Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the closest school, additional travel would be</i></p>

		<i>required to access alternative provision. For these pupils, it is unlikely that walking or cycling to the alternative school would be possible.'</i>
9.2.2	The transport to the alternative school will contribute to more environmental pollution.	As above.
9.2.3	Bussing small children around the countryside in pursuit of education is totally inhumane in this day and age, using unnecessary fuel and polluting the environment.	As above.
9.2.4	More cars, more buses, more congestion, more pollution, more wear and tear on the roads – this is definitely not greener.	As above.
9.2.5	It is noted that Powys have a 'green' vision. 'Stronger, Fairer, Greener' it states at the bottom on their website. Transporting all the children to and from whichever school on a string of buses is not in my view greener. Taking away the ability of being able to walk or bike to school is not greener.	As above.
9.2.6	Currently my children are able to walk / bike / scoot to or from school (weather dependent).	As above.
9.2.7	Pupils would no longer be able to walk / ride to school.	As above.
9.2.8	There is also an eco-impact here – currently local pupils have the option to cycle or walk, whereas that will no longer be possible.	As above.
9.2.9	Currently, pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith have a range of transport options available to them, including walking and cycling routes. The consultation makes plain that no active travel options will be available to pupils after transfer. This has to be seen as retrograde in the context of the Council's green travel aspirations. Whilst these points are to some extent referenced individually in the consultation document,	As above.

	the Council needs to acknowledge their cumulative impact. Together, they weight the balance against closure.	
9.2.10	The environmental impact of putting children on buses is a significant factor – will this transport be electric?	The environmental impact of transportation across the county is acknowledged. Some operators already use electric vehicles or alternative fuel sources to reduce this impact. As the Council re-tenders for new contracts for school and public transport, there are enhanced requests to further reduce CO2e emissions county-wide. However, cost and infrastructure constraints will influence the extent and locations of these improvements.

9.3 Concern about impact on pupils' access to after schools activities

Ref	Comment	Council Response
9.3.1	Inability of children to attend out of school activities due to distance and lack of transport.	If Ysgol Bro Cynllaith closed and pupils transferred to their nearest alternative schools in Powys, the Council recognises that it would be more difficult for pupils to access after-school activities than currently due to having to make their own transport arrangements. However, it would be possible for any alternative schools to ensure that extra-curricular activities are provided during the school day. This is a similar situation to many rural schools in Powys where many families rely on home-to-school transport and have to make their own transport arrangements for after-school and extra-curricular activities.
9.3.2	There would be reduced ability for children in Llansilin to participate in sports or after school clubs due to the distance and lack of public transport provision between the 2 villages.	As above
9.3.3	There would be no transport for children wishing to attend any after school activities	As above

9.3.4	Any after-school activities would be out of the question for pupils transferring to Llanrhaeadr due to their reliance on school transport, and so would actually limit their ability for extra-curricular activities.	As above
9.3.5	With a school 30 minutes away, I will not be allowing my children to take part in any after school activities as I simply can't afford to spend an hour of my afternoon collecting children.	As above
9.3.6	It would be more complicated for families to manage new relationships at the new school as children live further away, after school they would need to catch the bus home. As a consequence children would stay at home after school on weekdays.	As above

9.4 Concern about pupil safety on home to school transport

Ref	Comment	Council Response
9.4.1	Concern about the safeguarding element of sending 5 yearold children on buses. How can a driver ensure all children keep their seatbelts on?	The Council safely transports many students aged 4 to 18 across Powys every day, with no issues reported. All closed school contracts include seatbelts, and we expect students to comply with the All-Wales Travel Behaviour Code. This code requires students to remain seated with their seatbelts fastened throughout the journey and to allow the driver to operate the vehicle without distractions. Any unacceptable behaviour or other issues can and are reported to the transport department where the appropriate action is taken.
9.4.2	How does a bus driver monitor and concentrate on driving too?	As above.
9.4.3	No discussion is given to the safety of children on school transport, including how they will be supervised and whether	As above.

	seatbelts will be provided and compliance with young children maintained.	
9.4.4	Very young children having to travel further to school on a daily basis, risks their health and well being and is a safeguarding risk.	As above.
9.4.5	The interests and safeguarding of 4-11 year olds having to travel considerable distances to other schools is concerning.	As above.
9.4.6	Powys have failed to take account of the costs and risks of transporting increased numbers of pupils longer distances on some of the counties most dangerous categories of road.	As above. Estimated additional transport costs have been considered throughout the process.
9.4.7	Tanat Valley road to Llanrhaeadr not very safe especially in winter for young children to be bussed 7 miles to school as well as cost implications.	All school transport contracts are subject to the operator providing the department with a completed risk assessment. Any risks identified within the assessment should be mitigated, where this is not possible alternate arrangements will be made.
9.4.8	Concern about putting small children from the village at risk in the winter on already declining road conditions.	As above.
9.4.9	There is insufficient bus stop or waiting area space in the village to accommodate up to 100 children. The footpaths are narrow and offer inadequate protection from inclement weather which will impact on child well being and safekeeping aspects.	As above. The proposed closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would not result in an increase of up to 100 students requiring transportation, however it is acknowledged that it would result in an increase in the number of pupils from the village being transported to school.
9.4.10	Where the current High School coach stops is not a designated bus stop, the pavements are narrow and there is no safe waiting area to accommodate even more children.	As above, point 9.4.7
9.4.11	The road lay out in the village is not conducive to larger buses or coaches having easy access for turning.	As above.
9.4.12	If the school is closed, Powys County Council will need to provide transportation for children relocated to Llanrhaeadr, which will likely necessitate a second coach. Llansilin is a small rural village with a road layout that does not	As above.

	accommodate the turning of a large coach without reversing. The current high school coach, which is often at full capacity, must reverse into a narrow residential street to change direction. It is anticipated that a second coach would be required to perform the same manoeuvre, thereby increasing safety hazards in the village. The footpaths are narrow and offer inadequate protection from inclement weather which will impact on child wellbeing and safekeeping aspects.	
9.4.13	With some children being required to travel up to 1 hour to school, what provision for safe toilet access will be made?	Taking into account the current address data we hold for pupils attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, there is nothing to suggest any student travelling to Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant would be on the school transport for more than 20 minutes. Toilet facilities are not provided on school transport.

9.5 Comments about additional transport costs

Ref	Comment	Council Response
9.5.1	The burden of additional transport costs for the Council has not been considered	Estimated additional transport costs have been considered and are included in the consultation document. As indicated in the consultation document: 'It is estimated that this would result in annual revenue savings to the Council of around £77k. This overall figure comprises a potential saving on Schools' delegated funding of over £145.8k and estimated additional transport costs of £70.8k, with a minimal £2k estimated saving in respect of catering.'
9.5.2	Concern about additional transport costs.	As above.
9.5.3	Powys Local Authority is spending approximately 10 million pounds a year on buses for school children. You would	As above.

	expect the cost to be bigger for a geographically large rural county. However, this cost would only increase further if another school closure takes place.	
9.5.4	Parents will also have the expense of travelling further afield at considerable cost in a day when every penny helps in the household.	Comment noted. Home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils transferring to their catchment school, however it is acknowledged that there would be additional transport costs for parents choosing for their children to transfer to a different school, and there would be transport implications for parents in terms of accessing school activities.

9.6 Queries about the Council's Home to School Transport Policy

Ref	Comment	Council Response
9.6.1	There needs to be more clarity on transport. As I understand it, Powys are trying to change to their Transport Policy which would no longer provide transport across the border, but it would offer transport to any school within the Llanfyllin cluster. Have I interpreted this correctly?	The Council's Cabinet approved a revised Home-to-School Transport Policy at the end of September 2024 which will become operational from September 2025 onwards. The revised Policy states that 'free home-to-school transport will be provided to a learner's catchment school'. Previously, the Policy stated that 'free home-to-school transport will be provided to a learner's nearest or catchment school'. If Ysgol Bro Cynllaith was to close, then the catchment area of Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant would be extended to cover the current catchment of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith and would become the 'catchment school'. Free home-to-school transport would then be provided to that school.
9.6.2	Whilst the new transport policy would suggest that the cost of transporting students to these schools wouldn't be a burden on Powys, there will be parents who will choose to transport children to Selattyn or Trefonen themselves as that is the direction of travel for work and any wrap-around	Comment noted. Pupils and their parents are entitled to apply for a place at any school they choose, however transport will only be provided in accordance with the home to school transport, or any revised arrangements proposed in a statutory notice, should

	provision for them at Llanrhaeadr will not be suitable due to the distance.	the Council decide to proceed with the current proposal.
9.6.3	I have contacted both schools and as stated in your proposal there would be transport provided; this is not the case and they would not be able to support this if it was to occur as there is no transport that would pass our home for these schools.	Eligibility for transport is determined by the Council, not by individual schools. The Council has recently approved a revised home to school transport policy which will be implemented from September 2025. Should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close, entitlement to home to school transport would be in accordance with the revised policy.

9.7 Other comments about travel implications

Ref	Comment	Council Response
9.7.1	I think the council should consider that we do not have public transport for school travel.	Comment noted. Should the proposal be implemented, home to school transport would be provided for eligible pupils. Please also note that we do not place primary aged students on public transport.
9.7.2	Powys have not made any assurances re: the nature of the transport provision, and whether it will be accessible for those with disabilities.	Any school transport required for accessibility needs, such as a wheelchair would be tendered and provided accordingly.
9.7.3	From a health perspective, people should be trying to walk to school to avoid obesity (which is another ongoing crisis), and by merging schools the people in the village can no longer do this.	It is acknowledged that pupils for whom Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the closest school would no longer be able to walk to school should the Council proceed with implementation of this proposal.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Comments suggesting the only reason for the proposal is to save money

Ref	Comment	Council Response
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10.1.1	This is just a way for the Council to save more money at the expense of our children.	The reasons for the proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith are outlined in the Consultation Document. There are currently only 25 pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, making it the smallest school in Powys, with the highest budget per pupil. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to close the school, any savings would be reinvested into the education service budget.
10.1.2	Don't let these children suffer because of money! What is more important?	As above.
10.1.3	Children are our adults of tomorrow and education of them should be valued above everything else. Children should not be a money saving venture.	As above.
10.1.4	We believe the proposal is ill-thought-out and inappropriate, reflecting only a financial viewpoint and ignoring the wellbeing of the pupils involved and the interests of the wider local community.	As above.
10.1.5	Its argument should not be about saving money on education but the health and well being of the community as a whole.	As above.
10.1.6	What PCC need to be reminded of is that not all schemes they create are money saving ideas. Some things have to be run at a financial loss to ensure peoples day to day living. People living in Llansilin pay their taxes and still have amenities taken from them. This must not happen to the school.	As above.
10.1.7	I am appalled by the need to save money in the short term by closing schools, which then in the long term has far reaching consequences. I wish to compare closing schools to closing local hospitals.	As above.

10.1.8	Please don't destroy these children's lives, the life of the village, the local workforce and volunteers and small businesses, all in the name of a money saving exercise. That is a huge responsibility to carry on your decision making shoulders is it not !!	As above.
10.1.9	As verbally expressed at the Council meeting, the key driver for change is to provide pupils with the best opportunity for education and extra-curricular activity and on this we agree – the only reason for change should be to provide a stellar educational provision for our children. I will remain sceptical as to the honesty of this statement as I fear that when presented with a viable option that costs more than one that is more convenient but not as beneficial to our children, the more convenient, cheaper option will be chosen.	As above.
10.1.10	We know that we are talking about costs in this matter but unfortunately that seems to be all that PCC is considering. For example, waste bin collection was introduced as the Council wanted to save £80,000 per year. Has that happened? Would be interesting to know.	As above. The Council is required to approve an annual budget, and manage its resources accordingly. Given the financial challenges upon all local authorities, the Council has to make decisions about reducing expenditure across a number of service areas, including waste collection.

10.2 Other comments

Ref	Comment	Council Response
10.2.1	One of the questions we would like answered by PCC is how much money do they think they are going to save by closing the school? Surely it is not just about money.	As indicated in the Consultation Document published in respect of this proposal: 'It is estimated that this would result in annual revenue savings to the Council of around £77k. This overall figure comprises a potential saving on Schools'

		delegated funding of over £145.8k and estimated additional transport costs of £70.8k, with a minimal £2k estimated saving in respect of catering.’
10.2.2	The paper suggests there could be a saving of £70k in total with this model although without the factor of additional staff at Llanrhaeadr.	The estimated savings include consideration of the impact on the additional delegated funding that would be provided to Ysgol Llanrhaeadr to reflect an increase in pupil numbers. Any additional staff would need to be funded from the school’s budget within the funding envelope provided
10.2.3	If students were to be transported to Llanrhaeadr instead, there would be the associated cost that each pupil would take with them to Llanrhaeadr, plus it would be reasonable to expect there would need to be some additional staffing costs there to accommodate the new influx. For the sake of ease, let’s suggest this might be in the order of one additional member of staff at an average of £35k a year, plus the cost of transporting them to and fro each day. In addition, there would be the increased cost to repair and maintenance of highways due to parents travel for meetings, plays, assemblies or when a child is sick.	As above. The estimated savings also included estimated additional travel costs to transport pupils to Llanrhaeadr. Although it has been acknowledged that the proposal would have an impact on parents as they would need to travel to the alternative school to access school events etc, this would not be a cost for the Council, therefore this wasn’t considered in the estimated savings.
10.2.4	Many of my constituents view it as perverse that, assuming we do consider schools surrounding Oswestry a viable alternative provision for all (which I reiterate, I do not), Powys Local Authority would be paying Shropshire Local Authority thousands of pounds per year to educate our children.	Should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close, the Council’s preference would be for pupils to attend alternative provision in Powys. This has been made clear throughout the process, and home to school transport provision would be provided to enable pupils living in Powys to access provision in Powys even if there are schools in Shropshire which are closer to their homes.

11. CRITICISM OF POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

11.1 Criticism of the Council’s approach to small / rural schools / communities

Ref	Comment	Council Response
11.1.1	I think the loss of small rural schools is an attack on the rural farming community	Whilst noting this comment about the loss of small rural schools, the Council is not 'attacking the rural farming community.' The Council is implementing its Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed following extensive engagement with schools and other stakeholders. One of the challenges highlighted during the process was the fact that Powys has a high proportion of small schools. Due to the rural nature of Powys with its sparse population, these small schools tend to be located in rural areas, however a wide range of proposals have been taken forward since the Strategy was developed, including many which have affected schools in more urban areas.
11.1.2	There is no denying that education in Powys needs to change and improve, but to do this by targeting the smaller, rural schools for closure without considering the impact not only on the children, but also on the local community, shows a degree of ignorance towards how central to the community Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is.	As above. A draft Community Impact Assessment has already been prepared with input from the school, which considers the proposal's impact on the community. This will be updated to include comments received during the consultation, and an updated version will be considered by Cabinet when deciding whether or not to proceed with the proposal.
11.1.3	Considering the Welsh government have put a emphasis on councils encouraging rural relocation, I think it crazy that Powys would then consider shutting a vitally important, border village school like this one.	The current process in respect of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is being carried in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, so the Council is following Welsh Government guidance.
11.1.4	Impossible to see how a Welsh council could facilitate or promote this destruction.	As above.
11.1.5	In proposing the closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith the council are ignoring the unique geography of Llansilin and the uniquely tolerant character of the community.	The Council is currently carrying out consultation on a proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. This is an opportunity for stakeholders to let the Council know

		<p>their views on this proposal. Issues raised during the consultation are listed in this consultation report, which will be taken into consideration by the Council's Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposal.</p> <p>The Council is fully aware of the location of Llansilin near to the border with Shropshire, and the risk that should the school close, pupils would choose to attend alternative schools in Shropshire. However, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is a small school, which currently has only 25 pupils, and the cost per pupil at the school is significantly higher than the Powys average.</p>
11.1.6	You've already closed the other small schools in the area.	It is correct that other small schools in the area near to Llansilin have closed recently – Llangedwyn C. in W. School closed at the end of August 2024.
11.1.7	Another school has already closed in the area.	As above.
11.1.8	Just because Llansilin is the most northern village in Powys many miles away from Llandrindod Wells does not mean it deserves to have its only real council funded service taken away from it.	Comment noted.
11.1.9	Transforming Education in Powys is in my opinion a closure of rural schools in order to save cash. I don't believe it is any more than that.	The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys outlines the Council's vision for all learners in Powys, and includes a number of strategic aims and objectives to improve education in Powys. Many activities have been taken forward to implement the Strategy, and whilst some of these have resulted in the closure of rural schools, others have affected schools located in more urban areas.
11.1.10	Taking the issue of school closures in the constituency as a whole, falling student numbers, vacant pupil places in local schools, combined with a larger cost per student means	The Council's Transforming Education Strategy clearly outlines the challenges facing the education sector across the county and includes 4 Strategic Aims and

	that, ultimately, no village school is safe. When linked with the council's, "Sustainable Powys" strategy, this equates to the sad likelihood of more school closures and consultations in the relatively near future (only Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant and – even more so – Llansantffraid appear to have healthy and robust numbers on roll, out of the 5 named schools).	Objectives that provide a framework for transformation from 2022 – 2032. The Strategy is key to the delivery of a more Sustainable Powys. A Work Programme has been published for Wave 2 of the Strategy (2022-2027) which outlines the Transformation activity for this period.
11.1.11	Children's education should be the most important thing to consider and we would refer PCC to the Welsh government who are constantly stating this to all who wish to listen. PCC are obviously ignoring the government policy and "doing their own thing".	The current process in respect of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is being taken forward in accordance with the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, so is being taken forward in accordance with Welsh Government guidance.
11.1.12	The local community of a Powys school challenged the decision for closure in the High Court. The community's view was that closure went against the Welsh Government's, "Small and Rural School" presumption against closure policy. However, it was revealed that this is guidance only, with no teeth and so the community lost their case.	The current version of the School Organisation Code includes a 'Presumption against closure of rural schools', which outlines additional steps local authorities are required to undertake when proposing to close schools identified as 'rural' schools. The Council complied with these additional requirements in the processes considered by the High Court.

11.2 Criticism of the Council's treatment of the school

Ref	Comment	Council Response
11.2.1	The proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is not a new threat, indeed this is the third time since my children started at the school (5 years ago, in 2020) that this has been on the agenda.	It is acknowledged that the Council originally published its preferred way forward for the Llanfyllin catchment, which included the potential closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, in September 2020, and that this has meant that the Council has been facing uncertainty for a number of years now, which will have had an impact on the school over this period.

		The Council will aim to conclude the current process as soon as it can, to ensure that there is clarity on the school's future as soon as possible.
11.2.2	Threatening to close the school for so long encourages others to take their children to other schools.	As above.
11.2.3	There is a great sadness amongst locals regarding the prospect of losing the school, but also a sense of exhaustion which comes from multiple periods of uncertainty and the lack of a solid answer either way from Powys to date.	As above.
11.2.4	There's been uncertainty surrounding the school since 2020. Please either leave us alone or do it!	As above.
11.2.5	The teachers and support staff have done well managing so much uncertainty over so many years.	Comment noted.

11.3 Other criticisms of Powys County Council

Ref	Comment	Council Response
11.3.1	If Powys are going to table such an important issue as closing a school then at least they should get their facts right.	Information provided in the consultation document is the latest information that was available to the Council at the time when it was published. References are provided to data sources for any data quoted, and any queries / comments about specific elements of the document would be responded to in this consultation report.
11.3.2	This is the second school closure proposal/consultation process in the constituency since July (when the Ysgol Treowen school closure in Newtown went through). My constituents – from Llansilin and elsewhere – have expressed fear and anxiety for the future of our rural primary schools.	The proposal in respect of Ysgol Treowen was a proposal to reorganise schools in Newtown, the largest town in Powys, which predominantly serve pupils living in Newtown. This proposal did not affect rural schools. The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys was developed in response to Estyn's

		inspection of Powys Education Services in 2019 which outline concerns about the pace of progress in respect of transforming education in Powys and aims to provide education which improves learner entitlement and experience for all pupils in Powys in the future. One of the aims outlined in the strategy is to 'rationalise primary provision'. The proposal in respect of Ysgol Treowen and the current proposal in respect of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith are being taken forward in accordance with this aim.
11.3.3	The Council won't take any notice of the responses to the consultation – it's a foregone conclusion so there's no point responding.	The decision on whether or not to proceed with the current process in respect of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is not a foregone conclusion. All issues raised during the consultation period have been reflected in this Consultation Report, which will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when deciding whether or not to proceed with the proposal.
11.3.4	You've met with pupils, staff and governors as part of this process, but parents should have this opportunity too.	All stakeholders had the opportunity to respond to the consultation to let the Council know their views.

12. COMMENTS ABOUT THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENTATION

Ref	Comment	Council Response
12.1	The alternatives to closure do not appear to have been properly thought out.	A number of alternative options were considered when developing the current proposal. These are outlined in the Consultation Document. The consultation response form also provided an opportunity for respondents to suggest other options. These will be considered as part of the consultation report.
12.2	Nearest alternative schools: I found this part of the literature the most problematic as it did not appear to take into	The proposal is to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith and for pupils' to transfer to their nearest alternative schools in Powys. In the case of the majority of current pupils at

	account that there is even less choice on offer than appears to be the case.	the school, Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is the nearest alternative school. Information about other alternative schools is provided in the Consultation Document, including current pupil numbers at those schools.
12.3	If I can make one observation from the documents and assessments, I have read, they do not mention the one big issue for everyone - convenience. At the moment parents and children can just leave the house in the morning and be at school five minutes later and the same at the end of the day. Likewise if children have doctor or dentist appointments they can be picked up and be back at school within an hour . . . the children's lives will be affected in different ways. Jobs or working hours may have to be changed, people will have to get up earlier and chats at the school gate will cease."	Comment noted. The Council does acknowledge that Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is the closest school for almost all current pupils, and that closure of the school would result in pupils and their families having to travel longer distances to access alternative provision. It is therefore acknowledged that this provision would be less convenient for them.
12.4	The impact on the Llansilin Village Community has not been considered	A draft community impact assessment has been prepared with input from the school. This will be reviewed and updated to reflect comments received during the consultation period, and an updated version will be considered by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposal.
12.5	The Impact Assessment document does not consider closely enough the long-term implications of pupils being educated within a single language stream system.	Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is currently a dual-stream school and not a single stream school. If the Council decides to move the school along the language continuum, the impact of this on pupils would be considered at that point.
12.6	Whilst considerations in most sections appear to be reasonable, the sections on the Impact on vulnerable groups, including children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Standards of outcomes for learners are too generic and do not focus specifically enough on support required for those learners who have a LA IDP, such as how	The impact assessment has been updated to ensure that this comment has been addressed.

	the needs of this group of learners could be met when transferring to a different setting.	
12.7	With regards to additional learning needs (ALN), the council states that as the proposal includes moving to a larger school there is no reason to believe that the alternative school would not be equipped to meet the needs of pupils belonging to the protected characteristics group that would be affected, including with ALN. This appears to be appropriate but would benefit from further detail to ensure the needs of pupils can be met.	The Inclusion and Youth Service Team, which includes specialist teachers, work with schools to ensure that learners with learning needs are appropriately supported.

13. COMMENTS ABOUT IMPACT ON PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC GROUPS

Ref	Comment	Council Response
13.1	Children with additional learning needs would be greatly impacted.	The council disagrees with this statement. Please see comments made in section 1.6
13.2	Neurodiversity and ADHD and similar will get lost in a big school	The council disagrees with this statement. Please see comments made in section 1.6
13.3	Children on the SEND Register will be adversely affected by a change in setting and long travel times.	The council disagrees with this statement. Please see comments made in section 1.6
13.4	A school-to-school move for a child with ALN often tends to be even more stressful and disorientating for a Non-ALN student and this stress would be exacerbated for a student who was also moving to a different language school.	The council agrees with this statement. In order to mitigate stress on learners, robust transition plans would be written and learners supported in advance to ensure that they are comfortable in their new learning environment.
13.5	There is no background looked into for each of these children, some who are from the care system or have educational special needs; this could be very upsetting for them and as we are aware school can be the only safe environment for them.	The council understands that all children and young people are unique and have their individual needs. The Inclusion and Youth Service team work with schools and individual learners to ensure that their specific needs are met. For example, the Virtual School for CLA support all learners that are in the care of the council.

13.6	The plans by Powys do not take into consideration access on transportation for any disabled pupils.	Transport for learners who are disabled or have additional needs that require adaptations to their transport will be catered for as necessary. This is done on a case-by-case basis.
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14. COMMENTS ABOUT IMPACT ON THE WELSH LANGUAGE

14.1 Comments about the area's cultural significance

Ref	Comment	Council Response
14.1.1	Owain Glyndwr's Sycharth is a short distance from Llansilin. Local children deserve the chance to learn about and understand the wonderful rich Welsh heritage they have on their doorstep.	The Council notes these comments about the area's historical significance.
14.1.2	Llansilin has an immense historical and cultural importance in Wales being associated with Owain Glyndwr, Sycharth and Huw Morris, and a Historical Centre is in the process of being set up in St. Silin's Church, supported by the Senedd to celebrate this valued history.	As above.
14.1.3	You need also to remember the amount of Welsh history in the area of Llansilin – namely Sycharth! It doesn't get much bigger than that. It is literally right on the doorstep of the school and we have been privileged enough to be able to walk the children there over the years. Owain Glyndwr was born at Sycharth circa 1354/59 and over the past couple of years we have seen organised marches to Sycharth on Owain Glyndwr Day (16 September). If you want to preserve Welsh history as well as the language then you really need to be considering all of these things. Allow the children of Llansilin to be schooled in their village and learn about the	As above.

	Welsh history here, isn't this what the new curriculum encourages?	
14.1.4	This is an area that was (and is by some strange miracle) a stronghold of the Plygain (Recorded For Hedddiw'r Bore by the Bron Heulog family, Llansilin in the 1960s) and home to Dewi Silin (one of the Legendary Persons), Morris Kyffin Glascoed who asked back in the sixteenth century when English services were sought in the parish church. "Could the devil himself be an alternative?"	As above.

14.2 Concern that the proposal would have a negative impact on the Welsh language

Ref	Comment	Council Response
14.2.1	The closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would have an enormous adverse effect on the opportunities of the children of Llansilin to learn Welsh and discover and understand their local culture and history.	<p>The Council notes these concerns about the potential impact of the proposal on the Welsh language, particularly due to the risk that should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close, pupils would transfer to alternative schools in Shropshire rather than transferring to alternative schools in Powys.</p> <p>Whilst pupils and their parents would be able to choose any alternative school, the Council's preference would be for pupils living in Powys to attend their nearest provision in Powys. Transport provision would be provided to facilitate this. This would ensure that pupils in the area would be able to continue to access the Welsh curriculum, and would continue to have the opportunity to learn Welsh.</p> <p>The closest alternative school in Powys for the majority of pupils is Ysgol Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, which is a dual stream school, providing the opportunity for pupils</p>

		to access Welsh-medium or English-medium provision, so there would be enhanced opportunities for pupils to access Welsh-medium education, which would ensure they would become fluent in both Welsh and English.
14.2.2	Closure will result in a further dilution of Welsh language and culture.	As above.
14.2.3	Powys council would be explicitly contributing to the elimination of Welsh language.	As above.
14.2.4	Most parents of pupils attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith do not speak Welsh so the language in Llansilin area would be lost.	As above.
14.2.5	The Welsh language would be lost completely in this area.	As above.
14.2.6	A disaster for Welsh language in this area.	As above.
14.2.7	Without Welsh language being spoken in school most children in the area wouldn't learn it and would then be disadvantaged on going to high school.	As above.
14.2.8	It would deprive young people in the area the opportunity to learn Welsh in their local area.	As above.
14.2.9	Any proposals to close the school will have adverse effects on both pupils, their education, their families and on the Welsh language.	As above.
14.2.10	Closing Llansilin school would have a negative effect on the Welsh language in the village. As we are so close to the border children will be lost to primary/secondary schools in Shropshire.	As above.
14.2.11	The closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would be very detrimental to the language in this area.	As above.
14.2.12	It's a very Welsh area, and we've always been border guards, don't deprive us now.	As above.
14.2.13	It is important to keep the learning of the Welsh language, especially in small local communities.	As above.

14.2.14	Closure will badly affect the prospects of Welsh being taught and understood and used locally in the future.	As above.
14.2.15	The closure will show that the bilingual nature of the school is being ignored and the new history centre is not supported by Powys.	As above.

14.3 Suggested improvements which would have a positive impact on Welsh

Ref	Comment	Council Response
14.3.1	Promote the school as a bilingual school that gives real world opportunities for pupils to learn two languages, as is natural in the local community.	The school is an English-medium school. Whilst pupils learn Welsh as a second language, this is not sufficient for most pupils to become fluent in Welsh, so it would not be appropriate to promote the school as a bilingual school.
14.3.2	Funding for the Welsh language needs to be in place.	Comment noted.
14.3.3	I think to keep the school would have the overall positive impact on Welsh language.	Comment noted.
14.3.4	Make links with other Welsh spoken school or teacher sharing.	Making links with Welsh-medium schools or making arrangements to share teachers would be a matter for the school.
14.3.5	Sitting so close to the border with a mix of English and Welsh children, more Welsh should be incorporated into the teaching.	Making more use of Welsh at the school would be a matter for the school.
14.3.6	Incorporate more Welsh content and opportunities to speak Welsh into the curriculum.	As above.
14.3.7	Although Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is an English medium school and moving school will not make pupils less likely to receive a Welsh language education, the council should use every opportunity to increase Welsh language provision.	As above.

14.4 The proposal would not have a negative impact on the Welsh language

Ref	Comment	Council Response
14.4.1	I don't think it would have any effect on the Welsh language as all the Welsh speaking children don't go to it.	Comment noted.
14.4.2	It is not going to affect the Welsh language as all the Welsh speaking children don't go there.	Comment noted.

14.5 Other comments about impact on the Welsh Language

Ref	Comment	Council Response
14.5.1	Everyone has a right to Welsh-medium education within a certain distance of their homes.	Comment noted.
14.5.2	My family do not speak Welsh at home and this is a personal choice, but as members of the local community, we recognise the importance of the Welsh language and heritage to the area and the village.	Comment noted.
14.5.3	The results of the census every ten years are evidence of the success of this racist regime. 91.5% spoke Welsh in Llansilin parish in 1901 to 27% in 2011. The percentage was between 65% and 80% in the 1960s so the rate of reduction has increased in the last half century.	Comment noted.

15. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

15.1 Retain the status quo

Ref	Comment	Council Response
15.1.1	I understand the need to save money but closing YBC is not the answer.	Status quo is one of the options considered in the options appraisal carried out in respect of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, however this option would not address the

		challenges identified. There are currently only 25 pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, making it the smallest school in Powys, with the highest budget per pupil.
15.1.2	Don't close the school.	As above.
15.1.3	Closure of the school is not a good idea.	As above.
15.1.4	Maintain existing school provision at the existing Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.	As above.
15.1.5	Do not close it – it makes sense to keep facilities closer to need.	As above.
15.1.6	At a recent public meeting some people argued to keep the school open in case more people, the same as them, come to live here from England.	As above.
15.1.7	Do not close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith!	As above.
15.1.8	Please do anything in your power to prevent Ysgol Bro Cynllaith from closing.	As above.
15.1.9	In an ideal world, selfishly of course I wish the school to continue just how it is – the children flourishing and enjoying learning and I think there is a strong case for doing so.	As above.
15.1.10	I implore the County Council to do all it can to ensure that this school does not close. This is a good opportunity for the Council to show that it is prepared to look after the northernmost end of the county and to prove that this area does not lose out to other parts of the county as a result of its geographical position.	As above.
15.1.11	I really hope that every effort will be made to keep this school open for the future and at the very least, try the different options first before closing the doors for good.	As above.
15.1.12	The school should be invested in and would attract young families to the village making it a thriving and growing community in the years ahead.	As above.

15.1.13	Powys need to also consider the recent announcement of the intention that Llansilin and other surrounding villages are to be included into a National Park. This is very much unwanted by residents, but if it were to be pushed through without regard for the local opinions, what impact could this potentially have on our rural schools? I would suggest that it would be extremely short sighted to close our school at this point. Wouldn't it be better to wait and see what happens first? If the village of Llansilin continues to grow as it is at the moment, and it transpires in the future that we do actually need a school, and ours has been closed, then Powys need to think how difficult it would be to build/get planning within a National Park.	As above.
15.1.14	Maintaining the school because the proposed History Centre in Llansilin Church, supported by Cadw will bring lots of interest to Llansilin and more people and children to the area.	As above. Whilst noting the proposal to establish a History Centre in Llansilin Church, supported by Cadw, the Council would not expect this development to lead to a significant increase in pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.
15.1.15	Keep the school open so English speakers can still have the opportunity to learn Welsh as a second language.	As above. Whilst acknowledging the risk that should the school close, some pupils may choose to transfer to schools located in England, the Council's preference would be for pupils in the Llansilin area to access alternative provision located in Powys, so that they can continue to access the Welsh curriculum and have the opportunity to learn Welsh, and home to school transport would be provided to support this.
15.1.16	I believe that it is the intention for Llanrhaeadr to become a totally Welsh medium school at some point. Would it not	Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is currently a dual stream school, and pupils attending the school can

	<p>therefore make sense to preserve an English medium school? Powys stand to lose so many future pupils across the border and with them the chance of keeping the Welsh language alive here in Llansilin.</p>	<p>choose to attend either the Welsh-medium stream or the English-medium stream.</p> <p>Whilst it is correct that the Council's preferred way forward for the Llanfyllin catchment includes an aspiration for Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant to move along the language continuum to become a Welsh-medium school, a further statutory process would need to be undertaken in order to implement that, which would include an opportunity for all stakeholders in the local area to let the Council know their views on that proposal.</p>
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15.2 Develop the provision at the school

Ref	Comment	Council Response
15.2.1	Open nursery facilities in the school to secure additional funding whilst maintaining the primary school as an educational facility.	The Council has recently carried out a new tender exercise for early years education provision. From the work the council has been doing as part of the tender process, to make a setting sustainable, they would need to have an average of 10 children accessing the setting per week across the academic year. The annual admission for Bro Cynllaith is significantly lower than the number of children needed to make an early years setting sustainable.
15.2.2	Create wrap around care for Bro Cynllaith so that working families can access the school.	It is not the Council's role to take forward the introduction of wraparound care at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.
15.2.3	Better marketing of the school, and encouragement to register.	It is not the Council's responsibility to market the school.
15.2.4	Surely there is an opportunity in Llansilin, with good and supportive leadership, to develop a successful primary school, similar to what we see in Pontrobert and the Vale of	There is already good leadership at the school, and the quality of provision at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is not one of the reasons for the current proposal.

	Banwy and others – excellent primary schools and primary schools that offer what the children in the area deserve.	
15.2.5	Having teachers from other schools spend some of their time at Llansilin or use of IT could reduce costs and enrich the learning experience at Llansilin	These would be matters for the school.

15.3 Shared leadership

Ref	Comment	Council Response
15.3.1	Does the school need its own headteacher or could the Llanrhaeadr head oversee the two schools?	There are arrangements in place in some Powys schools where a Headteacher oversees more than one school. This is something the school's governing body could explore should they wish to do so. However, this would not result in a financial saving to the Council as the school would continue to be funded in accordance with the Council's funding formula.
15.3.2	Sharing e. g. leadership with another school.	As above.
15.3.3	My only thought regarding this to reduce costings is for a head teacher to have more than one school under their control therefore reducing the cost of teaching staff.	As above.

15.4 Federation / merger with another school

Ref	Comment	Council Response
15.4.1	Consider federation with surrounding schools	Federation with Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is one of the options considered in the options appraisal carried out in respect of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, however this option would not address the challenges identified. There are currently only 25 pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, making it the smallest school in Powys, with the highest budget per pupil.

15.4.2	Federation as Tanat Valley schools.	As above.
15.4.3	A Federation Model should be given serious consideration.	As above.
15.4.4	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith should not be closed but rather it should be federated with a neighbouring school(s), at the earliest possible juncture.	As above.
15.4.5	Have Llansilin connect with the other two local schools and bring them together with one budget	As above.
15.4.6	Merging the school with a bigger Powys school.	As above.
15.4.7	Link with another school close by, sharing costs and resources.	As above.
15.4.8	Reference to examples of federations of schools in Wrexham (Dee Valley, Dyffryn Ceiriog and Maelor Saesneg)	As above.
15.4.9	Reference to a multi sited school arrangements in the Revel parish in rural Warwickshire	As above.
15.4.10	Some form of federation could reduce costs	As above. Whilst federation would result in some savings for the schools involved, it would not result in a saving to the local authority, as the schools would continue to be funded as separate schools.

15.5 'Classroom in the countryside'

Ref	Comment	Council Response
15.5.1	PCC should consider 'Classrooms in the Country' model as urged by Llansilin governors and head of Ysgol Llanfyllin.	Becoming part of Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is an option that was considered in the options appraisal carried out in respect of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, however the option for the school to become part of Ysgol Llanfyllin was not considered, as it is not the closest school to Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

		However, this option will be further assessed as an alternative option in accordance with the requirements of the 'Presumption against closure of Rural Schools' in section 7 of this report.
15.5.2	'Classroom in the Countryside' proposal with Llanfyllin School.	As above.
15.5.3	An alternative proposal could be maintaining a 'classroom in the countryside model', managed by a parent school like Ysgol Llanfyllin, to reduce costs while preserving the school's presence in the village.	As above.
15.5.4	Due to the unique location of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, the make-up of the community and the distance required to travel to the alternative, a physical presence in the village is vitally important but that due to the need to reduce costs and ensure sustainability and continuity of education, while maintaining a presence in the village, the natural solution is that of a classroom in the countryside model that has been suggested previously – classroom in the country run by Ysgol Llanfyllin.	As above.
15.5.5	The 'Classroom in the Countryside' model would save money. The Headteacher would be replaced by Senior Teacher, which would remove the burden of admin from Llansilin staff and increase school resilience.	As above.
15.5.6	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith could be a rural classroom for Ysgol Llanfyllin. This would save money by having one headteacher over both schools and less transport costs.	As above.
15.5.7	I appreciate that change is needed for financial reasons, but it seems to me that the best way forward is to retain Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, with enhanced Welsh language provision, possibly using the 'classroom in the countryside' model affiliated with Ysgol Llanfyllin, as proposed by the governors	As above.

15.5.8	Staff from the parent school and Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would both benefit from the wider opportunities for leadership and development opportunities.	As above.
15.5.9	The children would have opportunities to work with Ysgol Llanfyllin being a much bigger school.	As above.
15.5.10	With the classroom in the country model, pupils would continue to be able to access all the great extra-curricular activities currently available to them already, without the limitations presented by not being able to stay on at school after the school day. In addition, further opportunities would be available for activities such as team sports that require a certain amount of pupils, by joining with the parent school. Regular joint learning opportunities could be timetabled in when pupils from either school could be transported to the other school.	As above.
15.5.11	By bringing the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith teaching team into the fold of a parent school, the curriculum development burden can be divided, best practise shared and student development more easily monitored and improved. It would ensure the advantages to the students of a small school mixed age setting whilst also gaining the advantages of a larger setting.	As above.
15.5.12	With the physical presence of the school still within the village as part of a classroom in the countryside model, parents and carers could continue to have the close collaborative relationship they have with the school – for the better of the pupils. In addition, parents would be more familiar with Ysgol Llanfyllin as the future secondary provision for their children and so transitions from year 6-7 would be expected to be smoother also. Many of the primary-aged children have older siblings already at Ysgol Llanfyllin or know older peers who have transitioned to Ysgol	As above.

	Llanfyllin so there is already a working relationship with the school.	
15.5.13	The current budget for the school is £200k per annum, of which £145.8k goes on staffing costs. The biggest staffing overhead at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is the Headteacher and so, if cost savings must be made, then if the administration, leadership, oversight and direction of curriculum was managed by a parent school, in this case Ysgol Llanfyllin, with a second classroom teacher rather than a Headteacher at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, this would save an amount each year– immediately reducing the cost per pupil.	As above. There would be no saving to the Council based on this model, as the school would continue to be funded as a separate site. Any savings would benefit the school itself.

15.6 Develop Welsh-medium provision

Ref	Comment	Council Response
15.6.1	Dual stream education maybe.	The Council has not considered introducing dual stream provision at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. Welsh-medium provision is currently available for pupils in the Llansilin area at Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant. However, this option will be further assessed as an alternative option in accordance with the requirements of the 'Presumption against closure of Rural Schools' in section 7 of this report.
15.6.2	Allow Ysgol Bro Cynllaith to teach in medium of Welsh as well as English.	As above.
15.6.3	If Powys County council truly believes in retaining children living in Wales, and in Llansilin's case attracting some pupils on the Shropshire side of the border, then a Welsh stream should be accommodated.	As above.

15.6.4	If only Powys would support our school in offering dual medium it would be so beneficial to everyone and save on extra transport costs.	As above.
15.6.5	If Powys were to support Bro Cynllaith in converting to a dual stream school then straight away the transport costs would be reduced. The mini bus that takes the 11 children to Llanrhaeadr would be redundant, instead they could be collected by the mini bus that already collects the 4 children from this area, and brought here to have their Welsh education.	As above.
15.6.6	It would be good if dual stream education could be done, then all the children (both Welsh speakers and English) could learn and play together as when I attended.	As above.
15.6.7	Invest in it - open up a third classroom in the cabin and offer welsh immersion there followed by welsh stream education with a third teacher - give parents the option to have their child in there for half the day in welsh education and then the other half in English so you can cover infants and juniors (one in the morning, one the afternoon).	As above.
15.6.8	Welsh will be impacted heavily if you close the school so why not invest in welsh education instead (as you have a mandate to do) by employing a third teacher for welsh stream, open up that classroom for infants in the mornings and juniors in the afternoon and allow children to have a welsh-medium education for half their day each day.	As above.
15.6.9	I think a lot of the non-welsh speaking parents would be willing for a dual stream, whereas they won't if it was full Welsh.	As above.
15.6.10	Moving along the linguistic continuum starting now.	As above.
15.6.11	Increasing/implementing Welsh medium education at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith to reduce number of children having to travel to other schools and therefore numbers at school.	As above.

15.6.12	Make it a Welsh led or bilingual school.	<p>The Council has not considered providing a Welsh-medium school at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. Welsh-medium provision is currently available for pupils in the Llansilin area at Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, however it is acknowledged that this is at a dual stream school, not a Welsh-medium school.</p> <p>This option will be further assessed as an alternative option in accordance with the requirements of the 'Presumption against closure of Rural Schools' in section 7 of this report.</p>
15.6.13	Having a Welsh medium school in Llansilin is the answer.	As above.
15.6.14	We need a bilingual school (Welsh medium school) in Llansilin to fix the rift in the community (as it is, children don't get to know the children next door.)	As above.
15.6.15	The school in Llansilin should be a school with a bilingual outcome (Welsh medium education) for everyone to unite the society not divide it.	As above.
15.6.16	By changing the status of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith to be one of Welsh medium it would be able to serve all the families in the area and many families in Shropshire and would give every child in the area the opportunity to grow into fluent and confident bilingual citizens, revitalising the Welsh language in a community that desperately needs the support.	As above.
15.6.17	Retaining this key site as a Welsh language education site in Llansilin with its proximity to Oswestry area families who want bilingual education.	As above.
15.6.18	A Welsh medium bilingual school for all in Llansilin would offer it a unique selling point (USP) in competition with Shropshire's English-only schools.	As above.

15.6.19	Introducing Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would have a positive impact on the secondary Welsh stream at Llanfyllin.	As above.
15.6.20	Employ at least one teacher whose first language is Welsh.	Staffing appointments are the school's responsibility.
15.6.21	Use of bilingual lessons in subjects taught.	This would be a matter for the school.
15.6.22	Do more Welsh at the school as it is	Making more use of Welsh at the school would be a matter for the school.
15.6.23	Increase the amount of Welsh to attract more pupils & possibly draw back those who send their children elsewhere.	As above.
15.6.24	It is now necessary to move to ensure that all schools in the Tanat Valley are moving along the language continuum as set out in the current WESP.	Comment noted. The Council's long term aspiration is for all schools to move along the language continuum, however it is acknowledged that the starting point is different for each school.
15.6.25	All schools in the county must move over time to being Welsh so that all pupils in the county are educated in Welsh.	Comment noted.

15.7 Other alternative options

Ref	Comment	Council Response
15.7.1	If there are only two sites for the future of the valley, there should be one in the west of the valley and one in the east of the valley and Llansilin is where that should be.	Comment noted, however there are currently only 25 pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, making it the smallest school in Powys, with the highest budget per pupil.
15.7.2	Satellite school for ALN pupils as there is no local ALN provision. This would save costs for students who travel to Newtown for ALN support.	The Council delivers support for pupils with additional learning needs in mainstream schools and in 2 special schools, and some satellite centres. The location of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith in a rural location on the Powys border would not be suitable for satellite ALN provision.
15.7.3	Possibility of teaching Foundation and KS1 in Llansilin and teaching KS2 elsewhere to minimise travel/safeguarding issues for the youngest pupils.	Whilst this would minimise travel for the youngest pupils, this would not be a cost effective model, as the Council would still need to maintain the Ysgol Bro

		Cynllaith building, however there would be less pupils accessing the site.
15.7.4	Creative Hub – the school could also be used to focus on creative arts provision such as music tuition, performing arts, after school clubs and cultural interests.	The Council would not currently be in a position to establish a Creative Hub in Llansilin.
15.7.5	An alternative model of staffing structure has not been considered.	The school is responsible for setting its own staffing structure, so is able to investigate alternative models should this be required.
15.7.6	Obviously there has to be some cost saving measures, as it must be cost that is the problem.	Comment noted.

7. FURTHER ASSESSMENT AND CONCLUSION

The School Organisation Code includes some additional steps to be undertaken in respect of the consultation report for proposals relating to the closure of rural schools. This section addresses these requirements.

7.1 Further assessment of the proposal and alternative

Following consultation, the Council has carried out a further assessment of the proposal and the alternatives identified in the proposal paper on the likely impact on quality and standards in education, the likely impact on the community and the likely effect of different travelling arrangements.

The assessments have been reviewed to take account of any further information that came forward through the consultation, however it is not considered that any information emerged which requires the assessments to be amended. The assessments are provided in the following table:

Option	Likely impact on quality and standards	Likely impact on the community	Likely impact of different travelling arrangements
Option 1: Status quo – continue as a standalone school	There would be no impact on quality and standards – pupils would continue to access the current provision at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.	There would be no impact on the community – provision would continue to be available in Llansilin.	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – pupils would continue to attend Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.
Option 2: Federation with Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	There would be very little impact on quality and standards – pupils would continue to access the current provision at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. Pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would continue to	Impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in Llansilin.	Pupils would continue to attend school in the same location, thus there would be no additional transport costs.

	<p>be low, however, more opportunities may be provided for collaboration between the schools.</p>		<p>Some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>
<p>Option 3: Merge with Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant to establish a new school on two sites</p>	<p>This option would retain provision in Llansilin, as both sites would be retained as part of the merger. There would be enhanced opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff, however, ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils in mixed age range classes would continue to be difficult.</p> <p>Merging the two schools to establish a new school is likely to result in a school where the quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision.</p>	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in Llansilin. However, one new governing body would be responsible for both sites, therefore there may be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school, depending on the make-up of the new governing body.</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current site of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. Some additional travel may be required between the two sites in order to access activities and events.</p>
<p>Option 4: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, but retain the site as part of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant</p>	<p>This option would retain provision in Llansilin. There would be enhanced opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff, however, ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils in mixed age range classes would continue to be difficult.</p>	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal. Provision would continue to be available in Llansilin. However, the site would be managed by Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, so there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in the management of the school.</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current site of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p> <p>Some additional travel may be required between the two sites in order to access activities and events.</p>

	<p>It is anticipated that implementation of this option would mean that pupils attend provision where the quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision.</p>	<p>In addition, it is possible that joint school activities would take place on the larger Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant site, which could lead to a reduction in activity on the Llansilin site.</p>	
<p>Option 5: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools</p>	<p>The nearest Powys school to Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant.</p> <p>If pupils moved to Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, they would be attending provision where the quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p> <p>Some pupils would be closer to schools in Shropshire. Should they transfer to these schools, they would no longer access the Welsh curriculum.</p>	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Llansilin, as provision would no longer be run within the village.</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities/events.</p>

7.2 Further reasonable alternatives

The other alternatives which were suggested in the consultation responses received are outlined in section 15 of the 'issues raised in the consultation period' section of this report, including the Council's response to these alternatives. These are as follows:

- 15.1 Retain the status quo
- 15.2 Develop the provision at the school
- 15.3 Shared leadership
- 15.4 Federation / merger with another school
- 15.5 'Classroom in the countryside'
- 15.6 Develop Welsh-medium provision
- 15.7 Other alternative options

15.1 and 15.2 are included within 'Option 1 – Status Quo' in the above table and are therefore not subject to a separate assessment.

15.3 could be achieved as part of 'Option 1 – Status Quo' or as part of federation / merger options, so is not considered a stand alone alternative option. Therefore this will not be subject to further assessment.

15.4 is included within 'Option 2', 'Option 3' and 'Option 4' in the table above and is therefore not subject to a separate assessment.

15.5 'Classroom in the countryside' – a 'Classroom in the countryside' model which would see Ysgol Bro Cynllaith becoming part of Ysgol Llanrhaeadr is included as 'Option 4' in the above table, however the alternative model suggested in the consultation responses referred to a 'Classroom in the countryside' model under the management of Ysgol Llanfyllin. This has not previously been considered as an option, so this option will be subject to further assessment.

15.6 Develop Welsh-medium provision – this will be subject to further assessment.

15.7 'Other alternative options' is not considered a reasonable alternative and the suggestions under this heading don't address the challenges faced by Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, so this will not be subject to further assessment.

The reasonable alternatives that will be subject to further consideration against the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code for rural schools are:

15.5 'Classroom in the countryside' under the management of Ysgol Llanfyllin

15.6 Develop Welsh-medium provision

Two sub options will be considered as part of this alternative option:

- a) Ysgol Bro Cynllaith to become a Welsh-medium school
- b) Ysgol Bro Cynllaith to become a dual stream school

These reasonable alternatives are considered in the following table:

Option	Likely impact on quality and standards	Likely impact on the community	Likely impact of different travelling arrangements
<p>v) ‘Classroom in the countryside’ under the management of Ysgol Llanfyllin</p>	<p>This option would retain provision in Llansilin. There would be enhanced opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff, however, ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils in mixed age range age classes would continue to be difficult.</p> <p>Both Ysgol Llanfyllin and Ysgol Bro Cynllaith are in the ‘Estyn review’ category following their most recent inspections which took place in 2024 and 2023 respectively. Whilst this suggests that implementation of this option would mean that pupils attend</p>	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in Llansilin.</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current site of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. Some additional travel may be required between the different site in order to access activities and events.</p>

	<p>provision where the quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision, the Council would be concerned about the impact of taking on an additional small site on Ysgol Llanfyllin.</p>		
<p>vi) Develop Welsh-medium provision</p> <p>a) Ysgol Bro Cynllaith to become a Welsh-medium school</p>	<p>Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently an English-medium school with no experience of providing Welsh-medium education, so it is likely that there would be a negative impact on quality and standards of education.</p> <p>It is unclear whether staff at the school have the appropriate language skills to deliver the curriculum through the medium of Welsh. If they don't have the necessary skills and experience, this could have a negative impact on quality and standards of education.</p>	<p>Provision would continue to be available in Llansilin, so there would be minimal impact on the community.</p> <p>Pupils currently travelling out of the community to access Welsh-medium provision would be able to access this provision in Llansilin, so this could have a positive impact on community cohesion.</p> <p>Some pupils wishing to access English-medium provision may choose to travel out of Llansilin to access alternative provision.</p>	<p>Pupils living in the area currently served by Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would continue to attend school on the current site, where they would access Welsh-medium education. There would be no impact on travel arrangements for these pupils.</p> <p>Some pupils may choose to access English-medium provision at an alternative location, so additional travel would be required for these pupils.</p> <p>Pupils in the Llansilin area currently travel to access Welsh-medium education at Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant. Should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith become a Welsh-medium school, there would be no need for pupils to travel to access Welsh-medium</p>

			provision, so there would be a reduction in travel for these pupils.
b) Ysgol Bro Cynllaith to become a dual stream school	<p>Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently an English-medium school with no experience of providing Welsh-medium education, so it is unknown what the impact on quality and standards of education would be.</p> <p>Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is already a fairly small school, so establishing a Welsh-medium stream at the school is likely to lead to additional challenges in ensuring appropriate class sizes.</p>	<p>Provision would continue to be available in Llansilin, so there would be minimal impact on the community.</p> <p>Pupils currently travelling out of the community to access Welsh-medium provision would be able to access this provision in Llansilin, so this could have a positive impact on community cohesion.</p>	<p>Pupils living in the area currently served by Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would continue to attend school on the current site, where they would be able to access either Welsh-medium or English-medium education. There would be no impact on travel arrangements for these pupils.</p> <p>Pupils in the Llansilin area currently travel to access Welsh-medium education at Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant. Should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith become a dual stream school, there would be need for pupils to travel to access Welsh-medium provision, so there would be a reduction in travel for these pupils.</p>

7.3 Conclusion

The Council has considered the issues raised in the consultation exercise and has also carried out a further assessment of the proposal, the original options and alternative options identified during the consultation with consideration of the likely impact on quality and standards in education, the likely impact on the community and the likely effect of different travelling arrangements. The Council's view is that none of the other original options or the alternative options address the challenges facing Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, which are:

- Low pupil numbers
- High budget per pupil
- Combined age classes

As outlined in the Consultation Document, the reasons for the proposal are as follows:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- Revenue saving to the Council
- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pupils would attend schools with better quality accommodation
- Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages
- Pupils would be able to continue to access provision in Powys
- Potential opportunity to realise a capital receipt from sale of the site

The reasoning for this conclusion is that implementation of the proposal will ensure improved management of the Powys schools estate, ensuring that the best possible educational opportunities can be provided to pupils living in the area currently served by Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. School and across Powys in the future.

As stated in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-30, the Council faces a challenge due to the high proportion of small schools in the county and the lack of equity amongst schools. Ysgol Bro Cynllaith has seen a significant

decrease in pupil numbers in recent years, and currently has only 25 pupils. With such low pupil numbers the teacher-pupil ratio is notably different to many other schools in the area, and due to the Council's funding formula, the school's funding per pupil is significantly higher than the Council's average. This does not provide equity across the education system – teachers in larger schools are required to provide the same education as smaller schools for less funding per pupil.

The Council's Strategy is intended to improve equity across the education system and to ensure an improvement for every pupil's learning entitlement and experience.