

**Llandudno Area – Nominated Stakeholder Meeting Notes**  
**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

**Present:** Geraint James (GJ) (Statutory Head of Education Services)  
Dilwyn Price (DP) (Head of School Improvement Services)  
Emma Bayliss (EB) (Project Manager)  
Gareth Thomas (GT) (TJB)  
David Batten (DB) (TJB)  
Cynan Jones (CJ) (TJB)

**Observers:** Cllr A. Barratt  
Cllr W. E. Jones

**1. Introduction**

DB provided an introduction to the meeting and explained what would be involved including the workshop element.

**2. Presentations**

DP gave a presentation on the progress of the project so far and the development of the Areas for Review document.

DP then gave a presentation on the specific school data including information on 'fit for purpose', unfilled places and catchment areas. It was explained that school capacity was calculated by using a formula provided by WAG based upon the floor capacity of the school. If there was a Nursery class, this floor space was not included. In terms of unfilled places, only full time pupils were considered in this calculation.

Reference was made to pupil projections and how this was calculated – the intake for the last three years was looked at and then an average was used to project pupil numbers. Over the last 12 years, the pupil projections for each school had been within 1% correct. Pupil projections were also reviewed annually.

The list for 'Fit for Purpose' had been produced via review of Building Bulletins and the suggestions received at the initial road shows. The list was not a list of essentials but if a new school was built, it would include all these aspects.

**Question and Answer Session (Q = question, A = Answer, C= Comment)**

Q: Ysgol Craig y Don is overfilled, why can't pupils be moved from there to schools with unfilled places?

A: We accept that there are some schools that are up to their capacity and this can be further compromised as schools will accept admissions from parents following appeals. We do speak to these schools who are up to capacity in order to try and stop this happening and ensure that they are following the admissions policy.

C: Ysgol Craig y Don are still accepting children although they are full where as Ysgol Tudno are not accepting children in order ensure class sizes stay less than 30. Tudno is sticking to the rules and Craig y Don is not.

- A: Thank you for this information, this will be followed up.
- Q: Can you ensure that if Ysgol Ffordd Dyffryn and Ysgol Tudno were amalgamated into one new school that jobs would not be lost or affected?
- A: Any changes that occur may not happen for the next 5-15 years. If the schools were to be amalgamated, we would need to look at the number of children and the number of classes required. However, should the same number of children and classes materialise in an amalgamated school, this would mean that the same number of teachers would be required. In order to rationalise the staff, we could look at natural wastage, retirement for example. As soon as we have a preferred option for all the areas, we will be establishing a HR Team to consider staffing issues.
- C: There are concerns about making staff redundant.
- A: As soon as we get to a stage where we are putting an option forward to you, we will set up a HR Team to work with the staffing unions.
- Q: The 2 schools are in close proximity and due to their size it would be a very large school if they were amalgamated. What size would the school be?
- A: We cannot comment on this at the moment as we don't know but we have closed 3 schools in Conwy and amalgamated them as Ysgol Porth y Felin and this has worked.
- Q: If you were going to build a new school, where would it be?
- A: We haven't considered this as yet. If an amalgamated school was chosen as the option to move forward, we would need to carry out a feasibility study of the land available in the area.
- Q: What would happen to the old schools if there was a new build?
- A: We have been working with the Community Development Team in parallel on this project and they are looking at the needs of communities where changes may be made.
- Q: Could you build a new school on an existing site?
- A: Yes this could be considered as part of a feasibility study.
- Q: Is this whole project about money and have decisions been made already?
- A: No decisions have been made as yet.
- Q: Could you add onto one school to make it a larger school?
- A: This is a possibility and a feasibility study could look at this.
- C: If you ask us today what we want for the future, the majority of us would say just leave us as we are.
- C: If you increase the size of the school this will have a direct affect on the standard of education.
- C: Certain schools in other areas aren't being looked at. It boils down to the fact that if our schools were full, they wouldn't be under initial review.
- C: What about Ysgol San Sior and Ysgol Bodafon, these are never reviewed.
- Q: Both Ysgol Tudno and Ffordd Dyffryn are old buildings so would in be cheaper to invest in both buildings separately?
- C: Concerned that any change will lead to a decrease in parental choice. A large school will not lead to parents choosing to send their children there.
- C: Want children to go to a school with small class sizes.
- C: The 2 schools cooperate well at the moment and this is causing bad blood between them. Its also leading to parents not choosing these schools as they think they're going to close.

- C: Need to consider affect of Press coverage on this.
- A: All of your points will be taken into consideration.
- C: Church schools should also be reviewed as they do affect our numbers.
- C: Unfilled places are an advantage to us but they are highlighted as a problem within the document.
- Q: If we say no to amalgamation, will you take this on board?
- A: Yes we will.
- C: Met 20 years ago regarding the same issues. Nothing happens to the faith schools and we don't think this is fair.
- A: Need to do this review now as every Authority in Wales has to have to have a Strategy in place to access funding for capital improvements.
- Q: This consultation must be costing money?
- A: There is always cost with democracy. We need to come out and consult with you as we need to put in place a strategy that will be supported by the community and is proven to be robust.
- C: Money on consultation should be spent on school improvements instead.
- Q: Has any costing for improvements been undertaken?
- A: We have costed what it would take to bring all 61 schools up to the 'fit for purpose' standard and this would be approximately £60 million. We know that WAG will not grant us this amount of money.
- C: There has been improvement works undertaken at Ysgol Ffordd Dyffryn, if you amalgamate the schools, this is a waste of money.
- A: Ffordd Dyffryn have been waiting a long time for those improvements and the children deserve them. The changes from the strategy may not be in place for 5-15 years and therefore have to keep improving schools for our children in the meantime.
- C: Don't want to lose the intimacy of the smaller sites.

GT explained workshop part of the meeting and it was requested that all sheets be discussed by the stakeholders from each school.

### 3. **Workshop Feedback**

#### Ysgol Ffordd Dyffryn

##### Staff / Children's needs and welfare

- Can something be done to reassure parents that no decisions have been made ie newspaper
- Pupil numbers increasing despite prediction of a fall
- Build and improve on what we have – it's working
- Worried that because of press / publicity parents will not approach school therefore numbers will not increase
- Amalgamated school would be too big and daunting for young children
- Worries of parents moving children from school due to publicity
- I don't want my children educated in full classes

- Staff worried for job safety
- Leave the 2 schools as they are, why change what's worked for years
- We're happy as we are
- Please leave our schools alone, both schools provide excellent education which does not need amended
- We vote no
- Stop making Tudno and Ffordd Dyffryn look bad, show truth about Craig y Don too
- A statement by the education authority should be realized to stop 'scaremongering' about closures
- Happy as we are
- My daughter, for the first time ever, in her 6 years of education is happy at Tudno (has only been there 1 year)
- Closure not an option
- Children in smaller schools get to know every pupil & older ones look after younger ones making a caring community
- District / Area schools are not a way forward
- Individual needs won't be met on a larger scale
- Every child is known personally / close relationship
- Child is more confident in a smaller environment
- Parents' welfare – relationships would be broken down in a bigger school
- School is not on main road, encouraging children to walk / cycle to school
- Part time nursery children are now offered school meal, which allows children to stay all day
- Healthy schools
- Investors in people
- SIS pupil referral unit within the school, as space was available

### Social issues

- Breakfast club
- After school club
- School nurse available every Tuesday for parents
- Community police
- Recycling facilities
- Increasing pupil numbers

### Community use of buildings

- Brownies
- Ballroom dancing
- Evacuation point / centre for the community
- Cylch meithrin
- County cooks meeting – due to space available
- Serving meals to Ysgol y Wyddfïd for SIS
- Cylch meithrin now open all day

### Educational issues

- Inclusive school
- SIS early years unit within the school
- Smaller classes
- In a bigger school individuality is lost
- Stability
- An ALN support group
- After school activities – urdd / gardening club etc
- Educational visits – Abroad, London, Cardiff
- European links (Comenius)
- Unique ethos – professional / outside agency visits regularly

### Buildings and assets

- One level access
- Concern – Expenditure on schools whilst plans are being discussed
- Outside learning present – Grant funded by Welsh Assembly
- Disabled access and toilets
- New reception area and cloakroom / toilets to include security
- CCTV – provides security for pupils and staff
- School able to provide ICT area away from classroom
- Cycle storage
- Two halls for school use

### The school as part of the community

- It is at the heart of the community
- History – generations of families
- Local employment
- Carol / Harvest services within the community
- Social inclusion service offers experience to young students
- The school / building is within the community area
- Location is encouraging pupils to be eco friendly
- The school is the only remaining aspect for the children to keep the community in tact
- Aberconwy's women's aid refuge
- Good liaison with community police officers

### Ysgol Tudno

#### Children's Needs & Welfare

- Smaller class sizes

- More friendly
- Staff know the names and individual needs of each child
- Children know each other in a friendly environment
- Educational need are being met due to smaller classes
- Sense of belonging and community
- Good knowledge of family background
- Continuity of staff
- Can offer specialized support
- Able and talented register
- SALT's
- Safe and clean environment – which has room to adapt
- Active school council and sub-committees

#### Community use of buildings

- Cylch meithrin use school facilities
- After school clubs x 6
- Breakfast club
- Asda
- Peugeot
- Police, fire brigade, coast guard
- Tudno is the energy centre
- Central location

#### Buildings & Assets

- Historic building
- Climbing wall
- No mobile accommodation
- Large grounds

- Nature area
- Dedicated IT suite
- Art room
- Can be adapted for disability access
- Car park facilities
- Secure school

### Educational issues

- Excellent inspection report (Oct 08)
- Outstanding resource base
- Extended curriculum (value added)
- Dedicated staff – hard working
- Above national average for end of key skills results / targets
- Pilot school for 'snag' – school nutrition action group – healthy schools
- Third cycle – basic skills agency
- 'Eco' school
- Fair trade school
- Part of the press scheme
- National Urdd art winners
- Outdoor pursuits

### Social Issues

- Resource base – SEN
- Area 1
- Hub of the community
- LAC children
- Real children

- Children come from a variety of backgrounds – and integrate well
- Clubs
- Strong PTA
- Full compliment of governors

#### The school as part of the community

- Close links with local businesses – Asda, M&S, Peugeot
- Links with local churches
- Links with local charities
- Links with senior citizens
- Fair trade school
- Wromhout – links
- Miss Alice – Llandudno princesses
- Tudno in bloom
- Part of local team sports – Football, rugby, cricket
- Tudno FM
- Neighbourhood Policing Project
- Visitors are welcomed to the school regularly
- Pupils visit local businesses and amenities
- Community recycling and composting
- Support local projects and events

DB thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution to the meeting as a lot of important information was gained.

#### Idea/Worry Wall

- Overfull schools affect education
- Available space is an issue
- Current situation is working

- Why not spend new money on existing schools?
- Not certain that children from the two schools would go to a new school
- Two good schools co-operate well at present
- Empty places are an opportunity
- Traffic considerations are important
- Concerns about schools being too big