

Llandudno Junction Area – Nominated Stakeholder Meeting Notes
Thursday 24th September 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 R. M. Hughes
Cllr L. Hurr
Cllr W. E. Jones
Bethan Jones (Corporate Director for Improvement and Development)

1. Introduction

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

2. Presentations

GJ 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.

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

Q: Have you included housing projections in the pupil projections for 2014?

A: Yes - taken the LDP into consideration but calculated projected number of primary school aged children using 3 year trend formula

Q: If the schools are combined, will the Welsh medium teaching continue?

A: Yes the Welsh Medium stream will continue as it is vital to the area.

Q: How do you know whether parents are choosing their local school or not and the reasons why?

A: We have looked at postcodes in terms of catchment areas but we have not spoken directly with parents as to the reasons behind their choice of school

GT explained workshop part of the meeting – although the facts had been presented, we needed to know about the qualitative data behind the numbers

3. Workshop Feedback

Educational Issues

- The comments regarding Education were mainly centred around ensuring the future of Welsh medium education in the area and also about ensuring bilingualism for those in Non-Welsh medium education. This is not just a

language issue but also a cultural issue. We could view the comments regarding bilingualism in 2 ways:

- Wanting to ensure that English medium pupils have a grounding in the Welsh Language
 - Wanting to ensure that English medium education is an option i.e. not just having a Welsh medium school
- Careful consideration should be given to mixing of Welsh & English medium education if schools amalgamate – worries about favouritism.
 - There were comments made regarding :
 - Adequate resourcing of schools
 - Teaching expertise
 - Social/Life skills teaching
 - Preschool education & funding for preschool groups to be allowed to use school facilities
 - Any new development to be “foundation stage friendly”
 - Parental inclusion
 - Adult education

Social Issues

- The following issues were raised:
 - Any new development to take into consideration likely traffic issues
 - Location of schools should allow children to walk/cycle to school
 - Good neighbour policy
 - Community involvement – allowing use of the building for social groups/events
 - Allowing the community to be involved in any decision making which would increase the feeling of community ownership
 - Bullying (in and out of school), raising people’s self esteem and police involvement/presence were also issues mentioned.

Buildings

- Any new building should be built to last, be of high quality and designed so that future alterations/extensions could be easily incorporated.
- The canteen/kitchen should include a separate eating area (not used for anything else).
- It was felt that improving existing schools or providing a new building are imperative to provide 21st century education.
- The need for 2 smaller schools was mentioned the reasoning being:
 - Ensuring commitment to the language
 - A better sense of community
 - Less impersonal
 - Smaller class sizes
- A number of facilities were mentioned as being required among these a “Green Area” which was explained as needing to be adequate for

environmental education, outside work, forest schools etc. A green pleasant area that the children could enjoy – not open playing fields.

- The safety of the children was a priority (bullying and general safety).

Schools as Community Assets

- Access for the community after school & during school holidays was an important factor. The following were mentioned:
 - Sports facilities
 - Further/Adult education
 - Clubs
 - IT suite for general community use
- There would be a requirement for a building administrator to ensure out of hours access for the community and to remove some burden from teaching staff.
- It was felt that the school(s) could be a conduit for generating community spirit and be a meeting point for parents & other community members. The incorporation of leisure facilities should be considered, including a swimming pool, as should the provision of a large hall suitable as a concert venue.
- A breakfast/ after school club should be considered.

Other opportunities

- Building sustainability should feature strongly in the design process in terms of running costs, environmental impact (solar panels, green energy and having a carbon neutral building were mentioned) and social use.
- Consideration should be given for the school to include a community centre and could be linked to the rebuilding/modernisation of the Memorial Hall.
- There should also be consideration for facilities for the arts, leisure, youth services, adult education and a library (a bigger library than at present, open longer hours and with improved IT facilities).
- Adequate access facilities are required (footpaths, cycle routes & parking).
- A new building could provide a “wow” factor for the redevelopment of Llandudno Junction.

4. Final Question and Answer Session (Q = question, A = Answer, C= Comment)

Q: Thoughts on location of any new build – will there be further consultation?

A: There will be community consultation as this is statutory, an open consultation is part of the process

C: Need more than 2 days notice of meeting

Q: Community views taken into consideration?

- A: Full consultation on draft strategy, full Strategy will need support of the community in order to make any change
- C: Openess to new ideas - feel quite strongly about separate schools

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

Car Park

- A number of comments about keeping teaching staff were made.
- One comment supported the provision of a new building to house the amalgamated schools whilst another wanted to ensure that the building was of sufficient quality.
- A number of comments were made regarding Welsh/Bilingual education.
- A request was made for copies of the notes to be sent to both schools.