

Caerhun & Trefriw Area - Consultation Feedback

Reference Number	Agree with Proposal		Who are they?	Notification of Consultation Report		Further Comments
	Yes	No		Yes	No	
001	✓		Parent of child previously at School / Member of staff at School		✓	I think it's a good idea
002	✓		Parent of child currently at one of schools		✓	As much as I prefer the smaller School, realistically one bigger School makes more sense.
003		✓	A member of staff at one of Schools	✓		I feel removing, through closure, a village School will have a detrimental effect on both the wider community of which the School is a part of, and also the School community where class sizes are small and all staff have a positive relationship with parents. I feel that if necessary, federalisation would be a better solution in this area. For several reasons it is impractical - to transport 3 year olds from Trefriw in a taxi would be horrific for children of that age. Larger classes. Loss of jobs. All three Schools work together well now, sharing resources and good practice. There are other ways to solve budgeting issues without closing small schools which offer so much to children.
004	Email					I was told to write to you by your officers attending the meeting held at Ysgol Dolgarrog on Tuesday afternoon. Having attended that meeting I write to you to request that further public meetings need to be scheduled before consultation can come to an end. The three meetings held at each school were poorly attended, and having spoken with parents, staff and governors from all three schools, as well as members of the wider community, the reason for this was because everyone was under the impression that the decision had been made to amalgamate, and thought these current meetings were merely to share plans and information about the proposed new school. The reason for this is that people were under the impression that consultation had taken place over the last few years, as this is what the LEA called those meetings! Even though, not once in any of those "consultations" did any of the schools speak or vote in favour of closing the schools and amalgamating, and therefore it was difficult to see how the LEA had come to the conclusion that a new school was the best option. There were other choices e.g federalisation, which was more favoured, therefore how on earth one came to the conclusion to propose amalgamation as the only choice is beyond me and many others! People associated with all three schools feel very strongly that they have been misled into thinking by the LEA that there is nothing further they can say or do to oppose these plans, even local councillors were of the impression that there was to be no further consultation! I urge you to strongly consider holding further meetings, or even just one meeting for the three schools together, so that people can have their say. Your officers attending the meeting noted that you are not obliged to do this as that was the purpose of the meetings scheduled over the last two weeks, however, I would press strongly that it is your duty to do so, as you have misled so many people into thinking that they have no further say in the matter, when this is totally untrue, and as a result meetings were poorly attended. Your officers noted that NOW is the time for people to share their views and to oppose or support the proposal - well I would argue that you have taken that right away from people by misleading them into thinking the final decision has been made, and as I have noted I and several others feel very strongly that you owe it to all associated with the three schools to be given the opportunity to do so. Your officers implied that it was the media who created this misconception, however, we would argue that the LEA should have corrected this misconception, be that the case, as soon as the media made the revelation.
005		✓	Parent of child currently at one of schools		✓	No safe route to walk/cycle between Trefriw & Dolgarrog. If children are provided with transport by CCBC then they have no access to after School activities as CCBC transport will depart at 3.15pm. Negative impact on social mix of local families - area will become not-child friendly with families moving to towns to allow easier access to schools. Loss of Rowen School already led to loss of village shop, there will be similar impacts in other villages. Links with local churches & chapels will be lost as 1 School will not have carol services in multiple venues up & down the valley.
006		✓	Parent of child previously at one of Schools		✓	It would be a great shame to see any School close

007		✓	Other interested Party		✓	
008		✓	Other interested Party		✓	
009		✓	Other interested Party		✓	I believe that amalgamating the 3 Schools together would destroy the community. As the School and chapel are the centre of the community, we all join together and it would be a great loss to the village. We have a children/youth club at Salem and I feel that this would close i children went to another School.
010	Email					<p>Roedd pawb yn yr ardal yma o dan yr argraff eich bod wedi gwneud penderfyniad, ond deallwn yn awr mai taflu llwch i'n llygaid oeddech a mae hyn wedi golygu bod rhieni wedi symud eu plant a Dalybont a Threfriw i Ddolgarrog, yn union yn chwarae i'ch dwylo er mwyn i chi allu dweud fod yna ddim digon o blant yn yr ysgolion yma er mwyn cyfiawnhau eu cau</p> <p>Everyone in the area was under the impression that you had made a decision, but now we understand that you were just throwing 'dust in our eyes' and this has meant that parents have moved their children from Tal y Bont and Trefriw to Dolgarrog, which plays exactly in to your hands so you can now say there aren't enough children in these schools for you to justify their closure.</p>
011		✓	Parent of child previously at one of Schools	✓		Both my 2 older children went to Trefriw School and I now have 2 pre-school children who would be attending in Trefriw School if it where (<i>sic</i>) to stay open. Would be such a shame to see the School close, the children need there (<i>sic</i>) own village school to attend.
012		✓	Other interested Party	✓		As an ex pupil of Ysgol Trefriw I would hate to see the School shut. Would be such a shame for the children of Trefriw not to have their own village school to attend.
013		✓	Parent of child previously at one of Schools		✓	Four generations of my family have attended Trefriw School. It would be a shame to see it close. It would worry me what the transport situation would be for little children having to attend a school at another village.
014		✓	Parent of child currently at one of schools	✓		There are sufficient children living in Trefriw and the surrounding area to make Ysgol Trefriw viable, either as it is or as part of a federated School. The reasons why many of these children do not attend the school currently needs to be further explored further by Conwy Council before a decision is made.
015		✓	Parent of child currently at one of schools	✓		Impact on the community - Trefriw will lose welsh identity, no new welsh families will move in a village without a school. Issue of travelling & getting children to school, no safe walkway, will need to be transported - costs?
016		✓	Other interested Party		✓	<p>Mae'n gywilydd ystyried cau ysgolion bach y wlad a'r pentrefi yn dibynnu ar ysgol fel canol y pentref.</p> <p>It's a humiliation considering closing small country Schools with the villages depending on Schools as their centre point</p>
017		✓	Other interested Party	✓		<p>Nid oes angen ymuno'r dair ysgol - mae'r dair Ysgol a chymeriad eu hunain heblaw am y gost adeiladu Ysgol newydd. Mae cau ysgolion yn amharu ar y pentref y gymuned ac adnoddau sy'n barod ar gael.</p> <p>There is no need to amalgamate the three schools - The 3 have their own character nevermind the cost of building a new School. Closing Schools impairs on the village the community and the resources that are already available.</p>
018		✓	Other interested Party	✓		I live in Trefriw & my oldest child is due to start School in September 2016. I have no transport and a baby so if Trefriw School closes it will make getting my eldest to school very difficult. I would prefer my children to go to the lovely small village school where they will get more attention from teachers.
019		✓	Parent of child previously at one of Schools		✓	Many more children born in Trefriw recently so figures for village school will increase
020		✓	Parent of a child previously at one of Schools	✓		Closure of School would create difficulties to children and parents and a closure to a close community

021		✓	Parent of a child previously at one of Schools		✓	Closure of School - children having to be transported by public transport at a very young age
022		✓	Other interested Party		✓	Inconvenience to those parents who do not drive, loss of community "spirit" which will inevitably lead to the loss of other local services
023		✓	Parent of a child previously at one of Schools		✓	Closure of village school - loss of community contact - social events etc. Children being taken away from their own roots - their own village
024		✓	Parent of a child previously at one of Schools	✓		As a past pupil of this school and a parent of children who also attended, I know how important it is to have a primary school within walking distance, and have a central hub for our community
025		✓	Parent of child currently at one of schools	✓		<p>Trist iawn oedd cael ffeindio allan na fod penderfyniad wedi cael ei wneud I gyfuno y tair ysgol, ar ol I mi fod mewn cyfarfod yn neuadd Tal y Bont lle roedden wedi cael gwybodaeth fod y penderfyniad wedi cael ei wneud. Ddim yn deg iawn ar yr ysgolion nac ar y staff. Ni ddylai fod wedi rhoi y gwybodaeth yma i rhieni a staff oherwydd nid oedd yn wir. Dylai pob pentref cael ysgol, mae ysgol tal y bont yn ysgol fach da a mi fysa colled mawr i'r pentref ar gymuned ei golli. Ma ne ddigon o disgyblion yn ysgol tal y bont i cadw ar ei agor. Ddylai pob pelntyn sydd yn byw yn y pentref mynychu ysgol lleol. Dylai fod pobl ddim yn cael dewis pa ysgol i gyrru'r plentyn pan mae ysgol yn ei pentref nhw.</p> <p>It was very sad to find out that their hadn't been a decision made regarding amalgamating the 3 Schools, having attended a meeting in Tal y Bont Hall where we had information that the decision had been made. Not very fair on the Schools or the staff. This information shouldn't have been given to parents or staff as this wasn't true. Each village should have a School, Tal y Bont is a good small School and it would be a great loss to the Village and the Community if we lost it. There are enough pupils in Tal y Bont School to keep it open. Every child living in the village should attend it's local School. People shouldn't have the choice of which School to send their child when their is a School in the Village for them.</p>
026		✓	Parent of a child previously at one of Schools		✓	My children benefited (<i>sic</i>) greatly from attending a school within the heart of their immediate community. I believe it is the centre of our community and it should stay as it is.
027		✓	Parent of a child previously at one of Schools		✓	Feel that the school is the heart of the village, and that there are young families moving in, and will need a village school.
028		✓	Parent of child currently at one of schools		✓	Closing the school will have a detrimental effect on the children, staff and the community. "If something aint broke why fix it" The schools provide a happy, safe & educational environment for the children.
029		✓	Parent of child currently at one of schools	✓		Young families are already being driven out of the Conwy Valley as a result of soaring house prices, cuts to public transport provision and difficulty finding work. Closing the local school will make the situation worse, we need to be looking at ways to build upon and strengthen our local communities not systematically dismantle them.
030		✓	Staff at one of current schools		✓	Gofyn am sylwadau? Onid ywr ateb yn amlwg? Asking for comments? Isn't the answer obvious?
031		✓	Parent of a child previously at one of Schools		✓	School is the hub of the village big uphevil (<i>sic</i>) for the children having to travel to dolgarog (<i>sic</i>) school.

032		✓	Parent of a child previously at one of Schools		✓	Young children would have to be transported some distance from their homes/village - safety issues! Loss of community spirit - detrimental to a small county village leading to (possibly) further loss of village services.
033		✓	Other interested Party	✓		School needs to be within walking distance. Many parents unable to drive. Is it practical to send 4 year olds on a bus. The school is a very important part of the village so many people will move out of the village to be closer to a different school.
034		✓			✓	Parents who don't drive - dependant on buses etc. Traumatic for the younger children to be far away from their homes. Roads impassable during severe winter weather the more flooding making it impossible to get to destination further down the valley.
035		✓	Other interested Party		✓	Please do not close Trefriw school. I am the parent of a small child (not yet school age) and do not want to send my child to school out of the village. Also, as I don't drive getting to and from another school would be very difficult.
036		✓	Other interested Party		✓	I would be very disappointed to see Ysgol Trefriw close. The school is at the heart of the community. I myself and my husband both attended this school and had hoped our daughter would too.
037		✓	Parent of child currently at one of schools		✓	<p>Mae gennym dri plentyn yn Ysgol Trefriw ar hyn o bryd gyda dau arall wedi bod drwy'r ysgol. Credwn bod ein plant wedi ac yn cael addysg o'r radd flaenaf yn Ysgol Trefriw.</p> <p>Mae Estyn ei hunain wedi cydnabod fod yr ysgol yn gweithio yn dda. Mae'r staff yn ymroddedig ac yn llwyddo i symbylu a diddori ein plant. Mae ethos yr ysgol yn arbennig a safon disgyblaeth yn hynod uchel.</p> <p>Mae ein plant yn rhan o gymdeithas gynhwysol yr ysgol a'r gymuned yn ehangach yn Nhrefriw. Credwn y byddai cau yr ysgol yn tlodi y cymunedau hyn. Ni welwn unrhyw fantais o gau yr ysgolion uchod er mwyn ceisio creu cymuned estron. Yn sicr mae lle i'r dair ysgol bresennol gydweithio mwy ac fe ddylai yr awdurdod fynd ati i hwyluso hyn yn hytrach na cheisio eu cau.</p> <p>We currently have 3 children in Trefriw School, with another 2 having attended the School previously. We believe that our children have and are having an education of the highest standard in Trefriw School. Estyn have said themselves that the School is working well. The Staff are committed, and are able to keep our children interested and motivated. The School ethos is great and a very high standard of discipline. Our children are part of an inclusive Community of the School, and with the broader Community of Trefriw. We believe that closing the School will make these Communities worse off. I can't see any benefit in closing the above Schools that will just create alienated Communities. Definately there is room for the current three School to work together more, and the authority should go about it to make things easier for this to happen rather than trying to close them.</p>
038		✓	Governor of one of current Schools / Member of staff at one of current Schools		✓	Why close a school which is currently providing its pupils with a first class learning experience within their own local community? I am aware of other rural schools not included in the modernisation programme who's cost per pupil is considerably higher than that if Ysgol Tal y Bont.
039		✓	Governor of one of current Schools		✓	<p>Ar sail yr adroddiad manwl gan yr ysgol l'r cynlluyn ym 2010, a'r gwrthwynebiad clir l'r uno, nid wyf yn cytuno gyda'r cynnig hwn gan nad oes unrhyw sicrwydd y bydd yr arain ar gael l god l ysgol newydd.</p> <p>On the basis of the detailed report from the School for the plan in 2010, and the clear opposition of the amalgamation, I do not agree with this proposal as there is no certainty that funds will be available to build the new School.</p>
040		✓	Other interested Party	P	▪	I have lived in many small villages in North Wales and unfortunately a few of these have had the local school closed - in all cases this has had a negative effect on the village community - no new families moving into village and other families with younger children moving out leaving properties empty - until those who want a quiet life with no children around decide to make the village a 'gated retirement community'.
041		✓	Parent of a child previously at one of Schools	P	▪	I feel that Trefriw School needs a school, my 2 children both attended Trefriw and it was important they where (sic) taught within their local community.
042		✓	Other interested Party		✓	This will not be good for business
043		✓	Other interested Party		✓	If the school shuts in Trefriw the standard of education will drop, add to more peak time travel traffic, more pollution and a loss of community feeling in Trefriw.

044		✓	Other interested Party	P	▪	The village needs the School, travelling to Dolgarrog is too far and too much for small children. The latest bus timetable says the morning times are 7.48 and 9.06 how are children supposed to get there if the parents don't have a car.
045		✓	Other interested Party	P	▪	Local schools are an important element within the community. The amalgamation process will improve the bottom line of regional government, but the price paid in damage to the local communities is too high
046		✓	Other interested Party	P	▪	Shutting the school in Trefriw will be a sad outcome for the community spirit in the village. It should not happen
047		✓	Other interested Party	P	▪	A school is at the heart of a thriving village. Closing the school in Trefriw will be a detriment to the whole community not just those with school age children. It affects the whole attractiveness to incoming families and deters families from staying.
048		✓	Other interested Party		✓	community cohesion is intensified by having local schools and other amenities within the village as well as welsh learners/speakers
049		✓	Other interested Party	P	▪	Not enough has been done to ensure Trefriw School is viable - other small schools share Headteachers why not Trefriw? Schools are the lifeblood of villages, Trefriw needs theirs - money over community village life and interests of children is utterly soulless. Conwy Council has not been interested enough in the needs of Trefriw children and the identity of the village
050		✓	Other interested Party		✓	
051		✓	Other interested Party		✓	Local schools should be kept open
052		✓	Other interested Party		✓	Trefriw School should remain open as it is part of the village
053		✓	Parent of child currently at one of schools	P	▪	2 of my children attend Ysgol Trefriw and I would be extremely upset if it closed. The extra travel time for them would be very detrimental - they already get on the bus at 8.30am from Llanrhydyon. Apart from the personal aspects of the major disruption to my own children, closing the school would be another nail in the coffin at Trefriw. Thankfully we have a thriving shop, cafe and pub (hopefully the other will re-open soon) but if the school closes, families will not be attracted to live in the village and it will become a village/suburb for older people and holiday homes. The village shops will close and Trefriw will become a housing estate. The village truly feels like discrimination against rural communities. Please don't allow it to happen.
054		✓	Parent of a child previously at one of Schools		✓	
055		✓	Other interested Party		✓	to keep the village alive
056		✓	Parent of a child previously at one of Schools	P	▪	I feel these small village schools should remain. They are an important part of the community. Children are able to thrive better in these schools through education. Being part of the community and more individual in their skills and peer (sic) groups
057		✓	Other interested Party	P	▪	If the school shuts in Trefriw it will discourage other families moving here which will have a knock on effect on business and attracting any new business
058		✓	Other interested Party		✓	
059		✓	Other interested Party		✓	I think it is important to keep the school in Trefriw it is an asset to the community and will help the community in the future. It encourages people to live and buy property in the village also.

060		✓	Other interested party	✓		I am a father of two and we are moving to Trefriw and I firmly believe that the village school should remain not only for my kids to attend but future generations too. We shouldn't under estimate the benefit of having a local school either
061		✓	Other interested party	✓		I am a mother of 2 children (3 years & a 3 month old) and as we are moving to Trefriw I would love them both to go to Ysgol Trefriw without having to move in the future.
062		✓	Parent of child currently at one of schools			Letter response (appendix 2b)
063			UCAC Union			Letter response (appendix 2c)
064		✓	A member of staff at one of Schools		✓	I think the decision to amalgamate three schools is a poor one. I think that closing small rural village schools is a terrible decision and has long term repercussions for the villages it affects. No amount of mitigating and a horrible shiny new school can lessen the adverse impact of this decision. The worst thing is, I feel the council is going about this in the wrong way, and I feel patronised as a result. The decision to do this purely a financial cost cutting one and I would rather that you come out and say it, instead of trying to pull the wool over people's eyes by enticing them with a brand new building. This is irrelevant. It is the teachers and school spirit that matter. No amount of ipads thrown at a new school will change things. This is a very emotional issue as you can see, and I don't think alternatives have been explored enough. The three schools are great ones and they each have their own ethos and community. Closing them down for a brand new school is not worth the loss of history and individuality of the three schools. The buildings themselves are rich in history and are of sound construction - much better than new builds. They are only in need of minor repairs and would not cost much to bring to even higher standards than they all ready are. At this point I am not submitting reasons/objections but I shall do so during the formal objections stage. and school spirit that matter. No amount of ipads thrown at a new school will change things. I would be happy to elaborate on these points should you require clarification.