

# CONSULTATION ANALYSIS REPORT

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Denbighshire County Council carried out an informal consultation between the 4th of February 2013 and 22nd of March 2013 into Primary School provision in the Ruthin Area. The findings of the informal consultation are contained in a report which was submitted to Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet of elected members in June 2013.
- 1.2 On the 25th of June 2013 we presented to the Cabinet a Draft Formal Consultation Document entitled "Proposal One: Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog". At that meeting, and on the basis of the draft document, the Cabinet approved a formal consultation into a proposal to close Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog on the 31st of August 2014; and to establish a new area school serving the communities of Clocaenog, Cyffylliog and surrounding areas from the 1st of September 2014 (the Current Proposal).
- 1.3 The Formal Consultation ran from the 9th of September to the 22nd of October 2013.
- 1.4 This document sets out the steps taken during, and the findings obtained from, the Formal Consultation. It has been produced after taking into consideration the requirements set out in the School Organisation Code; a document produced by virtue of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

## 2.0 Consultation Method

- 2.1 The Consultation period ran from the 9th of September 2013 until the 22nd of October 2013. A consultation document was published on [www.denbighshire.gov.uk](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk) and paper copies were sent to each household and the two schools.
- 2.2 The Formal Consultation Document was published on our website on the 9th of September 2013. A Children's version (aimed at primary school ages) was also produced and published on our website. You can view the Formal Consultation Document in the Closed Consultation section of the DCC website; Click on the Ruthin Review section.
- 2.3 People were invited to either complete the online survey, email the Modernising Education Team, return the response form by post or write to the Modernisation Education Team by post. The complete list of recipients is set out in **Appendix A** and a copy of the standard response form is in **Appendix B**.
- 2.4 Meetings were held as follows:
- With Staff at Ysgol Clocaenog – 16th of September 2013
  - With Staff at Ysgol Cyffylliog – 17th of September 2013
  - With Governors of Ysgol Cyffylliog – 17th of September 2013
  - With Governors of Ysgol Clocaenog – 18th of September 2013
  - With Parents of Ysgol Cyffylliog – 24th of September 2013
  - With Parents of Ysgol Clocaenog – 25th of September 2013
  - With Pupils of Ysgol Clocaenog – 4th of October 2013
  - With Pupils of Ysgol Cyffylliog – 10th of October 2013

2.5 The parents meetings were held at Ysgol Cyffylliog and in Clocaenog Church Hall.

2.6 It was decided to adopt a ‘parents’ evening’ format in favour of the open, question and answer format used during the informal consultation. The parents’ evening format created a more intimate environment in which people could say what they thought without having to be heard by a room filled with people.

2.7 A summary of the comments received in the Parents, Staff and Governors meetings the response provided can be found in **Appendix C**.

2.8 Details of the consultation with pupils can be found in **Appendix D**.

### 3. Consultation Response

3.1 In total 60 responses were received during the consultation stage which included responses from Estyn and the National Union of Teachers of Wales (UCAC). The table below shows the connection of each respondent (if stated):

Connection of Respondent	Total
Ysgol Clocaenog	37
Ysgol Cyffylliog	20
No connection / Didn't state connection	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

3.2 The response type and the indicative support / opposition to the current proposal are shown below:

No	Response Type	For the Proposal (actual / %)		Against the Proposal (actual / %)		Other (actual / %)		Total
1.	Letters and Emails	16	69.6	5	21.7	2	8.7	23
2.	Online Response Form	7	58.3	5	41.7			12
3.	Postal Response Form	13	52	12	48			25
4.	Total	36	60	22	36.7	2	3.3	60

Note: This does not include consultation with School Councils.

3.3 An analysis of the frequency of issues being raised during all consultation meetings and within correspondence received highlighted the following issues:

Rank	Issue	Description	Frequency of issue raised
1.	Transport	Concerns regarding suitability of transport used, Logistical implications, Suitability of road network, Length of travel, Requirement for chaperones	50 out of 60 responses
2.	Language	Important to retain Welsh Language Category for school, Importance of Bilingual Language Category in retaining pupils from non Welsh speaking families, Long term impact of change in Language Category	44
3.	Phase 2: New School	Support for proposed location, Alternative Locations, Funding, Competing Projects, Admission Number, Size of the school.	43
4.	Education Provision	Estyn grading of standards in Cyffylliog, Concern regarding standards deteriorating, Advantage of small cohorts, Support for reducing age range of classes.	34
5.	Phase 1: Dual Site	Class sizes, Configuration of classes across two sites, Identity of the School, Age range of classes, Splitting up siblings	32
6.	Community	Impact, One area gaining over the other, Importance to fund community activities that bring together both sites in one location.	28
7.	Staffing	Headteacher Appointment, Retention of current staff	25
8.	Timescale	Risk of prolonged two site provision - Support from parents, Pupil Retention, Future Intake, Communication of timescale regarding New Build, Timescale to appoint Temporary Governing Body and Headteacher	25
9.	Breakfast / After School Provision	Importance of retaining provision on two sites that links to the transport provided. Parent friendly operating times.	21
10.	Retain the Status Quo (Positive)	Existing ethos of the school, Existing Provision, No need to change – Lots of Children to start in the school, Cost of change is too high, Alternative Proposal of a Federation should be pursued.	11
11.	Other Issues	Proposal Document / Consultation method, Future of nearby schools, Indirect consequences	8
12.	Pre School	How current proposal would tie in with Cylch Meithrin provision and future provision.	6
13.	Governance	Structure / Membership of the Temporary Governing Body	3
14.	Need to	Current dining arrangements, poor facilities	3

	change the Status Quo (Negative)	in both schools	
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3.4 The Council's response to the concerns raised can be found in **Appendix E**. A summary of the redacted correspondence from the Formal Consultation can be found in **Appendix F**.

3.5 Denbighshire County Council published a separate Children's version of the Formal Consultation Document. Meetings were arranged with each School Council. Similar hopes that emerged during the consultation included more friends and more space. The similar fear for both schools was the additional travel time and the change of teachers. Further details can be found in **Appendix D**.

#### 4. Response from Estyn

In accordance with the requirements from the School Organisation Code, a copy of the Consultation Document was sent to Estyn for its observations. In its response, Estyn considers a range of key questions with regard to the Current Proposal. In response to the question, "Are the proposals likely to maintain or improve the standard of education provision in the area?", its response was:

"It is Estyn's opinion that this proposal is likely to at least maintain the present standards of education provision in the area.

In October 2012, Estyn identified the educational standards at Ysgol Clocaenog to be good.

In March 2011, Estyn identified the educational performance at Ysgol Cyffylliog to be adequate and the school was placed in Estyn monitoring. Subsequently the school received a monitoring visit by Estyn in May 2012. Estyn found that the school had not made enough progress in the key areas of action that were identified in the Section 28 inspection and was identified as needing 'significant improvement'

The full response can be found in **Appendix G**.

#### 5. Response from UCAC

In accordance with the requirements from the School Organisation Code, a copy of the Consultation Document was sent to all trade unions for its observations. UCAC was the only trade union to submit a response to the formal consultation. In its response, UCAC observes that:

- Clocaenog requires a larger school as a matter of urgency
- UCAC appreciates Denbighshire County Council's intention to preserve education in rural areas.  
Concerns include:
  - The lack of decisiveness regarding Phase 2.
  - Denbighshire County Council ability to fund Phase 2.
  - The size of the new build
  - Timescale to establishing Temporary Governing Body and appointing a new Headteacher.

The full response can be found in **Appendix H**.