

**Appendix 4**



**Modernising Education Programme**

**Review of Primary School Provision in the Ruthin Area**

**Ruthin Town Schools Brief**

**June 2013**

Version: 05/06/2013

## 1. Background

1.1 Denbighshire County Council completed an initial consultation period with the 11 Ruthin area schools on 22/03/2013. As a result of the consultation it has been determined that further detailed analysis is required for the four town schools;

- Ysgol Borthyn, English Medium Church in Wales;
- Ysgol Pen Barras, Welsh Medium;
- Rhos Street School; English Medium;
- Ysgol Rhewl; Bi-lingual

1.2 This brief will provide a summary of the current provision and situation within these schools, outline the recommendations for the future of primary provision within the town and highlight the key findings from the initial feasibility studies undertaken on the current school sites. In addition the brief will provide a summary of feasibility work undertaken on sites within the town which have been marked as alternative sites should there be a new school build within the town.

## 2. Current Situation

2.1 The tables below contain information regarding current pupil numbers, capacity, nursery applications for September 2013, projected pupil numbers and surplus places;

### Projected Pupil Numbers 2014-2018

School	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Borthyn	115	111	103	102	104
Pen Barras	215	219	216	224	217
Rhos Street	152	146	147	142	136
Rhewl	53	56	52	48	49

*\*Figures updated yearly following January PLASC*

## Numbers on Roll (NOR) & School Capacity

School	NOR 2013	Nursery Admissions '13	Admission No.	School Capacity (Full Time)	Capacity provided by mobile
Borthyn	111	8	20	142	30
Pen Barras	223	33	36	252	156
Rhos Street	163	11	27	189	0
Rhewl	82	4	11	82	0

## Surplus Places

School	Surplus Places	Surplus Places %	Projected Surplus Places 2017/18	Projected Surplus Places %
Borthyn	31	21.8%	40	28.2%
Pen Barras	29	11.5%	28	11.1%
Rhos Street	24	12.7%	47	24.9%
Rhewl	27	32.9%	34	41.5%

## Language Category

Language Category	School
Category 1: Welsh Medium	Pen Barras
Category 2: Dual Stream Medium	Rhewl
Category 5: Predominantly English Medium	Rhos Street, Borthyn

### 3. Feasibility Study Results

- 3.1 During the initial consultation period a feasibility study was commissioned to undertake an assessment of the existing school sites. A site visit was made by the design and construction team with either the Headteacher or a school delegate present.
- 3.2 Feedback from other relevant departments has also been included within the feasibility study such as the Highways Team regarding traffic considerations and access.
- 3.3 In addition to the assessment sites the team were briefed to undertake an assessment of alternative sites within the Ruthin Town owned by Denbighshire County Council. This included the Glasdir site, land to the rear of Ysgol Brynhyfryd and land near the Llanfwrog playing fields. Only the Glasdir site was considered to be a viable option; the main issue was access to the sites.

Ysgol Borthyn	Site Visited	07/03/2013
<b>Brief</b>	Assessment of existing site (inc. playing fields) to assess potential maximum capacity of the site and ensure school's facilities are fit for purpose.	
<b>Site Analysis</b>	Accommodation was generally well planned and in good condition. The new extension provides flexible accommodation with relatively small class bases and a central shared resource area. With current numbers the school requires the mobile classroom to provide suitable teaching space.	
<b>Energy Assessment</b>	£8/m <sup>2</sup> per annum- one of the best performing buildings.	
<b>Potential for Development</b>	Restrictions to access of the site mean that there is not an ideal solution for further major extension work. There is not much scope to develop new facilities with easy access and there is no room to the front of the site.	
<b>Costs</b>	210 capacity school: £2,015,209	



*Ysgol Borthyn front view*

**Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School Shared Site** Site Visited 28/02/2013

<b>Brief</b>	Outline costs for building /refurbishment for either 315 FT or 210 FT pupils in a single school.
<b>Site Analysis</b>	<p>The inspection of the schools demonstrated that there are some fundamental problems with the layout of both the site and internal spaces.</p> <p>One of the main issues on the site is the plethora of mobile classrooms and other detached blocks of accommodation on the site.</p> <p>With the two schools operating on the site safeguarding/security issues have been highlighted as a problem.</p>
<b>Highways Assessment</b>	Serious road safety concerns expressed in regards to lack of parking/drop off/pick up facilities.
<b>Energy Assessment</b>	£8/m2 per annum energy costs- one of the better performing schools
<b>Potential for Development</b>	<p>Two options for development have been illustrated for a pupil capacity of 210 or 315. Both options indicate the provision of all the teaching accommodation within one building to allow for the removal of all mobile classrooms and detached dining block.</p> <p>Option to deliver a 210 school would only require a small extension to meet BB99 requirements however significant internal alterations and refurbishment would be required.</p> <p>The option to provide a 315 capacity school is illustrated by retaining the existing main school buildings, as is the case for the 210 capacity, but providing a larger extension. This option would involve less internal alteration as the encroachment of existing teaching and ancillary accommodation into the hall could be retained with additional hall capacity provided in the new extension combined with dining facilities and a new kitchen.</p>
<b>Costs</b>	<p>Option A (210 capacity) £2,739,145</p> <p>Option B (315 capacity) £3,427,636</p> <p>Option C (210 capacity-new build) £4,496,973</p>



*Entrance to parking area to rear of Pen Barras (Detached dining block also seen to left of image)*



*Ysgol Pen Barras mobile classrooms*



*Rhos Street and Pen Barras Shared Site*

<b>Brief</b>	It is required to examine the feasibility for increasing capacity within the current site to 105 pupils and the cost associated with this option.
<b>Site Analysis</b>	<p>The visit demonstrated that the school are making the most of the existing site. The first impression approaching the site is that the school is insubstantial and temporary in nature but work has been undertaken both internally and externally to create a stimulating environment for the pupils.</p> <p>The internal layout is reasonably laid out with adequate classroom and circulation areas, although consideration could be given to sound deadening in classroom areas to provide a better teaching environment.</p> <p>There is also no dedicated playing field but the community field is available for use by the school. There is a potential safety issue relating to access from the school to the community playing field as the existing lane is narrow and does not have footways.</p>
<b>Energy Assessment</b>	£14/m2 which is mid-range when compared to other schools in the review.
<b>Potential for Development</b>	There is no potential to increase the capacity to 105 capacity. Potential alternative sites in the village have been allocated for housing in the deposit Local Plan and hence there is no obvious alternative site for a school.
<b>Costs</b>	Refurbishment: £161,623



*Ysgol Rhewl*



## Glasdir Site Evaluation

<b>Brief</b>	To provide indicative costs and options for providing primary education on the Glasdir site including a 315 Capacity School, a 420 Capacity School, 2x 315 capacity Schools, 2 x420 Schools and a combined 315 and 210 Capacity School.
<b>Site Analysis</b>	<p>The site currently owned by Denbighshire County Council measures approximately 0.17 hectares which falls slightly short of the range of areas recommended by BB99 for a 420 capacity school.</p> <p>The options for the provision of larger pupil numbers, combined schools or shared sites require further consultation with adjoining land owners and other interested parties before a strategy can be developed and costs allocated. Theoretical costs for the construction of suitably sized schools are included but they should be considered very approximate and it should not be assumed that they are even feasible without further investigation.</p>
<b>Costs</b>	<p>Option A (1x315 capacity): £6,300,345 Option B (1x420 capacity): £7,176,944 Option C (2x315 capacity): £ 11,009,559 Option D (2x420 capacity): £13, 504,573 Option E (210 &amp; 315 combined): £7,877,381</p>



*Glasdir Site: Schematic Massing Model*



## **4. Recommendations for Ruthin Town Schools**

**4.1** Recommendations for the future provision within Ruthin are as follows;

### **4.1.1 Ysgol Borthyn**

The school would remain open providing an English Medium Faith based education for the town and surrounding areas. With pupil projections remaining consistent for the foreseeable future the current surplus at the school would accommodate pupils displaced by the closure of Ysgol Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd subject to parental preference.

### **4.1.2 Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School Shared Site**

Both schools are currently operating on a shared site on Rhos Street in the Eastern area of the town; the schools share a number of facilities such as the school hall, school canteen and playing fields. There are issues on the Pen Barras site which include the poor condition of the school building in addition to 61.9% of school places being provided via mobile classrooms.

It is recommended that a further detailed feasibility study should be commissioned to determine the consequences of the following two options;

- The construction of a new 1.5 form entry school on the Glasdir site with an adjoining 1 form entry school.
- The construction of a single 1 form entry school on the Glasdir site whilst undertaking an extensive programme of refurbishment and remodelling on the present shared site.

### **4.1.3 Ysgol Rhewl**

The recommendations for the future of Ysgol Rhewl will be decided in conjunction with any future development on the Glasdir Site.

## **5. Informal Consultation Response Overview**

**5.1** The tables below provide an overview of issues raised by stakeholders during the informal consultation period. The responses are broken down by individual school;

### 5.1.1 Ysgol Borthyn

No.	Point/Issue Raised	No. of respondents who raised issue
1	<b>Quality of education and of the teaching</b> staff at Ysgol Borthyn	9
2	<b>Faith</b> provision	7
3	<b>Family ethos</b> at the school	5
4	Closure of Ysgol Borthyn would impact on the <b>community</b>	2
5	Provision of <b>English Medium</b> Education	1
6	<b>Support for SEN</b> pupils	1

\*12 respondents for Ysgol Borthyn

### 5.1.2 Ysgol Pen Barras

No.	Point/Issue Raised	No. of respondents who raised issue
1	<b>New site</b> for Pen Barras	11
2	<b>Issues with current shared site</b> i.e. health and safety, condition of buildings on PB site	15
3	<b>Wrap-around-care</b> provision	3
4	<b>Welsh Medium</b> Education provision	4
5	<b>Excellent standard of education</b> and teaching	5
6	<b>Mobile classrooms</b> are an issue especially with pupils having to cross yard in adverse weather	7

\*24 respondents for Ysgol Pen Barras

### 5.1.3 Rhos Street School

No.	Point/Issue Raised	No. of respondents who raised issue
1	<b>Parity between schools regarding allocation of funding</b> for schools; if spent on one school it would be unfair	6
2	<b>Good standard of education</b> and teaching at Rhos Street	5
3	<b>Issues at the current shared site</b> such as health and safety and shared resources such as school canteen and hall	5
4	<b>Community</b> links and involvement	3
5	<b>Would not want class sizes to be any larger</b> than they are at present i.e. through a merger	2

*\*19 respondents for Rhos Street School*

### 5.1.4 Ysgol Rhewl

No.	Point/Issue Raised	No. of respondents who raised issue
1	<b>Community</b> links and involvement	3
2	<b>Excellent standard of education</b> and teaching at Ysgol Rhewl	3
3	<b>Small class sizes</b> are beneficial for the pupils	2
4	<b>Wrap-around-care</b> provision	1

*\*7 respondents from Ysgol Rhewl*

*\*\*The responses are from Question 8 of the questionnaire that was sent to all parents as part of the summary consultation document*

## **6. Proposed Timescales**

**6.1** Timescales for the implementation of recommendations set out in this document are as follows;

- Detailed Feasibility Study: July-September 2013
- Strategic Investment Group/Cabinet: October 2013
- Formal Consultation Period: November-December 2013
- Cabinet Briefing: February 2014 (03/02/2014)
- Cabinet: February 2014 (18/02/2014)
- Changes come into effect: On completion of construction (estimated 2017)