



Statutory Consultation Responses

New school in Cricieth

Responses to the Statutory Consultation on the proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Treferythyr to 150 and relocate the school to an alternative site, referred to as the A497 site, on 1 September 2023

Period of consultation ad Statutory

6 November 2020 - 18 December 2020

10 written responses were received during the statutory consultation period

The comments can be found in the table below

	Comments	Gwynedd Council's Response
1	<p>I am fully in favour of the redevelopment plans and selection of the A497 site. My grandchildren come from an English speaking family and all now speak Welsh thanks to the staff at Treferthyr. The older ones have recently gained A* passes thanks to the excellent educational foundation gained at Treferthyr. This is an excellent school deserving of modern facilities.</p>	<p>Gwynedd Council notes the comments.</p>
2	<p>The draft plans show that a football pitch is on the outskirts of the new school scheme in Cricieth.</p> <p>Is there a proposed football pitch in Cricieth as part of the scheme?</p> <p>Llanystumdwy FC has existed in the village of Llanystumdwy for over 30 years. For some time now we have been investing in a new facility for the village in order to move the existing field which is privately hired by a village owner.</p> <p>For some years now we have spent a large amount of money in the village which has been donated to Llanystumdwy FC as donations, annual grinding races and a weekly tote ...</p> <p>... Facilities in the village - We are currently levelling the village field, seeding in the spring of 2021, and planning to play on it in 2022. Also,</p>	<p>The football pitch included in the school's conceptual plan is in the consultation document is for school use. The pitch is not full size but for primary age children.</p> <p>We are keen to see community use made of the new school resources, possibly including the playing fields, and this will be dependent on discussions with the Headteacher and Governing Body.</p>

	<p>some years and by agreement we built luxury changing rooms at the Village Hall for teams to use.</p> <p>Over the 30 years Llanystumdwy FC has been successful in running its own youth, women's and men's teams. Some years ago there were youth teams for children between the ages of 6 and 16. However, due to the lack of facilities in the village it was difficult to retain some teams to take play in the village to WFA requirements.</p> <p>There are currently 25 to 30 children in training as well as women and men themselves on a weekly basis.</p> <p>As a village club we are concerned that if public money is invested in a football pitch in Cricieth this could affect Llanystumdwy FC club's plans and its future.</p> <p>Possibly following the opening of the new school Llanystumdwy FC may enter into an agreement with the school so that the school can use the facilities during school hours.</p>	
3	<p>I understand that Llanystumdwy is no longer part of the development. I also note the comment in the report to the effect that history shows that many children from the catchment area (who are educated at another school) return to the catchment area school when a new school arrives. It is possible that 'extra' children will come to the new school. So, a question - why will the capacity of the new school be 150 when the forecast shows 141 children (with no 'extra') in September 2013? Wouldn't it make more sense to have a figure of 175 that would leave room for extra children without overcrowding the school?</p> <p>I would like to see the new school develop as an integral part of Cricieth's 'community space', alongside the Memorial Hall. There is</p>	<p>As noted in the consultation document the September 2020 figures showed that there were 117 (nursery - year 6) pupils at the school and 29 from the catchment area attended other schools.</p> <p>For this reason the intention is to build the new school to accommodate 5 classes for reception age children to year 6 and a nursery class i.e. 150 reception - year 6, and nursery class. The Council believes that this will create enough space for all primary age children in the catchment area when the new school opens.</p> <p>The Council believes that creating a new school with modern facilities is an opportunity for the school to work with the community to encourage alternative use of the facilities. We therefore accept your desire to see the new school develop as an</p>

	<p>now a shortage of space in the town for events / concerts (of different sizes etc).</p> <p>You should ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is suitable space in the new school • That the school and Town Council work closely to develop and promote community use 	<p>integral part of Cricieth's 'community space' and would encourage the school and the Town Council to work together to develop and promote community use of the school.</p>
4	<p>Because the consultee has noted on the reply form that he/she does not want us to publish the comments we are including the following in order to respond to the points made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have reservations about the proposed site, as it is on a busy highway. • It is not possible to guarantee that motorists will follow the traffic calming measures proposed by the Council. • Many pupils walk to the present school, along pavements down the main road. Pupils would be able to walk through the town or take a short-cut down Lon Fel (a single carriageway without pavements), before having to cross a busy road. Has a study been undertaken to consider these practical problems? • I have concerns about the site, in terms of the safety and welfare of pupils and parents. 	<p>A traffic survey has been undertaken during Autumn 2020, with a study of the road and pedestrian network on the west side of Cricieth. Speed limits will be extended to the west of the site to provide a buffer zone where the speed is gradually reduced from 60mph to 40mph to 30mph to 20mph. A dedicated turning lane and island will facilitate the right turn into the site. When leaving the site it will be possible to turn left and right. It is proposed to install a fence that will separate the new pavement from the main road and the fence will go from the entrance to Lon Fel (south) to the school entrance.</p> <p>We have looked at Lon Fel north of the A497 and would strongly advise parents not to use this route and an alternative route should be used to get to school.</p> <p>The Education Department has submitted a Travel Survey questionnaire to the school for completion by the pupils and their parents and the results will be used to set the objectives of the School Travel Plan. The survey will also look at ways in which sustainable safe travel to school can be encouraged.</p>
5	<p>I am very happy with the news of the new school. It will be great for staff, children and an asset to the community. My only concern is the traffic on the main Pwllheli road. Hopefully, and I'm sure the authority has considered this in detail. Will the community have access to the</p>	<p>A traffic survey was undertaken during Autumn 2020, with a study of the road and pedestrian network on the west side of Cricieth. Speed limits will be extended to the west of the site to provide a buffer zone where the speed is gradually reduced from 60mph to</p>

	<p>premises for groups, meetings, football and other outdoor activities (that have been arranged) etc?</p>	<p>40mph to 30mph to 20mph. A dedicated turning lane and island will facilitate the right turn into the site. When leaving the site it will be possible to turn left and right. It is proposed to install a fence that will separate the new pavement from the main road and the fence will go from the entrance to Lon Fel (south) to the school entrance. We have looked at Lon Fel north of the A497 and would strongly advise parents not to use this route and an alternative route should be used to get to school.</p> <p>The Council believes that creating a new school with modern facilities is an opportunity for the school to work with the community to encourage alternative use of the facilities.</p>
6	<p>I wish to take the opportunity to respond to this statutory consultation on the proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Trefferthyr to 150 pupils and to relocate the school to an alternative site.</p> <p>The talk of building a new school in Cricieth has been around for a good number of years and it is pleasing to see that the Authority has prioritized the need for a new building to house Ysgol Trefferthyr in the current round of funding for 21st Century schools. Although the maintenance of the existing building that has been carried out over the last decade has improved for a while, it is now clear that the repair and upgrading of a building that is now of inadequate quality, design and location cannot continue, especially for meeting educational requirements in the 21st Century. With the advent of the new curriculum the shortcomings are even more pronounced. I am grateful to the Authority and its officers for the detailed preparatory work undertaken to date and which is available for all to read in the full document provided for this consultation. We are proud of the town that so many buildings and resources will be coming here in three years' time which will in themselves transform</p>	<p>Gwynedd Council notes your comments and appreciation of the work of the team working on the project to make the new school in Cricieth a reality.</p>

	<p>the opportunities for the children of the catchment area and the active team of teachers and assistants we have.</p> <p>Thank you for detailing the work that has been done to secure a site that will appear to be convenient and enjoyable for everyone. It was important for us to understand the different potential sites considered by officers and the reasons why only the one recommended was actually appropriate.</p> <p>I fully support the proposal.</p>	
7.	<p>The layby was discussed and it was agreed that it should be closed for safety reasons. It is the Town Council's view that due to the same safety reasons and great concern for the level of traffic and speed in the area, the scheme should be extended to use the lay by for reconfiguring the area and for a roundabout. It is very important to make the place as safe as possible, noting that many would walk to the School as well as travel to it by car. In the opinion of the Town Council, closing the layby was not sufficient to ensure public safety. In recent years the Town Council had drawn the attention of Gwynedd Council to the traffic situation coming into the town from the direction of Pwllheli and requested measures to reduce the speed of traffic. As a result, a report by Gwynedd Council following an assessment of the traffic situation and speed had been submitted to North Wales Police. The relocation of the school to the A497 site made it even more important to reconfigure the area and to have a roundabout.</p>	<p>A road and traffic study was undertaken and discussions were held with the Highways Department. The Highways Department was not prepared to close the lay-by as it is a strategic location for lorries carrying large caravans / buildings and will use the lay-by to wait for escort vehicles. The lay-by is also used for HGV floors to rest at drive time control. There is no intention to have a gate or walkway between the lay-by and the new school in order to avoid school users considering the area as a drop-off point. Speed limits will extend to the west of the school, with a dedicated lane and traffic island to facilitate the right turn into the site. Advice has been received from Gwynedd Council's Highways Development Department that the criteria for a roundabout are not met.</p>
8.	<p>It was very good to hear that Cricieth will soon have a new modern school.</p> <p>I would like to draw your attention to concerns about a section of Lon Fel, the road leading to the site of the new school from the south and sea, specifically part of the lane which includes the bridge over the railway. This will be the route that many children living in south-west</p>	<p>A traffic survey has been undertaken during Autumn 2020, with a study of the road and pedestrian network on the west side of Cricieth. Speed limits will be extended to the west of the site to provide a buffer zone where the speed is gradually reduced from 60mph to 40mph to 30mph to 20mph. A dedicated turning lane and island will facilitate the right turn into the site. When leaving the site it will be possible to turn left and right. It is proposed to install a</p>

	<p>Cricieth will follow when they walk to school, and I would therefore like to highlight pedestrian safety issues.</p> <p>It is a narrow lane with a moderate flow of traffic, and only one car at a time can travel along it. At present, there is no control of the traffic flow over the bridge, and there is a problem from time to time as there are no signs indicating which direction is taking priority - for example, when driving over the bridge and when another vehicle has started coming in the opposite direction, one of those cars has to reverse. I'm sure so you can understand that this can be dangerous when pedestrians cross the bridge at the same time, but especially of course when a child or parent with a pram is walking along it.</p> <p>In addition, the pedestrian sign on the south side of the bridge has faded, and so is not currently very visible to drivers.</p> <p>In planning for the new school therefore, I feel that a priority system should be put in place to manage the flow of traffic over the railway bridge, and that clear and purposeful signage should be put in place to warn drivers and protect pedestrians and children.</p> <p>It's good to see that you want to create an entrance from Lon Fel and a path through the woods to the school from that entrance. I feel this will support the above safety measures by removing the pedestrian from the very busy main road.</p>	<p>fence that will separate the new pavement from the main road and the fence will go from the entrance to Fel Lane (south) to the school entrance. We have looked at Fel Lane north of the A497 and would strongly advise parents not to use this route and an alternative route should be used to get to school.</p> <p>New signs, lane markings and a clear priority system will be installed on the railway bridge to warn drivers and protect pedestrians on Lon Fel.</p>
9	<p>I welcome a new school BUT</p> <p>I am mostly worried about the safety of everyone at this location - the lane is extremely busy and the entrance is near a dangerous corner.</p> <p>I don't want to see trees being felled - numbers have been painted on some of the trees in the small forest near Lon Fel and this worries me.</p>	<p>Many of the trees near Lon Fel have died and are in a dangerous condition. There will be felling and pruning to ensure the safety of the woods and to plant trees if necessary. Ecologists are working on the project.</p> <p>Lighting of the building will be considered and all lighting will be within planning guidelines.</p>

	<p>Should the school be rebuilt here, light pollution is a concern for me. New external lighting is improving but they must be kept to a minimum.</p> <p>The reasons for not following the other locations to attend, especially numbers 5 and 11, are not good enough, and much more detail and explanation is needed. About 80% of the school children live in these settings and this is the most sensible place to go to school.</p>	<p>The process of selecting the proposed site was very detailed where 11 sites were considered in total. Detailed investigations and discussions with site owners closer to the homes of the majority of the children were carried out and it was concluded that, for a variety of reasons, they were not practical or suitable for such a development.</p>
10.	Estyn Summary	
10.1	Estyn is of the opinion that this proposal is at least likely to maintain the existing standards of education.	Gwynedd Council notes the comments.
10.2	<p>Description and benefits</p> <p>The proposer provides a clear rationale for the reasoning behind the proposal. The proposer states robustly that this proposal is in accordance with Gwynedd Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, in addition to its 'Excellent Primary Education for the Children of Gwynedd' strategy.</p>	
10.3	The proposer refers relevantly to the results of the recent suitability survey, and states that the school is currently in very poor condition and that the buildings significantly impair the staff's ability to deliver the curriculum. The proposer states unequivocally that neither the original building nor the multi-storey extension/cabin help the school's staff to provide education of the expected standard. The proposer asserts that the school is now beyond repair.	
10.4	The proposer states powerfully that the new school will offer primary resources to the size and standard expected for the 21st century, with capacity for 150 pupils. This means that 6 classrooms will be provided with access to the outdoors, a hall, kitchen, a multipurpose room and a library, all of which will be on one floor,	

	<p>which will facilitate accessibility and access for all. By increasing the school's capacity to 150, and considering that the current capacity is 119, there will be an increase of 25% in capacity in order to ensure enough places for the current number and those from the catchment area that may attend the school at the new site.</p> <p>The proposer has based this validly on the projected pupil numbers.</p>	
10.5	The proposer draws relevant attention to the fact that the facilities on the new school site will provide a learning environment that meets modern requirements.	
10.6	The proposer has given due consideration to other options following the process of creating a long list and then a short list. These included remaining on the current site combined with the fields opposite, in addition to a number of other locations.	
10.7	The proposer identifies clearly the advantages, disadvantages and the risks associated with the proposal and the different options. The proposer analyses the risks in relation to the size, traffic, costs and timescale of the proposed work, in addition to investigations of the land, and ecological, archaeological and technical issues. The proposer states clearly why it favours the proposal, and refers robustly to the benefits of opening a school on the new site, namely site A497.	
10.8	The proposer has given very consideration to the effect that relocating the school to the new site will have on the Welsh language. The proposer states clearly that there will be no negative effect on the Welsh language as the school will continue to be a Welsh-medium school, with the same governing body and staffing structure.	
10.9	The proposer has given sufficient consideration to the effect of the proposals on pupils' travel arrangements and the accessibility of	

	provision, in addition to the safety of the new site as parents arrive and park.	
10.10	The proposer has conducted a community impact assessment, and asserts reasonably that the new school's modern facilities will be suitable for holding community activities and offer more options in terms of extra-curricular clubs and activities.	
10.11	<p>Educational aspects of the proposal</p> <p>The proposer gives appropriate consideration to the effect of the proposal on the quality of outcomes, provision and leadership at the school. The proposer refers relevantly to the outcomes of the latest Estyn inspection report on Ysgol Treferythyr.</p> <p>The proposer comes to the balanced conclusion that it does not foresee any negative effects on the quality of standards, teaching, wellbeing, learning experiences or leadership.</p>	
10.12	<p>The proposer asserts strongly that the proposal will have a positive effect on pupils' education by raising standards, wellbeing and attitudes to learning, and improving leadership, care and support. The proposer states reasonably that the school will provide better teaching and learning experiences because pupils will have access to a wider range of suitable resources for a variety of work. This will have a positive effect on ensuring that a full curriculum is delivered in the foundation phase and all relevant key stages.</p> <p>The proposer has conducted an equality impact assessment and states reasonably that the proposal should not have a detrimental effect on any particular groups, including children with additional learning needs. The proposer notes that the school will offer space for early years use and an Early Years Observation and Language Impairment Unit.</p> <p>The proposer states validly that the proposal will ensure that all new school buildings will be fully accessible to disabled pupils.</p>	

	<p>The proposer has given appropriate consideration to the possible disruption to existing pupils, and has taken suitable action to reduce any impact on them.</p>	
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