

Councillor Peter Thomas' comments on the report to be presented to Cyngor Gwynedd's Cabinet on 15 September, reporting on the outcome of the statutory objection period held in relation to the proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn on 31 December 2026 and provide a place for learners at Ysgol Talysarn from 1 January 2027.

I would like to thank to everyone who signed the petition submitted by the governing body opposing the Council's proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn.

The fact that 500 people signed the petition demonstrates the strong support that exists for keeping this resource open in Nantlle. Also thank you to everyone who expressed their opposition by sending messages to the Council during this period.

I have not changed my view that closing the school would be a devastating blow to the village and it would also have a detrimental impact on the use of the Welsh language, and the village would lose the facilities in the school that are used by the community.

The Cabinet is aware that throughout this process I have favoured federating Ysgol Baladeulyn with Ysgol Talysarn (aln) and sharing resources. I am also concerned that if all pupils from Ysgol Baladeulyn transfer to Ysgol Talysarn the school will exceed its capacity and this would be a significant change for children who are used to attending a school with low pupil numbers.

I hope that the Cabinet will consider the objections and the petition containing 500 signatures as well as the impact that the closure of Ysgol Baladeulyn could have on the children, parents, the community, and the Welsh language.