



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

OBJECTION REPORT

PROPOSAL: AMALGAMATE CEFN AND CRAIG YR HESG PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO CREATE A NEW COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. Purpose of the Objection Report

This report is prepared in accordance with the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, statutory document 006/2013. Its purpose is to:

- Inform the outcome of the publication of the statutory notice published for this proposal, which was published on the 4th of April 2022 for a period of a minimum of 28 days; and
- Include a summary of the statutory objections received and the local authority's response to them.

2. The Statutory Notices

The Statutory Notice to progress this proposal, which was published on the 4th of April 2022, is reproduced below:

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Education and Inclusion Services, Tŷ Trevithick, Abercynon CF45 4UQ

Notice is given in accordance with sections 41 and 43 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC), having consulted such persons as required, proposes to:

1. Discontinue the following schools currently maintained by RCTCBC:
 - Cefn Primary School, Greenfield Avenue, Glyncoch, Pontypridd CF37 3BD
 - Craig yr Hesg Primary School, Cefn Lane, Glyncoch, Pontypridd CF37 3BP
2. Establish a new English Medium Community Primary School, to be maintained by RCTCBC in a new school building to be constructed for this purpose. The new school building will be built on the existing Craig yr Hesg Primary School site and the land adjacent to it (the former site of the Tŷ Gwyn Pupil Referral Unit) for boys and girls aged 3-11 years.

RCTCBC undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and the views of Estyn is available on the Council's website at:

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/GetInvolved/Consultations/CurrentConsultations/ProposaltoamalgamateCefnPrimaryandCraigyrHesgPrimarySchools.aspx>

It is proposed to implement the proposals by no later than the 1st of September 2026.

It is proposed that pupils currently attending Cefn Primary School and Craig yr Hesg Primary School should transfer to the new English Medium Community Primary School by the 1st of September 2026, subject to parental preference.

The proposed new school will be an English Medium Community Primary School.

RCTCBC will be the admissions authority and there will be no arrangements for pupil banding.

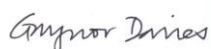
The proposed capacity of the new English Medium Community Primary school shall be 360 pupil places, plus nursery. The admission number for pupils aged 4 to the Reception Class at the new school in the first school year in which the proposals have been implemented is proposed to be 51.

Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with RCTCBC's Transport Policy. RCTCBC provides free transport for pupils who attend their nearest suitable Primary, Infant or Junior School, if they reside beyond 1.5 miles walking distance to that school, or if there is no safe walking route. The term 'nearest suitable' school applies to the catchment area or nearest Welsh, English, dual language or voluntary aided (faith) mainstream school or special school/class as appropriate.

Within a period of 28 days of the date on which these proposals were published, that is to say by the 11th of May 2022, any person may object to the proposals. Objections should be sent to the Director of Education and Inclusion Services, 21st Century Schools, Tŷ Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ, or e-mail schoolplanning@rctcbc.gov.uk

Where objections have been received, RCTCBC will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within 7 days of the determination of the proposal.

Signed:



Gaynor Davies
Director of Education and Inclusion Services
For Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Date: 4th of April 2022

3. Details of Objections Received

During the Statutory Notice period, a total of 1 objection was received by the closing date of the 11th of May 2022. This objection is included below along with the Council's response to the objection.

4. Objection and Responses

The objection detailed in the report reflects the language used in the submission. The following table reflects this.

| <u>HYSBYSIAD STATUDOL – YMGYNGHORI AR GYNNIG I UNO YSGOL GYNRADD CEFN AC YSGOL GYNRADD CRAIG-YR-HESG ER MWYN SEFYDLU YSGOL GYNRADD GYMUNEDOL NEWYDD AR SAFLE NEWYDD</u> |
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| <u>STATUTORY NOTICE – TO AMALGAMATE CEFN AND CRAIG YR HESG PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO CREATE A NEW COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL</u> |
| <p>Fel y bydd yr awdurdod lleol yn gwybod, mae teimlad cryf yn yr ardal hon nad oes Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg i ddiwallu anghenion yr ardal. Pan benderfynodd yr awdurdod gau Ysgol Gynradd Pont Sion Norton, bu ymgyrchwyr yn glir am yr angen am ysgol Gymraeg ar gyfer ardal ynysybwll, glyncoch, coedycwm, trallwn a cilfynydd. Gofynwyd i'r Cyngor ystyried y safle hwn ar gyfer ysgol o'r fath, gan nodi ei leoliad perffaith o ran trafndiaeth gyhoeddus hefyd.</p> <p>Os yw'r Cyngor yn ymrwymo i'r targed miliwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg, pa ffordd well hynny na diwallu'r angen drwy newid yr ysgol newydd i fod yn ysgol Gymraeg neu o leiaf i ddechrau yn un gyda ffrwd Gymraeg y gellir ei thyfu. Oes ystyriaeth wedi ei roi i hyn, gan weithio gyda ymgyrchwyr lleol ac i sicrhau mynediad cydradd i Addysg Gymraeg yn y rhan yma o'r Sir?</p> <p>As the local authority will know, there is a strong feeling in this area that there is no Welsh Medium Primary School to meet the needs of the area. When the authority decided to close Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pont Sion Norton, campaigners were clear about the need for a Welsh-medium school for the area of Ynysybwll, Glyncoch, Coed-y-cwm, Trallwng and Cilfynydd. The Council was asked to consider this site for such a school, also noting its perfect location for public transport.</p> <p>If the Council commits itself to the target of one million Welsh speakers, what better way than to meet the need by changing the new school into a Welsh medium school or at least initially one with a growing Welsh stream. Has consideration been given to this, working with local campaigners and ensuring equal access to Welsh Medium Education in this part of the County?</p> |

Response:

Mae'r Cyngor wedi ymrwymo'n llwyr i gefnogi Llywodraeth Cymru i gyflawni ei tharged Cymraeg 2050 o greu miliwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg, ac mae rhagor o wybodaeth am hyn wedi'i chasglu yn rhan o'r Asesiad o'r Effaith ar y Gymraeg a gafodd ei gynnwys yn y dogfennau ymgynghori ac sydd ar gael o hyd ar wefan y Cyngor.

Mae'r ysgol gynradd Gymraeg newydd a fydd yn agor ym mis Medi 2024 yn Rhydfelen wedi'i dylunio i ddarparu ar gyfer yr holl ddisgyblion sy'n dymuno dilyn addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg o'r ardaloedd wedi'u rhestri. Rydyn ni hefyd wedi sicrhau y bydd capasiti ychwanegol yn yr ysgol newydd i ddarparu ar gyfer twf yn nifer y disgyblion sy'n mynychu er mwyn cefnogi deilliant Cymraeg 2050 cyffredinol Llywodraeth Cymru ymhellach. Byddwn ni'n parhau i weithio gyda rhanddeiliaid perthnasol wrth ddatblygu'r ysgol yma a sicrhau bod yr holl staff, rhieni a gwarcheidwaid yn cael yr wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am gynnydd.

Mae'r rhesymeg dros gyflwyno ysgol cyfrwng Saesneg newydd yng Nglyn-coch wedi'i chynnwys yn y ddogfen ymgynghori. Mae angen atgyweiriadau sylweddol ar yr adeiladau ysgol presennol yn Ysgol Gynradd Cefn ac Ysgol Gynradd Craig-yr-Hesg a dydyn nhw ddim yn addas i'r diben bellach, ac mae dros £783,000 o gostau cynnal a chadw cyfunol yn weddill. Mae oedran ac adeiladwaith yr adeiladau yn atal naill ysgol rhag derbyn unrhyw waith gwella sylweddol a fyddai'n caniatáu iddyn nhw gael eu hystyried yn ddarpariaeth Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif.

Dydy safle Ysgol Gynradd Cefn ac adeilad yr ysgol ei hun ddim yn hygyrch ac nid yw'n cydymffurfio â Deddf Cydraddoldeb 2010. Mae angen gwelliant sylweddol hefyd ar Ysgol Gynradd Craig-yr-Hesg i gydymffurfio â Deddf Cydraddoldeb 2010. Byddai'r ysgol newydd yn gwbl hygyrch i'r holl staff, disgyblion yn ogystal â'r gymuned gan sicrhau bod modd gwneud defnydd llawn o gyfleusterau'r ysgol gan sicrhau ein bod yn gyrru ymlaen ac yn cefnogi agenda 'canolbwyntio ar y gymuned' Llywodraeth Cymru. Bydd cyfleusterau allanol helaeth yr ysgol newydd, gan gynnwys Ardal Gemau Aml-ddefnydd, yn galluogi staff, disgyblion a'r gymuned i elwa ar ystod ehangach o brofiadau addysgu a dysgu.

Bydd yr ysgol yn cael ei dylunio i fod yn effeithlon o ran ynni a bydd ganddi systemau ynni adnewyddadwy gan gynnwys paneli ffotofoltaidd a system casglu dŵr glaw. Bydd yr ysgol yn cael ei hadeiladu i safonau Ardderchog BREEAM, a bydd yn gweithredu'n Garbon Sero-Net, gan gyfrannu at gyflawni Strategaeth Mynd i'r Afael â Newid yn yr Hinsawdd y Cyngor ar gyfer 2021-2025 a'r nod uchelgeisiol o fod yn Gyngor carbon niwtral erbyn 2030.

Bydd y safle a ddefnyddir ar gyfer yr ysgol newydd yn ymgorffori safle presennol Ysgol Craig-yr-Hesg yn ogystal â'r tir cyfagos iddo (safle Tŷ Gwyn yn flaenorol). Dydy'r tir gerllaw'r ysgol ddim yn ddigon mawr ar gyfer ysgol heb ddefnyddio safle presennol yr ysgol. Yn unol â Bwletin Adeiladu 99, i gynnwys ysgol o'r maint yma gyda'r ardaloedd allanol priodol, mae angen safle o tua 1.5ha. Mae'r ddau safle gyda'i gilydd yn darparu ardal o tua 1.6ha.

Mae'r Cyngor o'r gred bod y cynnig yma'n cynrychioli'r cyfle gorau i ddiogelu safonau addysgol ar gyfer y dyfodol a'i fod yn darparu platfform ar gyfer gwelliannau trwy fuddsoddiad sylweddol mewn cyfleusterau parhaol ac addas i'r diben. Mae'n darparu'r cyfleusterau sydd eu hangen i fodloni'r cwricwlwm newydd gan alluogi athrawon i ganolbwyntio ar sicrhau'r deilliannau addysgol gorau posibl. Bydd yn gwbl hygyrch, bydd yn darparu mannau awyr agored o safon nid yn unig i'r ysgol ond i'r Gymuned ehangach gan gyflawni'r agenda Ysgolion sy'n Canolbwyntio ar y Gymuned, a bydd yn cyflawni Carbon Sero-Net gan gefnogi targed uchelgeisiol y Cyngor o fod yn Gyngor carbon niwtral erbyn 2030.

The Council is fully committed in supporting the Welsh Government in achieving its Cymraeg 2050 target of creating one million Welsh speakers, and further information on this has been captured within the Welsh Language Impact Assessment which was included within the consultation documentation and can still be found on the Council's website.

The new Welsh medium primary school, which will open in September 2024 in Rhydyfelin, has been designed to accommodate all pupils that wish to pursue a Welsh medium education from the areas listed. We have also ensured that there has been additional capacity designed into the new school to accommodate growth in the number of pupils attending to further support the Welsh Government's overarching Cymraeg 2050 outcome. We will continue to work with relevant stakeholders in the development of this school and ensure that all staff, parents and carers, are kept up to date with progress.

The rationale for delivering a new English medium school in Glyncoch is contained within the consultation document. The existing school buildings at Cefn and Craig yr Hesg Primary Schools require significant repairs and are no longer fit-for-purpose, with collective outstanding maintenance costs of more than £783,000. The age and construction of the buildings prevent either school from receiving any significant upgrades which would allow them to be deemed a 21st Century Schools' provision.

The site of Cefn Primary and the school building itself is not accessible and does not comply with the Equality Act 2010, and Craig yr Hesg Primary also requires significant improvement to comply with the Equality Act 2010. The new school would be fully accessible for all staff, pupils as well as the community ensuring that the facilities at the school can be fully utilised ensuring we drive forward and support the Welsh Government's community focussed agenda. The new school's extensive external facilities, including a Multi-Use Games Area, will allow staff, pupils, and the community to benefit from a greater breadth of teaching and learning experiences.

The school will be designed to be energy efficient and will include renewable energy systems including photovoltaic panels and rainwater harvesting. The school will be built to BREEAM Excellent standards, and will be Net Zero Carbon in operation, contributing to the delivery of the Council's Tackling Climate Change Strategy for 2021-2025 and the ambitious goal of being a carbon neutral Council by 2030.

The site that will be used to accommodate the new school will incorporate the existing Craig yr Hesg School site as well as the land adjacent to it (formerly the Ty Gwyn site). The land adjacent to the school is not large enough to accommodate a school without utilising the existing school site. In accordance with Building Bulletin 99, to accommodate a school of this size with the appropriate external areas, a site of approximately 1.5ha is needed, both sites cumulatively provide an area of circa 1.6ha.

The Council believes that this proposal represents the best opportunity to safeguard educational standards for the future and provides a platform for improvement through significant investment in permanent and fit-for-purpose facilities. It delivers the facilities required to meet the new curriculum allowing teachers to focus on maximising educational outcomes. It will be fully accessible, it will provide quality outdoor spaces not just for the school but the wider Community delivering the Community Focused school agenda, and it will achieve Net Zero Carbon supporting the Council's ambitious target of being a carbon neutral Council by 2030.