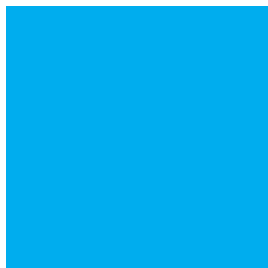


# 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS



## APPENDIX B - COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

All documents relating to this consultation are available on the 'Get Involved' page on the Council website

Mae'r ddogfen yma ar gael yn y Gymraeg / This document is available in Welsh.

# Community Impact Assessment

This Community Impact Assessment is prepared in accordance with the School Organisation Code – 2018 (011/2018). It is to be read alongside the Consultation Document, the Welsh Language Impact Assessment and the Equality Impact Assessment as the information in all documents is related and the themes within them are cross-cutting.

Section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code – 2018 refers to regulated alterations to a school, which includes ‘the transfer of any school to a new site or sites’.

The proposal is to carry out a regulated alteration to:

- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn y Forwyn (YGG Llyn y Forwyn), by way of transferring the school to a brand new building on a new site. The new school building is proposed to be built on the land North Side of Highfield, Ferndale, CF43 4AD, known locally as the former ‘Chubb Factory’. It is proposed that the regulated alteration take place by March 2024.

The proposal is to be consulted on between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021. A detailed Consultation Document has been circulated to all prescribed stakeholders, this Community Impact Assessment is an appendix of this main document.

## **The Proposal**

The proposal is to transfer YGG Llyn y Forwyn to a brand new school building on a new site. The new school building is proposed to be built on the land North Side of Highfield, Ferndale, CF43 4AD, known locally as the former ‘Chubb Factory’. There will be no changes to the catchment area of YGG Llyn y Forwyn. The school will cater for children aged between 3 and 11 years of age requiring Welsh medium primary education. It will have a proposed admissions number of 30 pupils per year group, and an overall pupil capacity of 210 (plus nursery). The proposal to cost an estimated £8.5 million. This capital element of the proposal will be funded wholly by the Council’s Capital Investment Programme.

## **Community Impact**

It should be noted at this point that the community impact of the proposals is determined to be positive. The proposal does not involve the physical closure of a school, but a relocation to a new, fully accessible site within the current community. The inclusion of community facilities within the new school building will ensure that the opportunities for community engagement will be significantly improved.

YGG Llyn y Fforyn is proposed to be replaced by a new, purpose built Welsh medium primary school for the villages that comprise the Rhondda Fach. The new school building is proposed to be built on the land North Side of Highfield, Ferndale, CF43 4AD, known locally as the former 'Chubb Factory'. The school will be designed to be a fully accessible and fully integrated community school. Increasing opportunities for the whole community to access the new facilities to strengthen relationships and fully integrate the school into the community. A dedicated area will be designed within the school itself so that the local community will be allowed to safely utilise the facilities at the school, both during and after the school day.

The new school will be built in accordance with Building Bulletin 99, which requires new primary schools to include provision for team sports, including a playing field area suitable for team games for pupils aged 8 and over and a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) for sports such as basketball and netball. New schools are also required to include soft play areas, commonly made up of grassed space for pupils to sit and socialise, alongside hard surfaced playgrounds and sheltered space to complement the soft play areas around the school site. The new school will also include a forest schools area which will act as a space for outdoor learning and provide a valuable teaching and learning resource to deliver the new changing curriculum for Wales. It also provides lifelong learning opportunities through the medium of Welsh, promotes the delivery of cultural activities, and access to new ICT which will provide the opportunities for all local learners to reach their full potential

The new school will be fully accessible and compliant with the Equality Act 2010. More information on this is included within the Equality Impact Assessment.

A new Cylch Meithrin will also form a part of the new school site and will offer pre-school Cylch Meithrin sessions for 2 to 3 year olds. This provision is already operating at the existing school site, however, given the limitations on the space available numbers are relatively low. It is anticipated that being able to offer this provision in brand new facilities as part of the YGG Llyn y Forwyn site will encourage pupil numbers to grow and offer essential wrap around care for parents and carers in a safe and stimulating environment. This will assist in ensuring a language continuum of Welsh medium provision for children from the age of two to eleven years, within one primary school site.

### **Catchment Changes**

The proposal seeks to enhance the accommodation and facilities available to pupils from within the catchment area of YGG Llyn y Forwyn who require Welsh medium primary education. There will be no changes to the current catchment area of YGG Llyn y Forwyn.

95% of pupils that attend YGG Llyn y Forwyn live within the catchment area, and 5% of pupils live outside the catchment area. There should be no impact upon this data given that there are no changes planned to the catchment area of the school.

## **Transport and Travel Implications**

There is a statutory duty placed upon all Local Authorities in Wales to provide pupils with free transport to their nearest suitable school if they reside beyond safe 'walking distance' to that school. The term suitable school applies to the catchment area English, Welsh, dual language or voluntary aided (faith) mainstream school or special school/class as appropriate. The law relating to safe 'walking distance' is defined as two miles for pupils of compulsory school age receiving primary education and three miles for pupils of compulsory school age receiving secondary education.

The Council has exercised the discretionary powers afforded to it under the provisions of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 to make a more generous provision to pupils. The relevant information in relation to YGG Llyn y Forwyn is set out below:

- The eligibility criterion for walking distance for pupils receiving compulsory primary education at their nearest suitable school has been set at 1½ miles, instead of 2 miles as required by the Measure.
- Free transport to their nearest suitable school, where places are available, is provided to pupils who meet the 1½ mile eligibility criterion from the start of Foundation Phase (the start of the school term after their third birthday), rather than from the start of compulsory education (the start of the school term after their fifth birthday) as required by the Measure.
- The term suitable school applies to the catchment area English, Welsh, dual language or voluntary aided (faith) mainstream school or special school/class as appropriate.

65% of pupils that currently attend YGG Llyn y Forwyn utilise home to school transport and given the new location it is expected that this percentage will remain, albeit some children currently accessing transport will now live within walking distance and vice versa.

A traffic impact assessment, plus an audit of the safe walking routes to school will be carried out, and any recommended enhancements to improve the safety of pupils, staff, and parents/carers travelling to the school site will be carried out. The new school site is just off the main road and so is very near to the public transport bus route with a bus stop just outside the site boundary. Stagecoach run two regular bus services which travel through the Rhondda Fach, and so past the school, every 20 minutes making this site far more accessible from a transport perspective too.

## **Current 'Out of School Hours' Usage**

Should the proposals proceed, all current before and after school activities in YGG Llyn y Forwyn will continue, and we hope given the new facilities these provisions will grow. In addition, the breakfast club currently offered by YGG

Llyn y Forwyn would continue. All after school clubs currently offered by YGG Llyn y Forwyn would continue to be offered. Current after school activities include:

- Sports clubs including football and netball
- Arts and Crafts

It should be noted however that currently the after school sports clubs are not held on the school site due to the limited play space and sloping topography, and so the staff at the school use the local park for these activities.

The transferring of YGG Llyn y Forwyn to a brand new building on a new site will allow for the expansion of such activities. Community and third party use of the schools facilities will also be encouraged, the school will be designed to be a fully accessible and fully integrated community school. A dedicated area will be designed within the school itself so that the local community will be allowed to safely utilise the facilities at the school, both during and after the school day. Any usage of the school by groups affiliated to the school, such as the Parent Teacher Association for functions, would continue to be offered by the school should the proposals proceed.

### **Impact on health and wellbeing**

The new school will be a modern, colourful, 21<sup>st</sup> Century teaching and learning environment. It is determined that the impact upon the health and well-being of staff and pupils will be positive given the challenges currently faced on the existing school site with the limited external facilities and the poor condition of the current building.

The new school building will be fit for purpose and will deliver flexible teaching and learning areas to ensure delivery of the New Curriculum for Wales.

The external spaces will have a significantly more positive impact upon the health and well-being of both staff and pupils. The new school site will have new outdoor play spaces, an outdoor classroom, a forest schools area and a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), and all areas will be fully accessible. This is in stark contrast to the current outdoor facilities on the existing school site.

These positive benefits for the school community will also be realised in the local community, as these facilities will also be available for community use. The school will be supported to establish links with local community groups to ensure that all can benefit from this positive investment.

More information on how this proposal contributes to the seven well-being goals and the five ways of working as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 is included within the Equality Impact Assessment.

### **Community safety**

The site will be designed to comply with 'Secure by Design' which will ensure that the school boundary and buildings are fully secured and protected with CCTV. The community room at the new school will be designed so that access to it can be gained during the school day without comprising the safety of the staff and pupils.

The site will have a dedicated car park and on-site home to school transport bus bays, making the route from the bus drop off to the school far safer.

As the school is remaining within its current catchment, existing relationships with the local police force and the Police Community Support Officer will continue.

Given the proposed location of the new school there are no concerns regarding community safety, to the contrary, it is deemed that the newly constructed school, in its new location, will have a positive impact upon community safety.