

To the Parents, Carers and
Guardians of pupils attending
Mynydd Cynffig Primary School;
Headteacher, Staff and
Governing Body of Mynydd
Cynffig Primary School,
Prescribed Consultees, Secretary
of Pwllgath Allotment
Association and Air Training
Corp.

**Uned Cymorth Cyfarwyddiaeth Addysg a Chymorth i
Deuluoedd (UCCACD)
Education and Family Support Directorate –
Directorate Support Unit (EDSU)
Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line: (01656) 643643**

Ein cyf / Our ref: MCP
Eich cyf / Your ref: MCP

Dyddiad / Date: 15 June 2022

Dear Consultee

Proposal to make a regulated alteration to Mynydd Cynffig Primary School in the form of enlargement with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025 by:

- **constructing a new primary school building on the Mynydd Cynffig Primary School junior site Pwllgath Street, Kenfig Hill, Bridgend, CF33 6ET;**
- **increasing the size of school to 2 form-entry (that is, 420 places) plus a 75-place nursery; and**
- **ceasing the current split-site arrangement so that the infant department relocates to the new school building.**

In line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018, a consultation exercise with prescribed consultees and other interested parties was undertaken from 22 November 2021 to 7 January 2022. The aim of the consultation was to inform consultees about the proposal. In February 2022, the outcome of the consultation was reported to Cabinet and a consultation report was published on the Council website. The report provided an overview of the feedback received during the consultation period and outlined the Council's response to any issues raised.

In February 2022, following consideration of the consultation report, Cabinet approval was received to progress the proposal through the publication of a statutory public notice. The statutory public notice was published on 7 March 2022, for 28 days, and consultees were advised accordingly. The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and School Organisation Code 2018 provides that anyone wishing to make objections to a school organisation proposal has the opportunity to do so. To be considered as statutory objections, objections must be made in writing or by email, and sent to the proposer before the end of 28 days beginning with the day on which the notice was published ("the objection period"). One objection was received during the objection period.

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Cyfnwidi testun: Rhowch 18001 o flaen unrhyw un o'n rhifau ffon ar gyfer y gwasanaeth trosglwyddo testun

Text relay: Put 18001 before any of our phone numbers for the text relay service

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg. Rhowch wybod i ni os yw eich dewis iaith yw'r Gymraeg

We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please let us know if your language choice is Welsh

On 14 June 2022, Bridgend County Borough Council's Cabinet carefully considered the published proposal, the statutory objection received and the local authority's response. The objection report is available to view and download from the Council's website:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/14104/mynydd-cynffig-primary-school-objection-report.pdf>

Hard copies and alternative formats of the Cabinet Report are available on request from:

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This proposal will result in the existing split-site arrangement between the infant junior departments ceasing and the infant department would relocate to a new build primary school on the existing Mynydd Cynffig Primary School junior site, at Pwllgath Street, Kenfig Hill, Bridgend, CF33 6ET with effect from September 2025. The new school will have 420 learner places (that is, 2 form-entry (FE)) for pupils aged 4 to 11 with 75 full-time-equivalent (FTE) nursery places.

In determining the proposal, Cabinet were satisfied that the proposal will:

- enable the Council to comply with the legislative requirements in meeting its duty to secure efficient education in this area;
- resolve the overcrowding issue currently experienced by Key Stage 2 pupils;
- remove the current split-site arrangement;
- provide permanent accommodation for all pupils (the vast majority of the Foundation Phase are taught in temporary classrooms);
- address the backlog maintenance and building condition; and
- provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and will support the pupils to reach their full potential.

The reasons for the decision in respect of the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code are as follows:

Quality and standards in education

In response to the consultation, Estyn's view is that the proposal aligns to the five key principles which form part of the framework for school organisation in Bridgend local authority. These key principles inform the organisation and modernisation of the local authority's schools. The proposals are likely to maintain the standard of education provision in the area and is likely to improve provision for Foundation Phase pupils.

The proposal demonstrates clearly that the local authority has considered the impact of proposed changes on quality and standards in education at the school. It outlines the advantages of bringing the infant and junior departments together on one site. Pupils and staff would benefit from providing for pupils in a brand-new facility, designed to facilitate teaching and learning. This is noted as being particularly significant for the Foundation Phase pupils, who would access a more appropriate provision. The proposal also refers to the possibility of incorporating a community provision into the new building.

The proposal refers to the impact of developing the school on outcomes for pupils and concludes that proposed changes are likely to have a positive impact on quality and standards.

The proposed new 'Sustainable Communities for Learning' school will create significant teaching and learning experiences for pupils, staff and the community within a modern, purpose-built facility as proposed. It has been shown that new-build schools have a positive impact on teaching standards and quality and also improve the wellbeing of pupils.

Bringing both the infant and junior departments together on the existing Mynydd Cynffig Primary School junior site at Pwllgath Street, Kenfig Hill provides an excellent opportunity to deliver effective curriculum provision and to assist with greater teaching and learning opportunities.

It is not considered likely that the proposal will impact disproportionately on any protected characteristics. If anything, there would potentially be a positive impact given that the new school would be designed to comply with the Equality Act 2010 which would support all pupils, staff and visitors.

Need for places and the impact in accessibility of schools

The capacity of the new build primary school will increase to 420 learner places (that is, 2FE) (age 4 to 11) plus a 75-place FTE nursery provision. Under this proposal the existing split-site arrangement would cease and the infant department would relocate to a new build primary school for both infant and junior departments on the existing Mynydd Cynffig Primary School junior site at Pwllgath Street, Kenfig Hill. This will deliver sufficient accommodation and provide additional primary learner places to serve the traditional catchment area of the school and to address building condition and overcrowding issues.

The proposed new school building would be suitably designed to meet the requirements for the delivery of 21st century teaching and learning.

Construction of the school will need to be phased to allow the junior school to remain functional during the build process.

During the period, towards the end of the construction contract, the school playing field will be replaced by an all-weather pitch, which would result in the facility not being available for use for a relatively short period of time. Alternative arrangements would need to be put in place for this period.

No decision has been made as to how the residual infant school site will be used. This will be determined by a future Cabinet decision.

Travel arrangements and accessibility impact

Pupils will be provided with free school transport in accordance with Bridgend County Borough Council's current Home-to-School/College Transport Policy. Free school transport is currently provided in the county borough for walking distances greater than 1.5 miles by available walking routes for nursery-aged pupils and for walking distances greater than 2 miles by available walking routes for primary pupils.

The infant and junior sites are 0.4 miles apart. This is within both the 2 mile and 1.5 mile threshold for school transport, therefore it is anticipated those currently living directly surrounding the schools could still walk to school.

The Home-to-School/College Transport Policy is available to view on the website:
<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/5632/home-to-school-or-college-transport-policy-v2.pdf>

Pwllgath Lane will be widened and a 2m bio-retention area will be created, with a 3.5m wide footway to allow for walking, scooters and cycling. Opportunities will be created to link active travel routes with the wider area.

Resourcing of education and other financial implications

The total project cost for the provision of the new school is estimated to be £10.2m which is funded by Welsh Government and Bridgend County Borough Council.

The proposal should generate cost efficiencies. The exact amounts are difficult to quantify at present as they will form part of the annual formula funding allocation which is primarily based on floor area and pupil numbers.

The staffing structure will remain largely the same as it is currently. The governing body would be responsible for the staffing structure. The structure will be determined primarily by the educational needs of the school and the budget available.

Equality Impact Assessment

The Equality Impact Assessment identifies that there will be a positive impact on persons with the protected characteristics of age and gender. The proposal will support the school to ensure that it has the improved facilities to promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those with different protected characteristics. There has been no perceived negative impact on the protected characteristics identified. Successful implementation of the proposal will enable compliance with the Equality Act 2010, for example by providing a fully accessible building with gender-neutral facilities.

The Equality Impact Assessment can be viewed on page 62 (appendix 17) of the Mynydd Cynffig Primary School – Consultation Report:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/12846/mynydd-cynffig-primary-school-consultation-report.pdf>

Community Impact

The infant and junior school sites are located within 0.4 miles of each other. Therefore, a negative impact on the community is not anticipated. Pupils would be attending a new 'Sustainable Communities for Learning' school which will incorporate purpose-built community facilities to benefit local families, pupils and local clubs. A positive impact is anticipated as a result of the provision of modern, accessible facilities.

The new building will benefit from a main hall and a studio hall with a community kitchen with the total m² exceeding current provision. The school will have an all-weather pitch, in addition to the yard and hall space. The provision will enable compliance with the Equality Act 2010, for example by providing a fully accessible building with gender neutral facilities.

The playground located adjacent to the existing junior building would be relocated, but it will still be within 50m of the school.

Welsh Language Impact Assessment

The local authority is committed to taking forward plans to strategically grow the Welsh language and with effective strategic planning and significant investment, aims to significantly contribute to achieving Welsh Government's 'Cymraeg 2050' vision of one million Welsh speakers across Wales.

The local authority's current Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) can be viewed via the following link:

<https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s14163/171219%2010%20WESP%20Appendix.pdf?LLL=0>

The local authority's next 10-year WESP is currently being considered by Welsh Government. The draft can be viewed via the following link:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/11820/welsh-in-education-strategic-plan-2022-2032.docx>

A Welsh Impact Assessment was undertaken in accordance with the School Organisation Code 2018 which concluded that there would be no significant impact on the Welsh language provision currently experienced by pupils at the school and that Welsh would continue to be taught through the curriculum as presently.

Royal Air Force Air Cadets (ATC), Kenfig Hill

The land on which the Air Training Corp (ATC) building is located would form part of the school development site. At this stage there are no other alternative sites within Bridgend County Borough Council ownership that could accommodate the ATC. However, the ATC may wish to use the facilities at the new school for their activities.

Pwllgath Allotments Association

The land on which Pwllgath Allotments Association is located would form part of the school development site. The allotments will be relocated on land adjacent to the junior site.

The local authority will ensure that the allotments are at no detriment.

There is opportunity for the school to work with Pwllgath Allotments Association and develop an allotment area for pupils thereby creating opportunities for inter-generational activities.

The Cabinet decision of 14 June 2022 is subject to the call-in procedures as set out in Part 4 Rules of Procedure in the Council's Constitution which allows decisions taken by Cabinet but yet to be implemented to be reviewed. Should a valid call-in notice from an Overview and Scrutiny Committee be received, all stakeholders would be informed.

Yours sincerely



Lindsay Iorwerth Harvey (Mr)
Corporate Director – Education and Family Support
Bridgend County Borough Council