



Community Impact Assessment

Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain

Proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain (English Medium Community) as of 31st August 2016

OCTOBER 2015

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1. Introduction

1.1 Flintshire County Council is carrying out a formal consultation on a proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain as of 31st August 2016 with existing pupils transferring to other nearby schools subject to parental preference.

1.2 In this document the Council will:

- consider the impact that proposals may have on local families and the local community, through preparation of a community impact assessment

2.0 Background

2.1 Our aim is that children and young people in Flintshire will develop essential life skills, a strong desire for lifelong learning and be very well prepared for the world of work. All children and young people will be supported to progress through the different stages of their education. Every child and young person will be entitled to a learning programme that will be personalised to make the most of his or her abilities. Children and young people will learn in an exciting and innovative range of styles and settings. These will include vocational, enterprising, voluntary, spiritual, cultural and sporting learning experiences. School organisation will provide opportunities for Welsh and English medium provision, and also faith provision.

Flintshire County Council is committed to continuing to raise standards, with key tasks including securing:

- high expectations and a clear focus on improving teaching, learning and attainment in all school communities;
- all resources available to schools being focused on improving outcomes for children and young people in a context of annual budget pressures;
- a consistent approach to the collection, analysis and use of assessment information, including tracking systems, to target support and interventions; and
- continued commitment to the development of school staff.

2.2 Flintshire County Cabinet approved the revised School Modernisation Strategy in January 2015, which was updated from the Council's previous strategy adopted by Cabinet in 2010.

2.3 The School Modernisation Programme is required because we need to:

- Ensure education provision is both high quality and sustainable
- Improve the quality of school buildings and facilities

- Provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations
- Address unsustainable school buildings and supporting infrastructure
- Recognise that doing nothing means higher pupil teacher ratios as funding reduces
- Ensure that we maximise external funding through the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme

2.4 The key 'drivers' or criteria for modernisation which underpin the above are:

- Educational improvement
- Resilient school leadership
- Suitable buildings
- Unfilled places
- Diminishing resources

2.5 The proposal is to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, School Lane, Flint Mountain, Flintshire, CH6 5QR (English Medium, community school) as of 31st August 2016 with the pupils transferring to the local network of schools based on parental preference.

2.6 The proposal is put forward on the basis of criteria laid down in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy, namely:-

- Unfilled places across the primary school portfolio – Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain as at January 2015 (PLASC¹) had 66 full time pupils with unfilled places of 13.16%. As of September 2015 the school population is 55 full time pupils with unfilled places at 27.63%;
- Diminishing resource criteria (schools supported by pupils not from their local community and/or small numbers within the community raise concern regarding sustainability within the school's portfolio) - 83.63% of pupils attending Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain are not attending their local school;
- Small School Criteria – The School population and capacity of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is lower than national designation of a small school, additionally school numbers do not meet the minimum requirements of primary school models as noted in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy, and
- Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is also currently (July 2015) in Welsh Government categorisation 4, on a scale of 1 - 4, with 4 being the lowest for education standards. This is expected to change at the next annual review in December 2015.

¹ PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census

3.0 Sources of Information

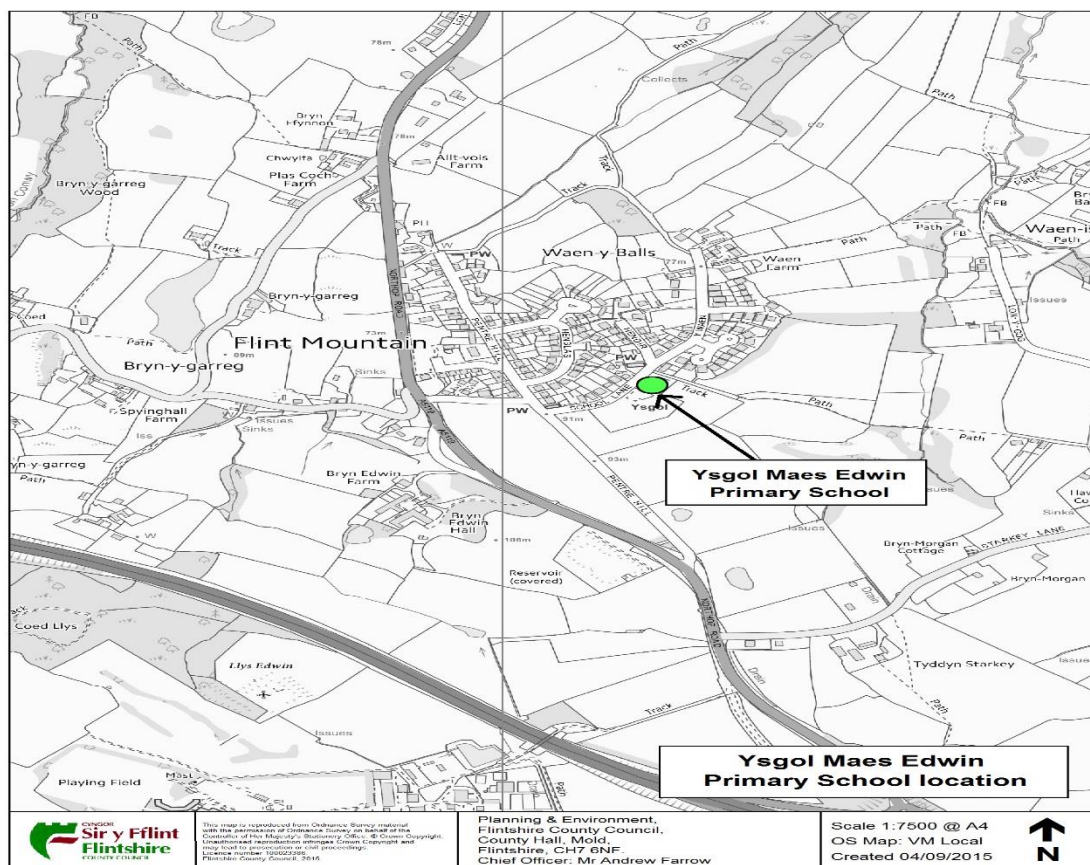
3.1 The following sources of information have been used for the purposes of this document:

- Community Impact Questionnaire returned by the Head teacher of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain (completed in July 2015);
- PLASC January 2015 data;
- Statistical information stored by the Council; and
- Informal consultation responses.

4.0 Ysgol Maes Edwin

4.1 Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is located in the village of Flint Mountain. Ysgol Maes Edwin, is an English Medium primary school for pupils aged 3-11 years of age. It is currently Category 4 for standards in the Welsh Government categorisation model.

4.2 Location of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is shown below;





Pupil Numbers

- 4.2 As the current proposal relates to primary provision, should the proposal progress and educational provision in Flint Mountain ceases parents would seek alternative provision. The alternative provision has been identified with at least equivalent to that which is currently available to those learners at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain are:-

Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint

Cornist C.P. School, Flint and

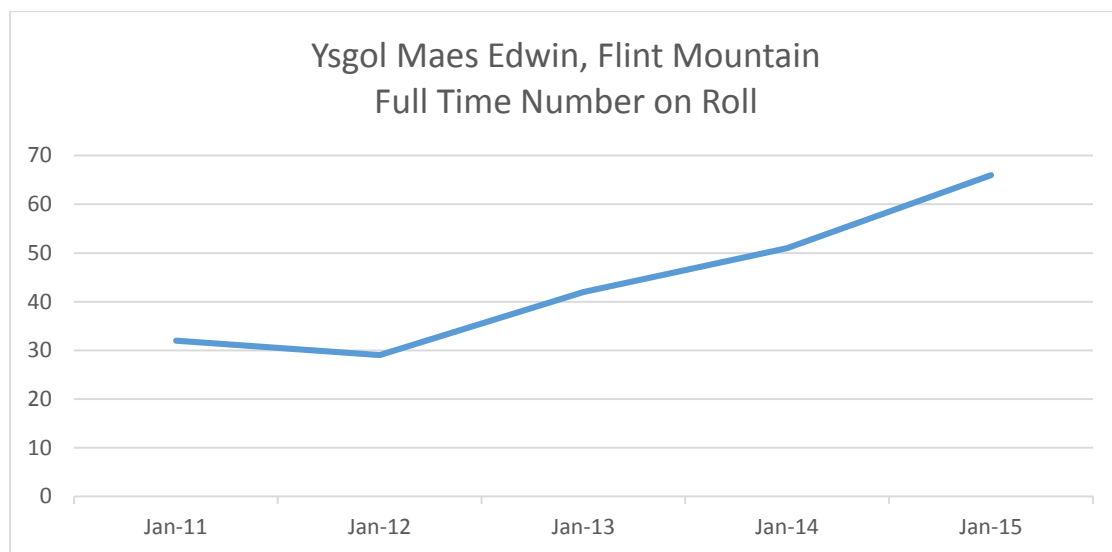
Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop have been identified as alternative provision with at least equivalent to Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain.

Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint, Cornist C.P. School, Flint and Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop are also English Medium community primary schools for pupils aged 3-11. The Council acknowledges that parents may wish to choose alternative provision in the area. These schools have been identified within the formal consultation document.

- 4.3 As of January 2015 Ysgol Maes Edwin has 66 Full Time pupils on roll and 4 Part Time pupils. As of September 2015 Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain has 55 Full Time pupils on roll. Pupil numbers over a 5 year period are displayed below:-

Numbers of **full time pupils** on Roll (Source: Jan Annual PLASC Data) Jan 2011-2015

Jan 11	Jan 12	Jan 13	Jan 14	Jan 15
32	29	42	51	66



The actual number of full time pupils on roll as at September 2015 has been verified with Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain and Flintshire's School Management Information Team, the school has 55 Full Time pupils on roll.

- 4.4 Until the recent drop in pupil numbers at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain (as of September 2015) it is noted that from 2011, there had been an increase in pupil numbers at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain. However, the school population is supported by pupils largely from the Flint area for whom Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is not their nearest school. Additionally, the school has low numbers of pupils attending (29%) from the village and surrounding area, with a larger number of primary school pupils (71%) from the local community selecting other English Medium community schools in the local network.

Pupil Home Location

- 4.5 The Council operates school admissions on a parental preference basis not a catchment area basis. Schools are referred to as the 'nearest suitable school' which takes into account language and faith preference. Parental preference

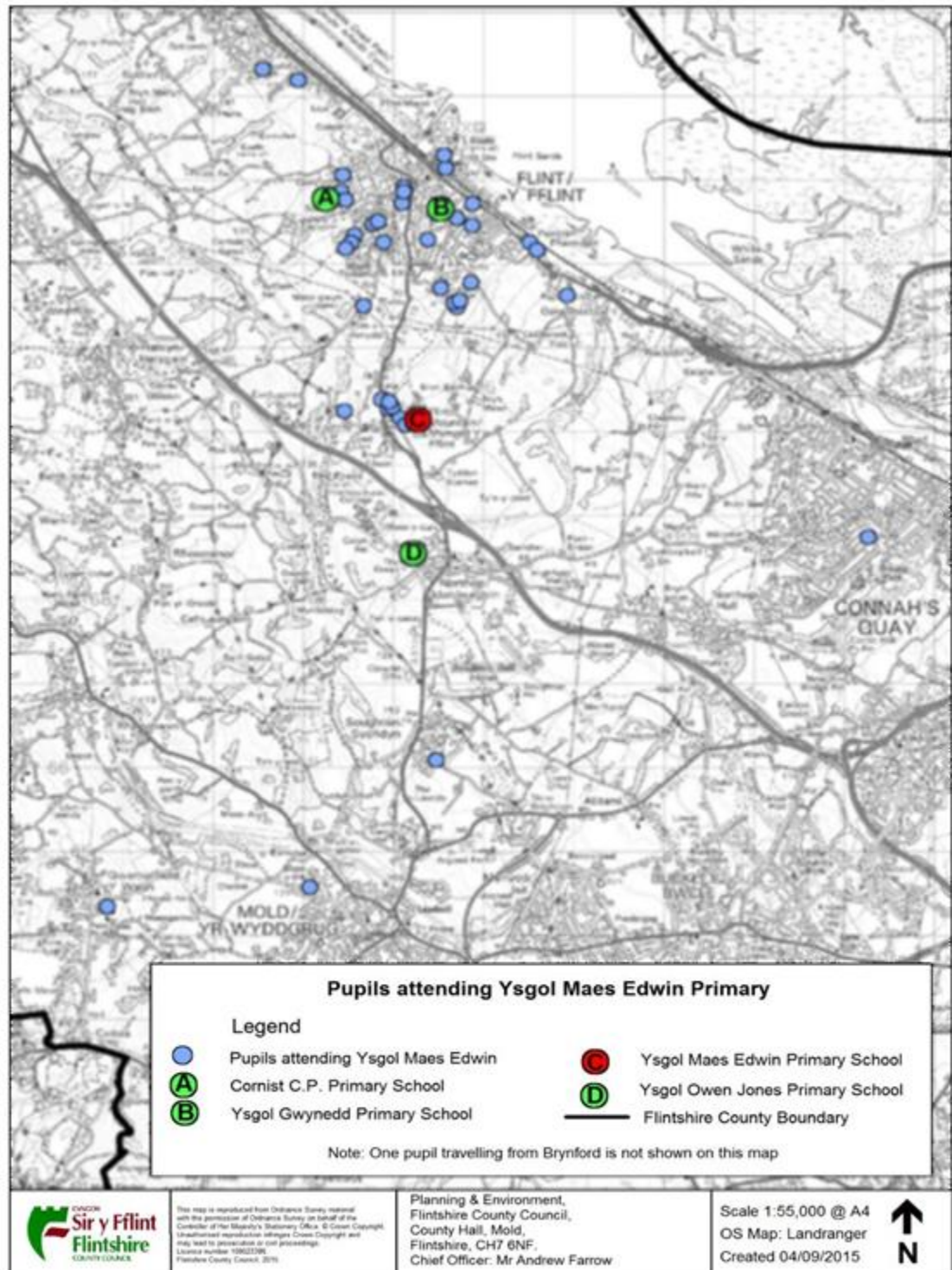
means parents may choose any school for their child/children as long as there are available spaces.

- 4.6 In making this assessment, it is necessary to consider alternative schools (inclusive of Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint, Cornist C.P. School, Flint and Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop as the named provision within the documentation) which the current pupils of Ysgol Maes Edwin could attend;

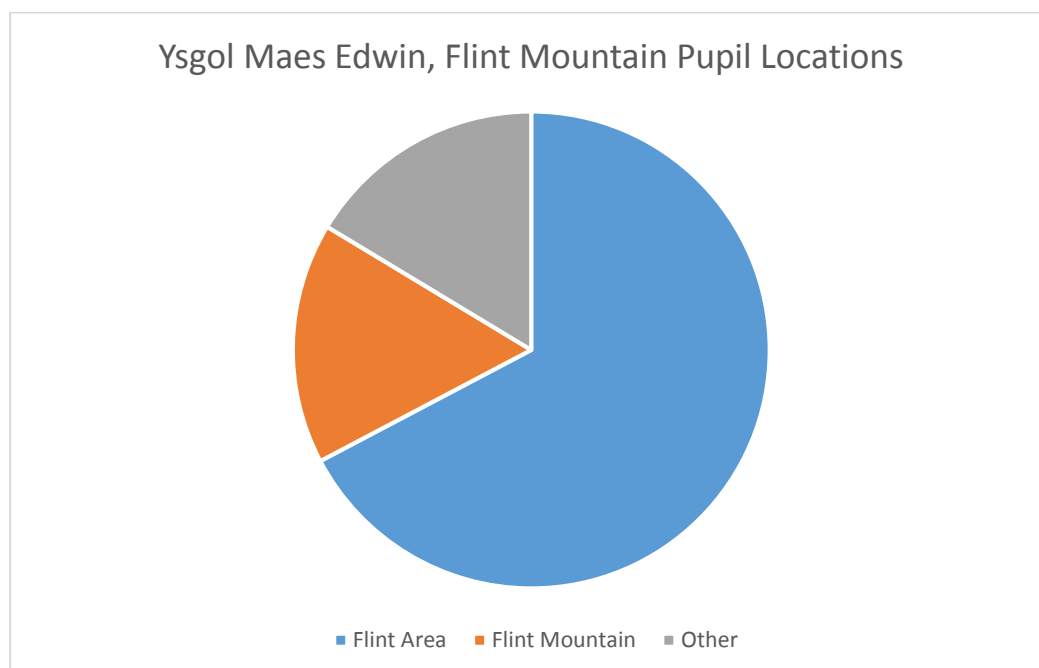
Schools	Location	Approximate Distance from Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain	Type & Category	Language Category	Full Time Capacity
Ysgol Maes Edwin, School Lane, Flint Mountain, Flintshire, CH6 5QR	Flint Mountain	N/A	Community	English Medium	76
Ysgol Gwynedd, Prince of Wales Avenue, Flint, Flintshire, CH6 5NF	Flint	2.24 Miles	Community	English Medium	492
Cornist C.P. School, Ffordd yr Ysgol, Flint, Flintshire, CH6 5ET	Flint	2.73 Miles	Community	English Medium	289
Ysgol Owen Jones, Ffordd Owen, Northop, Flintshire, CH7 6AU	Northop	1.43 Miles	Community	English Medium	138

Distance Source: Route Finder 3.41 Flintshire County Council Mapping System

- 4.6 The current home location of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain pupils (as at September 2015) is displayed in the map below;



The following pie chart and map display the current (September 2015) home location for Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain pupils.



- 4.8 **Percentage of pupils not attending Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain as their nearest school** (Source: snap shot of pupils from the ONE system, September 2015)

School	% of pupils not attending their nearest school	% of pupils who reside in Flint Mountain village	% of pupils who reside in Flint	% of pupils who reside in other areas
Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain	83.63%	16.36%	67.29%	16.36%

Governing Body

- 4.8 Details of the Governing Body are provided in the table below:

Number of Local Authority Governors	2
Number of Parent Governors	3
Number of Community Governors	2
Number of Teacher Governors	1
Number of Staff Governors	1
Number of Community Governors	1

Number of Headteacher Governors	1
Total Number of Governors	11

Parent & Teacher Association

- 4.9 There is a parent and teacher association at the school which meets on a monthly basis.

Additional Provision & Wrap-around-care

- 4.10 There is no wrap-around-care facility provided at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain. The Headteacher has confirmed that the 'Little Dragons toddler and parent group' runs in term time Monday-Thursday. The school operates a breakfast club and after school provision.

Breakfast Club	Yes
After School Club	Yes
Holiday Club	No

Community Facilities

- 4.11 The following community facilities were listed by the headteacher when completing the community impact assessment.

Facility	Location
St Thomas' Church, Flint Mountain	Stand alone
Little Dragons toddler and parent group	School site
Women's Institute	School site
Post Office	No
Car Parking Facilities at school for local events	<i>It is noted from the site plans that there is no dedicated public and visitor car park at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain</i>
Pub	Coach and Horses Public House
Football Playing Field with goal posts	School site
Summer Athletics track	School site
Capel Bethell, Flint Mountain	
Public Playing Fields	

- 4.12 Community activities that take place at Ysgol Maes Edwin are as follows:-

Activity	Frequency
Breakfast club attended by Ysgol Maes Edwin pupils	Every day

Little Dragons Toddler and parent group	Monday-Thursday
After school club attended by Ysgol Maes Edwin pupils	Every day
Women's Institute	Once or twice a year
School closure campaign group	Various
Polling Station	Various
Children's birthday parties	Various
Parent & Teacher Association	Monthly
Language School	Term Time Ad Hoc

4.13 Community facilities that take place within the wider community are listed below:

Activity (e.g. Evening lessons, Local Interest Clubs, Youth Club etc)	Location	Frequency (e.g. weekly, monthly, annually)

4.14 Any additional comments provided by the school are summarised below:

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5 Additional Considerations School Organisation Code

5.1 There are certain matters set out in the Code which Flintshire County Council should consider when assessing the impact of the Current Proposal on the community. These include;

- Whether other facilities in the immediate local or wider community will or could be enhanced in the event of closure;

- Information of facilities and serviced provided at any alternative school;
- Information about the distance and travelling time involved in attending an alternative school;
- How parents' and pupils' engagement with the alternative school and any facilities it may offer could be supported
- Information on about any wider implications the changes would have on public transport provisions;
- Information on wider community safety issues

6 Community Impact Assessment

6.1 This Impact Assessment is to consider the potential impact on families and the local community from the proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain and transfer pupils to nearby school subject to parental preference.

Impact Criteria	Comments	Impact	Measures to Reduce any Negative Impact	Residual Impact
Access to provision of the same faith designation	Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is community primary school. The identified nearby alternative provision, Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint, Cornist C.P., Flint and Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop are also of the same designation and located within 2.73 miles from Ysgol Maes Edwin	Neutral	No negative impact as the alternative provision provides the same faith designation	N/A
Access to provision of the same language medium	Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is a Category 4 English medium primary school. The identified nearby alternative provision, Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint, (Category 2) Cornist C.P., Flint (Category 1) and Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop (Category 1). All schools currently have unfilled places and should the current proposal be implemented all schools could accommodate pupils who may wish to transfer from Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain if space is available.	Neutral	No negative impact as alternative provision provides the same language designation.	N/A
Impact of the current proposal on the community of Flint Mountain	Should the current proposal be implemented primary based educational provision would cease in the village of Flint Mountain.	Negative	Other facilities do not exist within the village for community events, such as a village hall. The Council has no plans for the school site should the school close.	Neutral

			<p>Planning for the school site will only take place once the future of the school has been determined.</p> <p>The Council could consider transferring the asset or part of a constituted community group where they can demonstrate a need and ability to take over the running of the site.</p>	
Impact on neighbouring schools	<p>The proposal would have an impact on Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint, Cornist C.P. School, Flint and Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop, subject to parental preference. There are places available within the system for the pupils of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain within the neighbouring schools. The impact on neighbouring schools would be minimal due to the current and projected number of unfilled places within the area.</p>	Neutral	N/A	N/A
Impact on pupils	<p>When proposing changes to school organisation it is acknowledged that there will be some changes for pupils.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented and Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain closed existing pupils would experience change. The main changes for the existing pupils of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new or longer route to school; • A new uniform; • New teachers; • New learning environment • Impact on friendship groups 	Negative	<p>Flintshire County Council would take all practicable steps to ease the transition for all pupils, most especially for vulnerable groups of learners such as ALN. Should the proposal be implemented the Council would arrange</p>	Neutral

			<p>transition days for pupils to familiarise themselves with their new environments (subject to parental preference). Any pupils receiving additional support would be replicated in their new learning environment.</p> <p>Uniform exchange may be available for pupils subject to parental preference.</p>	
Impact on parents and families	<p>There is potential for a greater impact on parents/carers from Flint Mountain if pupils transfer to nearby schools.</p> <p>The Council recognises that closing a school in a village would change the social environment and dynamics for parents/carers to interact.</p>	Negative	<p>Whilst there is potential for there to be an effect on parents and families. The proposal could have a positive impact on parents and families through an improved educational provision and access to increased larger group of parents and families being part of a larger school community.</p>	Neutral
Impact on Learner Travel Arrangements	<p>Some pupils may have a further distance to travel to school should the current proposal be implemented.</p> <p>Should parents/carers choose to send their child/children to their nearest</p>		<p>The proposal has been developed in line with Learner</p>	

	<p>appropriate school to their home address fewer than 10 pupils would be entitled to free school transport. The per annum cost would be approximately £9,120. This analysis includes the current Nursery aged pupils in Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain. The Council does not transport nursery aged pupils however it is assumed that the nursery pupils would transition to the reception class as of September 2015 and would then be eligible as full time pupils.</p> <p>A number of pupils at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain are from the Flint area, most pupils would have a reduced distance from their home address to the alternative schools and could utilise walking routes within their communities.</p> <p>The transport impact assessment for this proposal can be found at the following link:-</p> <p>www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation</p>	Negative	<p>Travel Operational Guidance provided by the Welsh Government (guidance revised in 2014). Based on the pupils current home locations and proximity to alternative provision all travel distances would be within the guidance.</p> <p>In most instances pupils would have a reduced distance from their home location to the alternative provision. Pupils could utilise walking routes within the town/village.</p>	Neutral
Impact on community demographics	<p>The Council acknowledges that the proposal will have some limited impact on the community of Flint Mountain.</p> <p>The loss of the school would impact on the small number of community activities currently taking place at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain.</p> <p>The largest of the Flint housing developments is in Croes Atti, Oakenholt, the site will be developed over a period of time and commenced in 2014 and is currently in development, there are no specific timelines for completion of this site. However, the development of the site has been estimated as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 189 unit • Phase 2 132 units • Phase 3 306 units <p>The pace of the housing developments will be constrained by the plans of the site</p>	Negative	<p>Flintshire Council would take all practicable steps to ensure that the community of Flint Mountain continued to thrive.</p> <p>The Council could consider transferring the asset or part of the asset to a</p>	Neutral

	<p>owners/developers, the housing market, current economic climate and other factors which are unpredictable.</p> <p>The estimated number of units built during phase 1 site as at September 2015 is 96.</p> <p>The Council is satisfied that should Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain close, the local school network has the capacity to sustain the necessary potential impact of current and future housing developments.</p>		<p>constituted community group where it can demonstrate a need and ability to take over the running of the site.</p> <p>Measures could be adopted to lessen the impact to ensure that the village of Flint Mountain continues to thrive through fostering close links between the community and the alternative schools.</p>	
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Overview of potential impact on families and the local community

	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Overall Impact*	0	3	5

*This does not take account any of any measures that could be undertaken to reduce negative impact

Overview of residual impact on families and the local community

	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Overall Impact*	0	5	0

*This does not take account any of any measures that could be undertaken to reduce negative impact

7. Summary of Potential Impact on the Community

- 7.1 The impact assessment has identified a number of possible areas where the proposal could have some negative impact on a small number of local families and on the local community.
- 7.2 The loss of the school would impact on a small number of community activities taking place and the community facilities within Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain.
- 7.3 The Council has no plans for the school site should the school close. Planning for the school site will only take place once the future of the school has been determined. Legal Land ownership issues are still being investigated. Dependant on the formalisation of such matters, the Council could consider transferring the asset or part of the asset to a constituted community group where it can demonstrate a need and ability to take over the running of the site.