

## Appendix 1

### Comments from Adult Response Form, in Full

#### 1.1.1. Brynford C.P. School

- Appreciate money needs to be saved, which is why I have chosen option 3 & not option 1 (which in an ideal world I would have chosen). Rhos Helyg is not close enough to be considered for merger especially in respect of existing transport links. Option 3 is I think a decent compromise, as there is only a couple of miles between the 2 villages. There is potential for more & better facilities with a larger school but feel anything over 150 pupils will cause the greater personal & rural feel of the school to be lost.

- Option 3 is my preferred option, as I believe a larger school for Brynford & Lixwm students on Brynford site may bring some advantages such as better facilities with the advantage that it is still a small school. I think it will also give some stability for the future.

However, I do not like option 2 - One area school on one site, whatsoever. Wherever the school is sited it would increase travel times for many of the children affected. It will create a very large school, which none of the parents affected at any of the schools have chosen for their children - they have hoped to send their children to a small rural school.

- Although I appreciate the Authority have to reduce costs, option 1, is my preferred option, however in support of the recommendations to maximise the best outcome - option 3 is the next best for us! Thank you

- Please replace the online submission

I grew up in Ellesmere Port and have only had experience of town schools which house 300+ children. Since watching my children develop and grow in a rural based school. I now understand the importance of keeping these school's. I understand in order to move forward option 3 is ideal, to allow these schools, pupils and staff to have a fantastic future.

Realising that option 1 is not realistic option 3 is my preferred option to develop my child's education. It also created the minimum disruption

- Brynford is a very good school it's local community
- Its a very good school
- I have lived on the mountain all my life, I want my expectant child to be raised in a rural community, not with town influences at such an early age, I want to be able to walk to my local school, with school friends living in the local area. Rural areas need rural schools, with children knowing all the teachers names
- Option 1 would be my first choice, but if things have to change my preferred option is 3. I have live in the village all my life and went to the primary school myself, I have worked there for the past 20years and yes it would be nice to modernize the school but not to spoil the rural primary school that we offer in the village. Hopefully Option 3 would still offer a diversity education within a village rural primary school. Also consider the amount of extra traffic that would be coming though the village.
- I believe a merger between Brynford & Lixwm will be a positive move, larger class sizes than they currently have will be much better for transition to High School.
- My children are pupils at Brynford Primary school.  
We are not originally from the Brynford/Lixwm area but decided to put our children into Brynford Primary School some years ago based on the schools reputation and the fact that it was a small, rural school. For some time we transported our children for around 30 mins each way to get to the school , before finally moving house closer to the school a couple of years ago.

We take our children's education and well being very seriously and consider the

provision at Brynford is ideal, with its small community focus.

We do not wish to see any major changes to this and should that be the case we would have to consider taking our children out of the school and looking for alternative school elsewhere.

I understand that some parents have already started to look around at other schools as the current uncertainty is causing major moral issues at these schools.

Should a single 'merged' school or the merging of Brynford and Lixwm schools be the chosen option, I have no doubt that a vast majority of parents will remove their children from these schools and look for alternatives. Both of these options are not in the best interest of the children and appear to be purely budget driven.

- We moved from Leicester to Brynford in 2013 to give our children a better education as in Leicester the state schools are largely under achieving. We chose Brynford as the Estyn reports and results were very strong and the schools ethos was a big factor in our relocation. My children have settled well and progressed over the past 3 years at a rapid rate due to the excellent teaching and communication between the staff and the pupils. Should option 1 not come into play option 2 would be our secondary choice albeit not our ideal choice. Option 3 would be a definite no as to me this would resemble a state school with the amount of places which would be needed to amalgamate all 3 schools. If we had of wanted this for our children we would of chosen a larger school in the first place or not relocated. It is disgraceful that our children are being put in this position and questioned on what they want when they don't understand the factors involved. It is the parents responsibility to inform our children what is happening when we feel ready not the councils or the school governors. As a parent I feel such change could be detrimental in our children's education if option 2 goes ahead. The parking for our school is far from ample as it is and the council have yet to show any plans which include our children's safety in this area. If as suggested by a council official at the Lixwm meeting a drop of area was included my response would be that our children are not safe near that road without supervision and therefore oppose this idea that children should just be let out of their vehicles to walk into school alone I for one would not do this and will always walk my children into school so I know they are safe and a teacher has seen them before leaving these are things that the council need to seriously consider when approaching any decisions as safety is paramount.
- I am now working in a 21st century school and can see that this is the way forward for the children. The facilities are amazing. There are more children to make friends with of their own age unlike small village schools.
- My god daughter attends Brynford school and is happy there. Merging with Rhos Helyg would not work as it would mean a 28 mile round trip for my friend to drop her children off and pick them up.

Merging Lixwm and Brynford would be better as they are close in location and a lot of the children have friends in both areas. Sadly I believe keeping the school in Brynford would be the best option as the parking access is better and there is more land surrounding the school to use for possible expansion.

I will be sad to see the school in Lixwm go as I think the children learn more in a smaller village school and it is good to see so many parents walking their children to school through the village.

It is a shame that we have to make this choice as I believe Flintshire should be making cuts elsewhere before the education of our young people is attacked in this way.

As a resident in a street which has 8 young families it is sad that they will potentially have to disrupt the children's education like that. Also I live in a shared ownership house which was marketed as local homes for local people. Due to the legalities of this scheme it is already proving difficult to sell our homes. Once the local school is removed we will lose an important marketing point for our homes and mean that our homes are even more difficult to sell.

- Brynford school site is suitable to merge with Lixwm

- Close Rhos helyg and Lixwm and make Brynford school bigger with portable classrooms and increase the playing field and parking by using the site behind.
- Rural schools are important and should be saved in any way they can!
- It would not be fair to close both Brynford and Lixwm and expect the children to travel to Rhos Helyg.
- We need to keep the rural school for the rural child and the community.
- We need to keep the rural school
- I think it's disgusting that the council would potentially up root out children like this. They are happy and thriving where they are in fantastic schools. Local, smaller schools that suit the personalities of our village children. The welfare of the children is being totally over looked. Disgraceful.. Removing rural history. They should be ashamed.
- I am supporting Brynford as its a fantastic school and my neice is there . It would be a shame if this closed a loss to the commumity .
- It's a great school
- Best school yrs of my life and made many lifelong friends there
- Brynford School is a popular school and has been in the community for many years. It would be a loss to the direct community and wider villages if Brynford School was to close.  
Please keep this school open!
- These schools are valuable to the area and should be left as they are.
- To keep brynford school
- My son attended this school when he was a child he suffers from adhd the teachers had a lot of time for him as the classes were not overcrowded the staff helped my son build confidence and made him feel normal
- Brynford primary school has been a great school for past and present students which can hold a future for many Brynford youngsters
- Recognising that change has to happen I believe option 3 best serves all three communities and would be good for the pupils and staff of Bynford and Lixwm
- Keep it all the same. It works as it is !!
- I strongly believe that option 3, is the right choice for both communities, stakeholders and the future. Every child has the right to a diverse education by offering a rural based education give's the parent/carer the choice. All 3 of my children have thrived in Brynford school, gaining confidence and a high level of education they are growing into well balanced individuals. My daughter especially had a confidence problem when she went into nursery, and now age 10, takes part in every aspect of school even competing in the Urdd. I strongly feel that if she had to go into a larger school at the start she wouldn't of acheived what she has Brynford is an outstanding example of rural schools.
- An area school for Brynford and lixwm would be beneficial for pupils on the Brynford site.
- We need to keep rural schools open to keep the community strong
- Brynford is the most amazing school run by great staff and community. The teachers, staff, Parents and community all work together to make sure the learning environment is the best it can be for rural children to develop and grow. I would love Brynford school to remain the same but I am aware that change is required. I believe that the Brynford site is the best site for many reasons but one big issue is due to traffic and parking issues at Lixwm.
- Option 3 would be most viable but only if the merga was at the Brynford site as I believe Lixwm school already has a traffic problem during drop off and pick up times!
- Brynford is an excellent achieving school whose intake is always at full /over capacity. This school is doing brilliantly and feel if somethings not broke don't fix it!
- Option 1 preferred, but if another option absolutely had to be considered, then Brynford & lixwm joined.
- Every community needs it school.

- Flintshire county council seem to be very poor in their management of money, by hitting easy targets such as this they are not addressing the problem just hitting an easy target. Stop using our kids education and development as a political weapon. Get your house in order!
- Our school is at the heart of the community. All of the children know each other, are close knit and benefit immensely from the small class sizes. We do not want to merge schools and lose our sense of community through out of area attendees and oversized classes. Stop Americanising Wales.
- Brynford school is an excellent school and I would like both of my granddaughters to continue schooling in the village they live in.
- We need Brynford school to stay open fantastic school and central to everyone
- We love our school as it is and dont want any changes parents are happy and most importantly the pupils are happy!!!!
- Husband previous pupil. previous parents. myself previous staff member
- Brynford School is an amazing village school and an integral part of the community
- My children are the 4th generation of my family to go to Brynford school it's a lovely school at the heart of the community and I think it really will have a big effect on the village and surrounding areas if it was to close it would be a really shame !
- Brynford is a fantastic school. The teachers are very caring and provide all the stimulus the children require, as well as the academic regime. My grandchildren have both benefitted enormously so far and I would not like this to be disrupted in any way as I believe this would be detrimental to both their education and their social development.
- Excellent school which is the heart of the community. It's intake is full this year again and we cannot take anymore pupils which speaks for itself. Our Estyn reports are very good and we are always improving. Why fix something that's not broken.
- My second choice would be option 3 but to be at Brynford, surely Brynford has more room to extend and better parking outside. Could the old Ysgol Talvryn site be used to build a new school/extend school grounds??? We walk to and from school at every opportunity, I do not want my children going to and from school on a bus for safety reasons and I also do not want my young children attending a big school! Far to overwhelming!
- Lovely school, excellent pastoral care. Children have a great sense of belonging and all ages integrate well

#### 1.1.2. Lixwm C.P. School

- Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment regarding the Area Review and Options Appraisal. Overall I was disappointed at the Area Review Report and my concern is with regard to any pre-judgement of the desired outcome. In some areas it may be considered that the conclusion was identified first with the preceding pages and appraisal adapted to suit; particularly the case with scoring mechanisms, significance of criteria weightings and so on. I also feel the timing was poor – responses in the summer holidays ... I suspect response numbers will be down and that should not be taken as a lack of feeling, enthusiasm or indeed frustration at this process. The natural response would be Option 1. The consultation meeting demonstrated the strength of feeling and anxiety through this process, but did nothing to calm nerves and provide assurances. Quite the opposite; and predetermined answers seemed to be at the forefront from some Council participants that didn't help the public consultation and stakeholder management process. I think the school and its pivotal place in the community should be at the forefront of the appraisal. The school is the heart of the village and ensures longevity and a community for future generations and the life of the village. Taking all the information into account, and putting aside concerns and frustrations at the process, I am by far in favour of exploration, consideration, further

work and so on to consider a federated school – for example with Brynford, with shared facilities, resources, management structure and so on. Options 2 and 3 would result in the community of Lixwm losing its school. The loss of a school from a community has massive implications for that community. Federation will be more favourable, understandable and acceptable to the community of Lixwm and result in two stronger schools with combined and shared goals rather than the rivalry and even animosity in the current scenario. Small schools are stronger together without their loss of identity or community. This approach would hopefully provide the morally and politically unacceptable, and unfortunate savings and cuts forced upon the Council and Education as a whole, but at the same time provide a form of sustainable status quo into the future rather than tearing the heart out of communities and villages to create a new facility where nobody feels ownership, belonging and/or affection. 'Change' is always stressful and is mitigated with time, but FEDERATION stands out for me as by far the best option. ----- Associated elements if reviewed in the considerations; I would love to say Option 1 'status quo' and that would be the ideal; however we have to face the current financial climate and future with realism. How future generations will look back and consider the decisions made by current Councils and councillors I don't know – when all the villages have reduced to simple conglomerations of houses for commuters with no heart, no centre, no community spirit and focus. On closer examination and some scrutiny it is relatively easy to vary, reverse and affect the scoring results. In the bigger picture I am sure that this is not significant and I wonder how much reliance will actually be placed on the scores as opposed to simple discussion, panel debate and ultimately decisions that sometimes appear to have already been decided. I have included some comment, as much for the record. Asking the children and school councils but not the parents is one aspect that is 'interesting', but the application of a 20% weighting to those responses is erroneous. I agree that the views and inputs of the children should be included as it is their future; however there comes a point of sensibility and reality in terms of the major implications of the discussions that they are clearly unaware of. Lixwm is a 'small school'; yes some of the facilities are not ideal but they can be upgraded to meet the stated requirements of the Welsh Government. Building impact – Option 1 receives a 'slightly worse' score but the report states (to assure compliance with BB99) "a careful and considered feasibility design solution would address and rebalance this issue". Review of the contract value figures in some areas would also be worthwhile; once again it would be interesting to see the breakdown of costs. Together with forecasted increasing occupation figures by 2020 .... These are positive elements that Flintshire cannot ignore. My concern is that people and parents will simply 'not stand for it'. Sufficient time has elapsed since the initial consultation meeting where feelings were on show and impetus was at the forefront of the 'save our village school' approach that is seen in far too many villages. Councillors present simply reinforced the prejudged nature of the 'consultations'. Parents will vote with their feet and proposals to create a new /expanded school while closing another risks pushing people away resulting in a new facility, that costs more to run and maintain and with decreased pupil occupation figures as people assess alternatives. Pupil Places – WG targets are stated to be 10%, for Option 3 the report identifies projected Unfilled Places at 2020 of 12.15% i.e. failing to meet target. So how does this receive a mid-point / no change rating when it does not meet WG target? Similarly Option 1 - where projected figures are c.3% for Lixwm or potentially 0% by 2020 – receives the same mid-point score. Option 2 receives a '5'; does this factor in the basis that pupil numbers may drop and Unfilled Places increase as a result of Council creating an undesirable and unwanted situation and effectively wrecking villages and communities. I do not understand how can an outcome with a Projected Unfilled places of 25% be acceptable (R Helig) compared to a projected unfilled of 2.8% for Lixwm, or full occupancy based on 2020 demographics and planning for additional housing in the community. Transport – Option 1 could or should be considered a net

positive in impact assessment rather than 'no change'. Pupils and parent know the situation, travel requirements and are content. Assessed transport costs are noted to be higher "if every child eligible ...." Presumably Council has access to the figures re who is eligible and who accesses it? Looking specifically at Lixwm – how can any option that means children from the community, many of whom walk to school, be a 'slight improvement' as quoted for Option 2 and 3. Community Impact assessment is woeful. It is not solely clubs and groups, a school is the heart of a village and ensures longevity. I am shocked at the 'light touch' applied to community effects. Options 2 and 3 receive a 'slightly worse' ... Equality Impact Assessment ... no detail is provided. Is there any detail? Who has carried out this assessment and can they demonstrate competence to do so? A throw away statement of "the local authority will put in place the necessary support to ensure that any impacts are minimised" to then generate 'no change' scoring across the board seems to be erroneous. "... any impacts are minimised" .. can we retain and quote that in years to come? No qualification in line with ALARP, BATNEEC, reasonably practicable or similar tools that may be applied in education terms?.....

- Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on your proposal. Although I can see that a lot of resource has been spent already, I do not consider the current review and recommendation to be fit for purpose. Overall, it gives me the impression that a decision has been made to close Lixwm School and a study has been commissioned to justify this decision. Closing the school in Lixwm would kill the village, house prices would plummet and families would move out. We have already experienced a downturn when the village pub was closed for a number of years. This community impact appears to have been completely ignored. There are a number of additional options that have not been included in the assessment. These include option 0 – do nothing, and option 4 – merge Brynford and Ysgol Rhos Helyg and improve facilities at Lixwm. The choice of schools under consideration is irrational, Rhos Helyg is over 5 miles from Lixwm, the schools in Nannerch, Cilcain and Caerwys are closer than this but are not considered. There is no meaningful affinity between the residents in Rhosesmor, Brynford and Lixwm, if Lixwm school was closed then the parents would be more likely to take their children to Nannerch and Cilcain. This would undermine your proposed business case. Ysgol Rhos Helyg is the lowest performing school for education standards, yet options 3 and 2C will reward the lowest performing school yet punish the higher performing schools – is this a new education policy of rewarding failure? Also Brynford is the most expensive school to run, again rewarding poor cost management? The new build options for Lixwm are uninspired, there are plots of land around the school and Church that are currently derelict and fenced off to prevent travellers camping there, these should be investigated for new build. This community investment could satisfy the decade long demand for a village hall / community centre / community shop. Perhaps a public consultation on investing in an expanded Lixwm school to enhance the village would be more appropriate? Your financial data assessment table incorrectly assesses option 1 transport costs as more expensive even though your transport impact assessment anticipates additional transport costs with options 2 and 3. This needs to be corrected and fed into your evaluation. Your site assessment for Ysgol Rhos Helyg trivialises a number of significant project delivery risks and issues, e.g. the long walking distance from the village, common land and access, development outside the local settlement area. This does not appear to be a balanced and equitable review of the three schools. Why does Ysgol Rhos Helyg have a backlog of maintenance work about four times that of the other schools? Your proposed development for option 1A (+260m<sup>2</sup>) costs £1.4m (£5.2k/m<sup>2</sup>) yet does not provide enough m<sup>2</sup> to meet BB99. Option 1B (+144m<sup>2</sup>) costs about the same as 1A – why is it twice the rate (£9.5k/m<sup>2</sup>), gold plating? Option 1C (+171m<sup>2</sup>) costs £1.3m (£7.6k/m<sup>2</sup>) yet does not meet BB99. I conclude therefore that satisfying BB99 standard is not required for all schools – just Lixwm which has been chosen to be closed. Do

any parents living in beautiful Flintshire villages want to send their children to a 'super-school' of 300+ pupils? If they did they'd live in a city! The pupil numbers used for assessing the options are fudged to give the desired outcome – they are over estimated compared to predicted demand and thus require larger more expensive facilities, eliminating Lixwm options due to perceived space limitations. The pupil numbers also do not address the apparent issue of many pupils travelling from outside the area to attend Brynford. Your financial scoring and statistics look erroneous, I cannot reconcile the various capital / revenue / unit costs. Have these been independently audited?

- I believe federation with Brynford school is the sensible way to keep a school within the Lixwm community and enable shared resources and financial savings. It will be more palatable to parents and will encourage young families to continue to settle within the village. The school is crucial to Lixwm's sense of community and the reason why many families have chosen to live here. If Brynford and Lixwm federate both small schools will become stronger and staff and parents will start to view the schools as one, perhaps paving the way for amalgamation at a later time. Any change requires time and I believe the other options will lead to animosity as opposed to a shared vision and unified approach. I believe that if the other options are selected parents will vote with their feet and take their children to other small schools in the area.
- I strongly feel that the best option is option 1. My husband and I chose Lixwm School for our son due to size and warmth of the school. Harri was an extremely shy boy and had much difficulty in mixing, his development academically and socially has been dramatic and this would not have happened in a larger school. I have been told by council employees that children adapt easily, I find this short sighted as not all children adapt easily unfortunately no matter how much encouragement provided by family, children are not all the same! Merging all three schools creating a 'super school' I feel would be detrimental to the education of my son and his social development and would be the worst possible option. Speaking to parents regarding the three options I feel strongly that parents living in Lixwm and in surrounding villages would move their children from the schools involved in this review and move home if necessary as many have moved to Lixwm and surrounding villages for rural living and Lixwm School or the option to choose a local school. I feel transport of pupils to a single site would be a challenge especially in winter months where transportation of children in ice or snow would be unacceptable. If status quo is not an option, then option 3 would be preferred. I have been advised that a federation model may be an option which I feel would be a much better option keeping both Lixwm and Brynford school on their same sites. I would strongly urge you to keep status quo and feel passionately that option 2 would be devastating to the pupils and parents of the schools, the community and will no doubt have repercussions on Lixwm and surrounding villages. I find Lixwm to be an excellent school with such warmth which is missing from many larger schools. Having only larger schools takes the choice from parents now and future parents and like I mentioned earlier not all children are equal and would adapt to being educated in larger schools. At recent meetings held at the school all that seems to be spoken about was finances and I feel extremely disappointed the children are not being considered firstly.
- Parents have chosen very carefully which school they wish to send their children. Some parents have moved in to the village and some choose to travel. If they wanted their children to go to a larger town school then they would of chosen a school in Holywell or maybe mold. I have worked at Lixwm school for many years and have seen a lot of children flourish in their education as well as their development in confidence. Some of the children we have would not develop as well if they were in a large school, as they are shy and lack in confidence and self belief. The feeling I have if a 21st century school will be built in Brynford I think you will have a lot of empty spaces as lots of the Lixwm parent will look elsewhere for a small primary school to send their children.

- Children living in rural areas can already be marginalised and community resources should be maintained.
- I feel that this option gives pupils stability and therefore the best chance of achieving their potential.
- My preferred option based on the information I have been given in the option appraisal documents and on my own knowledge of the schools and communities involved is for a federation of Brynford and Lixwm schools and status quo for Rhos Helyg. My reasons are as follows: 1 I would certainly question the feasibility of option 2 (area school on one site - which appears to be the preferred option in the appraisal document) in that a) some of the data included is questionable and in certain instances erroneous and b) that I am convinced locating an area school at either the Rhosesmor/Halkyn community area or the Brynford/Lixwm community area would simply not be acceptable to the majority of parents. If the area school was to be located in Brynford/Lixwm I am certain that parents of school children in the Haklyn/Rhosesmor area would look to Mold or Cilcain whilst if located in Rhosesmor/Berth Ddu the parents of children in Brynford/Lixwm and Ysceifiog areas would look to placing their children in schools at Nannerch, Caerwys, Holywell or even Carmel. 2. There is little commonality between the communities of Halkyn and Rhosesmor with the communities of Brynford, Lixwm and Ysceifog and further logistically there would be difficulty in transporting pupils between the areas especially during the September to March periods. A one-site area school would therefore be a white elephant and would likely result in more surplus places than presently experienced. An amalgamation of Brynford and Lixwm based on present data but with the projected growth of school age children in the Lixwm/Ysceifiog/Babell area (particularly in Lixwm as a result of the newly built Maes y Goron estate and further approved housing development for the village), it would appear prudent at this stage to move towards possible future amalgamation by federating Brynford and Lixwm schools and retaining the Rhos Helyg school on the existing Berth Ddu site. I would further consider that the interim option of federation is highly advisable in the light of recent announcements by the WAG relating a review of current policies regarding closure of rural schools in Wales particularly the impact of proposed school closures on rural communities.
- I feel strongly that the community of Licwm should not lose their school and the vibrancy of young families moving into and living in the community. The children play a significant role in the life of the church/chapel and carry out litter picks and environmental projects in the village. As a result of recent housing development in the village there are many more children who will attend the school in the near future. Understandably these parents have major concerns about their future investment in the school and need to know what the future holds as soon as possible. As governors we fear any disinvestment in the school. Federation with Brynford school has been brought to the table very late in the day therefore full current parental knowledge of this was very limited. I hope that federation with Brynford school will strengthen our communities and improve working relationships. I know that several of our parents have sought a smaller school for their child/children for very specific reasons and a school of possibly 300 children would be totally unattractive to them. I feel that federating the two schools will create two stronger more resilient schools. Educational standards will improve and financial gains achieved.
- Lixwm CP school is now virtually the single entity unifying this area - not only for primary education but also in its use 'after hours' as a community centre for eisteddfodau, Urdd, pilates etc etc
- Options 2 and 3 will mean that the community of Licwm will lose its school. The loss of a school from a community has massive implications for that community. It stops being a place where young families chose to live which will be a great shame as Maes yr Goron (26 houses, including starter homes and family houses) was only built recently and there is planning for another 11 homes behind Ffordd Walwen. I am aware of 20



babies on the way to Licswm over the next 3 years from Maes yr Goron. When the Allen Homes were built in the 1990s Licswm school had 100 pupils. Federation allows our two villages to start to move together as one. Currently I feel there is some rivalry between the villages and people are defending their own. FEDERATION will help to heal this and allow us to move forward with a joined spirit. Change takes time for people to adjust to and this will help. It could then pave the way for amalgamation and help the process move more smoothly with both villages wanting it rather than reacting badly against it, which I feel is what is happening now in Licswm. The two schools are starting to work together and have staff meetings and work scrutiny/levelling activities both in September and the training day in January. This has been initiated by myself as Head of Licwm but willingly accepted by the new seconded Head of Brynford. We are also taking part in a shared Arts project. It has been very difficult to work together this last year as the staff of both schools have felt threatened by the area review process and they see the staff of the other school as rivals for their jobs in the long term - which is very understandable. FEDERATION will help to cement the relationship between the schools as staff start to work together and trust each other. I suspect a large amount of feedback from Licswm may be Option 1 status quo, as it is only way to maintain a school in our village. FEDERATION has only been discussed by the Governing Body in the last three days of term, and there was no time left to discuss this with the parents, due to the very unreasonable time of year chosen for this survey, when many parents had already left for holidays. FEDERATION will be more palatable to the community of Licswm. It will allow the two schools to become stronger through shared professional activities, joint pupil activities (leading to greater challenge where there are small year groups), financial savings as we purchase resources or buy in professionals. Small schools are stronger together without their loss of identity or community.

- I believe very strongly that to keep the community in Lixwm we need to keep the school. My children thrive in a small school atmosphere, in a 'super school' that is proposed they would be just a number and be lost within all the other children. The amount of money it will take to create these changes would take an awful long time for it to be worthwhile. I myself will not want to take my children to a big school, and I know a lot of people wouldn't want to, I will be willing to travel to find another small school.
- Stable populations in all 3 communities so no need to disrupt for expansion. Do it in the larger Rhosesmor site if necessary
- There are many reasons to prefer option 1, but also, arguments to indicate that a single site is the worst of all options.

Lixwm is a community school and we chose to send our son there as we felt it was best for him. My son (being very shy) has come along so much at Lixwm, in a way that I am convinced he would not have done at Rhos Helyg, already being a much bigger school. Merging all 3 schools would create a super school that is much bigger again, and would be detrimental to the education of my son and many others. This would be a school that could quite easily also become a white elephant. A school that no one in any of the communities want to go to. Parents will move the school which their children attend, including home if necessary.

Closing the school at Lixwm will create another village which currently has young families, being there mainly because of the schools into a village with an aging population, that no one wants to live to anymore.

The transport of pupils to a single site would be a very difficult issue, particularly in winter. Whilst Rhosesmor may on the surface be a similar distance from Lixwm as Brynford, the roads on that route are not fit to be transporting children on in poor winter conditions.

If status quo is not an option, then the 2 school option would be much preferred.

Although a federation model would be a much better option, keeping a school in both villages of Lixwm and Brynford.

I urge you, please please do not choose a single site, be it Rhosesmor or Brynford. It

will be a disaster for all communities involved. A school is more than just a building and a set of figures. Lixwm is a very good school.. A community to which our children belong. My son and others would find any move away from this devastating and difficult to cope with.

Finally, not only would it affect our children now, it also removes any element of choice from future parents. Not all children are equal. We need different types of schools, not a soulless new school created from a financial formula.

- This is a thriving rural school in the heart of Lixwm community which my three children attend chosen because we live in the neighbouring village of Babel and because I would only ever want my children to attend a smaller more rural primary school where they have excelled.

- It is vitally important that we keep our village school. New starter homes have been built and people accepted on the proviso that there is a school in the village and that hopefully they will have children who will attend in the future. This could greatly affect young couples buying starter homes.

If you close the school, the village will end up being full of ageing residents as there will be nothing to attract people with families. If Lixwm primary were to close I would certainly not send my son to a large 'super school' we would simply look into sending him to another village school. The whole idea of living in a village with a school is to provide smaller numbers in their classroom where children and parents get to know one another. They take pride in the place they live in, it's not just somewhere you 'drop' a child off each day. It is part of the community and makes a village whole. If you did decide to build a 'super school' I think you would find it virtually empty and desperately trying to attain numbers. Village people do not want massive schools, if we did we would live in towns and cities.

- My children also went to Lixwm school and got the attention they needed to learn which I don't think children get in a bigger placement
- My 2nd option would be to amalgamate with Brynford school. However this option would deny the many children and parents the quality convenient walk they now have to Lixwm. Perhaps the only walk they do on a routine basis... The walk that governments urge parents to do, with various benefits and lasting memories. The school encourages young people with children to the village and keeps a varied age group in the community. The affordable housing also plays a key part in keeping the balance of young and old in the community along with Lixwm school.
- I take my son to Lixwm from Mold everyday he loves this school I went here as a child and loved it and wanted my little boy to have the same experience small group of close friends and strong relationship with his teachers if he ends up in a larger school with triple the amount of people I feel as though his relationship with friends and teachers will be gone and it will be harder for him to express himself making academy's and larger schools is a terrible idea for high schools yes for primary schools for kids as young as 3 is wrong school is scary enough for children this small without making them deal with three times the amount of kids and teachers my son will be so upset if his school has to go, but as always the bigger council education secretary's will make this decision not the people who matter council is doing it all the wrong way plenty of other places where money can be saved than doing this
- I would like to stay as we are as I have grown very fond of Lixwm my kids are getting the education that I have always wanted for them and are improving all the time. Lixwm school is a very small close community which is the heart of our village and our children so to take that away from them in my opinion is unfair. I really don't want them to go to Brynford school as I don't want them to go to a super school as I have had this experience on Anglesey and the children are not getting such a nice personal education I feel best for my children. I will not be putting my children in Brynford if this is the case please don't close our school.

Regards  
Danielle

- Lixwm is a fantastic school with great teachers. Surely if this school would close then standards of education would drop for the pupils. If I wanted my kids to mix with children from Holywell on a daily basis I would have moved to the town when I moved here 4 years ago, but I didn't. It would make more sense to close Brynford and either let the kids integrate into Holywell or Lixwm. I do not want my kids moving into a large primary school either as I don't think they are as effective as smaller schools, I had this experience with my eldest child on Anglesey and not willing to send my children into this environment. Lixwm CP needs to remain open.
- Appreciate that option 1 may not be financially viable but it would have an adverse effect on the community and village life. The school has been a big part of the community for over a 100 years and closure would have detrimental effect to all those that live in the area. Not all children are suited to large schools and need to be part of a smaller school in order to thrive.
- A school is the centre of a village. New houses built here - families moving in.
- As Lixwm school has a good record of achievement, and is currently near to capacity. Quite a few parents have moved to the affordable housing, because of the school. The village needs young people in order to support other numerous activities.
- As a community hub, it is very important, and would be sorely missed if closed as the village supports all that goes on in the school
- As a community hub, it is very important, for the village, and supported by the people, it would be sorely missed if closed
- Lots of new houses need the village school?
- I am aware that there are schools in Denbighshire purpose built for 60 pupils - why can't Flintshire keep the 3 schools with shared headteacher is so required
- Lixwm school is a large part of our village. There are many families in our community who have been pupils at our school! Brynford School has dangerous parking!. Will each village have a chance to fill out a questionnaire? Will each village have a meeting for Community to attend? Will everyone be told exactly what is happening at every stage? I do not see how many of these questions have anything to do with the modernisation programme. Is there plans providing why Lixwm school is too small, it does have options to make it possible to enlarge. Has the decision already been made? There are young babies and pregnant women! who will be eligible to come to Lixwm.
- Four generations of my family have attended Lixwm School, it is a large part of our village. When will a decision be reached and how will the village know of the decision? Can one head not run two primary schools? Will your funding be affected because of the EU vote. Parents may well move pupils elsewhere because of this and that will lower Lixwm's numbers.
- Will it make a difference. What we think have you already decided? It may be a new site but once it moves it will never be Lixwm school. How can we return this form to school when school will be closed after 20th July? Option 3 should be changed you are saying Lixwm is too small to be a choice.
- Every time I visit France I am constantly surprised to see the villages which may be smaller than Lixwm possess the following:- a) School b) Library c) Post Office d) Playing area and changing room (and occasionally a swimming pool) e) restaurant. Why is it that Lixwm is deemed unable to support any of these? Perhaps we are spending our money on the wrong things such as this intrusive and irrelevant forms.
- The school is an essential part of the village. Parents would not send their children to Rhos as it is so far. The school numbers are fluctuating rising at the present in lower school.

- It would be so sad to close any of these three schools. Ysgol Lixwm has and continues to be a very special school. Surely as the furthest away from the counties big towns, it should remain open to service those out in the more remote areas of flintshire.
- All three schools serve three very different and diverse areas of Flintshire. They act not only as schools but community hubs for each local area. I believe options 2 & 3 will impact on communities who are already struggling to maintain local facilities. I think the council should encourage the respective communities to take a greater role in maintaining each school but also helping them grow. For example creating community cooperatives.
- Having previously attended Lixwm CP I know how wonderful the school and staff are. I think it's extremely important to support our local villages and allow children to attend small schools close to home. Some of my greatest memories from childhood are because of Lixwm CP and it would be such a shame to see anything happen to the school or the building. I believe the building should stay and if pupils from either schools should move, then they should move to Lixwm. I think the building size and outside areas, such as the forestry area, playground and playfield are a perfect size for a school. Although I think Brynford is also a great school, I think the size and amenities of Lixwm CP are more ideal.
- Any change would be a risk to the children's education health and wellbeing. Other options and lack of consultation with local communities have not been sort. Further consultation with the community is needed for further options such as merge of Brynford school with Holywell or Lixwm with Nannerch.

Further options need to be considered before any choice / votes can be made. The council needs to write to all the people in the local and wider community. To hold recent meetings in different schools does not provide a true representation of the area as the council members appear to be fearful of conflicts between the parents of children at the different schools which says lots about how the children feel.

Therefore at this time to safeguard the children the status quo must remain.

To consider redesigning large schools to house schools within schools, is to have some of great big buildings refitted for a bunch of small schools.

The results of two recent studies indicate that small schools may be the remedy for lots of things that are wrong with public education, especially for the nation's poor children. The separate studies credit small schools with reducing the negative effects of poverty on student achievement, reducing student violence, increasing parent involvement, and making students feel accountable for their behaviour and grades.

Transporting large groups of children is dangerous and expensive. The parking / traffic preparation is not documented in any literature or plans. Transport arrangements need to be shown in greater detail, times routes cost etc Parents need to be advised before any votes could be made. Provision for breakfast and after school clubs would need to be known as parents employed full time would need to reduce hours and then claim benefits reducing the household income pa therefore cost would needs to be explained. Including why the council will pay taxi transport to Brynford when this is not the nearest school which differs to the current rules. Educators have long known that poverty hurts student achievement. Researchers Craig Howley, of Ohio University and the Appalachia Educational Laboratory, and Robert Bickel, of Marshall University, set out to find out whether smaller schools could reduce the negative effects of poverty on student achievement. In four separate studies of seven states, they repeatedly found that poor kids do better if they attend a small school. In fact, in the most recent four-state study, the correlation between poverty and low achievement was ten times stronger in larger schools than in smaller ones in all four states. Howley and Bickel found that the benefit of smaller schools was particularly important in the middle grades, when children are most at risk of dropping out. The local school is a rural school and hub of parents in the community. To build a large school where few pupils live cos it is a convenient site would be an inconvenience to others including local residence who again need to be

consulted, not just the parents of children at the school. The assumption that the children at the school would move due to any merge could be a mistake, as parents are more likely to change to different schools nearer the home or secondary education opportunities.

The children are educated that to walk to school is a fit and proper thing to do but this option appears to be being removed and the opposite message being made to the children. The children will lose the classroom group teaching dynamics that are currently in place, the upset may have long term effects on their education, the standards falling still further behind England! The merge of any schools puts extra pressures on the teaching staff again disrupting the standard in teaching. The school's identity would be a challenge to the children within their peer groups, loss of friends and lack of after school activities with children needing to get the taxi home after school. These all form part of the children's education the consequences of which have not as yet been fully explained by the council in any documentation. The village of Lixwm needs a school chapel and pub to retain its identity and heritage.

Plus researchers found that student achievement was greater in the small schools than in the larger schools. Students, parents, teachers, and community volunteers reported greater satisfaction because they felt more connected to one another, reported in *Education World*. "Teacher satisfaction went way up!" Wasley added. "[Teachers] thought teaching was more fun, satisfying, and that they were more effective teachers, that they could get the kids moving in a positive direction." Many teachers told the researchers that teaching at a small school reminded them why they became teachers in the first place. Teachers reported more collaboration with colleagues and more regular professional development activities at their schools. They also had greater contact with parents and understood them as an important element in student success. Lack of parental involvement in schools is often a problem

The amount of money that must have already been spent is not acceptable or just. The options need to be reviewed prior to the spending of more money. In the long term the options that have been provided do not match what is happening in the local community with jobs housing or education. This should not be about saving money it is about the education and investing in the children of Wales.

"A common argument for making schools larger is expressed in terms of economics of scale: Large schools save money," Bickel said. "Recently, however, using reports we have found that only one school for all grades has an expenditure per pupil that averages lower than the more conventionally modern schools. These schools tend to be small, they have students distributed more or less evenly across grade levels and provide better education. A recent study published in the *American Journal of Public Health* revealed that reducing class sizes in elementary schools may be more cost-effective than most public health and medical interventions. This is because students in smaller classes are more likely to graduate from high school, and high school graduates earn more and also enjoy significantly better health than high school dropouts. Why is the Wales increasing the size of schools while the USA is reducing school size.

- I have lived in Lixwm all my life and attended Lixwm primary school. I would like to see the local schools kept as local schools as I have personally felt the benefit.
- I believe that any option other than Option 1 will have a detrimental effect on the residents and pupils of Lixwm. I purchased my house on a shared ownership agreement, tied in with a 106 agreement and part of this is to enable me to live in an area I couldn't normally afford and to have an excellent school within walking distance. You are making an assumption that if you close Lixwm and Rhosesmor, all the pupils from these schools will move to Brynford (hence the extension) however, this would not suit my family as Brynford is in the opposite direction of our places of work, so we would look to place our 3 children in Nannerch or other schools heading towards Mold, as I believe many other parents would. I believe your quotes and plans for modernisation

are extreme and over exaggerated. We all chose small rural villages with small local schools to provide our children with small classes and intimate, nurturing settings for their education and development.

- Lixwm school gave my children an education that was on par with private. The teachers are dedicated especially Mrs Howarth. There is no value on the service that they give to everyone of the children who are lucky enough to go to that school.
- Although I can see the benefits of a school in the community of Lixwm, I feel in the future my children would benefit from being educated in a sustainable school which is fit for purpose. My son only has 2 other boys in his year group and I wish for him to have a wider circle to mix with to prepare him for his future education in High School.
- I brought my house 5 years ago. I was so pleased to see Lixwm were offering affordable housing to young local people.

Having been brought up in a village, I knew I would want to live in a village for my first home and to start a family.

With house prices in villages averaging about £280k it was great to be able to buy in Lixwm for £154k.

I brought the property for the village live which the school is the heart of the village.

If village schools continue to close and move to towns... What will be left of the villages?

There are many residence here on Maes y Goron starting families and moved here for the school.

If the school does close, I question why did Flintshire give planning permission for these houses at Maes y Goron?

- Disgrace you want to do this , stressing the children and parents
- If it ain't broke don't fix it!!!
- We don't want my granddaughter traveling to brynford . Lixwm school is where we went to school our children now our grandchildren .
- We bought our house in close proximity to the school so that our children might be able to attend as I also attended the school myself along with a number of others in the village when i was younger. It is our desire that our children attend a small local school not a conglomerate. Lixwm school is integral to the community which is not reflected accurately in your impact assessment which seems to be a paper exercise to back up a predetermined plan rather than an accurate study? for the village more widely, As a commuter village the school forms an essential part of the village there is no recompense for loss of this in the study if the school was closed- significantly - would the building be made available as a community centre and recreational (which has been requested by the village for decades) or would the council just sell off the land for a profit and put housing on it - this is not mentioned on the study and forms an key point in this discussion? Also not reflected in your study is the close proximity of Ysceifiog and the fact there is no school there either? This is a Poor impact study put together to push through a predetermined ideal without due consideration or attention to those living in each of the areas
- The future of Lixwm Village and community rests with the school. Otherwise our village will decline for future generations. Of which my grandchildren will suffer. As a parent and grandparent I would NOT support a motion where children of under 11 travel to school by contracted school buses - this is totally ridiculous logic and safety must prevail. From an old caring resident of Lixwm Village!
- One of the main attractions for me purchasing my property in Lixwm was the local school, and I know the same applies for a large portion of the local community. The school is a vital part of the community and losing it could be devastating blow for Lixwm.
- We cannot take any more traffic at Lixwm school for parking or through traffic trying to turn around in Parc Capel it is chaotic at certain times as the road is narrow and takes farm traffic

- Lixwm is a great school now. Everyones reason of loving the school is the closeness the children have with pulips and teachers.
- Lixwm is a very beautiful school in on a great site. I also worry about the safety of children regarding parking as I can already see this is a issue for the parents of Brynford.
- Smaller school better learning as % is 85% to 95% rural community always better my little girls adore this school and are very settled
- I think it would be a real shame to merge these schools together. Myself & my son, as well as a lot of other parents love the way lixwm school works - alone! I think it could be quite a shock for the children having to move schools & suddenly merging with other children they have never met, as well as their classrooms going from so small to suddenly doubled in size. I really am hoping the right decision is made.
- I am deeply concerned that Lixwm as a community will disappear. Young families will be discouraged from moving into the village. Houses have been built to encourage young families with the promise of a convenient school location. The staff at Lixwm have worked hard to maintain the school as a part of the community. This I feel would be eroded if we were to have a big super school based on another site with the children taken to school on buses. The number of children joining the school is rising proving that the local community appreciate the ethos that a small community school provides. Larger schools in Mold and Holywell are available yet the parents recognise the value our school has on the development of their children
- Lixwm school has been at the heart of this community for many years and to close it would a tragedy. It is easily accessible on foot to many pupils and young families have been encouraged into the area by the Affordable housing at Maes Goron . ibwould support this school remaining open .

### 1.1.3. Ysgol Rhos Helyg

- Preferred option 3 as: - Pupils at Rhos Helyg feel secure, happy and motivated in the current size school. Pupils and staff know each other well, staff are aware of children's needs throughout the school, something which is not always evident in a larger school. - Pupils and their families prefer to move on to Mold Alun for secondary education, this would not necessarily be the case if the children had to move to Brynford or Lixwm for their primary education. - Facilities at Ysgol Rhos Helyg are very good, particularly outdoor facilities, which includes a roundhouse, yurt, community allotments, eco greenhouse and various gardens for children's use. These would be lost or partly destroyed by other options.
- Amazing school
- Rhos Helyg is highly needed and would be very inconvenient to close
- Whilst I can appreciate the need to modernise and improve the facilities in the local schools I do not believe that the merging of all three community schools is valid. Given the sizeable capital costs involved with option 2, the option of keeping Rhos Helyg open whilst merging Brynford and Lixwm offers the best compromise between lowering the running costs/increasing class numbers and minimising initial cash outlay. Additionally should Rhos Helyg close the ongoing costs of maintaining the empty site as a result of it's listed status would seem to be a poor use of funds. Furthermore I believe that the additional travel required for many pupils of Rhos Helyg is impractical, costly and will have an adverse effect on the environment. Finally Rhos Helyg is a school that the local village communities can be justly proud of, and for many is central to village life. It's closure would have a significant adverse effect.
- Me and a friend carried the first chairs from Rhosesmor school to the newly opened Rhos Helyg and therefore the school has a sentimental value to me.

- I have read all the consultation documents on Flintshire County Council's website including the appraisal document, and also attended an informal event at the school. As a result, and after discounting Option 1 as not financially viable, I firmly believe that Option 3 is the optimum solution for a number of reasons:
  - minimum disruption to pupils in terms of building work and relocation
  - least impact for pupils in terms of travel times and accessibility. Option 2 would result in longer travel times for many pupils and added difficulties in getting children to school during the winter months. Option 2 would also attract additional transport costs which can not be accurately calculated.
  - lower financial spend than in Option 2 in terms of building works. There would need to be a significant financial spend to create one area school as in Option 2 together with significant disruption to pupils during this period. Whilst some disruption would occur at Brynford in Option 3 it is more limited in its impact and cost. Also, in Option 2, Rhos Helyg building would potentially be left abandoned, with limited use but still in need of maintenance to prevent disrepair.
  - Rhos Helyg incorporates an excellent after school club and holiday club which is a vital service for working parents.
  - retaining 2 schools (Rhos Helyg and Brynford) is essential for their local communities and would enable pupils to benefit from a high standard of education within close knit, supportive, community based settings .

In summary, I believe that Option 3 is the best option in terms of minimising disruptions to pupils and the local communities whilst still making significant financial savings.
- It is understandable that, because of the funding crisis, the merging of small village schools has to be considered. However, Rhos Helyg is a thriving school with approx. 150 children, so its closure would have a significant effect. Any local school often provides the main focus for the community and removing a flourishing school like Rhos Helyg would certainly have the effect of removing the heartbeat of the village.
- This is an amazing school, the facilities are first rate, especially within the outdoor areas like the roundhouse, woodland area, greenhouse, trim trail etc
- Do not drive would need two buses to get to Brynford
- I have lived in Rhosesmor and have been a part of the community for 38 years. I attended Ysgol Rhos Helyg as child and so have my 2 daughters. I took a job there as a T.A. over 6 years ago and became a staff governor over 3 years ago. I feel this school plays a huge part in the community. Rhos Helyg is a thriving school and every member of staff know every single child name and needs which nurtures them to grow and succeed. The school has over 100 children on role, which proves it is thriving and will continue to do so if left alone. Closing this school would make a huge dent across the 3 communities.
- If you are going to send people to address public meetings, they should know what they're talking about. The gentleman that attended the latest meeting - 1. Didn't know how far it was from Rhosesmor to Brynford. 2. Made a statement about the educational system of Flintshire that proved to be incorrect. "Not good enough".
- Another example of stripping local communities of their lifeblood
- This school has served the main areas of the mountain for years, myself being a pupil many years ago. There is no accountability for the disruption this would case the children, the teachers and the community. We all know, it comes down to the 'Councillors Vote' on these decisions. What they must remember that they will be replaced by the public as soon as an election allows.
- Rhos Helyg is great, leave it as it is
- Rhos Helyg is a great school. Do not break something that works fine.
- Rhos Helyg is a great place, a great school, will be a bad thing to break something that works so perfect.
- It would be a real shame if Rhos Helyg was to be closed as my grandson's dad and his 2 x sisters and 1 x brother attended this school. Also his 3 cousins have attended this



school. My grandson also loves being at Rhos Helyg and is hoping to go into mold alun to be with this cousin.

- Option 1 will not save any money for FCC however option 3 is a good compromise
- Had great days at Rhos Helyg and made many friends. Played football for the school and won many cups and trophies for the school
- Great times at Rhos Helyg. Won cups for the school in football. Wonderful concerts which I enjoyed acting in and made many friends.
- Both my children and grandchildren attended Rhos Helyg School. They received an excellent education there and the atmosphere was strict but pleasant, they have all gone on to obtain good jobs after a good grounding at Rhos Helyg. The distance the pupils would have to travel especially in the winter seems to make this idea of closure seem, very short sighted without the cost of transport being considered.
- I don't feel it would be fair to close yet another school in this area!! Plus I want my boys to go to Mold Alun like their older brother did.
- Having being born and lived in the village of Rhosesmor since 1971. I feel that Rhos Helyg school should remain part of the community to enable children from the three villages to access a ready established school. The location of Rhos Helyg is in an ideal setting for children to nurture and grow and achieve. I feel Rhos Helyg should be left as it is, as its already provided high standards since 1953.
- Rhos Helyg is a listed building which should be enjoyed by the community and its children. It's been attended by currently by my son, I attended school her & so did my mother. It has an ongoing great reputation. It is in great location & well suited for moving on to Mold Alun.

its good for other business to keep schools open. Rhes y Cae was closed then the pub closed & no shop. Rhosesmor thrives on this school.

- Rhos Helyg already joins 2 communities : Halkyn area and Rhosesmor to join these 2 communities and then the communities over the other side of the mountain will be extremely difficult. Lixwm and Brynford will join more naturally
- Young children should not have to travel any further than necessary
- Whilst I fully understand the financial constraints that the council has to operate under, I would hate to see local children pay the price by cutting the quality of their schooling. The idea that children from such a broad area would be coralled together, in such a large scholl at such a young and impressionable age, is a concern for me. A single, area-school will impaire the diversity and free-choice that every local parent would expect from their local council and education authority, for their children. The quality of the schooling that my children recieve at Ysgol Rhos Helyg is exceptional. It is not by chance that this school produces happy, intelligent and well-rounded local citizens, that are well prepared for the challenge of high school. The structures and practices that are already in place are too effective and too precious to gamble with. I strongly implore you not to make a decision based on money alone. As I write this, i'm confident that you won't.

- My son went to this school and his education was brilliant.
- Retain Ysgol Rhos Helyg  
Teaching is of a high standard four our children.
- I feel that should all the schools be combined it would be too big and lack a secure, family feel. As a foster carer a safe, intimate, local space is essential for needs to be met fully. I also would prefer the school to be in the area in which we live.
- Ysgol Rhos Helyg should remain open, on the current site. Rural school community links are important - and this can cause divisions within and between rural communities if the threat of school closure. This would have a huge impact on pupils sense of community identity, and reduce the confidence of their surroundings. As a past pupil, this school has always been a high achieving school and would be an absolute shame if this school was to merge with other local schools. This is one of the largest schools within our area, and would make sense to keep this thriving school open.

- The children that come to Ysgol Rhos Helyg are very happy here, there has been a lot of money spent on the school, with the park area, trimtrail, chickens, woods, allotments, nature area, then we have the benefit of the wind turbine that gives the school free electric and the council also gains from this. the school has just invested in CCTV. We have H.M.K.C. which uses the hall and playgrounds plus, playgroup. So please dont close our school.
- Ysgol Rhos Helyg is a lovely, friendly, happy, local school and was one of the reasons for sending our children here.  
We feel the other sites are too far to travel to school and another strong factor is the feeder system to Mold Alun (not Holywell High)
- Rhosesmor School - Ysgol Rhos Helyg to remain alone standing
- Whatever happens the children need to be thought of and considered  
My children are happy here and want to stay as it is
- I was one of the pupils who attended this school when it first opened and all my children and grandchildren did or are still attending  
Please keep it open
- My son went to this school and his education was very good.
- I think Rhos Helg should stay as it is and Lixham and Brynford move into one school would make more sense
- I have worked in Ysgol Rhos Helyg for 9 years. It would be a great shame if the school was to close as its in a great area, lovely school.
- Rhos Helyg serves a huge catchment area and to transport the pupils to town schools in Mold and Holywell will be a further nail in the mountain community. With Rhes Y Cae Primary already closed it could mean a second move for the pupils already affected once.
- Why do children need to travel from their own locality? Rhos Helyg has served the community since 1953. Why change something that works why disrupt everyone and everything now. The school has brought together children and parents from Rhosesmor, Halkyn, Pentre Halkyn, Moel y Crio, The Nant and further afield for years. It is my opinion that Rhos Helyg school should remain as it is. Leave well alone!!
- Ysgol Rhos Helyg covers 3 communities and outlying areas the community needs this facility.
- Rhos Helyg covers at least 3 communities plus outlying areas as primaries at Rhes Y Cae and Rhydymwyn have already been closed. The community need Ysgol Rhos Helyg the authority has already had its pound of flesh in this area.
- Ysgol Rhos Helyg is a well established, successful school with fantastic facilities outdoors. I cannot see how building upon these facilities will help improve the school - it will only spoil the beautiful facilities outside and significantly reduce the space the children enjoy outside. Parents have expressed that they have chosen to send their children to Rhos Helyg and by modifying or closing Rhos Helyg Flintshire County Council are taking that choice away from them. I do not believe that trying to join two very different communities will work. I also believe that the children's learning environment will be significantly compromised by building works and will double the amount of pupils. Further more, I believe that this decision is being made for money saving proposes and at the expense of the children.
- Born and bred in Pentre Halkyn with my two brothers lovely school
- YSGOL RHOS HELYG IS A MUCH VALUED PART OF THE COMMUNITIES OF 4 VILLAGES. IT HAS MADE AND CONTINUES TO MAKE POSITIVE IMPACTS ON CHILDREN, PARENTS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY. MANY PEOPLE IN THESE COMMUNITIES HAVE ATTENDED THE SCHOOL AND HAVE MADE EXCELLENT PROGRESS IN THE ALYN SCHOOL MOLD. PLEASE DO NOT WASTE SUCH AN INVALUABLE RESOURCE!
- Don't want to be travelling miles out of my way

- I have been a pupil, a worker and now I pick my nephew up.
- Good school. Gool location. Rhos Helyg has bought community together.
- I would prefer the school to stay the same
- Since coming to work at Ysgol Rhos Helyg four years ago I have become to appreciate how the school is the hub of this community. Many generations of families have been to the school and are still involved in various ways.  
Smaller schools have the advantage of all the staff knowing all the children and so being able to contribute to their education both academically and emotionally.
- Rhos Helyg is a feed school for Mold Alun School
- HAVING STARTED AT THE AGE OF 3YRS AT YSGOL RHOS HELYG. UP TO THE AGE OF 11 YRS. I THEN WENT BACK TO WORK THERE AS THE FIRST CLASSROOM ASSISTANT, THEN AS A MOTHER OF FIVE WHO ALL WENT THERE, THEN MY GRANDCHILDREN. SO I'VE HAD OVER 60 YRS CONNECTIONS WITH RHOS HELYG. IT WOULD BE A SAME TO SEE IT CLOSE BEING THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY. I'VE SPENT SUCH A LOT OF TIME WITH CONCERTS PLAYS. FAIRS THROUGH OUT ALL THE YEARS. WE'VE ALL HAD SUCH HAPPY TIMES THERE. THERE'S BEEN GREAT HEADMASTERS AND TEACHERS AT THE SCHOOL. EVERYONE KNOWING EVERYONE. I HAD A GOOF EDUCATION AT RHOS HELYG AS DID MY CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN. SO ITS IMPORTANT IN KEEPING RHOS HELYG AS IT IS, WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE OUR SCHOOL
- I have enjoyed my time at Ysgol Rhos Helyg and its lovely outdoor facilities. Even though I have only been there for two years it was a great experience.
- Closing Rhos Helyg C.P School, would completely spoil and diminish the close community which is already suffering having lost its post office/shop. Growing up in a rural area, one of the most important factors is a close community.
- I feel it would be very sad to see Ysgol Rhos Helyg close especially as such a large number of local children still attend it
- As a former pupil of Rhos Helyg I attended from age 4 until age 11 and I travelled daily by us from Pentre Halkyn. If all 3 of these schools are consolidated to one site I am concerned that the distance travelled daily by small children from such a large area would be much further than I had to travel and I do not believe this is either safe or healthy or condusive to better learning for any child
- I was born and bred in Pentre Halkyn. My younger brother and elder sister attended Rhos Helyg School
- Born and bred in Pentre Halkyn this was our school
- As a long term resident of Rhydymwyn, I accepted, reluctantly that the village school had to close due to lack of pupils, and found Rhos Helgy to be an excellent alternative. Luis my son, has settled into the school and found many good friends. The school itself is well established will many outdoor activities. The children participate in vegetable growing, forestry and other outdoor pursuits. If in the name of 'modernisation' it means that Rhos Helgy school closes down, it will be a catastrophe for community, current pupils and families.  
Not to mention, if my child is forced to move to Brynford, the catchment area for secondary education is Holywell High. I am not happy that he should move to that school as it has a poor reputation.
- My grandchild goes to Rhos Helgy. I will be really disappointed if it closes. He has come on in life and learnt so much in this school.
- I will be very disappointed if Rhos Helgy closes. My young son has settled in really well there and he loves it.
- Great school.  
Made many friends who went to Rhos Helgy and still keep in touch with them. Enjoyed lessons, teachers. It keeps the community together from the surrounding villages which we would lose if Rhos Helgy shut.

- Over the last 15 years we have lost shops, post office, milkman, librarys and mobile services from our community. If Rhos Helyg closes our community is finished
- There is very little left in Halkyn Mountain to bring the community together. Post Offices etc have all been lost. The school is one remaining focal point where people meet and form bonds
- I damed same to close Rhos Helyg many happy days there
- This site fulfils the needs and the space needed to accommodate all requirements for the future generations of children
- My daughter is selectively mute and will not take change well
- I left Rhos Helyg 2 years ago, my time at the school from 3 years old is memorable and will stay with me forever.  
The school isn't too big or too small which set me up for high school.  
It would be a shame for it to close as I want children to have the same time at primary school as I did.
- Ysgol Rhos Helyg offers great outdoor facilities and provides an excellent learning environment
- Option 3 is the most sensible solution
- IT IS NOT PRACTICAL TO SEND BRYNFORD AND LIXWM PUPILS TO RHOS HELYG
- Having previously worked for 10 years at Rhoshelyg School, and a mother and grandmother of ex pupils who attended Rhoshelyg School . I feel very strongly that primary schools should remain locally, young children should not be ferried to large schools out of their locality, also it would be a longer day which would be very tiring especially for the younger pupils.
- It would be a great loss to the community if Ysgol Rhos Helyg was to close. It is a fabulous forward thinking school, and provides an excellent indoor and outdoor learning environment. The outdoor location is fabulous. It's size enables it to be a caring, nurturing school which enhances child learning. The school is steeped in history and indeed many generations of the same family have attended the school. I know my children who attend the school would be devastated if it was to close, as would I. Please keep it open.
- It would appear to be a win win situation for the council and the potentially least worst option for parents. Responses that I have heard It is highly unlikely that many parents from Lixum or Brynford will take their child across the mountain.  
And to move the majority of children from Rhos Helyg would be silly.  
Use of Rhos Helyg is restricted as it is a listed building which would cause huge difficulties for any future use, accept as a school. However it is possible to use good design options such as glass connecting corridors allowing for any additional building, such as a gym changing rooms?  
The finances appear to support a option 3 with least aggravation to the communities and to councillors constituents.
- Ysgol Rhos Helyg should remain as is, the area is for this school is outstanding and the teaching of the smaller schools is so much better, it would be a sin to close this wonderful school
- Rhos Helyg is in a central location. If the school is to be closed this would effect parents who live within walking distance who do not drive. I know parents whose children attend Ysgol Rhos Helyg that do not drive and walk their children to school. If the children had re-locate then the parents who currently walk would have difficulty if needed to be called to school. This would also affect the local community as a whole
- Rhos Helyg was a fantastic school 20 years ago and had a great effect on my childhood and upbringing. It would be a shame to see this school, which seems to be thriving at the moment due to the PTA's time and effort that they have put in, not to mention the money. My children are expected to attend Rhos Helyg this year and my mind had

been at ease since they were accepted knowing that they would have a fantastic primary school experience which could only be greater than mine.

- Rhos helyg to be kept
- Moving our school out of our community would cause stress for both children and parents who have to already travel the distance to get to our community school. To move it even further would cause more turmoil, especially for those who don't drive.
- Ysgol Rhos Helyg is a wonderful school with many beautiful facilities and resources for our community to currently use. The school have worked very hard in producing and creating these resources and I strongly feel they should be kept.

If all schools are amalgamated I, as a parent, feel that the option to decide on or consider a local school for my children to attend will be taken away as three local school will be replaced with just one. This will cause a greater gap of inequality amongst rural communities by taking away our community schools. Whilst i can appreciate that financial cuts need to be made and adjustments required to accommodate for these , I also strongly feel that exposure to suitable quality academic institutions is more important. The upheaval and disruption that a three-school amalgamation will cause will directly affect the services provided to the community and their attending pupils. Bigger classes may cut costs and save at budget level however the wider and direct impact that they will have on our children and our community will not have a positive outcome. Further more i believe that an three school amalgamated school at the Brynford site will always be over capacity. This school would fall under Holywell jurisdiction and so I believe many pupils from Holywell will show preference for this school in addition to those across Halkyn mountain. Resulting in over subscription of the new Brynford school. In addition to this, children who use council bus services would be required to travel for longer duration's on their bus to school, resulting in longer days for little ones. I believe that having two area school will provide a greater level of equality to two different rural communities.

Rhos Helyg school is filled with history and local heritage which is a dying topic out in rural communities thus needs to be secured and protected.

- This school is the heart of our villages -without it the villages will lose their heart!! This school covers Rhosesmor, Halkyn, Pentre Halkyn, & Rhesycae(since their school was closed recently)
- Two schools seems to be the best option, to help maximise the resources, rhos helyg serving two villages and another in Brynford to serve the other two villages.
- rhos Helyg provides an excellent primary education, with outdoor facilities second to none. It is inconceivable that you could consider closing the school.
- Brynford and Lixwm schools are closer together,those schools emerging would make more sense.
- its the had a lot of work done on the outside and the wind turbine, so it would be a waste and its a great sized school and would need as much work to fit the extra children
- It would be an absolute travesty to lose Rhos Helyg School. This school has and will always be an important part of the Rhosesmor village and the surrounding areas too. Are the council expecting the young children to travel alongside high school children to attend lixwm or brynford? this, in my opinion would be outrageous. To have another beautiful and prosperous school close down only to have the sight go to wrack and ruin and be an open invitation to vandalism, is an abomination. I have close connections with Rhos Helyg and have seen the difference that the staff and the caring attitude has had on my four nephews (two having gone on to high school). The councillors and flintshire county council need to take heed of what is being said about NOT closing Rhos Helyg, but in my experience, flintshire county council have already made their minds up and is just humouring the parents etc of each school, something i really hope to be proved wrong about??
- What would you do to Rhos Helyg if you closed it ? It's a grade 2 building. So it would just be left derelict ?

- Rhos Helyg is very out of the way but lots of children are in this area you have to think about travel
- Rhos Helyg school has an excellent reputation and would be a total loss to Flintshire more so the local community in closing it. Merging the other 2 would be more realistic as there are less children in each therefore justifying this awful cutback!
- More should be done to make use of schools as community hubs
- Rhos Helyg is a valuable asset to the local and surrounding communities and by removing it the local authority would be causing the children emotional turmoil as well as making the school day longer for children as young as four years of age by making them travel greater distances to attend school.
- Lixwm school being smaller and less accessible should go.
- As a retired teacher, who has lived in Rhosesmor for 28 years, I am aware that the school has a good reputation and is highly valued by local residents.
- It is important for the community to retain local schools, reducing the schools in the local community reduces value of homes, sense of belonging to the community, increases travel and costs for people getting children to school and diminishes the ability for parents to provide their child with a stable and consistent educational environment
- Rhos Helyg glues Pentre Halkyn, Halkyn and Rhosesmor together. The Church Halls are used mainly by the older generation so Rhos Helyg is the only young person orientated building. The school has spent a lot of money on improving the facilities. FCC have spent undisclosed £thousands on the wind turbine on the site.
- The school needs to be kept open as generations of my wife's family have attended there as well as my own children. It's not just a school but the heart of the community where friendships are forged for life in a building embroiled with history.
- Great school that has so much to offer to its students.
- I wish my grandchildren to remain in the catchment area for the Mold Alun School.
- I would like my grandchildren to remain in the catchment area for the Alun School in Mold
- Retain Rhos Helyg
- Keep Rhos Helyg Rhosesmor as it is in the other two schools join as one
- Ysgol Rhos Helyg has always been a feeder school for Mold Alun. The people of the area use Mold as their local town, Mold is closer. Also people tend to leave in the Easterly direction for work in the morning and are able to drop their kids off at school in Mold. Any changes to this would be regarded very negatively.
- Losing Ysgol Rhos Helyg, will destroy our community. Every member of my children's family have attended this wonderful School. Even my daughter's great grandfather built the stage there, which she is so proud of. The community of Halkyn Mountain & the surrounding villages will be destroyed if Ysgol Rhos Helyg is closed.
- Ysgol Rhos Helyg is easily accessible by pupils from Rhosesmor & outer areas as a regular bus service is available. It has been the focus of the village for generations of past & present pupils, myself being one of them. The teaching staff is next to none & the children are cared for in a 'homely' environment. The advancement from early admittance to school leaving is one of high academic learning but also of confidence building & these milestones are given in a structured & pleasing format. It would be a tremendous blow to the pupils, parents, grandparents & also to this close knit community if any sort of change was implemented. I hope that ALL feedback from the supporters of Ysgol Rhos Helyg is given very serious & very thorough thought by the all of relevant persons in authority who have the power to allow this school to remain as it is today.
- Rhos Helyg is not a small school
- This Helyg does not fall into the criteria for small school so should not be considered. It serves Rhosesmor, Halkyn, Pentre Halkyn and Rhos y Cae
- Ysgol Rhos Helyg is a great school it would be a shame to close it down.
- Rhos Helyg is my preferred option as is Mold Alun for Secondary Education.

- Lixwm and Brynford are both smaller schools so it would be better to merge these as Rhos Helyg is already such a big school and at capacity for classroom sizes etc. They are also closer to each other so the impact would be less.
- The school is a fantastic school and has been for 3 generations of my family. The teachers work really hard to not only teach our children but to make sure they are well prepared and confident enough to go onto high school. It will not happen if the classroom numbers end up being a lot higher than they are already, and it will end up being devastating for our children's education
- Brynford and Lixwm are way too far for school runs. Please leave rhos helyg
- Rhoshelyg is reasonably sized with a high percentage of pupils attending their nearest school. Being located between the villages it serves, makes it an ideal school to remain. The other schools appear to serve a high percentage of pupils from outside their catchment area.
- I would prefer a single school on one site - I feel this would prepare pupils much better for the transition to the larger Mold Alun complex
- Option 3 allows the council to save money with minimal disruption and minimal negative impact on the children.
- If option one not viable option 3. This would prevent having large class numbers and incurred costs in having to extend school sites, consider extra parking facilities, etc.
- Rhes-y-Cae school had already been closed and pupils sent to Rhos Helyg. Excellent, caring environment and learning environment at Ysgol Rhos Helyg
- I guess like every other parent I love what a village school offers a child, not just in academic terms but in its sense of belonging and learning to build relationships. Rhos Helyg is small enough to do this, yet big enough not to leave children unprepared for the move to high school.  
Let's stop filling bigger buildings with children stripped of any identity, because once these village schools are gone, they're gone.  
Our children deserve to feel like they matter.
- This is a lovely school. The staff work hard and are dedicated too make sure my is child Educated. The surroundings are lovely and the children get too learn about Nature as they get to explore around the pond and the forrest nearby. It would be so Sad if this school closes down as the children have been working very hard and made there own greenhouse, vegetable garden and they also have chickens which the children help and care for. I have Never known such a school before to be so caring and dedicated in which this school is. Please keep our school open. Thank you.
- Ysgol Rhos Helyg has got great facilities, especially the space outside, creating a beautiful rural environment for children to learn.
- Useless school kept my child back because it was easier then tackling his learning disabilities moved school (another main stream) that helped him x
- I would like all my children to attend the alun school not just one !
- I'd rather the school not get too big, as I personally feel a smaller school will meet the needs more effectively of the individual learners and differentiate better than one larger school. No one wants their children in large oversized classes. I can appreciate wanting to emalgimate small poor performing schools for both financial and performance reasons however I personally would prefer my children to stay in a relatively small school.
- Why is Rhos Helyg included in this at all? It is, and always has been, a fantastically well attended school
- I chose rhos helyg school for my child as it is a school that has a brilliant outlook on how to develop children and prepare them for secondary school. When my son has finished a day at rhos helyg, he always tells me about his day and never has bad word about the school. It is unique from most schools as it has a great outdoor facility's and makes use of its surroundings, I believe this is special and worth keeping for generations of children

to enjoy in years to come. I would support a new school in the same location near rhosesmor or Halkyn, to house the three schools in this area, however will not support the school having to move to brynford or lixwm. This would be the best option as a good modern building with energy efficient building materials could be built in a great location for children to enjoy.

- My daughter is 21 months old and we moved to the village among family reasons but also in order for her to attend Rhos Helyg, we would be devastated if our village school closed.
- A school, like a shop or a public house is the centre of a village. Take it away and you take away the community. There have been so many closures of schools, public houses and shops on and around halkyn mountain, it is having a detrimental impact on village life.
- I'm a staff member at Rhos Helyg but also a parent and I purposely moved to the area so that my child could attend Mold Alun NOT Holywell high. Holywell high have a lot to prove as their levels have been consistently low for many years. We do not want to move home as we love where we live and feel that the saving your proposing you will make if we merge is not enough to warrant disrupting the young children's education for.
- Rhos Helyg forms a crucial and an integral part of the local community, both for children from surrounding villages to attend a small local primary and by employing several people in the local community. It brings valuable benefits as it engages young and old in a range of activities (PTA fund raising /concerts /sports days / summer fetes etc). In order to keep the countryside alive and regenerated, we need Rhos Helyg school for future generations to come!
- Ysgol Rhos Helyg is a bigger school than Brynford and Lixwm - I believe Brynford and Lixwm should form as one school (to make a bigger school for close communities). Rhos Helyg school is listed and as there are already a few other Halls for community use, it would not be good to leave an empty building to move all 3 to one school (as RH is listed - we cannot expand enough for the 3 schools) and it would be unlikely that the school could be of use to the general community. Rhos Helyg pupils also have a tendency to go on to do well at Welsh local Mold High schools. I want my little boy age 5 (who loves Welsh and the lovely open country schooling Rhos Helyg is supplying) to continue progressing in his education as well as he has done in the 2 yrs spent at Rhos Helyg. I believe this was due to surroundings such as forestry area and overall position of the school.
- I don't understand why Rhos Helyg was included in this review as it is a well attended school.
- I recognise the need to restructure the primary schools in the area. I do not feel it is financially viable to continue with a separate school at Lixwm which has a comparatively small number of pupils. However, I do not believe one new large school to be built in the area would best serve the needs of the community, or the Council's budget. Ysgol Rhos Helyg has the benefit of a large playing field at the back which could potentially be used to extend the building, but it does not have any capacity to extend the car park. The parking situation is already strained, the new extension to the car park being unusable in wet weather, & parents having to park along the road & surrounding lanes, causing annoyance to local residents. I believe the most practical outcome would be to retain the current Ysgol Rhos Helyg, & join Brynford & Lixwm schools together into one.

#### 1.1.4. Non-Affiliated Comments

- These schools have been around for a long time and should be kept running, Smaller classes more attention paid to students/pupils.



- Would like to keep schools open for the community smaller schools better education in my opinion
- Having read fully the documents on the "area review options appraisal reports" and the "options appraisal document" also having attended both evenings in Lixwm and Brynford respectively. I have decided for Option 3 on the documentation I have read, but more over, feel this is the best option, both for parents, the community and most importantly "our children" who will be the "future generation".
- Mr Budd, Mr Bithell ...Please put the interests of the Children, Staff, Parents AND community before your self interests of saving money.
- All schools federate and become CiW VCP schools  
I hope that this exercise is not a result of a shortage of pupils for the new Holywell school?
- It's important to keep Brynford school open, closing or merging the schools into one is NOT an option in my eyes!  
This is a good school and is a firm first choice for most , you would be making the worse mistake possible closing !!!!!  
KEEP BRYNFORD OPEN!!!!
- Schools should not be closed
- keep all local schools

## 1.2. All Children's Comments in Full

### 1.2.1. Brynford C.P. School

- I have recently moved to brynford and my child is on the waiting list to enter Brynford CP school. I understand that the schools cannot remain in the current position but to upheave 3 schools would be too drastic depending on school numbers. Also it needs to be considered the impact on the children themselves and how they would get to their new school.
- I'd favour option 3 because it could make our school better and make it more popular. We could have more opportunities in competitions, we may have better technology and our classrooms may be better and more up to date.

### 1.2.2. Lixwm C.P. School

- There is already a document on the internet from FCC showing the lixwm school site as a suitable site for development if the school should close. If this happened, none of the options already discussed would cover the large increase in children this could produce. In the absence of a 5 year (or longer term) housing availability plan, how can any decisions be taken on the number of school places and their location?

### 1.2.3. Ysgol Rhos Helyg

- I love my school. Please don't take it away. I walk there sometimes across Halkyn Mountain from my Grans house. We all have the best time at Ysgol Rhos Helyg.
- I really want to stay at Rhos Helyg as I like all my teachers and like the way they teach me. I also enjoy going to after school club which I have to go too when my mum and dad are in work and can't collect me at 3.10 p.m., plus I also enjoy looking after the

school chickens which is done on a rota system. I also want to stay at Rhos Helyg as I want to go onto Mold Alun School

- I think that Rhos Helyg has made me feel very happy and let me achieve all my goals. Please don't change my school.
- I am in my last year at Rhos Helyg and it will be a shame for this school to close as I have had a great time here.
- I love my school. I love playing outside with my friends. I like seeing sheep. My teacher is friendly.
- I would prefer to stay at Rhos Helyg because its closer to home and I think my teacher is ace. I think I will get less attention and help if we have more children come to our school

#### 1.2.4. Non-Affiliated Comments

- Don't prevent people getting education!