



Community Impact Assessment

Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton

Proposal to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton (Welsh Medium Community) as of 31st August 2016

NOVEMBER 2015

Index

Number	Section
1	Introduction
2	Background
3	Sources of Information
4	Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupil Numbers• Pupil Home Location• Governing Body• Parent & Teacher Association• Additional Provision and Wrap-around-care• Community Facilities
5	Additional Consideration School Organisation Code
6	Community Impact Assessment
7	Summary of Potential Impact on the Community

1. Introduction

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

1.2 In this document the Council will:

- Summarise each of the issues in relation to community impact should the proposal be implemented

2.0 Background

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

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

- high expectations and a clear focus on improving teaching, learning and attainment in all school communities;
- all resources available to schools being focused on improving outcomes for children and young people in a context of annual budget pressures;
- a consistent approach to the collection, analysis and use of assessment information, including tracking systems, to target support and interventions; and
- continued commitment to the development of school staff.
- supporting, expanding and promoting Welsh-medium education within the whole community, increasing the number and percentage of pupils receiving Welsh-medium education in compliance with the Welsh Government's Welsh-Medium Education Strategy of developing learners who are fully bilingual (i.e. fluent in both English and Welsh) and where there is demand.

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

- 2.3 The School Modernisation Programme is required because we need to:
- Ensure education provision is both high quality and sustainable
 - Improve the quality of school buildings and facilities
 - Provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations
 - Address unsustainable school buildings and supporting infrastructure
 - Recognise that doing nothing means higher pupil teacher ratios as funding reduces
 - Ensure that we maximise external funding through the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme
- 2.4 The key 'drivers' or criteria for modernisation which underpin the above are:
- Educational improvement
 - Resilient school leadership
 - Suitable buildings
 - Unfilled places
 - Diminishing resources
- 2.5 The proposal is to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton Road, Penyffordd, Near Holywell, Flintshire, CH8 9JQ (Welsh Medium, community school) as of 31st August 2016 with the pupils transferring to the local network of schools based on parental preference.
- 2.6 The proposal is put forward on the basis of criteria laid down in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy, namely:-
- Unfilled places across the primary school portfolio – Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton, as at January 2015 (PLASC) had 48 full time pupils with unfilled places at 57.76%. As at September 2015 the school is 44 full time pupils, with unfilled places at 60.36%; (based on the current school capacity assessment of 111 full time pupils);
 - Diminishing resource criteria (i.e. small numbers within the community raise concern regarding sustainability within the school's portfolio);
 - Small School – The school population of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton is lower than national designation of a small school, additionally school numbers do not meet the minimum requirements of primary school models as noted in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy.
 - Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton is also currently (July 2015) in Welsh Government categorisation 4 (out of 1-4) with 4 being the lowest for standards.

3.0 Sources of Information

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

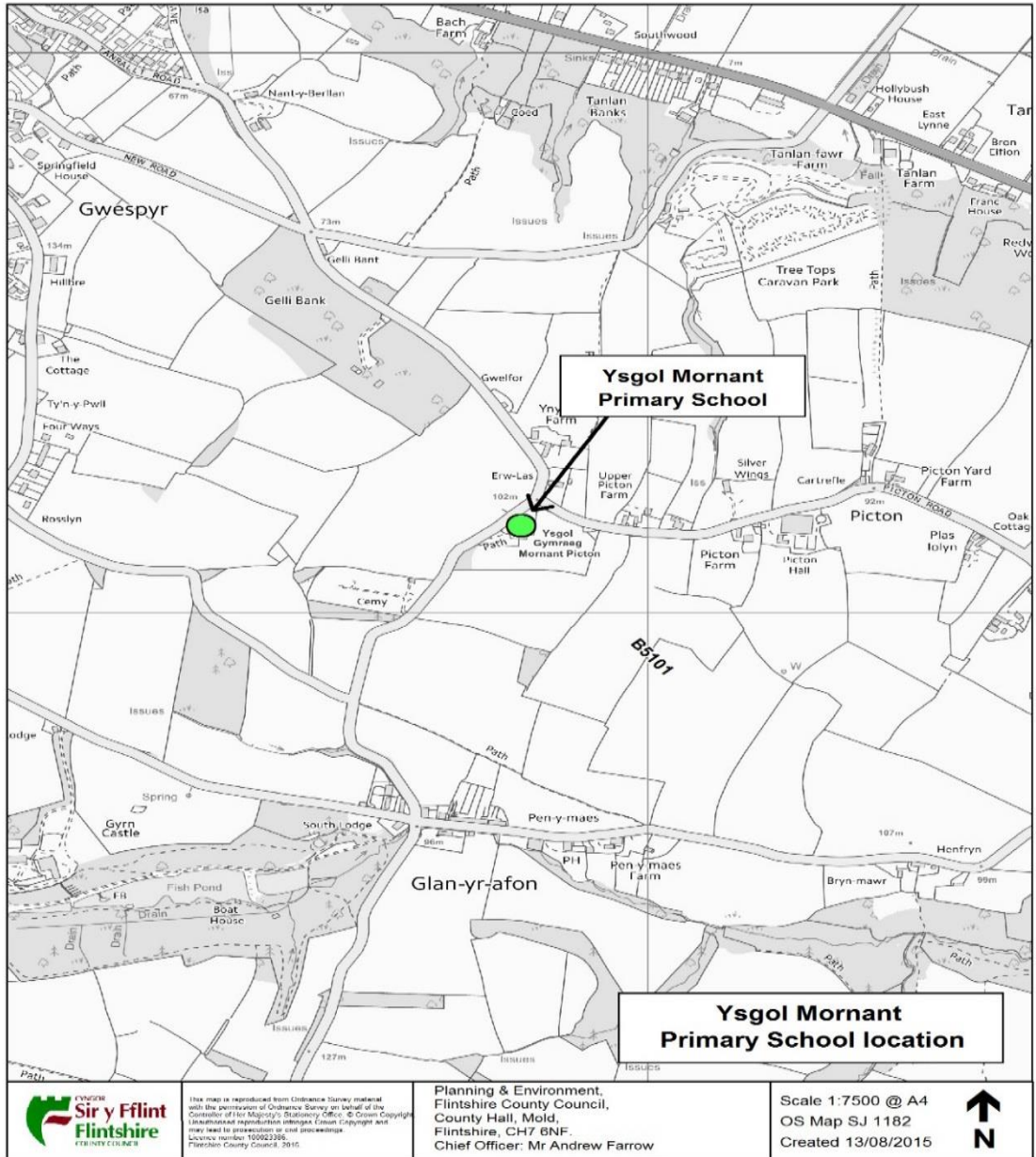
- Community Impact Questionnaire returned by the Acting Head teacher of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton
- PLASC January 2015 data
- Statistical information stored by the Council;
- Pre consultation responses

4.0 Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton

4.1 Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant is located in the village of Gwespyr-Picton. Ysgol Mornant, is a Welsh Medium primary school for pupils aged 3-11 years of age.



4.2 Location of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton



Pupil Numbers

- 4.3 As the current proposal relates to primary provision, should the proposal be implemented educational provision in Gwespyr Picton would cease. Parents/Carers would therefore need to seek alternative provision. The alternative provision has been identified of the basis of the same language designation for learners at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton as follows:-

Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell and

Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn (Denbighshire County Council)

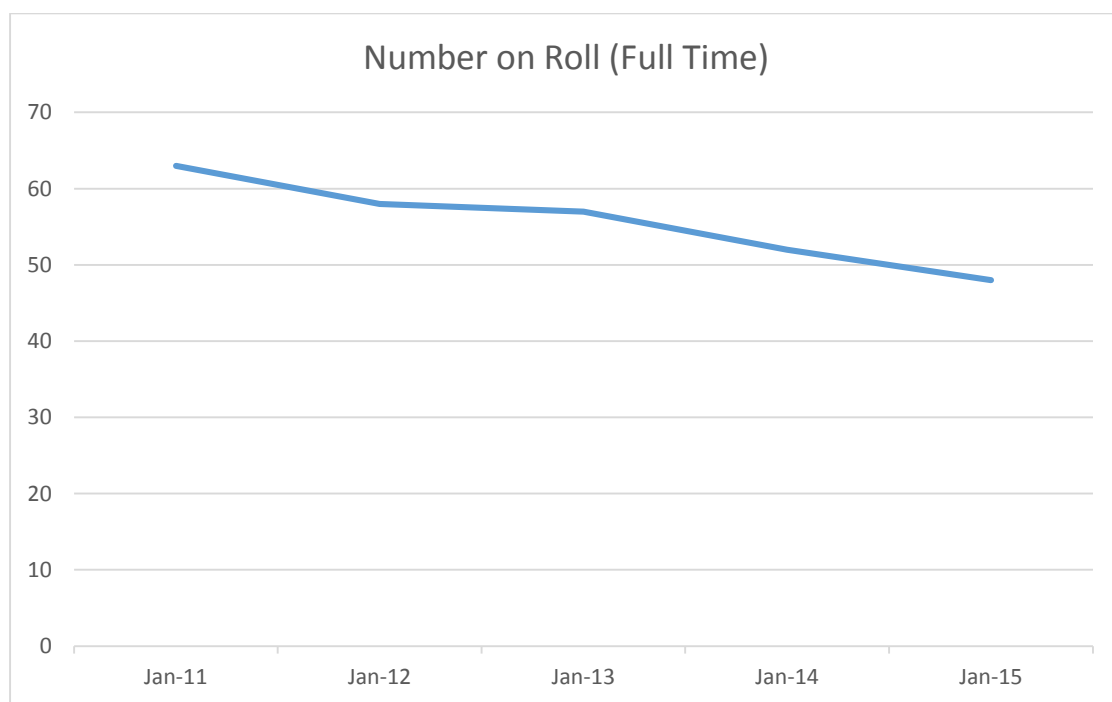
Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell and Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn (Denbighshire County Council) are also Welsh Medium community primary schools for pupils aged 3-11. The Council acknowledges that parents/carers may also wish to choose alternative provision in the area. These schools have been identified within the formal consultation document.

4.4 As of January 2015 Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton has 48 Full Time pupils on roll. Pupil numbers over a 5 year period are displayed below:

Numbers of **full time pupils** on Roll (*Source: Jan Annual PLASC*

Data) Jan 2011-2015

Jan 11	Jan 12	Jan 13	Jan 14	Jan 15
63	58	57	52	48



The actual number of full time pupils on roll as at September 2015 has been verified with Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton and Flintshire School Management Information Team, the school has 44 Full Time pupils on roll.

Pupil Home Location

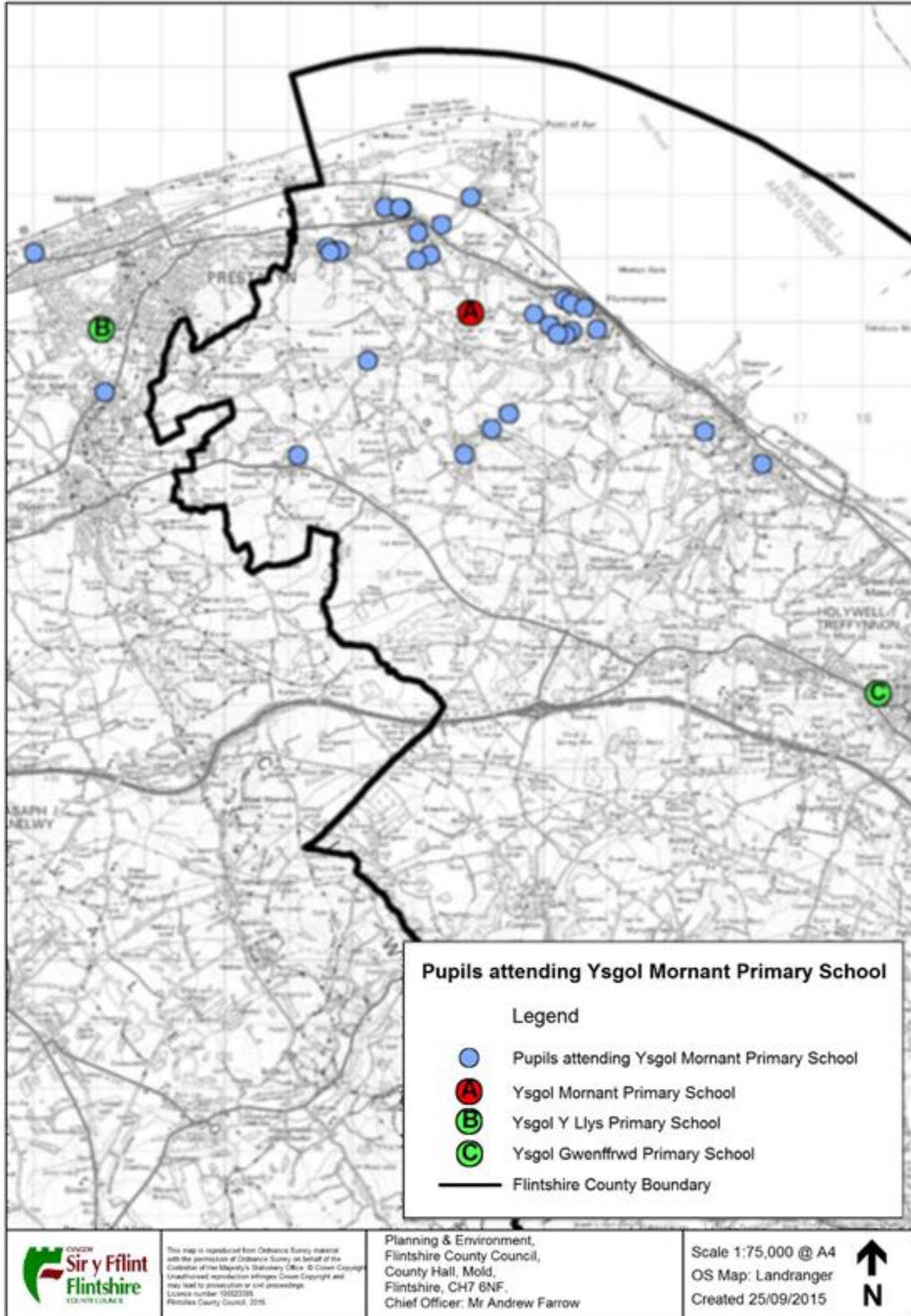
- 4.5 The Council's school admissions policy is based on the principle of attendance at the nearest suitable school, based on distance. The Council does not operate a system based on catchment areas. Schools are referred to as the 'nearest suitable school' which takes into account language and faith preference. Parents/carers may express a preference for any school for their child/children and as long as there are available spaces a place must be allocated.
- 4.6 In making this assessment, it is necessary to consider alternative schools (Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell and Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn (Denbighshire County Council) as the named provision within the documentation) which the current pupils of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton could attend.

Schools	Location	Approximate Distance from Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton (approx.)	Type	Language Category	Full Time Capacity
Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton Road, Penyffordd, Holywell, CH8 9JQ	Gwespyr-Picton	N/A	Community School	Welsh medium	111*
Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Whitford Street, Holywell, Flintshire, CH8 7NJ	Holywell	6.69 Miles	Community School	Welsh Medium	256
Ysgol Y Llys, Princes Avenue, Prestatyn, Denbighshire LL19 8RP	Prestatyn	4.37 Miles	Community School	Welsh Medium	420

Distance Source: Route Finder 3.41 Flintshire County Council Mapping System

* (based on the current school capacity assessment of 111 full time pupils);

4.7 The current home location of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton pupils (as at September 2015) is displayed in the map below;



4.8 **Percentage of pupils attending Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton** (Source: snap shot of pupils from the ONE system, September 2015)

School	% of pupils whose nearest Welsh Medium School is Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton	% of pupils where Ysgol Gymraeg is not their nearest Welsh medium school
Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton	90.9%	9.1%

Governing Body

4.9 Details of the Governing Body are provided in the table below:

Number of Local Authority Governors	2
Number of Parent Governors	3
Number of Community Governors	2
Number of Teacher Governors	1
Number of Community Council Governors	1
Number of Headteacher Governors	1
Total Number of Staff Governors	1
Total Number of Governors	11

Parent & Teacher Association

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

Additional Provision & Wrap-around-care

4.11 Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton does not offer wrap-around care¹, but it has a Cylch Meithrin group which operates from the school site.

Breakfast Club	Yes
After School Club	Yes
Holiday Club	No

¹ Wrap-around care is defined as Childcare which is provided at the school outside of core early years hours offered as pre nursery sessions

Community Facilities

4.12 The following community facilities were listed by the headteacher when completing the community impact assessment (July 2015).

Facility	Location
Llanasa Church	Llanasa

4.13 Community activities that take place at Ysgol Mornant are as follows:-

Activity	Frequency
Fundraising meetings for Eisteddfod Yr Urdd 2016	6 x per year
Dysgu Teulu	1 x per week

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

None at the time of writing this document

5 Additional Considerations School Organisation Code

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

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

6 Community Impact Assessment

6.1 This Impact Assessment is to consider the potential impact of the proposal to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton on families and the local community.

Impact Criteria	Comments	Impact	Measures to Reduce any Negative Impact	Residual Impact
Access to provision of the same designation	Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Gwespyr Picton is a community primary school. The alternative provision is identified as, Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell and located 6.69 miles from Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton and Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn and located 4.37 miles from Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton.	Neutral	No negative impact as the alternative provision provides the same designation	N/A
Access to provision of the same language medium	Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton is a Category 4 Welsh medium primary school. The identified nearby alternative provision, Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell (Category 3) and Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn (Category 3). Both currently have unfilled places and should the current proposal be implemented all schools could accommodate pupils who may wish to transfer from Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Gwespyr Picton.	Neutral	No negative impact as alternative provision provides the same language designation.	N/A
Impact of the current	Should the current proposal be implemented primary based educational		Other facilities do	

<p>proposal on the community of Gwespyr-Picton</p>	<p>provision would cease in the village of Gwespyr-Picton.</p>	<p>Negative</p>	<p>not exist within the village for community events, such as a village hall.</p> <p>The Council has no pre-determined plans for the school site should the school close. Planning for the future use of the school site will only take place once the future of the school has been determined.</p> <p>The Council could consider transferring the asset or part of a constituted community group where they can demonstrate a need and ability to take over the running of the site.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>
<p>Impact on neighbouring schools</p>	<p>The proposal would have an impact on Ysgol Gwenffridd, Holywell and Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn, subject to parental preference. There are places available within the system for the pupils of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton within the neighbouring schools. The impact on neighbouring schools would be minimal due to the current and projected number of unfilled places within the area.</p> <p>As stated earlier places are available in the alternative schools identified.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Impact on pupils</p>	<p>When proposing changes to school organisation it is acknowledged that there will be some changes for pupils.</p>	<p>Educational standards –</p>	<p>Flintshire County Council would take</p>	

	<p>Should the proposal be implemented and Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton closed existing pupils would experience change. The main changes for the existing pupils of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton identified by the Council pre-consultation are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new or longer route to school; • A new uniform; • New teachers; • New learning environment; and • Impact on friendship groups. 	<p>Positive Impact</p> <p>Transport eligibility – Neutral Impact</p> <p>Journey Times – Negative Impact</p>	<p>all practicable steps to ease the transition for all pupils, most especially for vulnerable groups of learners such as ALN. Should the proposal be implemented the council would arrange transition days for pupils to familiarise themselves with their new environments (subject to parental preference). Any pupils receiving additional support would be replicated in their new learning environment.</p> <p>Uniform exchange may be available for pupils subject to parental preference.</p> <p>For most pupils the distance travelled would increase, however this would not be in excess of the learner travel (Wales) Measure 2008.</p>	<p>Neutral/ Positive</p>
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<p>Impact on parents and families</p>	<p>There is potential for an impact on parents/carers from Gwespyr-Picton if their pupils transfer to nearby schools.</p> <p>The loss of the school as an informal social environment for parents/carers to interact would have an impact on parents.</p> <p>There is potential for an impact on for prospective parents from Gwespyr-Picton as the Cylch Meithrin Mornant is located on the Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton site.</p>	<p>Educational standards – Positive Impact</p> <p>Transport Eligibility – Neutral Impact</p> <p>Journey Time – Negative Impact</p>	<p>Whilst there is potential for there to be an impact on parents and families. The proposal could have a positive impact on parents and families through an improved educational provision and access to increased larger group of parents and families being part of a larger school community.</p> <p>For most pupils the distance travelled would increase, however this would not be in excess of the learner travel (Wales) Measure 2008.</p>	<p>Neutral/ Positive</p>
<p>Impact on Learner Travel Arrangements</p>	<p>Some pupils may have a further distance to travel to school should the current proposal be implemented.</p> <p>Should parents/carers choose to send their child/children to their nearest appropriate school to their home address all pupils would be entitled to free school transport. The per annum cost would be approximately £26,600. This analysis includes the current Nursery aged pupils in Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton. The Council does not transport nursery aged pupils however it is assumed that the nursery pupils would transition to the reception class as of September 2015 and would then be eligible as full time pupils.</p> <p>A number of the pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton reside in the county of Denbighshire, transport eligibility would be</p>	<p>Negative</p>	<p>The proposal has been developed in line with Learner Travel Operational Guidance provided by the Welsh Government (guidance revised in 2014). Based on the pupils current home locations and proximity to alternative</p>	<p>Neutral</p>

	<p>managed by Denbighshire County Council. A copy of the consultation report will be forwarded to them for information.</p> <p>The Transport Impact Assessment for this proposal can be found at the following link:-</p> <p>www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation</p>		<p>provision all travel distances would be within the guidance.</p> <p>Pupils could not utilise walking routes within the village of Gwespyr Picton.</p>	
Impact on community demographics	<p>The Council acknowledges that the proposal will have some impact on the community of Gwespyr-Picton.</p> <p>The loss of the school would impact on a limited number of community activities currently taking place at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton.</p> <p>There is no approved planning applications for housing developments for the Gwespyr-Picton area.</p> <p>Cylch Meithrin Mornant offers part time funded educational places for three year olds (Early Entitlement), a parent & toddler group (Ti a Fi) and wrap around care for Nursery pupils (Meithrin Mwy).</p>	Negative	<p>The Council could consider transferring the asset or part of the asset to a constituted community group where it can demonstrate a need and ability to take over the running of the site.</p> <p>Measures could be adopted to lessen the impact to ensure that the village of Gwespyr-Picton continues to thrive through fostering close links between the community and the alternative schools.</p>	Neutral

Overview of potential impact on families and the local community

	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Overall Impact*	0	3	5

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

Overview of residual impact on families and the local community

	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Overall Impact*	0	3	2

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

7. Summary and Conclusions of Potential Impact on the Community

- 7.1 The impact assessment has identified a number of possible areas where the proposal could have some negative impact on a number of local families and on the local community.
- 7.2 The loss of the school would have a limited impact on the community activities taking place and the community facilities within Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton.
- 7.3 The Council has no plans for the school site should the school close. Planning for the school site will only take place once the future of the school has been determined. The Council could consider transferring the asset or part of the asset to a constituted community group where they can demonstrate a need and ability to take over the running of the site.