



Community Impact Assessment

Ysgol Llanfynydd

Proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd
(English Medium Community) as of 31st August 2016

OCTOBER 2015

Index

| Number | Section |
|--------|---|
| 1 | Introduction |
| 2 | Background |
| 3 | Sources of Information |
| 4 | Ysgol Llanfynydd <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 Llanfynydd as of 31st August 2016 with existing pupils transferring to other nearby schools subject to parental preference.

1.2 In this document the Council will:

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

2.0 Background

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

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

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

2.2 Flintshire County 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 Llanfynydd (English Medium, community school) as of 31st August 2016 with the pupils transferring to the local network of schools based on parental preference.

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

- Unfilled places across the primary school portfolio – Ysgol Llanfynydd as at January 2015 (PLASC¹) had 42 full time pupils with unfilled places at 47.5%. As of September 2015 the school population is 34 full time pupils with unfilled places at 57.5%.
- Diminishing resource criteria (schools supported by pupils not from their local community and/or small numbers within the community raise concern regarding sustainability within the school's portfolio); 44% of pupils attending Ysgol Llanfynydd are not their nearest school, and
- Small School Criteria – The School population and capacity of Ysgol Llanfynydd 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.

3.0 Sources of Information

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

- Community Impact Questionnaire returned by the Head teacher of Ysgol Llanfynydd (completed in July 2015);

¹ PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census

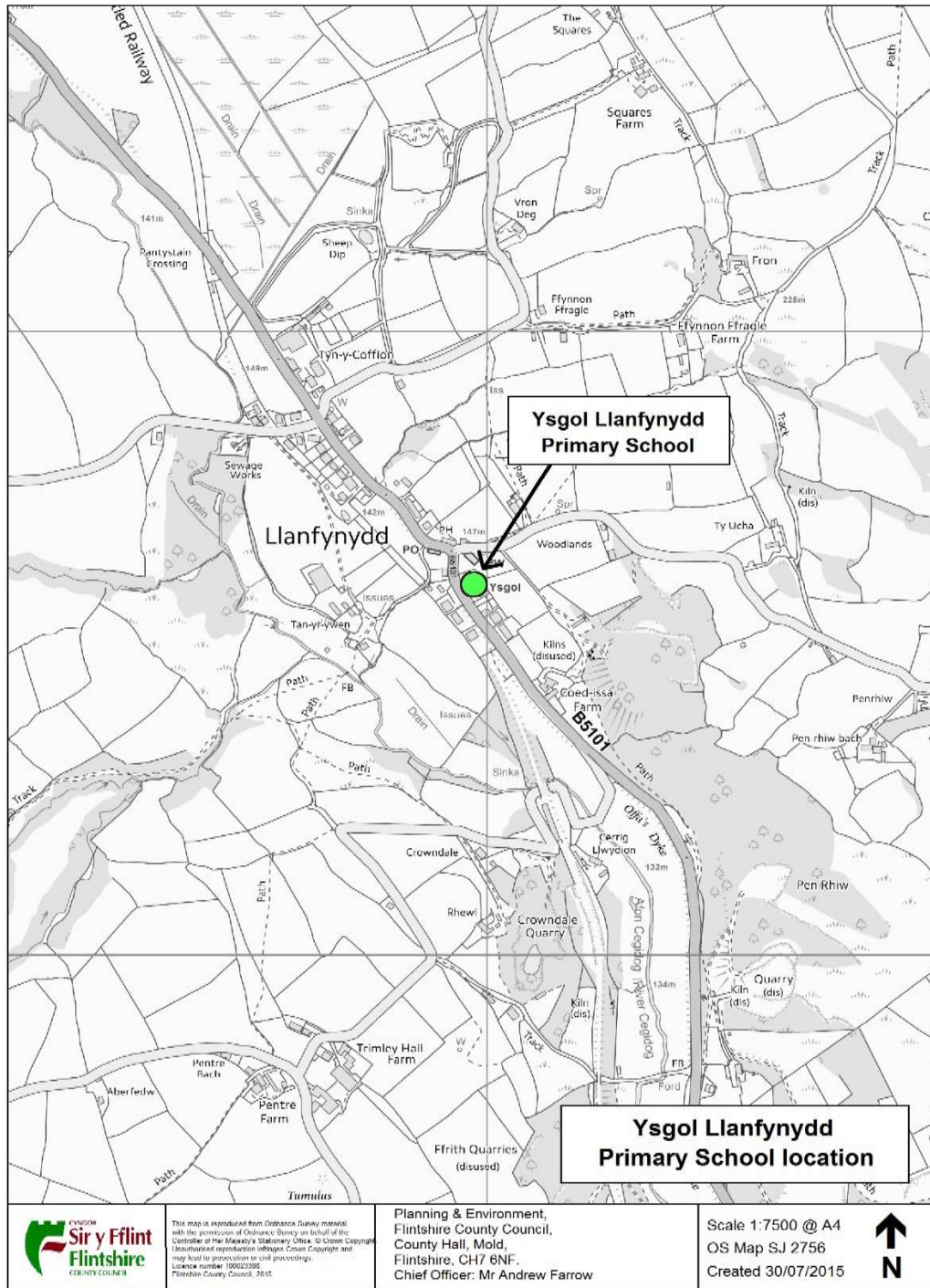
- PLASC January 2015 data;
- Statistical information stored by the Council; and
- Informal consultation responses.

4.0 Ysgol Llanfynydd

4.1 Ysgol Llanfynydd is located in the village of Llanfynydd. Ysgol Llanfynydd is an English Medium primary school for pupils aged 3-11 years of age. It is currently Category 2 for standards in the Wales Government categorisation model.



4.2 Location of Ysgol Llanfynydd is shown below;



Pupil Numbers

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

Ysgol Parc Y Llan in Treuddyn

Abermorddu C.P School

Ysgol Estyn, Hope and

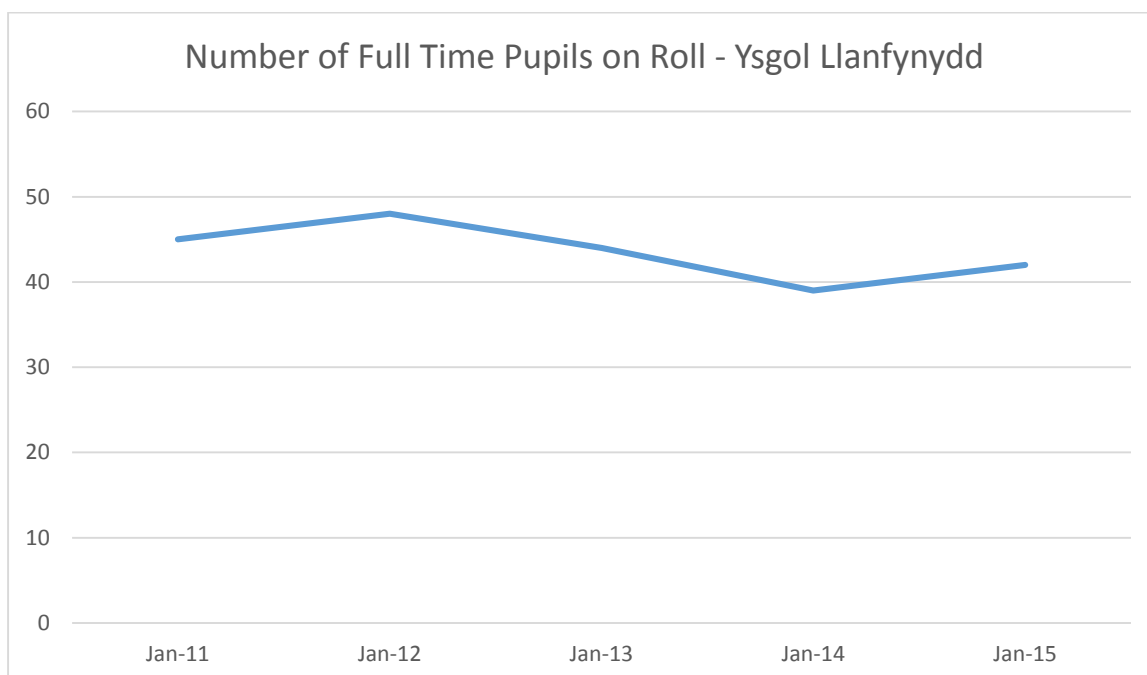
Bwlchgwyn C.P School, Brymbo, Wrexham and

Ysgol Parc Y Llan in Treuddyn, Abermorddu C.P School Ysgol Estyn Hope, and Bwlchgwyn C.P Wrexham are also English Medium community primary schools for pupils aged 3-11. The Council acknowledges that parents may wish to choose alternative provision in the area. These schools have been identified within the formal consultation document.

- 4.3 As of January 2015 Ysgol Llanfynydd has 42 Full Time pupils on roll. As of September 2015 Ysgol Llanfynydd had 34 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 |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 45 | 48 | 44 | 39 | 42 |



The actual number of full time pupils on roll as at September 2015 has been verified with Ysgol Llanfynydd and Flintshire's School Management Information Team, the school has 34 Full Time pupils on roll.

The Council acknowledges that statutory consultation around school organisation change will cause a level of uncertainty within the local school community, which can be a contributory factor in pupil number reduction.

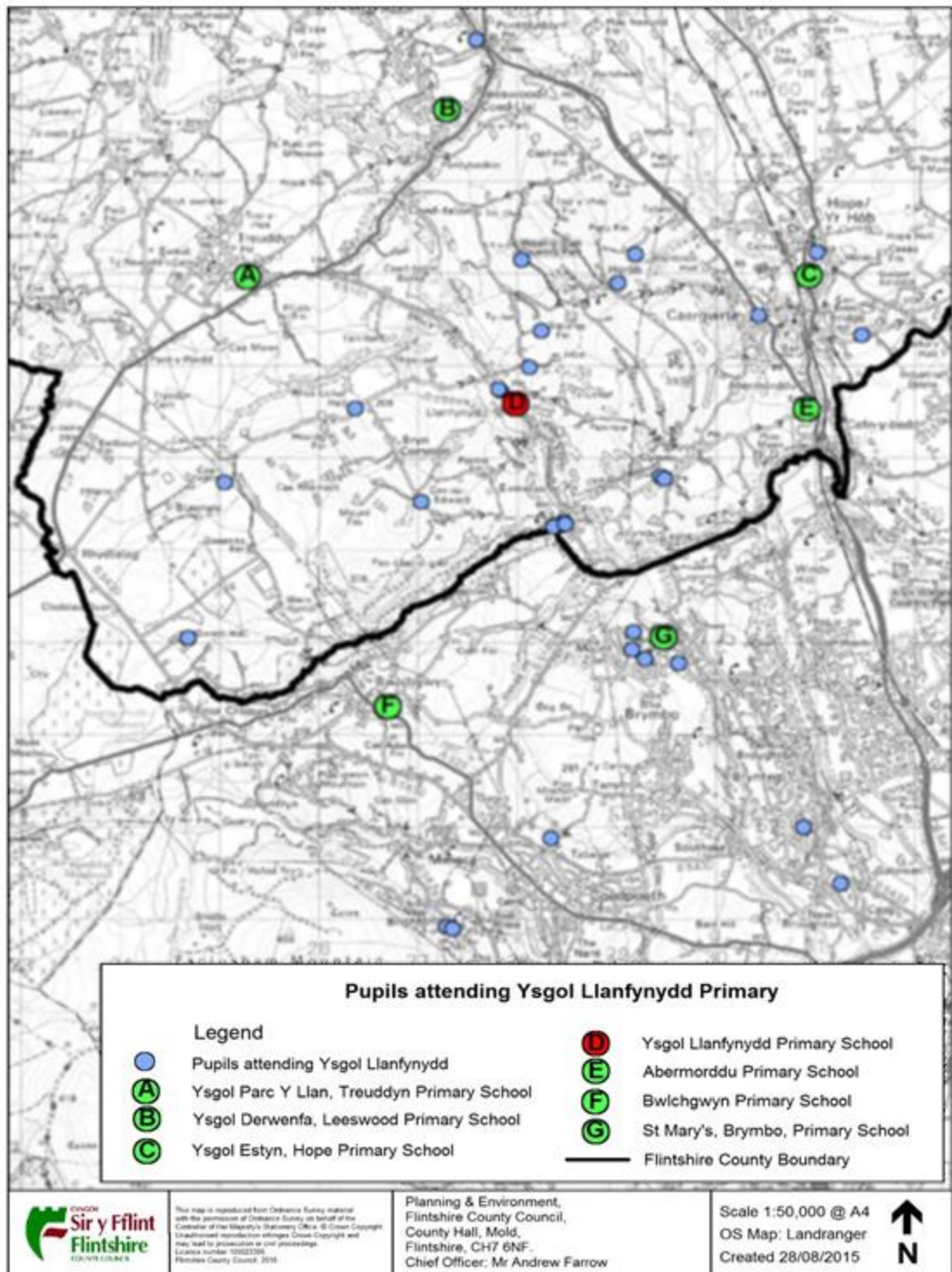
Pupil Home Location

- 4.4 The Council operates school admissions on a parental preference basis not a catchment area basis. Schools are referred to as the ‘nearest suitable school’ which takes into account language and faith preference. Parental preference means parents may choose any school for their child/children as long as there are available spaces.
- 4.5 In making this assessment, it is necessary to consider alternative schools (inclusive of Ysgol Parc Y Llan in Treuddyn, Abermorddu C.P School, Ysgol Estyn, and Bwlchgwyn C.P School as the named provision within the documentation) which the current pupils of Ysgol Llanfynydd could potentially attend;

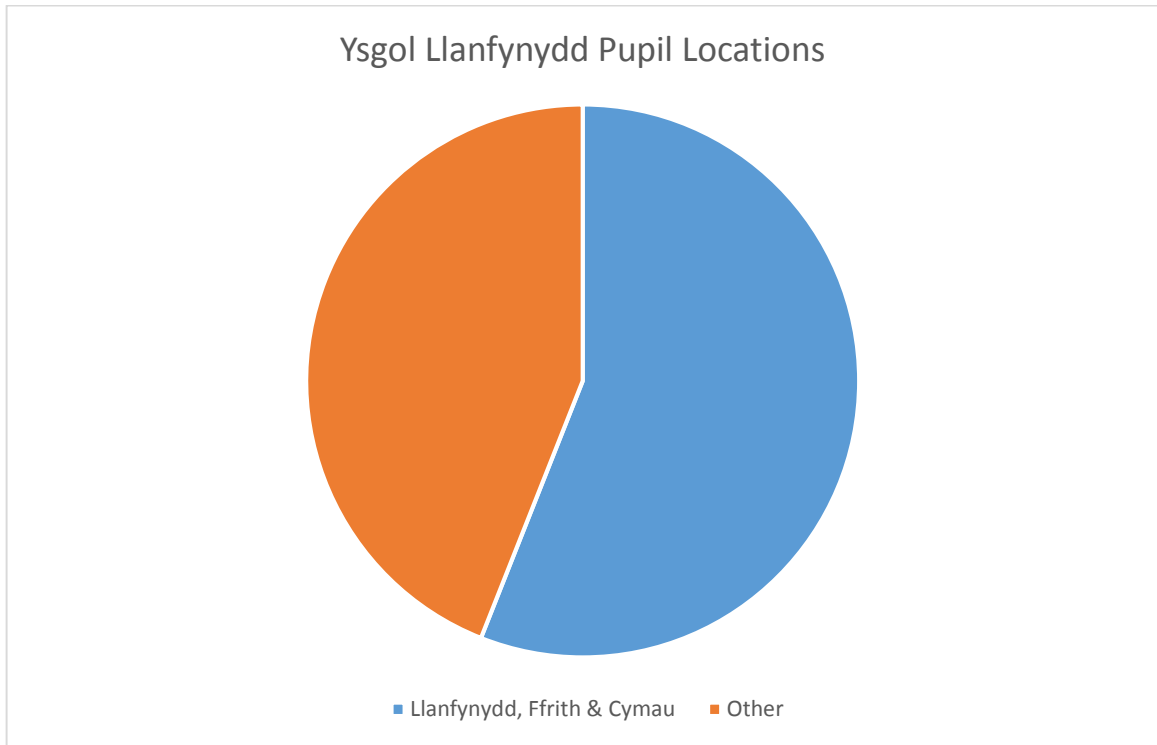
| Schools | Location | Approximate Distance from Ysgol Llanfynydd (approx.) | Type & Category | Language Category | Full Time Capacity |
|---|------------|--|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ysgol Llanfynydd, Llanfynydd, Near Wrexham, LL11 5HG | Llanfynydd | N/A | Community (Category 2) | English Medium | 80 |
| Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Ffordd y Llan, Treuddyn, Mold, CH7 4LN | Treuddyn | 2.11 Miles | Community (Category 1) | English Medium | 106 (Jan PLASC) 111 (September 2015) |
| Abermorddu Community Primary School, Cymau Lane, Abermorddu, LL12 9DH | Abermorddu | 2.12 Miles | Community (Category 3) | English Medium | 206 |
| Ysgol Estyn, Hawarden Road, Hope, LL12 9NL | Hope | 3.05 miles | Community (Category 3) | English Medium | 216 |
| Bwlchgwyn C.P School, Brymbro Road, Bwlchgwyn, Wrexham, LL11 5UD | Bwlchgwyn | 4.11 Miles | Community (Category 3) | English Medium | 98 |

Distance Source: Route Finder 3.41 Flintshire County Council Mapping System

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



4.8 The chart below displays the current (September 2015) home location for Ysgol Llanfynydd pupils. This shows that over half of the schools pupils live inside of the village of Llanfynydd and nearby villages of Ffrith and Cymau.



4.9 Percentage of pupils not attending Ysgol Llanfynydd as their nearest school (Source: snap shot of pupils from the ONE system, September 2015)

| School | % of pupils who reside in Llanfynydd village | % of pupils who reside in Llanfynydd/Ffrith/Cymau | % of pupils who reside in other areas |
|------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Ysgol Llanfynydd | 17.6% | 55.8% | 44% |

Governing Body

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

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

Parent & Teacher Association

4.11 There is a parent and teacher association at the school which meets on a regular basis.

Additional Provision & Wrap-around-care

4.12 Ysgol Llanfynydd does not offer wrap-around care². The Headteacher has indicated on their community impact assessment that the school has commenced a 'Mini Villagers Montessori Play Group' service which opened in September 2015. Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Abermorddu CP School and Ysgol Estyn, Hope, do not offer wrap around care but have good links with independent playgroups in the local area. Bwlchgwyn CP School, Wrexham does offer wrap-around care called the 'Cabin Crew' for early years' pupils.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Breakfast Club | Yes |
| After School Club | Yes |
| Holiday Club | No |
| Language Skills Clubs (French, ICT, Cook it, Rugby, Science, Gardening, Recorders) | Yes |

² 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

- 4.13 The following community facilities were listed by the Headteacher and through informal consultation feedback when completing the community impact assessment.

| Facility | Location |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Cross Keys Public House | In the village |
| Post Office | In the village |
| St Michaels Church | In the village |
| Clwyd Riding for the Disabled | Outskirts of the village |
| Children's Play Area | At rear of school – used for sports activities by school as there is no playing fields attached to the school |

- 4.14 Community activities that take place at Ysgol Llanfynydd are as follows:-

| Activity | Frequency |
|---|---|
| Breakfast club attended by Ysgol Llanfynydd pupils | Every day |
| Baby & Toddler and group | Once a month (commenced in September 2015) |
| After school club attended by Ysgol Llanfynydd pupils | Every day |
| Women's Institute | Once a month |
| Friends of Llanfynydd | Once of month |
| Friends of Llanfynydd events | 3 times a year |
| Rhythm Time | Once a week (commenced in September 2015) |
| Community Film Club | Once a month (commenced in September 2015) |
| Community Book Club | Once a month (commenced in September 2015) |
| Community Council | Once a month |

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

| Activity (e.g. Evening lessons, Local Interest Clubs, Youth Club etc.) | Location | Frequency (e.g. weekly, monthly, annually) |
|--|----------------|--|
| Ffrith Duck Race | Ffrith Village | Annually |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--------|
| Archery | Ffrith & Llanfynydd Community Centre, Ffrith | Weekly |
| Photography | Ffrith & Llanfynydd Community Centre, Ffrith | Weekly |
| Dance Class | Ffrith & Llanfynydd Community Centre, Ffrith | Weekly |
| Community Café | Ffrith & Llanfynydd Community Centre, Ffrith | Weekly |
| Vegetable Cooperative | Ffrith & Llanfynydd Community Centre, Ffrith | Weekly |
| Quiz Night | Cross Keys Public House, Llanfynydd Village | Weekly |
| Folk Night | Cross Keys Public House, Llanfynydd Village | Weekly |
| Rainbows Group | Cymau Community Centre, Cymau | Weekly |
| Brownies Group | Cymau Community Centre, Cymau | Weekly |
| Hog Roast Night | Cymau Community Centre, Cymau | Annual |
| Quiz Night | Cymau Community Centre, Cymau | Annual |
| Cymau Quarry Conservation Group | Cymau Community Centre, Cymau | Annual |

4.16 Any additional comments are summarised below:

Informal consultation information indicates Ysgol Llanfynydd has a school clock in memory for a pupil and there is also memorial garden in memory for a pupil.

The Council with liaise with the community regarding the above should Ysgol Llanfynydd close.

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

6 Community Impact Assessment

6.1 This impact assessment is to consider the potential impact on families and the local community from the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd and transfer pupils to nearby school subject to parental preference.

| Impact Criteria | Comments | Initial Impact | Measures to Reduce any Negative Impact | Residual Impact After Measures |
|--|---|----------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Access to provision of the same faith designation | <p>Ysgol Llanfynydd is community primary school.</p> <p>The identified nearby alternative provision, Ysgol Parc Y Llan in Treuddyn, Abermorddu C.P School, Ysgol Estyn Hope, and Bwlchgwyn C.P School, Wrexham are within 2-5 miles from Ysgol Llanfynydd.</p> | Neutral | No negative impact as the alternative provision provides the same faith designation. | N/A |
| Access to provision of the same language medium | <p>Ysgol Llanfynydd is a Category 2 English medium primary school.</p> <p>The identified nearby alternative provision, Ysgol Parc Y Llan in Treuddyn (category 1), Abermorddu C.P School (category 3), Ysgol Estyn in Hope (category 3), and Bwlchgwyn C.P School, Wrexham (category 3) All schools currently have some unfilled places and should the current proposal be implemented all schools could accommodate pupils who may wish to transfer from Ysgol Llanfynydd if space is available.</p> | Neutral | No negative impact as alternative provision provides the same language designation. | N/A |
| Impact of the current proposal on the community of Llanfynydd | Should the current proposal be implemented primary based educational provision would cease in the village of Llanfynydd. | Negative | <p>Other facilities do not exist within the village of Llanfynydd for community events, such as a village hall.</p> <p>The Council has no plans for school site should the school close. Planning for the school site will only take place once the future of the school has been determined.</p> <p>The Council could consider transferring the asset or part of a constituted community group where they can</p> | Neutral |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------|--|-----|
| | | | <p>demonstrate a need and ability to take over the running of the site.</p> <p>Llanfynydd community has links with the village of Ffrith (approximately 0.8 miles from Llanfynydd) – in Ffrith there is a village hall and events involving Ffrith and Llanfynydd community association are already in place.</p> <p>There is also a community Centre in Cymau (approximately 1.8 miles from Llanfynydd)</p> <p>It has been noted that Ffrith and Llanfynydd Community Association is independent of Llanfynydd Community Council.</p> | |
| Impact on neighbouring schools | <p>The proposal would have an impact on Ysgol Parc Y Llan in Treuddyn, Abermorddu C.P School, Ysgol Estyn Hope, and Bwlchwyn C.P School Wrexham subject to parental preference. There are places available within the system for the pupils of Ysgol Llanfynydd 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>Places are available in Ysgol Parc Y Llan in Treuddyn and Abermorddu C.P School, Ysgol Estyn Hope, and Bwlchwyn C.P School.</p> | Neutral | N/A | N/A |

| | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------|---|----------------|
| <p>Impact on pupils</p> | <p>When proposing changes to school organisation the Council acknowledges that there will be some changes for pupils.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented and Ysgol Llanfynydd close existing pupils would experience change. The main changes for the existing pupils of Ysgol Llanfynydd would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new or longer route to school; • A new school uniform; • New teachers and support staff; • New learning environment • Impact on friendship groups | <p>Negative</p> | <p>Flintshire County Council would take all practicable steps to ease the transition for all pupils, most especially for vulnerable groups of learners such as Additional Learning Needs.</p> <p>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>Neutral</p> |
| <p>Impact on parents and families</p> | <p>There is potential for a greater impact on parents/carers from Llanfynydd village if pupils transfer to nearby schools.</p> <p>Ysgol Llanfynydd pupils are from dispersed areas, a number pupils coming from the Wrexham area.</p> <p>The Council recognises that closing a school in a village would change the social environment and dynamics for parents/carers to interact.</p> | <p>Negative</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 and provide access to an</p> | <p>Neutral</p> |

| | | | | |
|--|--|----------|---|---------|
| | | | increased group of parents and families being part of a larger school community. | |
| Impact on Learner Travel Arrangements | <p>Some pupils may have a further distance to travel to school should the current proposal be implemented.</p> <p>Should parents/carers residing in Flintshire choose to send their child/children to their nearest appropriate school to their home address 17 pupils residing in Flintshire would be entitled to free school transport. The per annum cost would be approximately £16,150. This analysis includes the current Nursery aged pupils in Ysgol Llanfynydd. 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 Llanfynydd reside in the county of Wrexham, transport eligibility would be managed by Wrexham County Borough 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:- www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation</p> | Negative | <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 provision all travel distances would be within the guidance.</p> <p>In some instances pupils would have a reduced distance from their home location to the alternative provision.</p> <p>Pupils could not utilise walking routes within the village, due to the rural location of the village of Llanfynydd.</p> <p>There is a small number of bus routes which run in and out of the village of Llanfynydd.</p> | Neutral |

| | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------|--|----------------|
| <p>Impact on community demographics</p> | <p>The Council acknowledges that the proposal will have some limited impact on the community of Llanfynydd.</p> <p>The loss of the school would impact on the community activities currently taking place at Ysgol Llanfynydd.</p> <p>There are no identified concerns with the loss of the school from the community in relation with Local Development Plans. There is no planned housing developments currently in place for the Llanfynydd area.</p> <p>It has been noted that the housing demographics are changing in the Abermorddu area, as there is some planned housing development. The future housing development is not expected to generate significant new pupil numbers in the area, however it is the Council's view that the local school network has the capacity to sustain the necessary potential impact of currently and future housing developments.</p> | <p>Negative</p> | <p>Flintshire Council would take all practicable steps to ensure that the community of Llanfynydd continued to thrive.</p> <p>Access to quality alternative community facilities such as accessing nearby village facilities such as Ffrith and Llanfynydd Community Centre and also Cymau Community Centre could be explored. 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 Llanfynydd continues to thrive through fostering close links between the community and the alternative schools.</p> | <p>Neutral</p> |
|--|--|-----------------|--|----------------|

Overview of potential impact on families and the local community

| | Positive | Neutral | Negative |
|-----------------|----------|---------|----------|
| Overall Impact* | 0 | 3 | 5 |

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

Overview of residual impact on families and the local community

| | Positive | Neutral | Negative |
|-----------------|----------|---------|----------|
| Overall Impact* | 0 | 5 | 0 |

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

7. Summary and Conclusions of the Potential Impact on the Community

- 7.1 The impact assessment has identified a number of possible areas where the proposal could have some negative impact on a small number of local families and on the local community.
- 7.2 The loss of the school would impact on the community activities taking place and the community facilities within Ysgol Llanfynydd. There may be some scope for a number of activities currently taking place on the school site to relocate to another location potentially to the Ffrith and Llanfynydd community hall based in the village of Ffrith, or Cymau Community Centre based in the village of Cymau.
- 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.