



Community Impact Assessment

**Area Schools Review:- Options for the area of Brynford,
Lixwm & Rhosesmor**

Version 1: June 2016

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1. Introduction

In June 2015 Cabinet determined that we enter into informal consultation for an area review for the following schools:

Brynford C.P School
Lixwm C.P. School
Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor

The area school review will assess the education provision in the area of Brynford, Lixwm and Rhosesmor.

The options for the area are as follows:-

Option 1 : Status Quo

Option 2 : Area School on One Site

Option 3 : Retain Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor and one Area School on one site (either Brynford C.P. or Lixwm C.P. School).

This would mean the following:-

Option 1 : Status Quo – Each school remains as it is, retains its name, category, budget, governors, staff and remains in its community.

Option 2 : Area school on one site – Area school – one site, the school would retain its category but would have a new name, governing body, head and budget and would remain in one of the communities either Brynford, Lixwm or Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor.

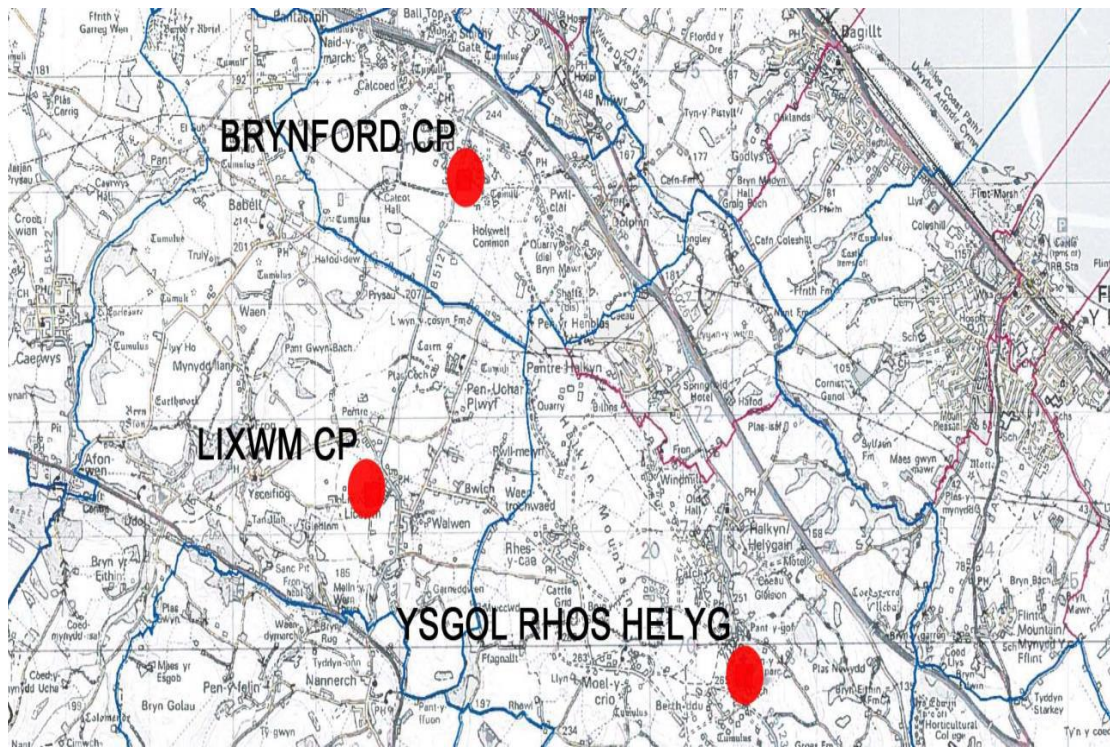
Option 3 : Area Schools on two sites – Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor would remain as it is, retain its name, category, budget, governors, staff and would remain in its community. Brynford C.P. and Lixwm C.P. would amalgamate onto one site. The amalgamated school would remain in one of the communities either Brynford or Lixwm.

Key information, including an Options Appraisal, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Community Impact Assessments and Building Appraisals, has been undertaken in order to inform this report and is available to view on the following link:-

www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation

2.0 Brynford/Lixwm/Rhosesmor Area Profile

Map showing the Area



There are three primary schools covering the area – Brynford C.P. School is within the parish ward of Brynford, Lixwm C.P. School is in the parish ward of Ysceifiog and Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor is in the parish ward of Halkyn. All the three wards are categorised by the office of National Statistics as being within a hamlet or isolated settlement in inhabited countryside.

All three schools are classed as English Medium Primary Schools.

Based on the Office of National Statistics Census 2011 the combined population for the Brynford, Ysceifiog and Halkyn parish wards is 5224.

There are no current housing development planning applications approved for the Brynford, Lixwm and Rhosesmor areas.

Community Facilities

Based on the information provided by the Headteachers in their completed community questionnaire, the following facilities within the area are available for community use:

Area	Community Facility
Brynford	Brynford Village Hall St Michael's Church Calcoed Chapel

Lixwm	Ysceifiog Village Hall Chapel Church
Rhosesmor	Rhosesmor Village Hall

Businesses

Based on the information provided by the Headteachers in their completed community questionnaire, there is a number of businesses within in the area

Area	Businesses
Brynford	Oares Coaches Brynford Shop Holywell Golf Club Pet Cemetery and Café Wendy House Nursery Halkyn Quarry Glan yr Afon Inn Crooked Horn Inn Kennels
Lixwm	Public House
Rhosesmor	Not completed by the Headteacher

Further School Information

Details of the Governing Bodies are provided in the table below:

	Brynford	Lixwm	Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhousesmor
Number of Local Authority Governors	2	2	3
Number of Parent Governors	3	3	4
Number of Community Governors	2	2	3
Number of minor authority governors(if applicable)*	1	1	1
Number of Teacher Governors	1	1	1
Number of Staff Governors	1	1	1
Number of Headteacher Governors	1	1	1
Total Number of Governors	11	11	14

		Brynford	Lixwm	Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhousesmor
Percentage/number of full time pupils not attending their local school				
		57.63%	48.83%	10.09%
Services provided by the school for the community, including extra curricular activities				
Breakfast Club	Term Time	Daily	Daily	Daily
After School Club	Term Time	Daily	Daily	Daily
URDD Club	Term Time	3 x per week		
Extra-Curricular Sports Club	Term Time	3 x per week	1 or 2 x per week	
Cookery Club	Term Time	1 x per week		
First Aid Club	Term Time	1 x per week		
Heart Start	Term Time	1 x per week		
Eco Club	Term Time	1 x per week		
Choir	Term Time	1 x per week		
Holiday Care Club	Out of Term	Daily		Daily
French Club	Term Time	Daily for 8 weeks	1 x per week	
Art and Craft Club	Term Time	Daily for 12 weeks	1 x per week	

Computer Club	Term Time		1 x per week	
Community facilities used regularly by the school				
Church	Term Time	3 x Annually	1 x Annually	Annually
Village Hall	Term Time	Monthly	Monthly	Annually
Llwyn Tew Forest	Term Time		1 x weekly for 2 terms	
Chapel	Term Time	2 x Annually		Annually
Park	Term Time		4 or 5 times Annually	
Local Farm	Term Time		Annually	
Public House	Term Time		Annually	
Halkyn Quarry	Term Time		Annually	
Pet Cemetery and Café	Term Time	Monthly		
National Cycle Route	Term Time	3 x Annually		
Pantasaph Priory	Term Time	Annually		
All weather pitch	Term Time and Out of Term	38 weeks per year		
Brynford Park	Term Time	4 x Annually		
Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises				
Brownies	Term Time	Weekly		
Cool Kidz	Term Time	Daily		
Community Council	Term Time and Out of Time	Monthly		
Urdd Fundraising Committee	Term Time	3 x Annually		
Mountain Ranger	Term Time and Out of Term Time	4 x Annually		
Flintshire County Council Playscheme	Out of Term Time	Daily for 3 weeks		
Community Facilities Committee	Term Time and Out of Term Time	4 x annually		
Friends of School	Term Time	12 x Annually		
Dragon Sports	Term Time	12 x Annually		
Community Celebrations	Term Time	Annually		

Cheeky Monkeys	Term Time and Out of Term	12 x Annually		
Book Club	Term Time	4 x per Month		
Football Club	Term Time	Weekly		
WI Hall	Term Time		Annually	
Staff Fitness	Term Time		Weekly	
School Field	Out of Hours		4 x Monthly	

5.0 Community Impact Assessment

The following options were considered when assessing the community impacts for the area review.

- Option 1 - Status Quo
- Option 2 - Area School on One Site
- Option 3 - Retain Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor and one Area school on one site (either Brynford C.P. or Lixwm C.P. School site)

Each of the schools within the area provided information about their role in the community (see previous page). Using these details and other information, the following potential impacts have been assessed.

MEASURE	COMMENTS	OPTION 1 STATUS QUO	OPTION 2 AREA SCHOOL ON ONE SITE	OPTION 3 RETAIN YSGOL RHOS HELYG AND ONE AREA SCHOOL ON ONE SITE (EITHER BRYNFORD OR LIXWM)	MEASURES TO REDUCE ANY NEGATIVE IMPACT	RESIDUAL IMPACT
Access to provision of the same faith designation	The three schools in the area are community primary schools. Options 2 and 3 would also be of the same designation and located a maximum of 6 miles from each other	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	No negative impact as Options 2 and 3 provides the same faith designation.	N/A
Access to provision of the same language medium	The three schools in the area are English medium Primary Schools.	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	No negative impact as Options 2 and 3 would provide the same language designation.	N/A
Impact on the community	Should Option 2 be implemented primary based education would cease in two villages. Should Option 3 be implemented primary based education would cease in one village. Brynford and Lixwm C.P School provide comparable range of activities, none of which require specialist facilities. It is anticipated that if Options 2 or 3 were implemented they would provide a similar or greater number of activities.	Neutral	Negative/ Positive	Negative/Positive	Other facilities do exist in Brynford/Lixwm and Rhosesmor for community events, such as a village hall. Depending on which option is implemented school sites would be potentially redesigned with community use in mind, this could be a positive for the current communities.	Neutral

Impact on local businesses	All local conveniences are in close proximity of or en route to the schools if either Option 2 or 3 were implemented there may be potential for businesses to benefit from additional school traffic.	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	No negative impact as local businesses may benefit from additional school traffic	N/A
Impact on neighbouring schools	Options 2 and 3 would not impact on neighbouring schools as the proposed area schools would have the capacity to accommodate all pupils within the current cohorts.	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	N/A	N/A
Impact on pupils	<p>When proposing changes to school organisation it is acknowledged that there will be some changes for pupils if either Options 2 or 3 were implemented.</p> <p>Should Option 2 be implemented existing pupils would experience some change. The main changes for the existing pupils would be :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new or longer route to school; • New teachers • New learning environment • Impact on friendship groups • New friendships may be formed <p>The preference for secondary education would remain the same so there would be no impact on preference for secondary school for these pupils.</p>	Neutral	Negative/Positive	Negative/Positive	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. Should either Option 2 or 3 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.	
Impact on parents/carers and families	There is potential for a greater impact on parents/carers if either Options 2 or 3 were implemented.	Neutral	Negative/Positive	Negative/Positive	Whilst there is potential for there to be an impact on	Neutral

	<p>The Council recognises that if Option 2 were implemented two of the villages would not have a school. This would change the social environment and dynamics for parents/carers to interact.</p>				<p>parents/carers and families.</p> <p>The proposal could have a positive impact on parents and families through an improved educational provision and access a larger group of parents/carers being part of a larger school community.</p>	
<p>Impact on Learner Travel Arrangements</p>	<p>Some pupils may have a further distance to travel to school should either Options 2 or 3 be implemented. Some pupils may see a decrease in home to school distance travelled.</p> <p>Should parents/carers choose to send their child/children to the nearest appropriate school to their home address the Council's Transport Policy would apply. The Council does not transport nursery aged pupils.</p> <p>There is potential that a number of pupils in the area would have a reduced or increased distance from their home address to travel to school.</p> <p>The transport impact assessment for this Options Appraisal can be found at the following link :- www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation</p>	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	<p>Options 2 and 3 have been developed in line with Learner Travel Operational Guidance provided by the Welsh Government (guidance revised in 2014). Based on the current home locations and proximity to alternative provision all travel distances would be within the guidance.</p> <p>It is also noted that from the information on the current pupil cohorts there is a number of pupils who are located in the area and under parental preference</p>	Neutral

					are opting not to attend their nearest available school and travel to another school in the area. This would potentially mean that depending on the location of the area school/s some pupils may see a decrease or increase in their travel time, this is particularly the case with pupils from the Brynford and Lixwm CP Schools.	
Impact on community demographics	<p>The Council acknowledges that if either Options 2 or 3 is implemented there will be some limited impact on the communities.</p> <p>The loss of a school in a village would impact on the small number of community activities currently taking place at Brynford and Lixwm C.P. Schools.</p> <p>There are no current housing development planning applications approved for the Brynford, Lixwm and Rhosesmor areas.</p> <p>The Council is satisfied that should either Options 2 or 3 be implemented the local school network would have the capacity to sustain the necessary potential impact of current and future housing developments.</p>	Neutral	Negative	Negative	<p>Flintshire County Council would take all practicable steps to ensure that the local communities continued to thrive.</p> <p>Measures could be adopted to lessen the impact to ensure that the villages continue to thrive through fostering close links between the communities and schools.</p>	Neutral

Overview of potential impact on families and the local community

Overall Impact*	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Option 1 - Status Quo	-	9	-
Option 2 – Area School on one site	3	5	4
Option 3 – Retain Ysgol Rhos Helyg and one area school on one site (either Brynford or Lixwm)	3	5	4

*This does not take account 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*		4	

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

5. Summary of the Potential Impact on the Community

The impact assessment has identified a number of possible areas if Options 2 or 3 were implemented that could have some negative impact on a small number of local families and on the local community.

Option 1 – Status Quo – would see no change

Option 2 – Area School on one site – an area school on one site will result in some negative impact on the communities, but it could result in some positive impact on the community where the Area School site is situated. There could be a positive impact in that the area school would be brought up to a suitable standard to ensure curriculum delivery into the 21st century. There may be a slight increase or decrease in journey times for some pupils, however data has shown that a significant number of families are not travelling to their local school. The proposal could have a positive impact on parents and families through an improved educational provision and access a larger group of parents/carers being part of a larger school community.

Option 3 – Retain Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor and an area school on one site (either Brynford C.P or Lixwm C.P.) There would be no impact for the

community of Rhosesmor but there would be some negative impact on the communities of either Brynford or Lixwm. There will be some positive impact on where the Area school site is located. There could be a positive impact in that the area schools would be brought up to a suitable standard to ensure curriculum delivery into the 21st century. The proposal could have a positive impact on parents and families through an improved educational provision and access a larger group of parents/carers being part of a larger school community.

The loss of a school within a village would impact on the community activities taking place and the community facilities within Brynford C.P. and Lixwm C.P. School. 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 community hall based in the village. There are no reported community activities taking place at Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor.

If either Options 2 or 3 were implemented the Council has no preconceived plans for the future of school site/s. This would follow a separate process.