

# Feedback from Listening and Engagement Sessions – March 2017

**Cyfarthfa Park Site**

**Strengths**

It is felt that it is a good location for the School with a lot of green space and the land is flat. It is on the main bus route and a large school could be built here.

**Weaknesses**

The feeling of the community is moving the school outside of the village would have a significant impact on the community with the village school losing its identity. It could have a potential negative impact on the people and businesses in the Vaynor Ward. It would also further increase traffic and cause parking problems on Brecon Road. There would be potential increase in costs for families getting children to and from School. Planning consent is also unlikely due to the listed status of the Park. Loss of open space.

**Opportunities**

Some opportunities were identified by possibly merging the two schools into one and potentially holding events in the Castle which would alleviate the problem of taking up some of the green space.

**Risks**

The risks that were raised include a potential delay in getting planning, the risk of flooding on the site and the increase in traffic and parking issues could cause Health & Safety and Safeguarding risks for children, residents and parents. Locating the School at this site could also impact on events within the Park and impact on tourism.

**Godre’r Coed Playing Fields**

**Strengths**

It is felt that this is a good location for the School with it being a central and prime spot within the community. It is a large site and it is within the village. There will be an enhanced community facility. Access is safe at this site and it can accommodate on-site parking. The site will have a positive impact on the children of the school, the community and businesses. A single site provides a safe environment for children.

**Weaknesses**

The site is protected by a Fields in Trust order which will require an offer of compensatory land. There will be increased traffic in Cyfarthfa Gardens and Maesgwynne .There are parking and access issues if the school is built at this site. There could be an impact on noise in the area and devaluation of properties. It is felt that there will be a loss of open space affecting dog walkers, mini rugby, and other community groups that use the site.

**Opportunities**

Some opportunities were raised that include developing one way systems, off road parking, enhanced changing room facilities, and an enhanced pitch.

**Risks**

There could be a risk to pedestrians if parking on pavements and a risk of increased traffic on Pontycapel road. There is a risk of compulsory purchase orders that will be required and safeguarding risks.

**Pen-y-Dre High School**

**Strengths**

The community feels it is a good physical site to build on with good access and enough space to accommodate parking and additional traffic.

**Weaknesses**

The feeling of the community is moving the school outside of the village would have a significant impact on the community with the village school losing its identity. It could have a negative impact on the people and businesses in the Vaynor Ward. There would be an increase in costs for families getting children to and from School. There are concerns over the walking distance to this site and the steepness of the roads leading to this site.

**Opportunities**

There is a potential opportunity of creating a 3-16 school.

**Risks**

There could be a risk of falling pupil numbers at Ysgol Y Graig. There are safeguarding risks in having the nursery and primary school on the same site as a secondary school.

**Teddington Playing Fields**

**Strengths**

The site is located within the community.

**Weaknesses**

The site is not big enough to accommodate the required school footprint. There will be parking and access issues if the school is built at this site. There is a potential flood risk and safeguarding issues as it is close to the river and an industrial site. There will be a loss of open space.

**Opportunities**

Possible opportunity to use the river for educational purposes. There could be an additional opportunity for further land acquisition.

**Risks**

There could be a risk to pedestrians due to increase in traffic. There is a flood risk at this site and risk of contaminated land. There are safeguarding risks as it is close to the river. There are access issues off the main high street into Maesgwynne.

**The Black Patch Playing Fields**

**Strengths**

The site is located within the community. There will be minimal impact on residential areas.

**Weaknesses**

There are access issues at this site and the site is potentially not big enough to accommodate the required school footprint. Site is currently leased to Cefn Coed RFC until 2019. It is a difficult site to develop.

**Opportunities**

There could be an additional opportunity for further land acquisition (Dingle).

**Risks**

There are Health & Safety and Safeguarding risks as it is on a busy main road. Additional costs required to develop site. Risk of contaminated land.

**Vaynor & Penderyn High School**

**Strengths**

The site is centrally located and is a brownfield site previously used as a School. The site is located within the community. The site is easily accessible from various access points. There would be no negative impact on existing businesses.

**Weaknesses**

Access and egress to the site is poor with some areas with no footways. There are narrow roads leading to the School which will cause parking issues for surrounding streets. The site is not big enough and would require use of the Godre’r Coed Playing Fields. The site is not level and is an irregular shape.

**Opportunities**

There is an opportunity to create an access road from Maesgwynne and a potential to improve road access to the site. There are also opportunities to acquire additional land to improve parking and access. The land could be used for improved community use.

**Risks**

There will be a split site. Primary Schools requirements are different to Secondary Schools. There are additional risks with construction access. Health & Safety and Safeguarding issues for children accessing the sports fields. There will also be risks with accessing the site itself.

**Ysgol Y Graig Current Site**

**Strengths**

People are used to having the school in this location. The site is located within the community and keeps the school within the community. The site is big enough to accommodate the required school footprint. There is outdoor space and river access which will be positive for educational outcomes.

**Weaknesses**

There are parking and access issues at this site. It will require children to be decanted to an alternative site which would impact on learner outcomes. There will be additional costs of demolishing the current building and decanting children and additional timescales. The site is too small to accommodate the required school footprint. There is a lack of green space and there would be a negative impact on residents during construction.

**Opportunities**

There is a potential to reduce traffic and improve access when the Heads of the Valleys dualling occurs. There could be an additional opportunity for further land acquisition (Charlie’s Park).

**Risks**

Decanting the children during the build which could impact on learner outcomes. Risk of pupil numbers falling. There is a risk of subsidence on the site.

**Ysgol Y Graig Nursery**

**Strengths**

The site is located within the community. There is good access at this site.

**Weaknesses**

The site is too small to accommodate the required school footprint. There are access and parking issues. Significant additional land will be required and would be a loss of green space.

**Opportunities**

There is a potential to put something else on this site if the school is not built here.

**Risks**

There will be additional parking and traffic risks which will have a negative impact on Trefechan. There is a risk of the school being a split site.