

Analysis of the full responses to the Public Consultation on the preferred site for a new school building for Ysgol Y Graig Primary School

**Final analysis of the 21st
Century Schools Programme:
Ysgol Y Graig Primary School**

By:



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Contents

Executive Summary	2
1. Introduction	5
2. Full analysis of Responses	7
2.1. RESPONDENT PROFILE	7
2.1.1. RESPONDENT GROUPS	7
2.1.2. GENDER	7
2.1.3. AGE PROFILE	8
2.1.4. MARITAL STATUS	8
2.1.5. DISABILITY	9
2.1.6. ETHNICITY	9
2.1.7. RELIGION OR BELIEF	9
2.1.8. WELSH LANGUAGE	10
2.2. PREFERRED SITE	10
2.2.1. PREFERRED SITE OF RESIDENTS	11
2.2.2. PREFERRED SITE OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY	14
2.2.3. PREFERRED SITE OF PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS	16
2.2.4. PREFERRED SITE BY LOCAL SPORTING GROUPS AND CLUBS	18
2.3. REASONS FOR PREFERRED SITE	20
2.3.1. THEMES IN FAVOUR OF GODRE'R COED PLAYING FIELD SITE	20
2.3.2. THEMES EMERGING IN FAVOUR OF FORMER VAYNOR & PENDERYN HIGH SCHOOL SITE	22
3. Key Themes	36
4. Conclusions	37
5. Appendices	38

Executive Summary

Final analysis of the 21st Century Schools Programme:

Public Consultation on the preferred site for a new school building for Ysgol Y Graig Primary School

As part of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools and Education Programme, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's education department is proposing to replace the existing school building and relocate it in a new building on a new site.

This analysis provides full details of the responses received to the consultation, from all sources including:

- Pupils
- Parents, Carers and Guardians
- School Staff
- Residents
- Members of the community
- Local groups – sporting and otherwise

And through a range of different consultation methods including the formal consultation response form (paper and online submissions), Consultation sessions at community venues, formal letters and petitions received.

The findings show that the majority of respondents, around 8 in 10, favour the former Vaynor and Penderyn High School site for the location of a new primary school. The full analysis of all responses to the consultation exercise has highlighted a number of key themes:

CONCERN OVER THE LOSS OF THE PLAYING FIELDS

Of primary concern to a large proportion of respondents supporting the V&P site is the loss of the playing fields. The reasons for their concern can be broadly summarised into several key areas of concern:

- Loss of a valuable community asset: the green space is used for a wide variety of activities from green space for local children to play on through to more formal space for structured team sports
- The playing fields are considered by many to provide a space to improve the health and wellbeing of the local community
- Protection of the field and its legal status in terms of what it can / cannot be used for

The public supporting the development of the V&P site do not feel that sufficient plans have been put forward to mitigate the loss of the playing field site and, without this, they are unlikely to be persuaded to change their views

HISTORICAL USE OF THE V&P SITE

Many of the respondents feel that the former Vaynor and Penderyn site offers the ideal site primarily as:

- it has previously been a school site
- it is a brown field site that should be prioritised for development above greenfield sites
- supporters of the V&P site feel that it has ample space to develop a school with all the required facilities
- Godre'r Coed supporters however feel that the previous V&P site does not offer sufficient space for a new school

TRANSPORT AND ACCESS ISSUES

Transport concerns, access and safety issues are raised by respondents favouring each site. It seems that both sites pose problems which need to be adequately addressed in any further proposals. The respondents demand clarity on a number of issues, including:

- Due consideration to the impact of increased traffic in terms of noise, pollution and congestion for each site
- Full road proposals for each of the sites

Supporters of the V&P site tend to dismiss the concerns that access will be difficult at this site, stating its historical use as a school as a reason for its continued use as a school. They also tend to raise the issues of increased traffic in a predominantly quiet residential area should the school be located on the playing field site. They feel that access to the playing field site presents more issues than the V&P site.

Supporters of the Godre'r Coed site, however, feel that access is better at the playing field site.

Some clarity is needed on the proposals and plans to help the community reconcile their opinions.

SAFETY

Safety and safeguarding children is of utmost importance in the consideration of the new school building. However, respondents in favour of the V&P site have highlighted that safety extends beyond school life, repeatedly raising issues around the playing fields as a safe place for the children of the community to play.

Again with supporters of each site feeling their preferred option provides the safest choice, further clarification of access / road proposals will help the public understand the implications of each proposal more effectively.

CONCLUSION

There are several areas where further clarification of the proposals could help the public to better understand the implications of the options put forward. Where issues are highly contentious, supporters of the 2 sites view the same issue with completely opposing views, further clarification is absolutely necessary. These would include:

- More detailed clarification around proposed road changes for each site
- The impacts of these changes on the local communities and residents
- Whether the facilities of a 21st Century school can be adequately accommodated on the former V&P site
- How the loss of the playing fields would be mitigated in other provision should that site be selected

Final analysis of the 21st Century Schools Programme: Public Consultation on the preferred site for a new school building for Ysgol Y Graig Primary School

1. Introduction

As part of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools and Education Programme, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's education department is proposing to replace the existing school building and relocate it in a new building on a new site.

Following a programme of site shortlisting, in conjunction with the community 2 sites were shortlisted:

- The former Vaynor and Penderyn High School Site
- Godre'r Coed Playing Fields

Following this shortlisting process the Council carried out an extended period of consultation on the preferred site for a new school building.

1.1. METHODOLOGY

The programme of consultation was undertaken by the Council and encouraged responses from as wide a range of stakeholders as possible via a number of consultation events. Responses were predominantly submitted via online and paper versions of a Consultation Response Form.

Responses submitted on the official Consultation Response Form, either online or as a paper copy have been aggregated and the results analysed together, for detailed verification and presentation.

In addition to these, formal responses were received from

- Estyn
- The Headteacher of Ysgol Y Graig Primary School, on behalf of the staff
- The Governing Body of Ysgol Y Graig

A petition from the Save the Field Group was also received, expressing opposition to the building of the new school on the Godre'r Coed site.

The findings from each of these channels are detailed within this report to provide a full and detailed analysis of the views and opinions of those responding to the consultation.

1.2. RESPONSE ANALYSIS

1.2.1. CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

A total of 514 people responded to the consultation via the consultation response form

Format	Number of responses received	%
Online Consultation Response Form	274	53%
Paper submission of the Consultation Response Form	240	47%
Total	514	100%

In their responses, participants were able to specify in which capacity they were responding i.e. as a member of the community, as a parent, pupil, resident etc.

In the response form, respondents were able to select more than one option. However, in order to accurately analyse responses by stakeholder group it has been necessary to allocate each respondent to one single category, to ensure each respondent's views are heard appropriately.

This assessment has been completed, using Merthyr Tydfil CBC's priority stakeholder group analysis. Where a respondent has identified themselves as belonging to a range of different stakeholder groups, they have been assessed and assigned to the group with the highest priority. i.e. someone identifying themselves as a parent, member of the community and local sporting group will have been analysed as a Parent.

Please note all illustrative comments are included exactly as submitted.

2. Full analysis of Responses

2.1. RESPONDENT PROFILE

2.1.1. RESPONDENT GROUPS

The highest numbers of responses were received from Residents (213 responses for analysis), members of the community (119 analysed responses), parents (55) and local sporting groups / clubs (46). The groups with the highest levels of responses are shown below:

Respondent	Total number resps identifying as this group	Respondents assessed group
Resident	235	213
Member of Community	297	119
Parent / Carer	57	55
Local Sporting Club / Group	69	46
Local community groups	23	14
Pupil	28 ¹	9

A full breakdown of the responses received from each of the respondent groups and the numbers of assessed respondents in each group is included as Appendix 1

2.1.2. GENDER

104 of the respondents gave details of their gender as follows:

- 50% identify themselves as female
- 44% are male
- 1% are identify as transgender, and
- 5% prefer not to say

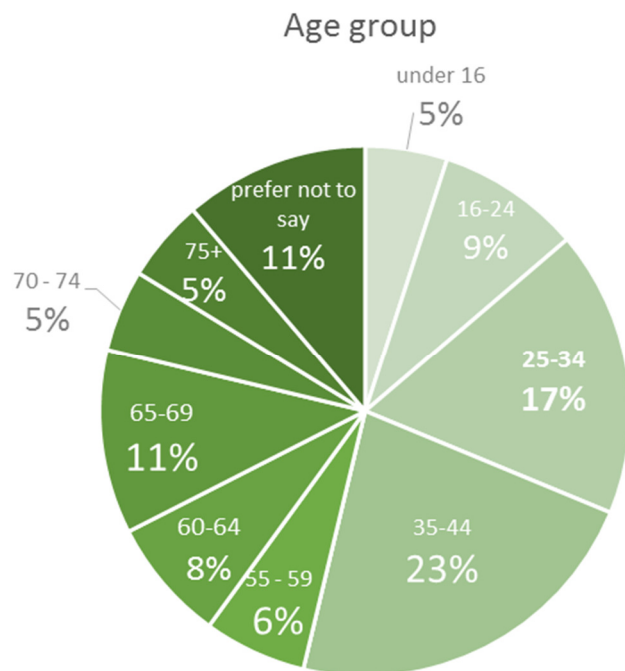
¹ Many former pupils identified themselves as pupils in the survey. For the purpose of the analysis, these respondents have been assessed as belonging to one of the other stakeholder groups they selected i.e. Resident

2.1.3. AGE PROFILE

A total of 80 of the respondents provided details about their age group. Of those that did:

- Around a quarter are aged between 35 and 44 (23%)
- 17% are aged 25 – 34, and
- 11% are aged 65 – 69

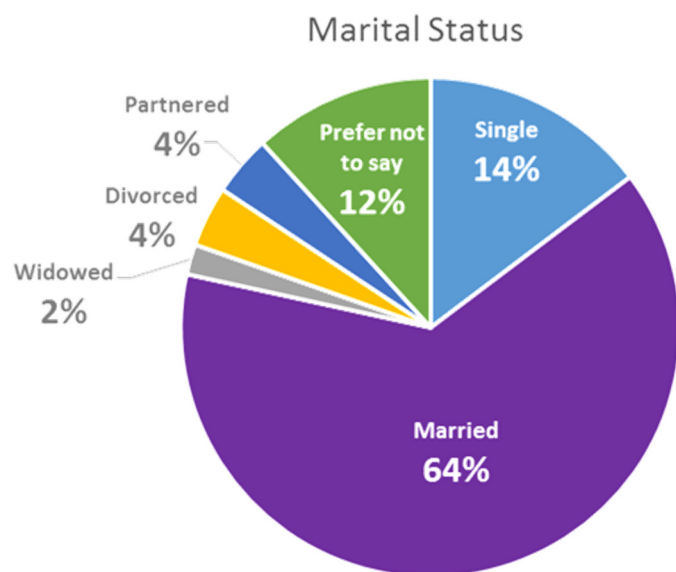
A full breakdown is illustrated in the chart:



2.1.4. MARITAL STATUS

Of the 102 respondents providing a response to the question about their marital status;

- 64% describe themselves as being married
- 14% are single

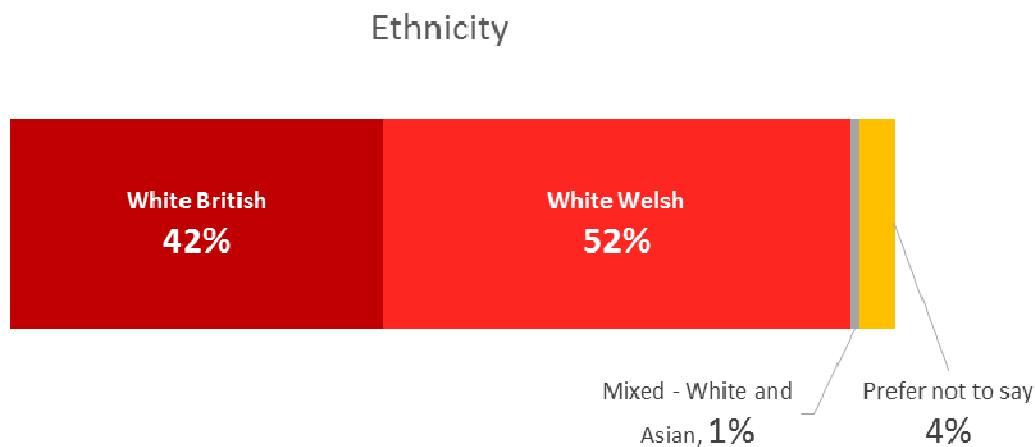


2.1.5. DISABILITY

Overall, of the 103 respondents providing information about disability, 8.7% consider themselves to be disabled, 5% said that they would prefer not to say, while 86% do not consider themselves disabled.

2.1.6. ETHNICITY

102 people responded to the question about their ethnicity. 1% describe themselves as being from a non-white background, and a further 4% preferred not to say:



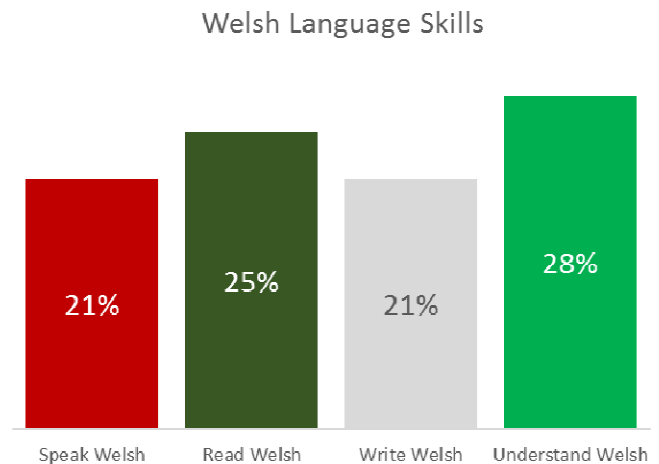
2.1.7. RELIGION OR BELIEF

- 49.5% of respondents describe their religion as Christian
- 38.8% say they have no religion
- 10% prefer not to state their religion or belief

2.1.8. WELSH LANGUAGE

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they are able to speak, read, write and understand Welsh. Of those that responded to this set of questions (100 respondents)

- 28% say that they are able to understand Welsh
- 25% are able to read Welsh
- 21% say that they can speak Welsh and a further 21% can write Welsh



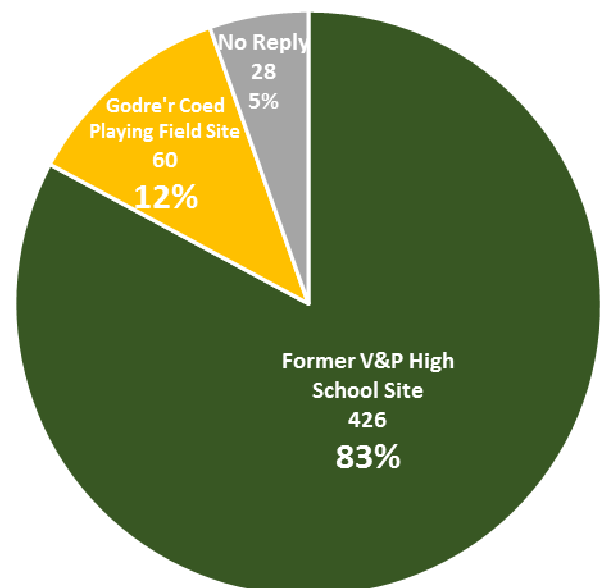
2.2. PREFERRED SITE

Respondents were asked which site they think is more suitable to build a new 21st century school building for the pupils of Ysgol Y Graig.

83% of all respondents, replying using the consultation response form identify the former Vaynor & Penderyn High School site as being the most suitable site for development of the new school.

12% of the respondents feel that Godre'r Coed is the most suitable site, while a further 5% did not provide a response to the question.

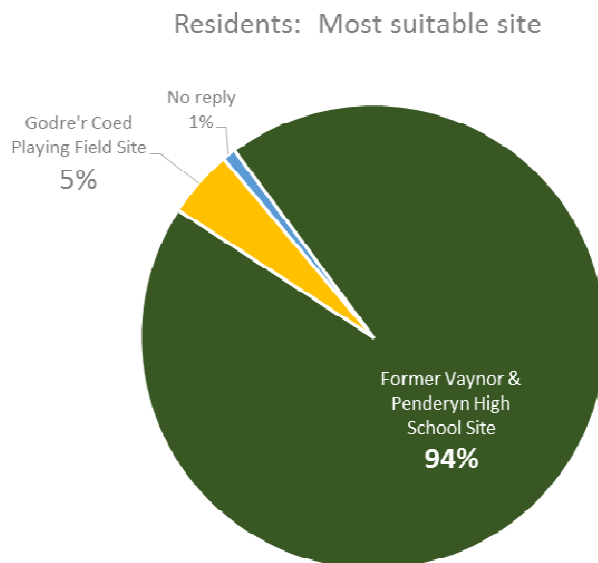
Which site do you think is more suitable to build a new 21st Century School building for the pupils of Ysgol Y Graig?



2.2.1. PREFERRED SITE OF RESIDENTS

Further analysis identifies some variance in opinion by the stakeholder groups with the largest number of respondents, although most respondents do favour the former V&P site:

- Residents, 213 respondents, are most heavily in favour of the former V& P site with 94.4% thinking it is the most suitable site



Comments from residents focus heavily on the loss of the green space, and its impact on the community

"There aren't many places that are safe for children to play in Cefn the old school field is perfect, The field in question has seen many events over the years and not just rugby, carnivals plus other sport events." (Res)

"There is no green space left around the village for children to play that space is for all the community people walking around the field children playing climbing trees vaynor school would be ideal for the new new school" (Res)

"The field must be retained for community. To ensure that there is a GREEN SPACE for all to enjoy." (Res)

"There is a school site already in place. It would be a tragedy to ruin the fields." (Res)

The fact that the former V&P site, has historical use as a school is also of great importance to this group:

It's a brown field site where a school with over 500 pupils once stood. I myself went to school in that site and I can't see any valid reason why another school servicing far less pupils can't be located on it." **(Res)**

Its a brown site more than adequate to build a 21st century school ensuring the green space in the village is preserved for future generations" **(Res)**

It seems a better option as it has been previously used for such a purpose. Any traffic problems would occur in both sites so either way the community is affected greatly. However with the old school site being used the field can continue to be used by an array of groups within the community throughout the year, keeping children active and involved in sport. The field is bigger at present than what it is proposed to be and allows for large tournaments, sports days, various activities to take place at once thus being the heart of the community. **(Res)**

Access issues are viewed as unimportant by this group, with the use of the Godre'r Coed fields for sporting clubs and as a green space being prioritised:

"The old school site is perfectly viable, any access issues can be overcome. Both proposed sites will have pedestrian access to them via Pontycapel Road The community of Cefn Coed want the Vaynor fields left for use of sporting groups, for cricket, rugby etc. Cricket would be driven from this village if the fields are built on. The former school held over 500 pupils, the site is by far large enough to hold a building for less than half that number, this is the wish of the community, are the council going to ignore it." **(Res)**

The site is right in the centre of the village - it is easily accessible on foot for children and parents from all parts of Cefn Coed. There is scope to alter traffic arrangements (e.g. through one way systems, designated drop-off points) to allow drop-off by parents and buses from Trefechan and Pontsticill. The site is currently derelict and this would be an excellent use of the space - it is very close to the Godre'r Coed fields for sport activities that couldn't be accommodated on the Vaynor and Penderyn site. **(Res)**

"The old Vaynor and Penderyn site is more than suitable as the new location for Ysgol y Graig. As an ex Vaynor and Penderyn pupil access and regress was never an issue. Social and economic responsibility should encourage and demand communities keep ever decreasing 'green' resources for our children and communities to utilise and appreciate now and for the future." **(Res)**

Several respondents highlight the history of the field site as a reason to keep them in their current state:

"I remember this land being donated by Colonel Jones for the use of the young people of Cefn Coed and think that his wishes should be adhered to." (Res)

The health and wellbeing of the community are highlighted by a number of residents as reasons for utilising the former V&P site:

"The health of the community should be considered when there are so many problems in Merthyr. People need exercise and the children need a field to do this" (Res)

"We want the field kept as it is for sports and leisure. The children of the borough need the facility to try to keep healthy." (Res)

"Building here would leave the playing field site available for sports leisure and healthy pursuits. which contribute to maintaining active and healthy communities and securing far reaching benefits. We could have a new primary school and playing fields. Not an either or situation." (Res)

Residents that favour the Godre'r Coed local tend to raise points around access and safety in their comments in support of the playing field site:

"Old Vaynor site is surrounded by very narrow streets on all sides, the area already has parking problems and access is restricted sometimes for larger vehicles. Children would have to cross Pontycapel Road to access playing field. I am concerned at the moment that emergency vehicles couldn't reach my area (near the viaduct) due to parking on Pontycapel Road and parked cars spilling out of South Terrace. We need more parking." (Res)

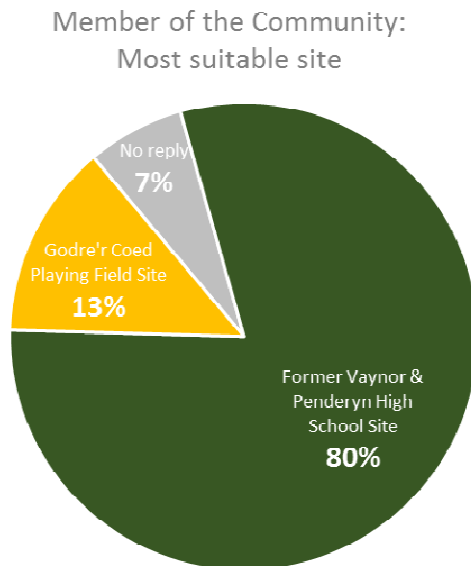
"Safety of the children is absolutely paramount. I understand that two independent engineering consultants have deemed the old VP site as unsafe due to access and road layout. Any new school should be built for purpose in the 21st century..." (Res)

With several highlighting the ample space on the Godre'r Coed site as an opportunity to accommodate a 21st Century School:

"Plenty of space to accommodate a 21st century school with appropriate outdoor space to deliver the foundation phase and Key Stage 2 curriculum. Access is safer for pupils, parents & staff and better parking facilities There would be more flexibility for the designers of the school on this site as opposed to former Vaynor & Penderyn. The community will not lose the playing field, so this site appears to be the best option for school and wider community. Let's not forget that first and foremost we have a duty to find the best site for the children." (Res)

2.2.2. PREFERRED SITE OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Members of the community, 119 respondents, also strongly favour the former V&P site, although with slightly more in favour of the Godre'r Coed Playing field site. 8 in 10 members of the community however feel that the former V&P site is the most suitable:



A number of those members of the community preferring the former V&P site identify it as the most suitable due to its history. Some of the comments include:

There was a school there for over a hundred years that many generations of my family attended. It's centrally located. It's been derelict for years and a school would be ideal (MoC)

The field is in trust and the Vaynor and penderyn site is the best site because there's always been a school there and our children deserve to have their field to play on its a community field and is used by all age groups and it's the only place safe for our children and grandchildren and future generations to enjoy (MoC)

It's a brown field site where a school with over 500 pupils once stood. I myself went to school in that site and I can't see any valid reason why another school servicing far less pupils can't be located on it. Any issues with access or concerns around the road system for those walking to school would be the same as you would have if the school were built less than 100 yards away on the old school field. (MoC)

Previously been used as a school site. All amenities already there. The community need a green space for all to enjoy. Encourages sports activities, helping maintain a healthier lifestyle in the community. The health and wellbeing of the community is paramount. (MoC)

It's the site of a previous school so obviously works as a location. Highways to the field would be logistically more difficult, and the village would have both needs met, a school and playing/recreational field (MoC)

Generally concerns about access are dismissed by supporters of the former V&P site with comments such as:

It's the site of a previous school so obviously works as a location. Highways to the field would be logistically more difficult, and the village would have both needs met, a school and playing/recreational field (MoC)

The old school site is perfectly viable, any access issues can be overcome. Both proposed sites will have pedestrian access to them via Pontycapel Road. The community of Cefn Coed want the Vaynor fields left for use of sporting groups, for cricket, rugby etc. Cricket would be driven from this village if the fields are built on. The former school held over 500 pupils, the site is by far large enough to hold a building for less than half that number, this is the wish of the community, are the council going to ignore it. (MoC)

There was a school there for years and years.... never a problem with access, no RTA's and it's closer to main high street (MoC)

Among the members of the public that prefer the Godre'r Coed site (16 respondents), convenience and an "all-in-one" location are popular themes in the comments:

Site in one place - no need to cross roads to access field. Direct access to green space Drop off and collection options safer No compulsory purchase required Site is level Children able to gain access to whole school site without leaving the single area Given the community desire to retain school in the community, is the best compromise option. (MoC)

The school and its recreation facilities can be all on one site. There is also room to keep the rugby pitch for the local rugby club. Everyone wins! (MoC)

Access to this site is also highlighted by some members of the community as being better at the Godre'r Coed site:

Ease of access where all facilities are on the one site for the safety of the children. (MoC)

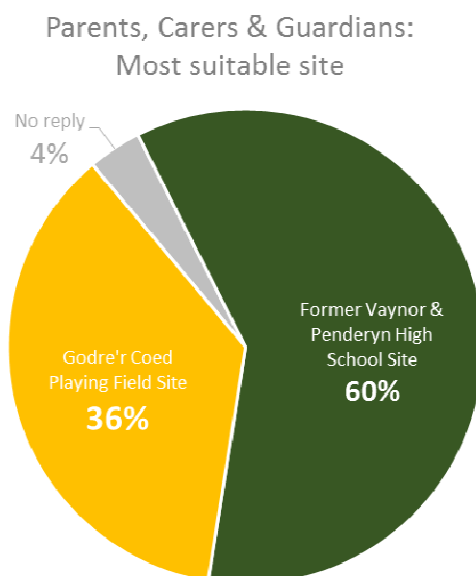
This site is more viable in terms of access and will be easier to build on given the time and budget constraints. The inductive plans look amazing and the rugby pitch will still remain and be in better condition and be a safer locked site so no more dog fouling issues. (MoC)

All roads and entrances safer. Site flat and overall shape better than school site. (MoC)

There is better access by road to the field and I believe that using that site would have a less detrimental effect on local residents. (MoC)

2.2.3. PREFERRED SITE OF PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS

Although a lower number of respondents identify themselves as Parents², this group too favours the Former Vaynor & Penderyn Site but by a smaller percentage; 60% of parents prefer this site, while 36% of parents identify Godre'r Coed as the most suitable site.



Parents favouring the former V&P site (55) tend to focus on the loss of the green site of the playing fields if that site were to be selected, and this raises significant concern among them. Some typical comments around this issue are as follows³:

² Base sample of 55 parents

³ NB all quotes are as written by respondents. They have not been edited in any way.

Because you can't create green space which will be lost if you build a school on it. It is protected and the consultation doesn't state where the replacement land is going to be located, if at all. This is why any council would not build on a green

space/park in a city center. you have a brown field site which should be first priority. (Parent)

So that the children not only benefit from having a new school but also enjoy continued use of green space for their future. Why take away green space when there is a suitable alternative. And also when the community has previously opposed a similar proposition. (Parent)

Keeps green area in community Previous school site Central (Parent)

There was a school on there before I think it's the perfect site!! And for the reasons of no pavements the children are too young to walk to school on their own any way so parents can make sure that they get there!! And we get to keep the playing field!! (Parent)

The field is an asset of the community which will be compromised by the development. Proposed plans reduce the playing area significantly only leaving one full size pitch which will not accommodate the needs of the community. Especially mini rugby and other recreational sports. Access to all proposed sites will involve compromise however by developing the field we will lose a significant community asset" (Parent)

A couple of parents raise concerns about what the former V&P site would be used for if the Godre'r Coed site is used for the school:

I think this site may be used for building more houses if not retained as a school. (Parent)

As a former pupil of Vaynor and Penderyn, I would like the site to be used for something more useful for the community than more housing. It is a vast site and a true future school could be housed there. (Parent)

Those parents favouring the Godre'r Coed site (17) typically raise concerns about access & safety should the new school be located on the former V&P site. They consider the Godre'r Coed site to be more accessible:

Access and safety for the children would be better and would facilitate improved recreation facilities with the retention of a rugby pitch (Parent)

Site in one place - no need to cross roads to access field. Direct access to green space Drop off and collection options safer No compulsory purchase required Site is level Children able to

gain access to whole school site without leaving the single area Given the community desire to retain school in the community, is the best compromise option. (Parent)

All roads and entrances safer. Site flat and overall shape better than school site. (Parent)

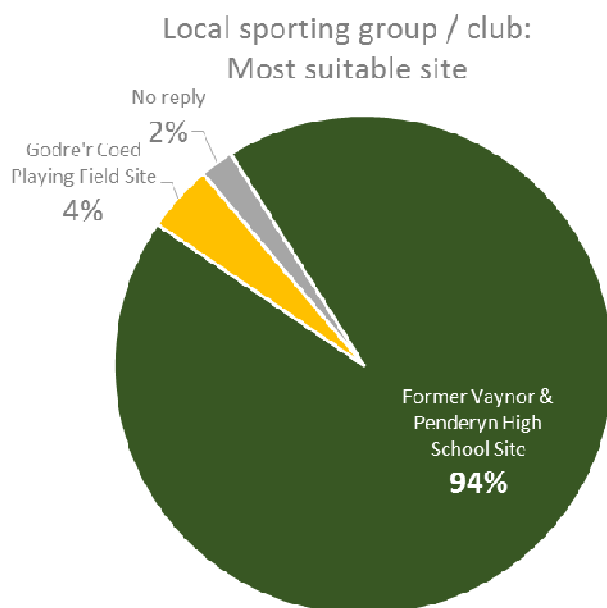
It will be safer for the children to be using one site. (Parent)

Another parents states that the Godre'r Coed site is a winner all round:

The school and its recreation facilities can be all on one site. There is also room to keep the rugby pitch for the local rugby club. Everyone wins! (Parent)

2.2.4. PREFERRED SITE BY LOCAL SPORTING GROUPS AND CLUBS

Among the 46 respondents identifying as a local sporting group / club, feeling is strongly in favour of the former V&P site with 93.5% of these respondents feeling that this site is the more suitable:



The comments from this group of stakeholders focus on the loss of the playing fields as a major loss of community amenities

Taking away of playing fields that are in use on a regular basis by children attending sporting clubs is unjustified. The Borough is currently being stripped of all assets and open areas. There is land available at the former Vaynor school, but remediation works for this site must

be too costly so instead the council will take the easiest and cheapest option. This is at the expense of our children's playing fields. (LSG)

Fields are the centre of the junior community. A school on the site will have a detrimental effect on this. Open green field sites shouldn't be sacrificed for a school when there are suitable brown field sites that can be used. Access to the fields is poor and siting a school in this area will require significant development of the road infrastructure of the community. (LSG)

The fields are used far to often by the community and by people outside of the community and have been for years. (LSG)

I play on the playing field with my friends (LSG)

The old school site is not suitable for playing fields. The playing fields are used and enjoyed by sporting teams and local residents. Keep both the new school on the old school grounds and the playing fields for our children to enjoy! (LSG)

A number of other comments focus on the use of the fields by the local sporting groups and clubs, particularly focussing on their use by children's teams:

Cefn fields are used for all the children playing rugby (LSG)

Because it's in use every week by children aged 5-16 & older for sporting activities (LSG)

Because the field is used for sporting events regularly, by children not just from Cefn but all over Merthyr. (LSG)

my son along with many others plays rugby on this field.it is essential to promote and maintain sporting venues for the children in our community . (LSG)

With a number of other respondents highlighting the value of the playing fields for exercise, health and wellbeing:

These fields are used by 100's of children every week for exercise, it is important for children to have a facility like this to cut down on the growing problem of obesity in today's children. (LSG)

The playing fields need to be kept as that for the children of the local communities to use. The council should be encouraging children to take part in sports not take away the field!!!! (LSG)

2.3. REASONS FOR PREFERRED SITE

Analysis of all the comments submitted in support of their preferred site reveals the emergence of several key themes among those in favour of each site. The following section draws these themes together and provides further evidence in the form of illustrative statements submitted by respondents:

2.3.1. THEMES IN FAVOUR OF GODRE'R COED PLAYING FIELD SITE

- Accessibility of the site
- Safety for pupils
- Room to develop the school and maintain recreational facilities at the Godre'r Coed site

Accessibility:

Accessibility is the area that draws the highest level of comments from those that prefer the Godre'r Coed site, A total of 18 comments were submitted that focus on access as their primary reason for supporting the Godre'r Coed site. These respondents tend to be predominantly parents, carers and guardians or (PCG) or members of the community (MoC):

"My reasons are taht the godre'r coed seems a safer location in terms of access. The children would be using the field whenever they can with school and outside of school hours when applicable. NO main road to cross to get from allocated parking to the school grounds twice a day." (PCG)

"The access would be easier to the site,as many of the streets are narrow lanes and will not be suitable for parking or the safety of the children walking." (MoC)

"Easy access, more land and open" (LComG)

One of the respondents highlights a need to still make changes in order to ensure access is suitable;

"Easier access for dropping off as long as entry exit to high street is changed. Also use V&P site for recreation for village. Please no housing on V&P site. This has historical value and should be used for the community. Ensure Godre'r Coed fields maintain rugby pitch." (PCG)

Safety:

The issue of safety and access are closely related and a further 8 respondents offer up reasons specifically relating to safety in their support of the Godre'r Coed site. Some further examples of these are given below:

"Narrow Roads around V&P site . Godre'r Coed site Children can walk onto sports field from the school buildings. Safer access from high street" (PCG)

"Safety of children" (MoC)

"Because there is more room for traffic and better for safety of the public which you wont have on the other site" (Res)

Space:

The ability of the Godre'r Coed playing fields to accommodate all the required school facilities is highlighted by 13 respondents in their support of this site, with several emphasising that everything would be able to be house on the one site:

"My choice was purely down to the fact that building on Godre'r Coed Playing Field SiteÂ will ensure the school is on one site, however i can honestly say I don't have a preference as long as the school stays within Cefn Coed village" (PCG)

"I believe that it is more beneficial to have all facilities on one site, especially due to the fact that the school will be from nursery age up. From what I have seen on the proposed plans, if the new school was to be built on the old VPHS site it would be necessary to take the children to the goedr coed site for any recreational activities." (PCG)

"This seems to be a more spacious and open area" (MoC)

Other issues raised:

- The need for compulsory purchase if V&P site used
- Concern that the school may be lost entirely if the V&P site is selected
- The opportunity to develop the former V&P site for community use

2.3.2. THEMES EMERGING IN FAVOUR OF FORMER VAYNOR & PENDERYN HIGH SCHOOL SITE

Focusing on reasons given by those favouring the former **Vaynor and Penderyn site**, the following themes emerge:

- It is a Brown field site, with buildings already in place.
- The need to preserve green space in the area for recreation, sport and the health of the community
- Has been used as a school previously
- Cefn Coed RFC use the Godre'r Coed site, and it is needed to enable young people to remain active
- The Vaynor and Penderyn site is at the heart of the village and community
- Some believe it offers a better solution in terms of traffic to and from the school.

There is a strong sense from respondents that Brown field sites should be utilised, rather than utilising a green space that they feel is well used and a valuable resource for the community. This is felt particularly keenly among residents, with more than half the comments about building on the brownfield site coming from this group:

V&P is a brownfield site and is more easy to get to. I thought Godrer Coed couldnt be built on as it is protected. You will be taking this well used field away from the children and community if you build on it. (MoC)

It was a school site for many years and should remain a school site. Brown field sites should be built on and not green sites. Brown for buildings and green for activity purposes ie. rugby, cricket, children playing recreation MTBC have paid thousands of pounds only recently in inspections to see if the VP site is viable and it is!!! It is in the centre of the community. (MoC)

The former Vaynor Penderyn site is brown field and should be used in the first instance. No building should take place on community green spaces/playing fields (Res)

The former site is a 'Brown field site' whereas the Godre'r Coed Playing field site is a 'green field site' which currently has many uses. (Res)

Perfectly good opportunity to renovate and upgrade a derelict brownfield site in Cefn. It would be a great shame to see such well used playing fields being reduced in a borough wher the council are clearly not supporting recreation, health and fitness for our young community eg Mountain More. The school should have full access to use fields for PE/ Sports day. (Res)

A currently derelict brown field site that continues to decay as a result of neglect. since, ironically it served the community for circa 100 years as the purposefully designated site for a large and fully functioning school. Whereas Godrer Coed playing field site is a very rare comodity, a green field site that has been providing recreational sporting amenities that

have been continuously used for generation of Merthyr people. The site also supports local flora and fauna and is unique within the borough. A facility we cannot afford to lose. Once it is gone it'll be gone forever. (Res)

Godre'r Coed Field was donated to the community over 80 years ago and is now protected for the whole community for recreation. The new school must be built on the former Vaynor and Penderyn Site. It is a brownfield site, services are currently on site, it is in the middle of the village and is more easily accessible both by pedestrians and vehicles. Building on Godre'r Coed Field goes against the Council's own policies and Welsh Government Planning Guidance. With its protected status with the Fields in Trust it should not have been considered for building on. Many people currently use the field for a whole range of activities, a lot of which would come to an end if the new school was built on it. I have spoken to numerous people in the Vaynor community and from further afield, the vast majority of whom are appalled by the proposal that the field may be built on. (Res)

The loss of the playing fields is a critical issue for those opposed to the Godre'r Coed site, with respondents highlighting the value of the playing fields for health and wellbeing, community use as well as providing a home for local clubs and groups. It is an issue for members of most of the key stakeholder groups including, parents / guardians / carers, members of the community local sporting groups and residents.

A number of respondents highlight the value of the playing fields as an open space for children to play on:

My 9 year old child attends ysgol-y-griag school ,lives in cefn coed and loves playing rugby with all his friends ,they all play on the field most days after school it's the only place that's safe in cefn for them to play taking the field away from them and ul be taking their child hood away ,there as always been a school on the vaynor site so why not build a new one for the children . (PCG)

Playing field should be left for recreation (PCG)

We need space for the children to play! The playing field is an important part of the community - for people of all ages! Agree, a school is needed in the village, however, keep the green space too! (MoC)

I would like a new school built in the village but the village also need green space for the children and adults to play , if the school was built on the field , where would there be green space within the village for the children (Res)

There is no green space left around the village for children to play that space is for all the community people walking around the field children playing climbing trees vaynor school would be ideal for the new new school (Res)

There aren't many places that are safe for children to play in Cefn the old school field is perfect, The field in question has seen many events over the years and not just rugby, carnivals plus other sport events The problem I have is again the council are ignoring the

people of Vaynor when they have told them time and time again NO leave the field alone, use the old Vaynor and Penderyn site But that is the game they play, 'let's just wear them

down in the end the people of Vaynor will get fed up and give up' WELL NOT ABOUT THIS WE WON'T MERTHYR COUNCIL (Res)

Others are concerned that a valuable community resource will be lost

To save the field for the children of cefn. This field is always being used on a daily basis it's lovely to see when it is full g9r the rugby and special charity days it gets all the community together also the round about at the bottom of maesgwynne would never carry all the traffic it has trouble now and a number of accidents have happened. a school was originally on the other site so it makes sense to put the school back on these grounds and have a drop off stop where the carpark is so no cars are actually near the school grounds. (MoC)

I previously played rugby for Cefn Coed RFC on the Godre Coed field and occasionally organised cricket matches and athletics events. I appreciate that it is an irreplaceable asset for the village which is regularly in use. Building on this site would be the old case of when it's gone it's gone, and sorely missed. (Moc)

It will be great to keep the green space in the village for the use of all the Rugby club's senior, mini and junior teams and also all community. The loss of the space will definitely have a detrimental effect and negative impact and all especially the 180+ children who play for Cefn Coed RFC. It will be fantastic if the site was built on Vaynor therefore giving the children of Vaynor a 21st century school along with a large green space to use for play and recreation. Once green space is gone it's gone forever! (LSG)

You cannot build on a playing field that is used week in week out by lots of teams from cefn coed rugby club. This should not be about money, it should be about what's right for the community and building on a site which is used regularly by hundreds of rugby players of all ages is absolutely criminal !!! (Res)

The loss of playing fields as proposed by the council is nothing short of a crime. The old school site is perfect for the new school. For years cricket, rugby and fetes have been conducted on these fields and when a site that has already held a school is available. (Res)

The community fought hard to protect the playing field just a few years ago. Deciding to build on it now would be a betrayal of the community, especially when there is a perfectly good brownfield site available. (Not specified)

Others raise the issue of health and wellbeing

Because we need to save our playing fields for future generations of children from cefn and the surrounding communities. We should be encouraging our children to take part in sporting activities, to improve their health and wellbeing and to decrease obesity in our children. If the school was to be put on the field it would be a travesty for our community. The vaynor site is ideal it was a high school for many years and could easily accommodate a

small primary school. The council could make the local highway infrastructure safer by making some roads one way . I have 3 sons aged 15 , 13 and 7 , they all use the field to play and keep fit . Save our playing fields ! (LSG)

The field is the lungs of the community. Even losing a part of it will adversely affect the health and wellbeing of the community. (Not Specified)

One school has already been demolished why can't they build another on that site, the playing field should stay as a playing field. People of the community use the field for activities, and the government are often promoting exercise to stay healthy. (MoC)

Maintain sports facilities given that obesity and health issues are prevalent in Merthyr Tydfil. At present the Godre'r Coed playing field is very well used by local community especially children and we are desperately short of green spaces and playing facilities in Merthyr Tydfil. Preference for use of existing brownfield site rather than green space. (MoC)

And others are concerned for the clubs that currently utilise the playing fields:

My son plays for Cefn Coed under 12's losing the playing field with probably mean his team will have to fold as there will be nowhere for them to train or play (LSG)

Because I'm a cefn coed rfc player and I want it to be kept there (LSG)

Taking away athe playing field woukd hamstring the local rugby side from u7s to senior level rugby (LSG)

The playing fields are home to Cefn Coed Mini and Junior section. There are a large number of young people in Cefn and surrounding areas who are part of this club and the future for the club and it's members with be put in jeopardy if the facility is taken away from us. Everyone compains when youngsters are wandering the streets so why take away a facility which gives them somewhere to train and play games and be part of a fantastic community club. Without these youngsters there will be no future for rugby in the community. (LComG)

There is no confidence among the respondents opposing the development of the Godre'r Coed site that there are suitable plans to provide a similar resource for the community. If the Godre'r Coed site is pursued, the concerns of the majority of the public need to be addressed; adequate proposals to replace the playing field site with similar sized spaces and comparable other facilities need to be put forward.

Among supporters of the development of the former V&P site, the fact that it has previously been the site of a school is of great significance:

the old site has all the ground space required, along with a proven track history of a vibrant school within the village. (PCG)

It makes sense to me as the area has already been used as a school thereby allowing the field to be used by children to play or and incorporated for use by the school. (MoC)

The old V&P site is more suitable and ready to go after being a school for many years. To lose the green space within the village would be a great loss to the community. (MoC)

There was a school on the site before so i don't see why there cannot be a school on the site again. There is not a lot of community green space around the villages as it is and if this is taken away for a school the village will never get it back. Architects are amazing and can design a school that would fit in that space. The fields will still be available and is only a short walk from the school on a very quiet road. Its no different to what the school has had to do at its current site. If anything, it gives the pupils more opportunity to learn road safety. i just think there is no need to take away a field when there is a space for the school which used to have a school on it. Land can be built up or taken away to make the area 1 level and house the perfect school. (PCG)

The former V&P school site in the middle of the village with easy access east west north & south. Previously contained a school so no planning problems. It is large enough again contained a school with up to 600 pupils in fact at one time two schools a grammar and a sec/modern. (MoC)

Previously been used as a school site. All amenities already there. The community need a green space for all to enjoy. Encourages sports activities, helping maintain a healthier lifestyle in the community. The health and wellbeing of the community is paramount (Res)

The former Vaynor site was built for the purpose of a school and therefore has the capacity to be a school once again in the form of Ysgol-Y-Graig. If the school was to be built in the current football field it would cause a multitude of problems, but mainly transportation issues... (Res)

A significant number of respondents feel that access at the V&P site is favourable, and that any additional road requirements could be easily met;

There are more roads to this site, as it has already been used as a school. There is only one road going to the Godre'r Coed Playing Field Site. Not only that this is the only field the children have to play, Its the only place family's can go with little children too be able to play (Res)

Already been a school and has access as before at south terrace, plenty of room for buses and safe for children up south terrace. As only entrance to school at bottom of street and also plenty of car park spaces in school so no extra parking in surrounding street, which would cause problems for residents (Res)

Ample space for new school, one way traffic system to be put into place, school fields should be left as they were given to community for recreational use only. (LSG)

With some road improvements the old school site is the best site because we do not want to lose any part of the field. It has been used by the village for over 100 years and still is in constant use. (Res)

2.4. IMPACTS AND ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

2.4.1. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS RAISED BY SUPPORTERS OF GODRE'R COED SITE

8 of the respondents supporting the Godre'r Coed site proposal put forward additional comments to support their views.

A couple raise issues of safety and access:

Entry-Exit to school via high street at entrance to Maes Gwynne

South Terrace should have a turning circle where it joins the old Vaynor site (not a public square as on map) so vehicles can turn safely rather than reverse the length of the street and out into on coming traffic at the top of South Terrace. South Terrace also needs some additional parking spaces where the old Vaynor site is. I do not live in South Terrace but drive passed daily and have had several near misses due to cars reversing out or parked cars on blind corners causing obstructions.

One respondent expresses concerns that plans have not been fully explained:

The rugby club is very much against MTCBC building a new school on the field as it believes that it will take away the community facilities for training and games/tournaments. I feel that the size of the pitch which would be incorporated in the new school site should have been specified, along with confirmation as to whether or not the community would still be able to have use of the pitch, in order ease concerns.

And another presents several suggestions for use of additional green spaces:

From attending the consultation in Trefechan nursery 7 Sept 2017 I would like to know what will be happening with the nursery site in Trefechan? My understanding is that there are no plans so far. I would like to suggest uses for this site for the local community to use as it would be a shame for this site to be calculated in with the green space given back to the public but in Cefn. Trefechan does have a v limited old rusty park. It would be lovely if we could combine the nursery site and the park and make a big modern adventure park for older children whilst using some of that area for smaller/toddler with age appropriate apparatus. This could reflect on the national park that start close by. I use of picnic tables and maybe a hard standing could encourage families to use the space for more than just playing but a follow on tool for learning or maybe even for small community get togethers like father christmas ect. The idea

of some kind of athletic course. A small running track and some outdoor exercise equipment (like they have around the lake in cyfarthfa) for all age groups to get active. Or netball/ basketball court or multi purpose sports court. I would hate for this site to become vandalised and used no good. Please could be have some clarification on what we could do with the nursery site? My other concern is access to the school from trefechan vwhen the new a465 road is being build. I have heard that a right hand only turning out of trefechfa is this true??? This could be very disruptive and add time and pollution to the local area. Many thanks

A couple of respondents have concerns over the risk of compulsory purchase and the ability of the council to act with impartiality in the decision making:

You should ask if people are happy with the risk of potential compulsory purchase orders on local residents land and property.

My concern is that Councillor Mitton resides by the proposed playing field site near what would be the access point for vehicle drop offs. I'm concerned that as a council member involved in the decision making process she has a vested interest in preventing the playing field site being built on.

The remaining comments focus on concerns around retaining the school and green spaces for the community:

If the school is not built on the GC field and the old school site is deemed unsafe, the new school could lost. This would be totally unacceptable, the school should be kept in the local community in order to be used for wider use.

Retain as much green space as possible for the community Community access to sports facilities /community buildings on the site

2.4.2. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS RAISED BY SUPPORTERS OF VAYNOR & PENDERYN SITE

145 Respondents in favour of the former V&P site provide additional comments and considerations to support their decision in favour of this site.

For a significant number of these respondents, the issues of traffic and access around the residential area of the playing fields is a huge barrier to their acceptance of this site:

What considerations have been given to the residents of cyfarthfa gardens from a noise, traffic and litter perspective ??

Consideration of increased traffic to the lower end of Cefn Coed, in particular the already dangerous entrance and exit to Maesgwynne and Cyfarthfa Gardens.

There is no thought given to the residents of Cyfarthfa gardens, Maesgwynne & Heol-y-cae. The road structure is not suitable for excessive traffic and would be extremely dangerous to

young children walking to school down through a very polluted high street with car fumes. With the amount of traffic expected its an accident waiting to happen.

The infrastructure of playing fields site is not suitable. The surrounding area is residential and only suitable for residents traffic. The roundabout is a death trap with many accidents and near misses happening on a frequent basis. Whatever Kevin Davies thinks!!!

More consideration of the inconvenience a potential danger to residents of the proposed playing field site. Increase in traffic would make access to parts of the housing estate much more difficult. If not almost impossible problems are already encountered reaching

properties when the field is use for rugby matches etc.. Emergency vehicles would be unable to reach residents if needed when parents would park at schools entrance etc..

You should consider the residents of cyfarthfa gardens and maesgwynne. the site is not suitable for a school. The residents would suffer disruption on a daily basis with buses and cars attempting to drive through a very small estate. it is not safe for anyone

Road safety at school drop off and pick up times is highlighted as being problematic if the Godre'r Coed site is selected, with many still feeling that adequate solutions and proposals have not been made:

Wherever the School is built you are going to have problems with the access for Cars etc and if this is not policed correctly there will be a nasty accident , as we are all aware parents don't like to walk their children to school and like to park as closely to it , even if this means breaking the road safety rules

The flow of traffic when parents drop off/ pick up children

Several respondents suggest that the previous use of the V&P site validate its suitability in terms of access:

The full impact of traffic and parking in the area surrounding the field, I think, has not been fully appreciated. In light of the fact Vaynor and Penderyn has already operated in that area with no problems.

the old school site if selected would after completion, provide no problems for the community, having been a secondary school previously. The field site would prove a nightmare for all residents in lower Cefn Coed with traffic / parking . A previous council study proposed a one way system via Pontycapel Road , avoiding the fields. Nothing in the village has changed , why has the council proposal

While others accept that the road structure as it stands may be unsuitable and require work;

The only limiting factor that I am aware of for the Vaynor and Penderyn site is traffic flow. There are many schools, including the current YYG school, where access is not suitable. It is

simply about managing this to prevent risk and there are many ways of doing so: 1) One way system, from Lord Raglan, past Cefyn school and exiting near Popty Bakery. 2) Traffic standstill hours/ times. 3) School buses to pull into bus lay by above Popty and pupils to be collected and walked along the road safely.

Others are vociferous in their statements surrounding the previous consultations on the siting of a new school, protection of the field site and the legality of building on the field site:

Unsuitable road infrastructure, will lead to traffic chaos, and possible accidents, not just at school hours but parents evenings, school concerts etc. Why are only two sites proposed?

Two other sites have been discounted for ridiculous reasons. Why is the playing field being considered at all, I was always under the impression that it could not be built on. Why is the Queen's "proclamation" being ignored? Why is it deemed necessary to build so near to a residential estate? Is this even legal? In my experience Merthyr council has always been deceptive, even corrupt is not too strong a word. Is something underhand going on here? Tread carefully, Grenfell Towers is too recent not too.

Why did you build cyfarthfa gardens if you knew a school was needed surely the planning dept looked into this. Shame on the council (again)

You should of never considered building in the school field... this has divided a community and villiage

This was decided six years ago. With the council short of money you should not be paying again for another consultation.

A number of respondents do not feel that their voices are being heard, and express their frustrations:

The community have already come together to express our opinion a few years ago. Don't you think you should have listened then? It's a disgrace we have to go through it all again. You're wasting valuable funds, which could be used elsewhere.

The community's views were expressed previously. Why are you ignoring our wishes?

The community had already registered an opinion a few years back to keep the site - Godre Coed, as a green space .

The community previously demonstrated to keep Godre Coed as a green space. Accept the community's views.

We - the community, fought to keep Godre Coed as a green space. Please respect our views.

2.5. CONSULTATION SESSIONS

As part of the consultation process, a number of community sessions were hosted by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council;

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES
	Civic Centre Reception	
18 th July 2017	Ysgol Y Graig Primary School	
	Tesco	
	Cefn Social Club	
17 th August 2017	Pontsticill Memorial Hall	
	Trefechan	

2.5.1. COUNTERS

At each of the consultation events, participants were asked to show their preferred site by using a counter. The results for each site were as follows:

LOCATION	IN FAVOUR OF ...	
	GODRE'R COED	FORMER V&P SITE
Civic Centre Reception	11	8
Ysgol Y Graig Primary School	5	9
Tesco	14	29
Cefn Social Club	11	125
Pontsticill Memorial Hall	0	2
Trefechan	0	0
Total	41	173
	19.1%	80.8%

A similar proportion of participants in the consultation sessions indicate their preference for the former Vaynor & Penderyn site; 80.8% compared to 83% of the respondents submitting paper or online consultation response forms.

During the consultation at Ysgol Y Graig, participants were asked to make any further comments. Most of those made by pupils focus on the types of facilities they would like their new school to have;

Outdoor area, outdoor classroom, calming area, thinking room, music room, science room, Playdoh room, reading room, sandpit, music room, Slide. Cooking classroom, art room, climbing frame, mini-forest, drinking fountain, football goals, instruments, insect area, PE

cupboard, sorry room. Log circle, football pitch, calm room, jungle gym, slide, swing, outside drinking place

While others reiterate that the playing field is a valuable resource for them outside of school:

After seeing the plans for the V&P site, I believe it was a waste of time and money having plans done for the field. Vaynor site is perfect.

My preferred sit is V&P, as the field is a valuable asset to the village.

I need the rugby field to stay because rugby is my heart and desire. Otherwise, I would be stuck in the house doing nothing

A couple of respondents feel that the consultation is not going to take into account their views:

It appears to me that the consultation is purely an administrative necessity. All the officials I spoke to admitted their bias towards the Playing Fields site.

My view on the consultation is that the views of the community are not being taken into account. Our field should be left for the children and families to enjoy the open area and for their children to have somewhere in the future to just relax away from the stress of life. Please build on the V&P former site. Our children deserve a new school, so why can't we have both?

After discussions with the council officers in attendance, it seems that the decision has already been made to build the school on the playing field. Very little consideration seems to have been to building on the V&P site because it is an easy option to say that there is a problem with the traffic. There are about 130 children using the field throughout the year. It should not be the Architect's decision alone – he does not understand the locality and the strength of feeling in the community. The use of the field by the children should be encouraged – it should not be destroyed. This is a disgrace – the people of this community have not been listened to (except for the select few). The children need this only green space in the village.

2 members of the public that attended the Pontsticill Memorial Hall event left additional comments which suggest there are still unanswered questions, despite their attendance in person at an event:

If it's council land why is it being labelled as community land on Council plans

Use of land would like to see deeds and conditions

A full digest of the comments received from the Consultation Sessions is included as Appendix 3

2.6. PETITION

The strength of feeling among the public against the use of the Godre'r Coed playing fields, motivated the creation of a "Petition in respect of the Consultation for the proposed new school for Ysgol-y-Graig" from the Save our Field Group.

The petition contains more than 1300⁴ signatures opposing the building of the new primary school on the Godre'r Coed Playing Field. The accompanying letter states:

The petition shows there is very strong opposition within the community to the loss of their village recreation field in its current form.

It is well known in the village that the field was donated in the mid 1930s by Colonel Jones with the stipulation that sports such as cricket would be played on it. This would not be possible if the new school is built on the field. Other events such as the junior rugby tournaments would also be greatly affected....

Many of the petition signatories provided additional comments detailing their objections to the use of the Godre'r Coed site. An overview of the analysis of the comments is given in the table below:

Theme of Comment	Number of responses
Leave Green Space/ Save field	362
Blank/ illegible	306
V&P site	264
Leave children's playing fields/ Rugby	140
Keep field for the community	44
Bad Idea/ Oppose build	31
Other	16
Traffic	10
Don't like schools	3

The highest number of comments that accompany the petition signatures focus on the need to keep the playing fields as a green space at the centre of the community:

To keep it simple, this green area is for our kids they learn to run, play, ride bikes, play football, rugby and hundreds of other things. It's a community field Keep it as that

⁴ The exact number of signatures is difficult to ascertain due to the number of different forms it was received on i.e. handwritten and electronic and duplications of names.

This field is the heart and soul of the community please don't build on it

My two boys do play for Cefn Coed rugby, they will be gutted if they lose the school fields it will be big impact on the kids

This field is an important part of the community for children now and in the future

The whole community use this field especially the children. Please save.

This field is vital for the community health and well being and physical development of the children now and in the future. The school would be best suited to the Vaynor Penderyn site as originally planned and promised.

2.7. YSGOL Y GRAIG

2.7.1. HEADTEACHER RESPONSE

On the 8th September, a response was submitted from the Heateacher of the Ysgol Y Graig Primary on behalf of the school Staff.

The letter outlines the school's preference for the Godre'r Coed Playing field site.

She outlines safeguarding as a key issue, and expresses her opinion that the Godre'r Coed site makes the children's safeguarding much easier:

On the Godre'r Coed site, the whole school is situated in one area. On the former Vaynor & Penderyn School site this is not possible. As a result, the children will be able to access all areas of the Godre'r Coed site easily and safely when undertaking sports and outside learning activities...

Addressing the communities concerns over the loss of the playing fields she writes:

We understand the concerns the community have regarding the possible use of the Godre'r Coed site but we really feel that these issues could be overcome. Many schools are now used for lots of community activities and we feel that this would be achievable here in Cefn Coed.

A copy of the letter is included as Appendix 4

2.7.2. GOVERNOR'S RESPONSE

An official response on behalf of the Governor's was received on the Consultation Response Form.

The response, from the chair of the Governors, favours the Godre'r Coed Playing Field Site, stating:

A new build primary school requires a green space and the safety of a single site in accordance with the W.A.G requirement. Educational requirements MUST be the PRIORITY

2.8. ESTYN

A formal response to the consultation exercise was also received from Estyn. In their response, Estyn highlights their role as being to provide their opinion on the "overall merits of school organisation proposals".

Estyn considers that the proposal adequately identifies the advantages and disadvantages of each of the two site put forward for consultation.

Overall, they support the proposal to construct a new school building and feel that this will help the current school to maintain its existing performance standards. They do not however support one site in preference of the other.

The full response from Estyn is included as Appendix 5.

3. Key Themes

The full analysis of all responses to the consultation exercise has highlighted a number of key themes, as already discussed in detail the respondent analysis.

3.1. CONCERN OVER THE LOSS OF THE PLAYING FIELDS

Of primary concern to a large proportion of respondents to the consultation is the loss of the playing fields. The reasons for their concern can be broadly summarised into several key areas of concern:

- Loss of a valuable community asset: the green space is used for a wide variety of activities from green space for local children to play on through to more formal space for structured team sports
- The playing fields are considered by many to provide a space to improve the health and wellbeing of the local community
- Protection of the field and its legal status in terms of what it can / cannot be used for
- The public in support of the V&P site do not feel that sufficient plans have been put forward to mitigate the loss of the playing field site and, without this, they are unlikely to be persuaded to change their views

3.2. HISTORICAL USE OF THE V&P SITE

Many of the respondents feel that the former Vaynor and Penderyn site offers the ideal site primarily as:

- it has previously been a school site
- it is a brown field site that should be prioritised for development above greenfield sites
- supporters of the V&P site feel that it has ample space to develop a school with all the required facilities
- Godre'r Coed supporters however feel that the previous V&P site does not offer sufficient space for a new school

3.3. TRANSPORT AND ACCESS ISSUES

Transport concerns, access and safety issues are raised by respondents favouring each site. It seems that both sites pose problems which need to be adequately addressed in any further proposals. The respondents demand clarity on a number of issues, including:

- Due consideration to the impact of increased traffic in terms of noise, pollution and congestion for each site
- Full road proposals for each of the sites

Supporters of the V&P site tend to dismiss the concerns that access will be difficult at this site, stating its historical use as a school as a reason for its continued use as a school. They also tend to raise the issues of increased traffic in a predominantly quiet residential area should the school be located on the playing field site. They feel that access to the playing field site presents more issues than the V&P site.

Supporters of the Godre'r Coed site, however, feel that access is better at the playing field site.

Some clarity is needed on the proposals and plans to help the community reconcile their opinions.

3.4. SAFETY

Safety and safeguarding children is of utmost importance in the consideration of the new school building. However, respondents in favour of the V&P site have highlighted that safety extends beyond school life, repeatedly raising issues around the playing fields as a safe place for the children of the community to play.

Again with supporters of each site feeling their preferred option provides the safest choice, further clarification of access / road proposals will help the public understand the implications of each proposal more effectively.

4. Conclusions

There are several areas where further clarification of the proposals could help the public to better understand the implications of the options put forward. Where issues are highly contentious, supporters of the 2 sites view the same issue with completely opposing views, further clarification is absolutely necessary. These would include:

- More detailed clarification around proposed road changes for each site
- The impacts of these changes on the local communities and residents
- Whether the facilities of a 21st Century school can be adequately accommodated on the former V&P site
- How the loss of the playing fields would be mitigated in other provision should that site be selected

By dealing with these issues, some of the arguments and counter arguments can start to be addressed.

The strength of feeling in support of the use of the former V&P site is very strong. A decision to the contrary will need to take account of all the concerns of the community and give them due consideration and suitable alternative facilities.

5. Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Respondent Priority Groups and responses received / assessed group

Respondent	Priority Group (MT CBC)	Total number resps identifying as this group	Respondents assessed group
Pupil	High	28 ⁵	9
Staff	High	9	9
Parent / Carer	High	57	55
School Governor	High	4	2
Resident	High	235	213
Local councillor	High	0	0
Central South Consortium Joint Edu Service	High	0	0
Estyn	High	12 ⁶	0
Transport	High	3	3
Local Sporting Club / Group	Med	69	46
Local Business	Med	16	3
Local community groups	Med	23	14
Member of Community	Med	297	119
Local MP	Med	2	2
Local AM	Med	0	0
South Wales Police	Low	0	0
SW Fire & Rescue	Low	1	1
Trade Unions	Low	1	1
Welsh Lang Commissioner	Low	0	0
Local Police & Crime Commissioner	Low	0	0
Total		757	477⁷

⁵ Many former pupils identified themselves as pupils in the survey. For the purpose of the analysis, these respondents have been assessed as belonging to one of the other stakeholder groups they selected i.e. Resident

⁶ An official letter response was received from Estyn. We have been unable to verify that any of the completed forms were completed officially on behalf of Estyn, in many case respondents also identified with one or more other stakeholder groups so they have been assessed as belonging to the highest priority group of their other selections.

⁷ A number of respondents did not associate themselves with any particular stakeholder group

APPENDIX 2A: Full digest of Respondents comments - **Supporters of the Godre'r Coed Site:**

Accessibility:

More accessible, larger site.	PCG
This site is more viable in terms of access and will be easier to build on given the time and budget constraints. The inductive plans look amazing and the rugby pitch will still remain and be in better condition and be a safer locked site so no more dog f	PCG
Site in one place - no need to cross roads to access field. Direct access to green space Drop off and collection options safer No compulsory purchase required Site is level Children able to gain access to whole school site without leaving the single area	PCG
All roads and entrances safer. Site flat and overall shape better than school site.	PCG
Sorry I am unable to tick the boxes but I have marked as best I could using ### My reasons are taht the godre'r coed seems a safer location in terms of access. The children would be using the field whenever they can with school and outside of school hours when applicable. NO main road to cross to get from allocated parking to the school grounds twice a day.	PCG
Easier access for dropping off as long as entry exit to high street is changed. Also use V&P site for recreation for village. Please no housing on V&P site. This has historical value and should be used for the community. Ensure Godre'r Coed fields maintain rugby pitch.	PCG
Ease of access where all facilities are on the one site for the safety of the children.	MoC
There is better access by road to the field and I believe that using that site would have a less detrimental effect on local residents.	MoC
most convenient	MoC
Easier access. Better parking	MoC
The proposed site at the old Vaynor school would increase congestion from cars in the surrounding streets which are narrow and have limited pavements.	MoC
The access would be easier to the site,as many of the streets are narrow lanes and will not be suitable for parking or the safety of the children walking.	MoC
Better access from the bottom of Cefn coed more green areas for the children to play out	MoC
Easy access,more land and open	LComG
For Vehicle safety access	Res
Old Vaynor site is surrounded by very narrow streets on all sides, the area already has parking problems and access is restricted sometimes for larger vehicles. Children would have to cross Pontycapel Road to access playing field. I am concerned at the mo	Res
I think the area around the old school site is not suitable for increased traffic and pedestrian movement and there will be significant safety hazards around the narrow streets of Holford St, Old Church St and South terrace.	Res
Access and parking	TU
For health and safety reasons I think we need to have all facilities on the the same site. The access to the site will be a lot easier instead of using narrow roads and hopefully there will be less congestion than it would be if the Vaynor site was used.	Staff
Alot more room and is more accessible than on the old site. Resident of south terrace and with two young children. Not attending ysgol you grain though. There is enough traffic in the street without any more busses and cars.	

Safety:

It will be safer for the children to be using one site.	PCG
Access and safety for the children would be better and would facilitate improved recreation facilities with the retention of a rugby pitch	PCG
Narrow Roads around V&P site . Godre'r Coed site Children can walk onto sports field from the school buildings. Safer access from high street	PCG
This is a new educational building therefore prime importance must be given to government guidance for primary schools. G Coed meets this V&P doesn't. In the councils summary the G Coed site has 8 strengths and 6 weaknesses. The V&P site has 9 weaknesses and only 5 strengths. So based on independent assessment the best option by a clear margin is the G Coed site. The fact that the V&P site would have to be a split site will lead to long term health safety issue for the new school.	SG
Safety of children	MoC
For more than 10 years I was employed as a cook in the Vaynor ward. It is my opinion that the safer of the two options by a long way is the Godrer Coed playing field.	MoC
Because there is more room for traffic and better for safety of the public which you won't have on the other site	Res
Safety of the children is absolutely paramount. I understand that two independent engineering consultants have deemed the old VP site as unsafe due to access and road layout. Any new school should be built for purpose in the 21st century. This is a golden opportunity to build a first class community school within the Vaynor community and must not be wasted because of selfish vested interests of very blinkered people including the 2 local councillors, one of which is a director of Cefn Rugby club and the other who lives opposite the school field site and toilets her dogs on the field.	Res
Members of my family have attended ysgol y graig school since the beginning of the 1930's. Surely if this controversy about the siting of the new building continues, the village will be in danger of losing its school. Godrer Coed playing field is the obvious choice for the safety of the children. Their education and safety should come first.	

Space:

I would be nice to have outer school with a field next to it to use,	Pupil
More outdoor facilities and better access for parents	Staff
Everything is on one site and no roads between amenities	Staff
The school and its recreation facilities can be all on one site. There is also room to keep the rugby pitch for the local rugby club. Everyone wins!	PCG
My choice was purely down to the fact that building on Godre'r Coed Playing Field Site will ensure the school is on one site, however I can honestly say I don't have a preference as long as the school stays within Cefn Coed village	PCG
More space	PCG
I believe that it is more beneficial to have all facilities on one site, especially due to the fact that the school will be from nursery age up. From what I have seen on the proposed plans, if the new school was to be built on the old VPHS site it would be necessary to take the children to the Godrer Coed site for any recreational activities.	PCG
Cefn fields are used for all the children playing rugby	LSG

We can use the field to play on	Res
it would give the best option for the children, as they would still have the fields to have sports day and recreation. The old Vaynor site will have transport and parking issues I would have thought, plus the children would have to walk to the field for s	Res
Plenty of space to accommodate a 21st century school with appropriate outdoor space to deliver the foundation phase and Key Stage 2 curriculum. Access is safer for pupils, parents & staff and better parking facilities There would be more flexibility for t	Res
It would be nice to have a school and it's groundsall at one site. The flaying field as it stands is only used for rugby. The tennis courts and changing rooms have been neglected over the years and it's starting to look run down and a bit of an eyesore. It would be nice to see it used properly again. And I feel the access to it would be better than the old Vaynor site. Also it will hopefully stop the residents using it as one big toilet for their dogs.	Res
Waste of land build a nice school for our generations to come the bigger the better the congestion it would cause to build the school on the old vaynor wouldn't be fair on residents of south terrace!....	MoC
Clean new build on a site that is no where near used on a regular basis. Prefer the plans for this site.	PCG
Best site	Local MP
It seems the most logical lace for a new building, open space for play and least disruption to the area.I believe the school will be located closer to the catchment are if it were kept in Cefn Coed, relocations elsewhere would cause issue with transport!	MoC

Other Comments:

People will lose their houses and gardens if built on vp	PCG
Opportunity to provide 21st century site and redevelop old VPHS site as a community park and garden for all ages and abilities	PCG
Think we will lose the school in Cefn if it's voted to go on the old vp site	PCG
If given the choice both options would be highlighted, in truth I have no preferred site. My only priority is ensuring that a new school is built within the parish of Vaynor. The reason for my selection of the playing fields is that the site plans look more impressive with the inclusion of sports facility's.	PCG

APPENDIX 2B: Full digest of Respondents comments - **Supporters of the former V&P Site:**

Brownfield Site:

Because you can't create green space which will be lost if you build a school on it. It is protected and the consultation doesn't state where the replacement land is going to be located, if at all. This is why any council would not build on a green space/park in a city center. you have a brown field site which should be first priority.	PCG
The vaynor & penderyn site is at tue moment a wasteland so whybruin a perfectly good useable field. As long as there was a way of traffic getting from high street cefn to the v&p site without causing havoc i think it would be the best choice for the villa	PCG
Ita a brown field site and building here will mean the community can retain the green field site for recreation and purposes	MoC
It makes sense to build on a site which has already been used as a school and which is a brownfield site. It would be a disgrace to build on a greenfield site which is the focal point of the community. In an age when children are less fit and less healthy	MoC
Why would anyone not want to build on a brown site? An architect should be able to build anywhere and do a good job of it. It is central to everything, shop, bus route . A new school would be in keeping with the history of Cefn Coed	MoC
V&P is a brownfield site and is more easy to get to. I thought Godrer Coed couldnt be built on as it is protected. You will be taking this well used field away from the children and community if you build on it.	MoC
It was a school site for many years and should remain a school site. Brown field sites should be built on and not green sites. Brown for buildings and green for activity purposes ie. rugby, cricket, children playing recreation MTBC have paid thousands of pounds only recently in inspections to see if the VP site is viable and it is!!! It is in the centre of the community.	MoC
It is a waster of land and the playing fields are getting used	LSG
It will b better sited at vaynor& pendryn high school coz the grounds r just going to waste so leave the felds alone	LSG
People use the field but nobody uses the school	LSG
Fields are the centre of the junior community. A school on the site will have a detrimental effect on this. Open green field sites shouldn't be sacrificed for a school when there are suitable brown field sites that can be used. Access to the fields is poor and siting a school in thios area will require significant development of the road infrastructure of the community.	LSG
Use brown field sites first	Res
It's a brown field site where a school with over 500 pupils once stood. I myself went to school in that site and I can't see any valid reason why another school servicing far less pupils can't be located on it. Any issues with access or concerns around th	Res
The former Vaynor Penderyn site is brown field and should be used in the first instance. No building should take place on community green spaces/playing fields	Res
There was a school here for many years which served the community well . It is important to try and build on brown land and save our green land.	Res
We have very few green spaces in Cefn Coed as it is, also it is recommended to build on brown sites such as this one.	Res
Former V&P High School is a brownfield site in centre of village, a much more appropriate location. Godre'r Coed Field is protected by a Queen's Charter. It is widely	Res

used by the community and is a regional centre for junior rugby tournaments attended by	
The former site is a 'Brown field site' whereas the Godre'r Coed Playing field site is a 'green field site' which currently has many uses.	Res
Keep the playing field for the recreation and leisure requirements of the community. Build on the brownfield site.	Res
I would prefer the brown field site to be used for it's convenient locatio. It would also preserve an important much used facility 'playing fields'that are used by people of all ages.	Res
Perfectly good opportunity to renovate and upgrade a derelict brownfield site in Cefn. It would be a great shame to see such well used playing fields being reduced in a borough wher the council are clearly not supporting recreation, health and fitness for our young community eg Mountain More. The school should have full access to use fields for PE/ Sports day.	Res
There is no need to build on the field when there is a perfectly good site waiting ready to build on.	Res
Local government should have an environmental obligation to re-develop brown sites before destroying green areas.	Res
The playing field is an excellent green space for leisure and sports activities which should be kept for this purpose. As there is a former 'brown site' available for development it makes sense to develop the brown site and keep the 'green'space.	Res
Recycling a pre-existing otherwise unused building area compared to ploughing up a greenfield site. Also access is better on this site as it was previously a school. The playing field site has poor access on a small housing estate having large volumes of traffic would endanger the wellbeing of pedestrians residents and their children and pets.	Res
Its a brown field site and there has been a school previously on that site.	Res
Previously housed school Brown field site Easier access and exit if one way system put in place	Res
The new school should be built on the old V&P site because its a brownfield and Godre'r Coed has a covenant on it.	Res
A currently derelict brown field site that continues to decay as a result of neglect. since, ironically it served the community for circa 100 years as the purposefully designated site for a large and fully functioning school. Whereas Godrer Coed playing field site is a very rare comodity, a green field site that has been providing recreational sporting amenities that have been continuously used for generation of Merthyr people. The site also supports local flora and fauna and is unique within the borough. A facility we cannot afford to lose. Once it is gone it'll be gone forever.	Res
It is a brownfield site and already has services needed. the excuses being put forward for not using this site, eg. Not enough pavements for children to walk on, would also apply to the playing field site but it is obvious that MTBC favours the latter site and that this consultation is just a public relations exercise to pacify the community. The playing field should remain as such. We are losing enough greenfield sites and this one is flat, thus allowing various activities to take place. The Welsh assembly issue reports about growing obesitiy levels, so why take away a field where people can exercise?	Res
Why destroy a much used green area when there is a brownfield site available?	Res
More environmentally friendly to build on exisiting site	Res

Godre'r Coed Field was donated to the community over 80 years ago and is now protected for the whole community for recreation. The new school must be built on the former Vaynor and Penderyn Site. It is a brownfield site, services are currently on site, it is in the middle of the village and is more easily accessible both by pedestrians and vehicles. Building on Godre'r Coed Field goes against the Council's own policies and Welsh Government Planning Guidance. With its protected status with the Fields in Trust it should not have been considered for building on. Many people currently use the field for a whole range of activities, a lot of which would come to an end if the new school was built on it. I have spoken to numerous people in the Vaynor community and from further afield, the vast majority of whom are appalled by the proposal that the field may be built on.	Res
Why destroy a green area as the field when there is a brownfield available? It's a crime if it's built on the field.	Res
Godrer Field is protected for the whole community. The new school should be built on the U&P site as it is a brownfield site. It is also more central and has better access for people and cars	Res
Godrer field is protected. The new school should be on the former V&P school as its a brown field site and is more easily accessible for pedestrians and vehicles.	Res
Utilising a currently brown field site would be adding value to the community Removing one of the only green field sites which has been designated protected status for sports and recreation activities which is so vital in this current climate of increased	
Utilising currently brown field site would be adding value to the community. Removing one of the only open spaces by building over a green field site which has been designated protected status for sports & recreation activities which is so vital in this c	
Why destroy a much used and needed green area when there is a brownfield site available ?	
Brown Site	

Loss of the playing fields

Cefn play on the school feild	Pupil
Field will stay the same. Won't disrupt people living in area as much as other site. Utilities already on site ,money saved could improve road safety issues.	PCG
Its big enough and the county field is needed by others	PCG
The field is in trust and the Vaynor and penderyn site is the best site because there's always been a school there and our children deserve to have their field to play on its a community field and is used by all age groups and it's the only place safe for	PCG
My 9 year old child attends ysgol-y-griag school ,lives in cefn coed and loves playing rugby with all his friends ,they all play on the field most days after school it's the only place that's safe in cefn for them to play taking the field away from them and ul be taking their child hood away ,there as always been a school on the vaynor site so why not build a new one for the children .	PCG
School field needed for children to play and other activities. Concerned grandparent	PCG

Do not want to lose the school field and feel V&P site is apt	PCG
Playing field should be left for recreation	PCG
Why build on a field the school can use when there's a perfectly suitable site where the old school	PCG
A school was on that site for many years With many more pupils than YYG. The same arguments against the V&P site apply to the playing fields access etc...The vast majority of the community would prefer to build on V&P site. Save our school field.	PCG
Save the playing fields build new school on old school site	MoC
To save the field for the children of cefn. This field is always being used on a daily basis it's lovely to see when it is full g9r the rugby and special charity days it gets all the community together also the round about at the bottom of maesgwynne would never carry all the traffic it has trouble now and a number of accidents have happened. a school was originally on the other site so it makes sense to put the school back on these grounds and have a drop off stop where the carpark is so no cars are actually near the school grounds.	MoC
the children should be able to enjoy a new school and their sporting facility	MoC
its more practical to build on V&P we get to keep our pitch the school gets more parking and use of the pitch	MoC
Why would you take a playing field away from the community when there is another suitable site.	MoC
Easier to get to this location and the field should be saved for sport and recreation .	MoC
The field is still in use and is a facility needed by Cefn rfc	MoC
What the people of Cefn Coed want is a new school and a playing field.This can only be achieved by building the school on the Vaynor and Penderyn site.	MoC
Not again	MoC
We used to have two schools and a field so why take away the field?	MoC
I previously played rugby for Cefn Coed RFC on the Godre Coed field and occasionally organised cricket matches and athletics events.I appreciate that it is an irreplaceable asset for the village which is regularly in use. Building on this site would be the old case of when it's gone its gone, and sorely missed.	MoC
Im a huge supporter in maintaining and improving existing playing field facilities including a fenced small playing area for football and swings etc.. for the children as applies in many european countries.	MoC
Leave our field alone	MoC
Safer for children and field would be saved	MoC
Leave the field alone	MoC
The playing fields need to be kept as that for the children of the local communities to use. The council should be encouraging children to take part in sports not take away the field!!!!	LSG
Because I play for cefn coed rfc	LSG
1. The rugby pitch area is much bigger the Vaynor school site. There are nine age groups playing on the field using both the pitch and the area to the side of the pitch for the mini section. 2. There is currently a parking area for visiting teams, the lack of space at the Vaynor site means there would be no provision for parking. 3. Would there be provision for changing facilities on the Vaynor site?	LSG

My boy plays rugby on the field	LSG
For years the fields have been home to kids having plenty of exercise and making lots of friends with Cefn coed rugby club .	LSG
The fields are used far to often by the community and by people outside of the community and have been for years.	LSG
The old school site is not suitable for playing fields. The playing fields are used and enjoyed by sporting teams and local residents. Keep both the new school on the old school grounds and the playing fields for our children to enjoy!	LSG
My son plays for Cefn Coed under 12's losing the playing field with probably mean his team will have to fold as there will be nowhere for them to train or play	LSG
Because I'm a cefn coed rfc player and I want it to be kept there	LSG
It will be great to keep the green space in the village for the use of all the Rugby club's senior, mini and junior teams and also all community The loss of the space will definitely have a detrimental effect and negative impact and all especially the 180+ children who play for Cefn Coed RFC. It will be fantastic if the site was built on Vaynor therefore giving the children of Vaynor a 21st century school along with a large green space to use for play and recreation Once green space is gone it's gone forever!	LSG
Because my child plays rugby on this field and as lots of friends	LSG
Taking away the playing field would hamstring the local rugby side from u7s to senior level rugby	LSG
Because it's in use every week by children aged 5-16 & older for sporting activities	LSG
I live in South Tce & went to that school so there will be no difference. Most importantly we need the school field for our children to play rugby on etc on the weekends & the new school could use it as we did for sports day etc.	LSG
Because we need to save our playing fields for future generations of children from cefn and the surrounding communities. We should be encouraging our children to take part in sporting activities, to improve their health and wellbeing and to decrease obesity in our children. If the school was to be put on the field it would be a travesty for our community. The vaynor site is ideal it was a high school for many years and could easily accommodate a small primary school. The council could make the local highway infrastructure safer by making some roads one way . I have 3 sons aged 15 , 13 and 7 , they all use the field to play and keep fit . Save our playing fields !	LSG
my son along with many others plays rugby on this field.it is essential to promote and maintain sporting venues for the children in our community .	LComG
Because we need the field for us young kids to play rugby	LComG
The playing fields are home to Cefn Coed Mini and Junior section. There are a large number of young people in Cefn and surrounding areas who are part of this club and the future for the club and it's members will be put in jeopardy if the facility is taken away from us. Everyone complains when youngsters are wandering the streets so why take away a facility which gives them somewhere to train and play games and be part of a fantastic community club. Without these youngsters there will be no future for rugby in the community.	LComG
HANDS OFF GREEN	LComG
Is the village green	LComG
Leave the field alone	LComG
It served for many years as a school and will still allow the use of the playing fields	Res

Cefn Coed RFC have their home on the playing fields which brings a community together to play a sport we all love	Res
You cannot build on a playing field that is used week in week out by lots of teams from cefn coed rugby club. This should not be about money, it should be about what's right for the community and building on a site which is used regularly by hundreds of rugby players of all ages is absolutely criminal !!!	Res
There is a school site already in place. It would be a tragedy to ruin the fields.	Res
Because I want the school fields to stay otherwise I ain't got no rugby	Res
It is disgraceful that you are even considering building a new school on the playing fields that are used by lots and lots of members of cefn coed rugby club. The school needs to be built on the original school site	Res
The playing fields need to be left alone for future generations to enjoy - the school needs to be built on the original school site	Res
It would be absolutely criminal to build on the well used playing fields and destroy the ability for future generations to play rugby and other sports there	Res
You have no justification or right to build on the playing fields - it is morally wrong ! Just do the right thing and build it on the original school site	Res
I don't want to see playing fields lost for future generations	Res
Leave alone	Res
The loss of playing fields as proposed by the council is nothing short of a crime. The old school site is perfect for the new school. For years cricket, rugby and fetes have been conducted on these fields and when a site that has already held a school is available.	Res
Leave school field alone?	Res
Keep the fields	Res
Save our field for sports and recreation. Build on the VOP site.	Res
Can you please build the school on the V&P site as my son uses the field regularly not only to play rugby but also play games with his friends.They wont have anywhere safe to play. Also, the old school site is more accessible from where I live to get to.	Res
Hands off	Res
Save the field to train	Res
You have no right to the school field leave it alone	Res
leave alone	Res
Godrer site is the only area in the village which can be used for sport and playing field for young people	Res
You have made the wrong decision to try to put the school on the field We use the field all the time Build it on V&P	Res
Leave alone	Res
field is important to village and kids	Res
leave alone	Res
Because that's where kids play	Res
Please can you leave our field. I play there with my friends and use it with my family daily	Res
I use the field every day and make lots of friends there I also play rugby on there and it helps keep me fit.	Res
Keep the playing field for the youngsters	Res
Best place for school and the field will be safer	Res

The decision to build on the old site was taken a few years ago? Whats changed? Save the field	Res
Field is needed, as is a school. Build on V&P and we will all get the best of both worlds	Res
As the ground is already to be built on plus the fields are used by sports and community clubs	SW Fire & Rescue
i spent many years playing on the field and think it should be kept for future residents to play	
I feel the children and community would benefit more from a new school and also to keep the wonderful green space instead of building there.	
The community fought hard to protect the playing field just a few years ago. Deciding to build on it now would be a betrayal of the community, especially when there is a perfectly good brownfield site available.	
Keep your hands off our field	
Because i dont want to see the field gone	

Green space, health & community:

The site held a secondary school for many years and has no previous issues! Why take away green space when there is a large space available!	Staff
So that the children not only benefit from having a new school but also enjoy continued use of green space for their future. Why take away green space when there is a suitable alternative. And also when the community has previously opposed a similar proposal	PCG
Keeps green area in community Previous school site Central	PCG
The field is an asset of the community which will be compromised by the development. Proposed plans reduce the playing area significantly only leaving one full size pitch which will not accommodate the needs of the community. Especially mini rugby and oth	PCG
There would be no place for the children to play	PCG
For our children and the future	PCG
The playing field is an excellent community sporting resource and it would be heartbreaking to see it built on. The derelict VP site would make the new school the heart of the community in the centre of the village. Please don't take away our field!	PCG
Don't believe in taking green space which can be utilised for the new school which has a perfectly good site 200 yards away. Precedent set as it was the preferred site before and housed a comprehensive school.	MoC
Because there's already a site where a school used to be. The playing fields are used all the time. Whoever the thick person is who came up with this stupid idea should be sacked cos they seriously ain't got a clue about life in cefn	MoC

The vaynor & penderyn school site is more than adequate for the new school .the school feild is the hart of the community witch has been used for many year for a wide range off events .the feild being used would have a detrimental impact on the local rugb	MoC
One school has already been demolished why can't they build another on that site, the playing field should stay as a playing field. People of the community use the field for activities, and the government are often promoting exercise to stay healthy.	MoC
The access to both sites would be the same so it seems common sense to me to use the old school site and continue to use the playing fields for the benefit of everyone	MoC
save school field, grass roots rugby and green area needed in community	MoC
The field is a valuable open playing space for both members of the local sports clubs and local children who simply want to 'play' safely.	MoC
Placing buildings on a playing field is irreversible, and a loss to the community. The NHS is struggling to cope with patient numbers as a result of obesity, especially in children, yet we see local politicians and officials trying to take this course of	MoC
Maintain sports facilities given that obesity and health issues are prevalent in Merthyr Tydfil. At present the Godre'r Coed playing field is very well used by local community especially children and we are desperately short of green spaces and playing facilities in Merthyr Tydfil. Preference for use of existing brownfield site rather than green space.	MoC
Disagree that the council/Welsh Assembly is considering building on a green site.	MoC
We need space for the children to play! The playing field is an important part of the community - for people of all ages! Agree, a school is needed in the village, however, keep the green space too!	MoC
In light of the child obesity problem, it would be a backward step to lose a playing field that is well used by the local community. It seems more sensible to utilise the old Vaynor and Penderyn site than churn up a beautiful field.	MoC
I feel that building on green spaces is further reducing access to the outdoors and open spaces for the community. This will impact on the health and well-being of residents due to lack of green spaces to exercise and participate in community sports. As a	MoC
Best location.	MoC
Best location	MoC
The playing field should be left as a playing field for the community , the local community use this field constantly and this would have a detrimental effect on the community . Also the site for the school is inappropriate .	MoC
To keep green area for recreation	MoC

There is no need to get rid of a perfectly good field when you have an area to build where the old one was.	MoC
Godre Coed playing field site is a place where families can enjoy a taste of the beautiful countryside down to the river. I had the pleasure of living in Godre Coed farm house when Teddingtons was responsible for this lovely area.	MoC
Its where my children and grandchildren attended school and they used the field for games and meeting friends.	MoC
The field is very popular for sports and dog walkers. Traffic will be an issue for the residents of Cyfarthfa Gardens	MoC
Dont mess the field up the community use it all the time	MoC
Where would the youth of today find other places to play and enjoy their ball games meet friends etc.. Playing fields will be a thing of the past. The VP High school caused very little hassle to the general public with parking etc... if the site was good enough then it is good enough to build a 21st century school.	MoC
Thats where the school should be built	MoC
To keep our Vaynor site for the good of community 100%	MoC
Formally are was a school without any concerns. Field are essential for community and green space	LSG
Keep as much green space for the community as possible	LSG
Saving green space for our community	LSG
Stop building where children play.	LSG
The playing fields are a massive part of the community and to the young children taking part in physical activity on them. Welsh Government are trying to tackle the growing rate of obesity and inactivity amongst young children so taking this facility away	LSG
These fields are used by 100's of children every week for exercise, it is important for children to have a facility like this to cut down on the growing problem of obesity in today's children.	LSG
I play on the playing field with my friends	LSG
Because the field is used for sporting events regularly, by children not just from Cefn but all over Merthyr.	LSG
Why take away playing fields and green space that is used regular when there's a site not being used for anything that could house a school. If the site held a comprehensive then I'm sure it could hold a junior school	LSG

Because its available & the fields are the playground of the local & further afield children	LSG
Taking away of playing fields that are in use on a regular basis by children attending sporting clubs is unjustified. The Borough is currently being stripped of all assets and open areas. There is land available at the former Vaynor school, but remediation	LSG
I think having a school that has a playing field to use would be fantastic for the kids to help lead a healthy lifestyle. Also the field is a huge part of the community. I grew up playing with friends on it and would like my son to be able to do the same.	LB
Retain the green for village	LComG
Its a brown site more than adequate to build a 21st century school ensuring the green space in the village is preserved for future generations	Res
I would like a new school built in the village but the village also need green space for the children and adults to play , if the school was built on the field , where would there be green space within the village for the children	Res
There is no green space left around the village for children to play that space is for all the community people walking around the field children playing climbing trees vaynor school would be ideal for the new new school	Res
This site is the most suitable and we need to keep our green area	Res
There aren't many places that are safe for children to play in Cefn the old school field is perfect, The field in question has seen many events over the years and not just rugby, carnivals plus other sport events The problem I have is again the council are ignoring the people of Vaynor when they have told them time and time again NO leave the field alone, use the old Vaynor and Penderyn site But that is the game they play, 'let's just wear them down in the end the people of Vaynor will get fed up and give up' WELL NOT ABOUT THIS WE WON'T MERTHYR COUNCIL	Res
Greater rates of activity in children have been associated with higher test scores in reading and maths Frequent physical activity has been associated with improved behavior in the classroom and beyond. It is important we keep our green spaces to encourage the above	Res
The children & adults have played on this field for years and is still used for young boys & girls to play on there.	Res
The field must be retained for community. To ensure that there is a GREEN SPACE for all to enjoy.	Res
I have lived in Cefn Coed for 35 years both my children were born and went to school in the village. In that time the Godre, r Coed playing field has allows been leisure centre both my children played on the fields and my son played mini rugby for Cefn Co	Res

We must save our playing fields for future generations - full stop!!!	Res
I work as a Public Health Nurse and Health Visitor at Keir Hardie Health Park with Cefn and Trefechan is part of my catchment area. The Welsh Government has recently introduced Healthy Child Wales Programme for all children. This programme has a great emph	Res
I think the field should be kept for all the community, not just for the few. The recent increases in type two diabetes in the young due to obesity through lack of exercise is alarming. Merthyr Tydfil has the most obese children in South Wales from a rece	Res
As members of the Cefn Coed/Trefechan community still use the field for walking dogs/rugby training and for just simply to play on. Huge amount of space on the Vaynor as an ex Vaynor pupil would love to see the space being utilised	Res
School A Above	Res
To maintain field for sports and healthy pursuits	Res
Its a green belt area	Res
Keep the whole field for recreation of the whole community. Build on the V&P site	Res
You will be taking all our green spaces if you build on the field	Res
I remember this land being donated by Colonel Jones for the use of the young people of Cefn Coed and think that his wishes should be adhered to.	Res
We want the field kept as it is for sports and leisure. The children of the borough need the facility to try to keep healthy.	Res
We want the field to remain as it is for the children and everyone to enjoy. You have a good site to put the school on Make it work.	Res
Godre'r Coed site is the only area in the village which can be used for sport and a playing field for young people.	Res
To my knowledge, as a resident of 40 years +, Godre coed field has been known 'the playing field' It is, in effect, a mini park in an otherwise built up area. Well used by people of all ages for organised and casual sport, genearl exercise and relaxation. Where else can we replace it? Given the need to comat health issues such as obesity and the modern childs obsession with iPhones and internet we should develop more green space, not build over it and in that way encorage a healthier, fitter more outgoing population.	Res
We need one field for future generations	Res
Every one in the community uses it. Build the school on the Vaynor sight then the school the community and rugby can still use it, everyone is winning.	Res
The playing field site it was and should stay a playing field for activities of the children and adult of the community	Res

Building here would leave the playing field site available for sports leisure and healthy pursuits. which contribute to maintaining active and healthy communities and securing far reaching benefits. We could have a new primary school and playing fields. Not an either or situation.	Res
The field should not be touched, it has a covenant on it. Build on V&P site.	Res
The health of the community should be considered when there are so many problems in Merthyr. People need exercise and the children need a field to do this	Res
Why you are even considering the field is beyond me. Leave the field as it is. We need the field for sports and leisure activities.	Res
You shouldn't build on the field when you said you were going to build it on Vaynor a few years ago.	Res
I play on the field and my dad showed me how to play golf on it and ride a bike. Can you please put the school on Vaynor site	Res
We need to keep the green belt area	Res
Please keep the field for the community to use and for sport to be played	Res
This is the green belt area of our village providing sports areas leisure area. You should be promoting sport not curtailing. The Chief Executive, architect, highways are all strangers to the village. The policy is sell land for housing etc.. Hands off	Res
Vaynor right place	Res
Do not destroy a much used green area. Can you build on the Vaynor site it makes more sense.	Res

History and existing infrastructure of the V&P Site:

the old site has all the ground space required, along with a proven track history of a vibrant school within the village.	Pupil
The site held a secondary school for many years and has no previous issues! Why take away green space when there is a large space available!	Staff
It just makes sense for the school to be built on unused wasted land, where our children can still be a part of a community in which generations have been previously. Also having full use of the school field for all sports and promoting healthy living etc	PCG
As a former pupil of Vaynor and Penderyn, I would like the site to be used for something more useful for the community than more housing. It is a vast site and a true future school could be housed there.	PCG
I believe that the Old Vaynor school site can adequately support a new school building - as it did successfully for many years. Transport links are good and with some changes to access, paving etc will be the most viable option. Building on the field will	PCG
This was the area originally designated for the school. However if this is not viable then the school field must be considered.	PCG

There was a school on there before I think it's the perfect site!! And for the reasons of no pavements the children are to young to walk to school on their own any way so parents can make sure that they get there!! And we get to keep the playing field!!	PCG
It was previously a site of a school , there are several roads surrounding that site which will not cause congestion on 1 sole route . Having the school built on this site will allow the community and local rugby club to have a sports field . The school field should not be chosen as it is already protected . Children of all ages (boys and girls) are apart of Cefn coed rugby club , they train and play on this field several times a week . For many children this is their only exercise , to take this field away would take away their clubs playing field which would demolish the rugby teams which will have dier affects on these children . For These children would it would have not only have negative health effects but negative social effects too .	PCG
The Vaynor and Penderyn site was previously chosen as the preferred option for the school and I feel this decision should still stand. When operating as a high school, children would use the nearby playing fields for outdoor activities/P.E lessons and I see no reason why this could not continue in a similar capacity if the new school is built on the site. Any loss of land at the playing fields site would be detrimental to the sporting teams who currently use it and to the community in general and I believe the access options offered to the playing field site via Cyfarthfa Gardens would cause further disruption on an already problematic part of the highway.	PCG
There was a school on the site before so i don't see why there cannot be a school on the site again. There is not a lot of community green space around the villages as it is and if this is taken away for a school the village will never get it back. Architects are amazing and can design a school that would fit in that space. The fields will still be available and is only a short walk from the school on a very quiet road. Its no different to what the school has had to do at its current site. If anything, it gives the pupils more opportunity to learn road safety. i just think there is no need to take away a field when there is a space for the school which used to have a school on it. Land can be built up or taken away to make the area 1 level and house the perfect school.	PCG
only one place	PCG
There was a school there for over a hundred years that many generations of my family attended. It's centrally located. It's been derelict for years and a school would be ideal	PCG
The site was used as a school for a long time. It is a big enough area to situate Ysgol Y Graig. The school could be accessed from the bottom gates, Pontycapel Road, in which the road could be changed to a one way system in order to control the flow of tr	MoC
This site has housed a school with no major issues for over 100 years, any issues with increased traffic etc can be easily overcome. The field is used daily by a large percentage of the community, and used for training and games for the mini section, plus	MoC
The site is purpose built for a school having already housed one for many decades. The infrastructure is in place already around the site plus it will bring business back to the High Street of the village. Finally it would be tragic to lose the school fie	MoC
School replacing school.	MoC
It makes sense	MoC
It's the site of a previous school so obviously works as a location. Highways to the field would be logistically more difficult, and the village would have both needs met, a school and playing/recreational field	MoC
perfect location there was a comprehensive school there for over 50 years and the school fields must be kept for the community to use for recreation	MoC

I went to vaynor and it didn't cause any problems to me attending and leaving the site on a daily basis. As a resident in the area I feel that by putting the school on the school field is just to get people Back up when there is a perfect option in front	MoC
The V&P site would provide adequate space and access. The school field is a resource/space for all the village and should not be lost.	MoC
The community needs the playing fields ... if the old school site was good enough for a comprehensive school it should be good enough for a community school	MoC
Because there enough room on the former vaynir site, with available outdoor play..... the current pitch can be used for extra curricular activity when needed. I think the traffic to and from school is going to be a problem in either site as the roads arou	MoC
There was a school there for years and years.... never a problem with access, no RTA's and it's closer to main high street	MoC
Better location	MoC
The best of both worlds, more room for the school and more room for the community fields, in the future more room may be needed for both school and fields, if it's all on one site, no changes can ever be made in the future	MoC
Road links already in place @ V&P and playing fields are for playing not building!!	MoC
The former V&P school site in the middle of the village with easy access east west north & south. Previously contained a school so no planning problems. It is large enough again contained a school with up to 600 pupils in fact at one time two schools a grammar and a sec/modern. On the issue of access pupils travelled from Pontneddfechan, Hirwaun, Penderyn, Pontsticill & Cwmtaf came by school bus as well as Trefechan on public transport, village children walked to the site. There were little if any problems to do with safety. Not to use this brown field site that is certainly adequate and to consider to build on a green field site a field much used by all sections of the community	MoC
I attended the vaynor site and it was good enough for me 12 year ago!! There are foundation already there and I can't see why there is a big deal about putting it on the field there we loss greenary, places to watch the further generation goruo up playing	MoC
Already a school site, rebuild school as you have recently, in the borough.	MoC
The old school site is fit for purpose , with equal access issues as any other site. It once held a school for over 600 pupils , and can surely hold a building for the proposed third of that number . It is a site ready for building on , with minimal ground	MoC
Better situated site. Field needs to be left as it is for recreation and the community. V&P site always housed a school. (of 500 pupils) which was accessed from 4 entrances, the main entrance was from south terrace. You can improve the roads to do the same now.	MoC
This has always been site for a school with no problems	MoC
This has always been site of a school	MoC
To me it seems common sense to construct a new school on the site of a previous school that has already been cleared which in turn would speed up the construction process.	MoC
because all the services are already there and you are not taking away a valuable playing field for the children in the community	MoC
It is common sense to build a school where there was a school site. surely better for the residents than the eyesore that is there at the moment. With the playing fields nearby	MoC
I attended the field for events and sports and was a pupil at V&P and theres nothing wrong with the site.	MoC
No need to get rid of school	MoC

Always was a school on the site and the field is in daily use	MoC
No need to get rid of school	MoC
It makes sense to me as the area has already been used as a school thereby allowing the field to be used by children to play or and incorporated for use by the school.	MoC
The former V&P high school site is a large area that could be developed to house a school. It has adequate land for developing a stimulating outdoor classroom environment including a large play area with access to grassed sports facilities. In addition there would still be space for staff and visitor parking also allowing space for delivery services.	MoC
I believe that Vaynor and Penderyn school should be built on the original site as all the amenities are already on site. (water, gas, electric) and the Godre'r Coed playing field site should be used for the purposes of children utilising it for activities such as games, football, etc..	MoC
Why use the field when there were two schools there previously?	MoC
The old V&P site is more suitable and ready to go after being a school for many years. To lose the green space within the village would be a great loss to the community.	MoC
Its best place for a school	MoC
Best place for a school	MoC
It's a ready made site so carbon footprint in construction of the school is lower and the new school will have a vast playing field area to utilise for various sports simultaneously rather than the postage stamp which is in the plans for school on playingfield area	LSG
As the old Vaynor site was previously a school site and is ready for development where better?!!! As for the alternative site being the school field its location is awful not safe for the heavy traffic and children walking to and from school.	LSG
Site is ready for a new school and is easiest option for everyone.	LSG
It has previously been used for a school for it has the amenities to accommodate a new building.	LSG
Operated as a school in the past. Has better access to the main road, playing field site would need to be through a housing estate which would cause significant disruption. Field is used by many in the community and the plan shows significant reduction in	LSG
The site was a school for many years. Building the new school on the playing field would mean the Cefn Coed RFC mini and juniors would lose their rugby field, and in a time where obesity is at its highest this could only be detrimental on the young people	LSG
Location good and worked well as vaynor and penderyn school I know I was an ex pupil	LSG
Its been proven as a good spot for a school in the past , however traffic flow is an issue for either venue unless certain compulsory purchases are put in order to make one more viable than the other! Sports facilities in the area have been halved yet the	LComG
Previously been used as a school site. All amenities already there. The community need a green space for all to enjoy. Encourages sports activities, helping maintain a healthier lifestyle in the community. The health and wellbeing of the community is para	LComG
This is a sufficient, adequate area to build an appropriate school with nicely sized playing area. By doing this the children can use the existing playing fields and can continue to build on all skills they need, academic, social and physical.	LComG
There is already drainage pipes etc already to go, the school site is already there and it was a good school whilst up	Res

It seems a better option as it has been previously used for such a purpose. Any traffic problems would occur in both sites so either way the community is affected greatly. However with the old school site being used the field can continue to be used by an	Res
Why put a school on a field when there is a perfect site right there at the old vaynor and penderyn site??? I was a pupil at vaynor many years ago and it was good enough site when I was there so whats wrong with putting a school on a site when the foundat	Res
That is the site for Vaynor and Penderyn for Years,best place for the New school,and We keep Our playing fields.	Res
There was a high school on this site for years,so to take the field off the community to put a school there when there is a perfectly good site ready and waiting is a joke.Plus the school going on vaynor site and the field staying as it is,is going to ben	Res
The old Vaynor and Penderyn site is more than suitable as the new location for Ysgol y Graig. As an ex Vaynor and Penderyn pupil access and regress was never an issue. Social and economic responsibility should encourage and demand communities keep ever de	Res
Vaynor school area is a more suitable proposition. Location is the same. Access will be a problem for both sites. Surely the vaynor school area was the plan from the beginning, why suggest a new site?	Res
It's a traditional school site whilst the alternative is a playing field so therefore is protected from development.	Res
The Old Vaynor & Penderyn site has already provided an educational establishment that proved ideally suited to cater for the needs of local children in terms of environment, access and health and safety. This site would require minimum preparation for dev	Res
As the former Vaynor & Penderyn school site has already been used for a school, it seems the obvious place to rebuild a new one. The Godre'r Coed playing fields are used by many organisations, hosts events, sports, recreation and dog walkers alike. Also,	Res
Previously been used as a school site. All amenities already there. The community need a green space for all to enjoy. Encourages sports activities, helping maintain a healthier lifestyle in the community. The health and wellbeing of the community is paramount	Res
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Previously been used as a school site. All amenities already there. The community need a green space for all to enjoy. Encourages sports activities, helping maintain a healthier lifestyle in the community. The health and wellbeing of the community is paramount	Res
The old school site is perfectly viable , any access issues can be overcome . Both proposed sites will have pedestrian access to them via Pontycapel Road The community of Cefn Coed want the Vaynor fields left for use of sporting groups , for cricket , rug	Res

The former Vaynor site was built for the purpose of a school and therefore has the capacity to be a school once again in the form of Ysgol-Y-Graig. If the school was to be built in the current football field it would cause a multitude of problems, but mainly transportation issues. The access into the field from Maesgwynne/Cyfarthfa Gardens is for pedestrian use only and the current vehicle access point would not be suitable for the heavy traffic a school brings, therefore this would suggest that changes would be made and if the traffic was to come through the Maesgwynne/Cyfarthfa Gardens street, it would cause a lot of upset, distress and chaos for the residents. Currently, when events are held in the football field or in Cyfarthfa park, the residents of Maesgwynne/Cyfarthfa Gardens are swamped with traffic and blocked drives, which is unacceptable, especially in the case of an emergency, but for general use of your own drive it is a nuisance to be blocked in by a non-resident of the street. Furthermore, as mentioned in your documents, the current pedestrian crossing is 500m up the high street and the traffic at the mini roundabout is already dangerous with a normal flow of traffic. Accidents occur here too often, and would naturally only become worse if a school was to be situated in this area due to the increase in cars/buses and people. This is not only dangerous for drivers, but also for regular pedestrians and the young school children who would be walking here daily. There are numerous reasons why the school should not be built in this area, but it all stems down to the impracticality and unsuitability of its location.	Res
There are more roads to this site, as it has already been used as a school. There is only one road going to the Godre'r Coed Playing Field Site. Not only that this is the only field the children have to play, Its the only place family's can go with little children too be able to play	Res
I dont want a school opposite my home when there is a site already available. Vaynor and Penderyn is more suitable and has already been a school.The rugby field as I know it is for both children and adults to use for sports activities ie. Rugby, Football and cricket	Res
Site more suitable	Res
The old school site is more suitable because it is central for the whole village of Cefn Coed and the site should be used for a new school to replace the old one using the space for education instread of being of no use at all and thus keeping the green field for sporting use.	Res
V& P is already ready for a school so please build there	Res
This is a self contained site already used as a school which is suitable for redevelopment as a modern school without depriving the community of much needed green space.	Res
Originally a school site with 500 pupils this site would accomodate a smaller primary school without problem the site should be looked at how to make it viable not negatively that it is not viable. This option would maintain one of the last green fields a generous size with flat grounds to accomodate a variety of sport and recreation facilities.	Res
There is already a site available Vaynor and Penderyn. The rugby field is known for activities, rugby, football. Nice to walk the dog	Res
I feel that the former vaynor site is more suitable to accomodate the school as the majority of the are of the existing playing fields will remain in tact for recreation purposes.	Res
Site its already there, why take away the only playing field in Cefn Coed	Res
There was a school there for 100 years plus with pupils attending from all areas with no problems. The site is now laying derelict. Why use a green field site when this brown site is available.The number of pupils to attend the new school is much lower than the number attended to the Old school again with no problems.	Res

I think that the new school should be built on V&P school site. the amenities are already there the school field should be kept for the Cefn community.	Res
V&P site is better prepared for building on. The playing field is a landmark that gets used alot for sports.	Res
MTBC have already spent 20K on seeing if this site is viable. It obviously is and was good enough to build on in 2012.The playing fields could still be used for school activities as well as the community. Does MTBC know if the field is viable to build on?*	Res
This site used to house over 500 children, and should do so again. Brown field sites should be used for schooling.The V&P site is at the heart of the community.	Res
V&P site is a much better option as the field shouldnt be an option at all. It is protected	Res
This site V&P High school site is a tried and tested location. This site was chosen initially and there was sufficient good reasons to have this a school area. The playing field is an essential part of the community for usage in sports and other activities. This should be protected.	Res
School has already been on this site, so has facilities to accomodate. Safer for children due to location.	Res
The reason for this is becuae a school has already been on this site hence the neighbourhood are accustomed to this. Also it is nicely tucked away where it will be safer for the children with respect to traffic etc..Also the site would have all the facilities for a school making it easier to build a new school there.	Res
V&P is a site waiting to be built on. The field is played on constantly. We need to keep the field	Res
The site is available and has always had a school. There are different acesses. which will mean less build up of traffic.	Res
The more suitable site for the new ysgol y graig is on the ground of the former V&P site. This would then keep the Godre'r Coed playing field for sport which is very important for childrens health and education.	Res
Other site more suitable	Res
Always was a good school with over 400 pupils who were safe there so how can it be unsafe for 200+ pupils	Res
I believe that the school should be built on the VP site because the school was always there.	Res
Already been a school and has access as before at south terrace, plenty of room for buses and safe for children up south terrace.As only entrance to school at bottom of street and also plenty of car park spaces in school so no extra parking in surrounding street, which would cause problems for residents	Res
School site already established. Why take over the playing field site?	Res
Good enough for me to attend and safe for all of us so why change it	Res
It was good enough when I was in school and it was safe so whats wrong with it now	Res
The site was previously a school and the children need the playing field. There is nowhere else or safe for them to play	Res
I cannot see why we have to lose a wonderful community facility when there is a perfectly good site close by. The Vaynor and Penderyn site is currently unused and from the plans can accommodate the school with staff parking on a small area nearby. This wo	
Myself and my husband both are former pupils and the site is the right place to be	
Always was a school there	

V&P at the Heart of the Village:

Keep it local	Staff
This is central in the village	Staff
It will be in the middle of Cefn. Just like the other school was, no problem to get to this area, I wen to both schools and lived in Trefechan at the time. Its away from busy roads. V&P site is a better location for a school, I dont think the school field would be right for a school and rugby field combined	Staff
enclosed area that is central tin the village with multiple access points	PCG
Plenty of space for new school At heart of local community Good access for children to walk/cycle to school	MoC
Playing school for children to play Vaynor school is like a jungle in the centre of Cefn. It's always been a school	MoC
The old Vaynor and Penderyn Site is more central to the village with multiple access throughout the central area of the village. The land on which the old Vaynor and Penderyn School was situated is more than sufficient for approximately 220 -250 junior sc	LSG
The site is right in the centre of the village - it is easily accessible on foot for children and parents from all parts of Cefn Coed. There is scope to alter traffic arrangements (e.g. through one way systems, designated drop-off points) to allow drop-of	Res
The site was previously used as a school so access etc would have been previously established It is situated in the middle of the village, as it is important that the school be in the 'village' It will allow the redevelopment of the previous school without	Res
It belongs to the village	Res
The V&P site is more accessible and centrally situated. Keep the field for the community	Res
Important to have school closer to centre of village	Res
Better sited and easier to keep safe than Godre'r Coed playing field site	Res
The site is located in the area that would benefit the community. At the moment the site is covered in rubbish whilst Godrer Coed playing field is used frequently by families for leisure and entertainment. Also, as SWOT document failed to register there is a matter of vehicle acess. The same weaknesses such as narrow road network and difficulties accessing the construction plant apply to both sites... this gives an impression that the document is biased.	Res
V& P site is more central and easier to get to	Res
It is in the middle of the village of Cefn Coed. Convenient est, west north and south for pupils staff and visitors. There are entrances at all points of the campus. Easy access for pedestrian and vehicular acess.	Res

Access, Traffic and Transport

It is more central to the village for people who travel by public transport.	pupil
Road access right around several access points field can still be used by school	PCG
Access can be made in a one way circle, in at Lord Raglan ont trthough island at crawshays old pub or other way around with roundabout at junction at Lord Raglan. No parking along ponty capel road during day. South Wall for residence/ school. Also site of old Chaeple in Helford St, made into carpark for residence and school. All open to business's needing temporary parking. No walls or gates for paring only school. No reason for school not be made compact or submerged . + two story high? Playing field can be improved with zebra crossing access from school. Please do not take away what was given to community and keeps us united as a village/ healthy.	PCG
poor access to Godre'r Coed playing field	MoC
the other site would have to be accessed via cyfarthfa gardens and the area is too small to accommodate buses, especially buses attempting to go around the very difficult mini roundabout at the entrance to maesgwynne and cyfarthfa gardens. There will be n	MoC
Ample space for new school, one way traffic system to be put into place, school fields should be left as they were given to community for recreational use only.	LSG
The site is more central to the village with various access points for pupils/staff.	LSG
It is a better spot for a school and more accessible	LMP
The field is an integral part of the community and is essential for our youth. The former vaynor and Pendleton site is ideal for the new school. Access road from the high street could easily be set up by creating an access point (opposite pink pamper) and	Res
Increase of traffic volume access route unsuitable (many accidents already taking place on mini roundabout on high street) To loose the playing fields would be to the detriment of the community, it is such a valuable resource which is always used by a local rugby team and by members of the community each and every day.	Res
We do not want to lose a valuable resource as the field. Put a new one way route from the High street to the Vaynor site.	Res
Site already stands a change in roads direction would stand	Res
Too much traffic for such a small site as maesgwynne. V&P is a much better access site.	Res
Vaynor and Penderyn is more better for the schoool to be built on as there would be more traffic around the streets if you build houses, which I have heard you are going to build on V&P We need the field for sports and the community.	Res
Access to the Godrer Coed site is already barely adequate for the current residential traffic due to the narrowness of hte current roadways which cannot be widened because of established accomodation. The number of cars which will add to health and safety problems by exaserbating pollution and adding significant risk to traffic. can buses transporting 250+ pupils to and from the site is bound to cause congestion that could foreseeably result in a bottleneck into/out of the site, a tailback to the mine roundabout and the Gwynns Public House and traffic into and out of Merthyr Town.	Res
better access	Res
With some road improvements the old school site is the best site because we do not want to lose any part of the field. It has been used by the village for over 100 yeas and still is in constant use.	Res

Potential difficulties for some families in getting children to and from school	Res
I dont think the council has put enough effort into finding a safe way to access the former school site. Has the entrance near the bottom fish shop been considered? or maybe making Ponty Chapel Road one way traffic etc... I thought it was the policy of the wales planning to give preference to brown field sites.	Res
The amount of traffic in Cefn Coed is already very high and this will increase it. Also the fields are used regularly and are a safe place for kids to play. It would be a shame to lose this area to become a concrete space.	Res
If the school was built on the Godre'r Coed playing field, it would cause too much traffic congestion.	Res
More suitable for transport	Trans
Traffic/parking would be a major concern for me, and also the vetting or lack of potential residents and their background	

Other comments:

I think this site may be used for building more houses if not retained as a school.	PCG
Best use of land otherwise it will just be sold for houses	MoC
Best use of land	LComG
Both locations are very similar however vaynor has the infrastructure for a school as it used to be. The fields can be kept for green land which is needed for Cefn area. Plus if a school was built on the fields vaynor land would be sold for houses. The ar	MoC
You cannot destroy the playing flieds - you have a school site already- build it there , we all know the only reason you want to build on school fields , so you can sell off the original school site - this will be so wrong and you will destroy the playin	Res
You only want to build on school fields so you can sell original school for housing - it's morally wrong and you should be ashamed that you are even considering it!	Res
This site is clearly empty for some time, should be utilised for childrens needs not housing. Keep playing field for children and green space	Res
wedfwed	MoC
Best place for school	MoC
Hands off!	LCG
It's a disgrace what you are trying to do!!	Res
The above	Res
Piss Off	Res
hands off	Res
Hands off	Res
leave alone	Res
No chance	Res
I believe it's the best option	Res

APPENDIX 3: Consultation Session Comments

Ysgol Y Graig Primary School re-location

Comments

Ysgol Y Graig School Council 18th July 2017

Most of the comments made by the children were about what they wanted their new school to have:

Outdoor area, outdoor classroom, calming area, thinking room, music room, science room, Playdoh room, reading room, sandpit, music room, Slide. Cooking classroom, art room, climbing frame, mini-forest, drinking fountain, football goals, instruments, insect area, PE cupboard, sorry room. Log circle, football pitch, calm room, jungle gym, slide, swing, outside drinking place

School field, forest, yard, ICT room, jungle gym, play area, scooter and bike parking, Paddling pool, Football, rugby, bug home, pond, calm room, flowers, Playdoh room, sandpit, computer room, Bug home, school forest, sandpit, Quiet room, book group, Trampoline park, swimming pool, park, football, rugby, better school pens, scooter club, Climbing frame, bug home, quiet room, Pond, indoors slide, forest, insect habitat, Jungle

After seeing the plans for the V&P site, I believe it was a waste of time and money having plans done for the field. Vaynor site is perfect.

My preferred sit is V&P, as the field is a valuable asset to the village.

I need the rugby field to stay because rugby is my heart and desire. Otherwise, I would be stuck in the house doing nothing – Brandon.

They shouldn't build on the field – they should leave it as it is for the children of the village. I used to use this fields as a young girl and I am still at the grand age of 93.

My view on the consultation is that the views of the community are not being taken into account. Our field should be left for the children and families to enjoy the open area and for their children to have somewhere in the future to just relax away from the stress of life. Please build on the V&P former site. Our children deserve a new school, so why can't we have both? Cheryl Lang.

It appears to me that the consultation is purely an administrative necessity. All the officials I spoke to admitted their bias towards the Playing Fields site.

The school should be built on the site where a school has always stood. The playing fields are just that – playing fields and should be left that way. The children of Cefn Coed need and deserve a place to play and stay healthy to become all round healthy children.

After discussions with the council officers in attendance, it seems that the decision has already been made to build the school on the playing field. Very little consideration seems to have been to building on the V&P site because it is an easy option to say that there is a problem with the traffic. There are about 130 children using the field throughout the year.

It should not be the Architect's decision alone – he does not understand the locality and the strength of feeling in the community. The use of the field by the children should be encouraged – it should not be destroyed. This is a disgrace – the people of this community have not been listened to (except for the select few). The children need this only green space in the village.

The Vaynor site should be chosen provided that classroom sizes can be safeguarded and the school can have appropriate outdoor classrooms for foundation phase and play areas for kids. If the playing field area can only be used, both the Vaynor and YGG sites must be used for recreational purposes – grass pitch and MUGA.

What is best for Cefn Coed y Cymmer? Advantages of V&P site:

- 1) Use of a brownfield site
- 2) Central to the village
- 3) A creative architect could make a very attractive site
- 4) Safety access issues can be overcome
- 5) Building on that site will retain a playing/recreational area for the village and school, allowing the village to hold fetes, cricket and all activities which we should be encouraging to make a fit and healthy society – Alan Bush.

As a lifelong resident of Cefn Coed, I am fully behind the school field staying that as it has helped generations past and also will in the future to progress in healthy sporting activities.

I think it is scandalous to contemplate the loss of a rugby pitch. This WILL happen if the school site chosen, when the building starts, contractors move boundaries. The old school site is the residents of Cefn Coed's choice, but will it be listened to?

Pontsticill Memorial Hall

17.08.17

Brendan Lewis 34, Cyfarthfa Gardens – If it's Council land why is it labelled as community land on Council plans.

Use of land would like to see deeds and conditions.

APPENDIX 4: Responses From the Ysgol Y Graig Primary



Ysgol-Y-Graig Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs.K Everley

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September 8th 2017

FAO Communications, Consultation and Engagement Department

I am writing on behalf of the school staff of Ysgol Y Graig Primary. As the extended consultation process is coming to an end we wanted to re-iterate the views of our staff as a whole. All staff have given their views independently throughout this process, but the consensus of opinion is that we would like the new school build to be on the Godre'r Coed site.

The main reason for this is because of issues around safeguarding. On the Godre'r Coed site, the whole school is situated in one area. On the former Vaynor and Penderyn school site this is not possible. As a result, the children will be able to access all areas of the Godre'r Coed site easily and safely when undertaking sports and outside learning activities. This will be more difficult on the alternative proposed site.

We understand the concerns the community have regarding the possible use of the Godre'r Coed site but we really feel that these issues could be overcome. Many schools are now used for lots of community activities and we feel that this would be easily achievable here in Cefn Coed. There is a strong community ethos here which is so important to the identity of this village. We would hope that this would only be strengthened by the building of the school on this site and would endeavour to work with the community to ensure that this is the case.

Yours sincerely,

Kathryn Everley

Headteacher

APPENDIX 5: Response from Estyn

Estyn response to the proposal to replace the existing school building for Ysgol y Graig Primary School and relocate it in a new building on a new site.

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

This is a proposal by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council to establish the preferred site to build a new school building for Ysgol y Graig Primary School. The new school building will replace the current primary school and nursery with a one-form entry primary school.

Summary

The proposal by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is to construct a replacement building for the existing Ysgol y Graig Primary School on one of two shortlisted sites. These are the former Vaynor and Penderyn High School site and the Godre'r Coed playing fields site.

The proposal asserts reasonably that relocating the school to a new building should help support pupil progress by improving continuity and progression for pupils as well as at least maintaining the school's current performance.

It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits when compared with the status quo in relation to the learning environment, enhancing community facilities and ensuring that all pupils from 3 to 11 years of age are educated on the same site. The proposer also explain well how the proposal fits with the local authority's broader strategic plan.

The proposer notes appropriately the advantages of the proposal, which include efficient and effective use of resources, the continuity and progression in pupils'

learning, improved community engagement and access to a purposeful learning environment.

The proposer has identified suitably the disadvantages of the current proposal, which focus on the impact on travel arrangements for the staff and pupils. It also notes appropriately the advantages and disadvantages in relation to each of the proposed sites.

This proposal does not change the current provision of home to school transport. The current proposal will not create new school places nor will it reduce the current level of surplus places within the authority.

Ysgol y Graig Primary School currently teaches Welsh as a second language but does not provide education through the medium of Welsh. This arrangement will continue under the proposal. The proposer has considered appropriately the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection report and school categorisation in relation to the National School Categorisation system on the quality of leadership and pupil outcomes for the school. The proposers' summary of outcomes for the school is concise and clear and compares performance with similar schools based on entitlement to free school meals. Estyn inspected Ysgol y Graig Primary School in March 2015 and the judgements for the school's performance and prospects for improvement were good. The local authority has also evaluated each school's performance in relation to the National School Categorisation System. Under the system, schools will be in one of four standards groups (1 to 4), with schools in standards group 1 demonstrating very good overall performance and those in standards group 4 demonstrating the greatest need for improved performance. Ysgol y Graig Primary School is currently in standards group 1.

The proposers have undertaken an appropriate equality impact assessment, which considers the impact of the proposal on a few vulnerable groups including pupils with special educational needs. The Learning Resource Base (LRB) for pupils with special educational needs currently located at the school will be included in the proposed new building. The proposal asserts reasonably that this is unlikely to have a negative effect on the provision for those pupils already attending the LRB.