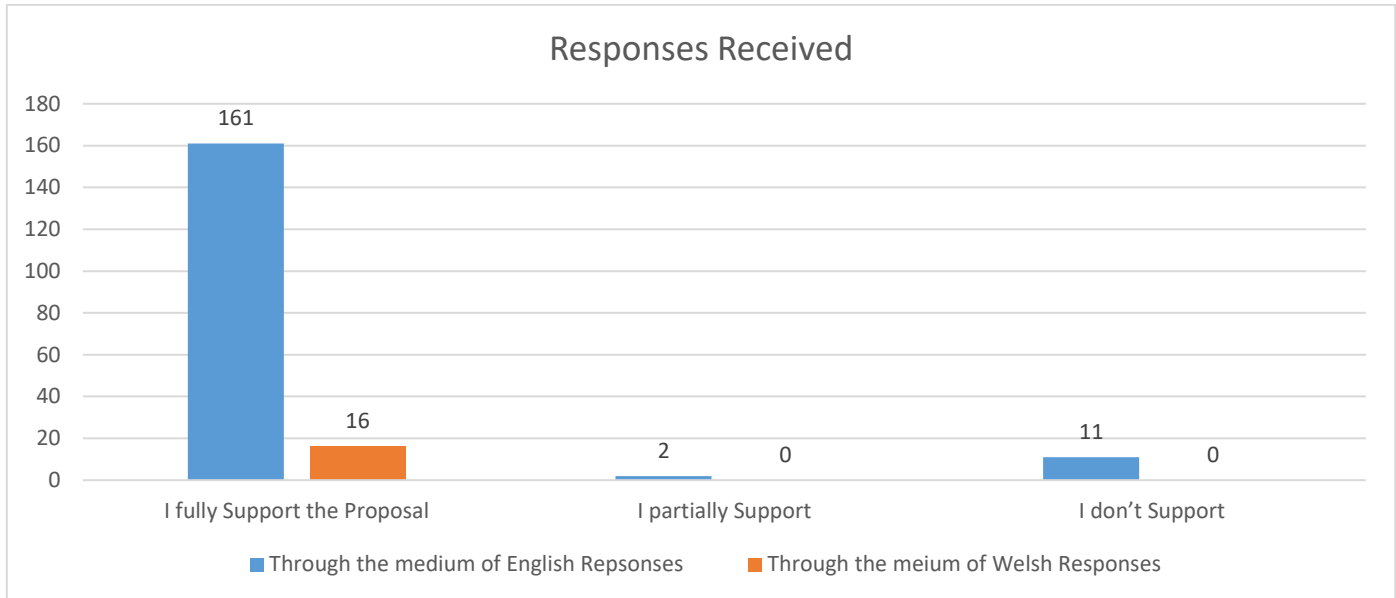


Analysis of the On-Line Survey

Summary of the Proposal to build a new 210 Welsh medium Primary School with Co-located Childcare provision in Tredegar/Sirhowy Area.

The Consultation for the above proposal concluded on Friday 29th January 2021 and received **190** responses in total. **16** responses through the medium of Welsh and **174** responses in English.



The below data shows us how many comments were received

	Comments	No Comments	Of those comments
Welsh Medium responses	10	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 16 fully supportive of proposal
English Medium responses	88	86	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 86 chose not to comment (85 for 1 against) 87 fully supportive of proposal 10 do not support the proposal 2 partially supportive of proposal
	98	92	190

Positive Comments Fully Supporting the proposal through the medium of English

- Amazing idea need more Welsh schools In the area
- It would be wonderful to have more children learning welsh as their first language.
- I believe it has long been over due, with many having to travel to Blaine to have access to Welsh medium education and before this it was in Brynmawr which I attended. There are 2 or more Welsh medium schools within gloat counties and saying there is no need for another is a

pathetic ex's use as most given the opportunity with a school close to home would consider if not take up the choice to send their child to a Welsh medium school.

- Fantastic news for Blaenau Gwent and the Welsh language!
- My child travels to Blaenau to gain access to Welsh medium education, though it's not far he should still have the right to it within walking distance as others who chose English schools. I have a daughter who will be starting within the next year or 2 also.
- I think it will be great to see another Welsh medium school in the Blaenau Gwent area!
- I agree that there should be another Welsh-medium Primary School in this area.
- Blaenau Gwent needs to expand its Welsh language provision. An excellent idea and long overdue.
- I think that opening a new Welsh school within Tredegar would be an asset to the local community. As a parent, I know I alongside many other parents would be fully supportive of the proposal and welcome change into the area.
- Such a fantastic opportunity for the Welsh language in Blaenau Gwent.
- I am a second language learner and have since become a Welsh secondary school teacher. BG is by far the most deprived area in Wales as far as the second language goes. As a Welsh speaker I will have to consider relocating as soon as my son is old enough to attend school. It deeply saddens me that the future generations of this county will not see the rewards and benefits that bilingualism brings.
- My daughter is a Welsh speaker having learnt the language via English medium education. She now teaches Welsh as a secondary school teacher in Cardiff. We have become aware of the sheer lack of Welsh teachers in the educational system in Wales. As of September 2020 there were but only 8 PGCE students in the whole of Wales studying to become Welsh teachers. This is a clear representation of the lack of provision within South Wales for Welsh learners. Unless we start from the ground, and teach our children the language, the number of future teachers will continue to decrease.
- Much needed!
- There is a need for a second Welsh medium primary school in Blaenau Gwent, particularly in the top end of the Sirhowy Valley.
- There needs to be more Welsh medium provision in west Blaenau Gwent. We live in Tredegar and daughters have all gone to Ysgol Gymraeg Brynmawr/ Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg but I know the travelling puts a lot of people off.
- My three children have greatly benefited from a Welsh medium education and are excited to use a second language. I am a parent and Governor at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg and am extremely happy with this school and the benefits my children already get from being bilingual from an early age and the benefits they will have in the future. A second primary in Blaenau Gwent will give a greater number of children a chance to benefit from Welsh medium education, as my children have.
- This will provide a brilliant facility for young people to access Welsh medium education within Blaenau Gwent as there is currently only one primary school within the borough. The school is very popular and provides an excellent standard of education and a new Welsh medium school will allow more pupils to access Welsh medium education here.
- I received my own education at Ysgol Gymraeg Rhymni and our daughters were educated at Ysgol Gymraeg Brynmawr and Ysgol Gyfun Gwynlliw. We have lived in Tredegar all our lives and would welcome a Welsh Medium Primary School in the Tredegar area to avoid travelling long distances to school. We consider a Welsh Medium education to be invaluable in giving pupils the opportunity to speak the language and to be part of the culture of their own country.
- Every school in Wales should be Welsh medium. It is the only way to produce bilingual citizens with all of the benefits that speaking multiple languages confers.
- I think the school will be a great opportunity to promote the Welsh language in our area and if it was available at the time of my schooling, I would've loved to have the opportunity to learn in Welsh in my local area.

- Welsh was the community language of the area for countless centuries, for far longer than English has been spoken here.
- I fully support this school
- It is absolutely right that we have more Welsh-medium schools in our area. The young people from Blaenau Gwent have now had plenty of opportunities to receive their heaviest education through the medium of Welsh.
- I would welcome any attempt to keep our language alive
- Tredegar has a long history with y Gymraeg and from my experience of working in the town, residents have a great interest in the language.
- Long overdue.
- I would love for a Welsh Medium School to be built in my area. I am currently studying Welsh at degree level, hoping to be a qualified teacher in the next few years & seeing the language develop is outstanding
- Welsh medium education is desperately needed - and demanded- within Blaenau Gwent. It would be a travesty if this proposal was not accepted
- We desperately need another Welsh language primary school in Blaenau Gwent. Are we the only Borough in Wales with no Welsh comprehensive school? This will never happen until we have more primaries. This is long overdue. The people of this area have long been denied their right to grow up speaking their own language for long enough. The school in Blaina is too far for people on the other side of the valley. This school is needed and this should just be the start.
- It's about time we as a community does our bit to save the language of our country
- About time
- Welsh children deserve to be bilingual.
- Offering a Welsh medium education is a gateway of better employment opportunities with the government and media. BG have an embarrassing percentage of Welsh speakers and this proposal could re-join people of BG into the wider Welsh network.
- My daughter is bilingual and has always said that her attending Sali Mali, muddrin ygol gymraeg Brynmawr and ysgol gymraeg Gwynlliw Pontypool was the best education she could of wished for, she is now a community mental health nurse .
- I have a 1 year old little boy, I have said that I would like for him to go to a welsh school when he's old enough to start going to school, as welsh culture and language is something I love, unfortunately I am unable to drive and the nearest school is in Blaina I believe, which means it would be a nightmare getting him to and from school and if the was an emergency it would take a long time to get to him and several buses. For this reason, it would be very off putting to send him. I live in Sirhowy so the school is literally on my doorstep. So I fully support the proposal.
- As a welsh speaking parent, I fully support the proposal to ensure children are afforded the opportunity to access welsh medium education locally.
- I believe this will be a very good asset to Tredegar having a lot of family there and knowing that they would have sent their children to the Welsh medium school if it was more accessible as they have to work and therefore needed a certain start and finish time and wouldn't be there for them to get off a bus and things if this was available to them they would have sent all 4 children here without a doubt.
- I currently work for social services and have many children placed within Blaenau Gwent. Feedback from the families I work with is that they would have preferred to have sent their children to a Welsh school however they were unable to do so due to logistics and transport. Since living in Ebbw Vale and Tredegar, Blaina was too far and didn't provide a direct bus route for those who don't drive.
- Help support the growth of the Welsh language in this area. A very good idea! More opportunities for young children in Blaenau Gwent to learn the language of their country.
- It is essential to help establish the Welsh Medium provision in the Sirhowy/ Tredegar Valley to ensure there is sufficient language provision as uptake grows for welsh medium education
- This is an amazing opportunity to grow the language in the county and give a bilingual future for our youngsters.

- The Welsh language is an important part of our heritage here in Wales and we should be doing more to promote that. When my daughter is of school age she will be attending a Welsh medium school and the more choice the better
- I firmly believe that a Welsh-medium school will be very beneficial to the area. It is clear that the people of the area want Welsh-medium education so another school will support that.
- I feel it would give the option to all parents to have their children taught in Welsh.
- Considering the influx of pupils to Welsh medium primary schools, the Welsh government goal of a million Welsh speakers by 2050, and the standard of outstanding Welsh medium education set by nearby primary school Ysgol Cwm Gwyddon, the proposition is a no brainer! I'r dyfodol!
- The development of the Welsh language via additional, accessible Welsh-medium education at a second location within Blaenau Gwent is extremely welcome.
- Unfortunately, the Welsh language is not spoken or known enough so this would be an amazing opportunity for our children and our country and gives children more choices in life so I fully support this.
- Excellent, about it!
- The provision of Welsh Schools in Blaenau Gwent is below the national average. As the Government has set a target of a million Welsh speakers, Blaenau Gwent needs this school.
- Another Welsh medium school would be amazing. The Welsh language is growing and the prospect of more people and children learning the language would be a great asset to Wales and the area.
- All 4 of my children attended Welsh primary and secondary schools, 3 of which went on to attain university degrees in education, fashion and graphic design.
- This will be an asset to the area and Wales.
- All my children went through the medium of Welsh, they have thrived by this. Another Welsh school will only benefit the area. Giving children a great start in life
- It's the aim of the Welsh government to have more Welsh speakers who live in Wales. This isn't going to happen without a growth in Welsh education
- Being a parent of children in the only Welsh medium school in Blaenau Gwent. I know a lot of the parents will agree that traveling from Tredegar all the way to Blaenau by bus, can be a very long day for the children.
- There has been support for Welsh education in Tredegar, but over the last few years the journey to the nearest school has increased, making it difficult for pupils and parents.
- My children are both in Welsh medium education and think it will be good to have another school in the area.
- The children on Tredegar deserve an option of going to school to learn our country's language. I wish this would have been an option for my schooling.
- We need another Welsh school in the area and Sirhowy is right in the middle of all the towns, it would also cut down on the travelling the children do, and on the plus side when the weather is bad they can still go to school
- Before working as a Teaching Assistant at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg I was employed by Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin (MYM) to run Welsh speaking baby and toddler groups, (Cylchoedd Ti a Fi), in the Blaenau Gwent area. I ran a group in Tredegar, Cwm, Bryn Bach Parc, and Llanhilleth. Part of my role was to promote Welsh education so I had lots of conversations with parents about what school they were choosing for their children. The biggest barrier to the parents choosing a Welsh education was location. Everyone wanted to send their children to a 'local' school in their community. They wanted to be able to walk their children to school and they wanted their children's friends to be local friends. Even parents that themselves had had a Welsh language education were telling me that they would not send their children to the Welsh speaking school as it was too far, and they remembered not liking that their school friends were not local. "I have not kept in touch with my friends from school because they all live so far away." In all my time running these groups I am sad to say I only know of one family that went on to give their children a Welsh speaking education. I am English and have learnt to speak Welsh. Way back in 2008 I could see what an excellent opportunity a Welsh language

education being on offer was, and I decided to send my child to a Welsh speaking school. Now at the age of 16 my daughter is a musician and her ability to speak Welsh has already opened many doors for her. As a family we feel that the Welsh language has enriched all our lives. However, even I decided to not send her to a Welsh speaking secondary school. The reason again was location. She would have had an 1hr journey both to and from school every day and 2hrs out of a teenager's day is a lot. This is 2hrs that could be spend socializing with friends, practicing her musical instruments, or studying. I fully support the establishment of this school in Tredegar as we will be addressing this issue of location and putting a Welsh speaking school in the heart of a community. In these difficult times many of us have re-learnt the value of community - being good neighbours and staying local. What better way to increase the number of Welsh speaker than allowing people to be able to access the Welsh education in their local area. Pob lwc!

- This is so very long overdue and has been needed for many years. I will be delighted to see this happen. It will help the growth of the Welsh Lang in Wales and allow Tredegar residents to have equality of opportunity for their child's education and their subsequent life and career opportunities.
- As a Welsh teacher (primary) who is currently studying a Post Graduate Diploma in Welsh, I welcome the building of an additional Welsh medium primary in Blaenau Gwent. There are so many advantages to being bilingual as well as learning another language. There is a growing demand for Welsh medium education and the families of Blaenau Gwent deserve the right to access this.
- Mae hawl gan bob plentyn Tredegar addysg Gymraeg!
- Shocking that there isn't one already!
- Yes as I am soon planning on starting a family and would love my children to go to a local Welsh school instead of having to travel out of the borough.
- 100% needed here. Looking to start a family and wouldn't be able to afford sending a child outside of the town for schooling in Welsh.
- I think the new school should be named:- 'YSGOL MYFYR WYN' .. after one of Sirhywi's most famous sons, the blacksmith poet, MYFYR WYN (William Williams)
- Maen warthus nid oes un yn barod.
- The children of Blaenau Gwent have needed another Welsh primary school for a number of years. I salute the council's decision to proceed.
- Tredegar needs good quality Welsh language education facilities, there is a growing demand and it should be met with a facility to suit.
- Children in Blaenau Gwent have the same right as all other children across Wales to Welsh-medium education in their community, and it is high time this right is realised. I campaigned for three years for such a school in Butetown and I have seen how successful it has been with children from all backgrounds, and I am certain that this will be true of Tredegar also. People across Wales will be looking on to see whether Blaenau Gwent Council afford the same opportunities to their children as other councils across Wales. I would like to leave here the words of Tredegar's most famous son, Aneurin Bevan: "People from other parts of the country are surprised when they visit Wales to find how many Welsh people still speak Welsh, and how strong and even passionate is the love of the Welsh for their country, their culture and their unique institutions. In all this there is nothing to deplore. On the contrary, it is very much to the good that distinctive cultures, values, and institutions should flourish so as to counteract the appalling tendency of the times towards standardization, regimentation and universal greyness." (1947) "Although those of us who have been brought up in Monmouthshire and in Glamorganshire are not Welsh-speaking, Welsh-writing, Welshmen, nevertheless we are all aware of the fact that there exists in Wales, and especially in the rural areas and in North Wales, a culture which is unique in the world. It is a special quality of mind, a special attitude towards mental things which one does not find anywhere else. We are not prepared to see it die." (1953)

- Another Welsh medium primary School for Blaenau Gwent is long overdue. All other Boroughs in the Gwent area have moved forward with Welsh Education over the years but BG have been behind meaning a slower uptake in Welsh Education. Uned Gymreag Brynmawr opened in the early 80s. Other than the movement in to a full Primary there has been no further "push" on Welsh medium Education.
- This is great news for the area and in growing WM provision.
- This is a fantastic for the education of Blaenau Gwent and the opportunity it gives children of the future. My two children went to Welsh education in Nantyglo, would be great to have this here in Tredegar.
- I wish it was there in the 1980's when I was in school so that I didn't have to travel to a different county (mid Glamorgan) for my Welsh medium education.
- The need for a Welsh-medium Primary school in Tredegar has now been recognised after many years. The young people of Tredegar will benefit both in educational and cultural terms and their families warmly support the proposal. The advantages of Welsh-medium primary education will foster the talents and skills of the young pupils who will attend. Best wishes to all concerned in this worthwhile project.

Positive Comments Fully Supporting the proposal through the medium of Welsh

- It is high time that the county had another Welsh-medium school. We are the only county in Wales with only one Welsh-medium school.
- The need for another Welsh-medium primary school in the area has been evident for a number of years. I am very pleased to hear that the wish is closer to being realised and that it will be a positive step towards reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050. There is no doubt about the strong desire and feeling of Welshman who belongs to the area for years.
- It's about time we had another Welsh school in the area.
- As a former pupil of Ysgol Gymraeg Rhymney and on the delivery of my children to Ysgol Gymraeg Brynmawr and Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw we are completely coy to see Ysgol Gymraeg in Tredegar. Children had to travel for 65 years in order to receive education through the medium of Welsh. This would give them the opportunity to learn their own language in their square mile.
- Great news. Hyfryd To see the language grow. More opportunities For children to speak welsh.
- I think it is a good idea to give more opportunities for people to learn and speak Welsh. More schools To share good practice and resources with, and To work together. Opportunity To promote Cynraeg in the community then!
- Since 1991 only one Welsh-medium primary school exists in the Borough of Blaenau Gwent. Blaenau Gwent is the only county in south-east Wales that has not moved on to establish more than one Welsh-medium primary school in the Borough. The growth in the number of parents deciding to send their children to Welsh-medium schools over the decades has gone from strength to strength. In order to ensure that families have a choice to send their children to a Welsh-medium school it is essential that we ensure Welsh-medium primary schools within reasonable reach of their homes. Ultimately there is a need to ensure that there is a Welsh-medium primary school not only in the Tredegar area but also in the Ebbw Vale area. Blaenau Gwent Council has a duty to support the Welsh Government's campaign to reach a million Welsh speakers by 2050. I look forward to seeing this new Primary School open its doors in September 2023 and I will be following the developments and great interest. It is pleasing to see Cylch Meithrin under the auspices of Mudiad Meithrin opening in the Tredegar area – this will be of great help in spreading the word about the benefits of Welsh-medium education and I am sure that there will be close collaboration between the Cylch Meithrin and the new school. welcomes the proposal which will be an important step forward in Blaenau Gwent and enable them to contribute to the Government's vision for an increase in the percentage of 7-year-olds receiving Welsh-medium education. Ensuring the provision of Welsh-medium education in the Tredegar/Sirhowy area is absolutely key to ensuring real choice for parents and pupils in terms of Welsh-medium education in this area. I very much welcome the Council's proposal offering

this bold scheme, and this proposal not only meets the considerable demand that already exists, but for creating a demand for Welsh-medium education in the area. Welsh-medium education has not been a real option for many families in the area in the past, and this proposal changes this situation. I am also pleased to see that these schemes are interwoven with the work that has taken place in terms of increasing childcare provision, particularly in relation to the work of Mudiad Meithrin. The local development of Welsh-medium primary provision is likely to increase the demand for local childcare through the medium of Welsh. This in turn will of course lead to an increasing number of local children who will wish to move from Welsh-medium childcare to Welsh-medium primary provision. It is therefore vital that these developments take place jointly, and are co-ordinated at a strategic level. I believe that this proposal is an extremely significant step, and for ensuring that more children in Blaenau Gwent develop into confident bilingual speakers.

- It is good to hear that the establishment of Ysgol Gymraeg in the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley area is special news. Blaenau Gwent has been operating one Welsh School for many years, and so the opening of a second School in Sîr will widen Welsh-medium education. Good luck ,hoping that the initiative will be successful.
- The proposal to develop a new 210 place Welsh Primary School in Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley is a very important development in meeting the requirements of local parents and this will certainly be a significant boost to the growth of the language in this area. Over recent years, the Menter has come across dozens of families in Blaenau Gwent who wanted to send their children to Welsh-medium education but have decided not to do this because of the lack of provision locally. The language transmission rates of the Blaenau Gwent area are worse than neighbouring areas of South-East Wales because of the historical lack of availability of Welsh-medium education. This new school can change the situation significantly. This proposal is an important step towards equality of choice and benefits children, parents of the local community and also strengthens the Welsh language in Blaenau Gwent.
- I welcome the proposal which will be an important step forward in Blaenau Gwent and enable them to contribute to the Government's vision for an increase in the percentage of 7-year-olds receiving Welsh-medium education. Ensuring the provision of Welsh-medium education in the Tredegar/Sirhowy area is absolutely key to ensuring real choice for parents and pupils in terms of Welsh-medium education in this area. I very much welcome the Council's proposal offering this bold scheme, and this proposal not only meets the considerable demand that already exists, but for creating a demand for Welsh-medium education in the area. Welsh-medium education has not been a real option for many families in the area in the past, and this proposal changes this situation. I am also pleased to see that these schemes are interwoven with the work that has taken place in terms of increasing childcare provision, particularly in relation to the work of Mudiad Meithrin. The local development of Welsh-medium primary provision is likely to increase the demand for local childcare through the medium of Welsh. This in turn will of course lead to an increasing number of local children who will wish to move from Welsh-medium childcare to Welsh-medium primary provision. It is therefore vital that these developments take place jointly, and are co-ordinated at a strategic level. I believe that this proposal is an extremely significant step, and for ensuring that more children in Blaenau Gwent develop into confident bilingual speakers.

Positive Comments Partially Supporting the proposal through the medium of English

- I think for parents who want their children to attend a Welsh medium school it's a good idea having school in Tredegar as I know transport can cause a problem currently. Concerned as to whether it would take pupils from the schools in Tredegar. I know some pupils may come from Ebbw Vale but 24 pupils per cohort, if 16 were from Tredegar it averages 3 less pupils per Primary and by time it's fully operational it's possible 24 per school (8 yr groups x 3 pupils), this would mean a loss of income to these Primary schools.

- Has Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council have that many pupils that want to be taught in Welsh? I would have thought that the one in Blaina would be sufficient!

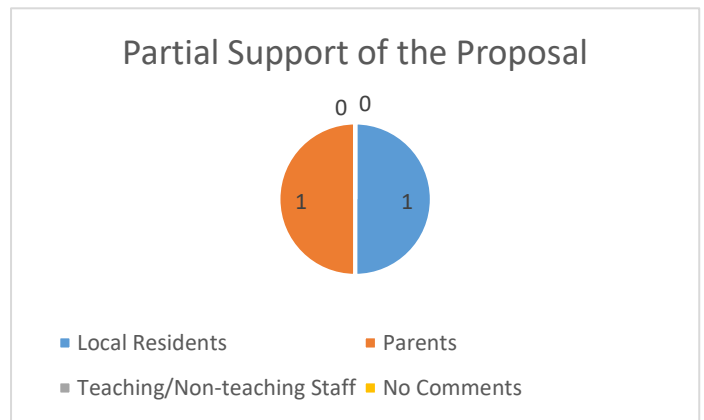
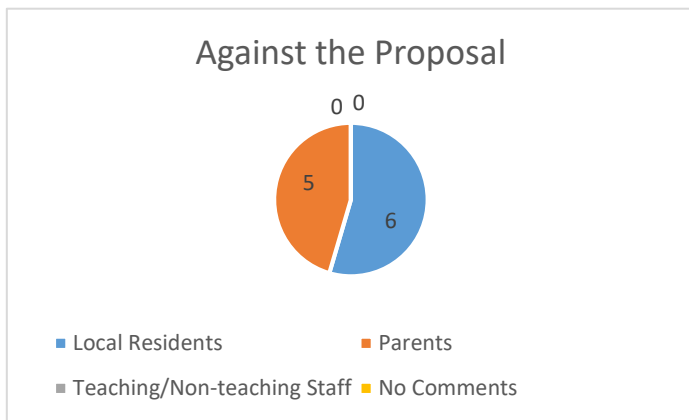
Comments Do not support the proposal through the medium of English

- I think the money spent on this new school would be better spend on the established schools in the area. More staff training, resources for the teaching if Welsh.
- There are enough schools in Tredegar. This would have detrimental effect on their pupil numbers and therefore their budgets. Welsh is hardly spoken in this area anyway.
- Waste of money already enough schools
- No one speaks Welsh here
- Don't think this will work or is practical, there is already a welsh school in Blaina.
- There is already a primary school serving the Sirhowy area. The land on which they plan to place this primary school offers amazing views over Tredegar but the lovely green space is going to be taken up by yet another concrete building. The traffic build up at the bottom of Beaufort Road is already awful at school times, this new school is going to be a stone's throw from Glanhwy Primary and so the traffic will be doubled.
- I am a governor in a nearby secondary school. I am concerned about the implications a Welsh-medium School would have on existing schools in regards to pupil numbers/ funding. I feel the funding would be better spent on our existing schools in the area, and I would even support more money being spent on enhancing Welsh language education in existing schools. As Blaenau Gwent is a small local authority, I don't see the issue in families making the small journey to Blaina to attend the existing Welsh-medium school. On a personal level, I made a conscious decision not to send my own children to Ysgol Bro Helyg. I feel that my children would benefit from being educated in English, as that is the widely-recognised language which I anticipate which will be more useful to them in the long-term, for instance, applying for universities and/ or jobs outside of Wales. I do, however, support my children in developing their Welsh language skills, and am happy that it is part of the curriculum.
- The proposed site has multiple and uncharted mines. The St. James' site down the road in Thomas Ellis Way caught the Council out by requiring an unforeseen £31m in additional groundworks to shore up this site and make it safe after similar un-noted mine shafts were found. The Council vowed then never to be csught out in this way again nor to soend such monies merely on unnecessarily shoring up unsafe ground to build upon again, yet here we go again, rather than selecting safe sites (eg the vast empty acres of wasted ground at the old Ebbe Vale steel works and the empty site that was Coleg Gwent). To name but two sites known to be 100% safe. Why then, consider Chartist Way which the NCB stated in my Environmental Certificate subsequent to an NCB report on purchasing my oroperty in May 2010 after a "walk around" which stated, "this site (the paddocks in Chartist Way) can never be built upon". It seems in their feverish rush to mis-spend another £6m of public money (post COVID financials, really?) for a welsh speaking school, oddly in an area where almost nobody speaks nor cares about speaking Welsh, and for a mere 210 pupils, is nothing short of outrageous.
- Ysgol bro Helyg are not full. This could take numbers from other schools and there doesn't seem be the demand for the school. Is it financially viable to have a full school building with only two classes?
- Yet again the parking in this area is going to be an issue the road leading to the area Beaufort Road has many car accidents every month this is just going to add to the problems that the residents have to put up with day in day out.

Generic make up of respondents

The survey asked the respondents where in general were they most suited, such as local resident, Parent, Teacher/non-teaching staff or Governor.

The responses have been collated below to show representation of interested parties.



As you can see from the above pie charts, for those against the proposal there are small numbers as on 11 did not support the proposal, 6 of these are local residents and 5 are parents. Similarly, those who partially supported 1 was a resident and 1 was a parent. Whereas the below pie chart demonstrates the positive responses from local residents (just over 40%), parents (18%) and teachers 22%.

