

## Views not supportive of the Proposal

Negative Feedback	Answers
<p>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.</p>	<p>The funding for this proposal comes from the Welsh medium capital grant, to grow Welsh medium schooling. The grant is ring-fenced for growth of Welsh language and could not be spent on staff training, and resources for existing schools that would be revenue not capital spend.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The Council is mindful of the impact on the school estate, this proposal will be a gradual growth model coming to full capacity in 10 years-time, Blaenau Gwent is the only authority to have Welsh-Medium School.</p> <p>The Council is not planning any school re-organisation proposal for Tredegar, but work together to provide English and Welsh Medium education opportunities.</p>
<p>Don't think this will work or is practical, there is already a welsh school in Blaina.</p>	<p>Parents have commented via the demand surveys and engagement sessions held that they are put off sending their child to Welsh-medium education because Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg is so far away and is a barrier. There is a demand for provision in the Tredegar, Ebbw Fawr North valleys.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The design of the new school will be sympathetic to its surroundings. There are primary schools serving the Sirhowy area but they are English-medium and Faith based provision not Welsh-medium.</p> <p>Should this proposal proceed, there will be a pre panning consultation and planning application process which will address the concerns over the traffic and highways discussions.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>The revenue costs associated with each learner would be in the region of £2,500 per pupil. The revenue implications have been part of the financial modelling exercise as part of the Councils Medium Term Strategy. This would have to be secured via the ISB prior to the consultation proposal concluding. The Council cannot preempt this proposal, should this proceed it will circa £350k when the school is fully established. And around £200k in the first year followed by £150k in the second year.</p> <p>The funding for this proposal comes from the Welsh medium capital grant, to grow Welsh medium schooling. The grant is ring-fenced for growth of Welsh language and could not be spent in existing schools.</p> <p>Families in the Tredegar/Sirhowy feel that the journey time to Ysgol Gymraeg Bro</p>

<p>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.</p>	<p>Helyg is a barrier to sending their child to be educated via Welsh-medium education.</p>
<p>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 caught out in this way again nor to spend such monies merely on unnecessarily shoring up unsafe ground to build upon again, yet here we go again, rather than selecting safe sites (e.g. the vast empty acres of wasted ground at the old Ebbw 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 property 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.</p>	<p>The Chartist Way site is well located in terms of serving Tredegar and parts of Ebbw Vale. Arguably the site does however have a number of constraints such as ground contamination, mining risk, archaeology and possible impacts on Scheduled Ancient Monuments. But nothing that the Topographical Survey has stated that cannot be overcome.</p> <p>The funding is 100% Welsh Government Capital grant, to grow opportunities for Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>Demand surveys over the past few years suggest that parents from the Tredegar/Sirhowy and Ebbw Fawr North valleys feel that the travelling distance to Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg (the only Welsh medium primary school in the County Borough Council) is too great but would consider sending their child(ren) to a Welsh-medium primary school if it was situated closer.</p> <p>The Council wants to promote both English and Welsh medium schools opportunities for parity across the school estate.</p>
<p>Ysgol bro Helyg are not full. This could take numbers from other schools and there doesn't seem to be the demand for the school. Is it financially viable to have a full school building with only two classes?</p>	<p>The Council realise the proposal will displace some learners in Tredegar over time, this is being mitigated by the seedling/growth model. This option means a slow and steady implementation. There are no plans by the council to carrying out any school reorganisation proposals.</p> <p>The revenue implications have been part of the financial modelling exercise as part of the Councils Medium Term Strategy. This would have to be secured via the ISB prior to the consultation proposal concluding. The revenue costs associated with each learner would be in the region of £2,500 per pupil.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The design of the new school will be sympathetic to its surroundings. Should this proposal proceed, there will be a pre-panning consultation and planning application process which will address the concerns over the traffic and highways discussions.</p>
<p>In response to your proposal for a new Welsh medium primary school located on</p>	<p>The Council realise the proposal will displace some learners in existing Tredegar</p>

Chartist Way I would like you to consider give the following points.

My main concern is the negative effects it will have on the existing primary schools in the Tredegar area. These schools are among the best providers of primary education in Wales. Most are categorised as Green and none are in Special Measures. Pupils will be lost to the new school and thus there will be issues of a drop in funding for the existing schools. This of course will be particularly relevant for Glanhowy primary in which the new school's catchment will be located. The worst case scenario would be the loss of a primary school in Tredegar. There is also the knock-on effect for Tredegar Comprehensive School as in the long-term pupils would travel to the nearest Welsh secondary school which is in the Torfaen authority. There is also the issues of redundancies being made in all the schools in Tredegar as total numbers of pupils fall.

I am aware that consultation has taken place and that traditionally the responses to such exercises can be limited. However, was it made clear in the consultations what the full impact of the new school could have on the quality of education in Tredegar.

Other sites in the western section of the borough also have more to offer. There is plenty of space at the Learning Campus at Ebbw Vale and this site already has the necessary transport infrastructure. Why does green space need to be taken away in the Sirhowy area? It does seem strange that three educational establishments have been demolished which could have been used. If the sites have been earmarked for other developments why can't this be changed?

The target set for an increase in Welsh speakers is indeed commendable but by your own admission too ambitious. We already have a Welsh medium primary in the borough. It seems odd that Newport with a population of 145,000 has three Welsh Medium primary schools while Blaenau Gwent with a population of 69,713 needs two. Newport also has a Welsh Medium Comprehensive school within its authority which we don't.

Immigration may be happening in some areas of south-east Wales, however very little in our area. It remains to be important in the more southerly places like Pontypool, Newbridge and Crosskeys. The

schools. However, this is being mitigated by the proposed seedling/growth model. This option means a slow and steady implementation. There are no plans by the council to carrying out any school reorganisation proposals.

The revenue costs associated with each learner would be in the region of £2,500 per pupil.

The Council is not planning any school reorganisation proposal for Tredegar, but work together to provide English and Welsh Medium education opportunities.

Demand surveys over the past few years suggest that parents from the Tredegar/Sirhowy and Ebbw Fawr North valleys feel that the travelling distance to Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg (the only Welsh medium primary school in the County Borough Council) is too great but would consider sending their child(ren) to a Welsh-medium primary school if it was situated closer.

The Land off Chartist Way is identified as residential opportunities in the Councils Local Development Plan, there is also a small parcel of land referred to leisure purposes. No element of the proposed site is classified as Green Space.

Newport, are also perusing additionality to their Welsh medium provision, this is to support the Welsh language provision and development of its Secondary school provision which is growing along with primary provision.

argument that there will be an increase for education through the medium of Welsh due to migration because of the dropping of tolls on the bridge is thus weak.	
---	--

The below 2 comments were more of a statement:

- Waste of money already enough schools
- No one speaks Welsh here