

**Report on the consultation**

*Consultation on the future of Ysgol Felinwnda's current catchment area*

**January 2025**

## **1. Introduction**

This report presents a summary of the responses received during the consultation on the future of Ysgol Felinwnda's catchment area.

### **The Consultation:**

The consultation was asking for the views of specific stakeholders regarding which school, or schools should serve the Ysgol Felinwnda catchment area in the future.

The consultation was launched on 24 September 2024 and it ended on 22 October 2024.

### **Summary of the responses:**

A total of **11** responses to the consultation were received.

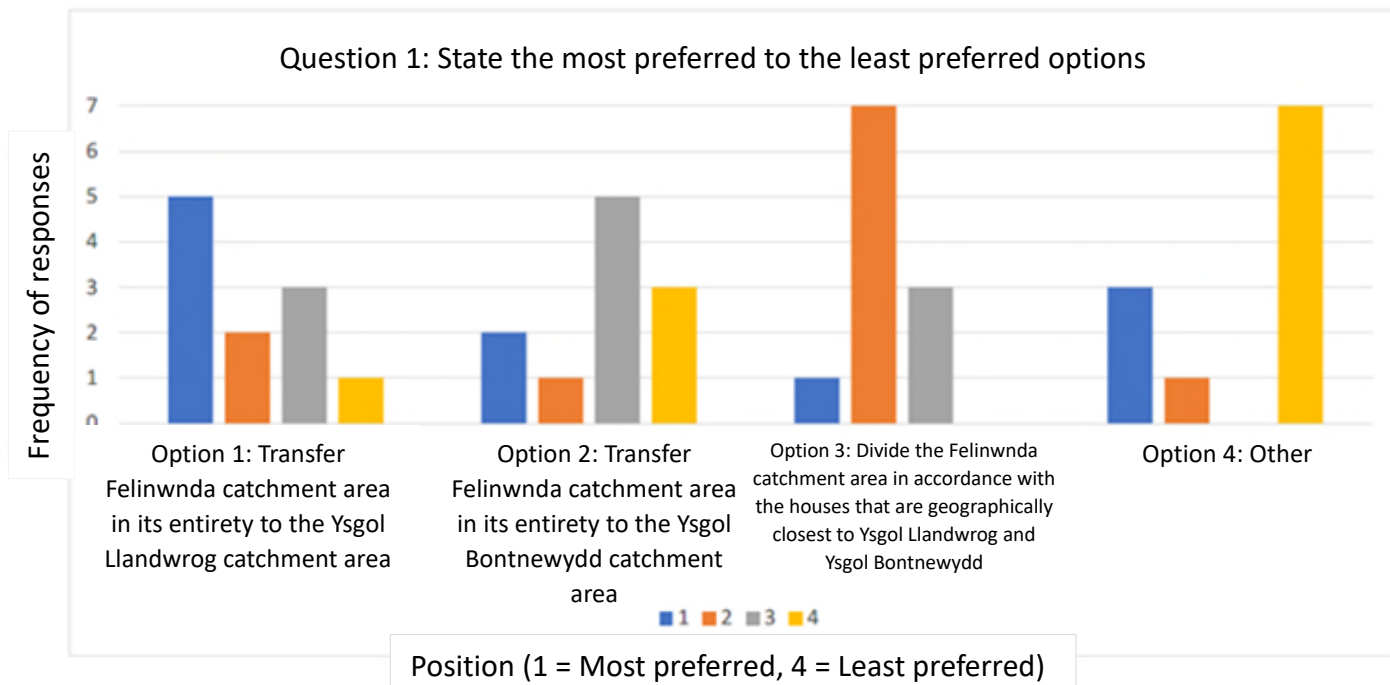
10 responses were submitted via an on-line questionnaire and 1 response was presented in a PDF form received via e-mail.

## 2. The responses:

### Part 1:

#### Question 1: The Options

Firstly, we asked the respondents to consider the options in question, and rank them from the most preferred (1) to the least preferred (4).

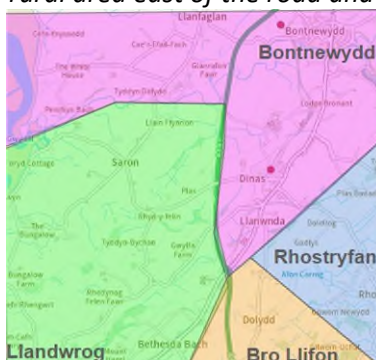


Option 1 received the most support, with 5 out of the 11 respondents noting this as the preferred option. Option 2 was preferred by 2 of the respondents and Option 3 was also preferred by 1 of the respondents. An Alternative Option was noted as the preferred option by 3 of the respondents.

#### Question 2: Alternative option or options

Secondly, the respondents were asked to note any other option(s) they would like the Authority to consider. 3 respondents noted alternative options. These options included:

- "Set the entire Felinwnda catchment area within Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd catchment areas."
- "...option 3 to be modified based on the area and the rural community. Any boundary drawn-up between the two areas should be visible and understandable to all - and sensible to the area and the community."
- "... use a safe entrance to Lôn Las as the Bontnewydd catchment area boundary as an alternative way to think about the modern catchment area to comply with the objectives of the new school. Using the new A487 road as a boundary is a clear way to explain the catchment area boundaries. Following the road from afon Gwyrfai to Llanwnda Roundabout, the settlements to the east of the road (the villages of Dinas and Llanwnda) joining the Bontnewydd catchment area with the rural area east of the road and joining the Llandwrog catchment area."



### Question 3: Observations on the options:

We then asked for comments on the options. The comments received have been noted in the following table. These include a mix of direct quotes and rephrasing (where permission to publish the responses was not received). The rephrased text has been *highlighted in blue*.

Support for Option 1	Frequency of observation
I believe that option 1 is the best option as there has been a strong connection between Ysgol Felinwnda and Ysgol Llandwrog over the past few years. The same headteacher was shared and children from Ysgol Felinwnda attended Ysgol Llandwrog for various joint activities.	1
Ysgol Felinwnda's current catchment area is also a rural one, which is similar to the ethos and nature of Ysgol Llandwrog's catchment area. Option 1 would bring two similar catchment areas together. Also, option 1 is likely to lead to strengthening and ensuring the future of Ysgol Llandwrog and the local rural community by increasing numbers at Ysgol Llandwrog. It would also lead to larger classes, with more equal ages, and an increase in the opportunities for children of the same age to have together.	1
I believe that I prefer option 1 and it would protect Cylch Meithrin Dinas and Llanwnda and Canolfan Bro Llanwnda best.	1
<i>Option 1 would ensure the continuation of the connection and the natural progression between the Cylch Meithrin and Ysgol Llandwrog.</i>	1
<i>Ysgol Llandwrog has the same ethos and pedagogical and pastoral principles as Ysgol Felinwnda. It is also similar to the community in Felinwnda.</i>	1
Protect a small rural school by sending the children to Ysgol Llandwrog.	1
A future must be ensured for rural schools such as Llandwrog and this provides an excellent opportunity to extend the area of this school. Cluster villages with roots in the communities and the villages and a high level of Welsh speakers must be included in the Ysgol Llandwrog area to ensure that the language prospers and that nearby villages continue to be Welsh speaking.	1
Support for Option 2	
The vast majority of pupils in the area attend Ysgol Bontnewydd, and this was true for many years before Ysgol Felinwnda closed, therefore, it makes sense that this is the simplest way forward. Despite this, if parents who are nearer to Ysgol Llandwrog wish for their children to attend Ysgol Llandwrog, I can see that option 2 would make sense. As the parent of a child who will attend school in [] years, I definitely wish for <i>[the child]</i> to attend Ysgol Bontnewydd.	1
Alternative Options	
The alternative option (4) as outlined above "Set the entire Felinwnda catchment area within Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd catchment areas" should be followed. This option will ensure that the freedom to choose will remain, ensuring that the catchment area status continues to impact Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd in an equal manner, and that the population of the Felinwnda catchment area will benefit from the stronger right for a place and the transport offer in relation to their chosen school. The comparatively small population of the Felinwnda catchment area, as well as the flexibility in terms of out-of-catchment area pupils' access to schools in Gwynedd, mean that there will not be a substantial impact in terms of being able to plan places where the Ysgol Bontnewydd and Llandwrog catchment areas overlap. There is no legislative barrier for catchment areas to overlap.	1
Take into consideration the children who already attend Ysgol Llandwrog from Ysgol Felinwnda's catchment area.	1
Impact on travel arrangements	
I live nearer to Ysgol Bontnewydd. If we are included in that catchment area, we will be able to walk or cycle safely to school, which is important to me.	1
I can see that option 1 has the most implications in terms of travelling costs. However, I am not convinced that this will be the reality of the situation. I suggest that it would be possible to run one bus instead of two. The bus could start in Saron, travel towards Blythe Farm and the catchment boundary, before turning back and passing Ysgol Felinwnda towards Dinas, and then on to Llanwnda and along the A499 towards Llandwrog. This journey should not take more than 20 minutes.	1

However, it is likely that the actual travelling costs of any option will depend on the exact numbers and the location of pupils and their choice of school, and how many will travel to school outside the catchment area - whichever option is chosen.	
<b>Cylch Meithrin</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Cylch Meithrin Dinas and Llanwnda wish to be included within the catchment area of Ysgol Llandwrog, as the only Cylch Meithrin that feeds the school.</i></li> <li><i>Discussions regarding formalising the relationship between the Cylch and Ysgol Llandwrog have already been held.</i></li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Option 2 does not ensure the viability of the Cylch Meithrin as Ysgol Bontnewydd already has a Cylch Meithrin on the school site.</i></li> <li><i>Having two Cylch Meithrin within the same catchment area and no Cylch in another school's catchment area could be unfair.</i></li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Option 3 also means that the Cylch Meithrin would be located within the boundaries of Ysgol Bontnewydd's catchment area. See the above concerns. Implementing this option would have a detrimental impact on the relationship between the Cylch Meithrin and Ysgol Llandwrog.</i></li> <li><i>The location of the boundary in option 3 could be set so that it reflects the pattern of the area, i.e. one part (rural) would attend Cylch Meithrin Llanwnda and then Ysgol Llandwrog, and another part would tend to attend Cylch Meithrin Bontnewydd and then Ysgol Bontnewydd.</i></li> <li><i>Concern that Option 3 would not ensure the Cylch and Ysgol Llandwrog's sustainability, and the financial and community impact that this could have on the Ganolfan. It is noted that the Cylch employs 2 staff members and is a stable source of income for the Ganolfan.</i></li> <li><i>Disappointed that no impact assessment on the Cylch has been included in the consultation document</i></li> </ul>	1
Disappointed that a local Cylch's catchment area is not taken into consideration as Cylch Meithrin Dinas and Llanwnda is an extremely important stream that feeds Ysgol Llandwrog.	1
Should the catchment area be transferred as a whole to Ysgol Bontnewydd, then there is a risk that parents would decide to send their children to Cylch Meithrin Bontnewydd, as they could be of the view that transferring from Cylch Meithrin Bontnewydd to the new school in Bontnewydd would be easier than from Cylch Meithrin Dinas and Llanwnda, and there would be new Nursery facilities at the new school in Bontnewydd in due course, which could attract numbers at the expense of Cylch Meithrin Dinas and Llanwnda.	1
<b>Capacity of the new school in Bontnewydd</b>	
I am not entirely convinced that Ysgol Bontnewydd in its new form would have sufficient capacity when it opens in 2026/27 as there is sufficient capacity at present; Ysgol Bontnewydd may attract more pupils as parents would be attracted to the fact that a new school is on the way. In addition, selecting option 3 and determining Ysgol Bontnewydd as the catchment area school would mean that pupils would transfer to a school in a transitional building period for two years or more. / ...this figure [capacity] has not yet been confirmed as the decision to locate ALN resource at the school has not been made. Should the resource be located at Ysgol Bontnewydd, this would affect the capacity of the new school. Potential Solution: Ensure that the decision regarding the location of the ALN resource has been made before submitting the decision to the Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet to ensure that the Cabinet has a full picture of the school's capacity when making its decision.	3
<b>General Observations</b>	
Changes should not be made to the Felinwnda Catchment Area that would make this majority option historically a less preferred / more burdensome option for Felinwnda Catchment Area residents in future. While the Ysgol Bontnewydd Governing Body does not wish to cause any negative impact on Ysgol Llandwrog by submitting observations, we have a duty to protect the interests of and support the 64% who have chosen to attend Ysgol Bontnewydd historically.	1
Consultation Document: Ysgol Llandwrog status The description of Ysgol Llandwrog's status is incomplete. Potential Solution: Include the complete quote from Estyn's report to provide better context: "Ysgol Gynradd Llandwrog is situated in the village of Llandwrog, approximately six miles from the town of Caernarfon. It is a voluntary controlled Church in Wales school and is maintained by the Gwynedd local authority."	2

<b>Historical tendencies</b>	
In the case of Ysgol Felinwnda, a substantial percentage of children in the catchment area have been historically attending out-of-catchment area schools. An average of 11.4% of children in the Ysgol Felinwnda catchment area have attended the school over the past 5 years. The willingness of residents of the Felinwnda catchment area to transport children to the school of their choice has already been established... The population of the Felinwnda catchment area have been making a choice regarding which school to attend for years, with the vast majority selecting out-of-catchment area schools. An average of 64% over the past 5 years (3.1) have selected Ysgol Bontnewydd and an average of just over 12% have selected Ysgol Llandwrog.... The majority of the Felinwnda catchment area population have selected Ysgol Bontnewydd over a period of years while the out-of-catchment area status affected Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd in equal manner.	1
<b>Impact of reviewing the catchment area</b>	
It is questionable what impact any change in catchment area arrangements will have, if at all, on the school choice of the Felinwnda catchment area's population, but this does not mean that matters of principle should be ignored. We understand that the practical impacts of being within a catchment area compared to being an out-of-catchment area are: - a stronger right for a place at the school for children in the catchment area of the designated school. - the right for transport for pupils who live over 2 miles from the designated school (or lower distance if pedestrian routes are dangerous). The proposed options, including option 3, forces a choice if children of the Felinwnda catchment area have the above rights in relation to Ysgol Llandwrog or Ysgol Bontnewydd.	1

## Part 2:

### Questions 4 - 8: Assessing the Impact

In the second part of the questionnaire, we asked for observations about the potential impacts of the options, and any impacts/matters the Council should consider as part of its impact assessments.

The observations and matters noted as a response to the 5 questions have been categorised and summarised per heading in the following table. When a respondent has offered general observations under specific questions, then those points have been included under the most relevant heading in the table below.

The observations below include a mix of direct quotes and rephrasing (where permission to publish the responses was not received). The rephrased text has been [highlighted in blue](#).

<b>Impact on Equality Characteristics, the Welsh language and the Socio-Economic Disadvantage</b>	<b>Frequency of observation</b>
It is questionable what impact any change in catchment area arrangements will have, if at all, on the school choice of residents of the Felinwnda catchment area. Despite this, it must be recognised that the Legal Category of Ysgol Bontnewydd and Ysgol Llandwrog is different with Ysgol Bontnewydd designated as a Community School and Ysgol Llandwrog designated as a Voluntary Controlled Status (VC) The Church in Wales. It is proposed that this difference in designation is relevant to the assessment of equality characteristics (it is noted that religion and belief are protected characteristics) and using the same assessments is unexpected. I wonder if it would be worth revisiting this?	1
No change	1
The Equality Impact Assessment notes the following without explaining how or referring to any evidence or work programme that will enable this to happen. "As noted in the table in section 3.2, it is not anticipated that any of the three options in question would create a Socio-economic Disadvantage. Transferring the Felinwnda catchment area to be part of the Ysgol Llandwrog and/or Ysgol Bontnewydd catchment area would improve community regeneration by encouraging collaboration with local communities. The change can offer new opportunities for learners and the community in Felinwnda, ensuring that people continue to develop professionally and participate in	3

the local economy. The change would encourage collaboration with wider communities and this may create valuable connections between communities, enabling opportunities and social inclusion." Potential Solution: Ensure that there is more detail regarding how Cyngor Gwynedd will realise "community regeneration" in the area.	
The language of the school playground is essentially important and this was part of our decision to take our [child] to Llandwrog rather than Bontnewydd when the future of Felinwnda was uncertain.	1
The Equality Impact Assessment notes some accessibility challenges at Ysgol Llandwrog but it does not provide further details. There is no discussion about temporary challenges for Ysgol Bontnewydd before the new building is ready. Potential Solution: Ensure honesty regarding the challenges on the current site in Bontnewydd and ensure that (funded) plans are in place for Ysgol Llandwrog to ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010.	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Parents should get the option of a school that is not a church school. I prefer Ysgol Bontnewydd as it is a community school.</i></li> </ul>	1
<b>Impact on the Community</b>	
Community Impact Assessment: Transport and Safe Routes The assessment oversimplifies the reality of safe footpaths for children who live within 2 miles of the school. Whilst there is a safe path for those near Lôn Las, the same cannot be said for children from Saron, and other rural communities that would face the same challenges when walking to Ysgol Bontnewydd or Ysgol Llandwrog. The allegation of the assessment that "options 2 and 3 would have a positive impact on health and well-being by offering an opportunity for some learners to walk to school" is misleading, especially as the majority of pupils who would be able to walk safely to school already attend Ysgol Bontnewydd. The barriers to walk safely will still exist for children without a safe path to school after any change to the boundary, unless a further investment is made to create safer paths. Potential Solution: Modify the impact assessment to "Neutral" unless changes are made to the physical environment (e.g. invest in new safe footpaths). Without such changes, the current obstacles will remain and, therefore, the conclusion reached is incorrect.	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Disappointed that so little attention is given to the Ganolfan in the documentation</i></li> <li><i>Locating the Cylch within the Bontnewydd catchment area would be likely to have a detrimental impact on the Cylch's numbers.</i></li> <li><i>Any detrimental impact on the Cylch Meithrin's numbers, which could cause the Cylch to become unsustainable, could lead to a loss of income for the Ganolfan.</i></li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Error in the document - there is no Cylch Ti a Fi in the Felinwnda catchment area.</i></li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Disappointed about the narrow definition of health and well-being in the consultation document.</i></li> <li><i>A sense of belonging needs to be considered as a key factor.</i></li> </ul>	1
Community Impact Assessment: Health and Well-being The document states: "Being in a larger school could offer more opportunities to play and participate in team sports and, as a result, it could have a positive impact on the health and well-being of learners." A member of the school governing body is a Health and Well-being Officer in an education authority, who specialises in physical activity and sports, and has voiced their opinion that this statement is unfounded. They have also raised a concern that this is a very narrow picture of health and well-being especially as the Curriculum for Wales takes a wider view of the field, which includes physical health, balanced diet, sleep, personal hygiene and protection from health-damaging behaviours, and it does not specifically refer to team sports. Potential Solution: A more detailed investigation of health and well-being should be included, discussing the advantages and constraints that are specifically linked to Ysgol Bontnewydd and Ysgol Llandwrog, without generalising them to larger and smaller schools. There is a need to consider broader definitions provided by the Curriculum for Wales on the Framework on Embedding a Whole-school Approach for Emotional and Mental Well-being (Welsh Government, 2021). The analysis should look beyond team sports and consider other factors that influence pupils' well-being.	2
It is questionable what impact any change in catchment area arrangements will have, if at all, on the school choice of residents of the Felinwnda catchment area In the absence of any actual change in the trend, no actual new impacts on either community are anticipated.	1
As Ysgol Felinwnda has closed, it is important that the decision on this matter protects the community resources that remain in the community of Llanwnda - Canolfan Bro Llanwnda and Cylch Meithrin Dinas and Llanwnda. I believe that option 1 would do this best.	1

By not considering the Dinas and Llanwnda catchment area, assigning the area to Bontnewydd would make the future of the Cylch very difficult. This may have a detrimental impact on the Cylch and the community that supports the Cylch.	1
Community Impact Assessment: Cylch Meithrin "it is not anticipated that transferring the Felinwnda catchment area as a whole to the Ysgol Bontnewydd catchment area will have a significant direct impact on other services provided locally and the community use of Canolfan Bro Llanwnda." This statement is incorrect. Evidence shows that parents from the Felinwnda catchment area who take their children to Ysgol Bontnewydd take their children to Cylch Meithrin Bontnewydd. For many years, the majority of children who attend the Cylch Meithrin in Canolfan Bro Llanwnda transfer to Ysgol Llandwrog. If the county decides to formalise the Felinwnda area in the Bontnewydd catchment area, more parents will be expected to take their children to Ysgol Bontnewydd and, naturally, it will mean more children going to Cylch Meithrin Bontnewydd and fewer attending the Cylch Meithrin at Canolfan Bro Llanwnda. Although the Cylch Meithrin at Canolfan Bro Llanwnda is now in a good place, the committee has worked very hard in recent years to ensure a future for this Cylch. Losing a small cohort of children from the Cylch would make the Cylch unsustainable, which would lead to two members of staff losing their work, and the income of the Ganolfan would substantially reduce. Potential Solution: Modify the impact assessment to "Negative" as even a small reduction in the number of pupils attending the Cylch Meithrin could have a great impact on this valuable community service and the Ganolfan's income.	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>There is a need to consider the importance of rural schools for the community within the impact assessment.</i></li> <li>• <i>There is a need to consider how the number of pupils in rural schools such as Ysgol Llandwrog can be increased</i></li> <li>• <i>It should be considered how offering transport from the Saron area to a school with high numbers already would have a negative impact on Ysgol Llandwrog in the future.</i></li> <li>• <i>The close link that is already between the communities of Saron and Llandwrog was noted - an opportunity to strengthen it (by selecting Option 1).</i></li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Parents should get the option of a school that is not a church school. I prefer Ysgol Bontnewydd as it is a community school.</i></li> </ul>	1
<b>Impact on the Welsh language</b>	
It is questionable what impact any change in catchment area arrangements will have, if at all, on the school choice of residents of the Felinwnda catchment area. The designations of Ysgol Bontnewydd and Ysgol Llandwrog are the same and the profiles are very similar. It is anticipated that the impact on the Welsh language is consistent across the 3 Options in the consultation document and the alternative option proposed in this response.	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Transferring the catchment area to the catchment area of Ysgol Bontnewydd would mean that the Cylch would fall within the Bontnewydd catchment area. This may have a detrimental impact on the Cylch's numbers and, ultimately, Ysgol Llandwrog along with the Ganolfan. A negative impact (financial pressures) on the Ganolfan may involve changes in terms of the services they offer to the local Welsh-speaking area.</i></li> </ul>	1
Consider the language level of the villages even though they are so small	1
No	1
<i>The impact would be the same for every option as each option includes Welsh-medium schools.</i>	1
<b>Impact on Well-being</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>All of the children from Cylch Meithrin Dinas and Llanwnda have transferred to Ysgol Llandwrog in the last two years. There is a need to consider this pattern when drawing-up the catchment's new boundaries.</i></li> </ul>	1
The well-being impact assessment concludes that option 2 would have the most positive well-being impact as there is a suitable footpath to Ysgol Bontnewydd but there is no footpath to Ysgol Llandwrog. It is unclear what exactly is meant by a 'suitable footpath'. If this refers to Lôn Eifion, whilst it is recognised that it is possible to use Lôn Eifion from Dinas towards Bontnewydd, for part of the journey from Dinas to Bontnewydd, one has to continue to walk from Lôn Eifion in Bontnewydd along the unclassified road towards the school. In addition, as so many parents work in the direction of Caernarfon and to the north, then practically, it is likely that they will use a car to transport their children to Ysgol Bontnewydd anyway.	1
The well-being of the children with a countryside background.	1



Well-being Impact Assessment: "Collaboration; Work with other partners to provide services." The analysis of collaboration is very restricted, and the range of stakeholders in question is limited. Potential Solution: Extend the analysis to include additional stakeholders such as community groups, sports clubs, transport providers and local businesses. There is a need to ensure that collaboration opportunities are fully explored in relation to every option.	3
Well-being Impact Assessment: "Long Term; Balance short term needs with long term ones and plan for the future. " The same statement is repeated for the three options, noting that they all "plan for a long-term education system". However, there is no specific mention of the development of the new school in Bontnewydd or an analysis of Ysgol Llandwrog's long-term needs. Potential Solution: Extend the analysis to consider how every option affects the long-term viability of Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd.	2
Well-being Impact Assessment: "Putting the people of Gwynedd first and treating them fairly and ensuring that the Council performs effectively and efficiently" There is a lack of information in the document detailing whether or not Cyngor Gwynedd has directly consulted with learners about their future. There is no mention of voice of the pupil forums or other mechanisms to receive input from students. Is this consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) charter? Potential Solution: Note whether learners were consulted as part of this process, or explain why they were not consulted. Collaborate with the office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales to ensure that the voice of learners is central to the decision.	2
No. The designations of Ysgol Bontnewydd and Ysgol Llandwrog are the same and the profiles are very similar.	1
Well-being Impact Assessment: "A Wales of cohesive communities; Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities." Presenting unconnected statistics in the same section creates confusion. The document combines figures about the percentage of children who attend Ysgol Bontnewydd and Ysgol Llandwrog with information about the Cylch Meithrin, leading to a misleading interpretation that the Cylch Meithrin feeds both schools. It is factually incorrect to suggest that only 12% of children transfer from Cylch Meithrin Bro Llanwnda to Ysgol Llandwrog, and that 61% of the children transfer to Ysgol Bontnewydd, which is implied in the presentation data. Potential Solution: Explain the relationship between the Cylchoedd Meithrin and the schools. Provide the correct figures that show where pupils from Cylch Meithrin Bro Llanwnda transfer and where pupils from Cylch Meithrin Bontnewydd transfer.	3
Well-being Impact Assessment: "A Wales of cohesive communities; Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities." There is an error in the document as it incorrectly notes there is a Cylch Ti a Fi in the Felinwnda catchment area. Potential Solution: Correct the error about the Cylch Ti a Fi,	2
Well-being Impact Assessment: "Give our children and young people the best possible start in life" In the analysis, the Welsh-speakers and English-speakers differ in how they "socialise with a broader range of peers" "with a broader range of age-relevant" This highlights that the English version is the same for the three options. Also, the document notes that every option would allow children to "socialise with a wider range" or "a broader range of age-relevant peers", but it is unclear what is the meaning of "broader" in this context. Broader than what? With an emphasis on 'broader', the document fails to weigh-up the depth of the relationship in the community on the sense of belonging, which includes relations that bridge the generations. Potential Solution: Ensure that it is clear what is meant by "broader" in every option by noting what is the baseline for comparison. Provide a more detailed analysis for every option, explaining how the composition of the peer group is different. There is also a need to extend the analysis to include the sense of belonging to the broader community.	2
Well-being Impact Assessment: "Protecting the county's natural beauty, and responding positively to the climate change crisis" The analysis of Option 2 and Option 3 provides specific details about the percentage of pupils who can use suitable paths to walk to school. Option 2 does not mention any need for transport while Option 3 notes transport to Ysgol Llandwrog, but there is no mention of transport for pupils without safe paths to Ysgol Bontnewydd (see the previous point). Potential Solution: Ensure there is a complete analysis of the proportion of pupils who will need transport for both schools, and ensure that safe paths are fully assessed for Option 2 and Option 3.	2

Travel Arrangements	
<p>I think it is important to consider how people can get easy access to schools without transport. Can any alterations be made to the cycle paths, crossings etc. to enable people to safely reach the school? E.g. it is not possible to safely reach the Pitian Patian nursery in Llanwnda on foot or on public transport. This forces parents to get access to a car, which is not always possible, or to be at risk when crossing busy roads.</p>	1
<p>The impact assessment presumes that pupils in the Felinwnda catchment area will attend whichever school the new designated school will be for that catchment area. It is questionable whether this is an accurate presumption; it is proposed that it is more likely for attendance patterns to continue with parents and guardians transporting children to the school of their choice if it is an out-of-catchment area. There could be benefit given the potential of the different options for reducing numbers and distances of private travel to school. There could be environmental benefits by reducing travel (although differentiating between direct travel and road travel would be difficult); by reducing the number of private vehicles near the schools, traffic control benefits and less parking pressures are more likely. Bus provision and reduction of private travel to Ysgol Bontnewydd would be desirable for traffic control reasons</p>	1
<p>I can see that option 1 has the most implications in terms of travelling costs. However, I am not convinced that this will be the reality of the situation. I suggest that it would be possible to run one bus instead of two. The bus could start in Saron, travel towards Blythe Farm and the catchment boundary, before turning back and passing Ysgol Felinwnda towards Dinas, and then on to Llanwnda and along the A499 towards Llandwrog. This journey should not take more than 20 minutes. However, it is likely that the actual travelling costs of any option will depend on the exact numbers and the location of pupils and their choice of school, and how many will travel to school outside the catchment area - whichever option is chosen.</p>	1
<p>Parking and pick-up in Bontnewydd are very challenging</p>	1
<p>Transport Impact Assessment: Safe Paths There are no maps or analysis that show which paths are considered safe for pupils to walk to school. Without this information, the picture presented to the Cabinet will be incomplete, and make it impossible for them to make an informed decision. In addition, the lack of clarity regarding safe paths could contribute towards the ambiguity of transport cost estimates provided for every option. Potential Solution: Undertake a thorough analysis of safe paths to school, supported by detailed maps and descriptions, before submitting the report to the Cabinet.</p>	1
<p>Consultation Document: Consistency in terms of Pupil Numbers and Associated Costs Unfortunately, these figures do not make any sense. Option 1 - Llandwrog 45 children need a bus to Ysgol Llandwrog Option 2 - Bontnewydd 18 children need a bus to Ysgol Bontnewydd Option 3 - Split the catchment area 18 children need a bus to Ysgol Bontnewydd 28 children need a bus to Ysgol Llandwrog. In Option 3, it is noted that an extra 28 children need transport to Ysgol Llandwrog if the catchment area is split. Why is there no need for a bus for these 28 children to Bontnewydd in Option 2? Potential Solution: Provide a detailed explanation of how the 28 children from the Dinas/Llanwnda area will be included in Option 2, and ensure that transport needs and associated costs are presented consistently across all options.</p>	2
<p>Transport Impact Assessment: Emphasis on public transport options The document repeatedly places an emphasis on access to public transport, including secondary school buses, but again it recognises “ However, it is not customary for primary school children to use secondary school buses.” Despite this, secondary bus routes are repeatedly mentioned as a potential transport option for primary-aged pupils, although they are unlikely to be used in practice. This creates a disconnect between the prominence of information about public transport in the assessment and its actual relevance or usability for primary-aged school learners. In addition, despite the regular references, public transport options are not considered in the final conclusions or recommendations, that could cause confusion whether they are deemed realistic as part of the proposed solutions. Potential Solution: Explain the relevance of secondary school bus routes for primary-aged pupils, and</p>	2

either provide a detailed analysis of how these options could be used safely for younger learners or reduce their prominence in the assessment. Ensure that any references to public transport options are consistent with the final conclusions and recommendations.	
<b>Data and consistency matters</b>	
<p>After-school Activities</p> <p>The Community Impact Assessment notes different community facilities, but the Language Impact Assessment only focuses on after-school activities in the school building and village hall. As there is no village hall in Llandwrog, the document ignores any events that are held in wider facilities within the Llandwrog catchment area.</p> <p>Potential Solution: Ensure consistency between the documents and that the report conveys a full picture of what happens in community facilities that fall within either catchment area.</p>	2
<p>The document uses inconsistent figures in terms of the percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home. For example, it quotes 95.5% for Ysgol Bontnewydd, that does not correspond with PLASC reports (93%) or Estyn reports Estyn 75%). These inconsistencies weaken the analysis and creates confusion. Potential Solution: Ensure that the figures used in the document are consistent and use the most recent and reliable data, such as PLASC January 2024. As Estyn uses PLASC data when drawing up their reports, it is unclear why there is a need to refer to data from 2017 and 2019. If there is a reason for including this data, it should be ensured that the relevance of the data is clear.</p>	2
<p>After-school Activities: The Language Impact Assessment document lists the Cylch/Ysgol Feithrin as an after-school activity in Bontnewydd. Potential Solution: Delete a Cylch/Ysgol Meithrin from the after-school activities list as it is not intended for this purpose.</p>	2

### Part 3:

#### Impact on the Welsh Language:

Finally, in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards, that requires the Authority to consider the impacts of policy decisions it makes on the Welsh language; additional specific questions were asked regarding the impact on the Welsh language.

The responses received have been noted in the following table. The observations below include a mix of direct quotes and rephrasing (where permission to publish the responses was not received). The rephrased text has been [highlighted in blue](#).

#### **D1: In your opinion, which impacts, if at all (positive or detrimental) would the options have on opportunities for people to use Welsh, or on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.**

No major difference.

The designations of Ysgol Bontnewydd and Ysgol Llandwrog are the same and the profiles are very similar. It is anticipated that the impact on the Welsh language is consistent across the 3 Options in the consultation document and the alternative option proposed in this response.

- *A detrimental impact on the Cylch Meithrin could lead to the loss of Welsh-medium education provision in the area.*

With the language of the school playground changing so easily to English, a Welsh-speaking school such as Llandwrog can promote the language better with non-Welsh-speaking pupils being immersed in the language.

#### **D2: In your opinion, would it be possible to draw up or adapt the options to ensure that they have positive impacts, or more positive impacts on opportunities for people to use Welsh, or on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.**

Prioritise Ysgol Llandwrog and ensure that rural villages serve a rural school

#### **D3: In your opinion, would it be possible to draw up or adapt the options to ensure that they do not have detrimental impacts, or have less detrimental impacts on opportunities for people to use Welsh, or on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English**

[No response was received.]