



Schools Programme
Record of Virtual Public Meeting
Pentyrch Primary School
13 January 2022



Present: Michele Duddridge Friedl (SOP), Brett Andrewartha (SOP), Sarah Coombes (Pentyrch Primary School Executive Head), Shirley Karseras (SOP), members of the public.

Please note: The following is not a transcript but a contemporaneous note of the meeting

The Meeting was held via Microsoft Teams Live Event

Welcome and Introductions

Brett Andrewartha (BA) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance. He explained the process of consultation including timeframes and reiterated that this proposal is at a formative stage.

He then presented a PowerPoint slide show which set out the following:

- What is being proposed
- Background
- Why we are proposing to increase the capacity of Pentyrch Primary School
- EM pupil projections at Pentyrch Primary School and surrounding area
- Forecasts and sufficiency of places
- Nursery provision
- Condition and suitability
- Proposed changes to school buildings
- Quality and standards
- Benefits of the proposal
- Potential disadvantages and risks
- Alternative options
- Financial matters
- Other considerations
- Human resources matters
- What happens next

Questions and Answers

BA invited questions from the public

The questions submitted by staff are set out in *italics* below/over with the officer response given directly below.

Q1 – *In the presentation there was reference to having considered the community impact. On behalf of the village hall, that runs the nursery 5 days a*



week, the management committee had not heard anything about the proposal. How can they be involved at all stages going forward?

A - Michele Duddridge-Friedl (MDF) We are governed by the School Organisation Code when undertaking proposals like this. It sets out which stakeholders we need to engage with. We also reach out using social media which we know then spreads through word of mouth. If there are issues that we did not reach some people, then we need to know this. We still have plenty of time within the consultation period to engage with people. As an authority, we want to know all points of views, concerns as well as positive aspects. Also, any suggestions you may have to alleviate any of the concerns. You know your local community, so if there are any groups or organisations that you think we need to engage with, then let us know and we will get the information to them.

(BA) Just to confirm that we did send mail to the village hall. If they did not receive it, then apologies, we will get the information out straight away. The link to the proposal has also been shared within this meeting on the comments function.

When we carry out a proposal, we do recognise that the local community is impacted and we did make every effort to contact them for this proposal so apologies if it did not reach you.

(MDF) We will check that we have the correct details for the village hall and can send information out to your email address too.

Q2 – I live a few doors down from the school and am very concerned about the impact of increased traffic. There has been bedlam on Bronllwyn since Radyr Comprehensive School has finished their school day earlier and the buses come through the village at exactly the same time as Pentyrch Primary School finishes. I have spoken to the PCSO, but they say they can't do anything. Is there a possibility of marking the road with yellow lines to alleviate the chaos?

A – (MDF) I can see that this is causing you stress and the increase of more pupils accessing the school is naturally going to cause you more concern. When we have capital investment on a school's proposal, we have to work in conjunction with our traffic and transport colleagues as part of the planning permission. They will look to see what pre-existing issues there may be in the area as well as working to mitigate any issues that could arise due to the proposal.

We appreciate that Pentyrch is a rural area and that people will access the provision by car, but there are other people who could use active travel to get to school. We will work with the school to review their active travel plan, and if we can identify safer walking routes, then we hope people will use these more.

Radyr Comprehensive School set their own school hours, it is not something the council governs, however they do have to consult on it and we can certainly engage with them to see if they know the impact that it is causing in Pentyrch. It may be just



something as simple as the order the buses leave rather than the time the school finishes. Pentyrch Primary could also look at the access and egress points around the school to see if this can help. We know schools are very active alongside their families in promoting safe walking routes and reducing car journeys. This is something we have to look at but also something we want to look at as we don't want people to suffer.

(BA) – In this process, we are the conduit to the council's cabinet and the cabinet will determine what goes forward in the end. At the planning stage, it is right to identify that there could be traffic issues and lever in monies at this point to try and rectify it. If we consistently hear this view from the community then our traffic colleagues have to respond to, appraise and notify the cabinet on what steps they will take. We encourage that you also make this point though the online survey.

Q3 – There are lots and lots of issues with this proposal. The idea of investing in education is obviously going to be welcomed but the impacts are going to be significant. The increase in traffic is not limited to the school day, there has been major housing development in the Northwest of Cardiff that will also cause increased traffic through the village.

We need to look at the next 10 years and put into context the current traffic issues.

The current nursery provision allows for very safe access when dropping children off. If these children end up at the school, then the process at the minute is not safe for very small children and needs to be considered.

Also where are the staff going to park? There will be more of them and they should not park on Bronllwyn.

Some children will be coming from the development on Llantrisant Road and will need to be driven to the school. How will this work? Will they be eligible for travel supplied by the council? They should not be getting dropped off on Bronllwyn. We can use as many nice words about consultation and impacts, this is the reality.

A – (MDF) I recognise that there is a collective impact and it's not just this proposal causing you concern. The cabinet can make a decision about the proposal, but it will depend on planning permission secured. The planning decisions will have to consider traffic and transport implications. There are solutions. An example of a tightly congested area where a ride and stride initiative has worked is at Ysgol Hamadryad which is located in a tightly packed urban area on a one-way street. Planning considered the locality to see how school provision could work there, with local councillors recognising that parking was a critical issue for their constituents.

The team making these planning decisions are also involved in the LDP. This committee, who are elected members will be aware of the issues being presented to them.

There are obviously a lot of factors affecting Pentyrch and this will challenge how things have been in the past which will cause concern.



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In terms of accessing nursery provision on site, the proposal can be changed by suggestions made during the consultation. These suggestions and opinions will be considered by the cabinet. For example, 2.5 hours might not work very well for your families and so maybe wraparound care will be something they would prefer which could be provided by the private provider. The local authority recognises the benefit that the established nursery has provided to the community over the years and has supported it. We do not want to see it going anywhere but there are families who would prefer to access nursery at the school. Relationships are formed at this stage and it can harm the number of children attending Pentyrch Primary at reception as families have made these relationships with other schools. So, we need to consider the range of benefits a school can have by providing nursery provision and balance that with the private provider to add value to the community.

Q4 - I am president of the village hall, and the nursery provides 40% pre pandemic for the lettings income of the hall. If this ceased, then it could be catastrophic. I am pleased to hear that there could be options for wraparound service if this was something the current provider could offer. I would also like to state that children should never walk-up Church Road or for it ever to be considered as a walking route as it is far too dangerous.

MDF - acknowledge that due to your location, there will be some families who have to access school provision by car.

Q5 - Chair of Board of Governors for Creigiau Primary School. Want to echo some of the comments about how this meeting was publicised as didn't receive information via Creigiau PS even though it has been referenced several times within this document.

I have concerns about the council's long term aims over education in the Northwest of Cardiff. On behalf of Creigiau PS want to raise the point that we have 8 of our 14 classes in demountables. Want to question why Pentyrch for investment over Creigiau? There is nothing in the document about Welsh provision in this area of Cardiff. There are children leaving Pentyrch daily to access Welsh language provision at Creigiau. What is the council's strategic direction for education in Northwest Cardiff?

MDF - Pentyrch is a 1 FE school and there are a significant number of people who chose English-medium provision there. Creigiau is 2 FE with 1 FE English-medium and 1FE Welsh-medium. Gwaelod y Garth nearby offers predominantly Welsh-medium provision. With rural areas around an urban area like Cardiff, planning provision can be more difficult. It may be based around preferences that have been demonstrated over a period of time and also where children access that provision from. For example, some children who do not reside in Cardiff local authority area may attend these rural schools.

The 106 monies from the Goitre Fach development have been secured to make Pentyrch a sustainable and viable village school. Budgets are challenging below 1 FE and even at 1FE, the school can benefit by forming a partnership with another primary school.



Other large-scale developments in the area include Plasdŵr and that south of Junction 33. The council has stated a strong commitment to Welsh-medium education in this area through the Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP). Also LDP sites will have at least 50% Welsh-medium school places provided, and as there is a large amount of development in the Northwest of Cardiff, this will have an impact on the number of Welsh-medium school places on a strategic level in this area.

It is not surprising that you would also like investment in your school and we are aware of the challenges that Creigiau faces with the large-scale development in the area.

BA – There is outline planning consent for two of the developments which form part of the LDP strategic sites: Plasdŵr and Junction 33. 106 monies have already been secured from the Plasdŵr site to bring forward new school provision as has the development on Junction 33 which has a projected yield of 420 pupils.

At the time of planning for Goitre Fach it was identified that there wasn't sufficient spare capacity to serve this development. Money was secured to provide 70 extra places and so it made sense to expand Pentyrch to a 1FE.

However, the development planned for the south of Creigiau has a yield of around 1 FE and it is hoped that Creigiau Primary may benefit from some investment at this point to help serve this development. We expect to meet with the governors of Creigiau Primary in the next few months to discuss the impact of the LDP and their needs.

Brian Weir – welcome further conversations in the coming months.

Q6 – Is there any transport going to be provided for residents of Goitre Fach to Pentyrch Primary?

BA – Transport colleagues were asked to comment on transport provision when planning was first submitted for this development. There is no safe walking route from that site, so the schools transport policy means that the council would supply free home to school transport for those residents. This will be to the nearest school that has room and the type of provision they seek. The closest English-medium primary schools are actually Radyr Primary and Danescourt Primary but quite often these schools are full from within its catchment. What we are concerned with though is that there is a net flow of children out of Pentyrch to other schools because there aren't sufficient spaces for children who live in the village.

This will be either a bus or taxi depending on numbers coming from the development who qualify for free transport.

Q7 – Community engagement officer for Pentyrch community council. It would be useful to share the presentation on their Facebook page. Can you confirm that the deadline is 25th January?



A – MDF – all the information from tonight’s presentation is from the consultation document that is accessible online. The link has been shared on the chat function in this meeting.

Also welcome to email or write to us with your comments.

Q8 – Do notes from this meeting form part of the consultation?

A – MDF – Yes. We make contemporaneous notes for the meetings which will form part of the cabinet report. The cabinet report is a summary document of all the feedback we have had throughout the consultation. Based on this, we then make a recommendation of how to proceed such as go to Statutory Notice on what we’ve proposed or with a slight adaptation. The cabinet then make a decision.

Responses are summarised unless you are responding formally, e.g. as a Chair of Board of Governors on behalf of a school, which would then be published in full within the report.

Q9 – Very concerned for the nursery and the safety of the children with the extra traffic from the increase in the school and the local developments. Also, as the owner of the business, I’m concerned whether we can still provide the high-quality care that we do currently. Not all parents want to have childcare all day and so might not utilise the wraparound care. After school clubs and supplying provision for 2 year olds would not be financially viable for us.

Can you clarify the figures within the document as we are going to have 4 primary schools eventually and the projections show the figures are coming down?

A - MDF – We have already had discussions about how we can work together to make your nursery viable alongside maintained nursery provision. We will schedule more meetings to achieve this.

BA – Whilst this proposal has been brought forward due to the development of Goitre Fach, the numbers from within the catchment area of Pentyrch Primary show that there is a need for extra places locally and this proposal is about providing those extra places. Birth-rates are falling in the short term; this is generally a cyclical pattern. There may be a dip in pupil numbers in most schools, but this will be offset by new housing. It is acknowledged that across the wider area there will be some destabilising of existing schools by the establishment of the new LDP schools. We are therefore committed to levering in funds to these existing schools to put them in the best position possible to retain pupils in their local area. There are numbers in the village and catchment area to support a larger Pentyrch Primary school. We can provide summary data that the NHS has provided for each area that may further help understanding the planning decisions made.



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There were no further questions. MDF reiterated that we can offer further information via drop-in sessions if required. She thanked those in attendance and closed the meeting.