



Review Area 4
Llandogo & the Surrounding Areas

Consultation Report

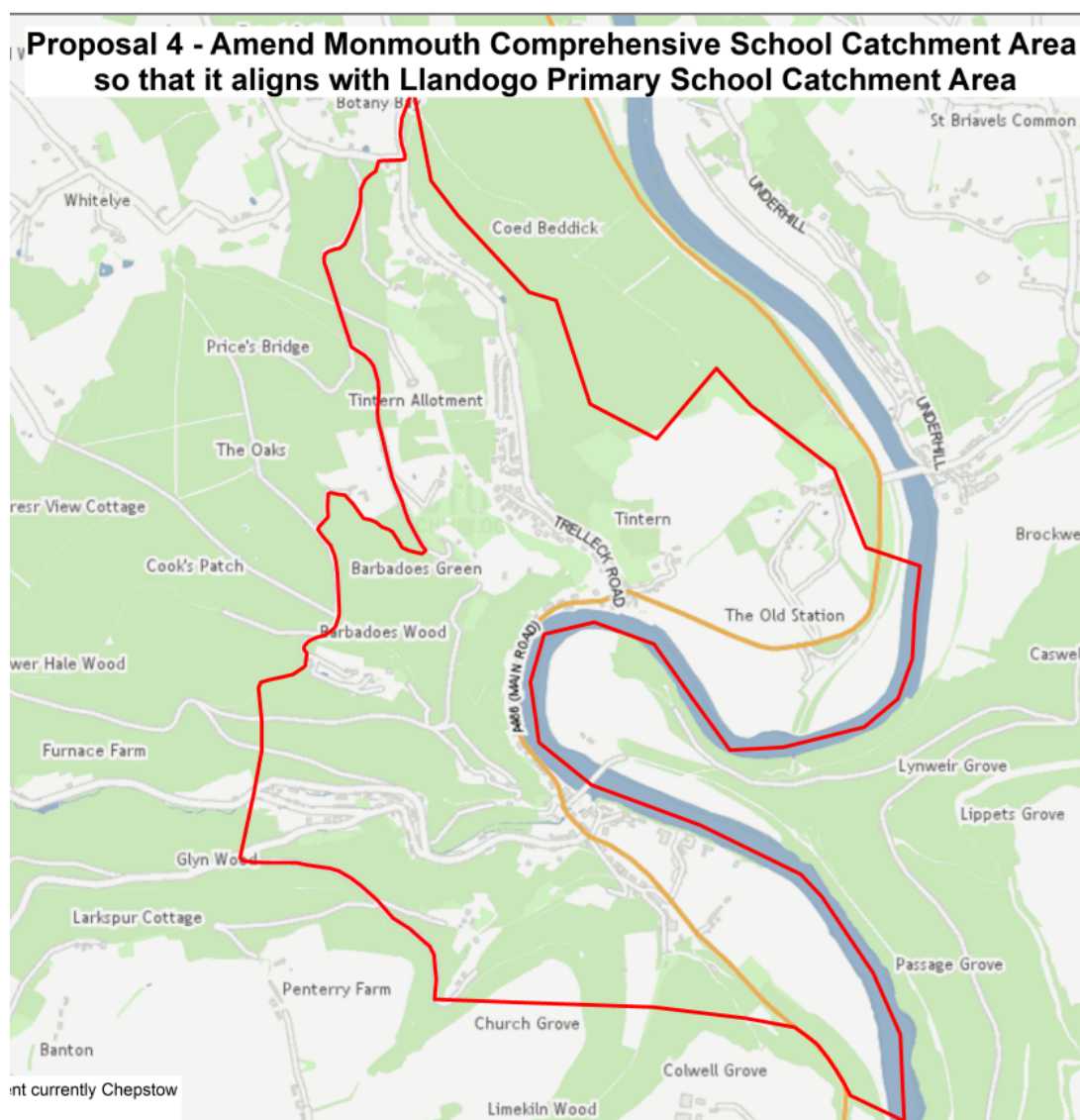
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1. The Proposal

The Council consulted on amending the secondary school catchment area for children and young people currently residing within the village of Llandogo and the immediate surrounding areas.

The areas identified on the below map currently form part of the catchment area for Llandogo Primary School, and Chepstow School.



Through this consultation, the Council sought the views of consultees and interested parties on whether the secondary school catchment boundary should be amended for the specified areas (area identified above), to form part of the catchment area for Monmouth Comprehensive School, thus aligning the entire catchment area for Llandogo Primary to a single secondary school.

The below table identifies the number of children and young people residing within the affected area who would be affected by the proposals over the next 6 years should they proceed.

Current year group	Admission to Secondary	Numbers affected
Year 5	September 2020	5
Year 4	September 2021	7
Year 3	September 2022	6
Year 2	September 2023	7
Year 1	September 2024	5
Reception	September 2025	4
Total		34

2. Why did we consult on this proposal?

Transitional arrangements between Primary and Secondary School.

Llandogo Primary School is the designated primary school for the affected area and is a feeder school for Monmouth Comprehensive School. The proposed changes would see complete alignment between the catchment area for Llandogo Primary School and Monmouth Comprehensive school, lending support to the existing transitional arrangements, and enabling the cohorts of children to remain together when entering into that daunting transition between Primary to Secondary School.

Access to School places

The parents of children and young people currently residing within the affected area have the opportunity to express a preference for a school at which they wish for their child to attend. This preference does not need to be for the designated catchment school, however, children residing within the catchment area for a preferred school receive a priority in the event of oversubscription.

Those residing within the affected area are not afforded with the above priority for Monmouth Comprehensive school as they do not currently form part of the designated catchment area.

Llandogo Primary School, being a feeder for Monmouth Comprehensive School, sees almost all of the children and young people residing within its catchment area wishing to transition to Monmouth Comprehensive School. However, some children and young people from Llandogo Primary have been unsuccessful in securing places at Monmouth Comprehensive School during times of oversubscription. This

is due to the affected area being outside of the catchment area for Monmouth Comprehensive School.

The above results in some children and young people not being able to transition to Monmouth Comprehensive school with their peer groups.

The proposals outlined would help in addressing this matter.

Provision of Home to School Transport

A further consideration of the proposed change is the current provision for home to school transport that currently serves the affected area. The council's current policy provides free home to school transport to the nearest or catchment school if residing 2 miles or more from the home address.

The affected area sees the availability of free home to school transport being available to Chepstow School as the nearest / catchment school for the affected area. As a result, should children and young people residing within the affected area secure places alongside their peers at Monmouth Comprehensive, they would not receive an entitlement to free home to school transport.

The proposals outlined would address this matter.

3. Results of this Consultation

The Council have received a number of formal responses to this proposal, submitted either via the online survey or via email / letter. The table below offers a broad profile of the consultees responding to the consultation, together with a view on whether they are in support of or against the proposals.

Respondent category	Total number in support of proposals	Total number not in support of proposals
Parent / Carer	30	4
School Governor		
Staff Member		
Pupil		
Other	1	
Total	31	4
Percentage	89%	11%

4. Public Consultation session

The Council facilitated a public consultation session at Llandogo Primary School on 18th February 2019. There were 17 consultees present at the session who, following

a very useful debate, seemed to offer their overwhelming support for the proposals to both the catchment proposals and the priority being afforded to those attending a feeder school.

During the session, the following comments / concerns / questions relating to the proposals:

Consultee Question / comment	LA summary Response
If the catchment changes to Monmouth, I have an older child who is in Chepstow, would younger children who want to go to Chepstow lose transport?	The Council home to school transport policy confirms that transport will be available free of charge to the nearest or catchment school. For those families residing within the affected areas, free home to school transport will be offered where it is identified to be the nearest suitable school
Have you considered proposed buildings plans in Chepstow and how this will impact Chepstow Comprehensive?	<p>If proposals proceed, the catchment school for the affected area will become Monmouth Comprehensive School. However, parents will still have an opportunity to express a preference for Chepstow School and will receive free home to school transport where its identified to be the nearest suitable school.</p> <p>Our projections for Chepstow School incorporate any known developments that have received planning permission. We do not envisage Chepstow school reaching a point of oversubscription based on the projected numbers coming through.</p>
I think it is a sensible proposal and I am for it. If bringing in a feeder school will that apply to out of county children who may then benefit from it?	The proposal is to introduce a feeder school criteria into the oversubscription criteria used to award places. This would be applied after the catchment criteria, and will provide out of catchment children who attend a feeder school with an increased change of being able to transition with their peers.
So a feeder school would apply even if not catchment school?	Yes, if proposals are approved, children residing outside of catchment but attending a feeder school will have an increased opportunity to obtain places alongside their peers.
Welsh medium catchment is an issue, our children would have to leave to early to attend Welsh Comprehensive school at 6.50am. Feeling vulnerable where there is not sibling link at	Thank you for your useful comments. The Council will give consideration to Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin becoming a feeder school for both Caldicot and Chepstow Schools.

<p>Chepstow yet. We ask that you consider those children in the Welsh medium as no feeder school so they will be further down the over subscription list with distance and do not feel confident that Chepstow will not fill up in that time.</p> <p>There is a vulnerability for some children who may not get into Chepstow where they have some connections. They may not have any connections with Monmouth. Can you add something to protect them in the subscription criteria.</p>	
<p>Is transport just for a transition period or will it stay?</p>	<p>Free home to school transport to Chepstow School will remain in circumstances whereby it's identified to be the nearest suitable school. This is a requirement of the Learner Travel Measure Wales.</p>
<p>The feeder school is proposed for 2020 but for 2019 intake will there be any discretion over feeder school?</p>	<p>The School Admission arrangements for September 2019 have been consulted upon and agreed. Therefore, the Council is not able to introduce a feeder school criterion any earlier than September 2020.</p>
<p>Thank Monmouthshire County Council for taking this issue on. We live in Tintern and my child had been attending Llandogo and we were refused Monmouth Comprehensive as we were not in catchment. We put in an appeal and did secure a place. My child was badly, emotionally and physically affected at the thought she would be separated from her friends. I am grateful that the consultation has come up.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback – the Council has understood that current arrangements have previously resulted in some children not being able to transition to secondary school alongside their peers.</p> <p>The proposals put forward are for consultation and the outcome will be determined by 15th April 2019.</p>
<p>There are a few that are in support of the changes. It is positive it has been recognised and goes some way to bring alignment back together.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. We hope the results of the consultation are supportive of the proposals.</p>
<p>When there are for example just 6 in a class there can be a huge impact on them if they are the only one not going to a</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback – the Council understands that current arrangements have previously resulted in some children not being able to transition to secondary school alongside their</p>

Comprehensive with others they know	peers. There is an appreciation for how this can impact on a child's wellbeing and forms part of the reason why proposals have been brought forward.
Where there are older children in Chepstow, my neighbour has a concern for her younger children, will there still be a criteria for sibling in the future?	Yes, the Council proposes to have two criterias that determine the allocation of siblings. The first priority being to siblings in catchment. The second being to siblings out of catchment (after applying the catchment criteria). The Council does not foresee Chepstow School being oversubscribed based on the projected numbers already within the area / arising from developments.
When will there be a final decision?	The Council proposed to take the findings of this consultation to Cabinet on 3 rd April 2019. It is hoped that a decision will be made at this meeting.
How likely is it for these changes to go ahead?	It is difficult for the Council to preempt the outcome of this consultation. The views of those residing within the affected area will be key to determining how proposals proceed.

All interested parties in attendance at the consultation session were advised of the need to put their individual views forward by responding to this consultation either via email or via the online survey.

5. Consultation with Children and Young People

During the consultation, the Council engaged with the children and young people in years 5 and 6 at Llandogo Primary School.

The purpose of this consultation was to find out which secondary school they would like to go to and the reasons why. The results of this consultation are detailed below:

Preferred School	Number of year 6 pupils	Number of year 5 pupils	Total	%
Monmouth	8	7	15	83%
Chepstow	2		2	11%
Other		1	1	6
Total	10	8		

A summary of the reasons children and young people tell us they wish to attend Monmouth Comprehensive School are:

- Existing sibling / family links
- Friendship / peer groups

- Its an excellent School
- Distance from home
- Offers excellent facilities
- Familiar with some teachers / staff at Monmouth

A summary of the reasons children and you people tell us they wish to attend Chepstow School are:

- Existing sibling / family links
- It's a good school with good teachers

6. What has the consultation told us?

The Council has studied the formal responses received in relation to this proposal and has extracted the key themes for consideration in determining how the proposal moves forward.

The themes coming through from those in favour of the proposals are:

Theme	Comment summary
1. Peer and friendship groups	Children who are attending their catchment Primary School (Llandogo) will be able to transition to secondary school with their peers. If children attend a feeder school for a particular secondary school, then they should have the opportunity to stay with their classmates
2. Wellbeing	Few children will be split from their friends during what is already a stressful time with moving to a new and bigger school. Historically some children have been unable to attend Monmouth with their peers which has had a negative impact on their mental health.
3. Transitional links	It is very important that children are able to transition from Primary to secondary school together as a cohort. It is likely to have beneficial effects on children's ability to quickly settle in to secondary school with less impact on their wellbeing and performance. It will also make cluster working between primary schools and the secondary school easier.
4. Cluster arrangements	Aligning primary and secondary catchment areas makes perfect sense. Llandogo Primary School

	is a feeder for Monmouth so its catchment areas should align
5. Transport	The proposal will mean that our children will receive free home to school transport to attend a school where peers attend. Some of us have to pay to be transported to Monmouth as we are out of catchment but our child wanted to go to a school with their peers

The theme of concern coming through from those not in favour of the proposals are:

Theme	Comment Summary	LA response
1. Capacity concerns	Monmouth Comprehensive School does not have enough capacity	Monmouth Comprehensive School is regularly oversubscribed, however, it is not oversubscribed with children residing within the catchment area for the school. Our most recent 5 year forecasts provide us with confidence that the capacity of Monmouth Comprehensive School is of sufficient size to accommodate the proposed changes as children from the affected area transition between primary and secondary school
2. Safety	No safe routes	In the event that there are no safe walking routes identified, free home to school transport is available.
3. Impact on Chepstow School	Concerns that the proposal will result in even less children being able to attend Chepstow School	The affected area currently forms part of the catchment area for Chepstow School. The number of children choosing to transition to Chepstow School from the affected area are minimal, so we do not foresee a significant impact on Chepstow School. Furthermore, Chepstow School remains to have sufficient capacity to accommodate any requests from parents who wish for their child to attend the school. Free home to school transport will also continue in the event that Chepstow School is identified to be the nearest suitable school

4. Distance / travel times	A concern that the proposed new secondary school is further away	The Council acknowledges that for some parts of the affected area, the distance to Monmouth Comprehensive School is further than Chepstow School. Parents who wish for their child to attend a closer school (i.e. Chepstow) will be able to do so and will receive home to school transport in a situation whereby its identified as being the nearest suitable school
5. Chepstow capacity concerns / sibling links	<p>A concern that families in the area who want their children to go to Chepstow wont get in due to housing developments which will cause oversubscription.</p> <p>A concern that siblings will not get into Chepstow if it's no longer catchment</p>	The Council projections for Chepstow School include all known housing developments that have received planning permission. We do not foresee Chepstow school reaching a point of oversubscription based on these numbers.

7. Home to School Transport

The Council currently provide free home to school transport to the catchment or nearest suitable school.

The impact of these proposals proceeding to implementation would be that free home to school transport would either be provided to Monmouth Comprehensive School as the catchment school, or the nearest suitable school as determined by the Council.

8. General overview on consensus

The consultation process undertaken by the Council has without question been a useful exercise, providing a full and open opportunity to test and critic the proposed changes to school catchment areas.

Through analysis of the feedback received from the formal consultation responses, feedback from the public consultation sessions, as well as the voice of the children and young people affected by this proposal, the Council is able to draw a conclusion of clear support for the following proposal:

To amend the Secondary School catchment boundary for Monmouth Comprehensive School so that it aligns with Llandogo Primary School

The consultation process has drawn some concerns towards the proposals, however, the Council feels that it has been able to mitigate the concerns raised. Should proposals proceed to be implemented, families who wish for their child to attend Chepstow School can continue to do so.