



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

OBJECTION REPORT

Relocation and associated increase in
capacity of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni

Monmouthshire County Council

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1. Introduction

Monmouthshire County Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient and suitable school places for children within its County, and in doing so ensure that resources and facilities are efficiently utilised to deliver the education opportunities that our children deserve.

The Council has a responsibility under the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2018 to consult with appropriate stakeholders when considering any significant school reorganisation proposals.

The Council has recently engaged in a statutory consultation process relating to the proposed increase in capacity of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni from 317 places to 420 places. It is proposed that the capacity increase will be achieved through relocating the school to the site formerly occupied by Deri View Primary School.

The purpose of undertaking the statutory consultation process was to seek the views of our community, key stakeholders and partners on the proposal.

On conclusion of the statutory consultation period, a consultation report was produced to inform interested parties of the outcome of the consultation undertaken and included the Council's response to comments and concerns raised during this consultation.

The consultation report was considered by the Council's Cabinet on 5th June 2023, who agreed to proceed to the next stage of the statutory process by means of the publication of statutory notices.

This Objection Report now represents the council's responsibilities in line with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2018 to produce a report that summarises any statutory objections received together with the Council's response to these objections.

2. Distribution of the Consultation Report

This consultation report was published on the Monmouthshire County Council Website [School Reorganisation - Monmouthshire](#). The following consultees and interested parties were also contacted directly to inform them of the publication of the consultation report.

- Parents, carers/guardians and staff members of schools affected by the proposal
- The governing body of any school affected by the proposal
- Pupils/Pupil Councils of schools directly affected by the proposal
- Headteachers of schools affected by the proposal
- Welsh Ministers
- All MCC Town and Community Councils
- All MCC Assembly Members representing the area served by the school
- All Members of Parliament representing MCC area
- All MCC Libraries
- Directors of Education of all bordering LAs – Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Powys, Torfaen, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire
- MCC Youth Service
- GAVO
- Monmouthshire Governors Association
- Teaching trade unions
- Support Staff trade unions
- Welsh Language Commissioner
- Welsh Ministers
- ESTYN
- RHAG
- Mudiaid Meithrin
- Church in Wales Diocesan Trust, Director of Education
- Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust, Director of Education
- South East Wales Consortium
- South East Wales Education Achievement Service
- Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner
- Early Years & Childcare Partnership
- Welsh in Education Forum

The above consultees were directly informed of the decision to proceed with proposals through means of the publication of Statutory Notices, and informed of how they could submit Statutory Objections against proposals.

3. A reminder of our proposal

The Council consulted on proposals to relocate Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni from its current site of St Davids Road, Abergavenny, NP7 6HF to the former Deri View Primary School site of Llwynu Lane, Abergavenny, NP7 6AR. The approximate distance between the current site and the proposed site is 0.4 miles.

The proposed relocation of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni will enable the capacity of the School to be increased from its current 317 places (45 per year group) to 420 places (60 per year group) with an additional 60 place Meithrin (nursery). The proposed implementation date was 1st September 2025.

4. Background to the Consultation Arrangements

4.1 Methodology

On 17th January 2024 the Council's Cabinet approved the proposals to commence statutory consultation thereby allowing the Council to engage with key stakeholders on increasing the capacity of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni to 420 places

In line with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2018, the Council produced a consultation document, published on 29th January 2024, which also represented the commencement of the statutory consultation period. The formal consultation period lasted 8 weeks (including 20 school days), concluding on 11th March 2024.

The consultation document was distributed / links sent to all statutory consultees as listed on page 4 of this document. The consultation document was also published on the Council's website at [School Reorganisation - Monmouthshire](#).

The Council raised awareness of the consultation through means of direct mailshots to all statutory consultees, including parents, staff, and governing bodies of schools affected by the proposal. A marketing campaign was also established, making use of the Council's social media networks throughout the consultation period to advertise the proposals and how consultees could contribute to this process.

Consultees were advised of the following opportunities to respond formally to the consultation proposals:

- Completing the online consultation questionnaire available via [School Reorganisation - Monmouthshire](#)
- Emailing strategicreview@monmouthshire.gov.uk.

4.2 Consultation Report

The Council has a responsibility in line with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to produce a report seeking to inform interested parties of the outcome to the consultation stage of the process by means of:

- Summarising each of the issues raised by consultees
- Responding to these by means of clarification, amendment to the proposal, or rejection to the concerns with supporting reasons
- Setting out Estyn's view (as provided in its consultation response) of the overall merits of the proposal.

On 5th June 2024, the Council's Cabinet considered the Consultation Report and agreed to proceed with the next stages of the statutory process, by means of publication of the statutory notices that proposed the relocation and increase in capacity of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni.

The Council's Consultation Report relating to these proposals was published on 7th June 2024, and all Statutory consultees and interest parties were directly informed of its publication. The consultation report was also published on the Council's website at [School Reorganisation - Monmouthshire](#).

5. Statutory Objection Period

5.1 Methodology

On 21st June 2024, the Council entered into the Statutory Objection period through the publication of the Statutory Notices, found under **appendix 2** of this report.

The Statutory Notices were published through the following means:

- On the council website at [School Reorganisation - Monmouthshire](#)
- On or near the main entrance of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni.
- On or near the main entrance of the proposed new site (former Deri View Primary School)
- By electronic distribution to all statutory consultees

Consultees and interested parties were advised that, should they wish to submit a statutory objection against the proposals to relocate and in turn increase the capacity of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni to 420 places, they must do so in writing or by email within the 28 day Statutory Objection period, which concluded on 19th July 2024.

Consultees and interested parties were reminded that concerns raised during the consultation stage of this process would not automatically be carried into the Objection Period and considered as a Statutory Objection unless advised to do so within the Statutory Objection Period.

5.2 Statutory Objections

The Statutory Objection period opened on Friday 21st June 2024 for a period of 28 days, concluding on Friday 19th July 2024. During this time, there were no statutory objections received.

6. Recommendations

The consultation stage of this process has allowed the opportunity to significantly challenge and test our preferred option:

To relocate Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni from it's current site of St Davids Road, Abergavenny, NP7 6HF to the former Deri View Primary School site of Llwynu Lane, Abergavenny, NP7 6AR. This will increase the capacity to 420 places plus 60 place Meithrin.

The consultation report considered by Cabinet on 5th June 2024 made recommendations to proceed to the next stage of the statutory processes, namely, to publish statutory notices and open the statutory objection period.

The consultation period evidenced that the majority (89%) of respondents were supportive of the proposals to increase the capacity of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni to 420 places through its relocation to the former Deri View Primary site.

The consultation responses also highlighted that very few (2) respondents had concerns towards these proposals. The consultation report has evidenced that the Council is able to provide sufficient mitigations against the concerns highlighted.

The statutory objection period did not return any statutory objections for the Council to consider. It is therefore recommended that Cabinet proceed to implement proposals as consulted upon, with effect from 1st September 2025.

Appendix 1 - List of Consultees with whom we consulted

- Parents, carers/guardians and staff members of schools affected by the proposal
- The governing body of any school affected by the proposal
- Pupils/Pupil Councils of schools directly affected by the proposal
- Headteachers of schools affected by the proposal
- Welsh Ministers
- All MCC Town and Community Councils
- All MCC Assembly Members representing the area served by the school
- All Members of Parliament representing MCC area
- All MCC Libraries
- Directors of Education of all bordering LAs – Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Powys, Torfaen, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire
- MCC Youth Service
- GAVO
- Monmouthshire Governors Association
- Teaching trade unions
- Support Staff trade unions
- Welsh Language Commissioner
- Welsh Ministers
- ESTYN
- RHAG
- Mudiaid Meithrin
- Church in Wales Diocesan Trust, Director of Education
- Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust, Director of Education
- South East Wales Consortium
- South East Wales Education Achievement Service
- Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner
- Early Years & Childcare Partnership
- Welsh in Education Forum

**MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY HALL, RHADYR, USK, MONMOUTHSHIRE NP15 1GA**

SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION (WALES) ACT 2013

NOTICE IS GIVEN in accordance with Section 41 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018 that Monmouthshire County Council, having consulted such persons as required, propose to implement the following:

- 1) To relocate Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni from its current site of St David's Road, Abergavenny, NP7 6HF to the site previous occupied by Deri View Primary School, located at Llwynu Lane, Abergavenny, NP7 6AR
- 2) To increase the capacity of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni to 420 places, with an addition 60 places available at the Meithrin.

Monmouthshire County Council will implement the above changes with effect from 1st September 2025.

Monmouthshire County Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and Estyn's full response has been published to all statutory consultees and is available via [School Reorganisation - Monmouthshire](#).

Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni will continue to be a community Welsh medium primary school serving children from ages 3-11, and Monmouthshire County Council will continue to be the admission authority. Applications for places at the new school will be managed and determined in line with the Council's agreed School Admissions Policy.

The admission number for pupils aged 4-11 at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni will be 60 with the overall pupil capacity of 420 places for this age range.

Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni will provide nursery provision to be maintained by Monmouthshire County Council which will provide 60 part time / 30 full time equivalent places.

It is the intention of the Council that transport shall be provided free of charge for pupils attending Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni in accordance with the Council policy at that time. The current policy is that pupils are eligible for free home to school transport if they meet the following criteria:

- a) They attend their nearest or catchment area Welsh medium school and
- b) They live more than one and a half miles from the school for primary or
- c) They live more than two miles from the school for secondary.

Within a period of 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published, that is to say by **19th July 2024**, any person may object to the proposals outlined within this notice.

Objections should be sent to the School & Student Access Unit, Monmouthshire County Council, County Hall, Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA or email to strategicreview@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Signed



Date: **20th June 2024**

Paul Matthews
Chief Executive
For Monmouthshire County Council

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This explanatory note does not form part of the notice but is offered by way of explanation)

Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni will relocate from its current site to the site previously occupied by Deri View Primary School. The address of the new school will be Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni, Llwynu Lane, Abergavenny, NP7 6AR.

As a result of this relocation, Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni will increase in capacity to provide 60 places per year group, 420 places overall for children aged 4-11. Current projections do not anticipate this number will be met in the short term.

Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni will continue to have a Local Authority maintained nursery providing 60 part time early education places for 3 and 4 year olds. It is also proposed to relocate the Welsh medium non-maintained Cylch Meithrin to the new site to provide wrap around childcare for 3 and 4 year olds.