

Russell George AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Wrthblaid dros yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Shadow Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Aelod Cynulliad dros Sir Drefaldwyn
National Assembly Member for Montgomeryshire

February 2013

Annwyl Pawb / Dear All

I am writing to all that have directly written to me, or copied me into correspondence in regards to Ysgol Carno. You will be aware that Powys County Council are progressing with the next stage of the process which is an informal consultation. I have attached a "letter writing tips" that has been produced by the Ysgol Carno Campaign Group highlighting main points which would be useful to raise in letters or / and emails to the Powys Council Cabinet Members. I would like to make an important point, your letters and emails may not be taken into the official account if you just send to Councillors. You also need to send your emails and letters to Owen James, who is leading the consultation process at Powys County Council, his e mail address is owen.james@powys.gov.uk.

The Ysgol Carno Campaign Group are also encouraging people to copy them in on correspondence, the email address is ysgolcarnosos@hotmail.com If you have already sent e-mails to Cabinet Members which include the main points in the factsheet then it would be worth forwarding to the two e mail addresses above for Owen James and the Campaign Group. The Councils cabinet will be considering the future of Ysgol Carno again in April.

A full Council meeting took place on Thursday (21st February), I submitted a question for Cllr Myfanwy Alexander on Welsh Medium education. Due to various protocol, I could not mention Ysgol Carno in my question and had to keep my question general. I have attached my question and the answer at the bottom of this email for your information, and I hope that information in this answer will help in challenging the Council in regards to Ysgol Carno.

Glyn Davies MP also visited the school recently and he will also be writing to Cllr Alexander stressing that Ysgol Carno is an extremely well run school, and is an important based school for the future of the Welsh language in our area. Glyn would be more than happy for you to write to him, email him or copy him into correspondence to the County Council.

The Ysgol Carno Campaign Group are holding a letter writing surgery at Carno Community Centre this Sunday (24 February) from 11am until 1pm, I attach a flyer. I would encourage you to attend this event if possible. I will also be attending myself, and am happy to discuss any issue of support with you. In the meantime it is important to keep up the pressure on Powys County Council to retain Ysgol Carno.

Cofion gorau / Kind regards



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**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL. County Council Full Meeting 21 February 2013
REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor M.C. Alexander, Portfolio Holder for Learning and Leisure**

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor R.I. George

Can the Portfolio Holder for Learning and Leisure outline her priorities for Welsh Medium education throughout Powys?

ANSWER:

Through the authority's revised Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, we aim to prioritise two critical and interlinked issues for the development of Welsh medium education across the county:

Priority 1: Increase the percentage of Welsh-medium pupils in the early years and primary sectors

Priority 2: Improve the Welsh-medium curriculum offer for secondary and post-16 pupils

Our objectives:

1. To target the Early Years and Primary sectors to generate growth in the number of Welsh-medium learners. The authority will provide leadership to generate this increase by:

- Developing a robust and rigorous system of measuring demand, and leading a multi-agency approach to developing increased Welsh-medium places.
- Targeting areas of the county where Welsh-medium early years and primary provision is weak and the secondary sector currently does not have sustainable pupil numbers in the Welsh medium stream;
- Continuing to support those areas of the county where there has been growth, so that growth can continue. Examples of this are the new Ysgol Dyffryn y Glowyr in Ystradgynlais, and the proposed new building for Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd in Newtown.

2. To ensure that all secondary schools with a Welsh-medium stream become Category 2B schools by 2020. This timescale acknowledges that schools are at different starting points, and that in some schools, the growth in provision will be incremental, commencing with Key Stage 3, and moving to Key Stage 4 from September 2015.

3. Welsh-medium post-16 education will continue to be provided from four dual-stream schools: Caereinion High School, Builth Wells High School, Llanfyllin High School and Ysgol Bro Ddyfi.

As the authority progresses its Schools Modernisation Programme on an area review basis, the impact on Welsh-medium education and the Welsh language within communities is given the utmost consideration. The way we approach this is, firstly, through discussion with local schools and local members at the Area Project Board, and then through discussion with local communities at **informal consultation** stage. We need to be completely satisfied that any proposal for primary school reorganisation will continue to provide the same quality and type of provision to those pupils who are affected. If proposals then proceed to **formal consultation** stage, a community impact

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assessment is required which includes impact on the language. This information will then be considered along with feedback from the formal consultation before any final decisions are made.

Letter writing tips

The email / letter does not have to be long, just heart felt.

For example, "I am writing with regard to the informal consultation process involving the closure of Ysgol Carno of which I strongly disagree..."

"I would appreciate it if you could take the following points into consideration..."

- Out line your reasons for wanting Ysgol Carno to stay open.
- How it would affect you and the community if it were to close, and the impact on the Welsh Language.
- That Ysgol Carno is a thriving school, and numbers will be increasing.
- The school is the heart of this community, where the Welsh language is alive.
- If the school closes the Welsh language in the area will diminish even further.
- The nominated receiving school is not big enough to take all the children from Ysgol Carno.
- There is an 84% increase in pupil numbers between 2008 and 2013 which shows the school is thriving.
- The capacity of Ysgol Carno is 56, with pupil numbers being 44 this brings the surplus places to below the catchment average and the councils own target.
- The building as far as you are concerned is perfectly suitable for the educational needs of children and staff.
- Importantly, highlight the need for Ysgol Carno to be federated with Ysgol Llanbrinmair and Ysgol Glantwymyn.

"As a result of the above I would urge Powys County Council cabinet members to strongly consider keeping Ysgol Carno open. Or alternatively consider federation with Ysgol Llanbrinmair and Ysgol Glantwymyn."

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