

COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT



**Proposal to Amalgamate
Brynford Community Primary School
and Lixwm Community Primary School
to Create One Area School from 1 September
2019**

Spring 2018



1. Introduction

- 1.1. Flintshire County Council wishes to seek the views of interested parties regarding the proposal to amalgamate Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community Primary School to create one area school from 1 September 2019.
- 1.2. A formal consultation document sets out information which consultees should consider to participate fully in the consultation process. The process follows regulatory guidance as set out in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2013.
- 1.3. Figures, statistics and material referenced in this document are the most accurate available at the time of publication.

2. Purpose of Assessment

- 2.1. A Community Impact Assessment seeks to identify the potential affects a proposal could have on the local population. Each school has provided information about their role in the community and the links they have to community facilities and businesses.
- 2.2. The Community Impact Assessment will consider both the negative and positive consequences of the proposal.

3. School and Area Profiles

- 3.1. Brynford Community Primary School is located within the parish of Brynford, south of Holywell in Flintshire. The most recent Census in 2011 identified the parish population to be 1,059¹.
- 3.2. The neighbouring parish of Ysceifiog, within which Lixwm Community Primary School is situated, had a population of 1,286² in 2011.
- 3.3. Figure 1 shows the location of the schools in relation to each other, separated by 1.96 miles.

¹ (Office of National Statistics, 2011)

² (Office of National Statistics, 2011)

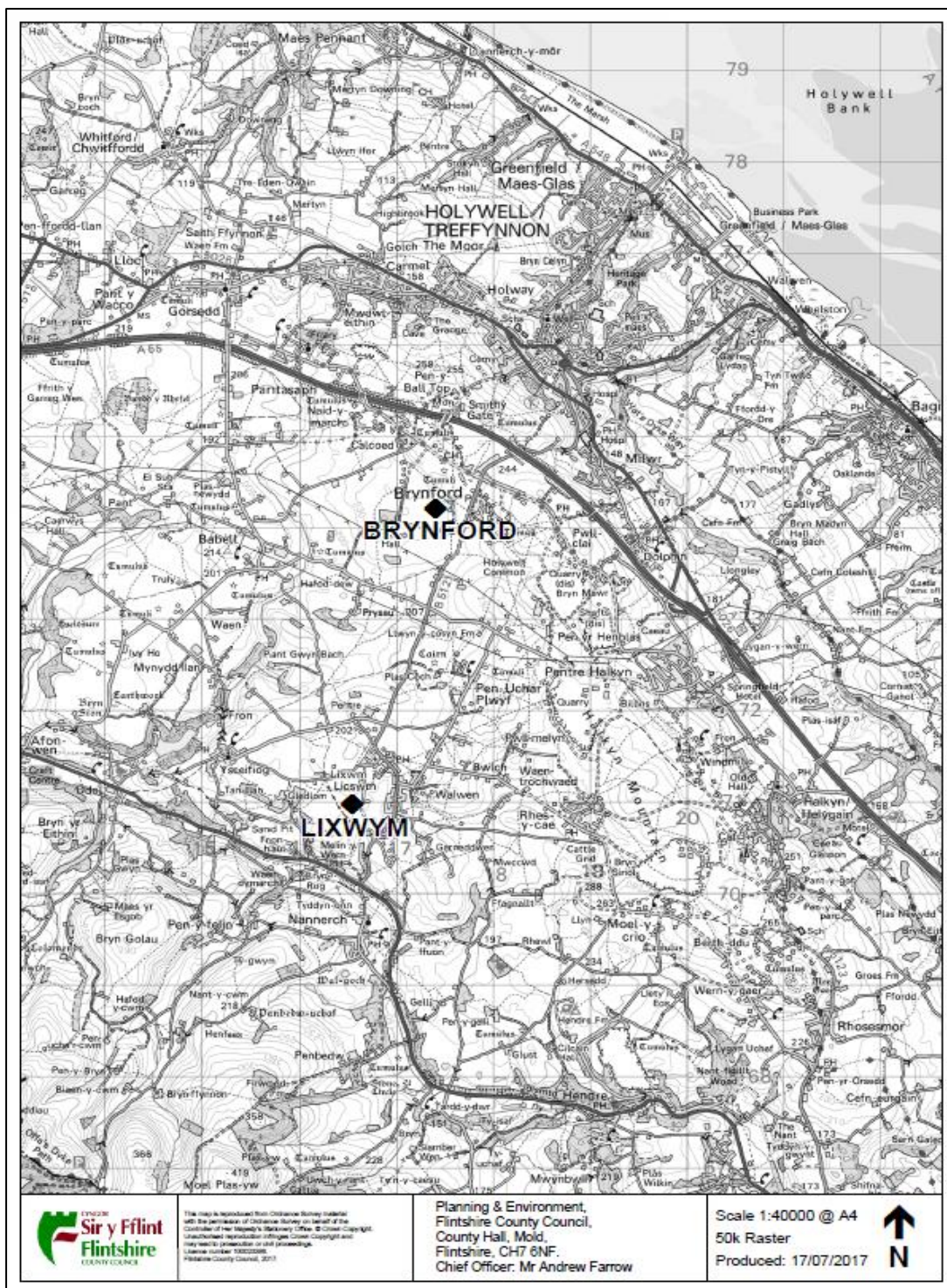


Figure 1: School Locations

- 3.4. Both primary schools provide education to children aged 3 to 11 in the medium of English.
- 3.5. In September 2017, there were 67 full time pupils registered at Brynford Community Primary School and 52 full time pupils registered at Lixwm Community Primary School.
- 3.6. As at January 2018 there are 4 approved housing development planning applications within the Brynford and Lixwm Areas.

4. Community Profiles

4.1. The headteachers of each school completed and updated a Community Impact Survey in January 2018 to show how the schools interact with their respective communities. Information received has been summarised below, including governance structure, extracurricular activities and local facilities used by the school.

4.2. Brynford Community Primary School

4.3. Table 1 below shows the current governance structure.

Governor Role	Brynford Community Primary School
Parent	3
Community	1 (+1 Vacancy)
Local Authority	2
Minor Authority	1
Headteacher	1
Teacher	1
Staff	1
TOTAL	10

Table 1: Brynford Community Primary School Governance Structure January 2018

4.4. Table 2 below shows the extracurricular activities available to pupils.

Service	Term time or Out of term?	No. times Weekly	No. times Monthly	No. times Annually	Date Established
Breakfast Club	Term time	5	20	38 weeks per year	October 2006
Cool Kidz Club	Term time	5	20	38 weeks per year	January 2007
URDD club	Term time	3	12	10 weeks per year	September 1990
Extracurricular sports clubs	Term time	3	12	24 weeks per year	Long established
Table Tennis Club	Term time	1	4	12 weeks per year	September 2017
School Council meetings	Term time	1	4	12 weeks per year	Long established
Gardening Club	Term time	1	4	10 weeks per year	September 2014
Eco Club	Term time	1	4	36 weeks per year	September 2008
Choir	Term time	1	4	12 weeks per year	September 2015
Holiday care club	Out of term time	5	9	8 weeks per year	July 2015
French club	Term time	5	9	8 weeks per year	2013
Art and craft club	Term time	5	12	12 weeks per year	Sept 2007

Table 2: Brynford Community Primary School Extracurricular Activities

4.5. Table 3 below shows the local facilities used by the school.

Facility	Term time or Out of term?	No. times Weekly	No. times Monthly	No. times Annually	Date Established
St Michaels Church	Term time			3	Long established
Calcoed Chapel	Term time			2	Long established
Oares coaches	Term time			12 x annually	Long established
Pet cemetery and cafe	Both			12 x annually	Long established
National Cycle route	Both			12 x annually	Long established
Community Historical project	Term time			3 x annually	Long established
Pantasaph Priory	Term time			1 x annually	Long established
All weather pitch	Both			38 weeks per year	Long established
Brynford park	Term time			4 x annually	Long established
Brynffordd Park and Halkyn Mountain	Both			6 x annually	Long established

Table 3: Local Facilities used by Brynford Community Primary School

4.6. Table 4 below shows the school facilities used by local groups.

User and facility	Term time or Out of term?	No. times Weekly	No. times Monthly	No. times Annually	Date Established
Cool Kidz	Term time	5	20	38	
Community Council	Both		1	12	Long established
Urdd fundraising committee	Term time			3	September 2015
Mountain Ranger	Both			4 x annually	Long established
Flintshire County Council play scheme	Out of term time	5		3 weeks per year	Long established
Community Facilities committee	Both			4 x annually	Long established
FOBS Car boot sale Community Bingo Christmas fayre Summer picnic Busy Bee day	Both			12 x annually	Long established
Dragon sports	Term time			12 x annually	Long established
Book club	Term time		4		

User and facility	Term time or Out of term?	No. times Weekly	No. times Monthly	No. times Annually	Date Established
Football club	Term time	1	4	30	Long established

Table 4: Brynford Community Primary School Facilities used by Local Groups

4.7. Table 5 below shows the community facilities located near the school.

Name Facility/Business	Bilingual/English Medium or Welsh Medium	Date Commenced
Oares Coaches	English	Long established
Brynford Shop	English	Long established
Holywell Golf club	English	Long established
All weather club	English	Long established
St Michaels Church	English	Long established
Calcoed chapel	Bi-lingual	Long established
Pet Cemetery	English	Long established
Wendy House Nursery	English	Long established
Halkyn Quarry	English	Long established
Glan yr Afon Inn	English	Long established
Crooked Horn Inn	English	Long established
Kennels	English	Long established

Table 5: Community Facilities near Brynford Community Primary School

4.8. Table 6 shows community activities available near the school.

Name Facility/Business	Bilingual/English Medium or Welsh Medium	Date Commenced
Lime Kilns	English	Long established
Pant y Pwll Dwr quarry	English	Long established
Horse riding club@ Linden farm	English	Long established
Caerwys Show	English	Long established
Vintage tractor club	English	Long established
Football club	English	Long established

Table 6: Community Activities near Brynford Community Primary School

4.9. Table 7 below shows childcare and pre-school available at the school.

Name of Childcare Provider	Language	Independent of School	Location of Provision	Days Provider Operates
Cool Kidz	English	Yes	School hall	MON-FRI 3.15-6:00 term time
Holiday club	English	Yes	School grounds	MON-FRI 8am-6pm out of term time
Breakfast club	English	No	School hall	MON-FRI 8am-8.45 term time
Early Entitlement	English	No	School	Mon-THURS 12.45-3.15 Term time

Table 7: Brynford Community Primary School Childcare Provision

4.10. Lixwm Community Primary School

4.11. Table 8 below shows the current governance structure.

Governor Role	Lixwm Community Primary School
Parent	3
Community	2
Local Authority	1 (+ 1 vacancy)
Minor Authority	1
Headteacher	1
Teacher/Staff	2
TOTAL	10

Table 8: Lixwm Community Primary School Governance Structure

4.12. Table 9 below shows the extracurricular activities available to pupils.

Service	Term time or Out of term?	No. times Weekly	No. times Monthly	No. times Annually	Date Established
Breakfast club	Term time	5			Private from 2005 then Free Breakfast from Sept 2006
After school club (called LAFS)	Term time	5			4th October 2004
Various sports clubs	Term time	1-2		3 terms	Jan 1999
Computer club	Term time	1		2 terms	Sept 2006
Art club (by local artist)	Term time	1		1 term	Sept 2010
French lessons	Term Time	1			Sept 2013

Table 9: Lixwm Community Primary School Extracurricular Activities

4.13. Table 10 below shows the local facilities used by the school.

Facility	Term time or Out of term?	No. times Weekly	No. times Monthly	No. times Annually	Date Established
Llwyn Tew Forest	Term time	1		2 terms	2007
Chapel	Term time			1	Pre 1988
Ysceifiog Church	Term time			1-2	2000
Park	Term time			4-5	Sept 2006
Ysceifiog Village Hall	Term time			1	2000
Local farm	Term time			1	2015
The Crown public house (fundraising venue)	Term time			1	2014
Halkyn quarry	Term time			1	2010

Table 10: Local Facilities used by Lixwm Community Primary School

4.14. Table 11 below shows the school facilities used by local groups.

User and facility	Term time or Out of term?	No. times Weekly	No. times Monthly	No. times Annually	Date Established
WI Hall	Term time			1	Pre 1988
Staff Fitness classroom	Term time	1			2010
Safe, flat place for infant parents to use to teach children to ride their bikes Yard	Out of hours		4		2014

Table 11: Lixwm Community Primary School Facilities used by Local Groups

4.15. Lixwm Community Primary School also provided information about what the school does for the community:

- Annual community Litter Pick by pupils throughout both villages;
- Dog fouling poster campaign by pupils;
- Annually pupils have provided entertainment for OAP Christmas lunch;
- Eco Committee encouraged community use of our recycling bins and clothing bank; and
- Eco committee encouraged the community to take part in their 'Reduce Climate Change' project by a poster campaign throughout the village to encourage everyone to 'Do One Thing' to reduce the impact on the environment.

4.16. Table 12 below shows the community facilities located near the school.

Name Facility/Business	Bilingual/English Medium or Welsh Medium	Date commenced
Public House	Bilingual	17th Century
Church	English	1836
Chapel	Welsh	1775
Ysceifiog village hall	Depends on event (there have been 3 fundraisers for Urdd 2014-16 and Welsh concert every year)	2005

Table 12: Community Facilities near Lixwm Community Primary School

4.17. Table 13 below shows community activities available near the school.

Name Facility/Business	Bilingual/English Medium or Welsh Medium	Date commenced
WI Lixwm	English (but has Welsh speaking members)	1929
WI Ysceifiog	English (but has Welsh speaking members)	Pre 1939
Ysceifiog Arts Festival	Bilingual	2013
Morris dancing	Bilingual	Pre 1985
Enjoy-a-ball	English	2011?
Craft club	English	2012
Welsh concerts and Welsh fundraising events (in chapel or village hall)	Welsh	-
Community Choir	Bilingual?	2012
Helpa Gelf Arts Trail	-	2010?
Summer Play scheme	English	Pre 2000

Table 13: Community Activities near Lixwm Community Primary School

4.18. Table 14 below shows childcare and pre-school available at the school.

Name of Childcare Provider	Language	Independent of School	Location of Provision	Days Provider Operates
Breakfast Club	English	No	School Hall	Mon-Fri 8.00-8.55 Term Time
After school Club (LAFS)	English	Yes	School hall	Mon-Fri 3.15-5.30 Term Time

Table 14: Lixwm Community Primary School Childcare Provision

5. Potential Impacts

5.1. The impact of each option has been considered on a number of factors, as shown in Table 15 below. If an option is anticipated to be beneficial to a community or a group of stakeholders it has been identified as positive, whereas an option that could potentially be detrimental to an area or interested party has been identified as negative. Options that do not significantly impact a factor have been identified as neutral.

5.2. Also included in the table are measures to reduce any predicted negative impacts.

	Option 1	Opt. 2 Phase 1	Opt. 2 Phase 2	
Factors Considered	Status Quo	One Area School on Split Site	One Area School on One Site	Comments and Measures to Reduce Negative Impacts
Access to provision of the same Faith designation	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Both schools are currently community primary schools and the potential new area school would also be a community primary school.
Access to provision of the same Language Medium	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Education is delivered through the medium of English at both schools and would continue at a new amalgamated area school.
Impact on the Community	Neutral	Neutral	Positive + Negative	<p>Each school provides facilities that are used by their communities. If implemented, following Phase 2 of Option 2 one community would lose access to a school building.</p> <p>There are no activities provided by either school that require specialist facilities and therefore they could be accommodated at the remaining school or at other community buildings.</p> <p>In addition, Option 2 would require remodelling works at one school which may result in better facilities being made available for community use.</p>
Impact on Local Businesses	Neutral	Neutral	Positive + Negative	The closure of one school will reduce traffic in that community and could reduce income for businesses. The community housing the area school will see an increase in traffic which could boost the local economy.

	Option 1	Opt. 2 Phase 1	Opt. 2 Phase 2	
Factors Considered	Status Quo	One Area School on Split Site	One Area School on One Site	Comments and Measures to Reduce Negative Impacts
Impact on Nearby Schools	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	The amalgamated school will have sufficient capacity to accommodate all pupils currently attending the two schools.
Impact on Pupils	Neutral	Neutral	Positive + Negative	Pupils could be impacted if Option 2 is implemented by changes to their teachers, learning environment, friendship groups and route to school. An Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been produced within which the potential impacts on pupils have been considered.
Impact on Parents/Carers and Families	Neutral	Neutral	Positive + Negative	The removal of a school from one of the communities would change the social environment and the way current friendship groups interact. The Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment also includes the potential impacts on parents/carers.
Impact on Learner Travel Arrangements	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Should Option 2 be implemented some pupils may see an increase in the distance they travel to school whereas some may see a decrease. Children attending their nearest school may be entitled to support under the Council's Transport Policy (http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Transport.aspx). A Transport Impact Assessment has been produced to determine the potential impact the implementation of Option 2 would have on current transport arrangements.
Impact on Community Demographics	Neutral	Neutral	Negative	The loss of a school from any community will have a negative impact on the area as a good school can attract people to the region. There are, however, 4 current housing development planning applications approved for either Brynford or Lixwm.

Table 15: Factors Considered and Potential Impacts

6. Conclusions

- 6.1. Should Option 1, retaining the status quo, be selected then there would be little or no impact to the respective communities. Both Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community Primary School would retain their individual identity and continue as two separate individual schools.
- 6.2. Positive and negative impacts have been identified should Option 2 be implemented. During Phase 1, where the schools are amalgamated to form one new area school that will operate on both current sites, negative impacts would be negligible.
- 6.3. It is recognised however that when Phase 2 is fulfilled, where the new area school will be remodelled and extended on to the current Brynford site resulting in the closure of the current Lixwm site, both positive and negative impacts will be encountered.
- 6.4. The closure of Lixwm Community Primary School would reduce the number of buildings the community has access to in that area. It is anticipated that most activities if not all that currently use the school could be relocated to alternative facilities in the village.
- 6.5. When relocated on to one site, pupils may have new teachers and have more children in their class. Whilst some may be anxious about these changes, transition plans would be in place to help reduce concerns and promote integration.
- 6.6. There are positive impacts too as children will benefit from improved facilities following investment from the Local Authority which in turn should help to increase the quality of the education children will have access to. In addition there is an opportunity for both pupils and parents/carers to develop new friendships and become involved in new activities.