

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

OBJECTION REPORT

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND FAMILY
SUPPORT**

**SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF THE PUBLISHED
STATUTORY NOTICE IN RESPECT OF THE PROPOSED REGULATED
ALTERATION TO MYNYDD CYNFFIG PRIMARY SCHOOL IN THE FORM OF AN
ENLARGEMENT**

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report details an objection received in respect of the statutory proposal to make a regulated alteration to Mynydd Cynffig Primary School in the form of an enlargement (that is, 2 form-entry plus 75-place nursery).

2. Background

- 2.1 In October 2021, Cabinet approval was received to undertake a statutory consultation process in respect of the proposed enlargement to Mynydd Cynffig Primary School. Under the proposal, the existing split-site arrangement would cease and the infant department would relocate to a new build primary school on the existing Mynydd Cynffig Primary School junior site at Pwllgyath Street, Kenfig Hill, Bridgend, CF33 6ET with effect from September 2025.
- 2.2 The proposal was subject to a consultation process which was carried out between 23 November 2021 and 12 January 2022, in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code 2018. It provided an opportunity for prescribed consultees as well as members of the local community to learn about the proposal. The consultation document invited views and opinions to be submitted in respect of the proposal in order for Cabinet to hear the views of all those with an interest so that they can be considered before decisions are made.
- 2.3 In February 2022, a summary of the views and opinions received in respect of the proposal were presented to Cabinet in a consultation report and approval was received to publish the report. A copy of the consultation report was made available on the Council's website:
- <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/12846/mynydd-cynffig-primary-school-consultation-report.pdf>
- 2.4 Following consideration of the consultation report, Cabinet determined to progress the proposal and approve the publication of a statutory public notice. A statutory notice outlining the proposals was subsequently published on 7

March 2022 for a period of 28 days and formal written objections were invited during this time, as prescribed by the School Organisation Code 2018.

3. Objection to the proposal

3.1 The Council received one email during the statutory notice period. Legal advice was sought, and it was recommended to consider the correspondence as an objection.

3.2 Objection

'I refer to our telephone conversation on the 31/01/2022 for the council to confirm in writing that they would be moving or replacing greenhouse, sheds and chicken coops I also refer to the allotment being a in statute. As there has been no response to this it is with regret must now give you five days in which to respond if you do not do so then we will be forced to take the matter to a higher authority ie the Secretary of State, The Welsh Government Planning Dept. along with the leaders of the main political parties. This would mean objecting to your plans at the highest level possibly delaying the development of the new school.

With regret'

3.3 Local authority response to the objection made

To progress the proposal, consultation exercises were carried out between 23 November 2021 and 12 January 2022 in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code 2018. The local authority held 4 stakeholder consultation meetings at Mynydd Cynffig Primary School (infant site), and held 'virtual' meetings with learners, school staff, governors, and Pyle Community Council. Representatives from the Pwllgath Allotments Association and the Air Training Corp (ATC) attended the sessions held at the school. In addition, separate sessions were held with both organisations to address their specific concerns. Local members actively engaged and supported the process.

The land occupied by Pwllgath Allotments Association was acquired by the Council for Education purposes. Should the proposal proceed, the tenancy of the allotment site would end, subject to the relevant notice period.

Suitable replacement land has been identified which is located adjacent to the proposed school site and will provide for the same level of accommodation and number of allotment plots (that is, 26). The design team has confirmed that the provision can be accommodated with the aim of not exceeding any gradients experienced on current plots within the new site.

The terms of the occupation are to be agreed. However, the intention, subject to Council approval, would be to designate the replacement facility a 'statutory' allotment site.

Officers of Bridgend County Borough Council have provided Pwlllygath Allotment Association with a proposed site layout plan for the new allotments and have discussed plot sizes, positioning and access points.

The following are outline draft specification and design proposals for the replacement site. However, the local authority will provide more detail and layout plans as the design process progresses:

- replicate the number of existing allotments (layout to be confirmed);
- any gradients on the replacement site aim to not exceed any gradients already experienced on current plots;
- after cut and fill works, the ground will be finished with topsoil and fertilised;
- the new access will be tarmac surfaced for a short section and then switch to an appropriate fill material;
- 4 car parking spaces will be provided;
- a perimeter galvanised steel security fence to a minimum height of 1.8m plus a main gate to match; and
- a 'stoned up' footway from the access track into each plot to the shed.

The following is proposed in respect of each plot:

- a shed per allotment. Type and size to be agreed;
- a water butt (off the shed) per allotment;
- replacement pigeon lofts and chicken coups; and
- a timber stock type fence with matching gate (approximately 1.2m high) to each allotment.

In terms of improvements, the following is proposed:

- provision of improved security fencing;
- provision of improved plot fencing;
- improvement in access (wider) and circulation routes;
- provision of parking (4 spaces); and
- ground and soil suitability will be finished in accordance with relevant standards.

In terms of replicating the existing site, the focus has been on the land element and where reasonable, the local authority aims to provide the specification typically associated with an allotment provision, as outlined above. For clarity, the local authority will **not** be providing (but not limited to) the following;

- greenhouses; or
- any utility supplies to the site.

The local authority will ensure Pwlllygath Allotment Association is updated regularly on the programme and timescales which will allow all parties to plan accordingly.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Council concludes that the proposal would have a positive impact on education provision and standards and deliver suitable and sufficient accommodation that meets the needs of staff and learners at Mynydd Cynffig Primary School.
- 4.2 The proposal would result in appropriate teaching and learning environments that would promote pupil wellbeing and attitudes to learning. The new building and external areas would be designed to meet the needs of learners and would provide access to the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.
- 4.3 The proposal would ensure the Council is able to meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places that meets the needs of the learners.

Hard copies of this report are available on request in the following ways:

Telephone: (01656) 643 643

Email: edsu@bridgend.gov.uk

Online: www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation

Post: Education and Family Support Directorate, Directorate Support Unit (EDSU), Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

Alternative formats are available upon request.

The Cabinet decision of 14 June 2022 is subject to the call-in procedures as set out in Part 4 Rules of Procedure in the Council's Constitution which allows decisions taken by Cabinet but yet to be implemented to be reviewed. Should a valid call-in notice from an Overview and Scrutiny Committee be received, all stakeholders would be informed.