



Cllr Merle Hunt Response to The Ysgol Pontfadog Feasibility Study Report

I share my regret regarding the closure of Ysgol Pontfadog. I actively fought against its closure as I did some 10 years ago when it was again under threat.

A reminder to everyone that this report was initiated by Glyntraian Community Council in order to provide an independent view for the future use of the site.

The report is objective and well balanced. It has spread its evidence base widely to include historical, cultural, geographical, economic and social aspects. The face to face interviews and the questionnaire have also resulted in an overwhelmingly clear picture of what our community wants.

There were three major surprises in the report for me. All of which are very significant. I reference the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD¹) where:

- i) Glyntraian was graded in the lowest quartile of areas in Wales of most deprivation for housing
- ii) There is a steady decline in the population in Glyntraian
- iii) We have an increasingly ageing population, with a significantly higher proportion of people over the age of 65 as compared to Wrexham and Wales as a whole. (18% Wales, 17% Wrexham, a whopping 28% Glyntraian.) These important facts explained why houses were identified as the first and second options in the questionnaire responses. Starter/affordable homes have now become the preferred option to homes for the elderly because we clearly need to rebalance and invigorate the current demographic makeup of our community.

Although I may not personally be happy with the conclusions and recommendation of this research report, I cannot argue with the evidence upon which these are based. The preferred option is unequivocal. Therefore, I endorse the findings of this report

Cllr Merle Hunt
4th March 2020

1. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation is the Welsh Government's official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. For the purposes of the study, the lowest level of detail regarding the economy and social fabric of the area is at a Lower Super Output Area Glyn Ceiriog 3 - this encompasses the villages of Llansanffraid Glyn Ceiriog, Dolywern and Pontfadog. (LSOA's are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England & Wales).