



CLLR JOOL PAYNE SUBMISSION TO GCC ON PROPOSING CYNLAS CYF FEASIBILITY STUDY

The job of this council is to represent the interests of the whole community. As councillors, we have a responsibility to be well-informed about diverse local views. We cannot assume that we represent the interests of all our electors without consulting them. That is exactly what we did with this consultation, with the suggestions forms in local outlets, with Marc's 1-2-1 conversations and small forums, with the public meetings, with the many face-to-face conversations Councillors had with electors at the polling station on election day and ultimately, from the household survey.

The survey questionnaire gave people a discreet opportunity to express their hopes and wishes for the future of this community, the value of which goes far beyond simply the site of Ysgol Pontfadog.

The result of all this activity provided an invaluable opportunity for local people to identify the features of the community they believe need improving or protecting. The entire consultation process stimulated discussion about place making and planning and certainly informed us - as decision makers - to take the decision we will tonight.

- **The response rate from the household survey is impressive at 71%**
- **The evidence and electorate's desire for housing need is loud, clear and incontrovertible**
- **The antipathy towards the Forest School and many of the elements the group proposed would feature within or alongside it did not stand the test of public approval. That too, is an unarguable if inconvenient truth for some.**

The Forest School business plan was weak and failed on scrutiny to gain the confidence of the Councillors, the project funders, and the independent third-party advisers who dissected it.

As a publicly accountable body, the council should have clear evidence of backing from residents before embarking on a project. The Welsh Assembly Government says:

"Regeneration and community renewal should meet the needs and priorities identified by those communities themselves in order for renewal to be sustainable. Assistance from funding organisations almost always depends on proof of support from the wider community."

The questionnaire survey delivered direct through the letterboxes of 323 dwellings in Glyntraian, and a 71% response rate from that survey, clearly evidenced what our residents' priorities are in terms of the Ysgol Pontfadog site. **Housing.**

This Council went above and beyond its obligations to ensure that as many people in our community as possible were given the opportunity to have their say on the future of the school site. Praise has come from all quarters for the efforts we have made to give our Precept payers their say; from our new Westminster MP, Simon Baynes MP, our co-funders, Cadwyn Clwyd, the consultant Marc Roberts - who has worked with very many small community councils and project teams in a long career in development and regeneration... and members of our community themselves.

As Chair of the Comms Committee and lead Councillor on this project I am confident that the methodology and evidence gathering was rigorous, robust, wholly fair and equitable.

I am satisfied the report and its conclusion are evidence-based, fairly assessed and thoughtfully considered in the context of the changing demography and dynamics of our community and its characteristics.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation and Census demographics are evidence enough of how this community's health, wealth and wellbeing has declined.

There is an urgent need to redress the balance of an ageing population that will inevitably be increasingly dependent upon ever diminishing services and thus, we must bolster our resilience, vibrancy and vitality.

I commend this report, congratulate the efforts and integrity of the author and wish to formally propose recommending that it be endorsed by this Council.

Cllr Jools Payne
Glyntraian Community Council

4th March 2020