

Agenda Item No. 9

Question No. 1

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROTOCOL AGREED BY COUNCIL ON
5TH MAY, 2010

QUESTION FROM: MR. GETHIN PUNTER

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEARNING AND CULTURE

LLANTWIT YOUTH CENTRE

Why does Llantwit Youth Centre have to close?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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5TH MAY, 2010

QUESTION FROM: MRS. FRANCES REID

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEARNING AND CULTURE

FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS

How is funding for spending for schools calculated? How can schools/parents access more help for children with learning difficulties? And what happens to the children when they fall slightly short of your minimum criteria?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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QUESTION FROM: MRS. FRANCES VALENCIA

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE
AND RESOURCES

LLANCARFAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Does the Council feel that sending an 'independent' representative to the student School Council at Llancafarn Primary to hand out sweets to the children, presenting the migration proposal to them and then asking them to choose between supporting or opposing it – without first informing parents of the visit – is an impartial, transparent and representative process to glean children's feedback on the proposal? And will the fact that almost all of the children voted against the school "migrating" be taken into account going forward? And, if so, how?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROTOCOL AGREED BY COUNCIL ON
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QUESTION FROM: MR. MATTHEW VALENCIA

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE
AND RESOURCES

LLANCARFAN SCHOOL – LOCAL TREASURE

The oldest of the Llancafán school buildings is a historic Victorian structure, built in 1875. It is recorded as a local “Treasure”. Can the Council provide a guarantee that this historic schoolhouse will not be bulldozed if the school closes and the site is redeveloped?

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QUESTION FROM: DR. ALEXANDER BARRATT

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE
AND RESOURCES

WESTERN VALE PRIMARY PROVISION

Proposals in the Western Vale Primary Provision consultation involve changes to primary school catchment areas, which will have a knock-on effect for secondary catchments and admissions policies. The consultation document talks only about transitional arrangements for existing pupils. What other plans does the Council have for secondary catchments and admissions policies in the Western Vale?

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QUESTION FROM: MR. LEE LAPHAM

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEARNING AND CULTURE

WESTERN VALE PRIMARY RECONFIGURATION

Re Western Vale Primary Reconfiguration – what research was undertaken to determine the likelihood of the 350 allocated houses on the north eastern land ever being developed and what detailed reports were undertaken to ascertain the future expansion potential of the existing Rhws Primary site.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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QUESTION FROM: MRS. KATHERINE KEMP

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE
AND RESOURCES

LLANCARFAN SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The oldest of the Llancafán school buildings is a Victorian structure built in 1875 and recorded as a County Treasure. Can the Leader give an assurance that this historic schoolhouse will not be bulldozed if the school closes and the site redeveloped?

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QUESTION FROM: MRS. SUSAN TAYLOR

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE
AND RESOURCES

LLANCARFAN PRIMARY SCHOOL CLOSURE

Do you share our concern that Council officers' characterisation of the Llancarfan Primary School closure as a "migration" is a cynical attempt to head off adverse publicity and avoid taking due regard for the " specific factors in consideration of school closures" described in the Code of Practice for School Organisation?

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QUESTION FROM: MR. STEPHEN PARRY

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE
AND RESOURCES

PROPOSAL TO RECONFIGURE PRIMARY PROVISION IN THE WESTERN VALE

The Consultation document on the proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale (which includes the closure of Llancafán Primary School) does not meet all the requirements of the Code Of Practice for school organisation. Among other things, it does not deal with disposal of land, as it is required to do, and it does not contain costings with regard to the cost of transporting pupils to the new school. Can the Vale of Glamorgan Council explain this failure to comply with the requirements?

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QUESTION FROM: MRS. CLARE PARRY

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE
AND RESOURCES

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FORMULA

The Council's adopted Local Development Plan has allocated 700 new dwellings in Rhoose north of the railway line, of which 350 have planning permission and are under construction, whilst 350 have only outline planning permission which has lapsed. Can the Council explain how the consultation document estimates that this number of houses will produce 438 children of nursery to secondary age, and what reliable modelling formula was used?

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QUESTION FROM: MR. MATTHEW VALENCIA

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE
AND RESOURCES

CLOSURE OF VILLAGE SCHOOL IN LLANCARFAN

In a move that appears to be unprecedented for Vale of Glamorgan schools, the Council has described its proposal to close the village school in Llancarfan and move pupils to Rhoose as a “migration”. Does it believe, as that word implies, that a 210-place school on the edge of a suburban housing development is the same as a small school in a rural setting with an ethos to match?

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QUESTION FROM: MR. ANDREW LLEWELLYN-BLAKEMORE

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE
AND RESOURCES

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS

The Code of Practice for School Organisations states "In some areas a school closure could have implications beyond the provision of education. This may be a particular feature in rural areas." Kirsty Williams, Minister for Education, has stated "Small and rural schools play an important role in raising standards and extending opportunities." With this in mind, why is the Vale of Glamorgan Council proposing closing Llancarfan Primary School which is a successful small rural school, with a good Estyn report, and an improved "traffic light" score in the National School Categorisation System?

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QUESTION FROM: MISS AMELIA LLEWELLYN-BLAKEMORE

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE
AND RESOURCES

NEW SCHOOL

Please could you let me know why you think it's necessary for us to have a new school when we're perfectly happy with the lovely school that we already have and has served the village well since Victorian times. It's a piece of history that should continue into the future.

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QUESTION FROM: MRS. MELINDA THOMAS

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE
AND RESOURCES

COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In preparing the Community Impact Assessment and Consultation document in relation to the proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale, the Council accepts only that there maybe a perceived impact upon the community of Llancafarn (Llanbethery and Llantrithyd). This is not accepted. Please could the Cabinet Member provide evidence of the work undertaken to demonstrate that the risk of adverse impact upon the wider community has been properly taken into consideration.

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QUESTION FROM: DR. JULIE HIGHFIELD

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE
AND RESOURCES

CATCHMENT FOR COWBRIDGE

Under current plans, pupils moved to Rhoose will no longer be in catchment for Cowbridge, but for Barry and Llantwit instead. The Council has sought to reassure parents that children already in Llancafarn will have “priority” when it comes to places in Cowbridge. Should the Council have a responsibility to explain more clearly that no guarantee of places can be given to these pupils, and that when the time comes for those children to go to secondary school, it is possible that no place in Cowbridge is available for some or all of them?

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QUESTION FROM: DR. ADRIAN NEAL

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE
AND RESOURCES

COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Does the Council feel that the Community Impact Assessment, which was conducted prior to the consultation period, reflects the impact on the community--bearing in mind that it was put together without consulting the Fox and Hounds Pub, St Cadoc's Church, Llancafán Tennis Club, members of the local community, Llancafán Community Cinema, the After School Club, the Village Hall and other local institutions?