

8th October 2026

Consultation on the proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng

Draft Consultation Response from Welshpool Town Council

Welshpool Town Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to Powys County Council's consultation on the proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng from 150 to 210 places.

The Town Council recognises the success and growth of Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng since its establishment and welcomes continued investment in education within Welshpool. Members are supportive of ensuring that families in Welshpool and the surrounding area have appropriate access to Welsh-medium education and recognise the contribution that the school makes to the Welsh language within the town and wider area.

The Town Council therefore has no objection in principle to increasing the capacity of the school. However, in considering the consultation documents, Members would welcome some further information and consideration of the following matters before a final decision is taken.

Capacity and projected demand

The consultation documents demonstrate the considerable growth experienced by the school, with pupil numbers increasing significantly since its establishment. The Town Council accepts that the existing capacity of 150 places is likely to become insufficient.

The Council notes, however, that the published projections indicate approximately 160 pupils by 2030, whereas the proposal would provide capacity for 210 pupils.

It would therefore be helpful for the County Council to provide some further explanation of the longer-term demand assumptions supporting the proposed capacity of 210, including anticipated growth beyond the period covered by the published projections.

Impact on other schools within Welshpool and the surrounding area

The consultation acknowledges that increasing pupil numbers at Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng may, over time, result in lower pupil numbers and increased surplus places at other schools within the local area.

The Town Council considers that this wider impact is important when considering future education provision across Welshpool as a whole.

Members would therefore welcome further information about the anticipated impact upon other primary schools serving the town and surrounding communities, including their projected pupil numbers and capacity.

The Town Council recognises that increasing Welsh-medium provision is a strategic objective in its own right and does not consider existing surplus places within English-medium provision to be a reason, in itself, not to expand Welsh-medium education. Nevertheless, understanding the likely effect across the wider network of schools would assist in considering the proposal in its full local context.

Traffic, parking and active travel

The Town Council particularly welcomes the recognition within the consultation documents that an increase in pupil numbers may have implications for traffic and parking around the school.

These issues are already important locally and an increase from a capacity of 150 to 210 pupils has the potential to create additional vehicle movements at the beginning and end of the school day.

The consultation indicates that a traffic management assessment will be undertaken as the plans for the extension develop. The Town Council would welcome this assessment being undertaken at an early stage and its findings being taken into account before the proposal and detailed design are finalised.

In addition to parking and vehicle movements, the assessment should consider opportunities to encourage safe walking, cycling and other sustainable means of travelling to school, together with pedestrian safety and the relationship between the school and surrounding residential areas.

The Town Council would be pleased to engage with the County Council on this aspect as the proposals develop, especially as we are adjacent land owners.

Welsh language and community impact

The Town Council welcomes the positive contribution that the proposal could make towards increasing opportunities for children to receive their education through the medium of Welsh and towards the objectives of the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng also has an important role beyond the school day in supporting the use of Welsh within the wider community. The Town Council welcomes the intention for existing community and extracurricular activities to continue as the school grows.

As part of the continuing assessment of the proposal, the Town Council would welcome consideration of whether the increased capacity could create further opportunities for Welsh-language community activities and engagement within Welshpool.

Consultation and next steps

The Town Council notes that the consultation documentation will be updated following consideration of the responses received.

There are a small number of matters within the documentation on which clarification may be helpful. In particular, the description of the statutory process refers to consultees making representations on "alternatives to closure", although this proposal does not involve the closure of a school.

The Town Council would also welcome confirmation that all relevant organisations (as set out in the Code) with an interest in Welsh-language education and the Welsh language locally have been engaged as part of the consultation process.

Conclusion

Overall, Welshpool Town Council welcomes the continued growth and success of Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng and supports the principle of ensuring sufficient Welsh-medium primary school places are available to meet demand within Welshpool and the surrounding area.

The Council therefore supports the proposal in principle, subject to further consideration being given to:

- the evidence supporting the proposed longer-term capacity of 210 places;
- the effect of the proposal on pupil numbers and surplus capacity at other local schools; and
- traffic, parking, pedestrian safety and sustainable travel around the school;

The Town Council would welcome continued engagement with Powys County Council as the proposal and the associated plans for the site are developed.