

**Meeting of the Protect Llanystumdwy Action Group
held at Ysgol Llanystumdwy March 11th at 7 p.m.**

Present: Henry Roberts, Gwenda Roberts, Gail Jones, Sian Parry, Mannon Griffiths, Gwyn Ellis, Twm Morys, Helen Rose, Councillor Margaret Griffith.

Apologies: Elis Gwyn, Awen Hamilton, Aled Price, Sioned Thomas.

The purpose of this meeting was to give Councillor Margaret Griffith the opportunity to explain how she saw things from her side and why her vote went the way it did. This was also an opportunity to consider ways of co-operating in future.

Margaret Griffith explained that she had gone to the Council's meeting on 13th December, 2007 with the intention of noting the contents of the report only, and that she was worried about two schools, namely Rhydyclafdy and Croesor. She saw a way of improving the financial position of schools in her area by closing these. Gwyn Ellis said that it was the parents who closed these schools by not sending their children there, and that there was therefore no need for this document to close them. They would close anyway.

She went on to explain that she couldn't support Penri Jones' recommendation to draft a new document as this would bring the present document to a complete halt. She couldn't throw out this document completely nor support it. She explained that there hadn't been an opportunity to just "note the contents of the document" as she had wanted to, and even though she tried she wasn't given a chance to speak at the Council meeting. She said she wanted to fight to save Llanystumdwy school and that there was no justification for Llanystumdwy School to be on the list anyway. She said the position of Llanystumdwy School was unique, and that it wasn't possible to federalize the school only with another church school.

Another of her concerns was that there would be a 3% cut in the budget for primary schools over the next three years from April 2008, and that three schools within her area would be affected.

Margaret Griffith did not see this as a document to close Llanystumdwy school and explained that they had voted in Caernarfon to accept the report as a basis for consultation, and that if they listen, the next document would be changed.

She said that Llanybi and Chwilog schools seemed to be quite happy with the idea of becoming federalized, but when Gwyn Ellis asked her if she'd heard the views of the parents of Llanybi and Chwilog she replied that she hadn't. Gwyn Ellis went on to remind her that she had heard the views of a lot of people from Llanystumdwy and that she should be representing them in Caernarfon.

Margaret Griffith was told that a lot of statistics in the document were incorrect e.g. number of births, and that the whole document was misleading. Gail Jones went on to say that if she wasn't comfortable with some things within the document she should have said so on the day and rejected it.

Sian Parry asked if our local councillor was 100% behind us but she replied by saying that she did support us.

Margaret Griffith was asked to sign the form by the Schools and Supporters League along with Gwyn Ellis and Henry Roberts to call on Cyngor Gwynedd to put aside the current consultation process and to put together a new draft scheme in light of the following :

- Linguistic, cultural and social profiles of the schools and the neighbourhoods; and assessments of the linguistic, cultural and social impacts in relation to the schools and neighbourhoods.
- More detailed comparative reports in order to expand on the choices to include formal co-operation and different kinds of clustering and federalising
- Views of parents and local government bodies.

Councillor Margaret Griffith promised to read the document before she would consider signing it.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Margaret Griffith for attending the meeting and for sharing her ideas and her explanations.

Meeting of the Small Schools Federation

Gwyn Ellis and Henry Roberts had attended the meeting of the Small Schools Federation at Porthmadog. The speaker on behalf of the Federation said that councils fell into two clear categories, i.e. those who believe in small schools and try their best to keep them, and those who were opposed to them. In his opinion, Cyngor Gwynedd fell into to the second category. He went on to say, however, that whatever hue they try to put on things, it looks very much like closure is their aim at the end of the day. He pointed out that their federalization plan isn't what it seems and that we should oppose it in every possible manner.

Questionnaire

Henry had drawn out some points and the Community Council had completed the questionnaire. It was suggested that it would be a good idea to have all the points typed out so that they could be brought together. People could then pick out the relevant points rather than everybody providing the same answers. The hope was to get these in by the beginning of the following week.

Meeting on 20.03.2008

A meeting between the head teachers of Gwynedd and officers from Cyngor Gwynedd was to be held at Llanystumdwy Village Hall on March 20th at 4.30 p.m. It was suggested that tea and biscuits should be provided and Helen Rose offered to make the arrangements.