

Initial Comments on closure of Bryn Primary School by BRAG

Attached are a couple of documents relating to the cabinet meeting on Wednesday 1/10/14.

The letter I tabled in our meeting last Wednesday. The Proposal document came from John and has been sent to the Councillors ahead of the meeting on Wednesday. The proposal does present a strong case which will need strong arguments to counter it.

I do not think we should take the values used at face value, these need to be challenged. Clearly the author has not been very careful with his numbers as he quotes £475,000 needed on outstanding repairs at Bryn and £1,239,000,000 required at Cwmafan. I am sure it should state £1,239,000.

The predicted future pupil numbers I suspect are probably based on the number of children currently living in Bryn and take no allowance of the LDP proposal to double the size of Bryn.

The spare capacity quoted for Cwmafan school includes just the Bryn pupils but the proposal recommends including the pupils from Pontrhydyfen Primary school as well.

No mention is made of what costs would be incurred in closing the Bryn School, only the revenue costs saved, although if you trust the figures in the report these are substantial.

Contrary to what was stated in our meeting on Wednesday, the report states that the school audits for Cwmafan are much better than for Bryn. Which statement is correct?

Dianne also informed me there is a protest march being organised by the school mothers for 7:30am next Wednesday outside the Port Talbot Council offices ahead of the cabinet meeting.

Paul Bulmer