



Assessment Report on the Likely Impact on Travel Arrangements – consultation on changing the catchment area of Ysgol Felinwnda

1. Introduction

1.1 Cyngor Gwynedd Transport Policy

The '*Excellent Primary Education for the Children of Gwynedd*' strategy aims to limit travel from home to school to a one-way journey that is no longer than 30 minutes.

Cyngor Gwynedd provides free transport to primary-aged learners who live two or more miles from the school in their catchment area, or the nearest school (this does not include nursery pupils). Learners who receive a primary education (except for learners with additional learning needs or disabilities), are expected to walk two miles to meet any transport that is provided by Cyngor Gwynedd along the shortest route. The shortest route available is the route that the Council does not deem to be particularly dangerous, after assessing the other routes available, and these routes would be assessed in line with Cyngor Gwynedd's transport policy. The transport policy can be viewed in the [parents' handbook](#).

1.2 The Context of Ysgol Felinwnda Catchment Area

On 7 November 2023, the Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet resolved to approve finally the proposal to close Ysgol Felinwnda on 31 December 2023, and for the current learners to transfer to a nearby alternative school, namely Ysgol Llandwrog or Ysgol Bontnewydd, according to parents' choice, from 1 January 2024. Furthermore, transport arrangements were approved for the transition period only, where free transport would be provided to those pupils who were currently enrolled at Ysgol Felinwnda and living within the catchment area of Ysgol Felinwnda, to Ysgol Llandwrog or Ysgol Bontnewydd, for the remainder of the learner's time in either of those schools, in accordance with Cyngor Gwynedd's transport policy. Lastly, the Cabinet supported a recommendation to hold a consultation on the future of Ysgol Felinwnda's current catchment area in order to agree which school, or schools, will serve as a future catchment school for the children of Ysgol Felinwnda's current catchment area.

The catchment area of Felinwnda is situated near the villages of Saron and Dinas on the outskirts of Caernarfon, and serves the villages and area nearby. The catchment area is located 3.9 miles from Caernarfon. According to the 2021 Census there are 1,421 people living in the Llanwnda ward.

Felinwnda catchment area is situated between the catchment areas of two nearby schools, namely Ysgol Llandwrog catchment area and Ysgol Bontnewydd catchment area, and together they form part of the Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen secondary catchment area.

In September 2023 there were 49 learners aged between 3-11 living in the Ysgol Felinwnda catchment area, with three of those pupils attending Ysgol Felinwnda. This means that 46 learners in the catchment area (aged between 3-11) are attending out-of-catchment schools, with 30 of these attending Ysgol Bontnewydd and six attending Ysgol Llandwrog.

2. The options being considered:

This assessment has been made based on three options, which are:

Option 1 - Transfer the entire Felinwnda catchment area to the catchment area of Ysgol Llandwrog

Option 2 - Transfer the entire Felinwnda catchment area to the catchment area of Ysgol Bontnewydd

Option 3 - Dividing the Felinwnda catchment area according to the houses that are geographically closest to Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd

3. Assessment of the impact on transport arrangements

Option 1 – Transfer the entire Felinwnda catchment area to Ysgol Llandwrog catchment area

In accordance with Cyngor Gwynedd's transport policy, should this option be implemented, the Authority would arrange for taxis or a mini bus to transport learners from the Felinwnda catchment area to the designated catchment school (which is Ysgol Llandwrog in this case), and as is noted in this policy, learners receiving a primary or secondary education (with the exception of learners with additional learning needs or disabilities) would be expected to walk up to 2 miles to meet any transport provided by Cyngor Gwynedd along the shortest route. The shortest route available is the route that the Council does not deem to be particularly dangerous, after assessing the other routes available, and these routes would be assessed in line with Cyngor Gwynedd's transport policy.

Based on the primary-aged children currently living in the Felinwnda catchment area, should the entire Felinwnda catchment area transfer to Ysgol Llandwrog catchment area, it is anticipated that the Authority would need to offer transport to around 45 children at an estimated cost of £85,000 a year (1 bus from the Dinas/Llanwnda area and 1 bus from the Saron area).

In addition, we note that the [G6](#) public bus operates between Saron and Llandwrog.

Option 2 – Transfer the entire Felinwnda catchment area to Ysgol Bontnewydd catchment area

In accordance with Cyngor Gwynedd's transport policy, should this option be implemented, the Authority would arrange for taxis or a mini bus to transport learners from the Felinwnda catchment area to the designated catchment school (which is Ysgol Bontnewydd in this case), and as is noted in this policy, learners receiving a primary or secondary education (with the exception of learners with additional learning needs or disabilities) would be expected to walk up to 2 miles to meet any transport provided by Cyngor Gwynedd along the shortest route. The shortest route available is the route that the Council does not deem to be particularly dangerous, after assessing the other routes available, and these routes would be assessed in line with Cyngor Gwynedd's transport policy.

Based on the primary-aged children currently living in the Felinwnda catchment area, should the entire Felinwnda catchment area transfer to Ysgol Bontnewydd catchment area, around 18 children would need to be offered transport at an estimated cost of £45,000 (1 bus from the Saron area).

We note that there are several public buses already running between the villages of Llanwnda, Dinas and Bontnewydd (12), as well as between Dinas and Bontnewydd (T2, T22 and G4) but none of the buses offer transport between the village of Saron and Bontnewydd. Please see the timetables by following the links below:

- [12](#)
- [T2](#)
- [T22](#)
- [G4](#)

The bus to Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen from Glynllifon also passes through the villages of Llanwnda, Dinas and Bontnewydd. However, it is not customary for primary school children to use secondary school buses.

GLYNLLIFON - YSGOL SYR HUGH OWEN		317	
Cerbydau Berwyn - 01286 660 315			
Glynllifon	0815	Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen	1540
Bethesda Bach	0820	Bontnewydd	1552
Llanwnda	0823	Ffrwd Cae Du	1555
Dinas	0825	Dinas	1600
Ffrwd Cae Du	0827	Llanwnda	1605
Bontnewydd	0830	Bethesda Bach	1610
Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen	0850	Glynllifon	1615

Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen bus timetable

Option 3 – Dividing the Felinwnda catchment area according to the houses that are geographically closest to Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd.

In accordance with Cyngor Gwynedd's transport policy, should this option be implemented, the Authority would arrange for taxis or a mini bus to transport some of the learners from the Felinwnda catchment area to the schools of the designated catchments (both Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd), and as is noted in this policy, learners receiving a primary or secondary education (with the exception of learners with additional learning needs or disabilities) would be expected to walk up to 2 miles to meet any transport provided by Cyngor Gwynedd along the shortest route. The shortest route available is the route that the Council does not deem to be particularly dangerous, after assessing the other routes available, and these routes would be assessed in line with Cyngor Gwynedd's transport policy.

Based on the primary-aged children currently living in the Felinwnda catchment area, should the Felinwnda catchment area be split according to the houses that are geographically closest to Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd, transport would need to be offered to around 18 children to Ysgol Bontnewydd and around 28 children to Ysgol Llandwrog at an estimated cost of £85,000 - £125,000 (1 bus from the Dinas/Llanwnda area and 1 or 2 buses from the Saron area).

We note that there are several public buses already running between the villages of Llanwnda, Dinas and Bontnewydd (12), as well as between Dinas and Bontnewydd (T2, T22 and G4) but none of the buses offer transport between the village of Saron and Bontnewydd. Please see the timetables by following the links below:

- [12](#)
- [T2](#)
- [T22](#)
- [G4](#)

In addition, we note that the [G6](#) public bus serves between Saron and Llandwrog.

The bus to Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen from Glynllifon also passes through the villages of Llanwnda, Dinas and Bontnewydd. However, it is not customary for primary school children to use secondary school buses.

GLYNLLIFON - YSGOL SYR HUGH OWEN		317
Cerbydau Berwyn - 01286 660 315		
Glynllifon	0815	Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen 1540
Bethesda Bach	0820	Bontnewydd 1552
Llanwnda	0823	Ffrwd Cae Du 1555
Dinas	0825	Dinas 1600
Ffrwd Cae Du	0827	Llanwnda 1605
Bontnewydd	0830	Bethesda Bach 1610
Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen	0850	Glynllifon 1615

Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen bus timetable

3. Conclusion

Should any of the three options above be implemented, there would be an impact on travel arrangements for the children and for the Authority. All of the options in question would mean that the Council would be required to arrange a taxi or mini bus to transport learners from the Felinwnda catchment area to the designated alternative catchment school, in accordance with the county's transport policy.

Consequently, all of the three options in question would lead to additional transport costs for the Authority, at an estimated cost of between £45,000 and £125,000 a year. It is anticipated that option 3, which is to split the catchment area between Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd, would lead to the highest additional costs (£85,000-£125,000 a year) in light of the need to transport 28 children to Ysgol Llandwrog and 18 children to Ysgol Bontnewydd. It is anticipated that Option 2, which is the option to transfer the catchment area to the Ysgol Bontnewydd catchment area, would lead to the lowest additional costs (£45,000 a year), in light of the need to transfer 18 children from the Felinwnda catchment area to Ysgol Bontnewydd.