

Dear Kirsty,

when councillors (all Plaid and some Independents) voted through a proposal to change Llangennech School from Dual Stream to Welsh Medium only. This consultation was not supported by 95% of respondents from within the village (over 700 were against whilst only 33 were in support).

support increasing the Welsh Language across county and country, the removal of English Medium and Dual Stream schools has raised alarm bells with many. amongst many things will lead to less people viewing Wales/Carmarthenshire as an attractive place to live and work. To place this into context, a family moving from outside of county who has had their children taught primarily in English, may be reluctant to place their children into Welsh Medium when they have no grounding in Welsh. By removing the choice of being taught in an international language, this could potentially harm the filling of key roles such as doctor and nurse posts, have a detrimental effect on local house prices, and also have a negative impact on the local economy.

concerned of the frightening precedent being set when a council can overrule the vast majority, admitting that their aim is to eradicate all English Medium schools from Carmarthenshire. We understand that Wales' target is to have one million speakers by 2050 and that by law all councils must produce a WESP. Yet across South Wales, it is only the Plaid led Council that have adopted this extreme approach. Other councils have engaged with their electorates and understand the importance of having the public on board i.e they are providing Welsh Medium schools where there is demand and are setting up Welsh learning hubs. Carmarthenshire Council are claiming that they are acting 'in the best interests of learners' by removing freedom of choice and enforcing the Welsh language by compulsion. With their views already predetermined, it was almost pointless for a consultation to be held as they were clearly not of an open mind; the village were never going to be able to influence the outcome of their 'community school'

Their approach also defies the 'Welsh Medium Education Strategy' which states that the vision is to create a Wales, 'where people may choose to live their lives through the medium of either or both Welsh or English'.

laws have been broken regarding children's rights, the community impact assessments were inadequate and the consultation itself was flawed. Carmarthenshire Council admitted that lessons must be learned from this consultation and that the public was not properly engaged. We recommend viewing the webcast of the full council meeting on the 18th January which is available on Carmarthenshire Council's website. This should provide some insight into the behaviours and undemocratic processes that we have been subjected to and will help reveal the true nature of what is happening in our village and county. As Cabinet Secretary for Education, please can we ask you to look into the Llangennech consultation as we would welcome your feedback.

Kind Regards