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For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Rebecca Barrett
(Tel: 01443 864245 Email: barrerm@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Date: 9th October 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

A Special meeting of the **Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee** will be held in the **Sirhowy Room - Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Wednesday, 16th October, 2019** at **5.30 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. Councillors and the public wishing to speak on any item can do so by making a request to the Chair. You are also welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, both these requests require a minimum notice period of 3 working days, and a simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

All Committee meetings are open to the Press and Public, observers and participants are asked to conduct themselves with respect and consideration for others. Please note that failure to do so will result in you being asked to leave the meetings and you may be escorted from the premises.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Harrhy'.

Christina Harrhy
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

1 To receive apologies for absence.

2 Declarations of Interest.

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal an/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

Pages

A greener place Man gwyrddach

Correspondence may be in any language or format | Gallwch ohebu mewn unrhyw iaith neu fformat



To receive and consider the following report: -

3 Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

1 - 116

Circulation:

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SPECIAL ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 16TH OCTOBER 2019

SUBJECT: PONTLLANFRAITH LEISURE CENTRE

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the proposal to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre prior to presentation to Cabinet for a decision.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 On 28th March 2018 Cabinet agreed to defer the decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre taken on 13th December 2017 and consider the future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre later in 2018 once the 10 year Sport and Active Recreation Strategy for the Authority had been adopted.
- 2.2 On 14th November 2018 Cabinet approved the Authority's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019 to 2029 after the adoption of the Strategy had been recommended by the Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.3 On 10th April 2019 Cabinet resolved to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and on 24th June 2019 the High Court quashed that decision. There were 5 grounds of the Judicial Review and the Court dismissed 4, but did rule that there was insufficient evidence that Cabinet had properly discharged its duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.
- 2.4 A new Equality Impact Assessment has been completed, attached at Appendix 5, and further consideration has been given to the duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the proposal to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre prior to presentation to Cabinet for a decision.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Scrutiny Committee consider the content of the report and the recommendation to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 So that Cabinet can take into account the views of the Scrutiny Committee when considering the recommendation to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre
- 4.2 The proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is consistent with the Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29. Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is not one of the strategic sites identified in the Strategy for future investment. There are significant financial benefits resulting from the closure of the leisure centre. In addition to the annual running costs there are substantial repair and replacement liabilities to be addressed, and there is the opportunity for a capital receipt. The release of the Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre site can make a valuable contribution to the supply of homes and affordable homes within the county borough.
- 4.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and has identified that the proposed closure will have a negative impact upon people with disabilities and older people with mobility issues where this results in longer travel times to alternative facilities depending on point of origin and the extent to which they currently use Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre. However, all of the four strategic facilities are fully accessible, have ample disabled parking, and have been selected as they are accessible by public transport. Closure of this leisure centre will allow remaining resources to be focussed on enhancing the quality of the customer offer at our strategic sites. Whilst adverse impacts cannot be fully mitigated for some, this is outweighed by the overall benefits of the proposal. It supports the longer term aim of sustaining discretionary sport and leisure services to promote and increase participation in sport and active recreation for all and therefore has an overall positive impact.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 On 28th March 2018 Cabinet agreed to defer the decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre taken on 13th December 2017 and consider the future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre once the 10 year Sport and Active Recreation Strategy for the Authority had been adopted. On 14th November 2018 Cabinet approved the adoption of Authority's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019 to 2029.
- 5.2 On 10th April 2019 Cabinet resolved to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and on 24th June 2019 the High Court quashed that decision. There were 5 grounds to the judicial review:
1. The Strategy Decision was not within the authority of Council's Cabinet to take.
 2. The Strategy Decision was unlawful because it was taken without information as to the cost of implementing the Sports Strategy.
 3. The Strategy Decision was unlawful by reason of failures to comply with obligations under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.
 4. The Public Sector Equality Duty.
 5. The Closure Decision was unlawful because the Council failed to consider the option of a community asset transfer of the leisure centre.

The Court upheld the Council's position on four of the grounds, but in relation to Ground 4 ruled that there was insufficient evidence that Cabinet had properly discharged its duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 which states that:

- (1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to —
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The principle of 'due regard' has been well established in case law. The important elements are that:

Decision makers should be aware of the implications of the public sector equality duty when making decisions.

Due regard must be a conscious part of the decision.

Analysis of facts must be rigorous and undertaken with an open mind- with substantial attention to relevant facts and research and attention paid to conflicting views.

Consultation must take place in a meaningful way with interested parties.

And, that the public sector equality duty is an ongoing one.

- 5.3 To allow a proper consideration of relevant facts a new Equality Impact Assessment has been completed which is attached at Appendix 5. The closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will have a negative impact upon older people who may have limited mobility and upon people with disabilities. This is because it will result in longer travel times and distances to alternative facilities depending on point of origin and the extent to which they currently use Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre. There will also be a negative impact on younger people who do not drive, or have no access to travel by private vehicle. It must be noted that a decision is capable of being justified and lawful where there is a detrimental consequence for those with protected characteristics that cannot be entirely mitigated.
- 5.4 Of Smartcard users who visited Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre in 2018/19 3% are aged over 64 and 0.6% are registered disabled. This compares with 19.3% aged over 64 and 25.8% of 16 to 64 year olds who identified as Equality Act core disabled in the Office of National Statistics' Annual Population Survey 2018.
- 5.5 The negative impacts identified in the Equality Impact Assessment are mitigated by the fact that all of the four strategic facilities are fully accessible, have ample disabled parking, and have been selected, among other reasons, because they are on public transport routes. The nearest strategic leisure centre to Pontllanfraith is Newbridge Leisure Centre. There is a direct bus from Blackwood Interchange to Newbridge that takes 13 minutes. A bus stop is located within the vicinity of Newbridge Leisure Centre or alternatively there is access to the site via a fully accessible footbridge from the park and ride railway station in the town centre that is adjacent to a bus stop.
- 5.6 Closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will allow remaining resources to be focussed on enhancing the quality and customer offer at four strategic sites. It supports the longer term aim of sustaining discretionary sport and leisure services to promote and increase participation in sport and active recreation. Consequently positive impacts are also identified in the Equality Impact Assessment in that improved, new, or refurbished facilities will be more attractive and accessible to families, people with additional needs, and people that need the support of carers.

Ongoing investment will ensure that our leisure facilities are maintained and that equipment is replaced, making them more attractive to all users and improving equality of access. Facilities with modern equipment will be particularly attractive to new users and should encourage participation in sport by young people and older people. Whilst adverse impacts cannot be fully mitigated for some, this is outweighed by the overall benefits of the proposal.

- 5.7 On 14th November 2018 Cabinet approved the Authority's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019 to 2029 after the adoption of the Strategy had been recommended by the Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee. The Strategy 2019-29 is designed to help deliver the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and is directly linked to the Council's Wellbeing Objectives, its strategic priorities, as set out in the Corporate Plan (2018-2023). The main Wellbeing Objectives in the Corporate Plan that sport and active recreation contributes to are set out in section 7.2 below.
- 5.8 The Strategy sets out the future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough - it establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions over the next 10 years. The Strategy recognises the multiple challenges of poor levels of health, particularly in certain areas of the County; reducing budgets; the large number of facilities across the County and the deteriorating quality of our older buildings; set against an increasing population and consumer demand.
- 5.9 Over the 10 year life of the Strategy the Council intends to invest in 4 high class strategic multi-functional facilities, meaning that some other sites may close or be managed by others. The Strategy adopts the Welsh Government and Sport Wales 'Facilities for Future Generations' blueprint for Sport and Active Recreation together with a decision making matrix for determining the provision of strategic leisure facilities that are directly managed by the Sport and Leisure Service.
- 5.10 The criteria for strategic facilities, as set out in the Council's Strategy, includes a range of facilities and services for sport and active recreation with "wet-side" (e.g. swimming pool, sauna, spa, etc.) and "dry-side" (e.g. sports hall, fitness suite, dance, studio, etc.) activities, they are shared with a day time user (standalone only in major population centres and/or are attractions of regional or national significance). Strategic facilities also have over 250,000 visitors per annum, appropriate access, and the aim of reducing the subsidy per user to less than £1 to £1.20. The adopted Strategy states that this cannot be achieved without rationalisation and modernisation. Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is not one of the Council's 4 strategic sites and from 1st April 2018 to 1st March 2019 had a recorded usage of 70,841 with a subsidy per visit of £2.11.
- 5.11 The case for change is driven primarily by the ongoing effects of austerity and the annual savings requirement across Council services. With the ever downward pressure on revenue budgets the Council is bound to look towards discretionary services such a sport and leisure for savings ahead of statutory services; where a service does not contribute towards the savings requirement this results in a greater savings burden on other Council services.
- 5.12 The 2019/20 budget for running Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and 3G pitch is £124,389. It has become more expensive to run following closure of the adjacent secondary school in 2016 with the ending of a joint user virement of circa £26,000 from Education (as a result of the Leisure Centre previously being classed as a joint use centre located on a school site) following closure of the school. Also a new rating

valuation following the school closure resulted in an increase in non-domestic rates of £17,000.

- 5.13 Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre opened in 1975 and there is a maintenance backlog estimated at £150,000, based on a condition survey undertaken in 2012. The 3G pitch at Pontllanfraith is expected to need replacement in the next 2-3 years with replacement costs of between £200,000 and £300,000. Should the Leisure Centre remain open, there is an initial cost requirement of circa £112,000 to transfer shared services such as utilities, telephone and I.T. lines from the school site.
- 5.14 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and has identified that the proposed closure will have some impacts, both positive and negative. All of the four strategic facilities are fully accessible, have ample disabled parking, and have been selected as they are accessible by public transport. Closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will allow remaining resources to be focussed on enhancing the quality of the customer offer at our strategic sites. It supports the longer term aim of sustaining discretionary sport and leisure services to promote and increase participation in sport and active recreation for all and therefore has an overall positive impact taking the whole of the county borough into account.
- 5.15 Closure of this leisure centre clearly results in changes to local sport and leisure facility provision. An analysis has been undertaken of sport and leisure facility provision in the locality. The new Islwyn High School is 3 miles away and opened in June 2017 to replace the existing Pontllanfraith and Oakdale Comprehensive Schools and includes a four court sports hall, dual use 3G football and rugby pitch and multi-purpose activity space. The Caerphilly Sports and Active Recreation Strategy states that careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn. Islwyn High School have provided written confirmation of their commitment to making the school's facilities available for use by the wider community. Islwyn High School's facilities are available for hire outside of school hours by clubs and organisations currently using Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.
- 5.16 Additionally, a new dual use 3G pitch has been installed at Blackwood Comprehensive School which is supported by a signed Community Use Agreement between the Council and Blackwood Comprehensive School guaranteeing community use. The installation of these two new 3G pitches represents an enhancement of provision over and above the single, football only, 3G pitch provision at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre on two counts – the new pitches are capable of being used for both football and rugby (with resultant FAW and IRB approval) and there are now two 3G pitches in the Blackwood / Pontllanfraith area rather than one.
- 5.17 In the Sport and Leisure industry, it is accepted that customers are generally prepared to travel a distance of 5 miles or 20 minutes to facilities. In this regard when the user analysis for Pontllanfraith is examined it reveals that over 50% of users are outside the NP12 postcode area (NP12 stretches from the Argoed Ward in the North to the Pontllanfraith Ward in the South and the Pengam Ward in the West to the Penmaen Ward in the East).
- 5.18 The Council's 4 strategic leisure facilities are all accessible via public transport; although only 4% of respondents to the consultation on the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy indicated that they used public transport to travel to the place where they take part in sport and active recreation. The Council will work with public transport providers as necessary, but the majority of respondents to the Strategy indicated that they travel by private car. If the distance of other facilities from

Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is examined the following can be seen:-

Facility	Distance from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre	Travel Time by Car from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre
Newbridge Leisure Centre	3.3 miles	9 minutes
Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre	2.0 miles	8 minutes
Sue Noake Leisure Centre, Ystrad Mynach	3.1 miles	9 minutes
Heolddu Leisure Centre	5 miles	14 minutes
Islwyn High School	3.1 miles	7 minutes
Blackwood Comprehensive School	2.3 miles	8 minutes
Caerphilly Leisure Centre	7.5 miles	16 minutes
Markham Community Leisure Centre	4.2 miles	10 minutes
Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni, Fleur de Lys	2.2 miles	5 minutes
Lewis School, Pengam	3.1 miles	9 minutes

- 5.19 The Sport & Active Recreation Strategy also identified that there is a mixed economy of provision and opportunities for residents to engage in a wide range of physical activity provided by the ever increasing commercial and not for profit sector. A number of these are facilities based and located within close proximity to Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre as identified below:

Facility	Distance from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre	Travel Time by Car from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre
Bryn Meadows Golf & Country Club, Maescwmmmer	2.6 miles	8 minutes
Snap Fitness, Blackwood	1.0 mile	4 minutes
Blackwood Miners Institute, Blackwood	1.0 mile	4 minutes
Fleur de Lys Institute, Fleur de Lys	2.1 miles	6 minutes
Fleur de Lys Community Centre, Fleur de Lys	2.1 miles	6 minutes
Diva Fitness, Pengam	2.1 miles	6 minutes
Planet Fitness, Aberbargoed	3.4 miles	9 minutes
Elite Fitness, Pontllanfraith	1.2 miles	3 minutes

- 5.20 Additionally, there are a number of other halls and spaces across the local community available for hire including Penllwyn Millennium Centre, the Oasis Centre, Pontllanfraith Rugby Club, and Cefn Fforest Community Centre, for example.
- 5.21 Clearly, there is significant provision of facilities within a short journey of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre. Alternative facilities have car parking, including disabled car parking, available. In the consultation some comments were received regarding the difficulty of parking at Newbridge Leisure Centre and officers are

continuing to work to improve this provision. A number of consultation respondents indicated that they are not able or willing to travel to alternative facilities and stated that leisure centres should be within walking distance. Most residents within the county borough do not live within walking distance of a council managed leisure centre, although all are able to walk to access other opportunities in our parks and countryside.

- 5.22 Whilst the capital receipt for the sale of the school, leisure centre and 3G (3rd generation) pitch area is dependent on a number of variables, initial estimates suggest that it could realise a capital receipt of circa £2.2 to 2.9m. If the Leisure Centre and 3G pitch remain this is likely to reduce to circa £1.8 to £2.3m. Additionally, retention of the leisure centre imposes a constraint on the development of the northern part of the school site. This will impact upon the valuation of the northern part of the school site which, without the leisure centre constraint, accounts for approximately 50% of the total estimated receipt of £2.2 to £2.9 million.
- 5.23 If a decision is taken to close the Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre, and thereafter demolish the premises, the Council will be in a position to market the site for an alternative use. There is an opportunity to develop the site in collaboration with a Registered Social Landlord to support the Council's commitment to the delivery of high quality affordable homes. The delivery model could include equal proportions of social rented, shared ownership and market sale dwellings and there is potential for the social housing element to be delivered as council housing. The benefits of this approach include giving the Authority more influence on the development, delivering a development which is more in tune with the needs of the local community and ensuring the homes would be designed to the Welsh Government Design Quality standard.
- 5.24 The release of the site for housing use would help the Authority to increase the housing land supply in the county borough in the short to medium term. The Local Development Plan (LDP) sets out a housing requirement to deliver 8,625 units in the 15 year plan period 2006 to 2021. As of the 1st April 2019, 4,835 units had been built and it is clear that the housing requirement figure of 8,625 units will not be achieved by 2021.
- 5.25 The delivery of new affordable homes within the county borough similarly is behind target. Policy SP15 of the LDP identifies an affordable housing target of 964 units over the lifetime of the LDP, 2006 -2021. As of 2019 only 251 affordable units have been built, or less than a third of the target. The release of the Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre site could therefore make a valuable contribution to the supply of homes and affordable homes in the medium term. The exact detail of the future development of the site would be subject to a further Cabinet report and planning permission.
- 5.26 **Conclusion**
Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is not one of the strategic sites identified in the Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy for future investment. There are significant financial benefits resulting from the closure of the leisure centre which has become considerably more expensive to operate following closure of the adjacent secondary school. In addition to the annual running costs there are substantial repair and replacement liabilities to be addressed, and the opportunity for a capital receipt.
- 5.27 An equalities impact assessment has been completed and some impacts, both positive and negative, have been identified for younger and older people and people with disabilities. Whilst adverse impacts cannot be fully mitigated for some, this is outweighed by the overall benefits of the proposal. The closure of Pontllanfraith

Leisure Centre will allow remaining resources to be focussed on fewer, but better facilities. Improved, new, or refurbished facilities will be more attractive and accessible. Ongoing investment will ensure that our leisure facilities are maintained and that equipment is replaced, making them more attractive to all users and improving access equally.

- 5.28 To keep the leisure centre open would undermine the vision for provision of sport and active recreation set out in the Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29. Adequate alternative provision is available and it is therefore recommended that Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre closes and that officers are authorised to transfer bookings to alternative facilities in the event that Cabinet agrees the closure.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 Assumptions have been addressed throughout this report, and financial assumptions are outlined in section 10 below. The estimate of the potential capital receipt from sale of the site is based on the current understanding of land values, but there are a number of variables and clearly these can change. Notably, the nature of the conclusion of the Brexit process is likely to impact upon the UK economy including land values. The maintenance backlog for the Leisure Centre is an estimate of £150,000 and is based on a condition survey undertaken in 2012. Demolition costs of £225,000 are stated, but these can be difficult to predict and assumes that there are no significant, currently unknown costs.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 7.1 The Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 sets out a future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough. It establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions. The Strategy adopts the Welsh Government and Sport Wales 'Facilities for Future Generations' blueprint for Sport and Active Recreation together with a decision making matrix for determining the provision of strategic leisure facilities that are directly managed by the Sport and Leisure Service. Over the 10 year life of the Strategy the Council intends to invest in 4 high class strategic multi-functional facilities, meaning that some other sites may close or be managed by others. Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is not one of the Council's 4 strategic sites and the proposed closure is entirely consistent with the adopted Strategy.

7.2 Corporate Plan 2018-2023.

The Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 is directly linked to the Council's Wellbeing Objectives, its strategic priorities, as set out in the Corporate Plan (2018-2023). The main Wellbeing Objectives in the Corporate Plan that sport and active recreation contributes to are:

- Objective 1: Improving education opportunities for all and improving the learning environment;
- Objective 5: Creating a County Borough that supports a healthy lifestyle and reduces inequalities in health across the County Borough in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015;

- Objective 6: Supporting citizens to remain independent and improve their wellbeing - helping keep older people involved and active in their local communities.

7.3 Strategic Equality Plan

The Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 supports the Council's Strategic Equality Plan and in particular the following Equality Objectives:

- Equality Objective 3 – Improving Physical Access
- Equality Objective 5 - Inclusive Engagement and Participation

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

8.1 The Council's adopted Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 is designed to help deliver the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Strategy sets out the future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough - it establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions over the next 10 years. The Strategy includes the following in relation to implementing the Act:

- We will need to be bold - not holding on to what we have done in the past, but looking forward to ensure that the decisions we make and opportunities we provide are fit for future generations - responding to the emerging needs of our young people, the adults of tomorrow, and of course looking after the different needs of a growing older population.
- We must also make sure what we provide is going to be sustainable i.e. we can afford to maintain service provision into the future.
- Future approaches will demand that people take greater responsibility for their own health and levels of physical activity. It is the role of the Council to support them to do this for themselves.
- To deliver a 'change agenda' the Council will also have to make a number of critical decisions. It is vital therefore, that this strategy provides a clear rationale and priorities for action. It must provide a vision for where we are going and how we are going to get there, so that everyone understands what we can achieve, what to expect of us, as well as the roles that others have to play.
- Finally, the strategy is not focused just on buildings but the activity that can take place in a wide variety of different places found throughout our County Borough and as a result of many different opportunities provided by a range of organisations.

8.2 The Act sets out the sustainable development principle against which all public bodies in Wales should assess their decision-making. The aim of the legislation is to ensure the well-being of future generations through maximising the contribution public bodies make towards the well-being goals. In using the sustainable development principle it is incumbent that the authority considers the whole of the population it serves and considers the effect of its actions on future generations. The principle, also known as the five ways of working is assessed below:

LONG TERM- The leisure estate across the whole of the authority is not sustainable in the long term due to cuts in the revenue available to the local authority and the age of much of the estate. The Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and

actions over the next 10 years. Securing the provision of sport and leisure services now and in the future requires that difficult decisions have to be made that balance short term considerations against long term sustainability. The financial climate means that it is not possible to continue subsidising all sites and so decisions must be taken now to secure a sustainable sports and leisure service for future generations.

INVOLVEMENT- An extensive consultation has taken place with the community, leisure centre users and clubs, democratic representatives, young people and Welsh Government Commissioners. Views have been represented to Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. Inevitably residents will wish to see as many local authority services as close to their homes as possible, and this view would be held by all communities within the county borough. In considering the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre we have sought to mitigate the concerns by accessing funding for a new Football Association of Wales and International Rugby Board approved 3rd Generation pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive and ensuring that a programme of activity runs, and bookings can be taken to use the facilities, at Islwyn High School. The other leisure centres and sites in the area have capacity to accommodate the current users of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

PREVENTION- The promotion of well-being now prevents need in the future and reduces demand on public services. In planning the proposed closure we have sought to maintain sports and leisure services accessibility for the community as far as is practicable. The Council will continue to support people to take responsibility for their own health and levels of physical activity.

COLLABORATION- We have collaborated with the Blackwood Comprehensive School and Islwyn High School and their governing bodies to ensure access to the facilities that they can provide. Written confirmation in relation to this collaborative approach is in place. We continue to work with a full range of partners.

INTEGRATION- We have considered how the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre may impact on the well-being goals and in so doing have been mindful of the requirement to provide a sports and leisure offer that is still accessible at other sites. As highlighted in the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy it is also recognised that activity that can take place in a wide variety of different places found throughout our County Borough and as a result of many different opportunities provided by a range of organisations.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 An equalities impact assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 5 to this report. As can be seen some impacts, both positive and negative, have been identified for younger and older people and people with protected characteristics in that there will be a greater impact upon people with disabilities where this results in longer travel times to alternative facilities depending on point of origin and the extent to which they currently use Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre. However, all of the four strategic facilities are fully accessible, have ample disabled parking, and have been selected as they are accessible by public transport. In addition, as detailed in the report above, there is an extensive range of alternative provision within a short distance. Additionally, the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will allow remaining resources to be focussed on the Council's 4 strategic leisure facilities all of which are accessible by public transport and have disabled parking provision.

- 9.2 The potential for investment in four strategic leisure facilities is considered as having a positive impact in that, whereas Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is over 40 years old, improved, new, or refurbished facilities will be more attractive and accessible to all users. Ongoing investment will ensure that our leisure facilities are maintained and that equipment is replaced, making them more attractive and improving access equally. Modern facilities may be particularly attractive to young people, families, and people with carers.
- 9.3 Of Smartcard users who visited Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre in 2018/19 3% are aged over 64, and 0.6% are registered disabled. This compares with 19.3% aged over 64 and 25.8% of 16 to 64 year olds who identified as Equality Act core disabled in the Office of National Statistics' Annual Population Survey 2018.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The 2019/20 budget for running Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and 3G pitch is £124,389. There was a marked increase in the budget costs in 2018/19 as a result of an ending of a joint user virement of circa £26,000 from Education (as a result of the Leisure Centre previously being classed as a joint use centre located on a school site) following closure of the school. Also, the Leisure Centre was previously classed as a "joint use centre" situated on a school site and as such attracted significant non-domestic rate relief. The new rating valuation following the school closure results in an increase in non-domestic rates of £17,000, from £20,000 to £37,000 per annum. Additionally, there are costs associated with standing charges for utilities and for security of the vacated schools premises. These are currently estimated to be £12,000 per annum.
- 10.2 Should the Leisure Centre remain open, there is an initial cost requirement of circa £112,000 to transfer shared services such as utilities, telephone and I.T. lines:

Pontllanfraith L.C.: Estimated cost of proposed new supplies	£
Gas	53,642
Electric	22,758
Water	17,213
BT [Data only]	18,000
BT Voice assume N / a	0
Total: £ [excl. VAT]	111,613

There will be a further requirement for ongoing maintenance liabilities to be supported and the maintenance backlog for the Leisure Centre is estimated at least £150,000.

- 10.3 While the capital receipt for the sale of the school, leisure centre and 3G pitch area is dependent on a number of variables, initial estimates suggest that it could realise capital receipt of circa £2.2 to 2.9m. If the Leisure Centre and 3G pitch remains this is likely to reduce to circa £1.8 to £2.3m. However, as stated in paragraph 5.4 above retention of the leisure centre site places a constraint on the development of the northern part of the school site, which may reduce its value. The estimated capital receipts of the three areas of the site without this constraint are shown below:

Area	Estimated Capital Receipt
Leisure Centre & 3G pitch	£416,000 to £541,000
School playing fields – northern area	£1,040,000 to £1,352,000
School – southern area	£741,000 to 963,000
Total	£2,197,000 to £2,856,000

- 10.4 The financial implications associated with closing/demolishing the Leisure Centre are outlined below with appropriate narrative, and are summarised in the table at paragraph 7.9. Caerphilly Adventure Services relocated to Cwmcarn Fforest Drive in November 2018 at a cost of £100,958.
- 10.5 The Council has jointly funded with Welsh Government works to construct a new 3G pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School. If the 3G facility remains at Pontllanfraith then it is possible that the “carpet” would need replacing within the next 2-4 years, in the period 2020 – 2022, at a cost of between £200,000 and £300,000.
- 10.6 There is a one-off cost for demolition of the Leisure Centre complex which is estimated at £225,000.
- 10.7 There are also some voluntary severance costs associated with the closure. These are covered in the Personnel Implications section below and total circa £11,250.
- 10.8 A summary of the costs of closure/demolition and resultant savings/avoided costs is included in the table below:

One-Off Cost of Closure/Demolition (£)		One-Off Receipt/Avoided Costs (£)		Annual Revenue Saving (£)	
Demolition	225,000	Services Diversion Costs Avoidance	112,000	Annual Running Cost Saving	£124,389
Potential HR Costs (Voluntary Severance, etc.).	11,250	Maintenance Backlog Cost Avoidance	150,000		
		Replacement of existing 3G “Carpet” in 2020 – 2022	200,000		
		Capital Receipt	416,000 to 540,800		
Total £236,250		Total £878,000 to £1,002,800		Total £124,389	

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Should the leisure centre close, 2 staff have expressed an interest in retiring voluntarily supported by Voluntary Severance payments. There are no pension implications associated with these 2 staff and the voluntary severance/Rhymney Valley District Council loyalty bonus estimates are approximately £11,250. The remainder of the staff currently working at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre can be accommodated within the Sport & Leisure Service as a result of non-filling of posts elsewhere.

12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 Effective and meaningful consultation is an important element of the 'due regard' principles in the public sector equality duty. The Council engaged in a detailed consultation in respect of the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 with the local community and interested groups over a ten week period between 16th July 2018 and 21st September 2018. The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy document itself, and consultation process as a whole, was designed to ensure that residents and interested groups not only understood the reasons for the Strategy, but that they also understood the potential implications of the Strategy; particularly regarding the potential closure of facilities. This detailed and wide ranging consultation ensured that residents and interested groups were able to respond and make representations in respect of these implications and for these to be considered by Cabinet before making a decision on whether or not to adopt the Strategy. The Council has obtained legal advice confirming the consultation in respect of the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy is detailed and robust, and that further consultation on the closure of individual facilities in accordance with the Strategy is not required.
- 12.2 Public consultation in relation to the proposal to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre had previously taken place between 9th October and 24th November 2017 prior to the decision of Cabinet on 13th December 2017. The summary report of the consultation and specific comments are attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 12.3 The Cabinet decision of 13th December 2017 to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre was the subject of a call-in which was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 18th January 2018. The Scrutiny Committee resolved to support the call-in and to refer the matter back to Cabinet with a recommendation that additional consultation takes place with the Future Generations Commissioner, the Youth Forum and the Children's Commissioner. Additional consultation was undertaken and the responses from each Commissioner and the Youth Forum were reported to Cabinet on 28th March 2018 and are included at Appendix 2.
- 12.4 Blackwood Town Council responded to the public consultation in November 2017. The Town Council's response is included in full at Appendix 3 and was included and addressed in the reports to Cabinet of 13th December 2017 and 28th March 2018. Since that time installation of a new dual use 3G pitch has been completed at Blackwood Comprehensive School and is the subject of a joint use agreement providing for community access. Additionally, the Council has adopted the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 which sets out a vision for future provision which is consistent with the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- 12.5 Blackwood Town Council have restated their opposition to any potential closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and have stated that every effort should be made to keep the facility at the heart of the community and proper consideration given to potential transfer of assets to community ownership after meaningful discussions with the local community, leisure centre users and groups, partners and other stakeholders. No expressions of interest have been received in relation to this.
- 12.6 In the ten week public consultation ending on 21st September 2018 undertaken in connection with the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 views were sought via a questionnaire and 711 responses were received. The full report of the consultation responses is available at www.caerphilly.gov.uk. In summary, there was broad support for the Strategy's Vision and proposed Actions to support the Vision.

- 12.7 75 of the 711 respondents to the consultation on the Strategy indicated that the Leisure Centre they use most often is Pontllanfraith and so it has been possible to filter the responses to provide views directly related to Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and these are included at Appendix 4.
- 12.8 One of the consultation questions asked people what they felt would be the impact on them of rationalising facilities. 52% of 711 respondents to the consultation on the Strategy, and 99% of those who indicated that they use Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre most often, felt the impact of rationalising leisure facilities would be negative; the majority of responses were focussed on longer travel times and distances and a perceived reduction in facilities. The consultation also sought views on what could be done to mitigate any negative impact on the respondent or their family and responses were mainly focussed on keeping all leisure centres, or nearest centres, open.
- 12.9 The consultation also asked respondents to provide details if they felt that the proposed changes would affect them as an individual (positively or negatively) because of any protected characteristics and 7 responses were received with 2 actually relating to protected characteristics. Both comments related to age, one in relation to young teenage children and one with age not specified, and both citing concerns about travel to alternative facilities. There were also two references to medical condition/long term injury. The limited number of comments may be, in part, explained by that fact that older people and people with disabilities are significantly underrepresented amongst Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre Smartcard users as compared with the general population (see 9.3 above for further details).
- 12.10 The outcome of the consultation was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 8th November 2018 and then Cabinet on 14th November 2018 where the strategy was formally approved and adopted. After the public consultation on the Strategy a petition was presented at Council on 9th October 2018 by Councillor Kevin Etheridge with 5343 signatories against the possible closure of Cefn Fforest and Pontllanfraith Leisure Centres. On 4th November 2018 a protest march also took place in Blackwood town centre in opposition to leisure centre closures.
- 12.11 The Ward Members for Pontllanfraith ward and for those wards neighbouring Pontllanfraith (Blackwood, Newbridge, Abercarn, Penmaen, Ynysddu, Maescwmmmer, and Pengam wards) were consulted on this report and their responses, together with comments from officers where appropriate, are presented in the table below:

Response	Comment
<p>Cllr. Gez Kirby: It's hugely disappointing that, despite the clear strength of feeling in Islwyn against closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre which is touched upon in this report, no consideration seems to be given to addressing those substantive concerns and considering alternatives to closure.</p> <p>I hope colleagues on Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny will please consider these proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inviting representatives of campaigners 	

<p>to address the forthcoming committee meeting to present any alternative proposals they may have (including, possibly, a community asset transfer), to inform the committee's deliberations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommending that the final decisions on proposals for Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre should go to full Council, rather than back to cabinet again. 	
<p>Cllr Gary Johnston: I Agree with Cllr Kirby, this is a way forward, let people have their say and for full council to decide</p>	
<p>Cllr Kevin Dawson: I totally agree with Cllrs Johnston and Kirby!</p>	
<p>Cllr Andrew Farina-Childs: I totally agree with the proposals put forward by Cllr Kirby.</p>	
<p>Cllr John Ridgewell: As I think everyone knows, my position has always been absolutely clear on this issue in that I understand and fully accept the rationale for closure of Pontllanfraith L/C. This is an integral element of delivering the now adopted sport and active recreation strategy and as such is a critical first step in the process. However, I also appreciate how emotive the issue of closure has become and fully acknowledge the strength of opposition to the decision.</p> <p>Given the levels of austerity driven budget cuts we have had to address, the new strategy is a bold concept and I'm confident will ensure that in the future we have quality leisure provision for all our residents. However, in its drafting I believe we missed a critical stage in the process of analysis by not examining the option of testing the water on a community asset transfer. (leaving out that the document is entirely silent the merits or not of creating a leisure trust)</p>	<p>Ground 5 of the High Court proceedings against the Council's previous decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre taken on 19th April 2019 related to the option of a community asset transfer of the leisure centre. In his judgement Mr Justice Swift dismissed this ground of challenge recognising that the Council was under no legal obligation to consider community asset transfer. As noted at 12.5 above and Appendix 3 Blackwood Town Council responded to the consultation raising the possibility of community asset transfer, but as stated by Mr Justice Swift this fell well short of anything that could reasonably be understood to be an expression of interest in a community</p>

<p>I'm not saying either of these options would make a difference to the fate of Pont L/C and I don't personally think for one moment either would be workable - not least as the capital receipt from the land sale of the entire site has of necessity been earmarked to help fund our 21st century schools programme. It would though have ensured a more comprehensive public consultation exercise and given the people who so strongly oppose closure the opportunity to comment on these issues before the decision rather than were we are now, addressing these points as an afterthought.</p> <p>Rolling out the new sport and active recreation strategy will inevitably create more Pont L/C scenarios and so let's be sure we learn lessons from this exercise.</p>	<p>asset transfer. Mr Justice Swift also noted that pursuing community asset transfer would involve the Council foregoing any receipt from the site and depending on the terms of the transfer might have required the Council to take on new obligations to the new operator of the site. A community asset transfer, be that to a trust or otherwise, does not address the one-off and on-going revenue costs identified in paragraph 10.8 above</p> <p>No decision has been taken regarding the use of any capital receipt.</p>
<p>Cllr Andrew Whitcombe: I am with Cllr Ridgewell on this. Missing out Community Asset Transfer was a mistake. Although I do not think it viable either. The consultation exercise was flawed.</p> <p>At no time was a question of Asset Transfer mentioned , questions like “ we want to use this land to fund a new leisure strategy and building new schools and council homes, do you think that's a good idea ?” were not used .</p> <p>However I am still of the opinion that the closure of the centre is required to allow us to progress with the aforementioned.</p>	<p>Please see above.</p>

12.12 The consultees listed below have been consulted on this report and their views have been incorporated accordingly.

13. STATUTORY POWER

13.1 Local Government Act 2000

Author: Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services

Consultees: Councillor Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services
Cllr. D.T. Davies – Chair of Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee
Cllr. A. Hussey - Vice Chair of Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee
Corporate Management Team
Mark S. Williams, Interim Corporate Director for Communities
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Steve Harris, Interim Head of Business Improvement Services and Section 151 Officer
Jeff Reynolds, Sport & Leisure Services Facilities Manager
Jared Lougher, Sport & Leisure Services Development Manager
Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Sue Richards, Head of Education, Planning, Strategy and Resources
Mark Williams, Interim Head of Property
Mike Eedy, Finance Manager
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer
Shaun Watkins, HR Manager
Liz Sharma, Consultation and Public Engagement Officer

Background Papers:

- Report to Cabinet 20th September 2017 – “Proposals to commence a consultation exercise to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre” and relevant minute of meeting
- Report to Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee 1st November 2017 – “Consultation with respect to the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre” and relevant minute of meeting
- Report to Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee 12th December 2017 – “Outcome of consultation on the potential closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre” and relevant minute of meeting
- Report to Cabinet 13th December 2017 – “The future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre” and relevant minute of meeting
- Report to Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee 18th January 2018 – “Consideration of call-in request – Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre” and relevant minute of meeting
- Report to Cabinet 28th March 2018 – “Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre – Consideration of the call-in in the context of the leisure review” and relevant minute of meeting.
- Report to Cabinet 14th November 2018 – “Draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29” and relevant minute of meeting
- Report to Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee 26th March 2019 – “Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre” and relevant Minute.
- Report to Cabinet 10th April 2019 – “Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre” and relevant Minute.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Original Consultation Analysis Report

Appendix 2 Consultation response from Offices of the Children’s Commissioner & Future

	Generations Commissioner and Breakdown of Youth Forum response to consultation
Appendix 3	Consultation response from Blackwood Town Council November 2017
Appendix 4	Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre extract from the consultation on the draft Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29
Appendix 5	Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 1

Summary Report - public consultation in relation to the proposal to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre undertaken between 9th October and 24th November 2017.

COMMON CONSULTATION THEMES	
Consultation Question: <i>What impact will the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre have on you?</i>	
THEME	OFFICER COMMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further to travel. • Will not be able to walk to a facility. • Pontllanfraith is more convenient for me. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 50% of the Pontllanfraith users travel from outside the NP12 postcode area and therefore travel by car or bus. Other facilities may therefore be closer to many of the centre's users.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The facility includes a 3G pitch which is available in all weathers. • Local 3G pitches are already oversubscribed. • If a 3G is not installed at Blackwood this would have a huge impact. • 3G demand in the area cannot be satisfied. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is accepted that the demand for 3G facilities is significant given our changing weather conditions/climate. • A new 3G pitch has been developed at Blackwood Comprehensive School.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant loss of facilities and services in the Pontllanfraith area (Youth Centre, Ty Pontllanfraith, School and now Leisure Centre). • Housing Growth in area will place significant burden on local services/infrastructure. • More residents using other Leisure Centres will place additional burden on those other Centres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is difficult to comment on changes that take place in society – some of these are for the better and some are not. Unfortunately, in modern society change is inevitable and is driven by economics (in the case of Ty Pontllanfraith), or the need to improve (eg: the education offer in the Pontllanfraith/Blackwood/Oakdale area). • Housing growth is needed as there is a shortage of housing within the County Borough. • The Authority has more Leisure Centres than any other Local Authority in Wales and this number, when combined with their age profile is unsustainable in the long-term. Leisure Centre rationalisation to a fewer number of strategic centres is therefore required in the medium to long-term as identified in the Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29. The provision of secondary leisure provision should also be noted with facilities for community use provided at Lewis School, Pengam, Y-Gwindy, Caerphilly, St Martins School, Caerphilly, Markham Community House, Blackwood Comprehensive School and Ysgol Cwm Rhymini, Fleur de Lys

COMMON CONSULTATION THEMES	
Consultation Question: <i>Are alternative arrangement/ facilities in place to meet your needs?</i>	
THREAD	OFFICER COMMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3G at Islwyn High is not enough – the Pontllanfraith 3G needs to be replaced at Blackwood. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new 3G pitch has been developed at Blackwood Comprehensive School.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no alternative facilities that would meet may needs. • A lack of affordable facilities exists in the vicinity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See comments above regarding travel distances etc. • The Authority has a significant number of Leisure Centres, many of which offer all of the services on offer at Pontllanfraith and more (eg: Newbridge). • The Authority's Leisure Centre pricing structure is consistent across the County Borough and membership allows the use of all Centres.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of Leisure Centres are ageing and need significant investment to bring them to a modern standard. The use of Leisure Centres is cost prohibitive and should be subsidised for residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is accepted that the Authority's Leisure Centre stock is ageing and in need of investment. However, there is insufficient funding in the current climate to invest in the vast number of facilities across the County Borough. Consequently rationalisation is required followed by an investment programme in a smaller number of better equipped strategic facilities as identified in the Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29. • The use of the Authority's Leisure Centres is already subsidised (the subsidy varies from centre to centre dependant on facility mix and user profiles). However, this is unsustainable in the current financial climate.

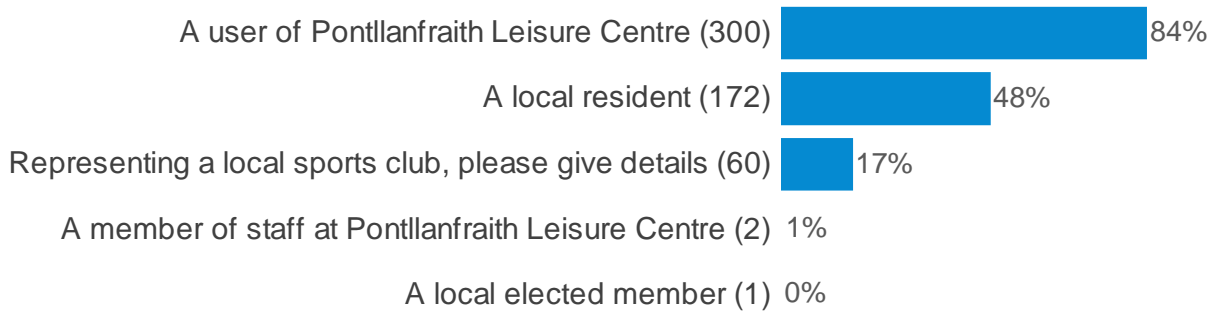
COMMON CONSULTATION THEMES	
Consultation Question: <i>Please detail how the impact of closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre could be further reduced?</i>	
THREAD	OFFICER COMMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping the 3G pitch or creating another one. • Move or redevelop the 3G pitch quickly at another location. • Keep the 3G pitch but close the Leisure Centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new 3G pitch has been developed at Blackwood Comprehensive School. • Officers have also looked at an option involving demolition of the Leisure Centre, retention of the 3G pitch and car parking and construction of new changing rooms for users of the 3G pitch. However, this option is likely to have one off cost implications of circa £700,000

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the current classes could be transferred to another local centre and my Caerphilly Leisure membership can still be used to attend classes then it would be acceptable, 	<p>in addition to a significant negative impact on the capital receipt for the site (of circa £1.4m)..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other centres offer a wide range of classes and a Caerphilly Leisure Membership can be used at any of our Centres.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make Newbridge Leisure Centre bigger and better. • Upgrade other Leisure Centres. • The question makes it sound like it is a pre-ordained event ie no notice will be taken of views expressed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See comments above on future investment in a smaller number of strategic facilities. • The consultation process was detailed, thorough and held over a 8-week period and has involved a range of media (one to one interviews, on-line, written forms, public meetings, etc.) • No decision will be taken until the Scrutiny Committee has considered the consultation responses and made a recommendation to Cabinet.

This report was generated on 27/11/17. Overall 360 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes. Lists are restricted to the most recent 100 rows.

Please indicate your interest in this consultation *(please tick all that apply)*



Please give details

- Oakdale Mini Rugny
- Blackwood RFC
- Treowen Stars U10s girls
- Coed duon dragons
- Training for Sunday league team
- Coed Duon Dragons FC
- Ynysddu Welfare FC
- blackwood rugby club
- Blackwood RFC Under 10s Age Grade
- Oakdale Badminton Club
- Fleur de lys afc
- Ynysddu Welfare FC
- Blackwood Griffins
- Newbridge under 9s mini rugby team
- Blackwood under 6
- Secretary of Blackwood and Pontllanfraith Cricket Club
- Cefn Fforest boys and girls football club
- Promotion of the welsh language is less important to residants than losing local amenities.
- Mini rugby
- Secretary for cefn fforest boys and girls fc
- Islwyn Running club
- Ynysddu Welfare FC
- Play for Ynysddu Welfare football club

Please give details

Ynysddu Welfare

Coach of Blackwood rfc u10s, player of oakdale badminton club

Treowen Stars

Pengam F.C.

Kykushin Karate Club - Pontllanfraith

Blackwood Netball Club

Treowen Stars Girls under 11 Football Team

Ladies Badminton (church group)

Gym member

in badminton group that play every week

Pont Dragons - Disability Football Team

Pont Dragons disability Football Club

Fleur De Lys AFC/Soccer skills

Friday night badminton club(we are also linked with a badminton club on Monday)

Oakdale Badminton Club

Oakdale Badminton Club

Tir-Y-Berth football club

Member of Islwyn Running club

Blackwood Ladies Netball

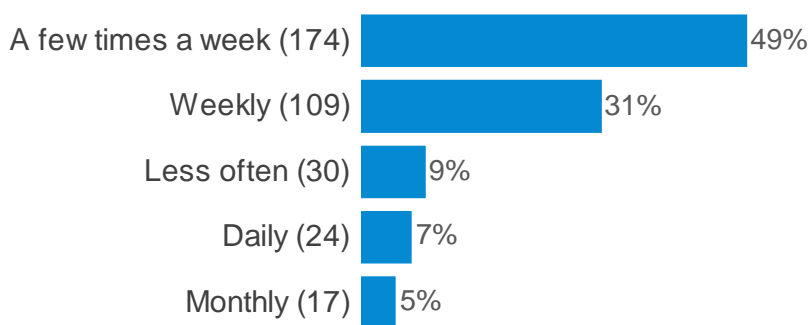
Blackwood Netball Club

Blackwood Netball Club

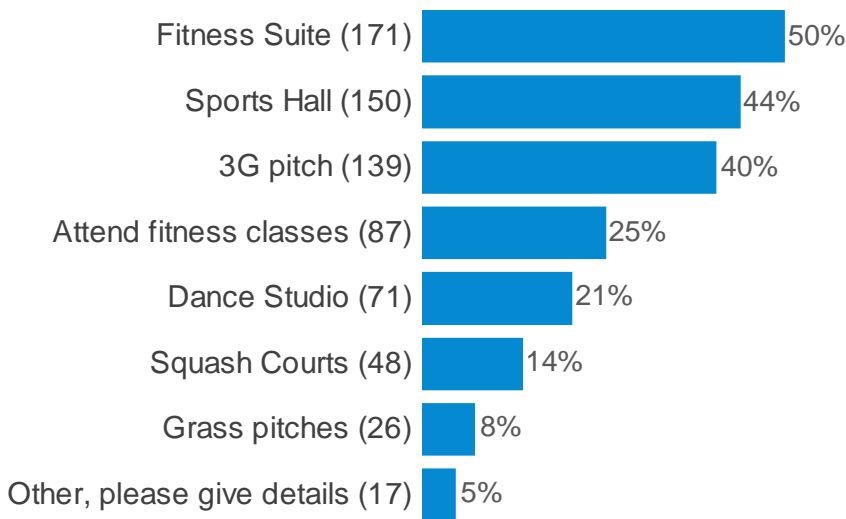
Netball

I and my family have used Pont Leisure all our lives!

How often do you use Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre?



What facilities do you use at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre? (please tick all that apply)



Please give details

- None we have never been able to book the 3G
- Outside pitch.
- Outside rugby for son
- None
- karate twice a week
- Islwyn running club
- 3 g fsctilities
- Watch my nephew play football here
- I believe my council tax contribution should be for caerphilly residants not welsh extremist ideals
- Member of Islwyn Running club and we meet at the leisure centre
- 3G football field
- Not yet used the centre
- 4g pitch with my son's under 10 rugby club football clubs during school holidays , football partys,
- Also 3G pitch user
- About to start badminton & join running club
- Yoga
- Yoga classes
- Badminton
- Yoga class
- Son uses 3G pitch
- Yogalates - Monday 7-8
- Badminton
- Badminton
- Classes & circuits in the sports hall
- Netball (Hall on Tuesdays)
- Squash court

What impact will the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre have on you?

It will limit accessibility to fitness classes

Soccer skills provide soccer coaching to children. Closure of the LC will probably mean the loss of this class.

I can cycle or walk to Pont LC. I will need transport to access others. Also badminton courts are usually booked or not in use at Newbridge LC so this will impact greatly on my use so I will probably terminate my Lifestyle 5 membership. Exercise and attending yoga classes etc has a beneficial affect on me mental health and wellbeing. When you cut back classes a few years ago it had a very negative affect on me.

Increase distance to gym, costing more in time & money. Removal of a small , more personalised gym with a genuine community feel that has helped me lose weight & keep fit in a non intimidating, inclusive atmosphere.

The centre is on route from where I work and home. Due to working hours it is not only convenient but if it were to close most likely would have to give up going too the gym.

The loss of this centre will be a big loss for me as I am epileptic, I am unable to drive. Pont is the only centre within easy walking distance providing all that need and staff understanding of my disabilities.

Classes held at Pontllanfraith are always busy and full, its a central location, always easy to reach and park. Classes not available anywhere else in the local area. the classes are important for my fitness routine.

As a 70+ member use of the centre keeps me healthy. Closure would mean me travelling to Newbridge which is extra expense. Many use the facility to keep healthy,if not available people will lose their fitness which is then a burden on the NHS. Let the facilities remain.

It will impact greatly as I teach yoga at Pontllanfraith. The classes are usually full and offer a wide range of health benefits. The LC is well used and very important to its members. The people of Blackwood should have a leisure centre.

We have held a booking with the centre and used the 3G pitch for approx 6 years. A group of 16 friends have used the facility to keep fit & socialise by playing football. The closure could see and end to this due to limited availability at other sites.

Have been using the centre for over 35 years. We are members of SE Wales Netball league affiliated to Welsh Netball. We have commitments to the league & uncertainty jeopardises our position for future development. It would have an impact on our wellbeing, fitness, self esteem & confidence. Our age range is from 13 - 68 years

Impact not known because despite new facilities in area these are or will be in use. High demand in the area with additional houses being built will mean shortage of facilities

I won't be able to attend yoga class. My daughters football team train on 3G, there is nowhere else,all fully booked. Also sons football team play matches at centre every other Sunday, they have no alternative.

Our club will probably have to cease due to lack of suitable venue

Loss of friendly small gym where there is no embarrassment at doing gentle exercise

Further to travel, more buses

Have to travel further and take car, where as I am able to walk to the centre now.

A great impact on my wellness & fitness regime, and would mean long term health implications. I am paying for leisure lifestyle which is now being taken away.

Drop in health and fitness. Meeting people that has become more of a family than just friends

Less traffic blocking access to our houses. When new pitch was created, half of the car park was removed. When children's football held on Sunday morning, roads around are blocked by cars for parents taking children to centre. Similarly running club members park cars on Penllwyn lane blocking people's access to garages.

What impact will the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre have on you?

I was attending fitness classes at the centre twice a week, but they moved the said classes to other centre,s, which I have difficulty in getting to.

Myself and my family just won't be able to find an alternative.

My son who plays for an under 12 football team trains on 3G pitch, partner attends exercise classes twice a week, it would be a huge loss to the community,also with more houses planned in Pontllanfraith council offices etc, I feel it is short sighted.

I feel the closure will impact on my fitness. The location & classes are ideal for my needs and fit in my work /leisure time. I fear my fitness will suffer and in turn my overall health if I can no longer attend Pont centre.

I live in Risca & play badminton in Pontllanfraith so I would have further to travel

I would not attend a gym of a larger size - wouldn't feel comfortable or confident.

Lack of availability for sports pitches Currently there's a major push to reduce obesity & closing centres is not in the best interest of CCBC residents

I will not be able to attend the gym

Less choice in location & facilities and distance from home

Will involve more travel to attend sports centres further away

A massive effect. The exercise class I attend helps my physical & mental wellbeing. Good friendly atmosphere there.

Travel further to continue classes if a suitable venue is available

We are a parent run disability football club which caters for youngsters living in surrounding areas, we meet weekly. It provides well being & social interaction for youngsters who can not access main stream football due to various disabilities.

This may lead to closure of the disabilities football sessions held on Friday as many may refuse a different location for various reasons, such as travel distance.

Ease of use. I would not like to attend Newbidge as I feel uncomfortable

Reduced physical fitness. Wellbeing, Social Needs

I wouldn't have anywhere else to go. I have arthritis and attending the gym helps. I also have sons who attend football there a few times a week.

I wouldn't have any other centres that are local, as I walk to Pont and would then have to use bus daily

Have nowhere to keep fit, I don't drive and can't afford public transport.

The class I run at the LC will stop & the children will no longer have a class

Considerable. The loss of the extra court could result in the club folding. We have been told we can be relocated to the new school but due to pressure from other clubs for space we do not see how you can accommodate every ones needs.

The cancellation of my young childrens sports activities. Despite the need for youngsters to be active there is not an abundance of opportunities for them to do so.

I travel from Nelson to attend a class, which I have attended for 2 years. Even if the class continued at the new school I would have to travel further.

Possibly less opportunity to play sport on a regular basis, will have to travel further. May lose members of our badminton club if club nights have to change with a different venue - which we have not been able to identify

Force a large badminton club to find other facilities as readily available as Pontllanfraith. Causing a lot of inconvenience for the club, the clubs future & its members

May not be able to book at alternative leisure centre. Have to travel further

What impact will the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre have on you?

First I must say I work in the evenings & have been given no opportunity to engage in the face to face consultation meetings. Please consider arranging another date earlier in the day - before 2pm. I attend Joannes yoga classes at 11AM on Tues & Thurs, and swim at Cefn Fforest. Caerphilly & Newbridge are too far away & are holding no yoga classes.

Possibly exercising less a week due to travelling further. Similarly paying more as privately run classes charge per class as opposed to a monthly payment.

Play badminton regular struggle to book in other facilities.

Other leisure centres too busy and too far away as Pont is on our doorstep.

Make it much more efficient to book courts as there will be limited spaces available.

Struggle to use other leisure centres as this is on our doorstep. Also use of sports hall has allocated badminton times.

Devastating and will feel lost without it

This will have a massive impact on myself as I frequently use the leisure centre and have done for the last 27 years. The proximity of the LC is very convenient.

Lack of local sports centre in the area to use with access to a variety of activities and classes. Near to my place of work which is convenient and within easy reach of Blackwood town centre.

My club would have to relocate and I would not be able to attend any longer. There would not be a gym in my area.

No netball training

We would be unable to train.

Nowhere to train netball

Unable to train. No use of gym

No available netball court. Further to travel for the fitness suite.

No other netball training facilities nearby for Blackwood that's not already taken by another club. More cost travelling to another court.

No training facilities near so less exercising

Difficulty to exercise - no training facility near by. Have to travel further for exercise classes.

It would make it much more difficult for me to exercise regularly.

It means we have to stop training every Wednesday.

No other leisure centre around that's local

Unable to use sports hall to train for local netball club and will lose a facility to hold friendly matches from ages 5-67

No netball training

Limited opportunity for physical exercise

PLC is local to myself & my children. It provides fitness facilities for all family members. To take away an established centre is ridiculous. Spend the money on the centre.

Will make it harder to keep fit daily and I will not reach my goal of losing weight.

Have to travel further for facilities

I use the centre on a regular basis, both myself and the children I foster. I know that any club attempting to book the facilities at the new Islwyn High School are having difficulties, as they are now fully subscribed & booked out, plus there is no gym, squash courts etc. Pont LC is used by many clubs on a regular basis as always booked out. Islwyn High will always give preference to school activities over outside clubs wishing to use it.

It will impact on my mental health & general fitness. As a non driver the LC is a perfect location for me to access by foot (as many others)

What impact will the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre have on you?

Been trying to improve my health and wellbeing

Finding classes at different centres. Travel further.

Impact on health and fitness as I attend the gym 5 to 6 times per week

Pont leisure centre offers a convenient location for both courses & fitness suite uses. Loss of the fitness suite here would result in an influx of above to the already strained gym services, affecting service users. As an avid attendee of lifestyle classes, loss of instructor, fellow attendees & staff would make some of us 2nd guess our commitment to the local leisure centres.

Lack of badminton facilities. Coach girls football and struggle for bookings

Missing out on classes and workouts. Having to travel further.

I have visited the centre 3 times per week for approx. 34 years. Personally the impact of the closure would be huge. To strike a balance between work life and to fit in personal health and wellbeing training for me the centre is conveniently located. Its small enough not to feel intimidated by other users, the staff are friendly and knowledgeable. By closing Pontllanfraith the numbers in the other leisure centres will increase and they will become too full particularly at peak times.

Reduce my quality of health and life. I attend my local centre to improve my health and lifestyle.

Won't be able to have regular exercise or attend classes I enjoy

I wouldn't use the gym as often

I have been here for several years and my classes are busy!!! My users love this facility!

Have nowhere to go whilst children do their activities. Miss the social aspects of the group exercise. Need to think about poor weather so outside activity not always possible.

Struggle to attend exercise classes

My son uses the 3G pitch and grass pitch at least twice a week. This will impact greatly upon his ability to continue with his sporting activities

Won't be able to find the range of classes offered at other local facilities. Neither Cefn Fforest or Newbridge have the same range of classes during the evening. This will have a massive impact on my fitness and general health and wellbeing.

Will have a big impact on me because it is the nearest leisure centre.

Everything. My fitness level will change as I refuse to use any other LC. The centre in Pontllanfraith is fab and all staff are very helpful and polite. They are extremely friendly and welcoming. The LC in Pont is convenient as it is on my way home from work. Loss of the LC would mean loss of fab instructors who are knowledgeable and helpful. They get involved with the people here and help when needed.

Loss of local access to day time classes in the dance studio. Relocating opportunity for health & fitness classes during daytime for residents who cannot access evening classes.

Won't have a place to do Zumba

I live in Risca so further to travel

I feel the closure will impact upon me because it is due to the convenience of the LC and the atmosphere within it why I joined there in the first place. I feel that I would not get the service or good atmosphere at any other centre. The other centres are also out of the area too much for me to access as regularly as Pontllanfraith, which would impact on me keeping up with my health & fitness.

I will have to use the newbridge centre instead.

HUGE! Pont Leisure is local, easy to reach and a vibrant community hub. Both my sons have said they will not bother going anywhere else if the Council close this facility. My boys learnt the following skills at Pont Leisure: kyokushin karate Football skills Soft tennis Badminton Squash How to use gym equipment Both have accessed Dof E provision based at the site for their awards We simply not be minded to travel ever farther afield should this centre close. If CCBC cannot keep it open, then transfer it to a community trust or new community bas

What impact will the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre have on you?

Will have to travel further, which costs more money, if I want to go to a leisure centre which is less accessible

i will have to catch the bus to the nearest gym as i can't drive, whereas Pont Leisure is a 5 minute walk away from where i live and doesn't cost as much as other available gyms. It has everything that is needed, and the workers are really kind.

Are alternative arrangements/facilities in place to meet your needs?



Please give details of alternative arrangements below.

There are no badminton courts, no 3G football pitch, no fitness suite available locally, you are ruining our children's future for short term penny pinching

None

There has been no mention if the current classes/instructors would be relocated

Ticked the No box because the other leisure centres are 1 or 2 bus rides away and evening bus services very infrequent. Wouldn't be plausible to attend any evening activities. Use Newbridge swimming pool for aqua fit for the simple reason there is no swimming pool in Pontllanfraith!

No gym going in Iswlyn high for public and Cefn Fforest gym is not big enough.

No gym or dance studio being put in Iswlyn High. Cefn Fforest is insufficient to meet the needs of the larger community as it is too small and Newbridge and Heolddu is too far away.

There are no close amenities other than Pontllanfraith leisure centre. The closest are either Tetrads Mynach or Newbridge both over 2 miles away.

Not enough facilities available to cover the area, teams will miss out and eventually will have to merge into other sides thus clubs will lose identity, members will leave, players won't get game time, thus kids will stop playing. We already have a high percentage of obesity in the area in both adults and children so closing a facility will only increase this problem. CCBC should be investing in the health and welfare of its constituents.

The alternative arrangement is to go to Newbridge Leisure Centre but this is not convenient and lacking in availability.

Newbridge Leisure Centre

Alternative leisure centres are too far to travel to and would not have time to do my classes on weeknights due to this.

Time slots are too busy

When arranging ingredients eating last night, there was no carry answer that other facilities will be put in place. To replace the

Unsure.

Go to privately owned gym now

Classes at other nearby venues do not meet our needs/times/transport issues

There are none, the gyms elsewhere are fully booked, and that applies to dance studios if any in other leisure centres

The next decent facility is Newbridge. And they don't have a 3G pitch and Iswlyn doesn't have one at a high enough spec. Iswlyn doesn't have squash courts either.

Please give details of alternative arrangements below.

Other leisure centres do not have convenient classes times etc that fit around my work family commitments Also even though other leisure centres ie newbridge due to being very popular the facilities and car park are always busy and sometimes hard to use said facilities so I think closing Pont will put a bigger strain on these leisure centres therefore classes / gym will be even busier

Through private local gyms

nothing within a few miles.i dont want alternate ,i want the local leisure centre ,its not a burden financially therefore should stay.its not about money its about the community

There are none Newbridge has no dance studio and we cannot use hall because of school use.The new school in Blackwood would not allow morning classes because of the children in school.Bargoed and Caerphilly are too far especially with road works in Caerhilly.So as you can see there is nowhere we can go.

Ystrad Mynach is way too expensive!

Islwyn high does not have squash courts or offer fitness classes...

Islwyn high is always booked especially for the days we need. Blackwood comp the flood lights are broke and they haven't got the funding to replace them plus it is always booked up on the days we need just like every other venue that has artificial pitches also it is to expensive. Our under 7s and 8s play matches at pont every Sunday and I was told that islwyn high doesn't do Sunday opening

Islwyn high has no gym and would not be open in daytime or for casual users.

there is nowhere local that would suffice

Closing the local leisure centre reduces the options available to residents to access their local facilities making it more difficult and more expensive to travel the the next nearest facilities.

Are there lesuire facilities still in the area, yes Newbridge lesuire and the less than adequate facilities at Islwyn High but they are already highly in demand and there is not enough amenities to cater for everyone who wishes to use them.

No where else available to book courts! Not enough available facilities for our rugby team to be able to train effectively once a week and there aren't any reasonably priced fitness centres within walking distance

Yes but only if I start using a private fitness suite.

As discussed above

N/a

Other venue does not open on a Sunday !

There are no alternative arrangements available.

not at this time. Islwyn High School booked and too far away as most walk to Pontllanfraith - therefore the change will increase road traffic

Alternatives are available at Islywn high, Newbridge and possible Blackwood school in the future but these are all further afield

Islwyn High school cant take any more groups so anyone using Pont has no where to go

Absolutely no alternative arrangements are in place. I've already stated that the new Islwyn High School is not fit for purpose.

Nil

As above I answered them all in the first question

Nott happy that the alternative site proposed (Islwyn High) is closed in half term and summer hols. There has been no consideration for Allison (fitness instructor) to be relocated. Considering she works 5 nights a week I can see many leaving Caerphilly membership scheme to follow her training sessions elsewhere. I for one will be willing to reinvest my membership money elsewhere.

None

Please give details of alternative arrangements below.

Other facilities are booked to tge max already and are unable to accommodate reasonable times and space. It also means we have to travel 4+ milesto an altwrnative leisure centre.

No available 4g are available for either of my sons teams.

None

Classes at Pontllanfraith are ran at suitable times, other leisure centres don't do this

There will not be enough courts in the area.

Don't know

I would have to travel further to other centres in the Caerphilly County Borough area, or cancel my membership and join a private gym.

Newbridge, Yoga class to resite

Gym, squash courts etc.

I use Cefn Fforest

We already use Newbridge LC. Family commitments of current class members will probably mean non-attendance at the different facility - as experienced when soccer skills (Pontllanfraith) Friday night class closed.

Newbridge LC has badminton courts but these are usually fully booked or being used for other sports. I need transport to access NLC I can walk to PLC.

None known of. I have epilepsy which means I am unable to drive, I have to use other means of travel.

Nearest similar alternatives are at Newbridge LC.

Alternative facilities available at Islwyn High,however due to significant demand there is limited or no availability. Other sited such as Newbridge & Centre of Excellance are also fully booked & have waiting lists.

Not known! Facilities in the area but availability is unclear.

Not sure of alternative arrangements. No spaces at other facilities for football. Closing PLC will not help the lack of facilities for football teams.

It has been proposed that our club booking will transfer to Islwyn High. This is too far away for us. It's also unavailable for a large part of the year, ie exam times Dec/Jan & May/June as sports hall is set up for exams.

Gym exercise will have to end

Newbridge - but I would have to take car.

Only alternative will be to travel further and incur extra costs - thereby removing my lifestyle membership

Apparently the new school at Oakdale has alternative facilities

I have ticked "YES" to this question because alternative arrangements were put in place but no consideration on how people who don,t drive were going to get to these places. As in my case Pontllanfraith is a 10 min walk for me but going to other centres (eg; Risca or New Tredegar) would require catching at the least two buses.

Islwyn school

We would attend Newbridge but not really happy with sports hall facilities. Pont is perfect for us as a group & for me as an older person.

No classes would match the standard of the ones I attend in Pont.

Other sites with facilities available but will they be available to book. less facilities - more users!!!

May relocate to Newbridge however many members are against this proposal. They are open to using the pitch at Islwyn High.

Please give details of alternative arrangements below.

No other arrangements would be good to me as I don't drive, Pont is local to me

None provided

See above. Although it has been indicated we can be accommodated we do not see how everyone can be satisfied with the loss of this centre which is heavily used by clubs & public. Have found in past that using school facilities is inconvenient as the school only seems interested in themselves & no one else using the sports hall.

How can the alternative venue provide facilities for all the current classes, gym, sports hall activities

Have not been able to find any alternative arrangements that can offer the same.

CCBC promotes exercise yet you move to take our 2 local amenities away - many people can walk there. I strongly urge you to reconsider closing Pontllanfraith & Cefn Fforest LC.

Newbridge - although hard to book courts

Newbridge

Newbridge - but very hard to book badminton court

None

Haven't been told anything, maybe Islwyn High.

No info given

N/A

?

No information given

No yoga classes available locally.

That club that I use on a Sunday cannot gat any bookings at Islwyn High or Newbridge as always booked out.

Newbridge - but not keen

There are not enough to fulfil the demand

Attend other leisure centres which is a poor alternative.

There are no alternative arrangements that I am aware of.

N/A

Newbridge - but I'm not keen on the staff and the gym itself. Pont is the only place I feel comfortable exercising - the other centres are intimidating.

Not locally - would have to travel to Caerphilly - day time classes ie Yoga, limited

Don't know

There are no other arrangements to my knowledge

I'll use newbridge

There simply are not. Private facilities are too costly and cliquey. Community centres by their nature are too unpredictable and of poor standards.

I don't know of any and I don't drive so couldn't easily get to the other leisure centers

Please detail how the impact of the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre could be further reduced?

Would save money by not building a new pitch and also I would like to point out at the new super school built islwayn high school that their gym facilities are not even up to gym standards only got a couple of machines there and cannot be used during school times which will have a knock on effect with anyone working shift patterns and I will be one of those.

Build another leisure centre

By providing another facility of equal or better standard on this side of the valley.

Surely this decision contradicts the best interests of the community? Heart disease is a killer, exercise has been shown to be beneficial and helps rehabilitation. Let's get proactive with more not less leisure facilities before we have to build another Hospital. Diesel or petrol cars is very political, how about less reliance on vehicles with facilities closer to their home? Isn't the proposal to shut being taken with no consideration the the health and air quality of our environment and the people you represent

You need to decide that. You're making these decisions

Transport provided and same facilities

Simply don't give into corporate greed. We need these facilities for our children.

If the council were to relocate the leisure centre to a different site within the vicinity of Pontllanfraith.

It can not be reduced. the impact is eminence. There are classes that help those with mobility and weight loss that will now only be available at each end of the county in New Tredegar or Risca leisure centre. Everything is being taken from the Pontllanfraith and Blackwood wards of Caerphilly council which is not fair to the residents of the area.

Facilities and amenities should be, being added to the area to accommodate the families who will be moving into the area, as well as to continue to supply to the need of the current user. The facilities should be, being invested in to provide the new and existing residents with leisure activities. The new homes alone, would provide the council with substantial income from the council tax fees, this money should be fed back into to the area, to allow for more community friendly areas.

Keep it open Viable

The council need to understand that funding unrequired road works, social housing, unrequired huge staff bill (office based) and shocking redundancy pay offs for staff who have already profited from council tax payers - they need to look at funding for beneficial means such as sports and leisure.

Major

Hard to see how other leisure centres could run more classes/increase availability.

Leave the building open.

The centre is always very well attended and seems busier now than ever. I have been playing here for 25 years as I used to live in Blackwood area.

Keep the leisure centre open

Not Close it! There is nothing wrong with the leisure centre.

Keep venue open/ invest in the facility. Newbridge is full to capacity. Cwmcarn LC was the centre of the community. The community has suffered since its closure.

Don't close it altogether.

Increase facilities in Newbridge & classes. Make school facilities available. Need something in Blackwood.

By not closing it. Or plan a new one in this area, not one further away.

Keep it open

The lack of equivalent alternative facilities from the 3G pitch to the sports hall, from the squash courts to the fitness suite means the closure of the leisure centre will have a massive detrimental affect on those who use it.

Please detail how the impact of the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre could be further reduced?

It can't be reduced - once closed these classes will stop - having a detrimental effect on members physical & mental wellbeing.

It just takes another facility away and the community needs this centre. Do not close the centre it is part of the community.

It could have been reduced/prevented/more difficult to close has Leisure Services Management been more pro active with community based events, using not only Pontllanfraith but other LC's as a hub or integral part of these activities.

Building more courts & facilities at NLC & CFLC & running more classes in both of these but that still leaves the issue of transport!!

By reducing the membership fee because you're going to provide less of a service and it will cost more to go to another gym. You provide less, you pay less. Please don't blame Westminster Gov, or cuts to local Gov funding, we pay more & more but get less for it.

Let there be no closure. Add a swimming pool to Pont leisure.

Can classes be held nearby? Can the same facilities be offered nearby? What will happen to all the local clubs that use the centre. Pont LC is very popular and provides excellent service to all.

By keeping the main building open

Build a new leisure centre for them, or keep Pontllanfraith open.

The relocation of the 3G to Blackwood would soften the blow of losing the pitch but the closure of the well used centre will see increase in demand at already busy centres.

Develop for current users (as per discussions with CCBC)

Why close the LC? The 3G is very popular. 2 schools have closed which both had pitches, replaced with just 1 pitch at Islwyn. Keep pont open & change Oakdale astroturf to 3G. Customers should be provided with alternatives if Pont LC closes.

Keep it open to provide facilities for the local community. The county promote health & wellbeing yet are looking to close well used facilities that allow the local community to keep fit and active.

Keep it open. It provides great facilities and is the most profitable in the county - why close it?

Providing a varied activity timetable at a nearby leisure centre such as Newbridge which currently does not have facilities to host activities, yoga, pilates, body conditioning etc. Don't close leisure centre at Pontllanfraith.

Do not close the centre - Pay a visit to the car park from Mon - Thurs and see how well this centre is used.

DON'T CLOSE IT.

By having local fitness class arrangements made by CCBC which are affordable & regular within Pontllanfraith.

Don't close it!!

Don't close it

By not closing it. There is already high demand for the facilities in Caerphilly & closing will mean less availability.

Keep the building open

Don't close it - it is well used

My view is it should remain open as over 90,000 persons use the centre each year. It would impact on numerous people and other centres are already overcrowded.

Ensure fitness instructors jobs are protected as well as CCBC staff jobs. Ensure classes will be facilitated elsewhere in another leisure centre with the same teacher.

Do not close

Please detail how the impact of the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre could be further reduced?

By not closing it!

Another location becomes available which is easily accessible & still within the same area, at least closer to the area than Newbridge LC

Use sports hall for bigger fitness classes

By not shutting the leisure centre as many individuals use it.

Keeping it open. Rebuilding the leisure centre local to Pontllanfraith

By not closing it or building another LC to replace it. By closing this LC this will have a big impact on the health & wellbeing of the people in the area.

We have existed as a club since 1970's/80's we spent most of that time at Cwncarn school, when it closed we were offered 2 hours at Newbridge. We were subsequently accommodated at Pont as there was pressure at Newbridge due to other clubs from Cwncarn. We are happy here the staff are extremely helpful to everyone.

If funding is the issue why not consider focusing on spend that is irrelevant and of no benefit to the council tax payers. Food banks being used by the wrong client base. Millions wasted on accommodation for CCBC office staff (Tredomen) and foolish bonus/wages for management. You are not private, you are funded by us. Listen to those who pay for you.

I may either have to travel further which may dissuade me from attending & attend RCT centres instead as class may no longer be provided.

More information that is easily accessible, information shared as consultation progresses

A suitable replacement facility, available for regular & constructive use for all members

Build a new LC in Blackwood or better still Don't Close Pont! Some sports eg football will be catered for elsewhere but there won't be extra badminton courts. This means I cannot play at all. CCBC should be promoting sport not closing facilities.

It is hard to imagine an area as big as Blackwood not to have a leisure centre. A new and improved LC should be built to cater for the people from the new houses which are being built on the school site and adjacent to Grove Park. For the future use of the community. I strongly oppose these closures.

Probably if too difficult to get a court our group will drift apart.

More classes at other centres which are sadly lacking

Unless it is kept open the impact can not be reduced. As well as creating geographical and access issues, there will also be a great negative impact socially creating further magnitude of issues and problems.

Something else in the nearby area offering the same facilities. Alternatively keeping the centre open at peak times.

Don't close it

By giving us another place to train.

Tell us where the new training facility will be!

Do not close. Update the facilities resulting in a better centre for users. In particular with new housing planned.

Provide another leisure centre for us to train

Provide another sports location

Open sports hall in Islwyn High School

Opening a council facility leisure centre near the same area

Provide another leisure centre

Please detail how the impact of the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre could be further reduced?

Be able to provide a suitable venue in the local area so players that cannot drive are bale to get to training.

Continue yoga classes locally. Add additional well being classes locally - eg Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates

Spend the money on the building. Facilitate it better - encouraging more people from the local area to use the centre. An established karate lesson/group has been here for 35 years.

?

By not closing it, and spending some funds upgrading it!!!

Don't close it! It will be incredibly damaging to the community!!

Open a local facility or improve Cefn Forest

Could keep leisure centre if i.e. houses are built new customers & more revenue from locals - more profit for CCBC in long run.

loss of enjoyable classes as alternatives may result in having to travel multiple locations to attend rearranged classes, this would make it annoying and inconvenient for myself with scheduling. Also increased time spent travelling for what could be unnecessary if the gym remained open. Ideally find a closer location within the area offering current or similar class schedules if the gym has to close.

Need to keep present instructor for Zumba classes

Re Consider its Closure! The centre attracts a large catchment area. It is well used and supported by the individuals and various sporting clubs. With obesity rates rising particularly amongst young people it is more important than ever to provide leisure facilities throughout the borough to meet the needs of everyone.

By maintaining a local focus for health and wellbeing for the community by maintaining the LC within any new build plans. This will keep both new homes owners, employees and centre users happy.

Don't close it

Monitor usage. Caerphilly Borough needs leisure facilities as high levels of obesity & sedentary behaviour. Great classes.

This will be further reduced by the centre remaining open.

The simple answer to this would be to keep it open. The centre is well used. The range of classes offered here are the best in the local area. The instructors are fantastic and the staff are brilliant. I see no reason to close a well used facility.

To remain open

Loss of LC could mean loss of classes as people would have to travel to other LC which would result in a longer travelling time and distance in travelling. This would be very inconvenient to many members such as myself

More daytime classes in Blackwood/Pontllanfraith/Newbridge area

By remaining open, not just for myself but for others

N/a

If CCBC cannot keep it open, then transfer it to a community trust or new community based organisation...I for one would lend my skills to this as a volunteer!

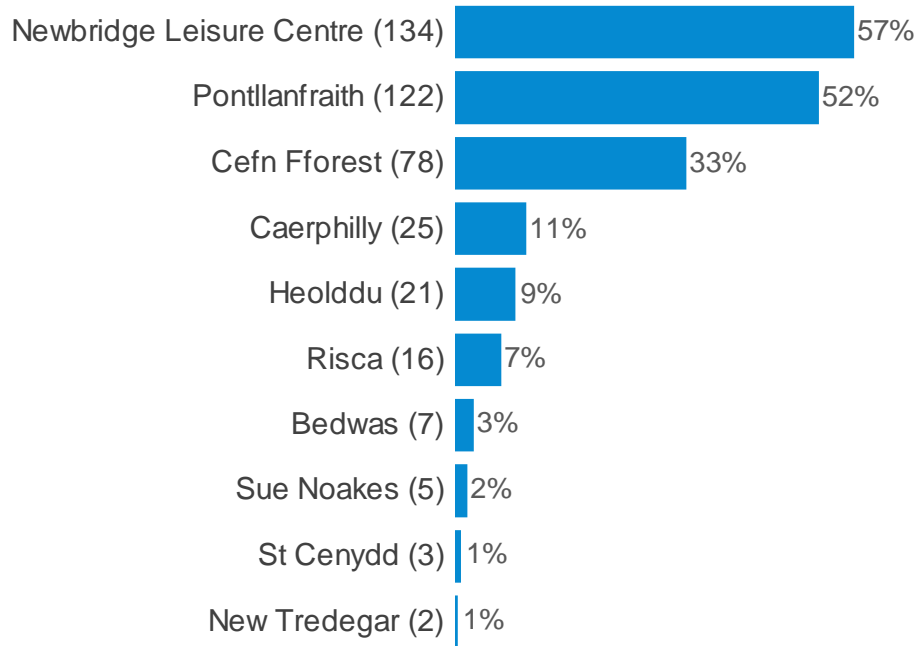
Don't close it refurbish it

not closing it would be a good start. everyone i know enjoys using the leisure centre and to close it would be a really bad idea. not to mention the fact that islwyn high school's new gym only includes 4 spins bikes and one set of weights. the dance studio is half the size of the pont studio, and there are no bus routes what so ever to the new school.

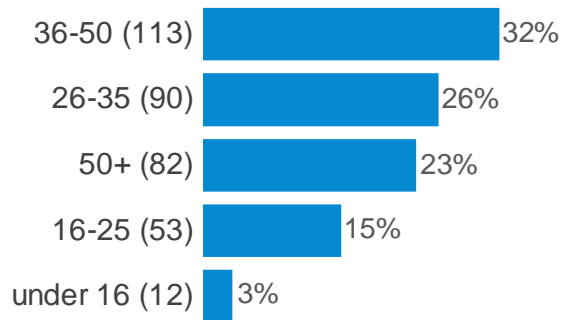
Are you a Caerphilly Lifestyle member?



Do you use any other leisure facilities in the Caerphilly county borough area?



What is your age group



Are you



Please provide your postcode.

NP12 2NS	NP12 2ET	NP12 2HB
NP11 4HP	NP12 2NY	NP11 7FW
NP12 3NF	NP12 2NY	NP12 2FD
NP12 1QF	NP11 7AP	NP12 1HH
NP12 3JY	NP12 3RE	NP12 0GY
NP12 0SF	CF46 5BS	CF83 1SG
NP12 3NX	NP12 2ED	NP12 2PR
NP12 1DH	NP22 5BQ	NP12 2GP
CF82 7QQ	NP12 1SD	NP12 1HB
NP12 2FW	NP12 1DF	NP11 7DJ
NP12 1EG	NP12 1DX	NP12 0PE
NP12 0NG	NP11 7LG	NP12 1EW
NP12 2PJ	NP12 2HP	NP11 6QY
CF83 1DH	NP11 7GY	NP12 1ED
NP12 2PD	NP11 4TP	Np121ba
NP11 7LD	NP12 0DS	np12 1fs
NP11 7LD	NP12 2PY	np12 1fs
NP12 0AH	CF81 8TQ	NP12 1WX
CF83 3PA	NP12 2JA	
CF83 3PA	NP12 0UG	
NP12 2DP	NP12 2HP	
NP12 2JL	NP12 0RA	
NP12 2FT	CF82 7GR	
NP12 2FT	NP12 2HX	
NP12 2DA	NP12 0BG	
np12 2pf	NP12 1NW	
NP12 1QG	NP11 3AD	
NP12 2JT	NP11 3AF	
NP12 2JT	NP12 1NW	
NP11 6QY	NP12 1FS	
CF83 3PA	NP12 3RB	
NP12 1DD	NP12 0ES	
NP12 2ER	NP12	
NP12 3TR	NP12 2DE	
NP12 3TR	NP12 1JA	
NP12 1QA	CF83 3GU	
NP12 3NP	NP12 2EG	
NP11 3JF	NP12 2QN	
NP11 7LG	NP12 2GB	
NP12 2FJ	NP12 2PE	
NP12 2EJ	NP12 1HA	

To protect anonymity, a full range of monitoring questions has not been included. However, if your response to any of the questions in this survey have been impacted by any of the following (age, disability, ethnic origin, gender, gender reassignment, marital status, religious belief or non-belief, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality or responsibility for any dependents) please give details below.

I have two teenage children who use this facility

At present, my priority is my daughter, I am not thinking about anyone else directly in my family or myself.

I suffer from bipolar, emotional personality disorder and anxiety.

None

You have an aging population in the borough who need local and accessible services.

The welsh language law was passed in more affluent times, perhaps it is now time for a rethink before we lose to many more important facilities or services?

think it should stay open

Na

None

This form does not work properly on a mobile device. Given that most people will be completing this on a mobile device, it should have been thoroughly tested. This is a requirement of government services.

Disability, mental health and physical health

Just starting my retirement & keen to keep fit & socialise.

As I don't drive, finding a way to get to the alternative centres will be very difficult

Q4 Impact of the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre

No sports facilities available in the local area, and no the edge of Blackwood is not local to Pontllanfraith.

Pontllanfraith has nothing for children to do as it is, limited parks are available, broken Muga's and I think that's it. Leisure centre block bookings are tough enough to get as it is, Islwyn high should be opened as a further service to what is there not a replacement.

There aren't enough sports grounds for the children/adults as it is now, you can't train on grass pitches , very few grass areas have floodlights anyway, using pont and islwyn outside pitches would give the sports clubs more oppurunities to beable to offer the children of caerphilly more chance of being able to train on a safe pitch that is well lit. On one hand child exercise is encouraged and then Caerohilly borough aren't taking the chance to have more availability. Our club will continue to have some teams that aren't able to train during th.....

There are no other facilities by me to do fitness classes, the next nearest would be Caerphilly. Also my son's karate classes would be cancelled. The centre is always busy as I can barely ever park there.

As a club based in Oakdale we have struggled to book facilities outside of the village, Pontllanfraith and Newbridge included. Islwyn High has opened and we applied for use of the 3G in the evenings for 1 hour on a Wednesday and 1 hour on a Thursday. This is needed to accommodate 6 teams. We were allocated 1/2 a pitch for 1 hour on a Wednesday only, meaning during the winter when grass facilities are unplayable we will have 50+ children with nowhere to train . The closure of Pontllanfraith 3G, if the funding to transfer cannot be found will mean...

Many of my clubs teams have trained on Pont 3G pitch for years and it would have a massive impact on the club and the local community to lose such a wonderful resource. Teams have trained on the same day for years and losing this pitch and being unlikely to find another on the same day could result in teams folding. The staff in Pont, particularly John, have built a real community feel to the centre and would be greatly missed.

Won't be able to attend local fitness classes or use the gym. We've been going every week for several years and see the same people every week - it's a real community and friendly feel there. There's some great classes held there by the instructors and at much more convenient times than other leisure centres. The staff and instructors are excellent.

Very much against the closure

It will mean the loss of a training facility for clubs in the locality. Ultimately this could lead to clubs, sides folding and also reduce the opportunities for youngsters to get fit, make friends and enjoy themselves driving them back indoors on the Xbox etc. There are no where near enough facilities in this area, and we wonder why grass roots sports struggle, just look at the number of teams folding in both football and rugby, it's a trend on the increase and is robbing our children of their childhoods and adding to the obesity epidemic meltin

Will have to travel to different leisure centres, may cancel membership and go to a private gym. Really disappointed, and upset by this

I use this facility 5 days a week mostly for the gym. It's practical and perfect for me being able to attend from work and the leisure centre having a good group of employees and users. The gym is not like your ordinary gym where you cannot get on any machines or weights it has a close knit group and I love attending there and feel no other gym could offer me what this one does. Also all the classes that take place there throughout the week are fab and would be greatly missed if this gym was to close.

Only place near for residents of Pontllanfraith and children / families are able to gain access via walking distance Won't be able to attend fitness classes - yoga kettlebell or circuits. Attend regularly with my partner and neighbours and we've been going years now. The same people attend the classes and it's really nice to see familiar faces as it becomes more of a social thing rather than just exercise! We know the instructors really well and they are fab - highly skilled in their roles and so friendly and helpful. The other local leisure centres are tiny and don't run the same types of classes or have the same facilities. The bigger leisure centres are jus...

I don't believe the other Caerphilly leisure centres are able to accommodate the extra capacity of closure of pontllanfraith. Newbridge is at capacity for the 3G pitch and sports classes are full (plus instructors are rude there in my opinion). pontllanfraith has a clean and well maintained 3G pitch with ample parking and facilities of which will be missed greatly if demolished. Caerphilly Ccbc should be investing more in sports and health and well being not remove g facilities

I attend the yoga classes there. The only other leisure centre than runs yoga is Caerphilly. This is significantly further for me to travel.

I have tried the Newbridge leisure centre and found it very imposing and impersonal i didn't feel able to start my fitness regime and left very disappointed I wouldn't feel able to catry on with my fitness program

As a local resident and a user of the facility, it would have a great impact on my family if the facility were to close with no replacement made available.

It is the closest facility to my house that offers both parents and children the chance to play in a girls only football team.

Moving further away would stop them playing as our time is tight anyway so further travelling would be impossible. The council continually cut funding to leisure services and hide behind the fact that other areas have excellent facilities....well I want facilities local to me! Everything involves having to have a car because services are so far away. Closing the leisure centre would be detrimental to the health and well being of This closure will have a tremendous impact as I do not drive and would struggle to get to another leisure centre. I will have to use other gym facilities which will incur extra cost and travelling times won't be able to train there and won't be able to play soccer sixes

We have used the 3g pitch weekly for the last few years and find it an excellent venue as it's located for everyone to get too.

I'll have to travel a lot further to use the already oversubscribed Newbridge Leisure Centre where the car parking is awful and the fitness suite is ram packed full of people.

As well as myself, both of my children regularly use these facilities. They are both able to walk to and from the centre and keep themselves fit and active. There is very little around this area for teenage children to do and to take this facility away would be disgraceful. As a member of a local rugby team, the 4G is regularly used for training throughout the winter also.

Very big impact on me, it is the nearest centre to me and it is really handy. Please don't close it. Everyone loves this leisure centre and it is always busy

We will have to find alternative venues to train at we have been using the facilities for several years and feel that the leisure centre is used often enough to warrant a solid case for it to remain open to the public. Closing this site will have a negative effect on the community as there is not enough for the public as there is. Surely the council should look to minimise boredom for the youth of the surrounding areas of the centre by keeping what they have available open and running as for a lot this is the only outlet they have to play sports,

I will have to look for alternative fitness activities. I am very happy with the proximity of the leisure centre and the times the classes are taking place, as well as the instructors. It will be difficult to find the same level of service elsewhere

Travelling further away as a team to train.

The centre is within walking distance for my whole family that use it weekly. Oakdale is a car journey for my wife and myself. And a bus journey for my children. My son already uses the new facility at oakdale for football training and that seems to be very busy already. Surely we should be keeping and adding to anything that helps to get people active!!!!

At age 56 and actively playing squash to keep fit which is what we are all being told to do this will sadly end as we play at 4.15 and most courts would not be available at this time.

Massive. We currently use the 3G pitch as our home playing pitch and have done for 3 years. The closure would leave us without a home pitch and put us at a huge financial risk We also use the facility for our training sessions

None

I will have to miss out on a weekly fitness class

None if the pitch is moved to blackwood school in good time and not promised for later and never happens

Only full size AstroTurf football pitch available for use in the area.

There is no availability for slots for training on other pitches within the borough. Supply does not currently satisfy demand & this will be worse if Pontllanfraith closes.

I believe this is a good move for the community and would benefit from a local community hall with organised events more.

I've recently started coming to this leisure centre as I have changed jobs and find the Zumba timetable suits me better at pont over Newbridge which I had been attending. I will be sad if it closes and I would be considering cancelling my membership that I have held for almost 4 years now.

unsure whether the karate club will continue if closed or where it would be held. Would the 3G pitch still be as available to the existing clubs that use it with all the other clubs that currently use existing Blackwood comprehensive facilities?!

Further to travel with no access to car. People are trying to get fit/healthy and with closure of this facility this will be a negative impact on local residents who won't/can't travel further afield.

I live within walking distance of the leisure centre and will now have to drive to use facilities elsewhere. The facilities at Pontllanfraith may not be the most modern but they are often available when other centres are fully booked.

Further to travel

A Huge and Great impact if this place closes I'm not interested in traveling further up to the new super school when I have it around the corner as it is now it's close and I don't have to travel far with kids. And why waste it if it's there and the council has spent the money on it, in the first place.

Once again left to travel miles to gain access to sport. Awful proposal. No way will I vote Labour again if this goes through. I'm a party member!

It's close to home and within walking distance so very handy and has many things going on that I am interested in! Badminton courts, Zumba etc

A lot as I live there locally and always use the leisure centre as it lbs the closest one to me. Also Islwyn high the football pitch is not big enough so they could use pontllanfraith Astro turf as a back up.

Will have to travel further

Absolute nightmare. Find it terrible. Pontllanfraith must say for everyone.

Will make it difficult to play sports weekly and will put facilities further away

As this is the nearest Leisure Centre to my address, closure of the centre would mean having to travel further to centres within the County Borough which may not have all the facilities. Also more residents will be using the other local centres making it more difficult to book a court on the day and time requested.

Travelling here to close to my home -my son goes to activites eg rugby and football club in school holidays - unable to travel

My child who suffers with chronic constipation will go backwards rather than forwards with his development.

Both my boys get to do an activity that suits there needs, so taken it away from them will affect them on not only bonding but on the physical side of things.

It is already apparent that the new high school to replace 3 schools closing or about to close. Regarding funding, any proposed sale of the site will generate a substantial amount of money. We have already been told that Caerphilly c B C no longer prioritise leisure in their budgets. As part of the sale of the site, it would be useful and more effective to apply condition

Very little

Will have to travel extra distance to use facilities that have been made available to me in the last 25 years at Pontllanfraith. due to being ecologically minded, I walk to/from whenever possible but will have to now drive. parking has always been hit and miss at Pontllanfraith with a large car park. but due to the exceptionally small amount of parking available at nearby sites, cannot see this being a sensible option. the decision to close this leisure centre will cement my decision to not use CCBC facilities in the future and will happily

We use the 3g pitch on a week day evening for our team training. We use this facility because it offers a pitch that is not likely to be frozen or flooded and the benefits of lighting. We are a rugby team serving the community. For safety issues amongst many others, we need this facility to stay open. We cannot train on an unlit area. The latest school (Islwyn High) will not have the capacity to serve everyone's needs. It is full to the brim now..... and that's before any closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

Big impact on me and my child. The council should be encouraging more sports facilities but closing them and spreading them around the borough not just in Ystrad Mynach where the councillors live

Our club will have to find another place to play.

Already struggle to book a slot locally on any 3G or 4 G pitch so with the closure of Pontllanfraith this will make it impossible.

We have been playing football on this 3g pitch for the last few years and it has been ideal. Central to everyone who plays football there and loads of friensly staff. I think it will be a real shame if this is closed

As a casual user of the leisure facilities I would like to know, with all this extra housing being built both in pontllanfraith and Hawtin park, what infrastructure is in place to accommodate all the extra influx of people. The new Islwyn High school won't be able to support this and neither will the local health centres, who are probably at full capacity as it is. Closing these leisure centres only makes it worse as the remaining few centres wont be able to cope or supply the activities of the closed centres. Pont leisure has a lot of footfall

The proposed closure of this leisure centre would be a big disappointment to me and would probably result in me not relocating the class i take there, in any other facility, thus children missing out on exercise. i visit a few of caerphilly leisure centres occassionally and none of them other than pontllanfraith have the same friendly staff and a centre that has a warm welcoming feeling. This centre is ideal size and not intimidating like the feeling you get at some of the other centres. I know of a few young people who live within walking dist

As I am a foster carer the children won't have any facilities that are local within walking distance to go.

It will be devastating for the local community to lose the facilities. My whole family use the gym, fitness classes and sports hall to keep fit, socialise whilst playing sport and remain active. Without the leisure centre, as non drivers, this would not be possible.

Massive impact and would force me into buying a gym membership i can't afford

It is already very difficult to book a court. Oakdale has 1 less court so that will make it even more difficult to make a booking. This will result in me having to give up playing badminton as there is no availability elsewhere.

A detrimental impact

It will have a massive impact, due to my mental health disabilities and anxiety I am only able to use a small quiet gym. I find the pont gym a very safe place to use in the morning as it's quiet and the staff are very friendly. Losing this facility will have a massive impact on my mental health and fitness as I don't feel able to use any other gyms in the area.

The leisure centre is in walking distance of my house, there is no other sports facilities within walking distance. This meaning I will have to drive to my next nearest centre, which is Newbridge. May I add that the Newbridge centre has the worst car parking facilities in all the borough.

I have used this Leisure Centre for a number of years, being a local resident and attending the former Comprehensive School. I have used a number of its facilities for a number of activities such as badminton, squash, but mainly football. At the moment a group of us try to book a pitch with CCBC leisure centres at least once a week, and we struggle weekly to find a suitable slot. I can see this being a future issue if even one of the leisure centre closes.

Because it's close to where I live I am able to walk there. I am a pensioner and would have to rely on others to take me to the next nearest leisure centre which is Newbridge, this would not be possible every day and would therefore interrupt my daily exercise routine which is an integral part of my life.

The leisure centre is a sports hub that is extremely useful to locals and one of the best pitches in our area, bookable to everyone until 10 which is great, pitch booking fills up fast, some now even block booking months in advance making booking a slot event harder, that's before this leisure centre has closed! Not to mention how over crowded the small gyms in other local leisure centres get crowded due to the size of them. The leisure centre is too useful to close right now and will end up sending more people to local leisure centers which all Travelling much further out of my way to play the sports I enjoy to facilities that are often fully booked.

I stopped using Newbridge leisure centre as the parking and gym was always full. Please don't close this facility. The 3g pitch is fantastic and is used every night.

At present I run outside and use the gym equipment occasionally. But as I hope to have more time on my hands in the next couple of years I was hoping to use the facilities more often, however if I had to travel further afield or use a car then this would not seem worth it, in my opinion the council should be encouraging its residents to be healthy by providing better facilities. If anything the place needs to be modernised not closed or relocated so the land can be sold to developers.

None, I go to newbridge anyway.

It will mean that personally I will have to travel much further a field for gym and classes to either Newbridge or caerphilly which are already too busy at peak times.. My sons Ruby team also use the 3G for training and there isn't enough of these facilities for local teams to use without closing down another leisure centre..

I live in the Pontllanfraith area and play badminton with my family at least three times per week at the Leisure Centre. This activity not only helps us to keep fit but offers valuable time for fun and socialising as a family. Since Pontllanfraith is an area of fairly low socio-economic status, local people need affordable access to sports facilities, without the need to travel further afield. The Sports Hall is almost always booked out every time we visit, and so closing the Leisure Centre will mean removing a well-used facility that enables loc

It is like more residents will use other leisure centres placing additional burden on other centres

This will mean further travel. Also if expected to use the new facilities at islwyn.. do they have squash courts.

What will the booking possibilities be with so many other people who will evidently want to be booking from a much wider community group than those that use Pontllanfraith. Also why spoil a good thing. Pont leisure is always busy and never goes unused therefore why can it not continue this way. It seems more and more is being taken away.

Me and my daughter enjoy going to the gym together as she used to go to pont school. We would miss the staff and have to change our regular routine plus the prices are much more expensive in other local gyms which would affect my ability to go as often

Would have to drive further to another sports place

The closure of the Leisure Centre followed by the obvious housing development will impact great upon the area of Pontllanfraith . The increase in houses in the area: Hawtin Park, the old Pontllanfraith Comprehensive site, the Council offices mean there will be a great increase in the local population who would be looking for local facilities. The facilities at Islwyn High for example are not even on a bus route whereas a number of buses pass within 200 yards of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

I won't be able to use another centre so a huge impact on my health. To build the additional houses you also need to consider the facilities needed for those additional residents.

Personally, not much but I have a car and can travel out. I understand that for people living closer who use the leisure centre and rely on public transport, the impact will be much greater. It could make the whole process of travelling to an alternative place almost impossible for maintaining their regime.

There are currently limited leisure facilities in the Blackwood area. space is limited and bookings challenging to get at a reasonable hour. The closure and loss of another facility in our area will impact significantly on a community that hasn't had any investment in recent years. Has anyone done an audit on the leisure facilities in Blackwood/Pont. Blackwood has no Football Pitches, No astro turf other than POnt (and please don't include Blackwood comps excuse for and astro turf which is highly unsafe and in Cefn Forest.) There is no respectab Making it difficult to attend gym and classes to keep up healthy lifestyle Make it more difficult to attend football team that I am a member of as I don't drive and live locally to this pitch! Preventing people from maintaining their hobbies and healthy lifestyle Impact my fitness activity.

If a 3G is not installed at Blackwood this would have a huge impact.

It will have a huge impact on my football teams, 6 of my teams use the 3g pitch for training, I also use the gym 4 times a week, I don't like using Newbridge or Risca as it is used by the school in the day and it make me feel embarrassed, I would be gutted if Pontllanfraith goes as I will have no where to go and it's the only gym I feel comfortable using.

The leisure centre is a vital part of the community. It's ironic that the council and schools are actively promoting a healthy lifestyle with exercise and yet are proposing the closure of local leisure centres. This leisure centre is in walking distance for many and if this closes, we would need to drive to another leisure centre, this is not eco friendly and goes against yet another initiative promoted by ccbc!

None. But it would be nice if you did a bit more for people. Roller derby is not allowed at the leisure center because it may hurt the court ! It won't now if you keep it open.

Myself and two teenage children use the gym all together as I don't drive and they have outgrown parks so nice family time

It will have a huge impact on me and my partner we both use the Lesiure centre regular. As local resisdnats its easy access for the both of us. Also I think it would huge shame after there has been a huge amount of tax payers money spent on the new 3G pitch and to remove that would be ridiculous. The development of the sites that have closed are going to be residential so there are going to be more people in the local area that are going to want to use these facilities. Overall I believe it would be truly daft to close pontllanfraith Lesiure cen I won't be able to train as I can't drive.

None on me personally. But Pontllanfraith residents have made strong representations to me that they wish this facility to be retained in situ. Many cite the previous loss from Pontllanfraith of other CCBC facilities (including the Youth Centre, Ty Pontllanfraith and Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School), and they are angered at the proposal that this final local CCBC resource might be lost to our area.

It's ridiculous, if the gym closes, instead of walking to Pontllanfraith I will have to drive to Newbridge as the one in the school is not comparable

be no where 2 go for the kids round pont and i think this is a piss take of all the house what is going up round here

It will be inconvenient to me as the leisure centre is within easy travelling distance, as I don't drive closing it means there won't be a leisure on a local bus route.

My son uses the leisure centre more than I do, and it is such a shame that it's being taken away. It's all the local youngsters that will suffer. We are always being told to look after ourselves because of the obesity in the country and yet you're taking away opportunities for people to get fit. It so handy to have a facility like this so local, as people will have to travel now and if you can't drive it's not always convenient. Haven't we got enough houses in this area already? It's making me so angry to see so many areas having 200 odd houses

The loss of pontllanfraith would hard on a lot of clubs like our selfs yes you have put another facility in place at islwyn high but with the demand for 3g pitches as a replacement of grass this has been fully booked. And as for relocating the 3g pitch to Blackwood comp thats all well and good but they only open in term times meaning we have to find alternative facilities for half terms i use pontllanfraith to train the mini football teams aswell as our adult team we also use the sports hall for walking football plus my daughters use it to train

Classes will be moved further afeild and as a school teach in libanus the tournament will also have to be moved which would impact travel arrangements for the pupils.

I love the current classes on offer and I would be disappointed if these were not available. I use the centre almost daily and it would disrupt my fitness routine. I would need to look elsewhere which would be disappointing as I love all the staff and pay a membership. I have made a lot of friends. The facility is well used for classes, squash, sports hall, clubs, Astro turf. The car park is always full so closing it will have a big impact on the community as they will have to go elsewhere to meet their needs.

Would mean catching a bus to Newbridge leisure centre just to be able to use the gym for an hour whereas now I can walk there. If I wanted to use the facilities in Cefn Forest I would have to catch TWO buses (one from

Pontllanfaith to Blackwood then one from Blackwood to Cefn Forest) I know this might not seem a great hardship to some people but believe me if you are a regular bus user you would realise how time consuming it would be I believe it would deter a lot of people in my age group (over 65) from taking regular exercise in the gym and fitness Stop physical activity due to lack of facilities in the area

The impact of closing Pontllanfraith leisure centre will be immense, because I have two young children who use the facilities, and by closing the leisure centre will mean they won't be able to play football anymore as I live in close proximity to the leisure centre.

The impact will be significant the gym is better than Cefn Forest. The likely hood is that I won't go to a leisure centre in the borough and I will cancel my membership.

This will have a significant impact on my health and the likely hood is I will not attend the gym. The facility is in close walking distance from my address.

The loss of a very convenient and well managed local amenity. It will mean that local residents and children will have to travel further to use similar amenities and Pontllanfraith will lose out again. It seems new houses are taking precedence over the health and well being of the locals and children. If there is an aspiration to locate a 3G pitch in Blackwood, then why not get the finance and install one there but leave ours alone. With all the planned development in and around Pontllanfraith there will be little local green space and sports amenity

Closing the centre will result in me having to use a car or public transport increasing my carbon footprint and extra cost to use sporting facilities which the government are urging us to use. Closing the centre will reduce my visiting which could affect my health.

It will have a huge impact on myself as I don't drive and Pontllanfraith leisure centre is the only leisure centre that is local to me and has everything that I need and use.

I currently frequent the facility with a family member for children's football (indoor and outdoor) I have also used both the squash courts and indoor 5-a-side football (adult). I am concerned at the loss of a community sports facility and for such a large town and population as Blackwood. The described alternative arrangements are insufficient for community sport and well-being.

This will have a terrible impact on myself and all the local community! This leisure centre is part of the community and its loss would be very sad indeed :(

prevent the 2 football teams that have 30 members from training in a dedicated, safe environment where they are able to develop physical, mental and social behaviours that will support and enhance their growth. Plus for some this is the only physical activity they get each week

I attend the leisure centre three times per week to play badminton. I am in my 50s and this keeps me fit. I enjoy it and I think that doing an activity that you enjoy is very important.

Harder to book squash games and events in other leisure centres.

I go to Pilates/yoga at the leisure centre as I have hip problems and this helps with the pain and strengthening.

It will be difficult to find morning yoga classes with a good instructor in the locality.

OUR SENIORS BADMINTON CLUB HAS USED FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS + & CLOSURE & RE-LOCATION WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE TO OUR USE

Hi. My son and myself use the facilities at Pontllanfraith leisure 4-5 times per week. The closure will affect both of us and probably stop using a gym as Newbridge is inconvenient due to the distance

It will make my life more difficult. Time is precious and having had the leisure centre on my 'doorstep' has enabled me to have the luxury of keeping myself as fit as possible. Having to travel further afield to another centre which will become more and more overcrowded will give less and less opportunity for me to use the facilities, and take up more of my already precious time.

Have to travel for the gym, where here I can walk.

Impact on my health in a negative way as well as losing out on the social aspect.

Less facilities for my children to use and my husband and I. There is already a shortage of facilities in this area.

Have to travel for similar recreational activity

It won't directly affect me, however, I believe it will greatly impact the Pontllanfraith/Penllwyn area of the borough; which is already a poor relation.

Youths need somewhere to socialise and develop

After playing squash for many years at this centre which I helped to keep me fit then I would sadly have to stop playing which would mean losing this fitness opportunity.

Hi my son plays football on the 3G pitch. If the funding is not secured and the pitch does not go to Blackwood comp then we will lose this facility completely.

As a local rugby club we failed to secure enough slots for training at Islwyn High. Surely it is evident that so many local football and rugby clubs need alternative training facilities for winter periods and many are unable to secure weekly bookings at any facility. If anything we need more facilities built rather than closed

Our well established running club has been meeting at the club for almost 20 years. If the leisure centre closes, there will be no safe place for the club to meet

This is a part of the community, being a mum of 3 we use these facilities way where I don't drive it is in walking distance, there isn't much facilities in the area was in the winter as children ain't safe out playing, I regularly take my children to the squash courts and we use the family gym which is lovely family time and suits myself and the children, my daughter also trains with her Football on a Saturday morning on the 3G pitch, this leisure centre is popular with other football teams and needs to remain,

i cant travel far and its a popular leisure centre used by local residents

I object to the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and any other leisure centre in Caerphilly county. The remaining leisure centres are struggling to cope with the amount of people using them now. It is vitally important to keep all our leisure facilities to help to maintain a healthy population within the borough. Closure of any centres will result in our health and wellbeing put under pressure by increasing more visits to GP'S and hospitals. It is well known that certain exercising can help with lots of joint problems and reduce obesity. My 6yr. old daughter attends karate here twice a week. You only have to be at the leisure centre at 6pm on a Thursday evening to see how well used it is. It's not like it isn't needed in this area. With the Welsh Assembly promoting a healthier active lifestyle I can't believe CCBC could even consider closing this fantastic asset to the community.

Not much, I now use private facilities.

will have to travel to caerphilly for same type of classes

My son attends rugby and football sessions there, he has also been to a few children's parties there.

I have played football at the leisure centre on a Thursday night for 17 years, first in the hall, then on the astro turf and now on the 3G. If it shuts there is no guarantee that our group will continue without an alternative available venue.

The classes that are run in Pont will not be able to be moved to other venues, there are a group of us who attend the late night classes and with the closure of the site these would not be able to be resited anywhere else due to space, all of us would there for no longer be members of Caerphilly leisure

My sons football team have not been offered alternative training arrangements

I will cancel my wife's and my joint membership

The centre has been part of my life since I was born. Ive used it on a weekly basis for 30 years. Having worked there, gone to school in Pont and a member of many clubs there it would be devastating to close it.

Attending Pont leisure is very confident to fit around work and family commitments, Classes are also at excellent times as some classes are not confident at other leisure centres .

Instead of a 600m walk as the crow flies it'll probably 2.5 mile walk at least

I will cancel my leisure membership if it closes as private gyms in the area have comparable memberships at same rate as CCBC leisure membership. The reason I chose CCBC membership is because of the fitness classes and gym at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre. Neither Cefn Fforest or Newbridge offer same range of classes and I also do not like gym at either of these venues. The gym at Cefn Fforest is horribly laid out, with users having to cross Reception area from changing rooms. Newbridge is always full, with a wait for equipment. I had never liked it will mean travelling a greater distance[more fuel/ more pollution]cost for me ,a pensioner,loss of contact with staff and friends.this site is a valuable resource for the local community a hub for local events.the leisure centre is an asset for the people not to be discarded like a used tissue.

All the classes I attend are full. How you can can close this centre and replace this land for more houses is ridiculous.The community need a leisure centre. The yoga classes in the day have men and women , some have different ailments, one young man is autistic, one lady has just lost her husband,my sister in law has to look after my brother who has dementia. These classes bring people together from the community.There is no other sports centre where all these people can go. These classes will be lost. We still need this.All the new houses that There is not a local 3G pitch around and would be a shame to lose it.

circuit classes at this gym really suits my needs and its on days that i do not work....Astro turf although very busy is far better than that over newbridge

I won't be able to use it

Closure would mean no where for our children to play football and train for football. Yes there are other venues but due to the high demand of 3g pitch use nearly everywhere is either booked up or costs way to much. Our football club is funded by contributions and fundraising and it is becoming very hard to find the money for all the rising pitch fees as it is.

Huge loss to the local.community.

The club that I am part of will have to look for a new venue which will involve travelling further and will mean local community will not have access to us. We actually encourage our members to become Lifestyle members.

If we lose the facility it does mean that there will be no local running club in the area to support sport for adults. It decreases availability of leisure activities to those without transportation as other options are a distance away. This doesn't reduce car use amongst the population.

My daughter and her football team train here, they are unable to train at the new school during No school holidays so miss out, the 3G pitches are always in use whenever I go past them and here is no guarantee that they will be relocated to Blackwood school at all, in fact I bet if it does go ahead there will not be a relocation at all because you will say you don't have funds to do it.

Loss of leisure facilities means more unfit people and potentially a strain on healthcare in area.

My daughter and I use the 3G pitch for training and games.

We have two senior football sides who both use the 3G for matches and training. It's a great facility and meets the requirements of the leagues we play in. If this closure happens we will need to find an alternative facility which meets the requirements of our leagues. If we can't find an alternative there is a possibility that we would have no option other than to fold which would be a total disaster for us as a club with a long history and also the 50 adult players we have signed on.

It will force my football team to play and train elsewhere when the 3G is a fantastic facility.

We will no longer have a fantastic place to play our home games and train

By closing the centre it will have an impact on the other centres in the borough which are struggling to cope with the amount of people using them considering that most of them were built over 30 years ago when the population was a fraction of what it is now.

It will mean that there's no other leisure centre in a walking distance of my house as I don't drive meaning I will look at quitting the gym until I pass my test which isn't until 2018 meaning no gym for a period of at least 6 months fitness levels dropping meaning I get like many other locals unfit

There will be less facilities for young people and local residents to engage in.

I grew up in the local area using this leisure centre and others for numerous sporting activities, both for local clubs and as an individual. The population has grown significantly in the local area since I was a child yet the facilities have dwindled. I have a young child who is going to grow up in this community with less opportunities to get involved in sport based activities due to your lack of investment and closures of local amenities. The facilities at Islwyn High whilst impressive for a school do not meet the needs of the local community.

I would be devastated if this local amenity was to close. I grew up attending various sports clubs and sessions at this leisure centre! I now attend the centre three times a week to either play badminton, go to the gym or coach my U10s rugby side. If this was to close I'm not sure where we would be able to book our 3 courts on both a Monday and Friday as there just is not enough facilities locally. I would not be able to use a fitness centre as often as I do now due to not being able to drive and therefore this is the only centre within reasonable distance. Less places for my children to go which in result end in them walking the street. Childhood obesity is on the rise yet the council are thinking of shutting all the leisure centres and parks. In winter months how are children meant to exercise without being able to book the sports hall for an hour for 5 a side. Of play squash.

Not so much on me personally any more as I no longer play Badminton due to ill health, but I understand that the alternative facilities at the new school do not have squash courts, I was working in Ebbw Vale and when they built the new leisure centre there they did not include any squash courts even though the squash courts were always busy. The reason being that you cannot use squash court for anything other than squash - why would you need to if they are always busy. It is a very popular sport and it seems to be getting forced out. The other The closure will have a big impact on my choice of facilities in the Blackwood area. I have regularly attended Pontllanfraith leisure centre for 6 years, it has good facilities and the staff are very helpful and friendly. There is a private fitness centre within a few minutes walk of my home but I prefer travelling to Pont for the reasons already stated. If I wanted to continue using Council leisure facilities I would either have to travel to Bargoed (where in my opinion the facilities are not as good and as it is small it gets overcrowded), or C

I won't be able to attend fitness classes nor will I be able to carry on with my fitness plan

Cefn Fforest no longer offers fitness classes so the loss of Pont also would be a massive pity. Caerphilly leisure centres make exercise affordable.

I will have to find an alternative gym. I am not aware of a local ccbc gym and therefore will have to move to an alternative membership scheme at a higher cost.

My son is using the leisure centre gym for his GCSE PE I wouldn't want him & others in his class to suffer GCSE results because of this closure. My son also uses the 3G regularly with his friends which is keeping them active & busy and not hanging around the streets

My son who is a Welsh national athlete uses this facility - without this on our door step his training plan will suffer greatly. My son also trained on this facility for many years for his local football - a facility that should not be lost! My husband also plays football on this - for a club team which as you will agree is a huge benefit on

older men and their health and fitness- these teams play on a Sunday afternoon the proposed replacement facility does not open when 32 over 40 year olds need a facility

I am recovering from hip replacement and attend Yoga twice a week. Which is aiding my recovery. I work full time and this is accessible for me

I will not be able to partake in these activities any longer as they are not available anywhere else in my locality. This will naturally have an impact on my health, fitness and wellbeing, as it will with many other local people of all ages.

Direct impact on the pupils I teach. Our department bring pupils to use the facilities at Pontllanfraith as there is insufficient provision currently with the facilities and equipment at our current school (Islwyn High). There is not a Health & Fitness suite at Islwyn High and as a result pupils cannot access specific sections of the curriculum in particular the new WJEC PE specification where pupils must complete an 8 week personal training programme. Used weekly for rugby training both on 3G and on grass pitch. Whilst the proposal considers upgrading the Blackwood School to 3G you are losing yet another playing field. This is discouraging the young people to take up sport and get healthy

Further to travel as both Blackwood, Islywn High and Newbridge are further afield

My daughter plays football and uses the 3g pitch with her team. I coach there too. We are there up to 3 times a week. It is the nearest leisure centre to us and is in a good location for our other members of the club who come from Risca and Newbridge. It's very central considering. We use the centre to hire out for parties too. I have booked it for a football party and recently attended a few there too. I use the centre for badminton too. It's the nearest centre to me, we like the set up and it's easy to get to if we have not got the car that d the location is key to the surrounding area , it supports the youth in very needed area and also residents of pontllanfraith , blackwood and surrounding areas , closure will mean visiting the new school which is a considerable distance away for young adults amd people witjpit transport.

I don't drive and I won't be able to walk to the other leisure centre

Major impact as a retired older person this is local for me to enjoy and help keep healthy and have company to ensure I do not just sit at home. Any move to another facility will be very difficult for me.

My son is a member of a football team (one of many) that use the Leisure Centre. It has already been confirmed that Iswlyn High are unable to accept our team along with others to use their facilities. So just where are we expected to go? Surely if your building houses below the use of the leisure center would be an added bonus & some where for the local children to go to keep out of trouble.

No transport to be able to travel to other facilities

Both children use sports hall and 3g pitch for football practice on Tuesday and Sunday

My son is currently in Year 11 of Islwyn High School, having previously attended Pontllanfraith Comprehensive. The new school is woefully inadequate. The admission numbers do not fit into the size of the school that's been built. This is a serious concern. But aside from that, the sports facilities are simply not adequate. My son does GCSE PE and I believe the head teacher has been heard saying that the facilities are not suitable for this curriculum. My son currently gets bussed over to Pontllanfraith leisure centre to do certain activities requ

The closure will adversely affect my health in that it provides a local accessible leisure facility allowing me to keep fit. The Local development plan proposes to create thousands of new homes in the community adding pressure to leisure facilities such as this. Councils already receive substantial funds and charge significant Community Infrastructure levies on new residential developments Those levies are to provide for infrastructure including Health facilities for new developments pontllanfraith site would easily accomodate approximately 300 h
Negative

Will not be able to attend Yoga which is very beneficial for my mental health problems and physical problems.

A lot as I train there with my football club and we will not have anywhere to train as all leisure centres are at full capacity and the new iswlyn high school is not full pitch standards and is also nearly full due to new clubs booking. Which if closing the leisure centre is a ridiculous thing to do as I live opposite and see the use of the centre. On a Tuesday evening it can be grid locked due to so many using the centre. Also in your proposal I think that it is wrong that you have only stated the 3G pitch users and sports hall without consideri

Will have to travel further

I will have to travel further to find similar classes

Not being able to have a facility to train on which is a great facility for the area.

I had CABG surgery at the beginning of the year and the BHF put a big emphasis on rehabilitation. I had to go to Caerphilly then Risca for this.

I will have to visit multiple sites to achieve what I currently do in Pont leisure. Fitness training staff, friends and a routine will be lost.

Pontllanfrsith leisure centre allows people with very busy schedules to find an hour to attend a fitness class, the

fitness suite or their sports club etc. Whether their reasons be exercise, social interaction or to maintain or improve physical and/or mental wellbeing; all are benefited. The centre is so important as it allows those who live nearby and are without transport-including children and teenagers who are constantly encouraged to get more active- to attend the centre at their convenience or whenever they're free. Classes or clubs at Pon Huge impact. My daughter who is 15 goes to the gym 4 times per week and has lost weight. There is no where close that she will be able to work to if it closes

Local venue for the players of social group. Would require transport for other venues

Personally for my family and I we will lose a valuable resource open to the public, not just clubs. I'm a Labour party member and if it does close neither I or my family will EVER vote a Labour council in again.

I am a student living in Pontllanfraith. I have no access to personal transport and Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is in walking distance from my house. The next nearest centre available for me to use is in Newbridge; I would need to use public transport for this. I have always used Caerphilly county leisure centres for their gyms as they are realistically priced and welcoming. I would always use a Caerphilly leisure centre but I am afraid that if Pontllanfraith closes I should need to use facilities more local to me. A leisure centre has been ava During the winter months it is extremely hard to keep traing on grass pitches due to the inclement weather. Having this facility gives us local grounds to hire for training. As tge children in ourteams get older they will be requiring Gym facilities also, haveing these in the same area to split and rotate tge team is a madsive help as itmeans parents dont have to worry about traveling furtger afield.

Massive impact. You have reduced Cefn Fforest leisure centre and taken away the squash courts and have not invested anything in the surrounding land you have there. That was walking distance for me. I now use Pont more as facilities are better and you want to take it away at a time when children have obesity issues and no facilities to use. As long as you make money selling land to housing developments though eh.

The closure of this sight means many things to me. Both my sons rugby teams will need to relocate and finding available sights are impossible not to mention further away. I use the gym during the day because it's so close to home. I meet family members for games of badminton often as it's a convince that location to all our homes Personally I'm interested for my family's sake they use the facility's there often. Squash courts .fitness suite .and tennis court it's so handy for them .if we lose this fight they will be unable to make it further afield as they use them after work.

The impact would be traveling further to use a leisure centre. Costing more.

Unable to play badminton locally.

Extended travel time to a new facility

Fitness

Will be forced to go to another leisure centre provided the class timetable/availability is suitable

My childrens club has nowhere to re-locate. It would be terrible if the club had to close. The club enables kids to grow in confidence & self defence skills.

My children use the facility this will deprive them of sporting activities. I coach under 11's for Pengam FC. I would have to find an alternative venue.

Severe inconvenience. I book a badminton court x2 per week and I am concerned that if the centre closes there will be insufficient facilities for me.

We play badminton here 4 times a week. With no sports hall we won't be able to play and could possibly make the club fold because of lack of facilities.

Less choice and greater travel distance in order to attend the classes I want to attend.

Further to travel. Community needs this venue, Staff have provided a friendly professional service.

It's easy access for us. We've grown comfortable joining classes here.

Will have to travel further for classes. No yoga or badminton at Newbridge.

Its on my door step, one of the main reasons for moving to the area for me and now there's talk of closure. Its sad for the community.

Travel further for badminton court. Not enough 3G pitches available all year round for football clubs. School pitches unavailable in 6 weeks holidays and some half terms.

A facility will be removed from the community. Once a building is demolished it is never replaced. The demolition will be catastrophic for the Pontllanfraith community. There will be no leisure facilities for the young and old in the area. It will mean extra travelling costs for myself to attend the nearest existing leisure centre. The closure is political madness and should be stopped at all costs.

As a regular user of the centre we will no longer be able to play sports like table tennis or squash as there are no facilities at the suggested alternative venue Islwyn High. Furthermore there will be no fitness suite provision and the sports hall at Islwyn High is significantly smaller.

I used to take medication for anxiety. I am now off a medication and use yoga to control my anxiety. The centre

is one bus journey from Hollybush (hourly). The council should promote healthy lifestyles not close popular facilities.

It will limit accessibility to fitness classes

Soccer skills provide soccer coaching to children. Closure of the LC will probably mean the loss of this class.

I can cycle or walk to Pont LC. I will need transport to access others. Also badminton courts are usually booked or not in use at Newbridge LC so this will impact greatly on my use so I will probably terminate my Lifestyle 5 membership. Exercise and attending yoga classes etc has a beneficial affect on me mental health and wellbeing. When you cut back classes a few years ago it had a very negative affect on me.

Increase distance to gym, costing more in time & money. Removal of a small , more personalised gym with a genuine community feel that has helped me lose weight & keep fit in a non intimidating, inclusive atmosphere. The centre is on route from where I work and home. Due to working hours it is not only convenient but if it were to close most likely would have to give up going too the gym.

The loss of this centre will be a big loss for me as I am epileptic, I am unable to drive. Pont is the only centre within easy walking distance providing all that need and staff understanding of my disabilities.

Classes held at Pontllanfraith are always busy and full, its a central location, always easy to reach and park.

Classes not available anywhere else in the local area. the classes are important for my fitness routine.

As a 70+ member use of the centre keeps me healthy. Closure would mean me travelling to Newbridge which is extra expense. Many use the facility to keep healthy,if not available people will lose their fitness which is then a burden on the NHS. Let the facilities remain.

It will impact greatly as I teach yoga at Pontllanfraith. The classes are usually full and offer a wide range of health benefits. The LC is well used and very important to its members. The people of Blackwood should have a leisure centre.

We have held a booking with the centre and used the 3G pitch for approx 6 years. A group of 16 friends have used the facility to keep fit & socialise by playing football. The closure could see and end to this due to limited availability at other sites.

Have been using the centre for over 35 years. We are members of SE Wales Netball league affiliated to Welsh Netball. We have commitments to the league & uncertainty jeopardises our position for future development. It would have an impact on our wellbeing, fitness, self esteem & confidence. Our age range is from 13 - 68 years Impact not known because despite new facilities in area these are or will be in use. High demand in the area with additional houses being built will mean shortage of facilities

I won't be able to attend yoga class. My daughters football team train on 3G, there is nowhere else,all fully booked. Also sons football team play matches at centre every other Sunday, they have no alternative.

Our club will probably have to cease due to lack of suitable venue

Loss of friendly small gym where there is no embarrassment at doing gentle exercise

Further to travel, more buses

Have to travel further and take car, where as I am able to walk to the centre now.

A great impact on my wellness & fitness regime, and would mean long term health implications. I am paying for leisure lifestyle which is now being taken away.

Drop in health and fitness. Meeting people that has become more of a family than just friends

Less traffic blocking access to our houses. When new pitch was created, half of the car park was removed. When children's football held on Sunday morning, roads around are blocked by cars for parents taking children to centre. Similarly running club members park cars on Penllwyn lane blocking people's access to garages.

I was attending fitness classes at the centre twice a week, but they moved the said classes to other centre,s, which I have difficulty in getting to.

Myself and my family just won't be able to find an alternative.

My son who plays for an under 12 football team trains on 3G pitch, partner attends exercise classes twice a week, it would be a huge loss to the community,also with more houses planned in Pontllanfraith council offices etc, I feel it is short sighted.

I feel the closure will impact on my fitness. The location & classes are ideal for my needs and fit in my work /leisure time. I fear my fitness will suffer and in turn my overall health if I can no longer attend Pont centre.

I live in Risca & play badminton in Pontllanfraith so I would have further to travel

I would not attend a gym of a larger size - wouldn't feel comfortable or confident.

Lack of availability for sports pitches Currently there's a major push to reduce obesity & closing centres is not in the best interest of CCBC residents

I will not be able to attend the gym

Less choice in location & facilities and distance from home

Will involve more travel to attend sports centres

A massive effect. The exercise class I attend helps my physical & mental wellbeing. Good friendly atmosphere there.

Travel further to continue classes if a suitable venue is available

We are a parent run disability football club which caters for youngsters living in surrounding areas, we meet weekly. It provides well being & social interaction for youngsters who can not access main stream football due to various disabilities.

This may lead to closure of the disabilities football sessions held on Friday as many may refuse a different location for various reasons, such as travel distance.

Ease of use. I would not like to attend Newbidge as I feel uncomfortable

Reduced physical fitness. Wellbeing, Social Needs

I wouldn't have anywhere else to go. I have arthritis and attending the gym helps. I also have sons who attend football there a few times a week.

I wouldn't have any other centres that are local, as I walk to Pont and would then have to use bus daily

Have nowhere to keep fit, I don't drive and can't afford public transport.

The class I run at the LC will stop & the children will no longer have a class

Considerable. The loss of the extra court could result in the club folding. We have been told we can be relocated to the new school but due to pressure from other clubs for space we do not see how you can accommodate every ones needs.

The cancellation of my young childrens sports activities. Despite the need for youngsters to be active there is not an abundance of opportunities for them to do so.

I travel from Nelson to attend a class, which I have attended for 2 years. Even if the class continued at the new school I would have to travel further.

Possibly less opportunity to play sport on a regular basis, will have to travel further. May lose members of our badminton club if club nights have to change with a different venue - which we have not been able to identify
Force a large badminton club to find other facilities as readily available as Pontllanfraith. Causing a lot of inconvenience for the club, the clubs future & its members

May not be able to book at alternative leisure centre. Have to travel further

First I must say I work in the evenings & have been given no opportunity to engage in the face to face consultation meetings. Please consider arranging another date earlier in the day - before 2pm. I attend Joannes yoga classes at 11AM on Tues & Thurs, and swim at Cefn Fforest. Caerphilly & Newbridge are too far away & are holding no yoga classes.

Possibly exercising less a week due to travelling further. Similarly paying more as privately run classes charge per class as opposed to a monthly payment.

Play badminton regular struggle to book in other facilities.

Other leisure centres too busy and too far away as Pont is on our doorstep.

Make it much more efficient to book courts as there will be limited spaces available.

Struggle to use other leisure centres as this is on our doorstep. Also use of sports hall has allocated badminton times.

Devastating and will feel lost without it

This will have a massive impact on myself as I frequently use the leisure centre and have done for the last 27 years. The proximity of the LC is very convenient.

Lack of local sports centre in the area to use with access to a variety of activities and classes. Near to my place of work which is convenient and within easy reach of Blackwood town centre.

My club would have to relocate and I would not be able to attend any longer. There would not be a gym in my area.

No netball training

We would be unable to train.

Nowhere to train netball

Unable to train. No use of gym

No available netball court. Further to travel for the fitness suite.

No other netball training facilities nearby for Blackwood that's not already taken by another club. More cost travelling to another court.

No training facilities near so less exercising

Difficulty to exercise - no training facility near by. Have to travel further for exercise classes.

It would make it much more difficult for me to exercise regularly.

It means we have to stop training every Wednesday.

No other leisure centre around that's local

Unable to use sports hall to train for local netball club and will lose a facility to hold friendly matches from ages 5-67

No netball training

Limited opportunity for physical exercise

PLC is local to myself & my children. It provides fitness facilities for all family members. To take away an established centre is ridiculous. Spend the money on the centre.

Will make it harder to keep fit daily and I will not reach my goal of losing weight.

Have to travel further for facilities

I use the centre on a regular basis, both myself and the children I foster. I know that any club attempting to book the facilities at the new Islwyn High School are having difficulties, as they are now fully subscribed & booked out, plus there is no gym, squash courts etc. Pont LC is used by many clubs on a regular basis as always booked out. Islwyn High will always give preference to school activities over outside clubs wishing to use it.

It will impact on my mental health & general fitness. As a non driver the LC is a perfect location for me to access by foot (as many others)

Been trying to improve my health and wellbeing

Finding classes at different centres. Travel further.

Impact on health and fitness as I attend the gym 5 to 6 times per week

Pont leisure centre offers a convenient location for both courses & fitness suite uses. Loss of the fitness suite here would result in an influx of above to the already strained gym services, affecting service users. As an avid attendee of lifestyle classes, loss of instructor, fellow attendees & staff would make some of us 2nd guess our commitment to the local leisure centres.

Lack of badminton facilities. Coach girls football and struggle for bookings

Missing out on classes and workouts. Having to travel further.

I have visited the centre 3 times per week for approx. 34 years. Personally the impact of the closure would be huge. To strike a balance between work life and to fit in personal health and wellbeing training for me the centre is conveniently located. Its small enough not to feel intimidated by other users, the staff are friendly and knowledgeable. By closing Pontllanfraith the numbers in the other leisure centres will increase and they will become too full particularly at peak times.

Reduce my quality of health and life. I attend my local centre to improve my health and lifestyle.

Won't be able to have regular exercise or attend classes I enjoy

I wouldn't use the gym as often

I have been here for several years and my classes are busy!!! My users love this facility!

Have nowhere to go whilst children do their activities. Miss the social aspects of the group exercise. Need to think about poor weather so outside activity not always possible.

Struggle to attend exercise classes

My son uses the 3G pitch and grass pitch at least twice a week. This will impact greatly upon his ability to continue with his sporting activities

Won't be able to find the range of classes offered at other local facilities. Neither Cefn Fforest or Newbridge have the same range of classes during the evening. This will have a massive impact on my fitness and general health and wellbeing.

Will have a big impact on me because it is the nearest leisure centre.

Everything. My fitness level will change as I refuse to use any other LC. The centre in Pontllanfraith is fab and all staff are very helpful and polite. They are extremely friendly and welcoming. The LC in Pont is convenient as it is on my way home from work. Loss of the LC would mean loss of fab instructors who are knowledgeable and helpful. They get involved with the people here and help when needed.

Loss of local access to day time classes in the dance studio. Relocating opportunity for health & fitness classes during daytime for residents who cannot access evening classes.

Won't have a place to do Zumba

I live in Risca so further to travel

I feel the closure will impact upon me because it is due to the convenience of the LC and the atmosphere within it why I joined there in the first place. I feel that I would not get the service or good atmosphere at any other centre. The other centres are also out of the area too much for me to access as regularly as Pontllanfraith, which would impact on me keeping up with my health & fitness.

I will have to use the Newbridge centre instead.

HUGE! Pont Leisure is local, easy to reach and a vibrant community hub. Both my sons have said they will not bother going anywhere else if the Council close this facility. My boys learnt the following skills at Pont Leisure: kyokushin karate Football skills Soft tennis Badminton Squash How to use gym equipment Both have accessed Dof E provision based at the site for their awards We simply not be minded to travel ever farther afield should this centre close. If CCBC cannot keep it open, then transfer it to a community trust or new community base.... Will have to travel further, which costs more money, if I want to go to a leisure centre which is less accessible I will have to catch the bus to the nearest gym as i can't drive, whereas Pont Leisure is a 5 minute walk away from where i live and doesn't cost as much as other available gyms. It has everything that is needed, and the workers are really kind.

Q6 Please give details of alternative arrangements below.

Some of our teams haven't got a 3G space, by using Islwyn and Pont this will give back the council more revenue and more opportunities for kids

There are none. You would rob me and my son of our classes and fitness

Islwyn High but as said above demand is very high from football and rugby

There are no local 3G facilities available when we train so it could lead to the team being unable to train and potentially food affecting nearly 20 local families.

Other leisure centres are either too far away or don't hold many classes (circuits kettlebell yoga) at convenient times for people who work full time. There aren't the facilities at the other smaller gyms in the local area -

Newbridge Cefn Forest. Risca and Caerphilly especially are too far to travel

Islwyn 4G is currently over subscribed to, therefore those clubs/ teams will not have another suitable alternative available.

At present, a lack of affordable facility exists in the immediate vicinity.

Nearest gym facilities provided by CCBC are not within reasonable walking distance

Newbridge. But as stated above, it's over subscribed, very busy at peak times and rarely anywhere to park. I've resorted to parking in the train station car park or the health board car park. The walk to and from both these car parks is intimidating due to gangs of people hanging about, some taking drugs. This will put me off using the gym, particularly in the darker evenings. To be honest, I'm on the verge of cancelling altogether and going to a private gym where the facilities are better and where machines are fixed in a timely manner. I can see other people doing the same thing. The

The other facilities are too far for my children to get to without requiring lifts from a designated driver. There are very few leisure facilities in the area as it is and to reduce it further would be appalling. Please take into consideration the local clubs that use this facility as well as the elderly and young people that do not have access to transport.

There are none if the centre is relocated then there will be a shortage of availability to book facilities in the future

Not sure if there are any

There are none for the time we play squash

The facilities at Islwyn high school do not meet the requirement of our league (no perimeter fencing around the pitch and no dugouts)

Islwyn High Private Gym Ystrad Mynach Centre of Excellence

The yagalates class which i attend weekly is the only class available through caerphilly leisure centres. A pilates class is available in risca but that is too far to travel when i rely on childcare & is a different type of fitness class

See above just have Islwyn is not enough the 3g will need to move to Blackwood school

Swimming in Newbridge and fitness gym in Blackwood

I left Newbridge leisure centre as their timetable no longer met my needs and also because they cancelled bokwa.

I will need to drive in order to find similar facilities

Where will you work out

As you can't use the football 3G pitch because it ain't the right size could of moved the road out and used the opposite side to widen the pitch

None

Attend another Leisure Centre, i.e Cefn Fforest if necessary but not always convenient.

please read the above statement !

Newbridge or Risca

No information provided in regards to alternative facilities available at alternative sites. One thing for sure is that the alternative sites available will not be able to accommodate the demand.

I would have to travel further

Struggle to book a slot anywhere at the moment. Booking systems vary from site to site so clear system across Caerphilly would be useful.

No gym in the mentioned alternative. No squash courts in the mentioned alternative.

Other local gyms do not offer exactly the same facilities and classes and are much more costly which is not affordable for a family. As a non driver I would not be in a position to easily reach other Council leisure centres and the cost of busses and taxis are extortionate.

Badminton courts are over subscribed so the replacement courts at Oakdale are making less provision. If you are not a determined person then you will not do any sport because availability makes it easier to opt out. We have played in Pontllanfraith since Ystrad Mynach was closed for renovation and have to say John and the staff

are amazing and do their best to accommodate the public. They are aware of the lack of parking and an area to socialise as well as well used resources. We The government wants people to do more exercise and improve mental health and well being. This propos

There are no alternative arrangements which would meet my needs, losing this facility would be an incredible loss to someone like me and also to the surrounding community.

If the 3G pitch is relocated to Blackwood Comp it would be extremely beneficial if it is maintained the way it is now. Barriers around the pitch, dugouts for management/subs. It would also be useful for it to have a small stand built with it. This will support many clubs in the local area to progress but also offer cover from all weather for supporters/family etc.

Possibly could use facilities at Newbridge, however there are very limited slots available any day.

As mentioned last question the other leisure centre's such as Newbridge are too small and get very over crowded particularly at peak times. As well as that newbrosgd is fully booked in our usual time slots through Christmas Newbridge leusre centre isn't big enough to deal with the demands currently put on it. C3fn Forrest gym is too small and doesn't have a 3g football pitch.

Would have to use alternative leisure centres in the area which are already overrun

Go to newbridge leisure center

As stated above, already over subscribed to. No classes available at ceffn fforest.

Whenever we have been unable to book a badminton court at Pontllanfraith, we have found that Newbridge (and other less local Centres) has little or no court availability. It is clear that, should Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre close, the area does not have enough resource or facilities to cope with local demand. I believe that if this were the case, my family and I are likely to have to give up our much loved hobby.

The majority of leisure centres are aging and need significant investment to bring them to a modern standard.

The use of leisure centres is cost prohibitive. The cost should be subsidised for residents. How can you promote heathly lifestyles when council leisure centres are to expensive to use.

I haven't visited it yet but I would use the Cefn Forest fitness suite.

None accessible without driving! Other facilities are already over crowded

There are no badminton courts, no 3G football pitch, no fitness suite available locally, you are ruining our children's future for short term penny pinching

None

There has been no mention if the current classes/instructors would be relocated

Ticked the No box because the other leisure centres are 1or 2 bus rides away and evening bus services very infrequent Wouldn't be plausible to attend any evening activities. Use Newbridge swimming pool for aqua fit for the simple reason there is no swimming pool in Pontllanfraith!

No gym going in Iswlyn high for public and Cefn Fforest gym is not big enough.

No gym or dance studio being put in Islwyn High. Cefn Fforest is insufficient to meet the needs of the larger community as it is to small and Newbridge and Heolddu is to far away.

There are no close amenities other than Pontllanfraith leisure centre. The closest are either tetrad mynach or new bridge both over 2 miles away.

not enough facilities available to cover the area , team will miss out and eventually will have to merge into other sides thus clubs will loose identity , member will leave, players wont get game time, thus kids will stop playing.

we already have a high percentage of obesity in the area in both adults and children so closing a facility will only increase this problem. CCBC should be investing in the health and welfare of its constituents

The alternative arrangement is to go to newbridge,leisure centre but this is not convenient and lacking in availability.

Newbridge Leisure Centre

Alternative leisure centres are too far to travel to and would not have time to do my classes on weeknights due to this.

Time slots are too busy

When arrendingredients eating last night , the was no carry answer that another facilities will be put in place. To replace the

Unsure.

Go to privately owned gym now

classes at other near by venues do not meet our needs/times/transport issues

There are none, the gyms elsewhere are fully booked, and that applies to dance studios if any in other leisure centres

The next decent facility is Newbridge. And they dont have a 3G pitch and Islwyn doesnt have one at a high enough spec. Islwyn doesnt have squash courts either

Other leisure centres do not have convenient classes times etc that fit around my work family commitments. Also even though other leisure centres ie Newbridge due to being very popular the facilities and car park are always busy and sometimes hard to use said facilities so I think closing Pont will put a bigger strain on these leisure centres therefore classes / gym will be even busier

Through private local gyms

nothing within a few miles. I don't want alternate, I want the local leisure centre, it's not a burden financially therefore should stay. It's not about money it's about the community

There are none Newbridge has no dance studio and we cannot use hall because of school use. The new school in Blackwood would not allow morning classes because of the children in school. Bargoed and Caerphilly are too far especially with road works in Caerhilly. So as you can see there is nowhere we can go.

Ystrad Mynach is way too expensive!

Islwyn high does not have squash courts or offer fitness classes...

Islwyn high is always booked especially for the days we need. Blackwood comp the flood lights are broke and they haven't got the funding to replace them plus it is always booked up on the days we need just like every other venue that has artificial pitches also it is too expensive. Our under 7s and 8s play matches at Pont every Sunday and I was told that Islwyn high doesn't do Sunday opening

Islwyn high has no gym and would not be open in daytime or for casual users.

there is nowhere local that would suffice

Closing the local leisure centre reduces the options available to residents to access their local facilities making it more difficult and more expensive to travel to the next nearest facilities.

Are there leisure facilities still in the area, yes Newbridge leisure and the less than adequate facilities at Islwyn High but they are already highly in demand and there is not enough amenities to cater for everyone who wishes to use them.

No where else available to book courts! Not enough available facilities for our rugby team to be able to train effectively once a week and there aren't any reasonably priced fitness centres within walking distance

Yes but only if I start using a private fitness suite.

As discussed above

N/a

Other venue does not open on a Sunday !

There are no alternative arrangements available.

not at this time. Islwyn High School booked and too far away as most walk to Pontllanfraith - therefore the change will increase road traffic

Alternatives are available at Islwyn high, Newbridge and possible Blackwood school in the future but these are all further afield

Islwyn High school can't take any more groups so anyone using Pont has nowhere to go

Absolutely no alternative arrangements are in place. I've already stated that the new Islwyn High School is not fit for purpose.

Nil

As above I answered them all in the first question

Nott happy that the alternative site proposed (Islwyn High) is closed in half term and summer hols. There has been no consideration for Allison (fitness instructor) to be relocated. Considering she works 5 nights a week I can see many leaving Caerphilly membership scheme to follow her training sessions elsewhere. I for one will be willing to reinvest my membership money elsewhere.

None

Other facilities are booked to the max already and are unable to accommodate reasonable times and space. It also means we have to travel 4+ miles to an alternative leisure centre.

No available 4g are available for either of my sons teams.

None

Classes at Pontllanfraith are ran at suitable times, other leisure centres don't do this

There will not be enough courts in the area.

Don't know

I would have to travel further to other centres in the Caerphilly County Borough area, or cancel my membership and join a private gym.

Newbridge, Yoga class to resite

Gym, squash courts etc.

I use Cefn Fforest

We already use Newbridge LC. Family commitments of current class members will probably mean non-

attendance at the different facility - as experienced when soccer skills (Pontllanfraith) Friday night class closed. Newbridge LC has badminton courts but these are usually fully booked or being used for other sports. I need transport to access NLC I can walk to PLC.

None known of. I have epilepsy which means I am unable to drive, I have to use other means of travel.

Nearest similar alternatives are at Newbridge LC.

Alternative facilities available at Islwyn High, however due to significant demand there is limited or no availability. Other sites such as Newbridge & Centre of Excellence are also fully booked & have waiting lists.

Not known! Facilities in the area but availability is unclear.

Not sure of alternative arrangements. No spaces at other facilities for football. Closing PLC will not help the lack of facilities for football teams.

It has been proposed that our club booking will transfer to Islwyn High. This is too far away for us. It's also unavailable for a large part of the year, ie exam times Dec/Jan & May/June as sports hall is set up for exams.

Gym exercise will have to end

Newbridge - but I would have to take car.

Only alternative will be to travel further and incur extra costs - thereby removing my lifestyle membership

Apparently the new school at Oakdale has alternative facilities

I have ticked "YES" to this question because alternative arrangements were put in place but no consideration on how people who don't drive were going to get to these places. As in my case Pontllanfraith is a 10 min walk for me but going to other centres (eg; Risca or New Tredegar) would require catching at the least two buses.

Islwyn school

We would attend Newbridge but not really happy with sports hall facilities. Pont is perfect for us as a group & for me as an older person.

No classes would match the standard of the ones I attend in Pont.

Other sites with facilities available but will they be available to book. less facilities - more users!!!

May relocate to Newbridge however many members are against this proposal. They are open to using the pitch at Islwyn High.

No other arrangements would be good to me as I don't drive, Pont is local to me

None provided

See above. Although it has been indicated we can be accommodated we do not see how everyone can be satisfied with the loss of this centre which is heavily used by clubs & public. Have found in past that using school facilities is inconvenient as the school only seems interested in themselves & no one else using the sports hall.

How can the alternative venue provide facilities for all the current classes, gym, sports hall activities

Have not been able to find any alternative arrangements that can offer the same.

CCBC promotes exercise yet you move to take our 2 local amenities away - many people can walk there. I

strongly urge you to reconsider closing Pontllanfraith & Cefn Fforest LC.

Newbridge - although hard to book courts

Newbridge

Newbridge - but very hard to book badminton court

None

Haven't been told anything, maybe Islwyn High.

No info given

No information given

No yoga classes available locally.

That club that I use on a Sunday cannot get any bookings at Islwyn High or Newbridge as always booked out.

Newbridge - but not keen

There are not enough to fulfil the demand

Attend other leisure centres which is a poor alternative.

There are no alternative arrangements that I am aware of.

Newbridge - but I'm not keen on the staff and the gym itself. Pont is the only place I feel comfortable exercising - the other centres are intimidating.

Not locally - would have to travel to Caerphilly - day time classes ie Yoga, limited

Don't know

There are no other arrangements to my knowledge

I'll use newbridge

There simply are not. Private facilities are too costly and cliquy. Community centres by their nature are too unpredictable and of poor standards.

I don't know of any and I don't drive so couldn't easily get to the other leisure centers

Q7 Please detail how the impact of the closure of Pontllanfr

Keeping the 3G pitch or creating another as it is also used by the Islwyn league for Sunday club matches.

Making sure the same classes are held locally at times which suit people who work full time. However I don't see how this is possible given the relative small size of the other local gyms and lack of facilities to do the classes.

Keep it open

Do not close the site. Get the funds to move pitch to Cwm Rhymini, better access, more space, greater parking available than at Blackwood comp.

A massive part of community for clubs, children from Cwmfelinfach up and the whole community will suffer if closes .

You would need to provide similar classes and facilities in the local leisure centre like newbridge but this probably isn't possible due to the lack of facilities there (dance studio or place to hold fitness classes or yoga). You would need to make sure the classes are at a time to suit people who are working full time eg 7-8pm instead of all being at 5 or 6. The loss of another local gym is really sad as newbridge isn't a very big gym and you often struggle to use the facilities there during peak times and have

resite the centre on another site in the close vicinity to minimise any impact

More classes at other leisure centres.

At present, Pontllanfraith serves the local community with excellent accessibility being with the community.

Should the facility be moved to an alternative site (I would guess at present the council will be considering the new high school as that alternative) then there should be an equally adequate transportation policy to ensure residents of the area who currently walk or catch a bus can continue to do the same. Also, the facility currently has a gym and grass sports areas whereas the new school does not and d

Keep the 3G pitch and close the leisure centre. Not everyone needs access to the building just the pitches.

Don't close it.

If more people use the gym and other facilities that are available there

By opening another fitness suite somewhere else in the locality.

Simple really don't shut it. Tweet it to suit profits yes but let's not give the kids an excuse to start vandalising their communities out of boredom. Crime rates will increase and there isn't enough investment in the local police force as there is so you'd certainly create a lot of problems by closing this site.

Don't close it

I will no longer be able to keep fit having played squash at this centre for about 7 years

Relocating the 3G pitch. If the pitch was not able to be relocated at Blackwood School, could there be discussing about us taking a lease on the pitch if suitable relocation was found?

If the current classes could be transferred to another local centre & my caerphilly leisure membership can still be used to attend these classes then it would be acceptable. It mentions that the new Islwyn High has facilities available if this is an option but i would be looking for these classes to be paid out of my membership

Travel further

I understand cuts must be made and I can not offer any suggestions I will be sad to see it close but I would have to cancel my membership.

Good for local community by bringing locals from all walks of life together. Why not use the old council offices opposite (next to doctors) to relocate? Expansion and a swimming pool could make good use of all that land!

No close place to play sports

It cant

They haven't long done work to the leisure centre be a waste of money to get rid of it.

My children use the 3g pitch weekly for football practice for blackwood town football club and also blackwood rugby club use the facilities on a yearly basis for winter training where my children also play.

Improve facilities elsewhere.

Ridiculous - im assuming it will be sold for more housing, taking away from the kids to sell the land to build and more houses - no room in schools, docs lets just put everything under now pressure great i will continue to pay my council tax for nothing around here.

Don't close it

Please read my impact statement, this explains the bigger picture.

The facsimiles are old, however there are very few facilities for the public to use in this vicinity.

The question posed makes no sense to me.....logic tells me that the impact of closure can be reduced simply by NOT CLOSING! just throwing it out there..... money available to pay for the upgrade works required of the pontllanfraith leisure centre, although realistically, in the mentality of CCBC, if money can be made selling land etc. as opposed to spend

Need to have more facilities in area for children/families. If closing Pontllanfraith need to expand current leisure

facilities at leisure centres or develop a local park with playground and sports pitches in blackwood area. Something that ccbc is lacking in massively compared to other areas.

To reduce the impact on many other hundreds of people, including our team, a duplicate of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre Facilities needs to be built in this area

Leave it open and invest in it. Once it's closed it never comes back to the area

Assist us in our relocation. Ideally do not close this site.

More availability of football pitches 3G/4G across the borough as health and fitness should be promoted.

By not closing it. And update it if you feel the need, but its fine as it is.

Leave it open and also because of islwyn high their 3G pitch is not suitable for football use because the pitch is not the right size and that the Astro turf at pontllanfraith would be more suitable to use.

I don't see how a closure of the site couldn't all reduce the impact on me or my family.

Not closing it and instead scrapping the premise of a local council who seem to only serve themselves and their wallets

Keep Pontllanfraith open by insisting the developer of the site increases the building's capacity or replace with new building which provides extra cuts, pitches etc. There needs to be extra provision and also double the parking available. Last week I spent 15 mins trying g to get into the car park and another 5 mins finding a parking space. The car park is a nightmare.

It can't be reduced, there is no other gym in the area which would meet my needs.

Ensure that any facilities that are moving (3G) move quickly to disrupt all local clubs in the area.

Keep certain aspects. The 3G pitch seems to be used every week night continuously and finding slots seems to be difficult. Possible improvements to the sports hall and remove unnecessary other facilities at the location.

Can't be reduced as alternative leisure centre too far away,

Give us book able access to the new pitch in oakdale and more facilities or a bigger gym space at Newbridge.

By not closing it.

Just keep it or. Why waste a perfectly good facility to build more housing. There is a massive estate being built by hawrltin park I industrial estate.

Keep it open. Why has a community institution have to close to build even more housing

New facilities provided within walking distance of the present location.

Make Newbridge Leisure center better and bigger

By opening a new leisure facility, similar to that in Ebbw vale to meet the local residents needs. It's no wonder we have so much obesity and heart disease when it's so difficult to access local facilities in the valley area.

I do not think that the impact could be reduced. Whilst CCBC could build facilities elsewhere, this would take significant time, leaving us without these much-needed facilities. I also suspect that the people of Pontllanfraith would be less inclined to utilise facilities if they are required to travel further afield in order to access them.

Open new centres to spread the burden and subsidise the cost.

Not to close it at all. Provide further facilities for users.

Do not understand this question (further reduced?) the impact of the closure could mean the end of my sons football games and not having a local gym close to where we live

This question makes it sound like it is a pre ordained event . i.e. no notice will be taken of views expressed

This building needs to stay open. The access is not ideal and the gym is not busy mainly due to the size of the room and the lack of equipment. Moving the facilities to another building will only encourage others to use the services.

It's difficult to know as I appreciate that the centre stands in the way of the full development of the site for (presumably) housing.

Build a new one to replace it that we c an be proud of. Has anyone sought a private buyer for it?

Don't close it

Keep it open

It needs to stay open but you will shut it anyway.

Opening a 3G at Blackwood. Very worried by the comments about "if funding is found". This simply cannot go ahead without a guarantee that facilities will be built in blackwood.

Not close it.

Should defiantly not be closed would be huge loss for the community. After the money that has been spent there. Great parking faculties unlike newbridge.

Don't close it yet.

CCBC needs to emphasise that proposals are for the transfer of sport & leisure facilities from Pont Leisure Centre to Islwyn High School, rather than their loss to our local community. Transitional resources should be put in place to ensure that the new sport & leisure offer at Islwyn High School succeeds and is seen to match the offer at Pont

Leisure Centre.

It can't be, why are you removing all facilities from Pontllanfraith, oh yes it's to sell the soul for houses upon houses. You can build as many houses as you like but there will be nowhere in Pontllanfraith for them to go will there? No school, no Council Offices, no Leisure Centre

Any facilities removed from the area is not beneficial-Obviously this is just a paper service exercise and no views of the public will in reality be taken into account, the comprehensive school closed regardless of the public view and so will the leisure centre as it is quite clearly in the way of the demolition process of the school, presumably so that the land can be used to build yet more housing.

DON'T DO IT!

Relocate current classes and instructors. Keep the same time table of classes

Don't really know how any impact could be reduced.You'll be taking all leisure facilities out of a highly populated area.

If the bookings that I have are automatically continued at another suitable facility. Unfortunately I know that the times we require will not be available.

New gym facility in Iswlyn high for the public.

Not to close the facility.

This impact can not be reduced. You will be taking away a local facility that is used by a large catchment area which includes a great number of children who are able to walk to this amenity again fulfilling the government's initiative to get children active. You will be depriving the local children and adults of both leisure and playing field amenities. Not all parents have cars or are able to pay for buses.

By not closing it as it's busy all the time, especially the 3g pitch! Or if it does end up closing building a brand new leisure that is still local

Don't close it!

develop the site with investment. a school is a school and is not run to encourage after hrs usage for individuals so the islywn school should not be considered as an option. develop some of the site with housing but look to include a swimming pool and improve the parking this would benefit and support an area where housing is increasing. Cefn forest swimming centre could be closed and relocated allowing development of this site for needed housing.

The impact could not be reduced. The leisure centre should not be closed

Upgrade other leisure centres

By the same leisure facilities being available locally. Having more exercise classes in the community.

Does it need to close as it is well used and would be an asset to the area particularly with the proposed house building increasing the population. The alternative school Iswlyn High is not as central and I would not think it could be used by the public during the day.

AN ALTERNATIVE EARLY EVENING & EARLY WEEK (PREFERABLY MONDAY) or THURSDAY BADMINTON COURT PROVIDED IN REASONABLE PROXIMITY E.G. AT SUE NOAKES CENTRE YSTRAD MYNACH . OTHER LOCATIONS & OR TIMES MAY PRESENT DIFFICULTIES.

Do not Close it!

Keep it open

Easy don't close it.

Build more up to date facilities, more houses being built in the areas mean more people require leisure facilities. Supposed to encourage people to be active and healthy.

Why is there a need to close the centre? The 3G pitch for football is the only one in the area and the closure will affect so many people.

Further to travel.

Even though I know the council thinks there is a need for more housing in the area, the infrastructure doesn't seem to in place to support more incomers. With a new housing development already started at Gelli Haf, how will the already clogged up roads cope with all the extra traffic. Are there places in the schools in area for all the extra Children? I think the closure should be delayed until after the development of the estate at Gelli Haf is finished to see what effect this has on the current infrastructure.

another centre with the facilities need to be available.. a new school with limited facilities that is already at capacity is not the answer?? why build more houses and reduce the facilities? where will these people going to go? FACILITIES NEED TO BE INCREASED NOT DECREASED! the new school cannot meet the needs of members of Caerphilly leisure

Build a new leisure centre and pool on Bedwellty playing fields and close Cefn Fforest Pontllanfraith and Heol Ddu

The centre should not be on the list to close, the new school at Cwkdale has no where near the facilities that

point has and all the 3g pitches are fully booked else where. Point is used to full capacity from Monday to Thursday in the centre and every night on the 3g, so where you expect all the people to go is beyond me. Young football/rugby teams train every night of the week will be left to roam the streets turning to crime at no fault of their own. I myself have used the centre since it opened in the mid 70s

Have a leisure centre that meets all the same specs as Pontllanfraith. Islwyn School just doesn't match the size of Pontllanfraith, and I don't want to be in and out of a school when the kids are in.

A modern leisure centre built to cater for the needs of two large housing developments on its doorstep, which I'm sure will generate more than one additional user - how forward thinking a council!!!

Not sure that it can be as many sports groups, clubs etc will have to end as there are no facilities available locally. It seems bizarre that a town the size of Blackwood will not have a leisure centre, particularly in light of the number of new housing developments that will be completed in coming years. Surely we need a larger facility in the area for a growing local population, not removing it completely.

keep it open

Why can't we still keep a leisure centre, the centre makes money, the pitch outside is always used. Badminton clubs use hall as well as other classes. The gym is always used.

A lot of people will leave Caerphilly council membership and relocate to other private gyms within the area

Don't close it

It shouldn't shut full stop. It is valuable to the community and to the council. Even if some of the building was to shut the sports hall and the pitches are needed.

Don't close it. Upgrade it.

It cannot be reduced. The centre is on a convenient bus route and is easily accessible. Under future generations act I cannot see how asking the local community and users to travel further is sensible. This closure removes much needed facilities for clubs supporting children and encourages sports participation for residents of Caerphilly borough.

Change to plan to include existing leisure centre as an integral part of the proposed housing development.

Keep the 3g. The new school pitch doesn't have barriers around so doesn't comply with Gwent county specifications.

We urge you to keep it open, if not we would need a 3G pitch with floodlights, barriers and dug outs and ideally a small stand which is a requirement of the Welsh FA should we get promoted 2 divisions which is a strong possibility with the squad we have.

don't close it

The closure of the centre will have an impact on the local community meaning that the obesity levels will rise in Gwent as the council tries to save money but don't think about people's health and other issues like the cardio team who use it to help in their recovery from heart attacks I speak to many of the users while doing my session on there and a lot have said it will have a major impact on their recovery

By not closing the centre.

It appears that the new facilities at the new school do not match those currently offered by this centre. Like for like replacement should be available

Build a new leisure centre in the local area instead of just making money by selling the land off at the old council building, Oakdale and Pontllanfraith comprehensive schools.

Don't close the centre

Build something for our children you building houses everywhere with more families moving to the area and nowhere for our children to play!!

Increase the size of both Bargoed and Cefn Forest leisure centres to alleviate overcrowding. This would cost substantially more than keeping Pont open so KEEP PONT OPEN!

Don't close it!!! Or move ALL the classes/facilities in an unchanged format to a centre nearby

Bring more classes and gym facilities back to Cefn Fforest

Establishment of a fitness centre under the current ccbc scheme in the immediate vicinity (without having to travel further up the valley). Alternatively significant expansion of the already undersized Sue Noakes centre.

It can only be reduced by not closing the Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

Providing 'like for like' facilities at our new school site so that Physical Education provision for all pupils is appropriate and fit for purpose, allowing all pupils to have the full benefits of Health, fitness and well-being providing 21st century PE in a 21st century school ie a full fitness suite and a grass pitch

open the Blackwood 3G before closing the Pontllanfraith one. make more playing fields / grass areas in the area available for young people to train upon

Pontllanfraith is a very central location with good facilities reasonably priced. In the demolition plan if the entrance could be widened to 2 lanes then the impact on local residents would be lowered

The 3g pitches should stay open if the building is the cause of concern and there is no investment into it's regeneration. 3g pitches could be transferred.

simple dont sell of the facilities needed by the local residents , there are more facikities needed , blackwood is growing in population and facilities shoud not be centralised ,
Will effect my mental and health. I am a oder person trying to keep fit and healthy plus having company is a great aspect. Affny futher distance will effect my ability to attend
lack of community spirit

Do not close the leisure centre. Simple! Or if you must, then build adequate facilities in the location. Not 4 miles up the road.

As above and our football team which uses the 3G at a convenient time for us would struggle to find an alternative locally Our fitness and health would be impacted. I am also over 50 and need to keep fit.The closure would affect me and other elderly members.

by not closing it in the first place...

At a minimum, all provisions at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre must be moved to the proposed new school site. Would save money by not building a new pitch and also I would like to point out at the new super school built islwayn high school that their gym facilities are not even up to gym standards only got a couple of machines there and cannot be used during school times which will have a knock on effect with anyone working shift patterns and I will be one of those.

Build another leisure centre

By providing another facility of equal or better standard on this side of the valley.

Surely this decision contradicts the best interests of the community? Heart disease is a killer, exercise has been shown to be beneficial and helps rehabilitation. Let's get proactive with more not less leisure facilities before we have to build another Hospital. Diesel or petrol cars is very political, how about less reliance on vehicles with facilities closer to their home? Isn't the proposal to shut being taken with no consideration the the health and air quality of our environment and the people you represent

You need to decide that. You're making these decisions

Transport provided and same facilities

Simply don't give into corporate greed. We need these facilities for our children.

If the council were to relocate the leisure centre to a different site within the vicinity of Pontllanfraith.

It can not be reduced. the impact is eminence. There are classes that help those with mobility and weight loss that will now only be available at each end of the county in New Tredegar or Risca leisure centre. Everything is being taken from the Pontllanfraith and Blackwood wards of Caerphilly council which is not fair to the residents of the area.

Facilities and amenities should be, being added to the area to accommodate the families who will be moving into the area, as well as to continue to supply to the need of the current user. The facilities should be, being invested in to provide the new and existing residents with leisure activities. The new homes alone, would provide the council with substantial income from the council tax fees, this money should be fed back into to the area, to allow for more community friendly areas.

Keep it open Viable

The council need to understand that funding unrequired road works, social housing, unrequired huge staff bill (office based) andfrom council tax payers - they need to look at funding for beneficial means such as sports and leisure.

Major

Hard to see how other leisure centres could run more classes/increase availability.

Leave the building open.

The centre is always very well attended and seems busier now than ever. I have been playing here for 25 years as I used to live in Blackwood area.

Keep the leisure centre open

Not Close it! There is nothing wrong with the leisure centre.

Keep venue open/ invest in the facility. Newbridge is full to capacity. Cwmcarn LC was the centre of the community. The community has suffered since its closure.

Don't close it altogether.

Increase facilities in Newbridge & classes. Make school facilities available. Need something in Blackwood.

By not closing it. Or plan a new one in this area, not one further away.

Keep it open

The lack of equivalent alternative facilities from the 3G pitch to the sports hall, from the squash courts to the fitness suite means the closure of the leisure centre will have a massive detrimental affect on those who use it.

It can't be reduced - once closed these classes will stop - having a detrimental effect on members physical & mental wellbeing.

It just takes another facility away and the community needs this centre. Do not close the centre it is part of the community.

It could have been reduced/prevented/more difficult to close has Leisure Services Management been more pro active with community based events, using not only Pontllanfraith but other LC's as a hub or integral part of these activities.

Building more courts & facilities at NLC & CFLC & running more classes in both of these but that still leaves the issue of transport!!

By reducing the membership fee because you're going to provide less of a service and it will cost more to go to another gym. You provide less, you pay less. Please don't blame Westminster Gov, or cuts to local Gov funding, we pay more & more but get less for it.

Let there be no closure. Add a swimming pool to Pont leisure.

Can classes be held nearby? Can the same facilities be offered nearby? What will happen to all the local clubs that use the centre. Pont LC is very popular and provides excellent service to all.

By keeping the main building open

Build a new leisure centre for them, or keep Pontllanfraith open.

The relocation of the 3G to Blackwood would soften the blow of losing the pitch but the closure of the well used centre will see increase in demand at already busy centres.

Develop for current users (as per discussions with CCBC)

Why close the LC? The 3G is very popular. 2 schools have closed which both had pitches, replaced with just 1 pitch at Islwyn. Keep pont open & change Oakdale astroturf to 3G. Customers should be provided with alternatives if Pont LC closes.

Keep it open to provide facilities for the local community. The county promote health & wellbeing yet are looking to close well used facilities that allow the local community to keep fit and active.

Keep it open. It provides great facilities and is the most profitable in the county - why close it?

Providing a varied activity timetable at a nearby leisure centre such as Newbridge which currently does not have facilities to host activities, yoga, pilates, body conditioning etc. Don't close leisure centre at Pontllanfraith.

Do not close the centre - Pay a visit to the car park from Mon - Thurs and see how well this centre is used.

DON'T CLOSE IT.

By having local fitness class arrangements made by CCBC which are affordable & regular within Pontllanfraith.

Don't close it!!

Don't close it

By not closing it. There is already high demand for the facilities in Caerphilly & closing will mean less availability.

Keep the building open

Don't close it - it is well used

My view is it should remain open as over 90,000 persons use the centre each year. It would impact on numerous people and other centres are already overcrowded.

Ensure fitness instructors jobs are protected as well as CCBC staff jobs. Ensure classes will be facilitated elsewhere in another leisure centre with the same teacher.

Do not close

By not closing it!

Another location becomes available which is easily accessible & still within the same area, at least closer to the area than Newbridge LC

Use sports hall for bigger fitness classes

By not shutting the leisure centre as many individuals use it.

Keeping it open. Rebuilding the leisure centre local to Pontllanfraith

By not closing it or building another LC to replace it. By closing this LC this will have a big impact on the health & wellbeing of the people in the area.

We have existed as a club since 1970's/80's we spent most of that time at Cwncarn school, when it closed we were offered 2 hours at Newbridge. We were subsequently accommodated at Pont as there was pressure at Newbridge due to other clubs from Cwncarn. We are happy here the staff are extremely helpful to everyone.

If funding is the issue why not consider focusing on spend that is irrelevant and of no benefit to the council tax payers. Food banks being used by the wrong client base. Millions wasted on accommodation for CCBC office staff (Tredomen) and foolish bonus/wages for management. You are not private, you are funded by us. Listen to those who pay for you.

I may either have to travel further which may dissuade me from attending & attend RCT centres instead as class

may no longer be provided.

More information that is easily accessible, information shared as consultation progresses

A suitable replacement facility, available for regular & constructive use for all members

Build a new LC in Blackwood or better still Don't Close Pont! Some sports eg football will be catered for elsewhere but there won't be extra badminton courts. This means I cannot play at all. CCBC should be promoting sport not closing facilities.

It is hard to imagine an area as big as Blackwood not to have a leisure centre. A new and improved LC should be built to cater for the people from the new houses which are being built on the school site and adjacent to Grove Park. For the future use of the community. I strongly oppose these closures.

Probably if too difficult to get a court our group will drift apart.

More classes at other centres which are sadly lacking

Unless it is kept open the impact can not be reduced. As well as creating geographical and access issues, there will also be a great negative impact socially creating further magnitude of issues and problems.

Something else in the nearby area offering the same facilities. Alternatively keeping the centre open at peak times.

Don't close it

By giving us another place to train.

Tell us where the new training facility will be!

Do not close. Update the facilities resulting in a better centre for users. In particular with new housing planned.

Provide another leisure centre for us to train

Provide another sports location

Open sports hall in Islwyn High School

Opening a council facility leisure centre near the same area

Provide another leisure centre

Be able to provide a suitable venue in the local area so players that cannot drive are bale to get to training.

Continue yoga classes locally. Add additional well being classes locally - eg Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates

Spend the money on the building. Facilitate it better - encouraging more people from the local area to use the centre. An established karate lesson/group has been here for 35 years.

?

By not closing it, and spending some funds upgrading it!!!

Don't close it! It will be incredibly damaging to the community!!

Open a local facility or improve Cefn Forest

Could keep leisure centre if i.e. houses are built new customers & more revenue from locals - more profit for CCBC in long run.

loss of enjoyable classes as alternatives may result in having to travel multiple locations to attend rearranged classes, this would make it annoying and inconvenient for myself with scheduling. Also increased time spent travelling for what could be unnecessary if the gym remained open. Ideally find a closer location within the area offering current or similar class schedules if the gym has to close.

Need to keep present instructor for Zumba classes

Re Consider its Closure! The centre attracts a large catchment area. It is well used and supported by the individuals and various sporting clubs. With obesity rates rising particularly amongst young people it is more important than ever to provide leisure facilities throughout the borough to meet the needs of everyone.

By maintaining a local focus for health and wellbeing for the community by maintaining the LC within any new build plans. This will keep both new homes owners, employees and centre users happy.

Don't close it

Monitor usage. Caerphilly Borough needs leisure facilities as high levels of obesity & sedentary behaviour. Great classes.

This will be further reduced by the centre remaining open.

The simple answer to this would be to keep it open. The centre is well used. The range of classes offered here are the best in the local area. The instructors are fantastic and the staff are brilliant. I see no reason to close a well used facility.

To remain open

Loss of LC could mean loss of classes as people would have to travel to other LC which would result in a longer travelling time and distance in travelling. This would be very inconvenient to many members such as myself

More daytime classes in Blackwood/Pontllanfraith/Newbridge area

By remaining open, not just for myself but for others

N/a

If CCBC cannot keep it open, then transfer it to a community trust or new community based organisation...I for one would lend my skills to this as a volunteer!

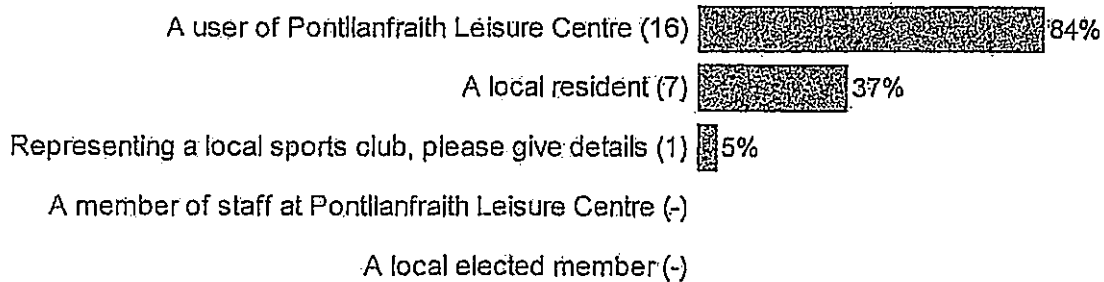
Don't close it refurbish it

not closing it would be a good start. everyone I know enjoys using the leisure centre and to close it would be a really bad idea. not to mention the fact that islwyn high school's new gym only includes 4 spins bikes and one set of weights. the dance studio is half the size of the pont studio, and there are no bus routes what so ever to the new school.

This report was generated on 13/03/19. Overall 28 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes. Lists are restricted to the most recent 100 rows.

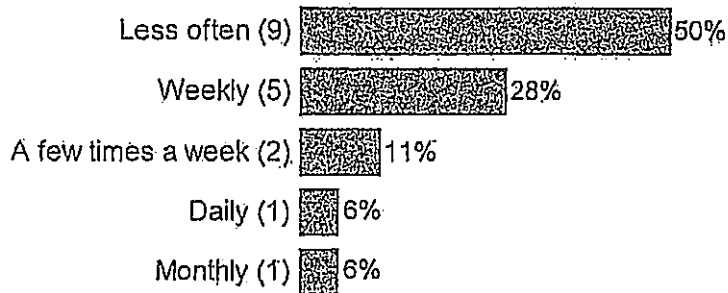
Please indicate your interest in this consultation (*please tick all that apply*)



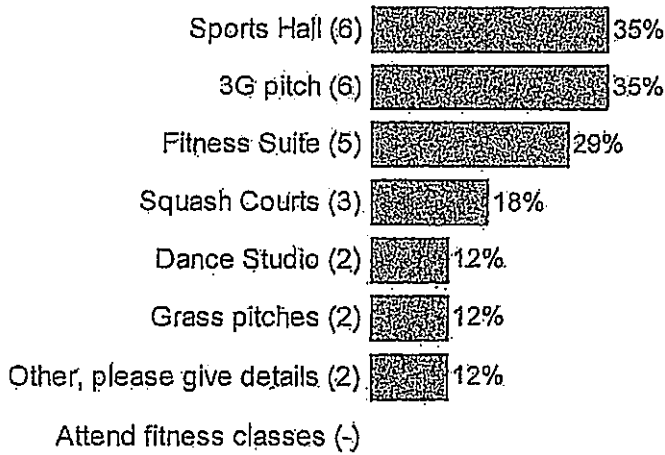
Please give details

- Football
- i dont go to this leisure centre but use it at school
- youth forum
- Youth Forum Rep
- I attend inovate

How often do you use Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre?



What facilities do you use at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre? (please tick all that apply)



Please give details

- youth club
- free time
- none
- never

What impact will the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre have on you?

- Nothing to do
- Wont be able to have football matches anymore
- no impact
- this may impact on my future choices and options
- school would have worse facilities
- my footballs team's training day may have to change resulting in me being unable to attend training and having to quit
- I am very disappointed
- not a lot
- not much as it's further away than the rec that i can use
- none
- I will need to move to next nearest leisure centre which will be much more costly
- The leisure centre is easy to access and keeps young people off the street and become active.
- We can't keep playing netball.
- When we would train for netball it wouldn't continue for us
- We get to learn new things like this and play new games and have lots of fun
- lots
- I play football and my friends play netball
- We play netball in Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre

Are alternative arrangements/facilities in place to meet your needs?



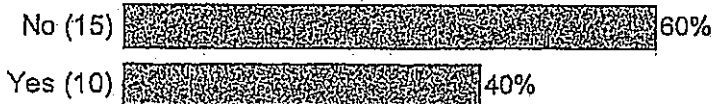
Please give details of alternative arrangements below.

- blackwood
- I dunno
- caerphilly leisure centre is close by (5 mins walk)
- the rec caerphilly leisure centre
- Leave the astroturf. do not close the leisure centre,
- Netball, football
- Have none
- Have none
- Have none

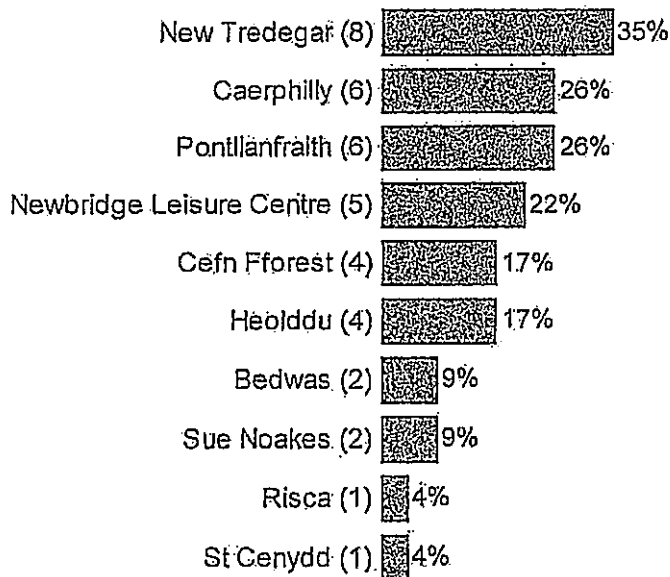
Please detail how the impact of the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre could be further reduced?

- new youth club
- school uses the netball courts and dance studio/gym and 3G for pe lessons, if we didnt the school wouldnt have enough space for lessons
- By not closing it!
- letting people know where their nearest leisure centre is now. notify them of clubs they use i.e. dance which are close by outside of council services
- have it open once a week
- Dont close it
- More games
- More games
- More games

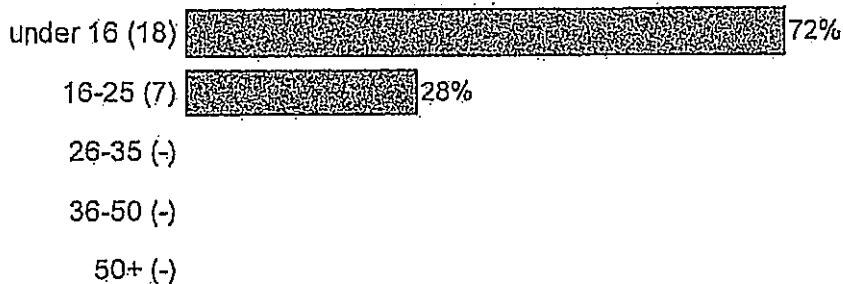
Are you a Caerphilly Lifestyle member?



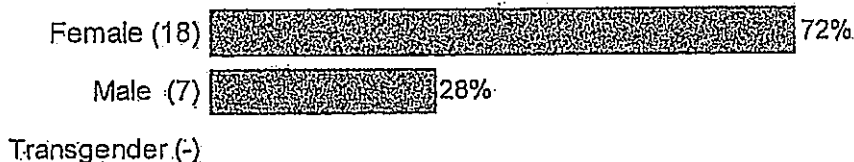
Do you use any other leisure facilities in the Caerphilly county borough area?



What is your age group



Are you



Please provide your postcode.

NP12 2ej	CF83 8TR	bedwas
np12 2nl	NP11 7Qh	CF831RS
NP12 1WB	NP11 7HB	NP12 2BP
NP12 1NX	NP11 3PJ	NP12 2BP

Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre Youth Forum Responses – comments Q4, Q6 and Q7

Q4
What impact will the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Ce...
Nothing to do
Wont be able to have football matches anymore
no impact
this may impact on my future choices and options
school would have worse facilities
my footballs team's training day may have to change resulting in me being unable to attend training and having to quit
I am very disappointed
not a lot
not much as it's further away than the rec that I can use
none
I will need to move to next nearest leisure centre which will be much more costly
The leisure centre is easy to access and keeps young people off the street and become active
We can't keep playing netball.
When we would train for netball it wouldn't continue for us
We get to learn new things like this and play new games and have lots of fun
lots
I play football and my friends play netball
We play netball in Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre

Q6
Please give details of alternative arrangements below.
blackwood
I dunno
caerphilly leisure centre is close by (5 mins walk)
the rec caerphilly leisure centre
Leave the astroturf. do not close the leisure centre,
Netball, football
Have none
Have none
Have none

Q7
Please detail how the impact of the closure of Pontllanfr...
new youth club
school uses the netball courts and dance studio/gym and 3G for pe lessons, if we didnt the school wouldnt have enough space for lessons
By not closing it I
letting people know where their nearest leisure centre is now. notify them of clubs they use i.e. dance which are close by outside of council services
have it open once a week
Dont' close it
More games
More games
More games

From: Emma Curtis [redacted]@childcomwales.org.uk
Sent: 30 January 2018 10:27
To: Sharma, Elizabeth
Subject: RE: Consultation on the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre
Dear Liz

Thank you for your email to the Commissioner.
As the Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales we are unable to respond to consultations in respect of local funding - such interventions could prejudice the Commissioner's independent status.
However as you have taken the time to contact us, we would like to take the opportunity to highlight two points in relation to the existing requirements under the Local Authority's framework and its relationship with Children's Rights. It may be useful for you to be aware that where we are contacted by members of the public in relation to matters such as this we would also make them aware of these points and may consider following up concerns related to these.

- Equality Impact Assessments require consideration of the impact of people within recognised protected characteristics including age. There is an expectation that children and young people should be a key consideration in respect of this section given the matter concerned.
- Under Article 12 Children and young people have a right to say what they think on matters affecting them and their opinions taken into account. All public bodies have a duty to contribute toward the realisation of children's rights. Whilst Local Authority consultation requirements vary as the Office of the Commissioner we would expect that children and young people would be afforded the opportunity for meaningful consultation along with evidence that their views, as well as those of other consultees, have been taken into account on matters which affect them such as this.

You may be aware that recently the Children's Commissioner has published - "The Right Way" A Children's Rights Approach. This guide is designed to help public bodies to meet their duties. The approach is about placing the UNCRC at the core of planning and service delivery and integrating children's rights into every aspect of decision-making, policy and practice. We are conscious that many Local Authorities are already undertaking excellent work in respect of some aspects of the approach on a whole, departmental or service level. I hope this document is useful and that you may like to share it and raise in relevant forums.

Kind Regards,

Emma

Emma Curtis

Cynghorydd Polisi | Policy Adviser

Comislynydd Plant Cymru | Children's Commissioner for Wales

T: [redacted]

M: [redacted]

E: [redacted]@childcomwales.org.uk | [redacted]@complantcymru.org.uk

Twitter: www.twitter.com/childcomwales | www.twitter.com/complantcymru

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth a galwadau yr Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a galwadau a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd cysylltu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi | We welcome receiving correspondence and calls in Welsh. We will respond to correspondence and calls in Welsh, and contacting us in Welsh will not lead to delay.

From: Shárma, Elizabeth [REDACTED]@CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK

Senti: 23 January 2018 12:04

To: Post <Post@childcomwales.org.uk>

Subject: Consultation on the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to you in regard to a consultation on the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre within the county borough of Caerphilly.

Following an extended period of consultation with the local community during October and November 2017, it has been proposed that the consultation should be extended to a wider stakeholder group including yourself for further comment.

The following link will take you to the public consultation page on our website:

<http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/involved/Consultations/Proposed-closure-of-Pontllanfraith-Leisure-Centre>

I have also attached a copy of the Cabinet report outlining the proposals and a copy of a survey for your information.

If you have any comments, I would very much appreciate if you could return any these to me by midday on 7th February 2018.

Kind regards

Liz Sharma

Swyddog Ymgynghori ac Ymgysylltu â'r Cyhoedd | Consultation and Public Engagement Officer

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili | Caerphilly County Borough Council

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@caerphilly.gov.uk

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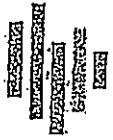
www.flickr.com/photos/caerphillycbc

Mae'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw ffeiliau sy'n atodol yn gyfrinachol a dim ond ar gyfer defnydd yr unigolyn neu'r sefydliad y cyfeiriwyd atynt. Os ydych wedi derbyn yr e-bost hwn ar gam rhwng wybod i reolwr eich system. Nodwch fod unrhyw sylwadau neu farn o fewn testun yr e-bost yw sylwadau a barn yr awdur yn unig ac nid yn angenrheidiol yn cynrychioli barn Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili. I orffen, dylai'r person sy'n derbyn yr e-bost sicrhau nad oes ffrws ynghlwm nac mewn unrhyw ddogfen atodol i'r e-bost. Nid yw'r Cyngor yn derbyn unrhyw gyfrifoldeb am unrhyw ddi-frod achoswyd gan unrhyw ffrws sy'n cael ei drosglwyddo gan yr e-bost hwn.

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog (yn unol â'ch dewis), ac mewn lathoedd a fformatau eraill. Cewch ymateb yn unol â'ch dewis iaith os nodwch hynny i ni, ac ni fydd cyfathrebu â ni yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager. Please note that any views or opinions presented in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Caerphilly County Borough Council. Finally, the recipient should check this email and any attachments for the presence of viruses. The Council accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this email.

We welcome correspondence in English, Welsh or bilingually (according to your choice) or in other languages and formats. We will respond in your declared chosen language, and corresponding with us in Welsh will not lead to any delay.



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Cymru

Future
Generations
Commissioner
for Wales.

By email

19/02/2018

RE: Consultation on the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre

Dear Elizabeth,

Thank you for your invitation to respond to the extended consultation on the future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

I have seen in the press that you have decided to postpone your decision for now.

I have received letters from members of the public relating to this issue and also decisions relating to the closure of other sports facilities in the county. I monitor all correspondence I receive to seek to detect any systemic issue which can arise.

As you are aware, the Well-being of Future Generations Act gives a legally-binding common purpose and the seven well-being goals set out a full picture of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being for Welsh Government, local authorities including Caerphilly County Borough Council, local health boards and other specified public bodies. It details the ways in which specified public bodies must work to improve the well-being of Wales and it also requires them to set well-being objectives that enable them to maximise their contribution to the seven well-being goals.

The Act also provides for better decision-making by ensuring that those public bodies adopt the five ways of working: taking account of the long-term, helping to prevent problems occurring or getting worse, taking an integrated and collaborative approach, and considering and involving a diverse range of people. These ways of working are a very important part of the Act as they are about how public bodies need to work differently to make better decisions for future generations. Whilst there is no hierarchy within the five ways of working, involving citizens and community groups in decisions that affect them is crucial to achieving long-lasting change and the Act makes clear that the way public bodies involve people should reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves. Collaboration and integration include a consideration the impact of decisions or policies on the work or delivery of services in the area by others which might sit or not on the public service board, as another example.

As Future Generations Commissioner, I have a general duty to promote the sustainable development principle (including the five ways of working), to act as a guardian of the ability of future generations to meet their needs, and to encourage public bodies to take greater account of the long-term impact of the things that they do. As you

Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol Cymru
Slamdrau'r Ffŷchnad, 5-7 Heol Eglwys Fawr
Caerdydd, CF10 1AT
cyswll@comisiynydddyfodol.cymru
comisiynydddyfodol.cymru

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
Mallot Chamber, 5-7 St Mary Street
Cardiff, CF10 1AT
contact@futuregenerations.wales
futuregenerations.wales



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Commissioner
for Wales

Know, while I do not have a case-work function to provide support to individual cases I cannot get involved in every consultation, the Act does give me the power to provide advice and assistance to public bodies and public services boards and promote and encourage them to consider the long-term impact of what they do and meet their well-being objectives. It is within this context that I provide the following comments:

As Caerphilly County Borough Council is directly covered by the Act, it is important that you apply the sustainable development principle (outlined above) in your work and show how the decision you are taking makes progress towards achieving the well-being goals through your well-being objectives, which includes a Healthy Wales.

To support this process, in collaboration with the Welsh Government, we have recently designed a Future Generations Framework for Service Design to help public bodies to use the Act. I attach it here as it could be useful to you. The framework can be used by those who design and oversee the provision of services, like leisure services, to prompt thought, have structured discussions, and make decisions to ensure services are resilient and are seeking to improve all four aspects of people's well-being (economic, social, environmental, cultural) now and in the future.

The tool provides a guide for public bodies to think through what the five ways of working mean in practice for services, setting out a series of questions to stimulate structured discussions and enable organisations to make decisions about how they work. We recognise that considering the ways of working throughout the design and delivery of services will, for many public bodies, involve a radical change of working practices. The tool has been developed by a cross-public service leadership group, and tested with practitioners representing a full range of public services. Early findings indicate it will be helpful in a range of ways, from planning a new service; reviewing an existing service; or articulating (and sharing) good practice which is already happening.

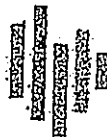
The tool is designed to be used flexibly, and adapted according to the particular circumstances being explored. This is an offer to use such tools, rather than an expectation - it is for you to decide if it will be of assistance to you, how you use it, and who to involve. My team would be happy to discuss this, in more detail, provide support for using the tool, and would be pleased to hear experiences of using it in practice so it can be refined and made most useful to you. We are keen this should continue to be developed through use. Please contact Heledd Morgan (Heledd.Morgan@futuregenerations.wales) to discuss further.

There are a number of other tools in development that aim to support you in using the Act as a framework for thinking in different contexts. In particular, we have also developed a 'Future Generations Framework for projects', which has been designed to assist public bodies to use the five ways of working and maximise contribution to the seven national well-being goals when designing, developing and reviewing projects.

With specific focus on Pontllanfraith, the letters that we received raised concerns around the integration and involvement of the decision-making process. As I am keen to empower individuals and community groups in understanding how they can use the Act to challenge public bodies, I suggested that they ask the following questions:

Cornisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol Cymru
Siambrau Farchnad, 5-7 Heol Eglwys Fawr
Caerdydd, CF10 1AT
cyslythwch@difencenedlaethaurydodol.cymru
cenedlaethaurydodol.cymru

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
Market Chambers, 5-7 St Mary Street
Cardiff, CF10 1AT
contact@futuregenerations.wales
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Involvement - The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals; and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

For example, how have the relevant authorities involved people (e.g. residents, community groups, sport providers, health professionals and school children) in discussing how they can improve the health of people in the area, specifically, different options for sport facilities? How have they evidenced that they have responded to what people have told them, and has the process been transparent? Have they made sure that the people involved reflect the diversity of the area which the authority serves?

Long Term - The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.

For example, how will the loss of the facilities affect the well-being of the people of your area in the long term? How will it affect what your area looks and feels like in the year 2040 (a generations' time)? How have the relevant authorities identified the long-term trends that are most relevant to this issue (for instance, inequalities in health, obesity, youth disengagement). Are the underlying assumptions about future trends that the current provision is based on realistic? What impact does this proposal have on these trends?

Prevention - How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.

For example, how will the loss of the training facilities exacerbate problems that the local community faces - social, economic, cultural, environmental? Does the leisure centre support breaking negative cycles such as poverty, poor health or health inequalities? What are the conflicts emerging between different aspects of well-being and sustainability and how have these been resolved?

Integration - Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.

For example, how will the loss of leisure facilities impact on economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being - it cannot focus on one of these areas, at the expense of the others. Has the decision connected different areas of public policy agendas to generate multiple benefits? Does it impact on both the Council's well-being objectives and the work of the Caerphilly public services board so far? How will this decision impact on the work and service delivery of other organisations in the areas considering organisation on the Public Service Board and beyond?

Collaboration - Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.

For example, have the relevant authorities thought about how it could work in collaboration with other organisations - including public, private and third sector organisations, in finding a solution?

Under the Act, I have a duty to assess and monitor the extent to which Caerphilly County Borough Council meet its well-being objectives and I take into account the issues raised in public correspondence sent to me in my assessment and monitoring. One of your objectives is specifically focused on promoting the benefits of an active

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Caerdydd, CF10 1AT

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Market Chambers, 6-7 St Mary Street
Cardiff, CF10 1AT

conioctus@futuregenerations.wales
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and healthy lifestyle (p.10-12). Under the Act, public bodies must take all reasonable steps to meet their objectives.

Finally, for completeness, I attach our advice to Caerphilly public services board on their well-being assessment and on their draft well-being plan in case this could be of use to you. The draft well-being plan has objectives and steps relating to asset management with partners, preventative approaches to health and social care and increasing community resilience. One of the issues raised with us in public correspondence was the frustration that the Chair of the public services board (PSB) was not allowing the issue of Pontllanfraith to be raised at a PSB meeting. Whereas we understand that it is not practicable for every single issue to come through the public services board, PSB members could ask themselves what impact an important decision would have on other stakeholders and partners, and indeed on the work of the public services board so far. For example, the closure of the leisure centre could impact on the local health board and Public Health Wales.

I hope that you will find this response useful. Thank you again for getting in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Marie Brousseau-Navarro
Director of Policy, Legislation and Innovation

p.p.



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Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol Cymru
Siambrfa'r Farchnad, 5-7 Heol Eglwys Fair
Caerdydd, CF10 1AT
cyswll@comisiynydddyfodol.cymru
cenedlaethau'dyfodol.cymru

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
Market Chambers, 5-7 St Mary Street
Cardiff, CF10 1AT
contactus@futuregenerations.wales
futuregenerations.wales

Blackwood Town Council

Response to Consultation on the Proposed Closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre

November 2017

1. Introduction & Recommendation

1.1 Blackwood Town Council has been asked to provide its views on Caerphilly County Borough Council's proposals to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre, demolish the facilities and profit by selling the land to private sector housing developers for the purposes of realising a one-off capital receipt payment.

We do so with a deep sense of concern.

1.2. Members are of the opinion that the Leisure Centre is a very popular community facility and as evidenced in the Cabinet report, is extremely well-used. More importantly members noted that the Centre is also one of the *lowest subsidised of all* leisure centres in the Borough, with the exciting potential to increase income streams and new business through new public and partner daytime usage following the closure of Pontllanfraith Comprehensive.

1.3. At a recent Special Meeting of Blackwood Town Council members were unanimous in their opposition to the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and that Caerphilly County Borough Council should continue to operate and maintain the Leisure Centre.

1.4. Blackwood Town Council is of the view that should the Cabinet, regrettably be *minded* to agree with their officers recommendations, then there is a third way the Cabinet *should agree to instead of closure*. This is discussed in further detail in sections 7.9 and 8.2 below.

2. Links to National Strategy:

2.1. Members have grave concerns that the proposed closure and the way in which the proposal has been expedited, would in fact be contrary to the following Welsh Government Acts:

- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

2.2. Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

This Act states that local councils have a duty to support vulnerable young adults in Group 3 by:

- Helping with a young adult's well-being

2.3. Providing access to community-based services (non-statutory or otherwise) that help to maintain or improve health and well-being and is within reasonable walking distance for those most vulnerable within society who *A, do not own a car or B, subsist on extremely low disposable income levels*, is an undeniably important role for a local authority and as such, access to affordable local leisure provision can help a young person immensely in managing their health and well-being and *for those reasons alone is vitally important*.

2.4. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

This Act emphasises the importance of our communities being:

- Prosperous
- Resilient
- Healthier
- More equal
- Cohesive

2.5. Perhaps more importantly in the context of the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre, the Act talks about how public bodies like Caerphilly County Borough Council now have a duty to think about and publically state how they:

- Work together with others
- Involve people in making decisions

3. Analysis:

3.1. *Blackwood Town Council is of the view that the proposed closure conflicts with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in the following ways:*

3.2. A Prosperous Community

The *Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation* evidences very low levels of income locally.

Pontllanfraith 2 is in the top 10% of the most deprived communities in Wales in terms of both the Household Income and Employment indicators (out of 1,909 communities) and as such provides a very strong argument for maintaining this local community facility.

3.3. A Resilient Community

Pontllanfraith has recently seen the closure of the County's Civic Centre, the Caerphilly Music Services HQ, Pontllanfraith Comprehensive and now potentially it's Leisure Centre and surrounding public open spaces, all to housing development. The long-term cumulative effects of such a large-scale local authority service exodus is biting deep and its long-term consequences should not be underestimated.

Nor should the short-term goal of realising *capital receipts* be the determining factor in this decision as the Department's report principally campaigns for *A tipping-point* where local resilience cannot realistically be maintained, will be reached should the Leisure Centre close.

3.4 A Healthier Community

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation also evidences high levels of poor health locally. Pontllanfraith 2 is in the top 25% of the most deprived communities in Wales in terms of poor health.

The closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre *will only serve to make this situation worse*, removing an established, well-used and popular centre of health and well-being in easy-walking distance to communities suffering from poverty and deprivation flies in the face of the values and expectations expressed in both of the Welsh Government Acts referenced above and the Caerphilly Public Service Board's emerging Plan.

3.5 A More Equal Community

With a combined population of 17,048, the communities of Pontllanfraith and Blackwood represent a strategically important and significantly large population cluster around this Leisure Centre and this is demonstrated by the centre's usage data. Relocating (and reducing) provision outside of this large population cluster *will be detrimental to our most vulnerable residents*.

3.6. We reject the Department's assertion that Leisure Centre users will be easily able to travel to reduced provision elsewhere (the so-called 5x20 Rule). *Cabinet should note that the gulf in car ownership between the poorest and the most prosperous residents in Pontllanfraith who do not own a car is striking - 31% and 9% respectively.*

3.7. Therefore we believe that the proposed closure will *have its greatest impact on those who are the most vulnerable within our society* and who have no personal transport to mitigate the effects of costly, uncertain and time-limited public transport and the impossible to navigate on foot (at the distances expected) steep topography of our valley communities, whose road transport links are generally North/South as opposed to East/West and whose street designs and lighting is generally unsuitable for long-distance walking.

3.8. As mentioned above, there exists in both communities an extremely large variance in poverty and prosperity. Income levels in Pontllanfraith range from the top 10% most deprived in Wales to the top 4% most prosperous, the closure of the Leisure Centre will only serve to further widen this gap.

3.9. That is worth repeating; the loss of local provision *will not merely reduce* accessible and affordable community services to all, *but it will increase the poverty-gap* between our poorest and most prosperous residents.

3.10. This report also notes that *hundreds of skilled professional jobs have been relocated out of Pontllanfraith or lost through natural wastage* by the local authority through the closure of local authority buildings and services in Pontllanfraith over the last 18 months. (See 3.3 above and 3.11 below)

3.11. A Cohesive Community

Communities lose their cohesion when local services *are no longer local*. The Civic Centre was a vitally important service access point for residents from both Blackwood and Pontllanfraith. The closure of the local comprehensive school was a hammer blow to parents, grandparents, the community and most importantly the pupils themselves who fought so gallantly to turn the school around and keep it open and who now have to travel out of Pontllanfraith for their education on diesel and petrol emitting vehicles daily.

3.12. However, Blackwood Town Council is of the view that should the Cabinet be unfortunately minded to agree with their officers recommendations, then we clearly state *there is a third way*. This is discussed in further detail in sections 7.9 and 8.2 below.

4. A Healthier Wales – further analysis

4.1 Blackwood Town Council is of the view that should the closure proceed, there appears to be serious doubt whether the Islwyn High School facility could in fact have the capacity to take all existing users. Members also understand that the school has already entered into 'gentlemen's' agreements with clubs and teams currently not using Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and therefore existing users of the 3G facility in Pontllanfraith will have *nowhere to go*.

This in fact highlights the huge unmet demand for 3G provision currently within the Borough, provision which will be severely damaged should the 3G facility at Pontllanfraith be closed without replacement.

4.2. With communities in close proximity to the centre having a relatively low car ownership, as mentioned in 3.6. above (compared with more affluent areas), there are concerns that *current users* would be deterred from continuing a physically active lifestyle, due to the difficulties and costs of public transport in accessing the somewhat isolated new school site and other venues in the Borough.

4.3. Blackwood Town Council reiterates its opposition to the Cabinet report and the Department's assertion at consultation meetings that local people *can easily travel* to Cefn Fforest, Islwyn High, Heolddu and Newbridge, as this fails to take both our most deprived residents and the unforgiving valleys topography into account. Current Leisure Centre users without cars will simply be unable to access provision further afield.

4.4. This coupled with the loss of one of only two competition level 3G pitches in the Borough (funded and accredited by FAW) is a major *regional* concern. The current problems with facilities at the Centre of Sporting Excellence at Ystrad Mynachi and *no guarantee or timetable regarding funding* any proposed replacement at Blackwood Comprehensive seems a recipe for disaster, with numerous teams and hundreds of individuals likely to suffer, potentially lose income, membership and even league status in the interim. For them *the winding up of their clubs and activities is a very real operational risk*.

4.5. A Wales of Cohesive Communities – Blackwood Town Council recognises that the current facility is at the heart of the community, and already delivers a well-connected, socially diverse and engaged community hub. The Leisure Centre's closure, demolition and asset sale would decimate this.

4.6 A Globally Responsive Wales – the current high usage rates of the Centre is testament to the fact that the local community are already successfully attempting to lead a healthy, physically active lifestyle, and closure certainly would not guarantee the continuation of this but would, with the access problems already identified, likely lead to a significant reduction in community engagement in healthy living activities.

5. The Conflict with the Caerphilly Public Service Board's Draft Well-being Plan

5.1. Blackwood Town Council notes that Caerphilly County Borough Council is one of four statutory partners of the Caerphilly PSB and therefore notes *with particular concern* that this rushed proposal to close the Leisure Centre *is in direct conflict with* the following Caerphilly Public Service Board's emerging priorities:

The Caerphilly We Want Draft Well-being Plan:

- *Positive People - Empowering and enabling all our residents to achieve their own potential*
- *Positive Places - Enabling our communities to be resilient and sustainable*
- *Positive Change - A shared commitment to cross-sectoral change*

5.2. These shared commitments *must be more than words* on a strategic partner document and *Blackwood Town Council as your optical friend and local authority partner*, calls for these principles (detailed further under section 9. below) to be adhered to and enacted when considering the future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

5.3. However, one priority above all is worth detailing here:

- To support our most disadvantaged communities to be resilient, cohesive and enable them to help themselves

6. The Financial Argument

6.1. Blackwood Town Council is of the view that *the financial implications in the Cabinet report are somewhat confusing and incomplete*. Members rightly point out that the Borough took the decision only last month to spend over £3million for demolition of the former much loved Islwyn Civic Centre and the schools at Pontllanfraith (which included the CCBC Music Service headquarters) and Oakdale.

Now to propose an additional £325,000 to demolish the Leisure Centre *rather than spend* £262,000 on Operational Costs & Maintenance Backlog Costs to keep the Leisure Centre as a thriving hub of the community is we believe a curious and strategically ill-considered move in such a short timescale.

6.2. Blackwood Town Council also queries the financial competency of proposing to spend £500,000 on a new 3G Pitch (if monies can be found) rather than reinvest an additional £200,000 in 2020-2022 to retain the currently FAW endorsed pitch at Pontllanfraith.

6.3. Blackwood Town Council is gravely concerned that the County's planned maintenance and asset replacement policy at the Leisure Centre has been somewhat absent from the usual expectations of managerial financial planning for some years now if these maintenance liabilities are only now coming to light and indeed appear to be costs highlighted for *the future* as opposed to a statement of on-going prudent financial year-on-year budgeting.

7. Under "Reasons for the Recommendations" of the original Cabinet report

7.1. Cabinet Report Recommendation '11.1'

7.2. Blackwood Town Council is of the view that the closure proposal appears to be entirely based on the need to realise the full capital receipt potential *rather* than the health and well-being needs of the local community and members are eager to know what the Caerphilly Public Services Board's view on these proposals are as they are in direct conflict with the majority of the PSB's emerging draft priorities.

As such we will be writing to the Caerphilly Public Service Board separately to ask them to examine any decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and how it may conflict against their emerging priorities.

Additionally, we will be writing to the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales to seek her comments on the Departments report and our concerns as expressed in this consultation response and of course to ask her to undertake a review to examine any decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre in the context of the *Well-being of Future Generations Act*.

7.3. Cabinet Report Recommendation '11.2'

7.4. Blackwood Town Council is of the view that to allow for the smooth transition of current users to Islwyn High School without a loss of service is wishful thinking at best and naïve ill-considered guesswork at worst – some very serious questions remain unanswered, how can this be so when the 3G Pitch at the school cannot accommodate any more users than have already been agreed to date and that there is *no guarantee of a replacement 3G pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive any time soon.*

7.5. Cabinet Report Recommendation '11.3'

7.6. The Caerphilly Adventures Outdoor Education Service has survived *and thrived* at the existing site, members ask, why wasn't Cwmcaru considered when they moved from Ynys Hywel initially and why should what seems a *profitable* service not continue on site and assist the Centre's overall prosperity?

7.7. Blackwood Town Council is of the view that *the timing of this report is as a direct result* of the need for a speedy decision linked to the demolition of the Civic Centre & School Sites, *to the detriment* it seems of all else, especially the local community.

7.8. The report states the emerging Sport & Leisure Services strategy, whilst not fully adopted, does not recognise Pontllanfraith as a potential Leisure Centre.

7.9. That being said, Blackwood Town Council is of the view that any decision on closure *should be seen* in the context of the overall County Borough Strategy *once* agreed by Council and the ability (and responsibility) *to actively engage and empower the local community towards possible asset transfer and community ownership options* and not as a convenient opportunity to asset-strip through demolition and land-sale a successful Leisure Centre with the apparent primary objective of maximising capital receipts.

8. It is therefore recommended by Blackwood Town Council that:

8.1. Caerphilly County Borough Council Continue to Maintain and Operate the Leisure Centre in Pontllanfraith.

8.2. However, under the already agreed principals of "*Building Resilient Communities*" and "*Positive Places – Enabling our communities to be resilient and sustainable*", if Cabinet members vote to close the Leisure Centre, Blackwood Town Council *as a statutory partner of the County Borough* formerly requests that the decision Cabinet makes would be *to defer closure to enable* a six to twelve month grace period to enable discussions to take place with:

- The local Community
- Leisure Centre users and groups
- Partners and other stakeholders

8.3. To explore the potential Asset Transfer of the Leisure Centre to community ownership and to enable all interested parties as described above to develop the most appropriate legal charitable operational model and to explore additional funding routes to ensure such a transfer of assets takes place.

8.4. Blackwood Town Council to formally write to the Caerphilly Public Service Board to request that the Board examine any decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre that does not also allow for the investigation of asset transfer and community ownership of the Leisure Centre and how such a decision to close may conflict with the Public Service Board's emerging priorities.

8.5. Blackwood Town Council to formally write to the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales to seek her comments on the Department's report and our concerns as expressed in this consultation response and to request that The Commissioner undertake a review (see powers at Appendix A) to examine any decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre that does not also allow for the timely and thorough investigation of asset transfer and community ownership of the Leisure Centre and how such a decision to close may conflict with the principals and expectations as laid down in the *& Well-being of Future Generations Act*.

9. Reasons for Blackwood Town Council's Recommendations:

9.1. To enable Caerphilly County Borough Council to work in partnership with the local community and others to discharge its commitments and ambitions in accordance with the following National, regional and local strategic objectives:-

- The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- The Caerphilly Public Service Boards:-

The Caerphilly We Want - Draft Well-being Plan:-

Positive Change - A shared commitment to cross-sectoral change

- Provide leadership to facilitate organisational culture change, and shift to new ways of working, aligning corporate priorities in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle
- Use our assets and resources more intelligently and sustainably
- Support our residents and partners to contribute fully to the Caerphilly we all want

Positive People - Empowering and enabling all our residents to achieve their own potential

- Facilitate a shift towards collaborative working with an emphasis on prevention to address current and future health and well-being challenges.
- Develop a co-ordinated programme of volunteering, maximising it as a route to personal well-being and employment.
- Equip our residents to manage their physical and mental health and well-being needs in partnership with services

Positive Places - Enabling our communities to be resilient and sustainable

- Support our most disadvantaged communities to be resilient, cohesive and enable them to help themselves
- Work with regional partners to create safe, confident communities and promote community cohesion.
- Increase the contribution that the environment makes to the health and well-being of our residents.

9.2. Blackwood Town Council is of the view that the Cabinet allow for reflection on both Acts and on the emerging priorities of the Caerphilly Public Service Board, whose joint partnership approach of all public sector organisations *supports the rights of local communities to develop local solutions to local challenges, which includes local service delivery and ownership of community assets.*

End of report.

Circulation List:

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cabinet Members, Caerphilly County Borough Council
Pontllanfawr Ward Members
Blackwood Ward Members
Blackwood Town Councillors
Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee Members

The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

Caerphilly Public Service Board Members

Appendix 4

The Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 was the subject of a ten week consultation exercise from 16th July 2018 until 21st September 2018. Of the 711 responses to the consultation survey:

- 86 indicated that the Leisure Centre closest to their home is Pontllanfraith
- 75 indicated that the Leisure Centre they use most often is Pontllanfraith
- Of these, 48 indicated that Pontllanfraith was both closest to their home and the leisure centre they use most often.

The responses of the 75 respondents who indicated in the consultation on the Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 that the Leisure Centre they use most often is Pontllanfraith are presented below.

Interest in consultation (75 respondents but option to tick more than one response)

As a resident of Caerphilly county borough	72
As a local elected member	1
Representing a local sport club / organisation, please give details	8
As someone who works in Caerphilly county borough	14
As a local business person	3

Are you a Leisure Lifestyle member? (71 respondents)

Yes	45	63%
No	26	37%

In the last year, what kind of sport and active recreation activities have you taken part in? (75 respondents but option to tick more than one response)

Aqua fit	7	Swimming	51
Basketball	2	Team sports e.g. football, rugby	33
Climbing	1	Walking	29
Cycling	16	Water Sports e.g. canoeing	0
Fitness classes	31	Yoga	14
Gym	41	None	0
Racquet sport	27	Other, please specify	2
Running	14		

For questions below n=75

- 67% agree with Vision to encourage healthy lifestyles and support our residents to be more active, more often.
- 97% agree with outcome of Better Health
- 86% agree with outcome of Healthier and Prosperous Communities
- 46% agree with outcome of Securing a more efficient and financially sustainable future provision
- 44% agree with adopting the Welsh Government and Sport Wales Facilities Blueprint for Sport and Active Recreation
- 29% agree with adopting a decision making matrix for determining the provision of strategic Leisure facilities that are directly managed by the Sport and Leisure Service
- 46% agree with seeking clarity on the future swimming entitlement along with supporting the rationale for a sustainable programme of aquatic delivery also informing the need for future aquatic facilities
- 73% agree with developing a plan to enhance and maximise the impact of outdoor spaces, playing fields, parks and informal recreational spaces
- 69% agree with maximising the use of 3G facilities for school, community and weekend competitive use alongside the grass pitch network

If you have disagreed with any of the statements relating to Facilities, please suggest an alternative way forward in the box below.

A matrix approach doesn't consider the multiple benefits. Look at a WEll being goals and sustainable management principles approach instead
Again just fancy words. Please get the picture! Pontllanfraith needs to stay open.
again none of above can happen is leisure centers are closed
Although I appreciate the need to cut costs within Caerphilly, I feel that there has been a disregard to the community in and around the leisure centres in order to do this. After attending all of the consultation meetings, where many suggestions were put forward, none of them were listened to or considered. Perhaps call another meeting to listen to views.
Closing one of two swimming pools in the area will mean that Newbridge, which is already difficult to book a slot there will be even busier. Why not increase the prices slightly or increase Council Tax to cover any shortfall, with the amount raised through the increases to be ring-fenced so it can only be used to support the Leisure facilities in the borough
Cutting the management structure down will save far more money than closing leisure centers.
Further information needed to be able to comment on the above questions. The Welsh Assembly government is another non effective organisation. It is basically a "talking shop" with very poor quality AMs. Therefore it is unlikely to have a coherent, well thought out strategy while wasting money e.g. (M4 relief road and the impact on the coastal wetlands).

I can't play badminton in a community centre, health centre, library or church! Many people, like me, enjoy hobbies that require particular sporting facilities and equipment. Current leisure centres can't cope with the demand for racket sports and field sports... what shall we all do, take up yoga and hiking??

Keep ALL of the sport and recreation facilities that we have right now as it is working look elsewhere for your budget cuts. As for trying to shut any leisure facilities i think that it is outrageous. Family live next to pontllanfraith and its always busy daily should update the parking there as it manic there are people parking in the streets and walking over. And for Cefn forrest i have friends and their kids have swimming lessons there and is also a well used leisure centre so these two are a no brainer to keep them OPEN!!!

Keep Pontllanfraith LC open

Massive new housing development should mean leisure services should be protected not just in the Caerphilly area. But also Pontllanfraith and Cefn Fforest areas, especially the scale of new development!

Matrix adoption is corporate speak for getting things to fit in with the planned desired required outcome. Knowing the community you serve is paramount, all wards and districts. for example Pontllanfraith. Keeping the Leisure Centre open. Developing a plan is not sufficient, this ought to be in place already after listening to the whole community needs. Either the existing plan is not robust or the department heads efficiency and vision need to re-evaluated with those who have a vision of provision of services to all in the community.

More needed. Not enough at present

PLEASE PROVIDE THE REPORT IF YOU ARE GOING TO QUOTE IT!

Pontllanfraith 3G is well used and the removal of this would be detrimental to local clubs and residents health and well being

Pontllanfraith is always and already fully booked!!

Ref Swimming facilities we have an aged pool at Risca and Newbridge closing one at Cefn Fforest?

Significant housing growth is not just confined to the south west of the borough. The measurement factors as set out in the report are purely arbitrary and ignore the tens of thousands that use the other centres notably Cefn Fforest and Pontllanfraith.

Stop selling off any "surplus" land for development in certain areas and invest in education, communities and leisure instead. What's the point and basis of building thousands of more homes when the County Borough no longer has the infrastructure, schools, hospitals, GP surgeries and provisions to deal with the increase in population???!?

This questionnaire has been deliberately worded to ?? the Council's own already decided outcome!

We already have swimming and 3G facilities available locally - keep them!

Why hasn't the plan been developed?

Your form is getting to complicated by the second .. a disgrace in fact .. I do not want the centres closed so whichever answers that might make this happen I chose

What do you feel would be the impact on you of rationalising facilities so that the Council's Sport and Leisure service directly manages 4 strategic leisure centres located in Risca, Caerphilly, and Newbridge and one in the Bargoed/Aberbargoed areas with other leisure centres either transferring to school management (if they are joint use facilities located on a school site, subject to governing body approval) or closing completely.

- 99% negative impact

Please outline what you feel the impact would be on you of rationalising facilities so that the Council's Sport and Leisure service directly manages 4 strategic leisure centres located in Risca, Caerphilly, and Newbridge and one in the Bargoed/Aberbargoed areas with other leisure centres either transferring to school management (if they are joint use facilities located on a school site, subject to governing body approval) or closing completely.

- Facilities need to be high quality and available year-round. - As a family we are involved in 3 sports clubs that would be directly affected and would likely have to close due to reduced and unavailable facilities, impacting on mental and physical wellbeing. - Travelling time to new strategic centre will directly impact the amount of time that I can spend there, making it not a viable option. Also will increase traffic and pollution in the county - not a good, healthy outcome for anyone!

As a non driver I would find it hard to visit any of the proposed centres.

Be horrendous. More obesity . More anti social behaviour with youths not having clubs, facilities in their area to go and enjoy outdoor , indoor activities and realise the benefits of sport , exercise. People already playing sport will give up due to travel problems , unable to get there thus teams folding due to numbers . There are not enough facilities now to go round . If more close will have a massive detrimental effect on whole communities.

Caerphilly and Newbridge are already busy and over subscribed therefore I avoid using these facilities. They're not user friendly and can be intimidating. Not everybody has the access to public transport - for example to get to Newbridge I would either have to catch 2 trains on way, one to Cardiff Queen Street then change to go to Newbridge. If I caught a bus it would mean 3 bus journeys one way!! Risca - it would take half a day and half a months wages the cost of public transport (which is also extremely unreliable (bus service)).

Closing Pontllanfraith and Cefn Fforest would have a massive negative impact. Closing Pontllanfraith in particular will see the loss of a leisure centre 3G pitch and outdoor playing pitches. Local schools do not have the capacity or facilities and if this strategy is adopted I will be denied access to sport.

Closing Pontllanfraith leisure centre will have a negative impact on my life, the community and the village as it is used on a regular basis. Losing this leisure centre will have a negative impact on the identity of the village/community on the whole.

Closing pontllanfraith leisure centre would be a poor move with the 3G facilities being used by lots and lots of young children on a daily basis. Removing this facility will increase demand on other 3G facilities and will reduce availability. Doing this will force some children away from sports due to lack of opportunities. Having sports centres based in these locations will mean that local families will have to travel to use leisure centre facilities and this will clearly result in families choosing not to take part in active lifestyles due to a lack of facilities in their immediate area!

Closure of pint would impact me massively. I wouldn't be able to work out and play sports daily as I do now. I'm. It in a position to travel and can not afford extortionate public transport. Myself and my family would have no where to train and will likely suffer health conveniences. My elderly parents would have no where to go to keep them physically and mentally healthy. If a school we're to take over then this would hugely impact the availability of the facilities which is not fair. Adults and children do not want to use school facilities and often it is not fair for them to be asked to do so (mental health issues etc.). Facilities would not be available all day as they are now, space is more restricted that pint in terms of racket sport courts and throughout examination periods the facilities would be unavailable. It is not an appropriate solution.

Closure of Pont would likely result in casual football stopping due to reduction in facilities

closure of pontllanfraith and Cefn Fforest are my local leisure centres, cannot get to those further away, deprevng poor areas of the borough

currently the demand for leisure use is very high, by eliminating some of the leisure centers you create a higher demand so people will lose interest and less people will be bothered to travel extra miles to use leisure facility's. Please remember that not everybody drives therefore to some this will now include bus journeys at that persons extra cost.

Cutting down to only four leisure centres is a complete joke. This would completely reduce my use of leisure centres to 0. It would be impossible to book any of the facilities. It also means it takes me beyond walking distance to any leisure centre and in my opinion completely neglects any resident of Blackwood or its surrinding villages especially if you believe there is not sufficient funding to upgrade the exisitng facilities. I cannot express enough how much of a poor idea this is, Caerphilly Council Borough Council needs to stop viewing the leisure centres as money making schemes and start realising they are a community service.

Further to travel to nearest leisure centre. School sites - use by general public is subservient to school demands and ideas often at short notice or arbitrarily. The public are not equal partners.

Having only 1 in each area wouldn't work in all cases. Pontllanfraith is regularly used by my daughters girls football team and if closed would leave us no where else to go. Islwyn High is shut during school holidays because it's not council run. Shutting during holidays us ridiculous because that's precisely when children need a place to exercise and play.

I am currently part of a badminton club in Pontllanfraith, this would unfortunately have to end with the closure as facilities elsewhere are impractical or unavailable (Newbridge and local schools - I have looked into both and can expand in upcoming meetings - hopefully). Having visited Newbridge leisure centre on occasions it is evident that issues such as car parking, lack of facilities (squash courts), inappropriate facilities (badminton courts) and already full classes such as spin would result in my not exercising and deterioration in health.

<p>I don't think some leisure centres should be closed the ones I don't think should be closed are Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre as even though it is not connected to a school anymore it still provides a good service to the community and a service the community relies on heavily as if you closed this Leisure Centre it could result in a massive problem for people who want to use the 3g pitches for example. I don't think you should close Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre as a lot of people rely on this centre and a lot of children from that particular area learn how to swim at the Leisure centre if you close Cefn Fforest it could result in children having to go to other far away Leisure centres to learn how to swim.</p>
<p>I play badminton at our local Leisure Centre with my sisters, mum and dad at least three times per week. This activity not only helps us to keep fit, both physically and mentally, but offers us valuable time together for socialising as a family. For me, the impact of not being able to use this facility include: - loss of fitness as I would be forced to give up my hobby - poorer wellbeing as a result of the lack of socialising and physical activity - Depression and anxiety as this hobby has had a positive impact on my mental health - Isolation and loneliness - financial loss as a result of having to travel further I have calculated that it would cost my family and I over £1200 per annum to take public transport to our nearest alternative (Newbridge) in order to continue playing badminton 3 times per week. Alternative Centres are not feasible for me and will also significantly add to my fuel costs – not to mention increasing emissions. With air pollution in our local area proven to be some of the worst in the UK, this would lead to further negative impacts on the health of local people. On occasion, my family and I have booked courts at Newbridge Leisure Centre, however, we have not found the courts at Newbridge to be fit-for-purpose due to the low ceiling height and also the fact that my colour-blind dad is unable to distinguish the badminton court layout from others that are painted in almost identical colours. In terms of inclusivity, this is a concern.</p>
<p>I play squash as part of my fitness regime recommended after a Well Being health check, if Pontllanfrith Leisure Centre closes this would end my three or four days of exercise weekly as the other squash courts are not accessible when I am able to play.</p>
<p>I think it would be a negative move we need our leisure centres to stay open such as Pontllanfraith</p>
<p>I use Pontllanfraith as I use it as a GP referral is near where I live and works around my shift pattern and I also like to go swimming up Cefn Fforest as if you go to Newbridge I can't work it around my shift with the school using it always too crowded.</p>
<p>I will be denied access to sport and fitness if you plan to close Pontllanfraith / Cefn Fforest goes ahead. Serious detrimental impact. Not offset by your strategy.</p>
<p>I would not be willing to travel to Bargoed or Caerphilly for leisure activities and would wish for something more local.</p>
<p>I would stop using the council facilities as they are too far away and not very welcoming.</p>
<p>I'd be devastated if Pontllanfraith and Cefn Forest closed.</p>
<p>If centres local to me were to close, then people on low income who may not have a car or the funds required for public transport may not be willing to travel further to engage with healthy active lifestyles. As it stands, leisure centres are often in walking distance of large towns and communities who would be affected, this would include myself.</p>

It will restrict the use of facilities by local children's sports teams. There will be inadequate provision for the number of teams and discourage future generations from team sports. I feel the decision to reduce the number of facilities is financially motivated
It would have a negative impact. The council should be providing more leisure facilities, not less! I regularly use Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre as a member of Islwyn Running Club because it is where we meet.
Its understandable that leisure's centre will have to close going forward. However, other than Caerphilly leisure centre the other 3 mentioned to remain Newbridge/Risca/Bargoed are all in my opinion outdated and are very poor with availability of activities being offered there. Can Newbridge accommodate all the footfall from both Pontllanfraith and Cefn Fforest leisure centres closing? The diabolical car parking facilities will put most people off straight away. Again, I don't feel this centre offers enough facilities to cater for everyone's needs. I have a 3 year old daughter and have always taken her out of the authority to access swimming activities, as our pools are boring and from past experiences the water temp is always cold. We have 1 hydro slide in the whole authority which is closed more than open for guests. I am more than happy to travel for leisure activities if the service and resources are suitable, hence why I am often visiting other centres Merthyr Tydfil, Ebbw Vale, Cardiff Olympic Pool, Swansea LC2 as our centres are outdated and offer very little. Other authorities are earning income from residents out of their authority, what are we doing to keep residents using our centres as well as attracting interest from outside?
Lack of resources would mean limited availability. The availability is already limited so any further limitations would probably stop me using the facilities as the times required wouldn't be available
Less access and all it's implications
Less availability, further travel,
Newbridge is my nearest LC but there are so many block bookings that you are only able to book badminton courts as follows - Monday 1 at 5pm, Tuesday none at all, Wed 2 at 7pm, Thursday none at all, Friday 8-9pm.
Newbridge leisure cannot be improved and is unable to expand, it is hemmed in. Pontllanfraith has room for development not houses. Spend money on Pont and make it a sports complex, adding swimming pools, bowling green, tennis courts, and is more strategically situated than Newbridge.
Newbridge would be my nearest alternative. There is no separate dance studio for classes and very limited parking. I only use Pontllanfraith - at least 3 times a week on average, sometimes twice due to work commitments. I would probably end up cancelling my membership, so the council will lose finance - I doubt if I would be the only one.
No access to local sports facility in the Pontllanfraith area of the authority.
Not enough space/facilities to cope
Pontllanfraith is within walking distance, my group have a block booking at Pontllanfraith for indoor football, I also use the 3G facility. I suspect we will just not bother playing anymore and become couch potatoes instead

Pontllanfraith leisure center was proposed for closure. ~ The impact would have made me stop going to the gym, and more recently also classes held at the leisure center. It would have out priced me as transport to newbridge would have cost me an additional £60-£90 per month to access the gym based on going 3 times a week. I would have had to cancel my membership and pay for individual sessions as and when I could afford to.

Swimming lessons in Heolddu and Newbridge are at capacity and with the closure of Cefn FForest this would significantly impact on young children being able to get a life skill of being able to swim. The gym facilities in Newbridge and Heolddu will not meet the capacity for the people within the community. Iswlyn High school do not have adequate gym facilities and pupils are still utilising Pontllanfraith leisure centre.

The above 4 strategic leisure centres only is not necessary, councillors have stressed the close proximity to Aberbargoed and CCBC willingness to raise finance. Therefore rebuild Cefn Fforest if necessary! Having had to wade through the nonsense of your survey booklet I offer the following: Dear Sirs, I attended the presentation of CCBC case for the closure of Cefn Fforest and Pontllanfraith Leisure Centres, on 4/09/18. I listened carefully to the arguments to close these establishments and to replace them with a leisure centre near Aberbargoed. It became quickly apparent that there was no logic to CCBC arguments. The main point of this proposal as far as Cefn Fforest leisure centre is concerned is that the building is 50 years old and not fit for purpose. May I take this opportunity to remind CCBC of the huge amounts of money spent on its refurbishment recently. This argument is farcical! Other bits and pieces were thrown into the mix. Cefn Fforest people using this facility at present could easily travel to the proposed new site in Aberbargoed, because of its close proximity. By the same token Aberbargoed people can easily travel to Cefn Fforest because of its close proximity - and do at present. Point 2 - with a new building CCBC would raise millions to fund a new building and pay off the loan over a long period. Therefore they can upgrade the present sites at substantially lower costs, as they already own the sites. The only statement that is correct, at least in the case of the Pontllanfraith facility is that CCBC has wilfully neglected its duty to maintain these facilities. CCBC has the unenviable reputation of getting things wrong, the debacle with the Chief Exec, various botched road work schemes the list is endless. CCBC needs to be seen to do it better to restore what little reputation it has left. It seems obvious that this is a thinly veiled attempt by certain elements of CCBC to steal, and I use the word advisably, facilities from the old Islwyn area and relocate them under another ward (I'm aware boundaries have changed). These gentlemen having made an unholy mess of Bargoed, allegedly under the influence of Morrisons, are now turning their attention to our area. I would also remind CCBC that planning permission was only granted for the Cefn fforest facility because it replaced Pontllanfraith open air baths, on what was the last remnant of the original Cefn fforest. Finally, I would like to bring your attention to the following: This is a letter sent to Marquis Flavinious, a Centurion in the second Cohort of the Augusta legion, to his cousin Tertullus in Rome. "We had been told on leaving our native soil that we were going to defend our sacred rights confirmed on us by so many citizens settled overseas. So many years of our presence, so many benefits brought to us by populations in need of our assistance and civilisation. We were able to verify that all of this was true and because it was true we did not hesitate to shed our quota of blood, to sacrifice our youth and our hopes. We regretted nothing, but where as we over here are inspired by this frame of mind, I am told IN ROME FACTIONS AND CONSPIRACIES ARE RIFE, THAT TREACHERY FLOURISHES AND THAT MANY PEOPLE IN THEIR UNCERTAINTY AND CONFUSION lend a ready ear to the dire temptations of RELINQUISHMENT AND VILIFY OUR ACTIONS. I cannot believe that all this is true, and yet recent wars have shown how pernicious such a state of mind could be, and where it could lead. Make haste to reassure me, I beg you, and tell me that our fellow citizens understand us, support us and protect us as we ourselves are protecting the glory of the empire. If it should be otherwise, if we should have to leave our bleached bones on these desert sands in vain, then beware the anger of the legions." To which I have nothing to add.

The health of a lot of my family would decline dramatically as they won't have access to a local leisure centre such as Pontllanfraith. They rely on the facilities at Pontllanfraith to stay healthy. The closing of the leisure centres would cause them to become more unhealthy.

The lack of Good Public Transport in the borough would be a major factor in less people visiting the '4 strategic leisure centres'. Also local Sport teams find it almost impossible to book the facilities as they are now making it hard for junior sides to train. Reducing the facilities will only add to the problem.

The loss of Pontllanfraith and Cefn Fforest leisure centres would have a detrimental effect on myself and my family. The other local centres such as Nebridge is over subscribed. The school facilities are inadequate - Iswlyn High pupils have been using the gym at Pontllanfraith LC and have been transported by mini bus for lessons. Other schools pitches are over booked. If these centres close I will be using Ebbw Vale Leisure Centre, which means transport costs and traveling by car instead of walking, does not prove eco friendly .

The population is growing. If you close facilities to build housing you are having a negative effect on the wellbeing of the growing population. Get real! Stop closing facilities! AGAIN just fancy wording. It is the population that pay you to provide the facilities to encourage health and wellbeing. All this strategy is to try and justify your action. Get the message. The population is growing. So, don't close, maintain and improve what we have and keep these facilities OPEN.

The possible closures of leisure centres would impact upon myself as one of the proposed centre's for closure is pontllanfraith and is the closest one to me which I use 3-4 times a week. I often walk to pontllanfraith leisure centre and it would not be possible for me to do this with any of the other centres proposed to stay open. I use pontllanfraith leisure due to the mix of individuals that use the centre, it is a very comfortable environment which makes people feel at ease which you do not necessarily get from other gyms within the area. I feel that if pontllanfraith were to close the council would be forcing people to find other alternatives that are not suitable which possibly puts people at risk of stopping their physical activities and risk neglecting their physical health. I feel that these closures are just about saving money and not necessarily caring about the individuals that use the facilities. Government keep on mentioning the need for individuals to be more active and live healthier lifestyles so they do not become a burden on the NHS from ailments caused by being unhealthy and obesity, although how on earth are people supposed to be healthy and more active if leisure facilities keep closing. I feel this will just have a knock on effect on individuals where they will be forced to not take part in physical activities because there simply isn't anywhere suitable for them. I feel the closure of pontllanfraith leisure centre would impact upon my health greatly as I can feel self-conscious about using gyms and I feel comfortable using pontllanfraith because of the warm, friendly, non-judgemental environment. I feel this is lacking in other private gyms within the area and worry my own physical activity would decrease because of this.

There are not enough spaces for children's teams / swimming now so how would there be more ?

There are very few classes available outside of work hours at the moment. These will only reduce. I have been referred by nhs Physio to attend yoga/Pilates classes. Without these I will be back visiting the already stretched and underfunded Physio outpatients in YYF. The council and nhs need a collaborative, joined up approach

There will simply be not enough leisure centres to meet demand for local sports clubs, schools and communities. Suspect there would be a monopoly on 4 leisure sites by bigger organisations/sports clubs. North of the borough will also be forgotten. New leisure facilities in schools will also not be able to cope with demand. Local sports clubs struggle now to get bookings for training sessions on 3g/astro turf and inside sports hall use. Only get worse if only 4 leisure centres supported by schools.

These facilities are not large enough to cope with demand if all others are shut. Plus with new housing in the area the future benefit to having more facilities and investing in them is there.

<p>This would be negative if it resulted in other facilities not being available locally to people. It would require strict requirements to ensure that the facilities remaining open regularly and were maintained to an adequate standard.</p>
<p>This would greatly effect my children's ability to participate in sports and recreational activities within their local community. The effect will also be very adverse for many teams that operate within the area.</p>
<p>This would make my nearest leisure centre outside easy walking distance, so I'd be far less likely to attend</p>
<p>Too far. People won't travel. All facilities offer different things. Limiting the centres would make booking and access very difficult.</p>
<p>Totally against this view. Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre provision is vital and important to myself and my family. We can walk to the centre without taking the car saving the environment, we support activities in the local community. This is short sighted and will mean again mean services are congregated in Caerphilly!</p>
<p>Travelling to get to these "hub" leisure centres instead of my nearest one incurs more cost to me. It would also increase the numbers of persons using those centres stated which in turn limits the facilities you are able to use.</p>
<p>We need smaller centres for our communities. Just 4 centres would not be able to sustain the level of users e.g. the 3G pitch in Pontllanfraith. Also you have to have a car to get to these Centres. Bargoed and Risca are quite out of the way. I just feel the Blacwood, Pontllanfraith and Cefn Fforest would be denied sports access</p>
<p>We need to keep leisure centres open, for health and sport activity. Pontllanfraith has the best outlook with room to expand, put in a swimming pool and make it a sports complex. It is the best for outdoor sports and indoor sports, beautiful setting, lovely staff and plenty of car parking. We don't need any houses there, it will spoil a leisure area that can be improved greatly.</p>
<p>Why should leisure centres in the borough be closed to keep Caerphilly leisure centre open £15m (now £30m) to be spent knocking this centre down and rebuilding in this one part of Caerphilly only. Keep Pontllanfraith open will not cost £15m.</p>
<p>You can't give me the whole picture so I don't know!</p>
<p>You cannot book school facilities now as they are already fully booked so closing centers will have a negative impact on me directly.</p>
<p>You would be isolating areas like Cefn Fforest. There are very little facilities of any kind in Cefn Fforest, elderly people and children who use the pool would be penalised. The pool is a lifeline for many in Cefn Fforest. The other centres can only be reached by car. Also you are tryouts no to put too many people into not enough Leisure Centre, Pontllanfraith atp is used widely by junior club. If the Centre closed there would not be anywhere for these kids to go.no they could not use the other Leisure Centres or schools Atp because these are alr day full.</p>
<p>You've not mentioned Pontllanfraith which is an essential leisure centre for sports teams in the borough!! What about Cwmcarn? The council should run the leisure centres not schools</p>

If you feel the impact of rationalising leisure facilities will be negative, what could be done to mitigate the impact on you and your family?

<p>- Improved facilities (poor lighting and unclear lines in Newbridge make it unpleasant to play badminton). - Improved availability - opening times in Islwyn High are not appropriate. - Better parking facilities. - Transport provided for locals unable to travel to other leisure centred. - Reduce smartcard prices to account for petrol prices.</p>
<p>1) Reasonable increase in charges 2) Consider other organisations to run them 3) Invest some of the millions you plan to spend on a new leisure centre and maintain existing ones</p>
<p>A very small increase across The CCBC area to each household would negate the financial reasons for closure of any site.</p>
<p>Are you lot real? The more I read these questions the more frustrated it all becomes.</p>
<p>As mentioned above, I can easily transport my family to various centres if needed. However, this is predominately out of authority which I am pretty sure I am not the only resident in Caerphilly to be doing right now. Reduce number of options on sporting activities as limited spaces providing activities.</p>
<p>CCBC only care about capital receipts and lining pockets of its councillors, snr management and directors.</p>
<p>Close one of your other 4, if one has to go maybe Cefn Fforest, but keep Pontllanfraith leisure centre open.</p>
<p>Consider other ways to run/finance these facilities. Look at other areas to make savings.</p>
<p>continue to keep pontllanfraith leisure centre open or find an alternative site for this in the local area</p>
<p>Do not close centres in the borough, look to either switch management, or adopt and alternate policy of funding to spread funds equally across all centres</p>
<p>Do not close Pontllanfraith, all the additional housing needs leisure facilities</p>
<p>Do not let schools shut their facilities during school holidays. If like Islwyn, school facilities are used, they need to be available 52 weeks a year.</p>
<p>Don't close leisure centres</p>
<p>Don't close Pontllanfraith simple with the absence of Pont there will be more pressure on other leisure centres - especially with the increasing population as evidenced by the housing developments. More people leads to more pressure. Obvious.</p>
<p>Don't?</p>
<p>For example - compel schools to make their facilities available, employing extra staff if need be; establish community colleges.</p>
<p>I can only speak for myself but I would be willing to pay a little extra to keep the leisure centre I use open.</p>

increase council tax and/or the cost of usage with the amount raised ring-fenced so it has to be used to support the facilities under threat
increase the council tax.
Invest in facilities in the Pontllanfraith area of the authority.
invest more in all facilities to modernise and provide better services to attract me people, incentivise them to visit
It is really important that facilities are local to where people live to encourage individuals to build an active lifestyle into day to day life. Having to travel to access leisure facilities could be a barrier to this.
Keep all leisure centres open and improve and invest
keep all leisure facilities open and dont segregate different sports out as when i was younger girls football there was 3 teams now you got like 25 teams and 3 leagues certain sports get better and others lose people. another example the tour de france cycling is now popular as chris froome won so every year some sport thrive and other lose as i said and segregate different sports and recreation is not the answer at all.
Keep leisure centers open, i am sure even if the membership costs go up more people would be happy than the alternative of losing their nearby facility's.
Keep pont open. Sell the land from the chill and surrounding but keep the centre. Surely with all the new homes proposed, new residents will expect local amenities...
Keep Pontllanfraith and Cefn Fforest Leisure open
Keep Pontllanfraith and Cefn Fforest Leisure Centres open. If they clos, I will either fund Blaenau Gwent by travelling there to use their facilities or stop exercising all together, which will be detrimental to my health and well being.
Keep pontllanfraith centre open!
Keep Pontllanfraith LC open - it's a vital resource for us.
Keep Pontllanfraith leisure centre open.
Keep Pontllanfraith open
Keep Pontllanfraith open or do as above.
Keep Pontllanfraith open!!
Keep Pontllanfraith open. It is profitable - well used and with some thought could be made even better, for example: - convert squash court to spin room - promote classes (much better range than other centres) - re-introduce GP referrals - encourage use of facilities by other organisations e.g. slimming clubs / mother and toddler groups - promote activities for older people.

<p>Keep the leisure centers as they are, The 4 core leisure centers being of standard price with a 5-10% charge for outer core leisure centers. I would rather pay an extra £5-10 per month to use my local leisure center than to pay triple the monthly cost to access one further away. alternatively, subsidize bus fares for gym users.. however this seems counter intuitive to lowering overall costs.</p>
<p>Keeping Cefn Fforest open due to the swimming facility and increasing the gym facilities at the other gyms and making them bigger.</p>
<p>Keeping leisure centers open</p>
<p>Keeping Pont open</p>
<p>Keeping the centres open and investing in all. If money from the private sector is available this should be utilised</p>
<p>Leave things as they are</p>
<p>Listen to residents. Nothing. make decisions on the health & well-being of the community, not for financial reasons.</p>
<p>Look for additional savings in other areas of the council to keep more facilities open. Look at management and councillor salaries.</p>
<p>Maintain and invest in Pontllanfraith leisure centre and Cefn Fforest. Invest the £20million plus in these facilities rather than a new one, or even a fraction of the £20million to keep them open. Change ?? more is also an option to keep them open as a last resort, look at asset transfer. Either way, keep both leisure centres open.</p>
<p>More classes</p>
<p>Not close Pontllanfraith or Cwmcarn and Cefn Fforest to mitigate the impact would mean us having to travel further afield for the team sports we play for training and matches</p>
<p>Not closing Pontllanfraith Leisure centre, maintaining, investing and improving the facilities will ensure the Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre remains a prime hub for our family and community. Costs will increase, use of car, use of buses (if running in evening). In Pontllanfraith the swimming baths has closed, the Comprehensive School has closed, the Islwyn Council offices have been demolished. The only things that are promoted in Pontllanfraith is yet more house development and Wind Turbines being built everywhere in the locality. Compare that position with Caerphilly focus and you see the difference.</p>
<p>Nothing</p>
<p>Nothing. There is no way reducing to 4 leisure centres can be positive unless you allow those that are in existence to pass to private ownership for the use of said facilities.</p>
<p>Please keep our leisure centres open.</p>
<p>Put money into Pont and Cefn Fforest instead of closing them to sell the land for housing. Disgusting</p>

Rebuild existing facilities on existing sites, CCBC already own the ground. The real reason is, CCBC wants to sell the land for housing!! CCBC should remember that the swimming pool in Cefn Fforest was only allowed to be built to replace the open air pool in Pontllanfraith and planning permission was only given for this site for that reason, on was the last remnant of Cefn Fforest.
Reflect on your decision which clearly disadvantages the pontllanfraith and blackwood areas of the borough leaving them with no provision at all and bottom of the list for use of other facilities further away. The plans for new housing within both these areas creates further such demand for the service provision in the areas you propose to close and completely undermines any such strategy you have asked for opinions on within this survey.
Restructure the councillors and management so that it is a more efficient. Too much money is wasted on top paying jobs that could be put back into the communities facilities
Spend money refurbishing well used local leisure centres rather than invest money into something new that noone wants.
Very negative indeed. If children and adults in the borough hope to keep fit, active and interested in sports, then keep all local centres open and investment in the future. Do not rip the heart out of the villages by these proposed closures.
We could try (i.e. the electorate) getting a new non-Labour council!!
Yes. Totally negative and contradictory to the main aim which is to encourage a health, active life style.
You could possibly start offering direct bus trips to Leisure Centres like Risca and Newbridge from other areas or open up new Leisure Centres in places like Islwyn High School
You need to communicate with sporting club within the borough (some of high sporting standard) to work with yourselves in helping you offer the services.

If you feel that the proposed changes will affect you as an individual (positively or negatively) because of any of the following, your ethnic origin, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, religious beliefs or non-belief, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality or responsibility for any dependents, please give details below.

Age - the lack of buses through Hollybush will not allow me to use facilities
I believe that CCBC is discriminating against the socially and economically deprived. The facilities in pont and cafe forest are used extensively and this consultation document is a joke for lots on residents. With poor reading and writing skills, this survey is painful to complete and I know of hundreds of people who are unable to contribute despite being desperate to do so.
I have young teenage children who will not be able to access facilities due to difficulties in travelling there. A medical condition means that access to local facilities is vital for me.

Its quite simple: (1) CCBC is strapped for cash. (2) CCBC does not care for communities. (3) The strategy is so biased that the outcome is obvious. (4) This isn't a survey, its a declaration of war, making it difficult for residents of participate in recreational and sporting activities!

Local facilities are good for local residents and communities to use, closing these will have a negative effect on the locals ability to use the relevant facilities for health, fitness and wellbeing.

These Proposed changes will definitely effect me in a negative way but not as stated above. As i have a long term injury my back that is still being assessed and i use both Cefn forrest and Pontllanfraith regular as i cannot do sport as full as i used i used to do it 7 times a week i can now only do it for 30 mins 2-3 times a week and work it around my shifts and these centres work around my shift and are not too far away as i get a dead leg when travelling too far so keeping the leisure centres to me is vital. As it keeps my anxiety and depression at a certain state as well as keeping the regular exercise and keeping me going. I use it regular through our health care as a GP Referral. keep all sport and recreation facilities that all i ask thanks for reading :)

Welsh ought to be the first language on every sign, instruction booklets, provision of services in our community. We are Welsh, it is our language and ought to actively promoted in the provision of Leisure facilities across the provision.

Yes it impacts me in not being able to offer a local service for my dependants.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

THE COUNCIL'S EQUALITIES STATEMENT

This Council recognises that people have different needs, requirements and goals and we will work actively against all forms of discrimination by promoting good relations and mutual respect within and between our communities, residents, elected members, job applicants and workforce.

We will also work to create equal access for everyone to our services, irrespective of ethnic origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, religious beliefs or non-belief, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality, responsibility for any dependents or any other reason which cannot be shown to be justified.

The Council is required to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The Act explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- removing or minimising disadvantages experienced by people due to their protected characteristics
- taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people
- encouraging people with protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

The protected characteristics are:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Age | • Race |
| • Disability | • Religion, Belief or Non-Belief |
| • Gender Re-assignment | • Sex |
| • Marriage and Civil Partnership | • Sexual Orientation |
| • Pregnancy and Maternity | • Welsh Language* |

* The Welsh language is not identified as a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010, however in Wales we also have to treat Welsh and English on an equal basis as well as promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh language.

Further advice on completing impact assessments can be found on the equalities pages of Corporate Policy Unit Portal.

THE EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

NAME OF NEW OR REVISED PROPOSAL*	Closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre
DIRECTORATE	Communities
SERVICE AREA	Community and Leisure Services
CONTACT OFFICER	Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection Community and Leisure Services
DATE FOR NEXT REVIEW OR REVISION	The consideration of equality implications will be ongoing throughout the implementation of the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy.

***Throughout this Equalities Impact Assessment Form, 'proposal' is used to refer to what is being assessed, and therefore includes policies, strategies, functions, procedures, practices, initiatives, projects and savings proposals.**

The aim of an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is to ensure that Equalities and Welsh Language issues have been proactively considered throughout the decision making processes governing work undertaken by every service area in the Council as well as work done at a corporate level.

It also helps the Council to meet its legal responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011, the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and supports the wider aims of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. There is also a requirement under Human Rights legislation for Local Authorities to consider Human Rights in developing proposals.

Specifically, Section 147 of the Equality Act 2010 is the provision that requires decision-makers to have 'due regard' to the equality implications of their decisions and Welsh Language Standards 88-97 require specific consideration of Welsh speakers under the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015.

The Council's work across Equalities, Welsh Language and Human Rights is covered in more detail through the [Equalities and Welsh Language Objectives and Action Plan 2016-2020](#).

When carrying out an EIA you should consider both the positive and negative consequences of your proposals. If a project is designed for a specific group e.g. disabled people, you also need to think about what potential effects it could have on other areas e.g. young people with a disability, BME people with a disability.

There are a number of supporting guidance documents available on the [Corporate Policy and Business Support Portal](#) and the Council's Equalities and Welsh Language team can provide advice as the EIA is being developed. Please note that the team does not write EIAs on behalf of service areas, the support offered is in the form of advice, suggestions and in effect, quality control.

Contact equalities@caerphilly.gov.uk for assistance.

PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL

1	What is the proposal intended to achieve? Closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.
2	Who are the service users affected by the proposal? Current and potential users of the leisure centre and 3G pitch are affected by this proposal.

IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC AND STAFF

3	Does the proposal ensure that everyone has an equal access to all the services available or proposed, or benefits equally from the proposed changes, or does not lose out in greater or more severe ways due to the proposals? <p>In November 2018 the Council adopted a 10 year Sport and Active Recreation Strategy. The Strategy sets out the future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough. It establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions in respect of the Council's provision of leisure services over the next 10 years.</p> <p>The Strategy aims to ensure that the Council recognises and promotes the benefits of leading a physically active lifestyle for all of our residents, and the necessity to deliver this within the current financial situation that the Council must now operate. The Strategy seeks to address multiple challenges; poor levels of health, an increasing population, and increasing consumer expectation, set against a backdrop of reduced budgets and a large leisure estate requiring significant investment.</p> <p>As the Council does not have a statutory responsibility to provide most of our current sport and active recreation services, this discretionary provision has to be rationalised to ensure that the Council can continue to provide adequate facilities for future generations. Whilst the overarching aim of the Strategy is to get 'More People More Active More Often' through delivery of sport and active recreation services on a holistic basis, it should be noted that the largest element of the authority's expenditure is on leisure centres. The Authority currently provides a range of opportunities to engage in physical activity which include a physical infrastructure of leisure centres, community centres and fixed play, further supported by a number of parks, cycle paths and outdoor sports areas. The majority of the current leisure centre facility stock was built during the late 1960s/early 1970s and no longer meets modern day leisure centre requirements and customer expectation.</p> <p>Rationalisation of facilities helps to achieve a sustainable future service allowing investment of remaining resources to enhance the quality and customer offer at the Council's four strategic leisure facilities in accordance with the Caerphilly Council Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29. The Council's four strategic facilities are Newbridge, Caerphilly, Heolddu, and Risca Leisure Centres. The delivery of four strategically located leisure centres as identified through the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy will require these facilities to be appropriately resourced to meet the increasing requirements associated with modern day leisure centre delivery.</p>
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This will include opportunities for broader opening hours and programme development. The remaining leisure centres not identified through the Strategy as being strategically located will either be managed by others, in some cases the host school upon which the facilities are located or will potentially close.

Whilst the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre may result in some users having longer travel time to facilities, the four strategic facilities are fully accessible. This will mean that each facility will provide dedicated family changing rooms, changing facilities that are fully accessible for customers with disabilities, and will aim to develop provision in respect of gender neutrality. Disabled parking is currently provided at each facility in accordance with existing requirements however this can be increased if increased usage identifies a requirement. Each strategic leisure centre is currently designed to ensure access through the use of ramps, wider entrances, and lift access. Each of the four strategically located leisure centres is supported by public transport routes with bus stops located within a close vicinity.

As an example, a direct bus from Blackwood Town Centre to Newbridge takes 13 minutes with bus stops located adjacent to the leisure centre campus and next to the park and ride at Newbridge Train Station which allows for access to the leisure centre via a fully accessible footbridge. This strategic approach to leisure centre provision ensures, so far as reasonably practicable, geographic coverage across the county borough and consequently a fair and just allocation of resources that will provide for continued sport and active recreation provision for the benefit of all in to the future.

Sport and Leisure Services work to deliver appropriate staff training and the delivery of programmes to support those with protected characteristics to access both facilities and activities. A collaborative approach is also in place with various external partners in this regard.

Closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will allow remaining resources to be focussed on fewer, but better facilities. Improved, new, or refurbished facilities will be more attractive and accessible to families and people with additional needs, including those supported by carers. Ongoing investment will ensure that our strategic leisure facilities are able to meet the requirements of anticipated increases in user numbers by providing high quality, fully accessible changing facilities that are well maintained, and that equipment is replaced or upgraded, making them more attractive to all users and thereby improving equality of access.

The proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will result in two staff leaving the authority through the voluntary severance process with the remaining staff redeployed within the leisure centre service. Where facilities are retained on host school campus this will likely have no effect on staff based at these sites as service delivery will still be required. Should a leisure centre be required to close staff will either be redeployed across the remaining portfolio or will be subject to the council's policies and procedures.

4	Is your proposal going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? <i>(Has the service delivery been examined to assess if there is any indirect effect on any groups? Could the consequences of the policy or savings proposal differ dependent upon people's protected characteristics?)</i>	
Protected Characteristic	Positive, Negative, Neutral	What will the impact be? If the impact is negative how can it be mitigated?
Age	Positive and Negative	<p>The closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will have a negative impact upon older people who do not drive where this results in longer travel times to alternative facilities depending on point of origin and the extent to which they currently use Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.</p> <p>There are many factors which may lead to an older person having reduced physical fitness, including the effect of the ageing process itself on muscle mass and strength, and physical activity is important in maintaining the health and wellbeing of older people.</p> <p>There will also be a negative impact on younger people who do not drive, or have no access to travel by private vehicle.</p> <p>However, all of the four strategic facilities are fully accessible, and have been selected, among other reasons, because they are on public transport routes. The nearest strategic leisure centre to Pontllanfraith is Newbridge Leisure Centre. There is a direct bus from Blackwood Interchange to Newbridge that takes 13 minutes. A bus stop is located within the vicinity of Newbridge Leisure Centre or alternatively there is access to the site via a fully accessible footbridge from the park and ride railway station in the town centre that is adjacent to a bus stop.</p> <p>Closure of this leisure centre will allow remaining resources to be focussed on enhancing the quality of the customer offer at our strategic sites. It provides the opportunity to promote and increase participation in sport and active recreation. Younger and older people are a key participant group; to embed lifestyle behaviour, and to promote an active and healthy old age respectively. By focusing on enhanced facilities at our chosen strategic sites more younger and older people can become more active more often.</p> <p>The Council's sport and active recreation outreach and intervention services provide targeted support to help keep older people involved and active in local communities helping local organisations to provide ways of supporting older or less independent people to lead healthy lives through low intensity, social and easy</p>

		<p>to access physical activities.</p> <p>The consultation process that has supported this proposal has been designed to seek views and information from individuals and from groups representing older and younger people.</p> <p>As detailed in Section 7, a public consultation on the proposal to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre was undertaken between 9th October 2017 to the 24th November 2017, and in relation to the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 between Friday 16th July and 21st September 2018.</p> <p>Analysis of Smartcard user data over 2018/19 shows that 3% of users, whose age is known, were aged 64 and over. Of the member categories 3% were Older Members (aged over 60)</p>
<p>Disability</p>	<p>Positive and Negative</p>	<p>The proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will have a negative impact upon people with disabilities where this results in longer travel times to alternative facilities depending on point of origin and the extent to which they currently use Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre. However, all of the four strategic facilities are fully accessible, have ample disabled parking, and have been selected as they are accessible by public transport.</p> <p>The nearest strategically located leisure centre to Pontllanfraith is Newbridge Leisure Centre. There is a direct bus from Blackwood Interchange to Newbridge that takes 13 minutes. A bus stop is located within the vicinity of Newbridge Leisure Centre or alternatively there is access to the site via a fully accessible footbridge from the park and ride railway station in the town centre that is adjacent to a bus stop</p> <p>Closure of this leisure centre will allow remaining resources to be focussed on enhancing the quality of the customer offer at our strategic sites. It supports the longer term aim of sustaining discretionary sport and leisure services to promote and increase participation in sport and active recreation for all.</p> <p>Improved, new, or refurbished facilities will be more attractive and accessible to families, people with additional needs and people who need the support of carers. Ongoing investment will ensure that our leisure facilities are maintained and that equipment is replaced or upgraded, making them more attractive to all users and improving access equally.</p>

		<p>Focussing on four strategically located leisure centres as identified in the Strategy will allow for appropriate consideration to be undertaken at the planning stage to providing facilities that are fit for purpose both from an access and engagement perspective, particularly in areas such as changing facilities and equipment purchases. Whilst this proves more challenging from a retro fitting perspective in relation to facilities that will remain in place, ensuring that access and accessibility are central tenets of investment and improvement projects remains a key principle.</p> <p>Sport and Leisure Services acknowledges the key and fundamental role that its staff teams play in ensuring that every customer visit is an enjoyable experience. The service is fully committed to not only upskilling its staff to achieve this ambition but also is proactive in engaging with others who are able to either provide key skills or support staff development.</p> <p>We also support individuals by providing specialist interventions to reach targeted audiences in our communities where there is evidence of need and no other alternative provider. Examples of this include the work undertaken by the council's Disability Sport Development Officer who focuses upon the provision of dedicated activities for those with disabilities through the provision of transport and specifically trained staff. Further extensive work is undertaken across communities either through direct programme delivery supporting schools or through supporting local organisations to enhance the quality of programmes delivered through training and access to funding.</p> <p>In promoting a sustainable vision for sport and leisure provision it is recognised that participation in physical activity can have a positive effect on both mental and physical health. In particular levels of cardio vascular disease and type 2 diabetes are particularly high in the county. Participation in a physical activity can significantly reduce the risks for both existing sufferers and those most vulnerable.</p> <p>The consultation process that has supported this proposal has been designed to seek views and information from individuals and from groups representing disabled people.</p> <p>As detailed in Section 7, a public consultation on the proposal to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre was undertaken between 9th October 2017 to the 24th November 2017, and in relation to the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 between Friday 16th July</p>
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		and 21st September 2018. Analysis of Smartcard user data over 2018/19 shows that 0.6% of users who visited the centre are registered disabled.
Gender Reassignment	Neutral	There is no evidence available to the Council to suggest a negative impact due to gender reassignment. Investment in the four strategic leisure centres as identified within the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy will ensure that appropriate changing facilities are improved, where practicable, to provide gender neutral facilities.
Marriage & Civil Partnership	Neutral	There is no evidence available to the Council to suggest a negative impact due to marriage or civil partnership.
Pregnancy and Maternity	Neutral	There is no evidence available to the Council to suggest a negative impact due to pregnancy or maternity. Investment in the four strategic leisure centres as identified within the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy will ensure that changing facilities are enhanced to provide improved facilities for pregnant and new parents.
Race	Neutral	There is no evidence available to the Council to suggest a negative impact due to race.
Religion & Belief	Neutral	There is no evidence available to the Council to suggest a negative impact due to religion or belief.
Sex	Neutral	There is no evidence available to the Council to suggest a negative impact due to gender. Investment in the four strategic leisure centres as identified within the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy will ensure that appropriate changing facilities are improved, where practicable, to provide gender neutral facilities.
Sexual Orientation		There is no evidence available to the Council to suggest a negative impact due to sexual orientation.

5	<p>In line with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. (No.1) Regulations 2015, please note below what effects, if any (whether positive or adverse), the proposal would have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.</p> <p>The proposal has a positive effect in this regard. The strategic sites are able to provide a Welsh language reception service as required by the Welsh language standards, 65 and 65a. This provision is not available at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.</p>
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INFORMATION COLLECTION

6	Please outline any evidence and / or research you have collected which supports the proposal? This can include an analysis of service users.				
	The following information is presented in relation to groups with protected characteristics. The current and possible users of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre; established through Smartcard data, and the population data for residents of the immediate council ward area, are representative of the whole population. There are no apparent anomalies, related to protected characteristics, in either the user group or the nearby ward population.				
	Age				
		United Kingdom*	Wales*	Caerphilly CBC*	Pontllanfraith ward^
	% Age under 25	29.8	29.0	28.8	28.2
	% Age 25 to 64	51.9	50.3	51.8	50.8
	% Age over 64	18.3	20.8	19.3	20.9
	Of Smartcard users who visited Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre in 2018/19 and whose age is known 16% are under 26, 81% are aged 26 to 64, and 3% are aged over 64. Of Smartcard users who visited Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre in 2018/19 10% are Junior Members (under 18), 87% are adult members (aged 18 to 59), and 3% are Older Members (aged over 60). Sources: * Mid-2018 Population Estimates (ONS) ^ Mid-2017 Population Experimental Statistics (ONS)				
	Disability				
		United Kingdom#	Wales#	Caerphilly CBC#	Pontllanfraith ward
% aged 16-64 who are Equality Act core disabled	18.8	21.6	25.8	Not available	
	England & Wales+	Wales+	Caerphilly CBC+	Pontllanfraith ward+	
% of people whose day to day activities are limited a lot	8.5	11.9	14.0	13.5	
% of people whose day to day activities are limited a little	9.4	10.8	11.4	11.5	

0.6% of Smartcard users who visited Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre in 2018/19 are registered as disabled.
 Sources: # Annual Population Survey Jan-Dec 2018 (ONS)
 + 2011 Census

The results of the consultation on the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy were that 68% of respondents indicated that they normally travel to the place where they take part in sport and active recreation by car, 23% walk, 4% cycle 4% use public transport.

Specifically for those who indicated that Pontllanfraith was the Leisure Centre they use most often 58% of respondents indicated that they normally travel by car, 27% walk, 7% cycle 5% use public transport, and 3% by other means.

Of Smartcard users who visited Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre in 2018/19 only 3% are aged over 64 and 0.6% are registered disabled. This compares with 19.3% aged over 64 and 25.8% of 16 to 64 year olds who identified as Equality Act core disabled in the ONS's Annual Population Survey 2018.

The closest of the 4 strategic leisure centres to Pontllanfraith is Newbridge Leisure Centre which is 3.3 miles away, 9 minutes by car or 13 minutes using a direct bus from Blackwood Town Centre. It should be noted that during the 2018 Sport and Active Recreation Strategy public consultation exercise, only 4% of respondents stated that they use public transport to access facilities with the majority of respondents using private transport.

CONSULTATION

7	Please outline the consultation / engagement process and outline any key findings.	<p>A public consultation on the proposal to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre was undertaken between 9th October 2017 to the 24th November 2017.</p> <p>The gender and age profile of respondents, who answered the question, in this consultation was:</p>		
		AGE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE (1dec pl)
		Under 16	12	3.4
		16-25	53	15.1
		26-35	90	25.7
		36-50	113	32.3
		50+	82	23.4
		TOTAL	350	100
		GENDER	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE (1 dec pl)
		Male	159	46.8

Female	181	52.9
TOTAL	340	100

The following text was included in the survey “To protect anonymity, a full range of monitoring questions has not been included. However, if your response to any of the questions in this survey have been impacted by any of the following (age, disability, ethnic origin, gender, gender reassignment, marital status, religious belief or non-belief, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality or responsibility for any dependents) please give details below.” Few responses were received to this question. Of those that reflected protected characteristics the following responses were given:

- As I don't drive, finding a way to get to the alternative centres will be very difficult
- At present, my priority is my daughter, I am not thinking about anyone else directly in my family or myself.
- Disability, mental health and physical health
- I have two teenage children who use this facility
- I suffer from bipolar, emotional personality disorder and anxiety.
- Just starting my retirement & keen to keep fit & socialise.
- The welsh language law was passed in more affluent times, perhaps it is now time for a rethink before we lose to many more important facilities or services?
- You have an aging population in the borough who need local and accessible services.

It has not been possible to draw out any equalities themes from the limited responses.

In November 2018 the Council adopted a 10-year Sport and Active Recreation Strategy. The Strategy adopts the Welsh Government’s blueprint for sport and active recreation in Wales, ‘Facilities for Future Generations’ together with a decision making matrix for determining the provision of strategic leisure facilities that are directly managed by the Sport and Leisure Service. The Strategy sets out the Council’s approach to rationalisation of leisure facilities over the next 10 years and states that some facilities could close completely in order to improve, or maintain, provision at others.

A full 10-week public and stakeholder consultation on the Strategy was undertaken between Friday 16th July and 21st September 2018.

The consultation process was used to strengthen our understanding and any limitations in the information that we hold. It involved engaging directly with:

Youth Forum
50+ Forum
Age Cymru
Deafblind.org
RNIB Cymru
Action Hearing Loss Cymru
BDA
Disability Can Do
Caerphilly County Borough Access Group
Caerphilly People First
Disability Sports Wales

Caerphilly Borough Mind
 Gwent Education Multi-Ethnic Service (GEMS)
 Race Equality Council
 SEWREC
 Umbrella Cymru
 LGBTQ+ youth group
 Stonewall Cymru
 Menter Iaith
 Welsh Language Forum including Meithrin etc.

75 of the 711 respondents to the consultation on the Strategy indicated that the Leisure Centre they use most often is Pontllanfraith and so it has been possible to filter the responses to provide views directly related to Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

The low number of responses does not allow for statistically valid analysis, however, of those who indicated that they used Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre most often the following provides a breakdown by protected characteristics:

AGE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE (1 dec pl)
11-15	2	2.7
16-25	2	2.7
26-35	15	20.5
36-50	25	34.2
50-64	13	17.8
65+	9	12.3
Prefer not to say	7	9.6
TOTAL	73	100

GENDER	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE (1 dec pl)
Female	28	38.9
Male	40	55.6
Prefer not to say	4	5.6
TOTAL	72	100

For the other protected characteristics the following data was gathered:

Disability

3 people indicated that they have a disability, 9 people indicated that they have a long term illness or health problem.

Ethnicity

66 people indicated that they are white, 1 person was mixed race.

Religion

35 people indicated that they have no religion, 31 were Christian and 1 person was Buddhist.

Sexual orientation

57 people indicated that they are heterosexual, 1 person identified as lesbian, 3 preferred not to say and 3 stated they were "other".

Welsh

71 respondents indicated that their main language was English with 1 person stating that Welsh was their main language.

The following text was included in the survey “If you feel that the proposed changes will affect you as an individual (positively or negatively) because of any of the following, your ethnic origin, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, religious beliefs or non-belief, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality or responsibility for any dependents, please give details below.” Few responses were received to this question. Of those that reflected protected characteristics the following responses were given:

- Age - the lack of buses through Hollybush will not allow me to use facilities
- I believe that CCBC is discriminating against the socially and economically deprived. The facilities in pont and cafe forest are used extensively and this consultation document is a joke for lots on residents. With poor reading and writing skills, this survey is painful to complete and I know of hundreds of people who are unable to contribute despite being desperate to do so.
- I have young teenage children who will not be able to access facilities due to difficulties in travelling there. A medical condition means that access to local facilities is vital for me.
- These Proposed changes will definitely effect me in a negative way but not as stated above. As i have a long term injury my back that is still being assessed and i use both Cefn forrest and Pontllanfraith regular as i cannot do sport as full as i used i used to do it 7 times a week i can now only do it for 30 mins 2-3 times a week and work it around my shifts and these centres work around my shift and are not too far away as i get a dead leg when travelling too far so keeping the leisure centres to me is vital. As it keeps my anxiety and depression at a certain state as well as keeping the regular exercise and keeping me going. I use it regular through our health care as a GP Referral. keep all sport and recreation facilities that all i ask thanks for reading :)
- Welsh ought to be the first language on every sign, instruction booklets, provision of services in our community. We are Welsh, it is our language and ought to actively promoted in the provision of Leisure facilities across the provision.
- What the devil has this to do with race or religion? We are talking about a sport centre. Get real!!
- Yes it impacts me in not being able to offer a local service for my dependants.

It has not been possible to draw out any equalities themes from the limited responses.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

8	<p>How will the proposal be monitored?</p> <p>The Sport and Leisure Service will continue to review customer feedback via established systems, including Smartcard user data.</p> <p>The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy has a 10-year delivery timeframe, protected characteristics will continue to be monitored as the strategy aims are met.</p>
9	<p>How will the monitoring be evaluated?</p>

	<p>Sport and Leisure Services operate a robust, systematic Customer Comments process that is regularly reviewed for trend data. This data is used to monitor trends in relation to customer comments, complaints and identify any themes or insights that can be utilised to improve delivery and provision.</p> <p>The service regularly reports on customer usage across the full range of activities and facilities to establish trends and changes in customer behaviours and expectations.</p> <p>Regular engagement with groups, clubs and organisations.</p> <p>Customer Satisfaction survey and Net Promotor Score process. This data will be used to identify themes and monitor customer insights and monitor implementation of any improvements.</p>
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10	<p>Have any support / guidance / training requirements been identified?</p> <p>Not at present, but subject to ongoing review.</p>
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11	<p>If any adverse impact has been identified, please outline any mitigation action.</p> <p>Closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will allow remaining resources to be focussed on enhancing the quality and customer offer at four strategic sites. It supports the longer term aim of sustaining discretionary sport and leisure services to promote and increase participation in sport and active recreation.</p> <p>Improved, new, or refurbished facilities will be more attractive and accessible to families, people with additional needs and people that need the support of carers. Ongoing investment will ensure that our leisure facilities are maintained and that equipment is replaced, making them more attractive to all users and improving equality of access.</p> <p>Disability</p> <p>All of the strategic leisure facilities are fully accessible and accessible by public transport. Each of the four strategically located leisure centres is supported by public transport routes with bus stops located within the close vicinity of each leisure centre. As an example a direct bus from Blackwood Interchange to Newbridge takes 13 minutes with bus stops located adjacent to the leisure centre campus and next to the park and ride at Newbridge Train Station, which allows for access to the leisure centre via a fully accessible footbridge.</p> <p>Significant work has been undertaken with regards leisure centre opening times to ensure that facilities are available at times that evidence would suggest meets the requirement of current users. This has resulted in earlier opening, later closing, and adjusted weekend times. This work will continue based upon current communication methods to ensure that the commitment to accessible facilities remains in tact.</p> <p>Investment in the four strategically located leisure centres as identified within the Strategy will ensure that appropriate facilities are created that promote the use of and access to facilities and programmes for those with disabilities. This is supplemented by a proactive training programme to ensure that Sport and Leisure</p>
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staff are equipped with the appropriate skills.

New and refurbished facilities will be more attractive and accessible to families, people with additional needs, and those that may require the support of carers.

In promoting a sustainable vision for sport and active recreation provision it is recognised that participation in physical activity can have a positive effect on both mental and physical health. In particular levels of cardio vascular disease and type 2 diabetes are particularly high across the county borough area. Participation in a physical activity can significantly reduce the risks for both existing sufferers and those most vulnerable.

Gender

Currently, each leisure centre provides facilities for male, female, or disabled people and in some instances family changing rooms. Investment in the four strategically located leisure centres identified in the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy will ensure that high quality facilities are provided at each leisure centre, including improvements in those facilities already currently provided, these works will include provision of gender neutral facilities. Investment in the four strategic leisure centres as identified within the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy will ensure that appropriate changing facilities are improved, where practicable, to provide gender neutral facilities.

Age

All of the strategic leisure facilities are fully accessible and accessible by public transport. New and refurbished facilities with modern equipment will be particularly attractive to new users and should encourage participation in sport by young people and older people, both groups are target participant groups for promotion of leisure services.

12 What wider use will you make of this Equality Impact Assessment?

This Equality Impact Assessment will be used to assist in the decision making process regarding the future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and to ensure that due regard is given to the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 which states that:

- (1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to —
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

13	<p>An equality impact assessment may have four possible outcomes, through more than one may apply to a single proposal. Please indicate the relevant outcome(s) of the impact assessment below.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Please tick as appropriate:</p> <p>No major change – the impact assessment demonstrated that the proposal was robust; there was no potential for discrimination or adverse impact. All opportunities to promote equality have been taken. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Adjust the proposal – the impact assessment identified potential problems or missed opportunities. The proposal was adjusted to remove barriers or better promote equality. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Continue the proposal – the impact assessment identified the potential problems or missed opportunities to promote equality. The justification(s) for continuing with it have been clearly set out. (The justification must be included in the impact assessment and must be in line with the duty to have due regard. Compelling reasons will be needed for the most important relevant proposals.) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Stop and remove the proposal – the impact assessment identified actual or potential unlawful discrimination. The proposal was stopped and removed, or changed. <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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Completed by:	Rob Hartshorn
Date:	13/8/2019
Position:	Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services
Name of Head of Service:	Rob Hartshorn

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