

# Caerphilly County Borough Council Consultation on proposals for Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre – November 2023

## **Background:**

In November 2023, Caerphilly County Borough Council's Cabinet agreed to consult on a proposal that would see Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre remain permanently closed, with sporting facilities at the adjacent Centre for Vulnerable Learners (CVL) being made available for community use outside of school hours from Spring 2025. The proposal would also see use of the 3G pitch on the Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre site cease once the 3G pitch at the adjacent Centre for Vulnerable Learners is open for community use.

The proposal is intended to contribute to a more efficient and financially sustainable future leisure facilities offer in accordance with the adopted Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019 -2029.

The indoor leisure space at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre closed because of the national lockdown in March 2020 and has not since re-opened for leisure use. Between September 2021 and June 2023, it was used by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board as a Mass Vaccination Centre. Previous block bookings of the indoor sport and leisure space have relocated to other facilities across the county borough.

Use of the outdoor 3G pitch at Pontllanfraith recommenced on a phased basis in April 2021 (without access to the changing rooms). The full size 3G pitch is well used, however, the pitch has been the subject of ongoing repairs for some time. An inspection report (2022) confirmed that the pitch is nearing the end of its lifespan and any further repairs undertaken would only provide a short-term benefit, therefore, replacement must be considered.

The Council is developing a Centre for Vulnerable Learners on the former Pontllanfraith Comprehensive school site. Due for completion in Spring 2025, the new facility will be equipped with indoor and outdoor sporting provision and will, managed by Sport & Leisure services, enable community use of the facilities outside school hours.

Sporting facilities at the Centre for Vulnerable Learners will include a 4-court sports hall. The existing Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre sports hall is a 5-court (so a reduction of 1 court) with associated changing facilities and a 3G pitch (size 40 x 30 metres i.e. not full size). The sports hall will accommodate at least the Club Standard for badminton, basketball, netball and volleyball. The new 3G pitch will support training provision but not competitive fixtures - however these can be played at Islwyn High, or Blackwood Comprehensive school.

The full report outlining the proposal presented to Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 can be found here: <https://democracy.caerphilly.gov.uk/documents/s46999/Pontllanfraith%20LC%20-%20Cabinet%20Report%20Final%203%2011%2023.pdf?LLL=0>

## **Purpose**

The current consultation was designed to gain an understanding of the impact of the proposal on key stakeholders including previous and current users of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and 3G pitch. Where individuals identify that the proposal will have a negative impact on themselves or their household, the

consultation will help the council understand the reasons for this and to identify mitigation that could be put in place to reduce that impact.

An initial Integrated Impact Assessment identified that the additional distance that users may need to travel, could have a potential negative impact under the socio-economic duty and on those with protected characteristic. To this end, the consultation sought to identify the main mode of transport used and distance travelled to the Pontllanfraith site.

The Integrated Impact Assessment can be found here:

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/caerphillydocs/ia/pontllanfraith-leisure-centre-ia>

## **Methodology (what we did)**

The consultation period ran from **Monday 20 November 2023 to Wednesday 3 January 2024** and was promoted via:

- A dedicated web page accessible directly, via the Council's website or a QR code included on posters: <https://conversation.caerphilly.gov.uk/pontllanfraith-leisure-centre> including links to all supporting reports and frequently asked questions.
- Media releases: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/news/news-bulletin/november-2023/pontllanfraith-leisure-centre-update?lang=en-GB>. (1<sup>st</sup> November)  
<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/news/news-bulletin/november-2023/have-your-say-on-future-of-pontllanfraith-leisure?lang=en-GB> (15<sup>th</sup> November)
- Digital media posts throughout the duration of the consultation period including Facebook (16<sup>th</sup> November; 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023) and NewsOnline (8<sup>th</sup> November; 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2023).
- Posters displayed in public facing Council venues in the Pontllanfraith/Blackwood area including Blackwood Library and Blackwood Miner's Institute Poster
- Targeted e-mails to stakeholder groups including current users of the existing 3G provision/local sports clubs

Residents were encouraged to give their views in a variety of ways:

## **Survey**

A survey was made available online throughout the duration of the consultation. The survey could be completed online or printed for completion. Hard copies of the survey were also available from Blackwood library and were made available at all drop-in sessions.

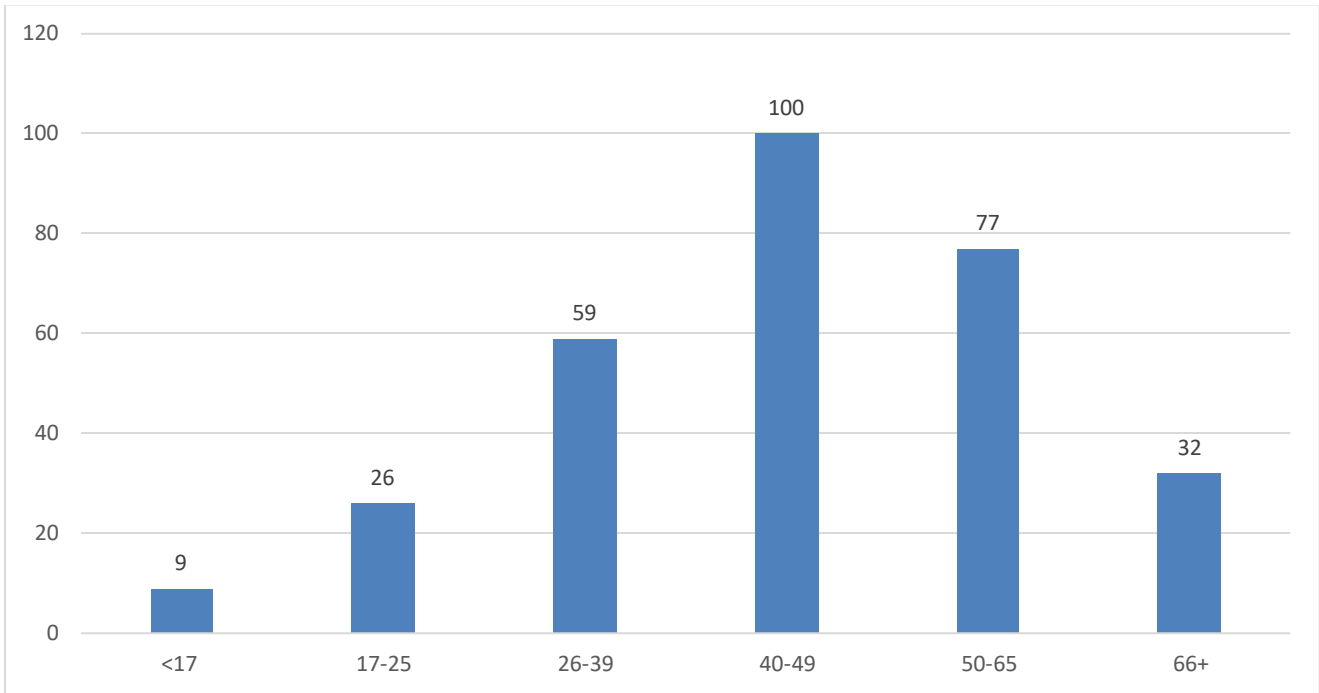
The survey focussed on identifying the potential impact of this proposal on stakeholders as outlined above.

**307 completed surveys** were received by the closing date.

## **Respondent profile (survey)**

- Just under a third of respondents were under 40 (31%), a third (33%) were in the 40-49 age group and just over a third (36%) were aged 50+. **Graph 1** shows the count of respondents by age group – for accessibility purposes, graph 1 simply illustrates the text in this paragraph.

Graph 1: Respondents – count of age group



- There was an almost equal split between female (49%) and male (48%) respondents with 3% preferring to self-describe/not to say.
- Disability – 16% of respondents (49 individuals) have a disability. Of these, 84% (41 individuals) indicated that their disability impacts on their day-to-day activities.

### Face to face engagement

The purpose of the face-to-face sessions was to clarify the proposal, answer any questions and gather feedback, through conversation and encouraging those spoken with to complete the survey either in hard copy or online. These sessions were held on different days of the week and different times of the day, including early evening, to enable as many people as possible to attend.

### Drop-in sessions

A series of informal face-to-face drop-in sessions for residents were arranged:

- Elim Baptist Church, Pontllanfraith, Tuesday 28 November, 5.30pm-7.30pm
- Penllwyn Millennium Centre (attending the Penllwyn Community Partnership Christmas event), Wednesday 6 December, 6pm to end of event
- Pontllanfraith Rugby Club, Wednesday 13 December, 11am-1pm (day time session added at request of a local resident who had attended the initial meeting)
- Elim Baptist Church, Pontllanfraith, Thursday 14 December, 5.30pm-7.30pm

A total of **16 individuals** actively attended the drop-in sessions (some individuals attended more than one session). In addition, information was shared with residents attending the Penllwyn Millenium Centre event.

Two online face-to-face sessions were also scheduled.

- Tuesday 28 November, 12 mid-day. One person attended.
- Wednesday 6 December, 11 am. No one requested to attend this session.

## Targeted engagement with stakeholders

Key individuals, clubs, groups and organisations were contacted directly via e-mail and were invited to take part in and to promote and share details of the engagement with their contacts/members. As noted below, a range of clubs responded to the survey representing a range of sports, age groups and both male and female.

## Key Findings

This section summarises the key findings of the survey, qualitative feedback from the drop-in sessions, CCBC Facebook comments and other written responses. **Please note that for accessibility purposes, where graphs are featured throughout this consultation report, they are accompanied by a paragraph of text within the body of the report which explains the content of the graphs. Alt text is not used to describe graphs.**

Comments raised at the drop-in sessions and other sources largely echoed those from the survey and these are reflected in the qualitative analysis throughout.

*Note: The statistical data (percentages) presented within this report relates to survey responses. The number of responses received for individual questions may be lower than the total number of completed questionnaires returned. Percentages are therefore based on the number of responses to individual questions (n=number of responses).*

*Participation in the consultation was self-selecting. The data should be considered within this context.*

## Interest in the consultation

By far, the largest group of people to respond to the survey were previous users of the leisure centre and local residents. Respondents were able to select more than one option for this question and many selected multiple responses e.g. most current users of the 3G pitch had also used the pitch prior to March 2020 and indicated that they were also representing local sports clubs.

Clubs represented in the survey responses include:

- Cascade and Caerphilly district schools (1)
- Cefn Fforest (2)
- Crumlin (1)
- Cwmcarn United Rugby (10)
- Fleur de lys FC (1)
- Football (1)
- Girls and boys football and all sports (1)
- Junior Football Team (1)
- Newbridge Cricket club (1)
- Newbridge RFC (1)
- Newbridge Town (1)
- Newbridge vikings (1)
- Oakdale Netball (3)
- Pengam (2)
- Pengam Blackwood netball club (3)
- Pengam Boys and Girls Football Club (7)

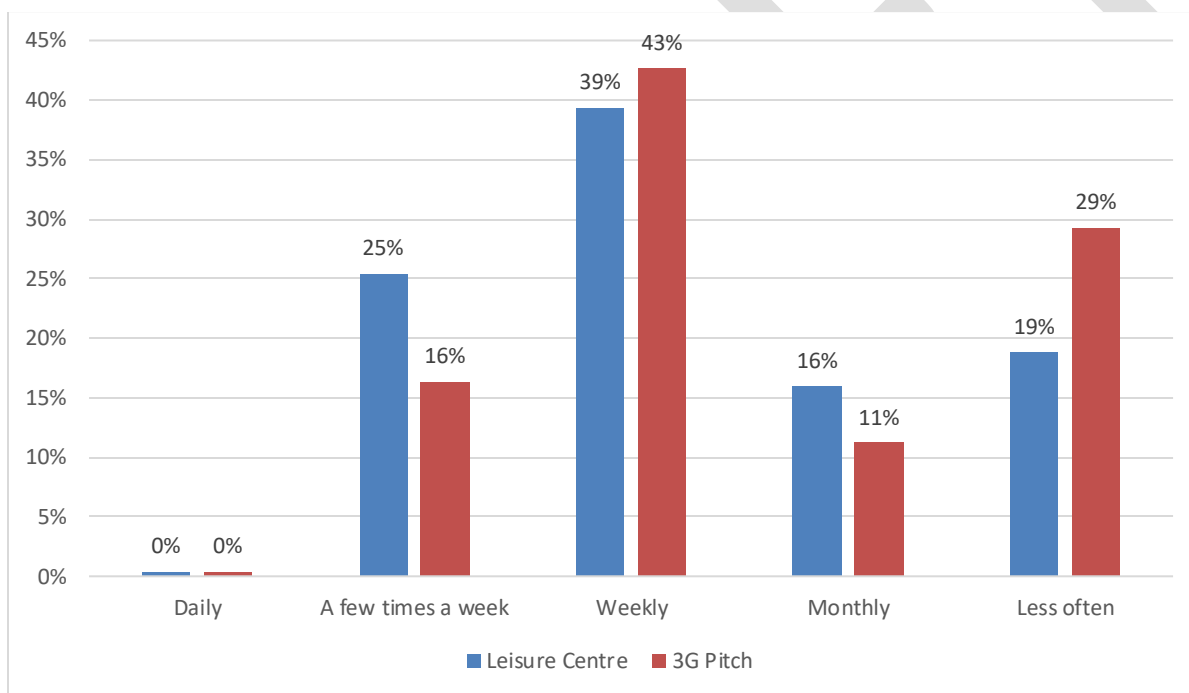
- Pentwynmawr AFC (6)
- Pentwynmawr football/ netball (1)
- Pontllanfraith RFC (2)
- Pontllanfraith School Old Boys (1)
- Risca Triathlon club (1)
- Treowen Stars girls - various age groups (7)
- Wattsville FC inc ladies (9)

### Use of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and 3G pitch prior to March 2020

Of those who responded to the questions about use of the site prior to March, 79% (244 individuals) indicated that they were users of either the leisure centre (244 individuals) or 3G pitch prior to 2020 (232). A significant proportion of respondents indicated that they used both the Leisure centre and 3G pitch prior to March 2020.

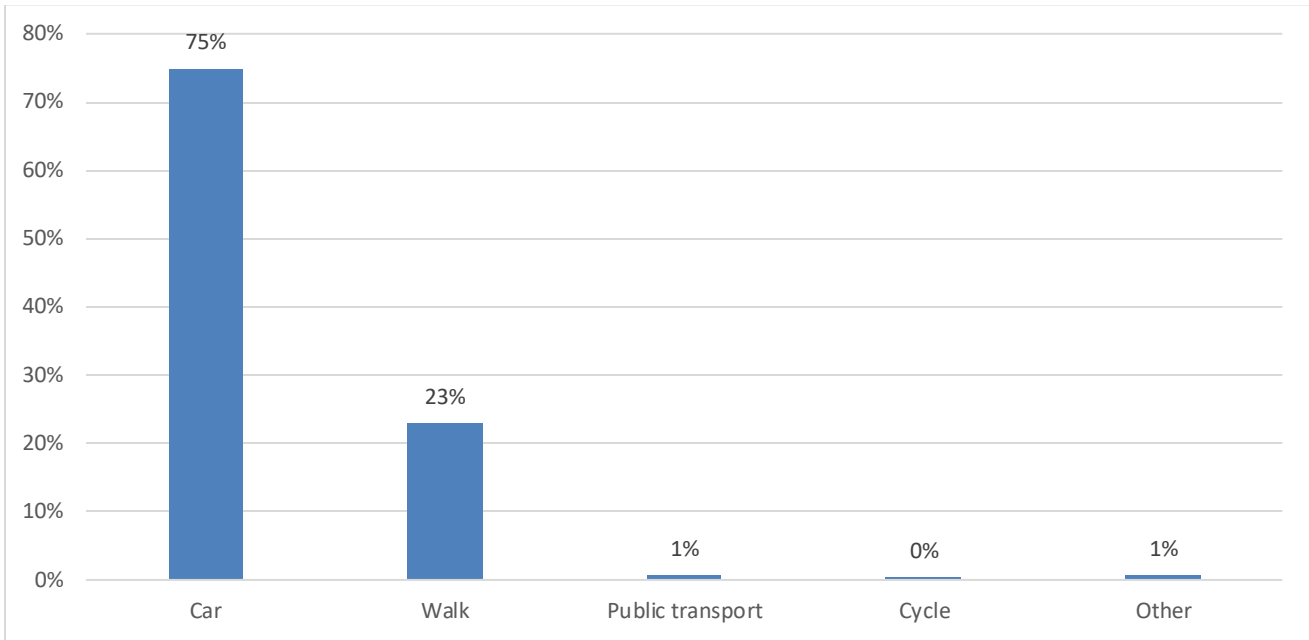
As shown in **Graphs 2**, the largest number of users visited the site weekly prior to March 2020.

**Graph 2: Frequency of use of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre (n=244) and 3G pitch (n=232) prior to March 2020**



The main mode of transport to the site prior to March 2020 was car with 75% indicating that they had used their car and 23% indicating that they walked to the site (**Graph 3**).

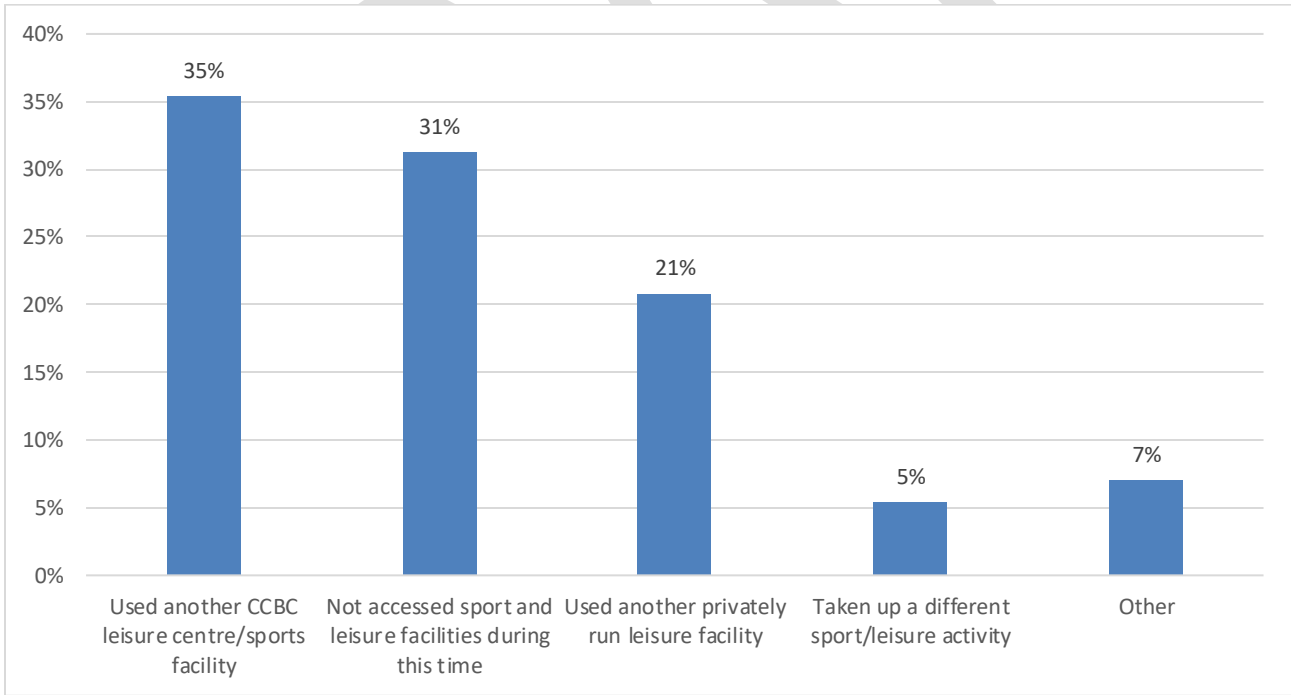
**Graph 3: Main mode of transport to the site prior to March 2020**



**Alternative arrangements during the time that Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre has remained closed**

As shown in **Graph 4**, over a third (35%) of previous users have used another CCBC leisure centre or sports facility. A further 21% have used another privately run leisure facility.

**Graph 4: Alternative arrangements during the time that Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre has remained closed**



Just under a third (31%) of respondents indicated that they had not accessed sport and leisure facilities during this time. The reasons given for this can be themed:

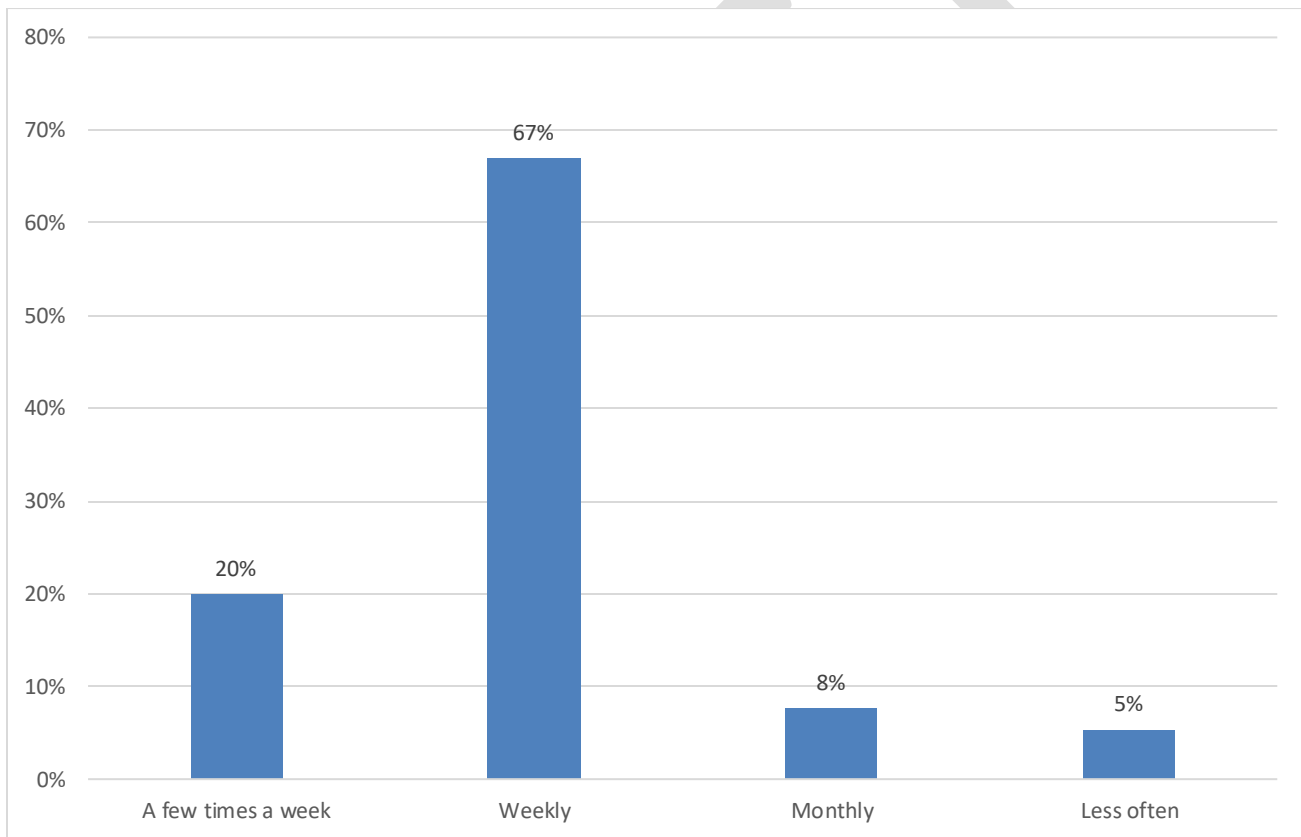
- Distance to alternative facilities (37 responses). This was the main reason given, with a number of comments noting that they are unable to walk to alternative sites.
- Other facilities not suitable to needs/preference to use Pontllanfraith (13 responses)

- Capacity at other facilities (7 responses)
- Anxiety/mental health (3 responses)
- Cost of alternative/additional cost of travel to alternative (4 responses)
- Lack of public transport (2 responses)
- Loss of fitness (2 responses)
- Lack of parking at alternative sites (1 responses)
- Opening times (1 response)
- Personal commitments/time constraints (2 responses)

**Current use of Pontllanfraith 3G pitch**

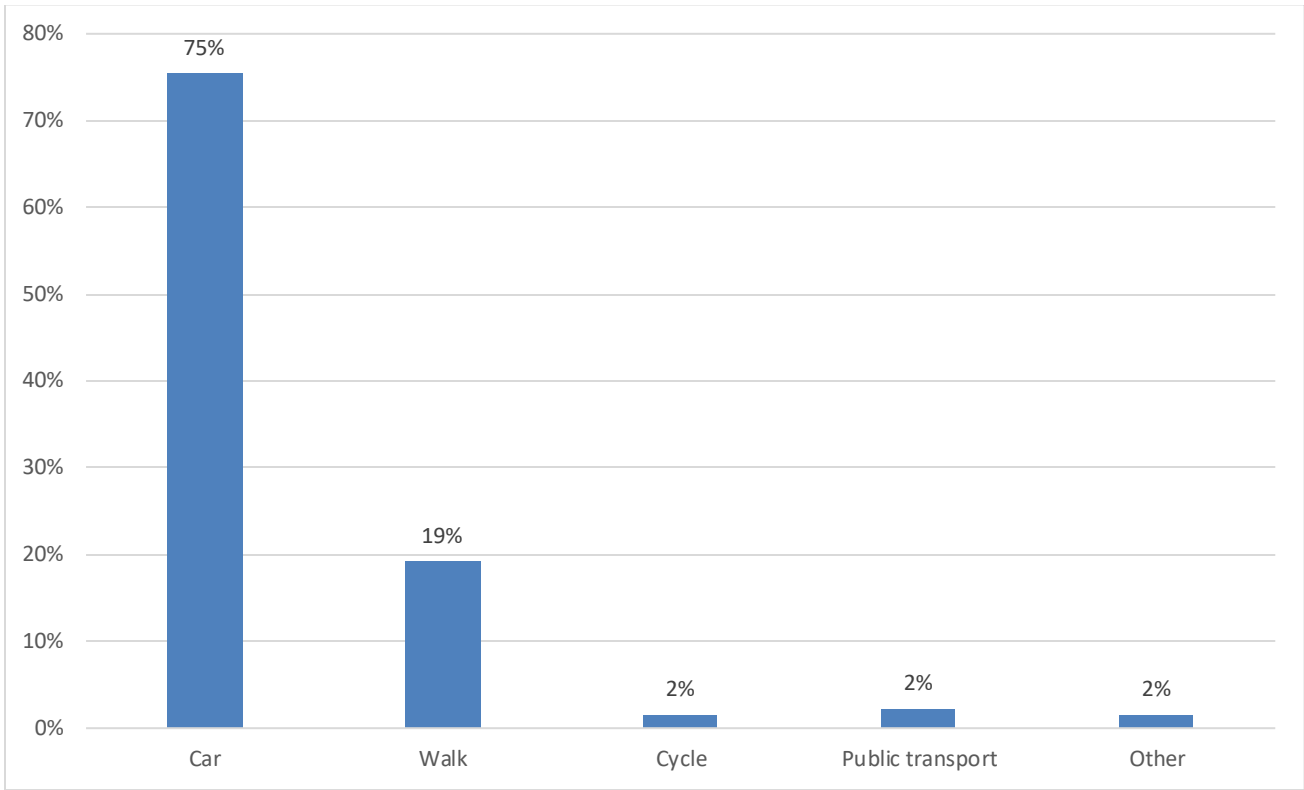
In total, 130 respondents to the survey are current users of the 3G pitch at Pontllanfraith. The largest number of current users (67%) visit the site weekly with 20% visiting a few times a week. **(Graph 5)**

**Graph 5: Frequency of use of current use of the 3G pitch (n=130)**



As shown in **Graph 6**, the main mode of transport to the site by current users was the car. Of the 130 survey respondents who currently use the 3G pitch, 25 people indicated that they currently walk to the site. 98 use a car.

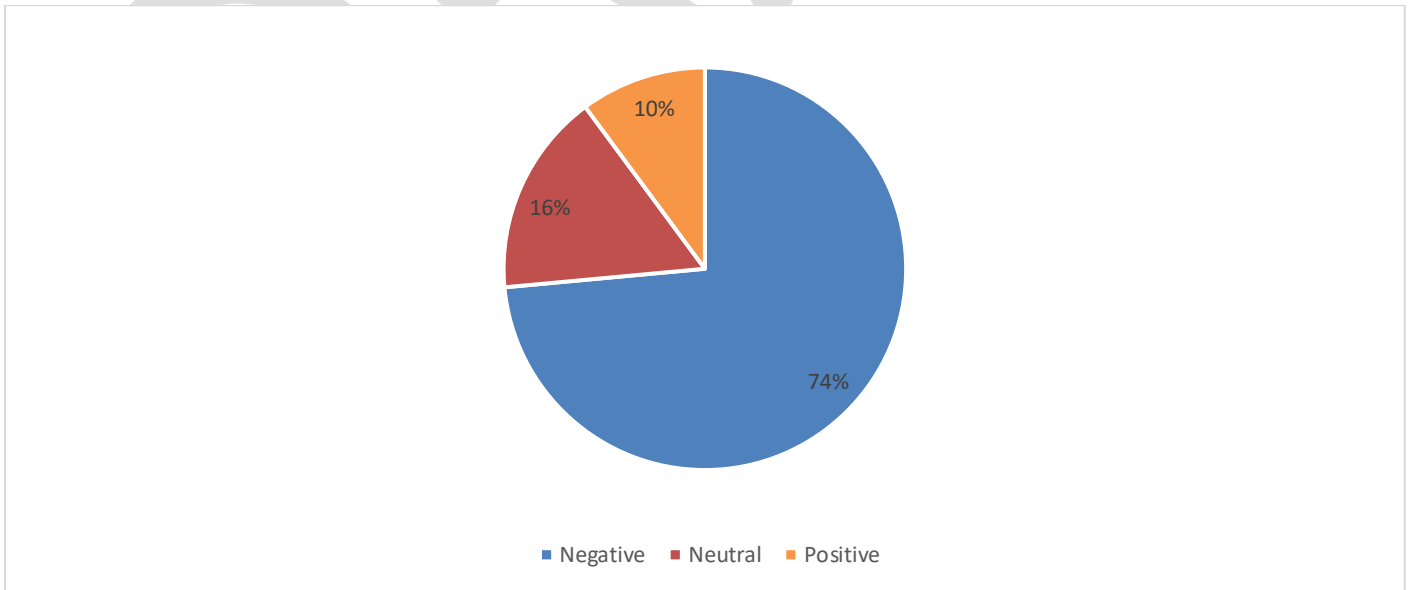
**Graph 6: Main mode of transport to the site amongst current users (n=130)**



**Impact**

The proposal would see Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre remain permanently closed, with sporting facilities at the adjacent Centre for Vulnerable Learners (CVL) being made available for community use outside of school hours from Spring 2025. As shown in **Graph 7**, of those who responded, 74% (225 individuals) felt that the proposal would have a negative impact on them. The remaining 26% felt that the impact would be neutral or positive.

**Graph 7: Impact of the proposal**



Reasons given for the proposal having a **neutral or positive impact** included:

- Other facilities within CCBC would allow residents from any area a choice



- Other facilities are of a better quality/more modern (including the proposed new facilities at the CVL)
- Exercise outdoors so not reliant on the facility
- The centre has been closed for some time, welcome a new facility

The main reasons given for respondents feeling that the closure will have a **negative impact** can be themed:

- Respondents feel that there are not enough sport and recreation facilities generally across the county borough to meet current demand, and that a growing population in the area through new housing developments will exacerbate this. In particular:
  - There was concern over a lack of availability of facilities during the day
- A shortage of 3G space, especially at weekends and in the winter. There were concerns over the size of the new 3G pitch in relation to reduced capacity and there being no alternative pitch for competitive matches. Current users also questioned whether bookings will be transferred across to the new site and whether there would be more capacity at alternative sites
- Respondents questioned the suitability of the new CVL sports hall for badminton and other sports and noted the lack of gym.
- There was a concern that alternative provision (beyond the Centre for Vulnerable Learners) is too far away. No other sites are in walking distance and the permanent closure will increase travel distance, time and costs and that other sites are not on public transport routes.
- Generally, it was felt that fewer facilities will have a negative impact on health and well-being

To add context to concerns raised around travel distance, the postcodes of respondents travelling to the site by car were mapped. Please refer to **Map 1**. The map highlights that the majority of respondents live within a 5 or 10 minute drive from the current site. However, the map also shows that some users of the existing site travel from further afield and that a number of other 3G sports pitches also fall within 10 minute drive from the current site. (Sports Wales suggest that a 20 minute drive is reasonable).

In relation to protected characteristics, some older people, those with children as well as those with disabilities felt that they would be more negatively affected due to the increased distance and associated cost if they have to travel further to alternative facilities. There was also concern that women's sports may be impacted more if there is a limited capacity to book facilities. Comments were also raised around the CVL site needing to be accessible for those with disabilities.

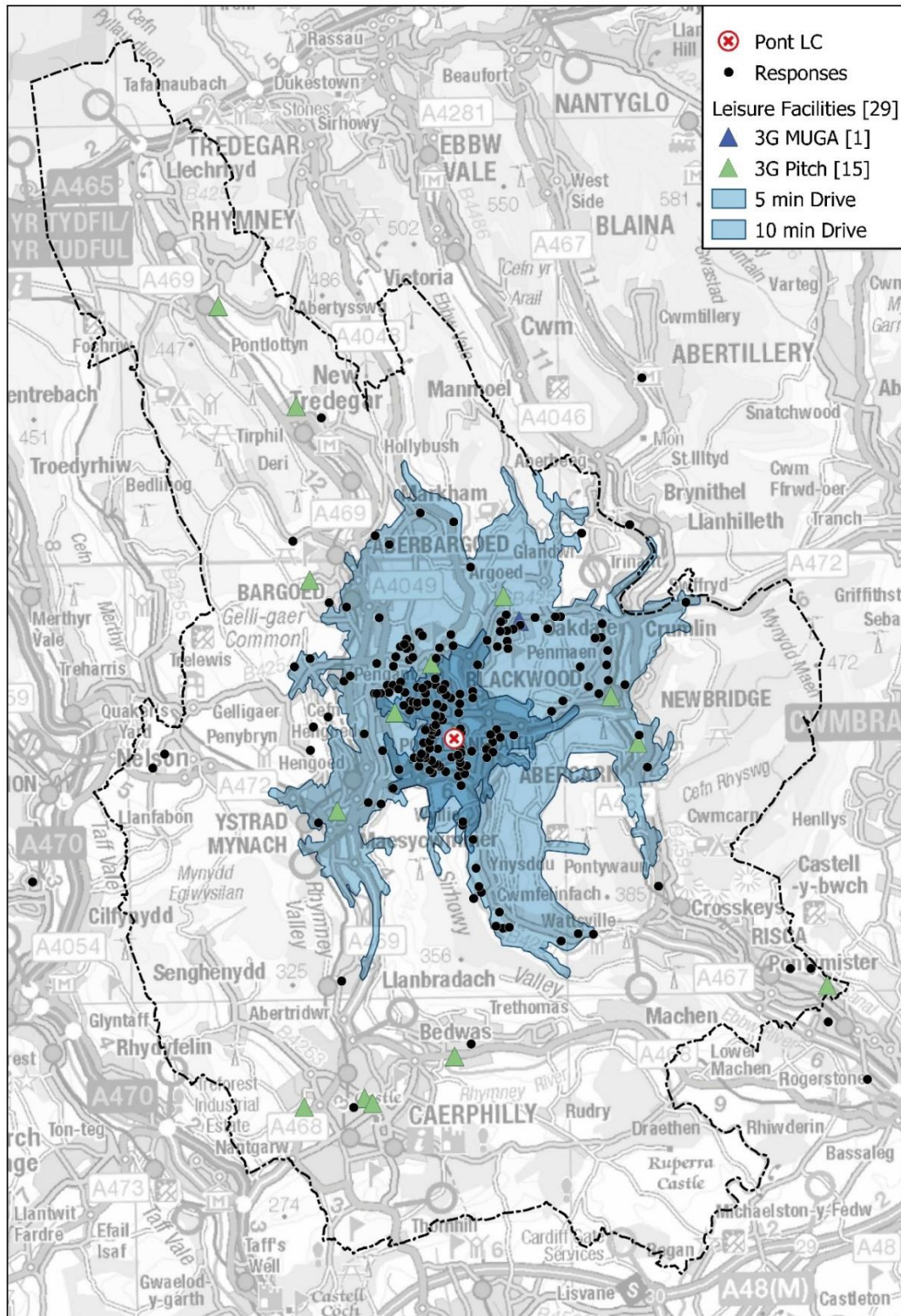
## **Mitigation**

When asked what mitigation would help reduce the impact of closing the site, a number responded that the site should simply be kept open. Of those who answered this question further, suggestions put forward include:

- Support access to facilities for people of all ages
- Consider the difficulties and cost associated with travel to other sites
- Ensure alternative provision locally:
  - provide classes and opportunities to use the hall at the new CVL site – things that local people used to do in the leisure centre
  - temporarily open the existing site until the alternative is available
- Replace the current 3G pitch (with like for like) in the local area
- To meet demand:
  - ensure that 3G pitches across the borough are made available at weekends and during school holidays.

- build more 3G pitches on current grass pitches that currently don't get enough use due to poor weather.
- change the allocations system to ensure grass roots teams can access pitches
- ensure that those using the current pitch are allocated other provision

**Map 1: Postcodes of respondents who visit the site by car**



Note: only 230 postcodes were mappable (invalid/incomplete postcodes were not mapped).

## Digest of comments received through survey responses:

### Reasons for not using alternative facilities whilst the leisure centre has remained closed:

As all others are to far from me
Because pontllanfriath leisure centre is my nearest centre
Because the centre was closed!
Because there was no space at any other facility
Can't book any other facilities to suit needs
Carer and health problems
Classes in all other leisure centres near to me are always fully booked therefore for this reason I have ceased my membership. I used to use Pont Leisure Centre for classes and the their gym 6 days a week for at least 4 years prior to lockdown. It is sad and I always felt comfortable at the leisure centre classes and gym, much more so than any other site. Also the members of staff at Pont were very helpful. I have not chosen to renew my membership for some years now since the closure of Pont Leisure Centre. I really miss using this centre and it helped my confidence and anxiety. No matter what the public consultation says the Council have sadly already decided its future.
Couldn't find a pitch
Difficult to get to too Pont leoditr was close and local and suited work hours
Distance; inability to access public transport; as a carer greater time is needed to get to other centres
Don't drive so it's hard to get to other places
Due to anxiety and time constraints I only felt comfortable walking to and enjoying the classes on offer at Pontllanfraith
facilities not close enough, too fat to travel
Horrible facilities elsewhere. No parking at Newbridge. Caerphilly is horrid to get to around peak traffic times. Cefn fforest is one I use for gym and leisure but that could do with updating as it's small and also has no 3G. Another one on the list for closure no doubt.
I am not familiar with the other sites
I am not happy to travel to far because of my mental health
I can not afford to get a taxi, buses are extremely unpredictable on times and expensive. Other Leisure Centres are to far to walk
I can't travel further away.
I can't get to any other venues
I didn't want to travel further as my parents live near there too, so I could visit them at the same time.
I have accessed newbridge on a few occasions but haven't every week due to having to use my car to get to it
I liked the facilities available there
I previously used the leisure centre for many years but retired but have spoken to someone about walking netball. I am concerned about the obesity in young people which is now a pandemic
I want to use my local leisure centre
It's my local centre
Lack of available facilities in Blackwood area
Local gyms are more expensive. Pontllanfraith is in walking distance from where I live
My son got learning disabilities and don't use public transport and has a single mam don't drive also he don't like change we would walk to Pontllanfraith and it was a family bonding time
Newbridge leisure centre is too full and difficult to park. Pontllanfraith was much easier for me.
No facilities in walking distance.
No other facilities are convenient
No other facility is close
No other suitable facilities.
No particular reason, we just used Pontllanfraith.
No where accessible that had the facilities needed
No where else to go

Not able to
Not close enough
Not convenient to travel outside my area
Not convenient. I haven't the time to travel elsewhere
Not easily accessible, and other facilities have been too busy at the times I have tried to access
Not had the time
Nothing local as I don't drive to get to other facilities
Nothing suitable
Now 75 and during lockdown lost what little fitness I had left
Nowhere near enough to walk to.
Other centres are too far away
Other facilities were not suitable or too far.
Other leisure centres too big and intimidating I get anxious when there are too many people in one place
Play football on the 3g
Pont was easy access for me ... and affordable other options are either out of area I can walk or not affordable
Pontllanfraith is the perfect, central location for people to meet from all over CCBC. The badminton facilities, number of courts available despite the popularity, are perfect and contributed to well being and togetherness because playing sport as a group
Pontllanfraith leisure centre was the best for my sports interests.
The days and times available don't work for me. Neither does the necessity to travel further from home/work to access the facilities.
The distance I have to travel and it's not as close as I work in the area so used to go there after work.
The leisure centre is local to me and with two children I am time restricted so being so close to home allows me to be a stone's throw away from home
The training was moved to a facility too far away for me to travel to on a weekly basis
There are no facilities within walking distance
There is no other facility that is within reasonable distance to accommodate a busy lifestyle, booking slots unavailable, facilities not adequate
There is nothing else suitable in the vicinity. CCBC are intent on shutting all facilities in and around Blackwood to open shiny new ones in Caerphilly and it's a disgrace.
There isn't anything else within walking distance.
They are too far away (or private ones are too expensive without the facilities and classes which Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre had.
Too far to walk
Unable to find suitable indoor area with availability to book.
Used some home gym equipment but not able to replicate a proper gym session and much poorer physically for it

**Would this proposal have a positive, negative or neutral impact on you and your household?**

<b>Negative</b>
3g pitches are highly in demand. A lot of grassroots football uses pont 3g, these children are the future of Welsh sports. We should be doing everything we can to keep places like this open to help promote healthy lifestyles.
A loss of any community unit is a step in the wrong direction for people's health.
All local football teams use the facilities
All of my family have used this 3G pitch and indoor hall for football matches & practice... 3 sons and my husband. Also as an adult learner I personally attended this centre weekly attaining enough qualifications to go on to higher further education in College Gwent then onto a degree and a reasonable job with encouragement from the tutors I met in Pontllanfraith and the help I received from the manager of the leisure centre so it's not just about sports it's also an educational asset

Already struggle to get netball facilities in the vicinity. So that has reduced that. Already have to take my 5 year old every other week to a different county to play the league and it's so cold. Pontllanfraith is ideal and central. The other facilities are already fully booked.
Alternative not big enough.
As a club we used the hall not the 3G pitch!
As a family we use the facility to ensure our physical and mental health are maintained
As a person with a disability, I need to access somewhere during the day.
As answered previously, I find other centres way too busy. I feel far more comfortable using the facilities and gym at Pont LC. Plus, all other classes at Heolddu, Caerphilly etc are always fully booked and the gym too intimidating plus they are further away and I have to travel further.
As many members of my family use Pontllanfriath
Being new centre for CVL learners it may not be available to members of public use when needed
Both myself and my son use the 3G each week and have in the past used the badminton courts which we would like to do again rather than travel further to another facility. The leisure facilities at Pontllanfraith have been used by all members of the household for over 25 years and massively help not only physical health but also mental health
Caerphilly council just putting profit over health and well being of locals in the area. The facilities are already in place. The proposed does not match what is already there and would have a detrimental impact of people
Who currently use all the facilities. I've used that 3G weekly for over 20 years and my children use it for their respective football teams at the weekends. The proposed would not be viable and the council know it. It's just lip service
Can't afford to lose any facility
Cannot use 3G; previously used gym at Pontllanfraith and several weekly exercise classes
Child having access to sporting facilities
Children unable to play football impacts on health
Current facilities, are readily available and not upto standard.
Currently use the 3G pitch which is far superior to others within the Borough. The 3G was closed for a few weeks in the summer and so used the alternative nearest which was Newbridge. Considering this site has newer facilities the 3G was in dire condition not to mention the horrific smell from the nearby river. Should Pontllanfraith close this would impact any local residents as would remove such a good facility
Decreased access to local facilities having an impact on health and well-being of all house hold members. Our local communities have high rates of childhood obesity which has significant impact on short and long term health outcomes. Closing this facility would have a detrimental impact and could mean decrease physical activity for our children, a known cause of obesity
Don't want to exercise in such a place
Due to working patterns, I would rely on facilities during school hours
Facilities like this is vital for the community for physical and mental health. People shouldn't have to travel long distances to use such facilities. Some people don't have the advantage of own transport .
Football Used the pitch
Getting rid of a community leisure centre can never be a positive for that community
Had always used Pontllanfraith in the past and found it ideal for my purposes
Help to promote health and wellbeing in a LOCAL facitlites
I always enjoyed the freedom to use the leisure facilities , I also liked the friendships that were formed and the ability to access straight away with our having the issues of the booking system that is in place at the moment. It us sole destroying
I currently have to travel from Newport to Markham which is very far
I enjoyed my time with like minded others, we shared our experiences with others. This was very therapeutic for many of us
I feel it would be a great personal loss to me. I would really struggle to travel to and engage in activities at another site. This would impact my mental and physical health
I have no wish to use the new facility
I have two sons who deserve access to good leisure facilities. Systematically taking away good facilities to replace the sites with more housing is nit beneficial to the community as a whole

I have used this facility since a child and I know many people the same. It is always clean and safe to use and is great for mental health.
I joined a private gym after the gym closed, but the activities I used to do from pontllanfraith have not been able to be continued elsewhere as they had to find different days and times to slot these things in and some are too far away and I've had to give them up because they have been unable to rebook them back into pontllanfraith leisure centre, had the leisure centre been open and the activities could be booked I would still be using pontllanfraith on a weekly basis.
I need somewhere I can get to.
I suspect we will lose something here in the process, as private users
I try to keep fit and healthy and by shut this centre would have a dramatic impact on me keeping fit.
I use the pitch to play with my friends. And my son uses it as a training facility with blackwood town. It's within walking distance so no car is involved and 80% of players walk as we are all local.
I used to use the Leisure Centre for Squash and Badminton / unless the new facilities include these it would have a negative effect. I am currently travelling to Caerphilly LC to play squash
I want it to re open so I can use it as before
I want to access facilities during week days
I want to use my local leisure centre.
I was really hoping to go back to the gym, exercising in my own home for a long time now, but it's not really suitable for me. My daughter and I both had gym membership before it closed down. We're not comfortable exercising in private gyms.
I would argue that it would have a negative impact on the local area as it would reduce the options people have to exercise and have a healthy lifestyle.
I would have no access to leisure facilities that I felt comfortable to be at
I would like to begin using the sports hall again as this is local to me.
I would like to get on track with my fitness. My daughter's netball team also trained there and they are currently training in Markham. This is a much longer journey for us both.
I would love and benefit for my health to be able to use a local gym for my self
I would love to get back to sport in the way that we played pre pandemic but as explained in my previous answer I simply cannot make that work. I'm getting fatter and while peri-menopausal a leisure centre on my doorstep would be so much of a positive influence.
I would say a negative impact due to wanting to use the facilities during day time as the others are attached to schools in which we can't access facilities during school hours such as sports hall, badminton/squash facilities or even access to changing room. And another negative would be the new pitch is not a full size one which will not be able to accommodate our club due to our numbers as we won't be able to train together as a whole and which would also mean that we couldn't play our league matches on that site either.
I've been a frequent user of the leisure centre for my entire life. From the astro turf, the gym facilities and the indoor courts for football, racquet sports, basketball, birthday parties etc etc. The leisure centre means a lot to not only me but the people of the community and shutting it would have a very large negative effect on the community as a whole.
If it closes, I have no access to a full 3g pitch within walking distance
If the leisure centre and 3G shuts, I wouldn't be able to play football weekly and then not see all the friends that I have made and currently play football weekly there with myself.
Isn't it obvious? It's near to us, as I've already said...and my son and I have taken part in sport there.
It affects my sons football club and in the long run his overall health and mental wellbeing
It attracts all young people for surrounding areas , not just Blackwood
It is a big step backwards to have less sporting facilities in the area
It is not suitable.
It is the closest leisure centre to my home and I used to attend a weekly badminton club there.
It take away a local community venue where some can walk to and local venue for sporting events. Your taking away from people mental health who rely on the leisure centre
It was a place for many years where I played and now my daughters play... now we play in markham I have seen a decline in players due to the facilities,, carpark and temperature in the centre in markham
...
It will affect my health both physically and mentally.
It wont be big enough

It would be unfair for the wider community who don't have cars
It would limit my time to attend the gym by closing the leisure centre and my sons
It wouldn't have the gym facilities, the dance room for classes, or the sports hall that the current centre has.
It's been used for years by numerous sporting teams it would be a joke to everyone who lives in blackwood or the surrounding area to shut this facility down
It's only outside of school hours
It's very much needed for the local community. More facilities we have for older people and younger people the better
It's where I played football for countless years as well as net ball and made many memories. It's a good facility and well used.
It's obvious that losing sport facilities in my local area is a bad thing.
It's on my doorstep. I'm 59 and I Don want to travel any distance. Its good for my well being that it's on my doorstep.
Keep pont leisure centre open
Kids need somewhere to train
Kids wouldn't be able to play sports
Lack of facilities in Blackwood No squash courts closer than Risca
Lack of facilities in our area.
Lesiure Centre should be open for all users
Less facilities when the area is growing is farcical, it proves the area needs this as the 3G is in constant use so why close ...? Other sport facilities need to be opened back up as it encourages health and fitness
Local amenities encourage more people to take care of themselves
Loss of too many facilities including full size pitch
My child and wife both used the gym and sports pitch prior to lock down and closing it would see them either have to travel by car or give up going when they have already lost access to a safe park for the younger children in the area
My child would be even more disadvantaged in terms of accessing sports facilities
My daughter and her team mates train on the pitch and would not be able to do so
My grandchildren live within walking distance of the L C their mother doesn't drive so would find it harder to access other facilities also site will probably be built on. Loss of more green spaces in Pontllanfraith. Nowhere for local children to play organised sports close to home.
My Grandchildren use this pitch regularly
My Grandson has started playing football this year which has really brought him out of his shell, without this he would be back to sitting in front of a TV gaming or watching rubbish, he only trains at the leisure centre once a week but has made new friends in the football team that he now gets out to play with after school, if we were forced to move to a different training site it might not be possible due to transport and time restraints
My kids use it and they would have to go else where
My son don't like change and I myself used pont leisure centre when I was a child and that's where I met my children dad who has now past away going to pont us has a family is a very happy place
My son plays football there, it means we will have to travel to Ebbw Vale
My son plays his football matches there on a Sunday and it is impossible to get to the other locations in Oakdale or Brynmawr via public transport. My son is 7 and since joining the team his confidence has increased greatly and not being able to attend football matches will have an impact on his physical and mental well being.
My son trains on the 3G My gym classes were moved to newbridge which is 15 minutes further away from me, using more petrol and creating more pollution
My son wouldn't be able to train for football in the winter months
My younger family members use the centre
Need access to facilities all year round not just out of school hours.
Need something for 2024
No netball training
No other council run leisure facility in the local area
No sports hall or gym access at all.

No toilet facilities when using the 3G pitch. Less access to sport and leisure can only be a negative thing for our community in general
No where else to train or play games during these as most pitches in area are waterlogged and not looked after
No where to play sport indoors during the intern
No where to train for football locally
Not anywhere sufficient to meet current usage
Not as accessible for team sports
Not being able to get there without someone else driving me there
Not enough 3G pitches for local football teams in the area.
Not enough for youngsters to do any way so this is an asset
Once again where can my Husband and I go to play Badminton together which is quite close to where we live
Only open after school hours
Our girls are currently struggling to get access to suitable 3G pitches for both training and weekend matches. The new proposed pitch I believe isn't full size so no good for matches. We need more pitches available not less.
Part of community and should be able to use for netball
People who are elderly would not travel
Pont leisure was my go too place I was nee to the area and un able to drive was local and great staff and friendly atmosphere there Really was good for my mental health
Pontllanfraith leisure centre and its staff have been a permanent fixture in the local community for many years. Why the council feels the need to close down old buildings and promise us new facilities is beyond me. We know who much money it cost to re-route the gas to the centre over the last year, and the building has plenty more years left. Stop building new and fix the existing buildings! It's OUR money you're using it's not YOURS!
Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is a local resource that allows the local residents to use the facility instead of having to travel to another facility. Again, it appears that the Local Authority may have plans for more housing being built in the area which the Leisure Centre is located .
Pontllanfraith leisure centre is close to my home and I have had to resort to more expensive private gym to maintain my fitness. The cost for the leisure centre was more affordable. If it is nit reopened and due to financial constraints my fitness will suffer. This will then impact on my health and cause extra strain on the NHS
Pontllanfraith would be our nearest leisure centre and is directly in a bus route, which my children could access while I'm in work.
Proposal for new 3G is too small to hold competitive matches on
Proposed 3G would not be big enough for many if not most of our teams. We already really struggle to access enough training facilities, if the Astro pitch at Pontllanfraith closes this would make things extremely difficult. We have 200 players registered from under 6 to adults including my own children, and have relied on Pontllanfraith for training and match facilities for many years.
Proposed pitch is too small for matches
School hours are the only times some people are free to access fitness. Plus, the proposed facilities are considerably less than the current ones
Son plays football here every week and it's a great 3G pitch
Sport and Leisure facilities are essential for everyone's mental and physical health
Takes away a local venue that is integral to the community
Taking away our local sports facilities.
The 3G pitch being planned is not to regulation size so will not be able to be used for football matches
The 3g pitch is a great surfaced used by me and my team for years. It is local with adiquite parking.
The area is already very much lacking in sports facilities for my three children and having to travel further afield wouod alsı cause major issues. I'm also part of Oakdale minis and Juniors and we've had awful trouble finding places to train during the Winter in the past so this would add to an already desperate situation for lots of local clubs. The Leisure centre itself would also be a big loss to the community, especially those who can't travel to exercise
The closing of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre would lead to local people being without a place to exercise and lead a healthy lifestyle. It's imperative that the leisure centre stays open as it offers another place



where local sports clubs can use the facilities during the winter periods to continue training and play matches as we have a lack of these facilities in the county as is.
The Council on the one hand wants to be green and prevent over use of cars but is wanting to close local leisure facilities, Making residents travel farther for 'local' amenities.
The CVL would not be open in the daytime, and is a much smaller facility offering no squash court or fitness suite. In addition the leisure centre will be closed before the CVL is built
The facilities on offer at the new centre are pathetic. A small 3G that's no use to anyone or any local teams/ how about building this facility in Caerphilly and building the new multi million pound leisure centre in Blackwood!? It's shameful and shocking the under investment in Blackwood. Corruption at its finest
The facilities that will be available are not the same as before and are inadequate in size and availability. More should be done to promote sport to prevent a decline in all the residents of Caerphilly with their health and wellbeing
The facility is local and would benefit the community there is already so much taken from the Blackwood area for housing development the community would and have suffered too much loss already
the group of people that I play badminton with are located throughout CCBC. Pontllanfraith is the perfect location, with the number of courts available are ideal. Losing this facility would mean the end of group badminton sessions which will contribute to deteriorating fitness and mental health.
The gym could be used during school hours where as most members of the household work outside of school hours
the health of the community i,ve been using it for years/
The indoor pitch for football would be huge for plus during the winter months
The leisure centre is a big part of my teams training and practice activities, as well as this, I personally use the facilities for exercise and find it very handy as it's the only leisure centre in the area and the 3G proves very useful when our teams grass pitch is affected by poor weather, meaning we don't miss a match and can play safely on a durable and all-weather pitch here at Pont.
The new facility is less than half the area for 3g and would limit the number of players.
The pitch size would be too small
The pitch would be too small for my households requirements
The proposal doesn't take into account use of the internal facilities e.g squash, badminton, 5 aside indoor football or gym equipment. Very disappointing this has not been included.
The proposal to permanently close pont leisure facilities would be negative as the leisure centre is a facility that can be accessed by all members of the public all day and night seven days a week, without the new school facilities and it's sensitive nature as a special needs school being impacted by members of the public. The new school facilities is a lot smaller and not fully accessible as a separate leisure centre and its facilities can offer. The school is a priority for education not to provide leisure services for the general public. There are major impacts in this decision making. Whilst sports caerphilly have heavily invested in other leisure centres across the borough, they have neglected Pontllanfraith leisure over the last 10 years. I highlighted to the authority how their decision making in 2018 to close the leisure centre was wrong and they had made mistakes by not including the impacts in our most vulnerable within our borough. The leisure centre was used as a major vaccine centre for our communities near and far and this did not impact any school sites to continue their services. I firmly believe that the current proposed decision making to permanently close the leisure centre is unfair and outcome biased decision making. This decision making is set out to achieve the same outcome from decision makers which clearly lacks fairness, integrity, limited creativity, innovation and forward thinking. After Covid more and more people are accessing their sport facilities for their mental and physical health. Hence, why I believe this decision making is still being influenced by past biases with a consistent approach in trying to solve the wrong problems in taking key decisions forward. Why close Pontllanfraith leisure centre without any references to an asset transfer to our communities? This is a critical flaw and reverts back to the original decision making that tried to close the leisure centre in 2018. It's the same pattern for the same outcome. This seriously highlights the lack of respect to our communities from decision makers.
The proposed new leisure facilities will not be adequate for use, as the football pitch will be big enough for 2 teams to train. Or even be used for a full game as the pitch will not be big enough.

The survey doesn't properly recognise the family use of the leisure centre and affects on family support for local opportunities of their children etc. Whilst I no longer use the centre regularly like I used to do because of my age I support my children's family and take grandchildren to use the facilities. If this closes then longer journeys, less opportunity and certainly less eco friendly follows.
There already isn't much to do, since this was used for vaccinations there hasn't been other options in the local area of pontllanfraith, keeping the centre open could mean local people having a place to go and socialise or keep healthy again. And also an opportunity for people to start classes etc like many others use their centres for. A place for teenagers to learn sports or activities many different ways to use the leisure centre
There are fewer and fewer facilities for people to train and by closing the leisure centre means we will not be able to train
There are insufficient facilities for the number of people wishing to participate in sports - I live alone and this weekly activity is important to both my fitness and mental wellbeing
There are not enough all weather surfaces available all year round for private hire or local sports clubs and many training sessions and matches are cancelled due to the weather
There are not enough sports facilities in the area and removing a other one would have a detrimental impact on the community.
There are not enough suitable places within the area to use for different events. I know the 3G is currently used on a regular basis. It would be a shame to have to go elsewhere to use the facilities. This would result in further travel costs and inconvenience to all involved. Plus it would not encourage people to stay fit and healthy.
There are very few all weather facilities for children to play football in the area . Many local grassroots games are cancelled for weeks at a time on grass pitches
There aren't enough leisure centres about so closing ones not helping.
There is a need to expand range of services offered- restricted hours etc would only offer basic piecemeal services
There is a shortage of 3G spaces during winter months and on weekend in Caerphilly Council
There is already insufficient provision of suitable pitches for our activity (walking football)
There is no other 3G pitch available to us in the local area. All others are booked up. The proposed 3G pitch to my understanding will not be a full size football pitch. Also, there are no other squash courts in the local area. I would need to now drive all the way to Caerphilly or Risca to play squash as the courts in Newbridge have also closed.
There is not enough facilities locally, I have to drive elsewhere if this closes
There isn't enough 3G pitches in the area and local clubs struggle for availability especially during the winter months without losing another one.
This facility us within walking distance from our home, no need for a car or other mode of transport
This is a borough resource. Stop wasting money on vanity projects diversity etc and get back to core community values of a healthy population. Time for the council to listen to its residents. You are there to provide for us not tell us what you think we need
This is a hub for the community. Many Reports have also shown that exercise is extremely beneficial to mental health.
This is a local training ground and sports pitch for local football teams.
This is an invaluable all year round pitch used separately but regularly by my daughter and I.
This is making it extremely hard for clubs to find available places to train. I won't be able to train as much not allowing me to do much sports
Travel further
Use the gym after work. Book the courts for badminton.
Used the gym daily
We already have an obesity crisis, and cost of living and your closing facilities that enable us to afford to do activity
We cannot allow another Leisure centre to close.. Cwmcarn went quietly Pont cannot.
We currently walk to the leisure centre for my sons football training
We need this vital leisure centre it is a much needed safe space for children and adults alike
We need to keep the 3G pitch where it is
We need use of the Astro so we are able to train and play games
We should be promoting and investing in leisure facilities not closing them down.

We use two different venues to accomodate club, this causes issues in itself, also the school facility (islwyn high)is cancelled regularly throughout the tear so facilities can be used for exams. The other venue we use is threatened with closure as it is committee run, we will then not have anywhere to train.(markham community lc)
we want this to be re opened as it's a massive thing to me and my family , DONT SHUT IT DOWN!!!!
We watch our grandson play football on this pitch, its an important part of the teams to use when the fields are unplayable due to flooding. It is imperative this 3g pitch stays open in Pontllanfraith.
We would have to find use of another 3G pitch in the area of which there aren't many and never the same time slots or days
We would have to travel to access a leisure centre
We would no longer have access to a leisure centre without significant travel. This has stopped us since the national lockdown, and I don't any change in the future.
What size is pitch? How easy will bookings be? Will current slots be transferred across?
Would be able to book it to train the children come as you serve purpose
Would end social and physical activity due to no option of relocation. This would impact my physical and mental health and have a severe issue on myself and others. Without access to facilities and the interaction i would likely seek other resources to assist with my depression causing further strains on local resources.
Would not be the same standard and not accessible in the day time
Would probably struggle to get access to other local facilities
Would take away the freedom and enjoyment of not only mine and my families enjoyment and interests but also thousands of other individuals and their families in the local and surrounding areas which is very unfair.
Wouldn't have a 3g pitch to play football on
You are building a raft of new houses in the area but want to limit facilities, why?

<b>Neutral</b>
Any sporting facility within CCBC would allow residents from any area a choice to use the sports offered.
As Senior Citizens who keep ourselves fit through outdoor walking we will not be directly impacted by the closure of the Leisure Centre. However we are parents/grandparents of younger users of the facility. Additionally, I would be unhappy to see the land given over for the development of even more housing without the infrastructure to support the increasing number of residents in the vicinity of Pontllanfraith/Blackwood.
Because of age and infirmity unable to use it a t moment but needs to be kept open for all generations
Both the facility used now and the leisure centre are close to where I live, however Spring 2025 seems too long of a time
Don't use leisure centre only 3g pitch
Haven't used the centre for years and not likely too.
I can access Newbridge leisure centre just as easy via car or using public transport. The facilities are far advanced and the opportunity for an all round exercise workout awaits.
i don't live in that area or use the centre
I have a back problem and am looking forward to chair yoga to try to maintain some fitness an mobility
I think a leisure. Enter keeps the community together, somewhere if you are on your own to make friends and keep fit at the same time.
I would just give up using places like this.
I would need more details of what amendments Where available, squash, badminton etc
If an indoor area that is safe and fit for purpose can be made available, that will have a positive impact. If the outdoor 3G pitch is smaller than the current 3g pitch, this will have a negative impact to the footballing community, especially our youngest footballers in the community as there will not be enough space for their festivals on Sunday.
It's not necessarily our local leisure centre. But I could see the facility being useful for my children's activities. Such as the 3G being used on the weekend for their football etc.
Neutral now as I no longer live in South Wales. However it would have been negative if I had have still been there.
Newbridge Leisure Centre is equally as easy to access, has much better and more modern facilities and is not looking like a tired, old building
Not clear what sporting facilities would be available???
The 3G pitch would need to be the same size as the current pitch at pontllanfraith leisure centre. So to be able to accommodate 2 sides training on each half as is the case now. Other wise this will have a negative impact and you will not be able to accommodate all local teams.
The facility will close leaving a gap for users whilst this new facility is built. Plus will it open for external users or remain closed like other facilities in the borough
The main centre has not been used for time other than for covid vaccinations
Use other facilities but feel the closure would impact the local community and those that are more vulnerable or don't have access to their own transport.
Wouldn't affect me.
Positive
Area needs it
Better use of available resources.
Close it. Other leisure centres around the area are much better
Currently using the 3G playing area for walking football. I am 67 years old and this is the third location we have used this season. Failed to get the third year at Blackwood Comp having used it for the previous 2 years. Ystrad Mynach not suitable for football it becomes to dangerous when wet. There are a number of clubs in the area looking for suitable training facilities so we all would be looking to book a slot at various days and times.Has Blackwood Walking football was set up initially for peoples well being this would be devastating to some of the members.
Good use of new facilities
I feel at least it will be used.
I live near other centres that are better than this one
It needs to stay open for all
More access for netball very popular sport in borough

Other 3G pitches are better in the area
Quality of 3G facility is good quality and would love to carry on making use of this facility. Without it I feel the football group would collapse.
Rubbish 3G pitch compared to the others in the borough
Saving money travelling to other places for the gym and to get to netball training
Sounds good
The closure of the facility would enable the council to achieve the financial savings needed. In addition, the site needs a significant investment to bring it up to standard.
The new CVL facility is much better than what is in offer at Pontllanfraith leisure centre. It needs to go.
The new CVL site will offer modern facilities that are better than at Pont leisure centre
The proposal has facilities for indoor sports that arent available now.?
There are already a shortage of pitches available for sports teams, especially in winter with limited sunlight and deteriorating grass pitches - this is a great facility to allow teams, which are significant parts of local communities and play major roles in sustaining both the mental and physical health of residents to continue to train/play through the winter months
Us Blackwood netball club enjoyed out training sessions here, and would like to be able to come come back and this was a very big part of our club, with out this leisure centre it has impacted of the training as where we train now does not compare to pontllanfraith leisure
We can use centre again
We need more houses in the area and the other local centres are not far too away

**If you feel the proposal would have a negative impact on you and your household, please outline how we could work with you to reduce this impact.**

Another local facility would need to be made available.
As above. Plus being a representative of a local football team with over 250 players and access to One council grass pitch it is a must that we provide excellent opportunities to a growing demographic. You continue to build house but where are these residents intended to participate in sports
As far as I'm concerned the facility should remain open as there is far too high a demand for such facilities already without the addition of so many new families moving into the area which such developments as the old council office's site among others.
At present paying for private facilities- cost of living ! Looking for affordable options
Build a racquet club in Blackwood area
Build another leisure centre near Blackwood
Build another new sports facility in the Blackwood / Pontllanfraith area which would be a waste of money when you can keep an existing facility open
By keeping it open
By keeping it open and leaving it there
By keeping Pontllanfraith leisure fully open and operational how it used to be..
By keeping the leisure centre open it will have less impact on my health and fitness. Resulting in less pressure on the NHS
By not putting profit over health and wellbeing. Invest in this area and not just Caerphilly town. Invest in Cefn forest and Pontllanfraith.
Can't keep fit as won't be able to train
Closing a local useful amenity. You should support all weather training facilities for local sports teams as there are already too few about.
Do not close the leisure center. The 3g pitch is in very good condition and the hall had been very useful in the difficult times we had in covid.
Do not close the leisure centre.
Don't close it
Don't close it down
Don't close the 3G pitch
Don't close the 3G.
Don't close the centre
Dont close it

Don't close it as a sport/leisure unit.
Don't close pont leisure centre
Don't take away the leisure centre and 3G facilities. Keep it and invest in it to maintain an appropriate standard.
Easy to access, travelling to access other facilities
Easy to get to
For me personally to offer chair yoga or excercise in an alternative place
Get it open and running so it can be used
Give access until new facility is available
Give more opportunities for training and playing time for children in sports
Have a facility that is open for all members of the public to use throughout the day, not just evenings and weekends
Having to travel further to use facilities
Having to travel further to use other 3G pitches
Having to travel further which isn't always an option.
I am wondering how it is possible for people who don't own cars to be able to access leisure facilities.. buses are expensive after all...
I feel as the leisure centre closed its doors due to the 2020 Covid pandemic and was required as a vaccine centre to help save the lives of our communities. (We all need to be thankful for this intervention from CCBC and the NHS). It has remained closed for just shy of 4 years. I think the question that needs to be asked is: Where have all these individuals that a fighting so say to keep the leisure centre open been all this time? I feel the answer is, 1. They are clearly using alternative locations. 2. They did not use the centre previously and therefore have no intention of using it in the future. It is my personal and professional opinion that the Leisure Centre remain closed and be demolished to make way for much need respite accommodation for children, elderly, and adults with additional needs. That is what this community requires.
I need to join back to pontllanfraith leisure. It's in walking distance and easy to access . My son also used the 3g pitch weekly for football practice for a local team
I would have to drive further to another facility. Therefore increasing my carbon footprint. This goes against WG wishes
I would need to see your full impact assessments to address the full impacts on my household.
Improve public transport to other locations on a Sunday.
Instead of closing completely assess the most popular days the centre is used, then consider closing or alternating with other centres.
Invest in and keep the leisure centre open
Invest money to relaunch the centre not close it
It will have a negative effect on all those that used to use it. The only way you can reduce the impact is to sort out the welsh government and get the funding to reopen the facilities. They're wanting people out of their cars and outside, yet make it impossible for people to access leisure facilities that does just that. They need to get their spending priorities right and stop squandering millions on things thir constituents do not want.
it won't have a impact on me as i don't use it
It would impact my mental wellbeing, which would affect my Wife and Children. They need me to be in a sound mental and physical state, losing Pont would mean I dont have the option to remain active
It's 5 mins away , very accessible
Just keep this resource open .
Keep it open
Keep it open
Keep it open
Keep it open
Keep it open
Keep it open
keep it open

Keep it open as the further we have to travel the more impact it has on the environment as well
Keep it open but if it has to close build a multi purpose leisure centre with swimming pool. Don't put everything into Caerphilly
Keep it open for the local community.
Keep it open if it doesn't make a profit maybe think about closing it then
Keep it open it should have reopened after NHS use
Keep it open.
Keep LC open
Keep original pitch
Keep pont leisure centre open
Keep pontllanfraith leisure center and 3g open
Keep Pontllanfraith leisure centre open as a running leisure centre.
Keep Pontllanfraith leisure centre open is the only way to mitigate against any negative impact.
Keep Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre open!
Keep pontllanfraith leisure centre open!!!!!!
Keep Pontllanfraith open
Keep the 3G open or invest in a new facility in the Blackwood or Newbridge area
Keep the 3G open.
Keep the centre and its facilities open!
Keep the centre open
Keep the centre open! There enough houses being built everywhere!
Keep the centre open. The way youths exercise less today we need more options and facilities not less. Longer term less facilities will put extreme pressure on the nhs (this has been proven). Please listen to what local people want. You are there to represent us and what we want as a community
Keep the current pitch open - the new 3G pitch proposal isn't the same size for games
Keep the facilities available and open. Really not difficult
Keep the facilities open
Keep the facility open
Keep the facility open and stop spending all the budget in facilities much further away. You are here to serve ALL residents
Keep the facility open, have alternatives that are open all hours and not around school hours
Keep the leisure centre open
Keep the leisure centre open as it's local and within walking distance
Keep the leisure centre open!
Keep the leisure centre open, ensure that all school 3G pitches are available not only in the weekend but when the schools close for half terms and build more 3G pitches on current grass pitches that currently don't get enough use due to poor weather.
Keep the leisure centre open.
Keep the leisure centre open. It is used by many individuals in the community currently and by many more in the past.
Keep the leisure facilities and 3G pitch open
Keep the leisure facilities where they are, enabling porous like myself to access it with the discrimination
Keep the old leisure centre open even if it was for a few hours so residents could use the gym facilities
Keep the place open
Keep the place open.
Keep the remaining full size pitches
Keep the use of the Astro
Keep these facilities open
Keeping it open
Keeping the 3g pitch open
Keeping the Leisure centre open and putting the funds into it instead of putting greater funds into making new facilities.
Keeping the outdoor facility would be my main concern
Lack of choice in facilities
Leave Pontllanfraith leisure centre where it is and invest some money in it to make it more user friendly!

Leave pontllanfriath leisure centre open because the closest one is too far away (newbridge/ Caerphilly), Pontllanfriath is more beneficial to general public in local area
Leave the leisure centre open to public
Less access to trading, squash courts, less physical
Less provisions available for our family to use.
Like for like pitch size
Local amenities encourage self care
Loss of facility means less spitting opportunities
Loss of the facility and not taking into account the increase in local housing which would result increased transport to other facilities thus increasing carbon foot print. Negative impact as all other centres are attached to schools thus no daytime use unlike cefn forest and pontllanfraith if retained. Yet you are investing 33M£ in removing and replacing a working facility in the heart of Caerphilly town □. Please consider allocating the 1M£ for a brand new 3G pitch at pontllanfraith TIA
Make all 3G's in Caerphilly council available on weekends
Make more 3G pitches available in the area as well as offer sports and leisure services to local sports team such as team memberships and more streamlined pitch booking systems.
Make other local facilities as good as Pontllanfraith available which make no sense when the facilities are already available, children need somewhere they can meet to train to keep them off the gaming, help with their social skills and where their parents know they are safe
Make the centre available during school hours
Means I am using a private facility which I would rather not and have to go further out of my way to access facilities
Must maintain facilities for local and other residents.
My grandchildren would have to continue to travel further afield to play the sport they love the costs of which my family would struggle to afford at this time
My son plays for a football club, so having less facilities will have a great impact
Need a leisure centre and gym
No impact
No impact for my family including two adults and two children 10 & 7
No where to train and keep my mental health good
Not close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.
Not closing the leisure centre
Open up the leisure centre!
Pay for me to attend a private gym that is within walking distance .. a bus to the nearest facility isn't an option as I only have a short time free to go to the gym
Please don't close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre! It's so very valuable to the local community. I implore you to invest more into the site if anything
Problem with the number of cars using the roundabout at the bottom of Penllwyn lane.
Provide a leisure centre service for Pontllanfraith when the school is open.
Put other options in place
Quite simply do not close it. Invest in its future, it can become an even better local facility for one of the biggest catchment areas in the Caerphilly County Borough. The opportunity is there with the land available to improve the access for those who are unable to walk to the facility for cars and public transport. It would be shameful not too take advantage of the opportunities to keep and improve this facility for an area that has a constantly growing population.
Rather than spend millions on new facilities in Caerphilly spend the money in Blackwood
Re open it as before
Re open the leisure centre for its original purpose
Reatin Pontllanfraith leisure centre or provide the same facilities in the same location
Reconsider removing the Astro pitch or provide equal or better facilities at another location nearby!
Reduced access to leisure facilities making it difficult to book due to extra demand. Physical activity helps with my physical and mental health.
Renovate the leisure centre.
Reopen it



Reopen it as it was
Re-open the leisure centre and sports facilities for all to use.
Same as above
See the above answer for details.
Simply don't close the leisure centre. I think the community have told you more than enough times and in more than enough ways and I think it's frankly disgusting that you are choosing to ignore the community and local voters.
Simply re-open Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre
Start running regular activities. Some years ago Caerphilly hosted badminton mornings with a coach organising the teams. Also regular classes for older people would also be so beneficial such as yoga.
Still won't have access to a gym
Stop thinking of closing the site
Stop trying to cut cost via leisure try cut the money paid to councillors and officers it used to be a voluntary service
Support access to facilities for people of all ages
The closure of the leisure centre would be a travesty and injustice, as such a frequent user I would feel extremely betrayed to have it taken away.
The convenience of such a lovely facility of within walking distance for my 2 children to use
The facility at pontllanfrairh. was always full .. we have to travel to the other centre where I always have to drive but pontllanfraith is nearer and offers public transport which I would be happy for my daughters to use without me
The facility is local and would benefit the community there is already so much taken from the Blackwood area for housing development the community would and have suffered too much loss already
The leisure centre is walking distance for myself and my daughter, having this facility available not just outside school hours for us being right on our doorstep and is promoting health and fitness, removing this facility could be detrimental to our mental health, we can no longer do the activities that keep us going week on week.
The loss of a full size pitch would restrict access to facilities meaning that my daughter and myself maybe unable to train and play weekly.
The only negative impact on me would be the building site right behind my house if houses are built.
The upkeep of Pont Leisure centre should have been completed on a yearly basis and forecasted correctly by CCBC management to maintain to a high standard. The impact on families was discussed when this went to court
There are no direct links from the Valley I live in to other leisure ce tres
There aren't enough artificial pitches to support local sports teams, so the loss of the existing 3G pitch will have a significant impact on local sporting communities
There will be no impact on me personally but the communities of The Penllwyn and Pontllanfraith will be even more deprived of facilities than they are already and Pontllanfraith is expanding hugely: more young families with children and grossly reduced facilities do not make for a happy, healthy, active community.
this is a potential removal of an important local facility for a growing and expanding community, which ultimately forces the community to travel by car or public transport.
To be denied as we have for 3 years is disgraceful. We can not afford to travel further or engage in a sport that is vital to my wellbeing
we want it to remain open !
We wouldn't be able to train regularly
We're taxpayers and your proposal is to destroy a public service already in place. We struggle for 3g pitches.
What's the point the Council does not give one damn or care about its residents.
Wife has a Caerphilly Lesiure membership
Will result in an unfit local population with more obesity and illness
With regards to the 3G, we use this for an hour a week for U14s Blackwood Town football training. I would like this session to continue so we would need the council to find us an alternative venue. At present all other 3G pitches in the area are pretty much fully booked mid week.
Would impact my mental health as unable to play football locally
Yeah attending Pontllanfraith is one of the few opportunities I get to exercise and have done so for a number of years. I have developed good relationships with those who also attend which wouldn't have

happened otherwise. If this closed it is likely we won't be able to find another suitable location and would likely have to stop and would then lose the relationships I have built up
Yes, my son and his team mates, 17 of them
You can't
You can't ! It is that simple ! The proposal to close would negatively affect so many people who previously used the centre - older people; people with disabilities; young people. Nearby is a new housing development who could easily access the Centre. As a full-time carer of an elderly person with dementia I have no alternative. Exercise helps my mental and physical health and well-being and helps me cope with the daily stresses of being a carer. I also know many local older people / people with learning difficulties who were regular users - and now have no access to mental health / well-being / physical exercise. Closure is short-sighted and nothing short of disgraceful.
You could not
You could reduce any negative impact by opening the leisure centre for the community.
You couldn't my son and other children feel close to their dad closing it would have a big impact on their mental health and having a game of football my daughter plays for a team and the amount of problems we get is that they never got no where to play matches due to the lack of places and they are currently in the league
You don't need to work with me to reduce the impact you simply need to update the current facility and keep it open.
You have already made the decision to close Pontllanfraith, so this consultation is utterly worthless.
☹️☹️☹️☹️☹️

**If the proposal would impact you differently as an individual because of 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 or because you or a member of your household are or have been a member of the armed forces) please give details below.**

Age & disabilities plus not a car user
Age. I don't want travel far at my age
Already said
Am gay; have 3 types of learning difficulties; am a full-time carer so unable to work - following an extended period of unemployment; suffer with depression; also have a long-term health condition which limits my mobility and ability to travel
Any loss of such services would affect the community
Approaching the age where I would prefer closer facilities and not have to drive or take a longer bus journey
As a 65 year old, I cannot continue to afford private clubs. Many more families have moved in next to the leisure centre, and I'm sure that many others will be in the same situation as me. There are NO day time facilities in Ystrad Mynach where I live.
Children would have much further to travel to access facilities. The cost of living crisis means families find it hard to finance travelling further therefore children will miss out, reducing activity and participation levels across the borough
Closing would have an impact on health and well-being.
Disability
Disability due to back injury, arthritis, diabetes and over 60
Disabled user
Female sport
Girls don't get many pitches to play their games or train on, so it would mean another pitch we can't use
I am a carer and I need such places to help maintain my physical and mental well being
I am a veteran of the British army RCT Participating for me or volunteering with an organisation can encourage feelings of purpose or belonging, support older adults to develop a new daily routine and help them retain a sense of independence.
I am disabled, over 66 and always used this place gif my health and wellbeing
I am over weight . I need it to be local for me

I am registered disabled but found the gym facilities suited me perfectly
I have a disability and need to keep as healthy as possible, shutting it down would not just have a negative impact on myself it will also impact other people who are on low wages and find it easy to get to.
I have a disability that effects my daily living and activities this is why I attend pontllanfraith for my active and social and mental well-being and They also have a ramp in which I can use to access the indoor which makes in better for me as I struggle with the steps. I haven't seen the access to the vulnerable learners to see if that would be accessible for myself and also there is nothing that states that it would be open to the public in the day eg 9-5 it says access but for public but don't state times at all.
I need somewhere to walk my dog. other fields in the area all have very steep paths to access them and due to my disability they are inaccessible.
I now fall in the category of over 50.
I would never have had the courage to go onto further education without the encouragement from the people at the centre I would never have gone directly as an older person onto a course in a college let alone think about being brave enough to travel to university plus as a single mother at the time I would not have had the time or money to travel i played sports there myself also and attended many parties held there it would and is a loss to the community
I'm a disabled person with mobility issues and the closure would mean further isolation and limit my wellbeing
It wont
It would impact me as a Pont resident. Millions being spent in Caerphilly and the RV whilst the Islwyn area is being starved of funds and services. A once wealthy area is being brought down to the level of the Rhymney Valley.
Like I already explained previously..
Mental health and fitness, while struggling with mental health. Being able to use the gym facilities or sports hall really benefit my health
My main reasons are as above. Not necessarily for my own personal use but for future use of family and the large local population. I'm unsure whether these comments from this survey will actually reach the people who make the decisions rather than just a tick box of survey results. I would ask that my comments are registered formally as part of the enquirey.
My sport is over 50's walking football for women. Without local facilities I will not be able to continue without travelling further.
My wife has MS
No comment at this time
No impact
Police and TA
See above answer regarding public transport
Wife has a disability and needs to exercise to reduce pain - closing facilities mean we have to go wider afield or pay more money for private facilities
Yes disability.
Yes due to my condition of copd then ramp access preferred then stairs with handrail.
Yes I'm disabled and got a mobility scooter which can get me there and back home before needing to charge it
You have the protected characteristics wrong it is sex not gender and you should make sure this is correct given the previous failures of you trying to shut the centre. Very disappointing.

### **Notes from drop-in sessions and online consultation sessions**

<b>Date/time/location of drop-in session:</b> Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November at 12midday - online
<b>Overview:</b>
Total attendees – 1
Attendee was Senior Communications and Research Officer from office of Delyth Jewell MS.

Attended in anticipation primarily of listening to residents' views.

Offered an overview of the various ways people are able to give their views, including the survey and the face-to-face drop-in sessions. Also discussed the IIA process and 'lessons learned'.

MT offered an update on the facilities in development at the centre for vulnerable learners and additional provision at nearby a nearby site for weekend competitive fixtures.

Have offered to meet attendee at a later point in the consultation period if required.

**Date/time/location of drop-in session:** 28<sup>th</sup> November at Elim Baptist Church 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Total attendees – 8

Concern raised: The decision has already been made

**Response: The proposal is in line with the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy that has been in place since 2019. Part of this strategy is to streamline the provision whilst maintaining the overall offer.**

**No decision has yet been made and the consultation is being undertaken to identify what impact the proposed closure would have on local residents and stakeholders and how we can work to reduce any potential negative impacts identified. Feedback from the consultation will feed into Cabinet alongside other related information for a decision**

You mention running costs of Pontllanfraith but not of other leisure centres

**Response: It is difficult to compare sites as they all have a different offer and footfall**

Lack of availability of 3G pitch as the replacement is not like for like.

**Response: Acknowledged that the pitch at the new Centre will be smaller. Many of the current bookings are for ½ pitch – for children and five a side. The hall at the new centre can also be used for indoor training.**

**Investment has been provided for at least one additional 3G site in the borough in addition to recent additional sites being made available as shown on the map.**

**Discussions will take place directly with clubs if the decision is made to permanently close the site.**

**UKSPF funding can only be used for new pitches and not to repair or replace existing ones.**

**Management of sports pitches at Iswlyn High school is being transferred to Leisure Services. From 6<sup>th</sup> December pitches will be available for weekend bookings and in the new year (date to be confirmed) will also be available during the evenings moving forward.**

Why are all the meetings in the evening?

**Response: Two online day time sessions have already been scheduled as advertised (the one today was only attended by one person).**

**We are trying to arrange an additional day time session – subject to venue availability.**

Can you put a reminder on social media the day before the next drop-in?

**Yes**

Access to the Centre for Vulnerable Learners

**The new venue will be DDA compliant and accessible**

Cost of public transport to visit other sites

**Noted – part of the survey is to find the main mode of transport to the site.**

Community Asset Transfer

**If the decision was made to permanently close the site, then this could be one of the options available when the Council disposes of the land.**

Are they going to build houses on the site?

**If the decision was made to permanently close the site, the council would dispose of the site – any future use would be determined through the planning process**

Will we consider social media comments as part of the consultation?

**We would encourage anyone who wants to take part to either attend a drop-in session or visit our website before completing the survey to ensure that they are able to access the information they need to make an informed response to the consultation.**

**We will incorporate responses to our own social media posts but are unable to access externally managed social media pages. These would need to be collated and shared with us directly before the closing date for the consultation. Please note – a full digest of comments received through CCBC's social media channels can be found at :**

**<https://conversation.caerphilly.gov.uk/pontllanfraith-leisure-centre>**

Will the consultation response be available before a decision is made?

**Yes, the Cabinet papers are always in the public domain 1 week before Cabinet. A summary report of the consultation will be attached to the Cabinet report.**

What will you do after tonight's meeting?

**We will seek a response to the questions raised and update our FAQ page on our website. Anyone wishing to be made aware when this happens is welcome to leave an e-mail address.**

Questions to clarify:

- Car parking availability at the new Centre for Vulnerable Learners – will this be adequate?
- Why has the leisure centre not reopened since it is no longer used as a vaccination centre?
- Are we going to consider changes to the way pitches are allocated to support smaller/grass roots clubs?
- What is the height of the sports hall, and will this accommodate netball and badminton?
- Have ABUHB and Parks been consulted?
- CCBC don't mention the Centre for Sporting Excellence in its list of centres. It's funded by CCBC – is it making a profit?
- Update link to current consultation (Google search)

**Date/time/location of drop-in session:** Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at Penllwyn Millennium Centre

Attended the Penllwyn Community Partnership's festive event as a stallholder.

Several hundred people attended the occasion, which afforded an opportunity to largely signpost people to the consultation.

Three attendees from the previous session at Elim Baptist Church (28<sup>th</sup> November) attended this session also. Approximately 35 surveys were distributed to those interested in taking a hard copy away to complete, with further discussions with another 8-10 who said they would complete it online.

Representatives from three sporting clubs (Blackwood Town, Walking Football and Pengam) attended to discuss access to the 3G pitch facility and their requirements for booking slots in future.

There were several positive comments from attendees to the event about the facilities to be available at the Centre for Vulnerable Learners. One attendee asked about the possibility of accessing a vacant slot in the sports hall to deliver a boxing club.

While individual discussions took place at this event, the primary focus was on awareness raising of the consultation and signposting to the various ways people can have a say.

**Date/time/location of drop-in session:** 13 December 2023 at Pontllanfraith Rugby Club

Attendees – 4 (including one who had attended previous face-to-face sessions also)

**Main points raised:**

- Why haven't we spent money on maintenance over the years – no maintenance for years
- Leisure centre not comparing like with like – how much does each one cost to run?
- Political decision - has the decision already been made – Leaders comments suggest that
- Why was the decision made to stop maintaining Pontllanfraith
- Loss of green spaces
- Football fields – closed – Bedwellty
- How much did ABUHB pay to rent PLC?
- Is there a demand for the facility? We don't know because the hall is shut
- Newbridge car parking – increase demand and increase demand for car parking and facilities – relies on cars and can't walk to Newbridge
- What exactly are the repairs on the hall?
- When was it last surveyed?
- Will there be capacity for all the demand
- What happened to the old gym equipment?
- Update Leisure Lifestyle website to say Leisure Centre is closed
- What will the land be used for? Surplus to requirements – council then partners – can they make use of it? Then Community Asset transfer
- Less facilities for more people
- CfSE – is it making a profit? Is it used as community facility
- Pontllanfraith – Islwyn welfare ground – check facts? Condemned?
- Apathy – people think it's already been decided

**Date/time/location of drop-in session:** Thursday 14th December 2023 at Elim Baptist Church

**Total attendees – 1**

Main points covered:

- General concern that regardless if the outcome of the consultation, the centre will not reopen
- Safeguarding issues regarding the shared use of the CVL
- Travel costs to other sites – the current site is in a prime location
- Lack of leisure facilities generally in the local area – need to travel more than 20 minutes to alternative sites
- Allocation of pitches (noted this is being looked at and a report will be taken forward in January 2024)

**Further details:**

Also readily available at <https://conversation.caerphilly.gov.uk/pontllanfraith-leisure-centre>

- Poster outlining opportunities members of the public had to offer their views
- A print version of the survey questions asked
- An overview of targeted stakeholder engagement undertaken
- Social media comments received through CCBC social media during the consultation period
- A letter to the Leader of the Council from Members of the Senedd – Peredur Owen Griffiths MS and Delyth Jewell MS, dated 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023
- A comment from a member of the public received through the council's website during the consultation period