

21st Century Schools Programme Newsletter

April 2017

Welshpool

Primary Schools Project



The Welshpool Primary Schools project is reaching a really exciting stage with its ambitious plans for £13m investment in the town gathering pace.

The work will see two new primary schools built in the town, one English-medium and one Welsh-medium, providing high quality primary education to the children of Welshpool and the surrounding areas.

Schools Service and those working on the project are committed to working with pupils, parents, teachers, governing bodies and the wider community to deliver 21st century education facilities for the town. They know there is a great deal to do but are committed to embracing change and work together to deliver high quality education for young learners of the future.

There are two stages to the project:

Stage 1 - Setting Up the new Schools

In the first instance, the two new schools will open on **September 1st 2017** but there will be no change for most pupils (apart from those in the Welsh stream at Ysgol Maesydre, and in the English stream at Ardwyn). This is because:

- The four existing schools will close at the end of the summer term to be replaced by two new schools **operating on existing sites**
- The English-medium Church in Wales school will be on the current sites of Gungrog, Oldford and Ysgol Maesydre – this will be a multi-sited school, with pupils remaining where they are until the new school is built.
- A new Welsh-medium school will open in September 2017 as well, based on the current Ardwyn site. Pupils who are in the Welsh stream now at Ysgol Maesydre will move to the new school in Ardwyn in September, and pupils who are now in the English stream in Ardwyn will be able to move to the English-medium school. There are plenty of places available at the sites of Gungrog, Oldford and Ysgol Maesydre for these pupils.

Stage 2 – New homes for both schools in brand new buildings!

- Both schools will then move to their new homes in brand new buildings. It is expected that the schools will be ready in Spring/Summer 2019 – further details about the actual timescale will be shared with you as the project develops.
- The English-medium school will be built on playing fields at Welshpool High School. It will have 360 places, plus accommodation for early years and community use;
- The Welsh-medium school will have 150 places, and will be built on the Ysgol Maesydre site, plus accommodation for early years and community use.

What's happening now?

The temporary governing bodies for both new schools have been established and have already been busy. You can find the names of those on the governing bodies below.

The governors of the Welshpool Church in Wales English medium school have appointed Justine Baldwin as the head teacher of the English-medium school, she is well known to many as the current head of Gungrog School. She will take up her appointment in September. Work is currently taking place to recruit a head teacher for the Welsh-medium School – anticipated to be appointed by mid-May.

New names for both schools

The governors have also agreed the names of both schools:

Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng and Welshpool Church in Wales Primary School. Both governing bodies considered the views of pupils during the process of choosing a new name, and agreed to support the pupils' preferred names.

Welshpool Church in Wales Primary School	
Alison Bowen	LA Governor
Phillip Pritchard	LA Governor
Francesca Jump	LA Governor
Wendi Terry	Teacher Governor
Ann Walton	Staff Governor
Rev. Steve Willson	Foundation Governor
Derek Simms	Foundation Governor
Brendan McWhinnie (Chair)	Foundation Governor
Heather Sherlock	Additional Community Governor
Angela O'Connor-Lowe	Parent Governor
Terri Evans	Parent Governor
Galahad Longshadow	Parent Governor
Lynsey Mills Hogg	Parent Governor
Mike Gregory	Community Governor

Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng	
Morag Bailey	LA Governor
Ian Harrison (Chair)	LA Governor
Joyce Gape	LA Governor
Laura Jones	Teacher Governor
Jane Morgan	Staff Governor
Derek Simms	Additional Governor
Anna Sidwa	Parent Governor
Lindsey Phillips	Parent Governor
Jane Howells	Community Governor

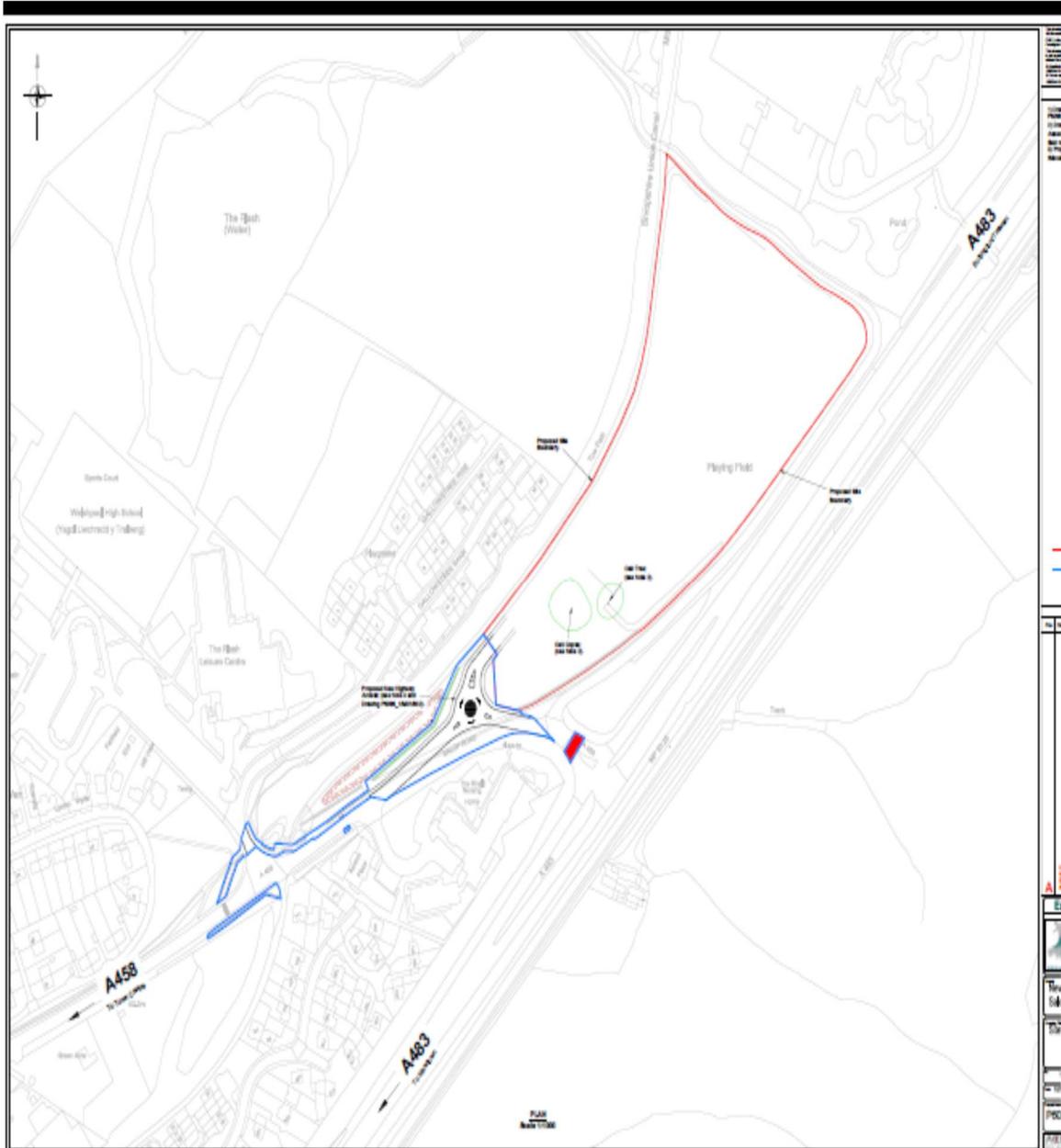
Stage 2 – The new school buildings

The tendering process for a contractor to develop the two new schools has started and will be completed by the end of May. The contract is a 'design and build' contract, which means that the first stage will be to design the plans for the two new schools – there are no plans/designs available yet. The plans will then be discussed with the schools and there will be consultation with the community. Once the plans are finalised, they will then be submitted for planning approval.

Key Milestones	
27 th January 2017	Tender process starts
By end May 2017	Contractor appointed
June– September 2017	Develop detailed designs and consult with school/community
October 2017	Plans submitted for planning permission
December 2017	Full Business Case approved by Welsh Government
Early 2018	Construction begins

Welshpool Church in Wales Primary School

The new English-medium school will be built on land at Welshpool High School – shown below. The highway access drawn on the plan below is only a proposal at this stage and will likely develop as more in depth discussions are held with the Trunk Road Agency.



Loss of playing fields

We know that many of you are concerned that there will be a loss of sports facilities with this scheme, which could impact on Welshpool High School and the community.

We are keen to mitigate against this loss by providing alternative sports facilities and we will be expecting the design contractor to include provision for sports facilities in the plans.

Discussions will be taking place in April with the schools and sports associations to consider how best to develop sports facilities in Welshpool.

Sharing information

We will be sending newsletters out every half-term as the project moves forward, and we will also be updating our website with news - <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/schools-students/plans-for-powys-schools/welshpool-project/>.

Our contact details are: school.modernisation@powys.gov.uk or

01597 826954