

BRO CERNYW COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
30TH OCTOBER 2024 AT 7:30PM
HELD AT PANDY TUDUR

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1 All were welcomed by Eimir Williams (EW)

1.2 Present: Jane Roberts (JR), Ann Vaughan (AV), Myrddin Davies (MGD), Diane Roberts (DR), Sara Thomas (ST), Euros Williams (EUW), Darren Millar & Catrin Griffiths (Clerk, CWG)

1.3 Apologies: Clwyd Roberts (CR), Gwydion Jones (GJ) & Austin Roberts (AR)

In CR's absence, EW the vice-chair was asked to chair the meeting and she agreed. EW welcomed Darren Millar, Senedd Member to the meeting.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

MGD regarding 5.2

3. Discussion with Darren Millar during which he shared information about matters concerning the area and answered questions at the end. This is what he said:

"I represent our local constituents and am grateful to come and raise issues on behalf of the community. Thank you for the invitation and warm welcome. Here are some local issues which have been brought to my attention:

Speed on the A548 - I have raised this with the local authority who have been undertaking reviews of the speed and have placed signs to slow down motorbikes which has not made much difference. The speed through Llangernyw is much better since the 20 mph speed limit was introduced, however T junctions and bends are a cause of concern. If there is any accident then please let myself and my office know. If the local authority is not aware, it will not draw attention or resources. It is very important to capture as much data as possible both for the local authority and police.

Post office - We fought hard after covid to re-open the post office. There was a mobile bus from Betws yn Rhos for a while. However, we are faced with a situation now which could also put the local shop at risk. I have been in touch with Post Office Ltd to see if someone else could take the post office over or at least a mobile service. However, they are pretty determined and gave lots of excuses why there was no need for a service. They have said that if the local community comes up with a plan e.g a community group is set up which would be able to operate it from for example the Church or the Stag then this would be something that could be looked into. The local mobile bus is at full capacity but I have asked for Llangernyw to be at the top of the list should there be availability.

School budget - I met with the Chief Executive of the county and have asked for school budgets to be protected, however he could not make any promises. Cash is received from the Senedd but there is not a good settlement from Cardiff. There is less money per head available in the county due to ageing demographics in Conwy compared to Cardiff, Swansea and Newport. [ST arrived]. MGT mentioned that he is the Chairman of the Governors of Ysgol Bro Cernyw and the local authority cannot give timely information on actual spend versus forecast. The figures are always 2 or 3 months out of date. There is growing frustration that the governors cannot run a school without accurate information. This situation causes anxiety as there could be 6/8/10 % budget cuts and the staff will naturally be worrying about their jobs. The school was expected to be £50,000 in the red in one forecast, but it was in the black at the end. MGT also mentioned that in Denbighshire a deficit is permitted as long as the school breaks even in 3 years but the local authority will not do this in Conwy. Darren Millar will follow this up with the council.

NHS - It has been struggling for a number of years and Glan Clwyd hospital has one of the worst waiting times for A&E in the UK. It also has very long waiting lists. I have constituents contacting me after waiting for 5 or 6 years for a referral. AV asked if the GPs should do more? Darren answered stating that GPs are already working very hard and the problem in the hospitals is putting pressure elsewhere. There are insufficient numbers of care home beds but there are also not enough hospital beds as they have reduced a lot over the years. This has a knock-on effect on the ambulance service. There is great need for more community hospital beds and this has been promised in Rhyl for 13 years.

Dentistry - the health board is to commission new places that will be taking on new patients and this will be announced within the next few months.

Budget today – there are big tax increases on the cards, the second biggest of all time. It will be more expensive for employers and farmers and quite a response is expected from the Senedd. There was no mention at all of electrification of the North Wales railway line which is a big blow to North Wales. There was also no announcement of changing the Barnett formula. The winter fuel allowance has been cut and I have been calling for a Welsh winter fuel allowance.

It was then open to the Councillors to ask questions. JR spoke about the Post Office and had written to them on behalf of *Merched y Wawr*. She mentioned that everyone has been very understanding during the weeks that the post office had closed and it was said at the time that it would be 'open next week' every time but in fact the postmistress had already resigned in May. Darren said that to keep the shop open and viable, we need a core community that are willing to work to keep them open e.g. Llanarmon yn Ial and Llandegla have a group of people with the drive and focus. What started off with volunteers is now running itself. Darren agreed that communication was poor and he wishes he knew sooner about the situation. He will share the response he received from the post office, but they were adamant that there was nothing that they could foresee that could change their mind.

DR then went on to talk about the need for more police in rural areas as it is very rare that you see a police officer in the area. Darren said that community policing is done in a very different way these days and encouraged the community council to invite a local officer at least once a year to a meeting. He said that more officers are promised but this is yet to happen. Darren mentioned that there is low crime level in the area but things do happen and that he is more than happy to chase things with the police. EUW mentioned that there has been a lot of supercars in the area recently. EW said that 3 councillors have noticed the supercars in different locations, and asked if they are using this road instead of the evotriangle? Darren said that he had worked hard to petition the Welsh Government which stopped the problem with the evotriangle. He said that a lot of cars are ignoring the 20 m.p.h speed limit along the A548 but the speed signs into the village of Llangernyw were making a difference. AV mentioned that the signs erected to slow down bikes were done so with tiebacks so that means that they spin around and they are only going from Abergele to Llanfair TH, not to Llangernyw. Darren said that he will contact Go Safe to undertake some patrols but as it is not a trunk road the Welsh Government will not fund any alterations and that Conwy Council would need to instead.

JR brought up the subject of electric bikes that are racing up and down the road towards Holland Arms with 2 or 3 passengers. They had dark clothing and no helmets. Darren said to phone 101 during an instance like this. JR said that she did phone at the time.

DR asked who in the Welsh Government monitors the building of wind farms? Darren said that there is a national framework for wind farms. They always cause a lot of concern and rowing and his personal opinion is that there is a space for them out at sea. However, the Welsh government is concentrating on wind and not other sources like underwater turbines and

offshore. Planning consumption is always in favour of wind unless there is a very good reason not for it. He said that there are shady companies operating that are not giving farmers the going rate. He said that if there is any door knocking from these companies then he needs to know about it and also if there are any developments in the area.

Darren also invited the councillors on a visit to the Senedd one day where they could come in and watch the Senedd in session. He is happy to arrange a tour and tickets to the First Minister's question time.

DR asked about the proposed changes to the parliamentary boundaries. Darren said that the Senedd will be bigger with numbers increasing from 60 to 96. There are 40 constituencies at the moment and the current proposal is to reduce this to 16 constituencies and each one will elect 6 members each. New boundaries will mean Darren standing in the new Clwyd and us in a whole new one including Bangor Aberconwy and Ynys Mon. Each member of the Senedd will need to work out how to split up the area so that constituents know who they need to approach for help. MGD said that there could be members from different parties. Darren agreed with this and also added that you will not be allowed to vote for a person but instead for a political party and there will be no direct accountability. This is the only country in the world where this will happen. Darren said that he had represented the area for 18 years and got to know the local people. These new constituencies will go from Rhos on Sea to Llangollen with 150,000 people and therefore it will be very hard to know people personally. These changes will be happening in 2026.

EW thanked Darren Millar very much for his time and for bringing these issues to the attention of the Community Council and Darren concluded by saying that he will be in touch regarding the issues raised.

3 MINUTES TO APPROVE 25TH SEPTEMBER

Proposed correct by JR and seconded by DR.

4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 CWG received a reply from Inspectorate Wales with an explanation of the invoice received last month. It is advised that it was BDO who held the inspections at the time and they would contact them for a breakdown and would be in further contact soon.

4.2 VAT – DR said that she had spoken with Enid from Pentrefoelas who does this herself. EW proposed that this should be discussed during the next meeting to consider undertaking the work ourselves. DR said she would forward the website details that Enid uses. MGD seconded that this should be discussed during the next meeting.

4.3 Cutting grass in Pandy Tudur cemetery– CWG had contacted Steve Trow during the month and have confirmed this is possible. He asked CWG to share his email address and she has done this with ST, MGD & GJ.

4.4 Defibrillator electricity cost contribution to the Stag – CWG has spoken with Tomos Hughes and he suggested £20 or £25 is suitable. All agreed to pay £25 annually.

4.5 The second VAS sign is now up.

5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

5.1 0/51972 Pen Y Ffridd, Waterloo LL22 8RH

All in agreement as long as there are no further developments on the site.

5.2 0/52015 Foel Fawr, Llanrwst LL26 0NT

Withdrawn.

6 COUNCIL MATTERS

6.1 CWG received an email from DR during the month as a member of the public had contacted regarding work near Hwlcyn, at the top of Waterloo. CWG asked for advice from AR and he advised them to make a complaint to the council's enforcement department so CWG had done this. She had received a response advising that the member of the public needed to report this on the link providing more information about location and works being carried out. CWG had shared this link with DR. DR had said that the member of the public had decided not to make any remark in the end.

6.4 Financial Regulation Model by Un Llais – decided to discuss these during a sub-committee to meet at 7pm before the November meeting. EW, DR & CR were asked to be present and they could be discussed during that evening's meeting.

7 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

7.1 Had received dog fouling signs and had provided these to the clerk.

7.2 Small shop – Emyr from the highways department will ask for an update from the regulation department.

7.3a Glan Collen – flower pot - ERF needed incident time and date, cost of damage and possibly tractor registration number. Discussed that DR has the date and that the cost is £75 for the tub, compost and flowers within it.

7.3b Speed monitoring – this has been happening past the bungalows as that was the location of the original complaint and results have not yet been received. I understand that the rest of the estate needs to be monitored so will arrange this tomorrow.

7.4 Brambles and ivy Pen y Fron – it is the owner's responsibility not the council.

7.5 Metal fences – have taken photos and sent to ERF, but often there is a period of time between ownership and responsibility.

7.6 Tŷ'r Ysgol, Gwytherin – report to come before the cabinet next month with recommendation to sell with condition to sell to someone local.

7.7 Llangernyw Post Office – had sent an email to Claire Hughes, new Member of Parliament asking for support.

7.8 Y Ganolfan, Llangernyw – damage and graffiti caused recently. The committee is asking if CCTV can be installed. I have made enquiries with the regulation department but not yet had a reply so have re-sent my email to them today.

7.9 Bridge at Pandy Tudur – the clerk and I have received a complaint regarding the condition of the bridge. I have responded that the bridge is being monitored regularly, and after coffee morning next week I will go over to take photos and send them to the council's head engineer.

7.10 Damage on the bridge near Twnti. It has been patched however needs to be made good again.

8 MONITORY MATTERS

8.1 HMRC invoice during the month of £301.80

8.2 Quarterly report – all in agreement.

9 CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Empty seat – had received an application letter from John Harris. EW said that she is supportive as he has always been an active member of the community. MGD seconded this. All were thankful for the application and glad to welcome him as a Councillor again.

- 9.2** Had received a message from Tenovous via the website asking to come and speak with either Llangernyw Community Council or the Warm Hub in the area about the services they offer. Agreed that the warm hub would be more suitable to reach as many people as possible, CWG to share contact details with them.
- 9.3** Email received about the condition of Pandy Tudur bridge from a member of the public who had also emailed AR. AR had asked for another assessment from the County Council who have advised they would repair once funds allow.

Had forwarded to DR for information:

- 9.4** information about 'Funding, Grants and Setting Precept by Un Llais Cymru

Had forwarded to everyone for information:

- 9.5** Email from Emyllt of CVSC about grants to pay volunteer costs
- 9.6** Email regarding 20mph speed limit from Conwy Council
- 9.7** Emergency Care Survey from Un Llais
- 9.8** Information about new cardboard recycling sacks from Conwy Council
- 9.9** Free course information funded by Welsh Government for councillors
- 9.10** Un Llais Cymru response to the Senedd's Inquiry into Town and Community Councils
- 9.11** North Wales Fire and Rescue Service – five principles to keep communities safe.

10 BILLS

- 10.1** Enlli - translating - £95
- 10.2** Flowers for Gwytherin - £63.15
- 10.3** Flowers for Llangernyw - £20.29
- 10.4** Welsh Water - £13.73

All in agreement to pay the above.

11 LOCAL MATTERS

EW John Kevin had contacted her as CR had asked him to clear the pilgrim's trail but not sure exactly where. EW to ask Gwytherin residents if they would walk the trail to see where it needs clearing. Said that the dog fouling bag dispensers are empty but EUW has more to replenish. Brambles are on the road at the corner of Glan Collen. CWG to mention this to AR to ask Emyr to arrange for this to be cut.

DR A Member of the public had contacted thinking that there is a dip in the road near Gell and Lead Inn that may be a sign the road is subsiding, DR will let AR know. Large pothole in the road going up the hill from Llanfair Talhaearn towards Abergele. Regarding the field near the school, there is still a need to go through the paperwork to establish ownership. MGD said that the governors had discussed and that it is under retention until 2026 and then a discussion about its future will need to be had. AR said that he is aware of the situation and may be able to provide an update during the next meeting.

DR asked if it was in order to spend to fill the flower tubs in Llangernyw and all agreed to this. Also a blue tractor with Welsh banners on the mirrors needs to slow down when going through Llangernyw. DR has phoned the police about electric bikes that are around the area.

EUW – has not yet had a price to re-make the advertisement board in Gwytherin but has had an idea to use the wood from the tree in the Church that came down. Not sure if there is a suitable piece but will ask Kevin. Also someone has hit the bridge near Tan y Bryn and Pen y Bont, Gwytherin.

JR Member of the public was walking to work and was standing on the narrow part of the pavement near the Church when a car that was driving past hit her arm. The driver was angry with her whilst the member of the public was concerned she could have hit a child. Asked if it was possible to paint the narrow pavement white to draw attention? EUW suggested a speed bump. DR said that people go slowly through the village but then put their foot down when going past her house. CWG to ask AR if it was possible to paint the pavement.

AV There is a community group who cut the grass in the cemetery willing to paint also, such as the bus stop. ST asked if they would be willing to do the flower tubs in Pandy Tudur. JR has a brown stain for the flower tubs. Agreed that CWG create a live document that can be shared with everyone with a list of jobs they could do and CWG to forward this to Steve Trow.

AV referred to next week's session to re-launch the Gardening Club. EW added that this is important as it is also part of the Community Council's biodiversity plan. DR & JR agreed to arrange tea & coffee during the meeting and arrangements were firmed up.

12 NEXT MEETING

27th November 2024 at Llangernyw

Meeting concluded 22:15

Minutes taken by CWG