

LLANGERNYW COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES
7:30PM 28TH JULY 2021
(VIRTUAL MEETING VIA 'ZOOM' DUE TO COVID-19)

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1 All were welcomed by Clwyd Roberts (CR)

1.2 Present: Ann Vaughan (AV), Diane Roberts (DR), R. Emlyn Williams (REW), Garffild Ll. Lewis (GLL), Gwynfor Davies (GD), Mark Davies (MD), Einir Williams (EW) & Gwyn Williams (GW)

1.3 Absent: Gwydion Jones (GJ)

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

AV: 7.1

3 MINUTES TO APPROVE 23RD JUNE 2021

Proposed correct by REW and seconded by AV.

4 MATTERS ARISING

As detailed below.

GD raised the matter of Gadlas invoices unpaid, he had made enquires. April 2019 invoice paid. REW had also made enquiries since last meeting and confirmed that both invoices had been paid.

CR enquired with AV if Ednyfed Vaughan will be starting the work on the cemetery gates soon, AV confirmed that this would be done soon. As the road will be closed at the beginning of August, this would potentially be a convenient time without impacting on traffic etc.

DR & MD had made enquires about the hedge, the work had been started last night.

5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

5.1 0/48627: no remarks about the application, approve.

6 MONITORY MATTERS

6.1 No matters.

GD advised for information how much money the Council had spent in the last quarter: £2,806.05. DR asked to discuss finances during the next meeting in September.

GW jointed meeting

7 COUNCIL MATTERS

7.1 Non Davies (ND), Esgair Eithin joined meeting. CR summarised that the councillors had received an email from GLL this morning.

ND not aware that Moelfre Uchaf vast area had been earmarked as a site for a wind energy development and was surprised that councils and local authorities were unaware of that fact. She discussed the information she has gleaned relating to the project. CR asked if any councillors had remarks to make. MD discussed that this project is similar to previous projects by the Welsh Government that does not go through local planning process. ND had asked for assessments that have been carried out relating to the project, these are unavailable. DR had contacted Darren Miller, he was not aware of the project and had contacted with Bute Energy to report back that they had consulted with Un Llais. Un Llais had reported that they had not consulted and were disappointed that Bute Energy had used their name in an email to Darren Miller. DR asked when, if Un Llais had emailed the Council, had Un Llais sent an email at the beginning of this year to say that the Welsh Government

had released reports relating to the project. ND noted that sustainable energy is required but if the project goes ahead the whole area would be surrounded by turbines.

GLL thanked ND for bringing attention to this issue as there had been no consultation with the County Council either. GLL had met Bute Energy with Ifor Lloyd (Llanfair TH Councillor), more information is required about the project over the coming months. GLL will pass on information to Councillors. General feeling that the Welsh Assembly had gone behind the backs of Councils and communities behind closed doors. EW also thanked ND for bringing attention to the matter and to GLL for the report received ahead of the meeting. GLL had raised with Bute Energy that it would be a good idea for the Council to meet them to discuss further. Also proposed inviting Llyr Gruffydd and Darren Millar.

7.2 CR had received details from Lucy Steel. Asked DR about the person she had in mind, they had not made up their mind therefore carry on with placing the advert and let Lucy Steel know and follow the process.

7.3 CR had received a response from Wil Roberts of the County Council regarding speeding and painting speed limit on the road, not a requirement to do this as there are street lights in the area. DR enquired if the Community Council can do this, CR noted that permission would be required for this. AV noted that 30mph is on the road in Dolwyddelan and also remarked that the 20mph signs in Llangernyw are hidden due to overgrown hedge. Intention to move the signs as they are hidden, it is a pilot project presently with the hope that it will be permanent. CR also advised that the 30mph may be extended to the south of Llangernyw. DR had emailed the company Roland Young as one of their lorries had been speeding through the village, not had a full response. REW advised that a bright coat attracts attention and help with speed. DR keeps a record of cars that drive over the limit.

AV raised that there are 30mph and children signs on the way into Llansannan, had asked the school who had done these and found out that it was Berwyn Evans. She had asked him if he would be willing to make some for Llangernyw, he would for a cost of around £200. All agreed to ask Berwyn Evans to make these. AV to deal.

7.4 CR updated the Councillors about the work required and is being done on the footpaths.

7.5 EW discussed that this is trying to introduce a requirement for clerks to have certain qualifications, EW felt the need to respond to the consultation as the Council does not have a clerk. Further discussion during next meeting in September. EW to make further enquires.

8 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Received the report below prior to the meeting, GLL summarised the main points not already discussed above.

AV reported to the councillors that the stone found under the Bont Faen had arrived at the Cwm Museum.

"Update to the Community Council. 28.07.2021

1. Proposed wind farm.

Garffild became aware of the project on 13th June following receipt of an email from Non and Tom, Esgaireithin. Clwyd also received same email.

Since then, Garffild has made further enquires and met via Zoom with representatives of Bute Energy – the first of two meetings, the second in person at Llanfair TH.

Garffild had also discussed the situation with planning officers in the County Council and also corresponded with Llyr Huws Gruffydd MS. Llyr has also made enquires and had send comprehensive report to explain the background (appended to the end of Garffild's report).

This is a summary of the situation based on Garffild's research:

- The Wind Farm project is part of the Welsh Government's Draft National Development Framework – a framework which is more expansive than wind farms – it also includes economic development, environmental restoration, energy and a number of other matters.

- The Framework denotes 10 areas in Wales that, following assessment work by engineering company ARUP, are 'suitable' for Wind Farms of significant size. The proposed area of Llangernyw/Llanfair TH/Betws yn Rhos is one of 10 areas.
- The Welsh Government confirms that the full consultation process has taken place to create the 'Future Wales' document – between 2016 and 2020 and had been before two Senedd meetings in Cardiff and the full Senedd. (Further information about the process is in Llyr Huws Gruffydd's report below).
- 'Future Wales' notes a number of areas that have been 'assessed before hand for Wind Energy' and the Welsh Government also models the impact of this on the landscape. Also in these areas, the 'presumption in favour' – which means that there would be no requirement for local planning permission only national – BUT, any development would have to be dependent on meeting criteria.
- In respect of this area - designated as 'Moelfre' area by Bute Energy, the company has held a number of discussions with landowners and in the process of discussing contracts and leases with those landowners. The probability is that these leases would last 30-35 years.
- Any company has the right to discuss contracts with landowners – the Welsh Government has not contracted with Bute Energy nor any other company to develop this site – but Bute Energy was the first to recognise the potential and this is why they are in a hurry to contract before any other company starts proposing terms. Bute is also carrying out similar work in 7 other areas in Wales.
- The exact number of turbines has not been confirmed – only that it is likely to be between 15 and 24 and of significant size, up to 180 – 250m height. There is also an option to develop a 'solar' farm within the same area but this is not in the plans at the moment.
- Bute Energy has confirmed with Garffild that a full consultation process over 12 months with local communities, Community Councils, County Council and other statutory bodies such as Natural Resources Wales, Dŵr Cymru, Cadw and others.
- Also several assessment/reviews need to be carried out – the National Grid capacity to transfer electricity out of the area, assessment of the visible impact, noise and consultation with airports such as Liverpool, RAF Valley and others.
- At the end of this process, a planning application would be submitted to Welsh Government towards end of 2022.
- The County Council's attitude will be important in the consultation, although it would not be the authority that would be approving or denying the planning application. It is interesting to note that Conwy Council has assessed the area for the potential of Wind Energy – and had decided that the area was not suitable due to the impact on the environment and the landscape, and also concerns with the National Grid connection.
- So far, there has been no contact or consultation between Bute Energy and the planning department of Conwy Council – the Councils is now aware of the plan following discussions between Garffild and Planning Officials.
- Bute Energy is eager to discuss with communities and how best for the area to benefit economically long term.
- Bute Energy representative raised that another site is also proposed, on the south boundary with Denbighshire, planning to raise 12 turbines. No further details available at present.

There are strong arguments for and against Wind Energy – nationally and locally in all areas where the projects are proposed. There is significant visible impact, matters relating to noise, impact on nature and communities. There are also other controversial elements such as the impact on road network during the building works, the contact with National Grid and also how

sustainable are companies such as Bute Energy over a period of 30 – 35 years and what are the plans for decommissioning at the end of that period.

On the other hand, the Welsh Government's strategy and policy regarding Clean Energy, reaching net zero carbon emissions etc, and placing emphasis on Wind Energy, Solar Energy and other 'clean' methods. On a local level, Wind Farms can create significant economical gain to local communities (and to individual landowners) and this only in the short term (examples include Clocaenog and Brenig).

The 'Moelfre' project is in its early stages and Garffild will continue to hold discussions with the County Council, other partners, the local community and Bute Energy over the coming months and will update the Community Council with any updates as and when received. Bute Energy has also offered to send a representative to make a presentation and answer any queries to all Community Council within the area, and Garffild is happy to facilitate this.

Llyr Huws Gruffydd MS

Here are details (below) about the public consultation process relating to Draft National Development Framework (DNDF) which clearly shows that there have been opportunities for public bodies and individuals to provide their input into the project as it was created.

As I have explained previously, I and Plaid Cymru opposed DNDF on several points during the process, raising matters with Ministers and during debates. During the final discussion, I highlighted various reasons for opposing the Framework and Plaid Cymru voted against its adoption. Unfortunately the other parties were in favour and it was passed.

There is no avenue now to stop unless the Minister or Government choose to change direction.

Remember that the DNDF not only deals with sustainable energy, this is only one aspect, it also includes economical growth, environmental restoration and other priorities.

Adopting the DNDF doesn't mean that every possible development will happen of course. It is similar to local LDP – but on national level. It notes the potential developments within suitable areas – any specific developments will still need to obtain planning permission before development can proceed.

I raised a number of times concerns about ARUP's work and highlighted a lot of what the wind energy sector had to say – that only around 10% of the land in the areas recognised for potential development was suitable in the industry's opinion! Although I reiterated my concerns about their work on every point during the discussion, this fell on deaf ears from the Welsh Government and the Committee's perspectives unfortunately.

See below the note I have received regarding the public consultation.

My advice would be that there is not a lot of hope in challenging the DNDF by now – challenging the specific planning application should be the main focus of anyone who objects to the proposed development.

Yours sincerely

Llyr

Future Wales has been subject to an iterative public consultation process between 2016 and 2020, including Senedd committee scrutiny on two occasions and two Senedd debates on the final draft. The designated areas have also been subject to initial assessment to identify them, followed by statutory habitat and other assessments.

The National Development Framework (NDF) - [Future Wales: the national plan 2040](#) - was published in February and sets out the Welsh Government's policies on development and land use in a spatial context. Future Wales has development plan status and forms the highest tier of development plan in Wales.

Future Wales identifies a number of 'Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy' (shown in the map on page 94). In these areas, the Welsh Government has already modelled the likely impact on the landscape and has found them to be capable of accommodating development in an acceptable way. There's a presumption in favour of large-scale wind energy development (including repowering) in these areas. This is set out in policy 17 of Future Wales. However any potential development would be subject to a number of criteria set out in policy 18 of Future Wales (the list of criteria can be found on page 95).

The Welsh Government has published a [summary of public involvement document](#) which provides an overview of how it consulted during the process – page 4 provides a timeline of the various stages between 2016 and 2020, and page 5 summarises the formal consultation stages. There are also a number of documents summarising individual engagement events [on the Welsh Government website](#) (under the heading 'Engagement', scroll to the bottom of the page). The major open consultations ran [from 30 April 2018 to 23 July 2018](#) and [from 7 August 2019 to 15 November 2019](#).

Alongside Future Wales, the Welsh Government has published the detailed [assessment used to identify these areas](#). The [executive summary](#) sets out the methodology behind the assessment (pages 2 to 4). In short the assessment took place in two stages between August 2018 and July 2019. The first stage involved the consultants, ARUP, developing an interactive tool in collaboration with the Welsh Government and stakeholders to identify initial broad priority areas for refinement. The second stage involved further analysis of the broad areas to refine them against more detailed criteria. The detail of the assessment is provided in these documents: [Stage 1: development of priority areas for wind and solar energy](#) and [Stage 2: refinement of priority areas for wind and solar energy](#).

As part of the process Future Wales was subject to a Habitats regulations assessment (HRA) and Integrated sustainability appraisal (ISA) (which is an assessment of the economic, environmental, cultural and social effects of a plan). Both the HRA and ISA can be found [on the Welsh Government website](#).

Future Wales was also subject to extensive scrutiny in the Senedd. During the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee's scrutiny of the 2019 draft of the NDF, renewable sector stakeholders expressed concern about the methodology used to identify what were to become the Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy. They suggested that less than 10% of the area is suitable for onshore wind, and only 5% is actually available. These concerns are summarised in the [Committee's report](#) (from page 31) but the Committee didn't draw a conclusion in this area. In all, the Committee scrutinised the first draft of the NDF in 2019 and the final draft of Future Wales in 2020 – all documentation relating to the Committee's work can be seen on the [Senedd website](#). There were also two Senedd debates on the final draft – on [29 September](#) and [25 November](#) 2020.

2. Adroddiad y Cynghorydd Sir ar faterion eraill yr ardal.

Y Bont Faen

The County Council is awaiting CADW's permission to work on the structure of a listed building and this is likely to be received this week. Arrangements for access to the site are nearly complete and Natural Resources Wales licence has been obtained to work near the river.

The authority has contracted with MWT to carry out the work. This company also carried out works near the bridge for flood defences.

The programme is due to last around 18 weeks, from 9th August onwards. The road will be closed for most of this time. Bryn Shiland, the officer in charge, will be sending the Community

Council an update this week and also letters to local residents before the end of the week. Signs advising of the work will be placed this Friday.

Dŵr Cymru

Following a number of complaints for an extended period of time for cuts to water supply in Pandy Tudur, Garffild has arranged to meet with Dŵr Cymru's Chief Distribution Officer on site on Friday 6th August. Garffild will report back following the discussion at the next meeting of the Community Council.

Speeding in Llangernyw

Unfortunately this problem persists, and seems to be getting worse. The situation is very frustrating, and although Garffild has been corresponding regularly with Go Safe (last time was on 20/6), nothing has happened.

Renovation Works

Following years of flooding problems in Blaen Ddol, Llangernyw area, and a number of discussions with Conwy Council, Garffild is happy that work has been carried out to clear the stream down the field from Nant Hir and that new pipes are being installed in the culvert near the road.

Gwytherin Play Ground

Met with Einir, Emlyn and Conwy Council's playground officer on site and have received full details of works that will be carried out to renovate the surrounding fence and other plans. All in agreement that the work will greatly improve the facility and work expected to start in September.

Garffild Lloyd Lewis
County Councillor
July 2021"

9 BILLS

9.1 Enlli: £127.84, agreed to pay.

9.2 Dei Evans: cutting grass in July: £420, agreed to pay.

9.3 AV: paint invoice for painting flower tubs and staining etc, volunteers are carrying out work. Grant available from Conwy Cynhaliol. Decided to use to buy a bench for Pandy Tudur, stain and paint and that the remainder of the funds would be put towards the signs to be made by Berwyn Evans (discussed above). All agreed to proceed with the grant application. Invoice for the paint and stain £48.47, agreed to pay.

10 LOCAL MATTERS

EW had been in discussion with DR that the Lion in Gwytherin has been turned into an Air BnB, not sure if they had obtained planning permission to change the use. EW to contact the planning department.

DR road works taking place locally at the moment.

REW requested a cemeteries meeting soon, to arrange before the next full meeting in September.

GW road to be closed to re-surface locally, bad experience recently. GLL to contact the highways department to ensure proper arrangements are in place.

AV asked if a planning application had been received regarding Shepherd's Cottage at Bryn yr Aur, CR not aware of any. CR to make enquires.

11 NEXT MEETING

22nd September 2021 (Virtual Meeting)

Meeting concluded 8:55pm

Minutes taken by Enlli Vaughan