

## **CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDYSUL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Cofnodion Cyfarfod Arbennig Cyngor Cymuned Llandysul Community Council a gynhaliwyd yng Nghanolfan Ieuencid Tysul Youth Centre, Llandysul a thrwy gyfrwng Zoom, ar 22fed Ebrill 2024**

**Minutes of Special Meeting of Cyngor Cymuned Llandysul Community Council held at Canolfan Ieuencid Tysul Youth Centre, Llandysul and via Zoom, on 22nd April 2024**

**Yn Bresennol: Present:** Cynghorwyr/Councillors Eileen Curry, Gethin Jones, Sue Lloyd, Mike Hotson, Keith Evans a/and Heddwen Davies

**Personol/Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Beth Davies and Andrew Howell

In the unavoidable absence of the Chair and Vice Chair as well as the Clerk (due to illness), Cllr Keith Evans administered the zoom link and chaired the meeting with everyone's approval.

**Agenda 1:** There were no declarations of interest.

**Agenda 2:** Application by Nacro for funding support of £540 for events been staged at Llandysul to help residents identify support available to them from a range of Government, Local government departments and third-party sector providers.

Members were very supportive and complementary of the wide range of service providers attending the events and the examples of support being provided to residents.

**Action:** Members unanimously agreed that the request should be supported in full £540

### **Agenda 3: Ceredigion Community Review**

Cllr Keith Evans introduced the consultation document and provided a brief overview.

#### **Members observation in response to the consultation:**

- Members felt that confusion and a lack of consistency was apparent in terms of the use of descriptions, e.g. Community – Town Councillor – Community Council.
- Members were supportive of the minimal changes suggested for the Horeb area, as this would give clarity as to who is their representative, and into which ward the area fell into.
- Members unanimously disagreed regarding the reduction of elected members and ward representation. This would have a detrimental impact and result in a democratic deficit in a very rural area where access to democracy would be dramatically reduced (circa 50% reduction) It was felt that this was an Urban centric review with little consideration being provided for deeper rural areas.
- The proposals lacked consistency in terms of representations in the various Town and Community Council areas, with significant differences between locations across the county. This was viewed as being grossly unfair.
- Even within Ceredigion, it was felt, that the deeper rural areas had to take the brunt of the reductions compared with their town representation without due regard being given to the amount of travel and time required within these deeply rural wards.
- Members were aggrieved that the Pontsian ward was referred to as Pontshaen in the document. Ceredigion has progressed with the support of the Welsh Language Commissioner with providing Welsh names for our communities. Members sought

assurances that the Welsh name be given prominence in any further versions of these documents.

- Members expressed the view that the approach to this consultation should have been more conversational with communities as opposed to being a desktop approach.
- Members stressed the point that in the main and with very little financial recompense, that the role of Councillor was mainly a voluntary role. Sight should not be lost in this review that Councillors as Leaders of their communities were heavily committed with other voluntary roles within their wards. Reducing their number by circa 50% may have a serious implication for this undertaking.
- Members were concerned that the reduction in their potential numbers would dilute their influence in the eyes of the electorate, and this, at a time when the County Council were seeking the support of Community and town Councils to undertake services normally undertaken by the County Council.
- Asset Based Community development principles have been around for a substantial amount of time that even that practice has been overtaken somewhat by Human Learning Systems. This is my favoured approach for community development, consultation and advancement through change making.