

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**20th July 2015****TOWN CLERK'S REPORT****1. Conwy County Borough Council
Forward Work Programme**

The July 2015 Forward Programme can be found at

<http://modgoveng.conwy.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=548&LLL=0>

**2. Letter of thanks
North Wales Bluegrass Festival**

"Many thanks to all our visitors from the North Wales Bluegrass Festival. So now it's all over - many thanks to everyone who played, everyone who listened, everyone who danced, you were fantastic! I know you'll all want to send a big thank you to everyone who did the work both "out front" & "behind the scenes" they are too numerous to mention, but they know who they are" Gill Williams.

3. Access to RSPB Conwy nature reserve trails

I am writing to let you know of a change that we plan to make to the reserve in the next week. It seemed sensible to make you aware since you may receive enquiries from local residents, & I wanted to ensure that you felt briefed in advance. The change involves the access to the estuary track, the path that runs alongside the estuary, southward from the bottom of the junction 18 sliproad, which forms part of the circular walk around the nature reserve (see <https://www.google.co.uk/maps/dir/53.2793355,-3.8088385/@53.2791992,-3.8088493,321m/data=!3m1!1e3?hl=en>). The 'estuary track' is part of the nature reserve, though many people assume that it is a public footpath/cycleway, & we have had increased numbers of people using it to walk dogs, to cycle, seeking a route to Glan Conwy, or simply using it as a way to enjoy the benefits of the nature reserve without paying to come in. I am sure you will appreciate that gate receipts help to pay for the running & management of the site, & as a charity receiving ever less money from grants etc, this is an increasingly important part of our income. Many of our paying visitors see other people visiting without paying, which leads to their being dissatisfied that we allow people to avoid paying the entrance fee. During the hours that the Visitor Centre is open, it is a legal requirement for us to account for the number of people who visit the reserve, hence we issue individually numbered tickets. If people use the estuary gate to access the reserve, they are doing so without us being able to account for their visit – or receiving the income that we need. We have, over the years, tried a range of signs to emphasise this point, but it just is not working. So, taking our cue from Bodnant Garden's exit gate, we are installing a one-way turnstile that will – between 9am & 5pm – allow visitors to leave the reserve, but not to access it without a passcode that they can get with their ticket at the Visitor Centre. Outside these hours, the gate will be locked open, so evening access will continue unimpeded (though bikes and dogs still won't be permitted in the evening). We remain supportive of the idea of a footpath/cycleway to link Glan Conwy & Deganwy, & have a long-term agreement with Crown Estate & Conwy County Borough Council for a route for that path, but this follows a line towards the A55 rather than along the estuary, so this is not affected by the new gate. I hope that you will understand why we are making this change, & will support this decision. If you have any queries about this, please do not hesitate to contact me at the nature reserve. Julian Hughes Reserve Manager, Conwy Nature Reserve, Llandudno Junction, Conwy LL31 9XZ, Tel 01492 584091.

4. Find your adventure for Action for Children!

We have some of the most amazing activities available to us here in Wales – please use them to help raise awareness of funds for Action for Children-Gweithredu dros Blant. Sign up now to one of our fundraising challenges & help us spread the word amongst your family, friends & work colleagues. Velocity Zip Wire – Bethesda, Titan Zip Wire – Blaenau Ffestiniog, Race the Train – Tywyn, Gwynedd. Thank you for your support. Abigail

5. Screening Campaign

Conwy Outcome Group 2 - This group focuses on the importance of healthy living, preventing ill health, & encouraging healthy & active living. This group has worked in partnership with Public Health Wales to support the delivery of the 'Screening for Life Campaign' during July 2015 in Conwy workplaces & communities. The purpose of the campaign this year is to promote the following screening programmes in workplaces and communities, Breast screening, Cervical screening, Bowel screening, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening. For further information please contact; cpp@conwy.gov.uk or; www.aascreening.wales.nhs.uk www.bowelscreeningwales.org.uk www.breasttestwales.nhs.uk www.screeningservices.org.uk/csw/

6. EESC Civil Society Prize

Rewarding Excellence in Civil Society Initiatives: The European Economic & Social Committee (EESC) launches the 2015 Civil Society Prize for combating poverty. This year the prize will reward initiatives that aim to improve economic & social inclusion among people living in poverty, or that tackle the increasing risk of poverty in Europe. Civil society organisations &/or individuals who have carried out initiatives which aim to combat poverty are invited to enter this contest. The aim of the prize is to reward & encourage initiatives by civil society organisations &/or individuals which have made a significant contribution towards promoting European identity & integration. The initiatives should be innovative & must make a valuable contribution to the well-being of the communities which benefit from them. The specific objective is to reward initiatives in areas such as social support, housing, education & health; in-work poverty; energy poverty; child poverty; homelessness; financial exclusion & over-indebtedness; cooperation with public authorities. Further details & the application form are available online. However, contestants cannot apply directly to the EESC. They have to be nominated by one or more EESC members, national economic & social councils or European civil society organisations & networks. WCVA's Vice President, Tom Jones OBE, is one of three Welsh representatives on the EESC: "With a history of the decline of traditional industry & economic re-structuring, the people of Wales have a deep understanding of the impact of poverty on our most excluded communities. As a result, there are individuals & organisations who have a unique story to tell about their successes in working with people & communities to alleviate poverty & create a stronger, fairer society. I am therefore very happy to support Welsh nominations for this prestigious prize". Individuals or organisations wishing to seek Tom's support for their application should contact Judith Stone, European Brokerage & Partnerships Co-ordinator at WCVA on 029 2043 1744; jstone@wcva.org.uk

The total prize money is 50,000 EUR & it can be shared between up to five winners. The deadline for applications is 31/7/15. The award ceremony will take place on 10/12/15 in Brussels. The European Economic & Social Committee (EESC) is a consultative body of the European Union that contributes to strengthening the democratic legitimacy & effectiveness of the EU by enabling civil society organisations from the Member States to express their views at European level.

7. Health Watchdog: response to concerns about patient care at Wrexham dementia ward

The independent health watchdog for North Wales has responded to news of allegations concerning the treatment & care of dementia patients at another North Wales hospital. Following reports that the Heddfan Unit at the Wrexham Maelor Hospital is facing investigation, North Wales Community Health Council (CHC) Chief Officer, Mr Geoff Ryall-Harvey said: 'The CHC discovered a number of problems at the Heddfan Unit last year. We identified issues relating to the poor environment & facilities, & the level of privacy & dignity afforded to the vulnerable patients on the wards at this Unit. We raised our concerns with the Health Board at that time & these have been largely ignored.' 'Indeed, when the Health Board informed the CHC back in December 2013 of the investigation into the Tawel Fan ward at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, we expressed our concerns that similar issues could well be occurring in other, similar units, across the region. When the damning report into the Health Board's failings at the Tawel Fan ward was published

in May this year, we recognised that isolated instances such as those identified, can occur even in the best-run organisations. However, if these new allegations are founded, then to learn that similar issues have been occurring in 2 of our hospitals, is indicative of fundamental & serious problems in the way health services in North Wales have been run. The failure to listen to the CHC's concerns is another example of why the Health Board is now in special measures'. Mr Ryall-Harvey went on to say: 'Earlier this month, at our meeting with the Health Board we presented an update on what we had found following our assessment visits to health care premises in North Wales. This included issues relating to Mental Health & Learning Disabilities Specialist Units – units such as Tawel Fan & Heddfan. We reiterated the main issues that we are continuously identifying. Following that meeting we have written to the new Interim Chief Executive requesting urgent talks with the CHC & an immediate review of the regime on all mental health & learning disability wards throughout North Wales. We look forward to welcoming the Interim Chief Executive & the Chair of the Health Board at our full council meeting next week. In particular we will need assurances that issues raised from CHC inspections are dealt with promptly & satisfactorily.' The Chair of North Wales Community Health Council, Mrs Jackie Allen, said: 'This continues to be an extremely distressing time for patients & their families & the CHC's Complaints & Advocacy Service is ready to assist people should they wish to take their concerns through the formal NHS Complaints Procedure. The CHC would also like to hear from anyone who has concerns about the quality of care provided by the health service in North Wales'.

'North Wales CHC also has an extremely active unannounced visiting & inspection programme to health care settings across the region & we put safeguarding vulnerable patients at the very heart of our work programme. We completed over 500 inspections in 2014/15 & plan to exceed this figure in 2015/16. However, we are not complacent about safeguarding vulnerable patients & this does not represent the totality of our response. We are looking to increase awareness of our Complaints Advocacy & inspection roles, increase engagement with carers & service users & will continue to pay close attention to all potentially "at risk" patient care facilities'. Mrs Allen said: 'We will continue to champion high quality patient care & will continue to challenge the Health Board when those high standards are not met.'

8. Conference\Meeting Room for Hire - Colwyn Bay

Located in the centre of the town, with parking facilities & wheelchair user access (except the IT Suite due to its location in the building) & facilities; minutes from the railway station & the A55 Expressway. Our meeting room comfortably seats up to 22 delegates board room style, & up to 40 delegates conference layout with flip charts & wifi, the area is completely self-contained including use of own kitchenette. Daily Charges:- Conference Room £60.00, IT Suite £60.00, Unlimited self-serve tea & coffee is included in the above; buffets prepared freshly on site range between £3.50 & £6 per head. For further details, please contact Chris Goodwin on 01492 534090 or chris@touchstones12.org.uk, 39 Princes Drive, Colwyn Bay, Conwy, LL29 8PF. We look forward to hearing from you.

9. Road Closure

Junction Upper Gate Street to Junction to Rosehill Street, Rosemary Lane, Conwy
22/07/2015 to 24/07/2015 Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water works

10. Courses/Workshops/Training/Conferences

a) Family History Taster Sessions

Find out more about the history of your family or home. These sessions will be an opportunity to explore both original documents & computer resources with the help of Archive Service staff. Who is it for: Anyone who wants to find out if researching their family tree or house history is for them, especially if you are unsure where to start or not confident about using the internet for research. 10.30am - 12.30pm, 24/7/15 OR 10.30am - 12.30pm 21/08/15 Where: Conwy Archive Service, Old Board School, Lloyd Street, Llandudno, LL30 2YG Cost: FREE but please book a place in advance Contact details: 01492 577550 or email archifau.archives@conwy.gov.uk

b) Last time to book onto the Free Employment Law & HR Training for Business owners & Chairs in North Wales

The event will take place at the beautiful The Quay Hotel, Deganwy Quay, Deganwy, Conwy LL31 9DQ on Wednesday 22nd July from 9.45am till 12.30pm.

Definitive guide to employment law. Significant changes in employment law that will affect your business & the way you deal with day-to-day staff issues have come into place. As a business owner, it is essential that you are up to speed. Our team of experts are running a roadshow of training sessions up & down the country & we are thrilled to announce that we will be stopping in your area! SEMINAR REFERENCE NUMBER: 314av
The Definitive Guide to Employment Law workshop...Will cover all the recent legal changes affecting every business, Will give you valuable guidance in dealing with workplace issues in order to prevent employment tribunals, Will help you make your business grow bigger, faster and more efficient, Will provide you with priceless advice to help you protect your business, Learn how to deal effectively with: Sickness and absence Parental leave, Misconduct and gross misconduct, Social media policy, Disciplinary and dismissals, Discrimination, Contracts and Handbooks, Places are limited, so to register your seat on the day please contact Katherine Whittam on 0330 100 7634

11. Events

Communities first Conwy Summer Cycling Scheme

We are now taking bookings for our annual family friendly Summer Cycling Scheme, due to start in 3 weeks. This is a 6 week programme aimed to increase cycling skills, confidence & fitness, & promote family friendly rides at a relaxed pace with qualified instructors & leaders. We have limited availability & due to the popularity of this activity we are usually oversubscribed, so we urge anyone to get their places booked as soon as possible.
Llandudno – Tuesday’s 9.30am till 11.30am, starting Tuesday 21st July for 6 weeks. Meeting point at Deganwy Promenade. Colwyn Bay – Tuesday’s 12.30pm till 2.30pm, starting Tuesday 21st July for 6 weeks. Meeting point at Porth Eirias. Pensarn – Thursday’s 9.30am till 11.30am, starting Thursday 23rd July for 6 weeks. Meeting point at Pensarn Promenade. More information will be given at time of booking. Any queries should be directed to myself on 07826876887 or email me at this email address Gemma.Davis@conwy.gov.uk and I will reply as quickly as possible.

12. Newsletters

RFCA for Wales Newsletter

The July issue is available on the Chamber table in the Guildhall

13. Welsh Government Consultations

	Closing Date
<u>Education & Skills</u>	
- Draft Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill	18/12/15
<u>Environment & Countryside</u>	
- Consultation on the closure of the Conwy Bay and Estuary Mussel Fishery	17/8/15
- Improving opportunities to access the outdoors for responsible recreation	2/10/15
<u>Health & Social Care</u>	
- Green Paper: Our Health, Our Health Service	20/11/15
<u>Housing & Regeneration</u>	
- National Pathway for Homelessness Services to Children, Young People and Adults in the Secure Estate	24/9/15