

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**Monday 27th May 2014****TOWN CLERK'S REPORT****1. Letters of Thanks****a) Conwy Reflections Morris Dancers**

"Thank you very much. The £300 has been a great help to us. S.Thomas"

b) Rosehill Chuckers Boccia Group

"We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for this grant. We are looking to purchase another set of balls straight away. Yours sincerely, Mrs.R.E.Jones"

c) Conwy Borough Football Club

"...we all just wanted to say thanks for the donation from the visit of the Mayor recently. It was a shame the result didn't go our way that day so hoping the scarf helped to make up for it!!! Also, many thanks for the cheque that we recently received towards the various ground works. Work is well underway at the ground & as much as it is also challenging us, it is teamed up with excitement for the future in that we can hopefully provide a valued social facility & sporting venue for people in the area once everything is complete. Have a great summer & will keep you updated with our progress. All the best. Best regards. Darren Cartwright, Vice Chairman"

2. Conwy County Borough Council – Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction & Education Benefits Enquiry Office

The office has moved to 4A Coed Pella Road, Colwyn Bay in the Department for Work & Pensions Building, the entrance is located half way along the building. Opening hours: Monday to Thursday, 9am to 5pm & Friday 9am to 4:45pm

3. Transitions in Later Life

We have recently launch a new strand of work which develops our existing focus on Ageing & Social Connections towards a new understanding of the transitions that people pass through, particularly in later life. All through our lives major transitions can have a significant impact on our environment, sense of self and purpose, bringing us from one way of life into another. We are altered, often positively, but sometimes negatively. Later on in life these transitions seem to accumulate with many experiencing retirement, loss of mobility or good health, bereavement & taking on caring responsibilities among many others. While many are resilient to these changes, we know there are a significant number who struggle to adapt without the right support & the result can be isolation, loneliness & ill health. A blog post outlining our intention for work in this space can be found by visiting <http://gulbenkian.org.uk/blogs.html> or accessing our website. This details 2 key areas of action: more holistic support for people around the transition to retirement & improved access to therapeutic support for people in later life at times of change. We shall also look to form a broader learning community of practitioners & others supporting people through transitions at various stages of the lifecourse to share experience across communities. For further information, please visit the blog or email ageing@gulbenkian.org.uk. We aim to announce new funding opportunities for a select number of initiatives in late 2014/early 2015. In the meantime, we welcome exploratory contact with:

- social sector organisations who have particular experience in supporting people through retirement
- employers who are looking for ways to better support their employees as they age

- therapeutic practitioners (psychologists, psychiatrists, counsellors, mindfulness & other trainers, for example) who have experience or ideas of how to support people around later life transitions & build resilience
- those with experience of working to support other life transitions and from whom we might learn, such as transitions to adulthood, becoming a parent, relationship breakdown among others

4. North Wales Regional Equality Network – Inequalities, Disparities & an Instinct for Fairness

Equality is about ensuring that every individual has an equal opportunity to make the most of their lives & talents, & believing that no one should have poorer life chances because of where, what or whom they were born, what they believe, or whether they have a disability. Equality recognises that historically, certain groups of people with particular characteristics e.g. race, disability, sex & sexuality, have experienced discrimination' (EHRC). For the last 15 years what was North Wales Race Equality Network & is now North Wales Regional Equality Network (NWREN) has worked towards eliminating discrimination & advancing a more equal & less marginalised society. With the changes brought in under the new Equality Act Law, equality has taken on a broader meaning. No single organisation can hope to have enough in depth knowledge & experience to do justice to all of the 9 equality strands (protected characteristics). NWREN cannot fight or support this range of equalities on its own. An amazing depth of specialism and expertise already exists within the voluntary sector & so much more can be achieved by working together with partners. The added value that partners bring could never be achieved by 1 organisation operating in isolation. The BIG Lottery is funding a 'People & Places' multi strand project. This funding allows NWREN to make their offices more accessible; employ outreach workers who can offer support to marginalised individuals; employ Hate Crime officers to support victims of Hate Crime & to develop a voluntary sector forum across the North Wales region. The aim is that by the end of the project there will be strong & sustainable partnerships across the North of Wales. By tackling discrimination, collaborating on funding opportunities & having a shared understanding of others expertise we hope to challenge the sometimes irreparable damage that prejudice & discrimination creates. Thanks to BIG Lottery funding NWREN now has both the capacity & opportunity to bring this initiative together. All areas of expertise are needed in a joined up effort to tackle inequality. It is envisaged that this Project will give strength to the voices of not only the organisations in the third sector in the North of Wales, but more importantly to the actual people whose 'voices' are marginalised. Indirectly it will also provide evidence of the 'gaps' in service provision for the most marginalised in the communities of North Wales. Please support this important initiative. Yours sincerely, Susan Jones, Partnership Development Co-ordinator. For more information contact NWREN, The Equality Centre, Bangor Road, Penmaenmawr, Conwy LL34 6LF, e-mail susan@nwren.org Phone 01494 622233; Mobile: 07825440781.

5. Workplace Welsh Website

The site has been developed by the Welsh Government, with support from WJEC. It will provide private, public or voluntary employers in Wales a rapid, reliable & cost effective way to:

- analyse which posts within their organisation should have a requirement for the post-holder to possess Welsh language skills (Section 1 - Welsh in the Workplace Management Indicator) .

- analyse the present Welsh language skills of their workforce (Section 2 - Welsh in the Workplace Skills Indicator).

Ensuring that key posts have Welsh-speaking post-holders who can offer services through the medium of Welsh will contribute to the Welsh Government's 'Iaith Pawb – A National Action Plan for a Bilingual Wales' key target of ensuring that 'more services, by public, private & voluntary organisations are able to be delivered through the medium of Welsh...'

<http://www.cymraegyweithle.org.uk>

6. Funding

a) Cash for Youth Grant

If you live in Conwy, are aged 14 to 25, have some big ideas or exciting plans that will benefit young people & your community, or you work with a group of young people & have an idea for a voluntary project involving them but need some funding assistance then a Cash for Youth Grant may be just what you need.

The Welsh Government has made funding available to implement the recommendations of the Russell Commission through the GwirVol Partnership. Recommendation Fifteen stated that a new youth fund should be established 'to facilitate youth-led volunteering projects' & that 'young people should be trained & supported to be involved in the funding process'.

The aim of the Cash for Youth Grants scheme is to support a range of small volunteering projects & activities, led & carried out by young people, with applications selected & recommended by a panel of young people aged 14-25. Each Volunteer Centre is responsible for the distribution of the money via the Youth Volunteering Development Officer working with a panel of young people. The Youth Led Grants scheme aims to prioritise delivery of volunteering opportunities with & for a diverse range of young people (aged 14 – 25) and particularly:

- Young people from disadvantaged communities: particularly Communities First areas & Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities
- Young people with physical or learning disabilities
- Young people not in employment, education or training

Grants of up to £750 are available to support volunteering or set up a volunteering activity.

- Applications are restricted to groups of young people aged from 14 to 25
- The panel will accept grant applications from mixed groups of adults (aged 26 & over) & young people (aged 14 to 25) on the condition that there is at least 1 young person in authority within that group/ organisation.
- The application must include, or result in, volunteering opportunities for young people.
- The project must be based in the Conwy County. If the group is active outside the county, the project must itself be run in Conwy.
- The application form & all other documentation must be sent to CVSC by the closing date.
- The target of the grant must not be religiously based, even if the group/organisation belongs to a specific religion.
- The panel will accept applications in other formats, such as audio or video, as long as the chosen format satisfies each section of the application form.
- Groups should be legally constituted with a governing document that is signed & adopted (the objectives of the project must fit with the constitution)
- Groups should be independent of government & private sectors

- Groups should have a bank account, in the name of the organisation, which requires at least 2 signatures
- If the panel is in doubt of the legitimacy of the application, a meeting will be arranged between both parties.

For applications received from un-constituted groups of young people, the Volunteer Centre may consider paying invoices direct.

Applications must include the following with their completed application form;

- A signed copy of their constitution or set of rules
- A copy of the groups/supporting organisations recent bank statement
- A minimum of 2 written quotes or estimates from any suppliers
- Number and names of individuals taking part in any activity funded.
- New groups must enclose a list of names of officers & members of the group's committee (if relevant)

Applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of their application. Notification of panel result will follow within 3 weeks of the closing date. If offered funding, applicants must agree to;

- Submit a short report with receipts for all expenditure.
- Spend the grant exactly as specified in the application unless prior agreement from CVSC is granted
- Publicise the Welsh Government contribution to the project
- Submit photographs of project work (where possible)
- Ensure the grant is spent & reports, receipts & other documentation are completed & returned to CVSC by: 30/9/14; 19/12/14; 31/3/15.

Only one grant will be allowed within the period of April 2014 – March 2015

Completed and signed applications together with all documentation must be submitted by 4pm on 30/5/14 or 3/10/14 or 19/12/14, to Ellen Jones, Youth Volunteering Advisor, Community & Voluntary Support Conwy CVSC, 8 Riviere's Avenue, Colwyn Bay, Conwy, LL29 7DP

Applications will be rejected if they are not accompanied by all the required information. For an application pack or for further information, please contact Ellen at the Volunteer Centre on [01492 871110](tel:01492871110) or email ellenjones@cvsc.org.uk.

7. Courses/Workshops/Training/Conferences

a) **Asset Based Community Development: Sustainable Communities – Build on What's Strong not What's Wrong – Cormac Russell, Co-Director of ABCD Europe**

10am to 4pm, 18/6/14 & 19/6/14, Iorwerth Rowlands Centre, Beaumaris

The challenges on public services & communities in Wales are clear & there is a forecast for increasing pressure in the future. How can we work together to improve community life & service provision despite these challenges? The recent Commission on Public Service Governance & Delivery report suggests the only viable way to respond to the challenges is to, "shift the emphasis of public service towards co-production & prevention: designing & implementing solutions which sustain long-term wellbeing & which prevent rather than respond to critical situations. This in turn can only be done in a spirit of partnership with citizens & communities themselves". Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) is one method of Co-production that has a history of success in building on existing community strengths to support stronger, more sustainable communities for the future. The ABCD process helps to identify, connect & mobilise local assets, & supports the development of a community wide vision. The 2 day training will provide practical tools & present successful community building experiences from around the world & provide tips on increasing engagement in the process. ABCD considers local assets as

the primary building blocks of sustainable community development. It offers a robust evidence-based framework for social change, challenging us to consider the following questions:

- What is it that communities can do best?
- What do communities require help with?
- What do communities need outside agencies to do for them?

Whole community transformation shifts the focus from separate target groups, such as the frail elderly or youth at risk, to one that connects people positively regardless of age or label. Using the Six Stepping Stones© a community builder can identify, connect & mobilise local assets, & support the development of a community wide vision for transformation that looks 20 years into the future. This workshop will:

- Help you identify where & how ABCD can change communities & peoples' lives using the 12 Domains of Change© exercise.
- Show you how to bring ABCD to life in a neighbourhood using the Six Stepping Stones© approach.
- Use stories & case studies of ABCD in action from our learning sites in the UK & around the world with video input from citizens, community builders & commissioners.
- Involve you in activities & exercises, e.g. Asset Mapping & Learning Conversations that you can then use to introduce ABCD to the neighbourhoods where you live &/or work.
- Show you how to spread the approach across an entire county.
- Help to make the strategic links to strengths-based commissioning, strengths-based organisational management & unpack policy implications in relation to health, community safety, criminal justice, ageing well in place & environmental & economic sustainability.
- Show you how to evaluate the outcomes of ABCD.

Due to funding support from the Welsh Governments 'Cynefin' Programme the cost is only £65 in total for both days for Public, Private or Third Sector organisations. This course is provided FREE OF CHARGE for individuals from the community.

Refreshments & a buffet lunch will be provided on each day. For more information or to book contact mark.gahan@groundworknorthwales.org.uk Tel: 01286 674803

b) One Voice Wales

i) Local Government Finance

29/5/14, Caernarfon

Provide an understanding of the financial framework of the Council

ii) Code of Conduct

2/6/14, Corwen

To familiarise Councillors with the contents of the Code of Conduct & to enable them to have a deeper understanding of how to meet their responsibilities

iii) Local Government Finance

17/6/14, Abergele

iv) Introduction to Community Engagement

26/6/14, Mold

To explore what is meant by the term "community engagement" & how councils & councillors can improve how they engage with the communities they serve

All courses start at 6:30pm to 9pm & cost £40.

For more information or to book, please contact the Town Clerk

c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils Conference

9/7/14 Hafod a Hendre, Royal Welsh Showground, Cost £50

For more information or to book please contact the Town Clerk

d) Co-production & Social Care – Translating the Wellbeing Agenda into Practice – All Wales Academic Social Care Research Collaboration & the WCVA

24/6/14, 12:30pm to 4pm, Conwy Business Centre, Llandudno Junction – Free
Social care services in Wales are facing an unprecedented increase in demand. To meet this escalating demand, whilst simultaneously maintaining equitable & sustainable social care services, the Welsh Government’s Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Bill states that everyone “from Government to frontline delivery must be prepared to think differently about how services are commissioned & delivered”. Co-production of social care is a key component of the Social Services & Wellbeing agenda that seeks to transform the development & delivery of social care provision with an emphasis on empowering service users & user-led services to develop new models of care. This seminar focuses on:

- Achieving co-production in practice – tools & techniques & maximising opportunities
- Co-designing, participatory budgeting, alliance contracting & collaborative working
- Measuring outcomes from co-production

There will be opportunities to network with others over lunch, learn about examples of successful co-production initiatives from guest speakers from across Wales & the North West of England & take part in world café discussions. For further information or to book contact ascc@bangor.ac.uk or phone 01248 388728

8. Events

a) CVSC – Volunteers’ Week Celebratory Event

As part of the Volunteers’ Week celebrations, we are holding a special Awards Event, kindly supported by Conwy Communities First, to recognise & reward the excellent contribution of volunteers to the voluntary & community sector in Conwy. The ceremony will be held on 4/6/14, 2pm at Upper Colwyn Bay Community Centre, Upper Colwyn Bay, LL29 6DW. The event includes a guest speaker, musical entertainment, presentation of volunteer award certificates, afternoon tea & networking. If you would like to nominate a volunteers to receive an award certificate please complete a nomination form & return by 22/5/14. Please note that as space is limited, places will be given on a first come basis & are restricted to 1 representative of your organisation & up to 3 volunteers. If you are not able to attend the event, but would like certificates sent to you direct, then please indicate this on the nomination form. For further information please contact us on 01492 871110 or e-mail cerijones@cvsc.org.uk or volunteercentre@cvsc.org.uk.

b) Calling All Community Volunteers in Wales! Making Neighbourhoods Extraordinary
Are you the person in your community that makes stuff happen? Got some great ideas for your local area but not too sure how to move forward? You are not alone. Come & join the growing number of extraordinary individuals who are part of our programme. Big Lunch Extras is a free programme helping individuals like you across the UK to create positive change within your community. Together we can start tackling the issues that matter to you most. Our free events held at the inspirational Eden project & in your local area will develop your skills, build you confidence & help spark new ideas that could really make a difference to where you live. Apply to join & find out more at www.biglunchextras.com. A fantastic opportunity to learn, share & be inspired.

c) Royal Cambrian Academy & Manchester Academy of Fine Art

The RCA collaborates for the first time with the MAFA to bring you the best of art from Wales & the North West of England. It is with great pleasure that The Council

