

**MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL****26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018****TOWN CLERK'S REPORT****1. Thank You Letters**a) Conway Yacht Club

"May I as Treasurer thank the Town Council for their kind cheque for £30. Our members enjoyed assisting you on Boxing Day by opening our Club & hope the event was enjoyed by all. We look forward to helping you again in 2018. Yours sincerely, C. Brigg, Treasurer"

b) Music in Hospitals & Care

"Earlier this year, Conwy Town Council kindly donated £279 to fund a live music concert in Conwy. We used your sponsorship to deliver a high quality performance in High Pastures Nursing Home on 10/11/17. For this project, we chose the hugely talented bilingual duo Sioned Ellis & Philip Knowles, who specialise in un-accompanied songs, impressing their audiences with their vocal range. Sioned & Philip have a broad repertoire & are always a hit with the residents. The concert was attended by around 25 people in total, including residents, their families & care staff, who scored the concert "Excellent" on our feedback form. The Care Home wanted to add what a wonderful time everyone had at the concert & that they really appreciate the generosity of Conwy Town Council. The following outcomes were noticed by the Care Home:

Improved mood & raised spirits; Reduced feelings of isolation; Reduced stress, anxiety & depression; Improved self-confidence; Increased social interaction; Reduced perception of pain/discomfort; Increased physical activity; Improved cognition/reminiscence.

Posters were provided to the venue before the concert, acknowledging Conwy Town Council as the funder & a verbal thank you was given during the performance. Our aim is to create joy through live music & your donation has allowed us to achieve that. On behalf of the audience members whose quality of life has been improved as a direct result of your generosity, thank you. We hope to continue to work in partnership with you in the future. Thank you so much for your support. Hannah Beardsworth, Development Officer Wales, Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama"

**2. Conwy County Borough Council**

a) Please note that, with the agreement of the Chair, a Joint Meeting of Education & Social Care has been arranged on 12/03/2018 at 2pm in Bodlondeb, Conwy. The item for consideration will be Child Care Programme

b) Forward Work Programme

The latest Forward Work Programme has been published

<http://modgoveng.conwy.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=608&LLL=0>

**3. Snowdonia National Park Authority**a) Planning

In order to use our resources more effectively & to speed up the Planning process, the Authority will be consulting with Community/Town Councils through email from now on. The Authority already consults statutory bodies by email. Information about any application can be viewed by clicking on the link to the Authority's website. If you have any questions, please contact the Planning Department for further information. Thank-you for your co-operation. Development Management. Tel: 01766 770274, [www.eryri.llyw.cymru](http://www.eryri.llyw.cymru) or [www.snowdonia.gov.wales](http://www.snowdonia.gov.wales)

b) The Revised Eryri Local Development Plan 2016-31 – Submission to the Welsh Government/Planning Inspectorate

The SNPA have submitted proposals for the short form revision of the LDP to the Welsh Government for an Independent Examination in the week beginning 22/1/18. The Examination will be carried out by an Independent Inspector appointed by the Planning Inspectorate. The submitted documents comprise the deposit LDP, the Review Report, Sustainability Appraisal Report (incorporating an environmental report), Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), Consultation

Report, copies of representations & other supporting documents. Copies of these documents will be made available on the SNPA's website [www.eryri.llyw.cymru/planning/planning-policy/ldp-revision?name](http://www.eryri.llyw.cymru/planning/planning-policy/ldp-revision?name) or [www.snowdonia.gov.wales/planning/planning-policy/ldp-revision](http://www.snowdonia.gov.wales/planning/planning-policy/ldp-revision) at the National Park Office or at public libraries in Barmouth, Bethesda, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Dolgellau, Penygroes, Tywyn, Porthmadog, Y Bala, Cerrigydrudion, Llanrwst, Llanfairfechan, Penmaenmawr, Conwy & at the Authority's Information Centre in Betws Y Coed during normal opening times.

*Authority's Response to Representations Received:* these are included in Appendix 26 of the Consultation Report

*Programme Officer:* Mrs Rhian Randall has been appointed as a Programme Officer to assist in taking the Examination forward. She will act as a point of contact between the Authority, Representors & the Inspector & will ensure the Examination runs smoothly. She is based at the National Park Office, Penrhyndeudraeth, email: [programmeofficer@eryri.llyw.cymru](mailto:programmeofficer@eryri.llyw.cymru), tel.: 01766 772203

*Next Steps:* It is expected that the Independent Examination will be held sometime in Spring 2018. The Programme Officer will advise the dates & future timetable.

For further information email [polisi.cynllunio@eryri.llyw.cymru](mailto:polisi.cynllunio@eryri.llyw.cymru) or call 01766 770274

#### **4. Welsh Government – Vacant Land Tax**

Since announcing a shortlist of 4 new tax ideas alongside the draft budget in October, the Welsh Government has been examining the case for each of these. The 4 ideas were: a social care levy, a vacant land tax, a disposable plastics tax & a tourism tax. Although the vacant land tax idea will be used to test the Wales Act powers, work will also continue on each of the other 3 tax ideas. The decision to take forward the vacant land tax idea follows engagement with stakeholder organisations, the public & across government. A vacant land tax has been chosen both because it could help to incentivise more timely development & because it could help prevent dereliction & aid regeneration. Professor Drakeford, Cabinet Secretary for Finance said: "Housing is a priority for the Welsh Government. A tax on vacant land could prevent the practice of land banking & land not being developed within the expected timescales. The Republic of Ireland vacant sites levy provides a useful starting point for how a vacant land tax could work in Wales. The existing model in the Republic of Ireland & the relatively narrow focus of the tax make this the most suitable of the 4 shortlisted ideas to test the Wales Act"

#### **5. Environmental Volunteering Toolkit**

I am contacting you on behalf of Environet Cymru at WCVA to let you know about our new resource the 'Environmental Volunteering Toolkit' – available on the WCVA website, here - <https://www.wcva.org.uk/what-we-do/environet-cymru/ms4n/invest-in-nature?seq.lang=en-GB> This toolkit is designed to help people into environmental volunteering who might not have thought about it before & promotes the exciting opportunities available from local & national organisations. We would be very grateful if you could help us promote this resource, to make this easier to share I have attached some publicity images and an article is available here - <https://www.wcva.org.uk/about-us/news/2018/01/could-your-skills-support-our-natural-environment-find-out-in-our-new-toolkit> We also have tweets available here: Welsh - [https://twitter.com/wcva\\_ec/status/957950439902892034](https://twitter.com/wcva_ec/status/957950439902892034) English - [https://twitter.com/wcva\\_ec/status/957949579026161666](https://twitter.com/wcva_ec/status/957949579026161666) It would also be fantastic if you could upload our resource to your website if appropriate – available here: Welsh - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zd9hLAZRRuXb6APu79dYv6pe1T\\_8yOWQ/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zd9hLAZRRuXb6APu79dYv6pe1T_8yOWQ/view) English - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D6G44aq\\_XQf-nzK60HggV5CmYHQVxTC7/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D6G44aq_XQf-nzK60HggV5CmYHQVxTC7/view) If there are any news stories, resources, or events you would like us to promote through our digital channels, please do let us know as we are always happy to share. Please let me know if you require any further information or if you have any feedback regarding the toolkit. Chloe Jenkins, Environet Cymru Support Officer.

#### **6. Welsh Government Consultations**

Closing Date

Planning

- Planning Policy Wales: Edition 10 18/05/2018

Environment & Countryside

- Geological disposal of radioactive waste 20/04/2018

Education & Skills

- Independent review of school teachers' pay and conditions in Wales 01/03/2018

- Reducing crime at sites handling waste, and introducing fixed penalties for waste duty of care 26/03/2018

Housing & Regeneration

- Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016: regulations relating to safeguarding property in abandoned dwellings 06/04/2018

People & Communities

- Local toilets strategies: statutory guidance for local authorities 04/04/2018