

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**17th February 2020****TOWN CLERK'S REPORT****1. Letter of thanks****Shelter Cymru – For the donation made on behalf of Mr G Carr**

“On behalf of Shelter Cymru, I would like to thank you for your kind donation of £50.00. Over the past 38 years we have helped more than half a million people in Wales fight for their rights, get back on their feet and find and keep a home. Many families are facing difficult times ahead and donation enable us to provide front line services that offer free independent, confidential advice and support throughout Wales, whilst continuing to campaign for changes that will improve housing conditions for everyone. Once again, thank you for your generous contribution. Diolch yn fawr”.

Crohn's & Colitis UK – For the donation made on behalf of Ms C Mayes

“On behalf of everyone here at Crohn's and Colitis UK, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to you all for your charitable donation of £15.00. Your support is vital in helping us continually care for and strive to achieve a better quality of life for the 300,000 people living with Crohn's and Colitis in the UK”.

Animals Asia – For the donation made on behalf of Mr S Roberts.

“As you read this letter, hundreds of snoozy bears are snoring away in cosy nests, their chests gently rising and falling. Or else tumbling in the grass. Or having furry cuddles with best friends. It's a world away from the lives of pain and fears our treasured bile farm survivors used to lead, and it's all thanks to people like Stephen. I'm writing to thank you so very much for your recent kind gift of £10.00, on behalf of Stephen Roberts. Rest assured that his generosity is already hard at work here at Animals Asia. Please do pass on our sincere gratitude on our behalf for his generous contribution”.

Macmillan Cancer Support - For the donation made on behalf of Ms V Cox.

Thank you so much for sending in a donation of £20.00 to Macmillan Cancer Support. Please pass our thanks on to Vanessa Cox for nominating Macmillan to receive her prize money from your Boxing Day Dip. This kind gesture will allow us to help more people with cancer to live life as fully as they can. At Macmillan, we understand that cancer can impact people's whole life - health, money, families, work; everything. We provide support that's about all these things, helping people live their life with cancer. We advise on work and benefits, and we are always here for emotional support when things get tough. We give people the support, energy and inspiration to feel more like themselves. Thanks again for being such an important part of the Macmillan team. Best wishes, Katie Donnelly, Supporter Donations Team.

St David's Hospice

“On behalf of everybody at St David's Hospice I would like to thank you for your kind donation of £50.00 raised in sponsorship by Mario's for the Boxing Day Dip Event. I hope you managed to enjoy the event, we are really grateful for your support. Your sponsorship form the Boxing Day Dip will be put to immediate use to help us provide the highest level of care for all of our patients and their families, this year alone it will cost more than £4 million to fund the hospice. Since only 14% of this figure is funded by the local health board, it leaves the enormous task of raising in excess of £3.5 million per year in order to keep our doors open. Your support makes a huge difference to the care we are able to offer to the community and for this: I really can't thank you enough. Kind regards, A Everley”.

2. CCBC

Meetings - the meeting of the Finance and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2.3.20 has been cancelled as there are no reports to consider.

3. Training/

One Voice Wales Training - The Council as an Employer.

Module 3 – The Council as an Employer training in Jubilee Room, Town Hall, Earl Road, Mold, CH7 1AB on Tuesday 18th February 2020.

4. Events**Fair Trade Fortnight Events**

Tuesday 25 February 2.30 - 4 Fairtrade Pancake Afternoon at Porth Y Felin School, Llanwrst Road, Conwy LL32 8FZ. All welcome. Fairtrade goods including Candy Floss on sale.

Thursday 27 February 10.30 - 12 Fairtrade Coffee Morning at Orme View Restaurant, Coleg Llandrillo, Llandudno Road, Rhos on Sea, LL28 4HZ. There is limited parking on site but bus numbers 12, X12 and 15 stop right outside. The Coleg will be providing a choice of Fairtrade banana cake, Almond and dark chocolate Fairtrade cookies, Fairtrade chocolate mocha brownies and Fairtrade coffee cake plus tea or coffee for £2.75. This is not a fund raising event but an opportunity to raise awareness of Fair Trade within the Coleg and with members of the public who attend. We will be showing a film about chocolate called 'Unwrapping the Bar'.

Friday 28 February, 10am-1pm Fairtrade coffee morning at Ian and Heather Thompson's house, 2 Tan Benarth, Gyffin, Conwy, LL32 8NW.

Saturday 29 February, 11-1 Karin, Heather and Kay will be telling the stories of Edith, Therese and Lucia in Conwy Culture Centre with free samples of Fairtrade chocolate and information about where to buy products.

Saturday 29 February all day Kingdom Krafts, 30 Madoc Street, Llandudno, LL30 2TL are planning "an extra day to make a difference" with a Fairtrade chocolate tasting table in the shop.

Tuesday 3 March 4pm Fairtrade football launch at The Barn, Parc Eirias, Eirias Road, Colwyn Bay LL29 7SP to be attended by the Leader, Cllr Sam Rowlands and Cllr Louise Emery, Champion of Ethical Procurement. All welcome to watch or join in with a kickabout of Fairtrade footballs.

Wednesday 4 March "Kingdom Krafts comes of age - 18". Come and celebrate Fair Trade Fortnight with us on our special day. At 2pm we will share Birthday Cake and a visit from pupils from Ysgol Tudno who will remind us why Fair Trade is so important.

Marks and Spencer and Starbucks will also be highlighting their Fairtrade goods during Fair Trade fortnight. Please make enquiries in store to help them realise how important Fair Trade is to the public.

Kingdom Krafts, 30 Madoc Street, Llandudno, LL30 2TL is our local outlet for all kinds of Fairtrade goods, although more limited ranges are available in other local stores, the more we ask, the more demand is created! Contact conwyfairtrade@gmail.com or Kay on 0791866640 for more information.

5. Sustainable Drainage systems (SuDS).

I refer to my letter of 4 November informing you of a minor amendment which the Welsh Government proposes to make to the above Order concerning Sustainable Drainage systems (SuDS). I am writing to inform you that an Amendment Order was approved by the National Assembly in plenary on 26 November. However, it contained an error which prevented it coming into force. In view of this, the Welsh Government proposes to re-lay it very shortly. A further plenary debate will be required to seek approval for the new Order. I will write to you again when the new Order has been considered by the National Assembly and provide a link to the document for your information. Background- Following implementation of the 2018 Order, a minor amendment is needed to Article 21 to bring it in line with recent changes to other punishment legislation. Article 21 of the 2018 Order limits the fines that can be passed in a summary case for the offence of failing to comply with a temporary stop notice, enforcement notice or stop notice to a maximum of £20,000. The 2018 Order was drafted before section 85(1) of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO) commenced but was not put into force until after the commencement and so was not caught by that provision. LASPO removed the upper limit on fines that Magistrates' Courts could pass for almost all offences. We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding. In order to provide consistency with other offences of a similar nature it is proposed that the limit of £20,000 be amended to simply 'a fine'. This amendment would mean the Magistrates' Court would be able to pass an unlimited fine and is consistent with the wording which led from the amendments to other legislation made by LASPO. If the change is not made, it would not be possible to impose fines of over £20,000 for cases being dealt with summarily and so these cases would be sent to the Crown Court causing delay and significantly more expense both for defendants and the public. In cases of some complexity which are contested, allocation to the Crown Court remains as an available option. The change being made does not expose persons convicted under the legislation to greater liability as unlimited fines have always been available for this offence in the Crown Court. The change will simply affect allocation decisions made by the Magistrates' Court by making it more likely they will retain jurisdiction.

It is not anticipated there will be many, if any prosecutions of this nature. But, if there are, there will be no impact on the justice system from the amendment of the maximum fine as proposed. The original Order, intended to make this amendment, was approved by the National Assembly on 26 November 2019. However, the Order contained an error concerning commencement which prevented it coming into force. In view of this, the Welsh Government proposes to re-lay it very shortly. A further plenary debate will be required to seek approval for the new Order and I will write to you again after the debate.

6. Final draft of the Partnership Plan for the future of Snowdonia National Park

Cynllun Eryri.*

This Plan has been developed in the true spirit of partnership. We have listened closely to people who live, work and visit here. We have worked alongside organisations involved in looking after Snowdonia for future generations. We have kept the Special Qualities of Eryri at the heart of everything we do. We believe that by working together we can achieve great things. That's why we need you to tell us what you think. Have we reflected your thoughts and ideas well enough? Do you agree with our Action Plan? The public consultation period is open from 3 February – 13 March 2020. You can view the Plan and response form here:

www.eryri.llyw.cymru/cynlluneryri It is also available as a hard copy in all local libraries, our Tourist Information Centres and at our HQ in Penrhyndeudraeth. Please share this as widely as possible through your own networks so that we can receive as many ideas as possible. We look forward to hearing from you.

* The Statutory Management Plan for Snowdonia National Park.

7. Post Office Limited, Conwy, LL32 8HT

We are pleased to let you know that we will be restoring Post Office services to Conwy on Tuesday 11 February 2020. As previously advised, the branch will be closing temporarily on Friday 31 January 2020 following the resignation of the postmaster and the withdrawal of the premises for Post Office use. We are pleased to be able to reinstate the service as a temporary Hosted Outreach whilst we continue to seek a permanent solution. The service will be operated from Conwy Tourist Information Centre, Muriau Buildings, Rose Hill Street, Conwy, LL32 8LD by the postmaster from Maesgeirchen Post Office and will offer a wide range of Post Office products and services. Full details of the new temporary service are provided at the end of this letter. If you are a local representative, it would be helpful if you could share this information with any local groups or organisations that you know within the community, for example on noticeboards, local charities and in GP surgeries, to help our customers and your constituents understand what is happening to the Post Office in the local community. If you would like a supply of these posters, please let us know. If you have any questions about the new service, please write to me via the Communication and Consultation Team at the address shown below. Please note that your comments will not be kept confidential unless you expressly ask us to do so by clearly marking them "In Confidence". We're carrying out this notification in line with our Principles of Community Engagement. A copy is available at the end of this letter.

8. Funding

The Brilliant Basics Fund by Visit Wales

Please see below an opportunity to apply for a grant of between £25,000 and £128,000 for tourism projects that do the Brilliant Basics! Guidance Notes can be found here:

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/tourism/finance#guides-tabs--1>

The Objectives of the funding is to:

- develop quality visitor experiences with a Welsh sense of place
- enable a wide range of visitors to access and enjoy new wellbeing opportunities
- improve access to facilities and project an inclusive view of Wales
- invest in facilities that enhance Wales' adventure offering
- contribute to key WG tourism initiatives including the Year of Outdoors campaign 2020 – 2021 and The Wales Way
- encourage clean, green destinations for example through sustainable infrastructure improvements
- proactively promote a sense of place, culture and language
- provide year-round facilities across all parts of Wales
- invest in world-class experiences and events facilities.

Support of between £25,000 and £128,000 is available for projects with a total eligible expenditure of £160,000, with a maximum intervention rate of 80%. The fund is very competitive and is therefore looking for strategic projects that work in partnership and have been prioritised from each county. So, if you have ideas and evidence of need then please contact us with the information by Friday 7th February. Each project will

require 20% match funding. The application period is tight with a closing date of 12:00 pm on the 28th of February but other opportunities will open during the year.

First Time Buyer Grants

We are writing to make you aware of a new scheme which has been set up to help first time buyers of properties in the Snowdonia National Park area of Conwy. Using funding provided by the Park Authority, we are looking to offer a grant to eligible first-time buyers who have recently bought or are looking to buy an empty property in the Park area. The grant up to a maximum of £25,000 can be used towards the cost of necessary improvements to bring the property up to an acceptable standard but cannot be used towards the actual purchase of the property. In order to be eligible for consideration, the buyer must have a local connection to the park area, and priority will be given to applicants who have a connection with the community council area in which the empty property they are looking to purchase is located. In order to be eligible, the empty property must be located within the Park, have been empty for 6 months and fall within Council Tax valuation bands A to C. As funding is limited, and we have been asked by the Park Authority to prioritise properties within Betws y Coed, Penmachno and Dwygyfylchi, there will be an application window from the date of the scheme launch until 27th April 2020, following which applications will be considered on a first come first served basis, but with priority given in accordance with the above. On receipt of a grant, the Council will register a charge against the property, and this will remain in force for a period of 5 years. Should an applicant move out of, sell or otherwise dispose of the property within the 5-year period, the grant will become repayable in full. For more information about the scheme, or if you have any queries, please contact Housing Strategy at housingstrategy@conwy.gov.uk or on 01492 574235. Anna Williams Swyddog Cefnogi Strategaeth Tai / Housing Strategy Support Officer

9. Consultation on future audit arrangements for Community Councils in Wales

The Auditor General is required to audit the annual accounts of all Community and Town Councils in Wales. From 2020-21 onwards, we propose a three-year audit programme which is designed to meet statutory responsibilities while providing a sufficient level of audit assurance at a reasonable cost. The Auditor General is seeking the views of interested parties on the proposed audit arrangements. Do you have experience or information about the audit of Community and Town Councils in Wales? We would like to hear from you. How to respond. We invite your views and have provided more information with a link to our survey on our website. The deadline for responses is Thursday 19 March 2020. If you have any questions about the consultation, please email info@audit.wales.

10. People affected by delays in leaving hospital

Community Health Councils (CHCs) in Wales are concerned at the number of people affected by delays in leaving hospital because they are waiting for arrangements to be made to go home or on to the next stage of their care. CHCs are an independent watchdog of NHS services within Wales. They encourage and enable members of the public to be actively involved in decisions affecting the design, development and delivery of healthcare for their families and local communities. In a report published today "Time to go home?", people describe how a delay in leaving hospital has affected them or those who care for or about them. John Pearce, Chair of the Board of Community Health Councils in Wales, said: "We often hear about the large numbers of "delayed transfers of care" or "bed blocking". These are not complimentary terms to describe people who simply want to go home. What it means is that people have difficulty in getting the right care and community care services when they are medically fit to leave hospital, and this is through no fault of their own. This in turn means that there can be cancelled operations or long stays in emergency care departments for others when they are waiting for a bed to become available. For people stuck in hospital waiting to go home, we heard about the loneliness, isolation and depression they may feel. Some people told us they felt they were losing control of their lives. Others told us about a loss of confidence and independence that had affected peoples' lives forever. People told us that better communication, understanding and involvement between NHS staff and families could help resolve many of the problems, frustrations and anxieties they felt. The number of stories in our report represent only a small number of the delays regularly reported by the NHS in Wales. Some of the reasons for these delays have been problems for a long time in Wales and across the UK. Over the past year health boards have increasingly identified a lack of suitable care home places and community care support as the main reason people are staying in hospital longer than they need to.

The Welsh Government needs to make sure health and care bodies are able to invest the time and money to work together to agree how to tackle these issues as quickly as possible so that people’s lives are not changed for the worse because the system isn’t working as well as it should.”

11. Focus on play for County Councillors

This issue of Focus on play for County Councillors across Wales provides information about statutory duties on local authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their area.

Councillors are well placed to be play champions for the Communities they serve, whilst also ensuring that the Council as a whole complies with statutory duties regarding play sufficiency. To inform Councillors, Focus on play: play and County Councillors aims to answer the following questions: • Why has Welsh Government legislated for play? • What do I need to know about play sufficiency? • Has the duty improved outcomes for children? • How can we make sure there is enough play when there is so little money? • What can I do to support play sufficiency in the council? Although this issue of Focus on play is aimed at councillors, it provides useful information about the importance of play and how we can all support the provision of play opportunities for children.

12. Newsletters

Tree Charter newsletter – latest edition available here:

<https://newsletters.woodlandtrust.org.uk/2D76-1JAFV-548OB4OZ07/cr.aspx>