

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**20th JULY 2020****TOWN CLERK'S REPORT****1. CCBC**

a) Newly published decision: Project Approvals - Conwy Business Support Grant.

A decision by Leader of the Council has been published: Project Approvals - Conwy Business Support Grant
Decision: An amount of £150,000 from the Projects Match Funding Provision be approved to provide a Business Support Grant for the benefit of businesses in Conwy County.

You can view this decision using the link: [Decision details on public web site](#)

b) Newly published decision: Supported Accommodation Tender

A decision by Leader of the Council has been published: Supported Accommodation Tender

Decision: That the contract be awarded to the organisation as outlined within the recommendation of the report.

You can view this decision using the link: [Decision details on public web site](#).

c) The Annual Meeting of the Council will be held at 2pm on Wednesday, 23 September 2020. Further information regarding attendance will be available nearer the time.

d) We are pleased to be able to start reopening our public toilets from Tuesday 7 July. This will be done in a phased manner – not all our 43 toilets will be opening at the same time. We are aiming to have most of our toilets open by the end of July, opening when it is safe to do so.

The first toilets to reopen will be:

- CAPEL CURIG – Snowdonia View
- COLWYN BAY – Central Promenade
- DEGANWY – Marine Drive
- GREAT ORME – Visitor Centre
- LLANFAIRFECHAN – Rhandd'r Hedd
- LLANRHOS – Lawn Cemetery
- LLANWRST – Cae Melwr Cemetery
- PENMAENMAWR – Tan y Foel Cemetery
- RHOS ON SEA Horizen Shine

With the need to maintain hygiene and social distancing, there will be changes to the way the public use our toilets:

A limited number of people will be allowed to enter a toilet building at one time

Users must follow instructions on social distancing and hygiene signs

Some urinals, sinks and cubicles will be closed off

Toilets will only be open from 9.00am to 5.00pm (this will be reviewed regularly)

To keep the public as safe as possible, we will:

Clean our toilets more regularly

Close toilets for short periods while we clean

We will update our website regularly with information on which toilets are open.

We hope the attached Frequently Asked Questions will help you answer any questions from your residents.

We would appreciate your help in letting local residents know about these changes. If you use social media, please share our Facebook posts to your own page and to local groups, and retweet from our Twitter account.

f) Conwy Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP)

Covid-19 Impact Survey

The Conwy Replacement Local Development Plan was progressing to Deposit before the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19). No doubt this has placed unprecedented challenges for key stakeholders, which ultimately could impact on the progression of the RLDP in a number of areas. You can view the current RLDP in its current form by viewing www.conwy.gov.uk/rldp

To help us understand this most effectively, we need to know more about how Coronavirus, and the government's response to the crisis, has impacted upon key stakeholders and their approaches and policies.

Whilst it is the priority of the Council to continue with the production of the RLDP, the intention is to undertake a fact checking exercise. We will assess your responses to fully understand whether the RLDP needs to be reviewed further before progressing to Deposit. This will be used to prepare a report for sharing locally and across the region.

Ultimately, completing this survey will hopefully avoid further requests for information from your service and provide a collective position for all Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to use in preparing local plans. Your input and time in completing this survey is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

The deadline for completing the survey is 3 August 2020.

Covid-19 Impact Survey: <https://www.conwy.gov.uk/RLDP-C19survey>

e) Conwy Business Support on Friday, 10th July 2020 launched their Covid 19 Re-opening Support grant. A grant for up to 50% of eligible project costs, with a minimum grant of £100 to a maximum of £1,500.

Who can apply?

- New business who were trading prior to Covid 19
- Businesses with a trading address in Conwy county
- Established Businesses
- Social enterprises based in Conwy county

What items are eligible?

- Covid 19 signage, marking tape posters
- Face masks, sanitiser, face shields
- Screen, thermometers, sanitiser dispensers, barriers
- Gazebos, outdoor heaters, portable credit card machines

This is not an exhaustive list. Applications for consumables and capital items to assist businesses re-opening safely and legally will be considered.

For full details contact the Business Support team at business@conwy.gov.uk

Or

For more information about the grant - <https://wfly.co/Xu98P>

Please share with your networks/connections to help support your town/village/community business to re-open safely and in line with government guidelines.

2. Courses/Conferences/Workshops

a) St John Ambulance Cymru

We're back from Wednesday, 1st July! It's official, from next Wednesday our training centres across Wales will reopen and are ready to support your training needs.

Requalification: As we start to get back to some sense of a 'new normal' and more people return to the workplace, it's important your workforce is up to date with its training qualifications.

First Aid certificate extensions: If you hold a first aid certificate that expires on or after 16 March 2020 and cannot access requalification training because of coronavirus, you may qualify for an extension.

It's recommended employers or certificate holders should try to arrange requalification training at the earliest available opportunity.

Further advice we will be following includes Public Health Wales; Health & Safety Executive. We're already seeing a high demand for our courses and so we advise you to book soon to avoid disappointment. Call us: 0345 6785 646 <https://training.stjohnwales.org.uk>

b) NSPCC learning

New: live virtual training – Introduction to safeguarding and child protection in Wales

Do you feel confident in identifying the possible signs of child abuse and neglect, and reporting your concerns?

This bespoke CPD-certified safeguarding training will help you develop your awareness and understanding of safeguarding and child protection in the Welsh context, and how this relates to your work or volunteering role.

By the end of the course you will be able to:

Name the types of child abuse and neglect and recognise the signs and indicators of each; recognise how your own beliefs, experience and attitudes might influence your involvement in safeguarding work; state how to respond to concerns about the safety and welfare of a child using your organisation's policies and procedures; know what to do with your concerns and understand the importance of keeping a record.

This live virtual training will be delivered via Zoom.

Duration and booking: Dates and times: 27 and 28 July 2020, 09.30 – 12.30. This course is split over two days and both sessions must be attended.

Price: £99 per person

For safeguarding training, resources and consultancy contact 0116 234 7246 or email training@nspcc.org.uk

3. Events

I'm sorry to report that we have cancelled the Conwy Honey Fair on Monday 14th September. It would be quite impossible to expect social distancing in the High Street, which would be packed with people. We are looking forward to resuming the Seed and Honey Fairs, when it is safe to do so.

In the meantime, we are looking at setting up a regular, small-scale Conwy Honey Market on the new Events Space next to Conwy TIC, possibly on Saturday mornings, in August and September, frequency to be decided, with a handful of honey stalls, and subject to approval and risk assessment. The initial response to this idea has been encouraging, and we'd welcome your comments.

Many thanks for your support. Stay safe.

Kind regards, Peter McFadden, Secretary

www.conwybeekeepers.org.uk

4. North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils

a) Good morning, I hope everyone is safe and well.

Following a meeting of the Association Executive I have been asked to write to all Members regarding decisions made by the Executive relating to the Annual Meeting due to take place in July at Connah's Quay. The decisions of the Executive taken over the last two meetings are:

- i) The Annual Meeting shall be postponed until July 2021.
- ii) The Annual Audited Accounts are to be published (copy enclosed).
- iii) The Chair and Secretary shall remain in post until the AGM in 2021.
- iv) The post of Vice Chair (currently vacant) shall be subject to election at the first Quarterly Meeting that can be held with people attending in person. This will be subject to the Welsh Government directions.
- v) The Annual Fees for Membership of the Association shall remain at the same level as 2019-2020. (i.e. £90 for larger councils, £65 for medium councils and £50 for smaller councils). Invoices will be issued in July in the normal way.
- vi) Monthly updates will be posted on the web site setting out the activities progressing of the Association.
- vii) Consultations will be notified to Members for comment as normal.

No doubt you will let me, the Chair or President know if you have any observations on the above decisions of the Executive.

Kind regards, Robert Robinson, Secretary

b) North Coast and Conwy Valley Railway Liaison Committee

I enclose a letter and document regarding the new North Coast and Conwy Valley Rail Liaison Committee as agreed with Transport for Wales.

I would be pleased if you could take a look at it and confirm if you are interested in being part of it. To give you some idea of how the group would work and what it could achieve it would be worthwhile looking at the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee web site at

www.shrewsburyaberystwythrailway.org.uk

Kind regards, Robert Robinson, Secretary to the North & Mid Wales Association of Local Councils

LETTER FOLLOWS:

Good morning.

I am writing to introduce you to a new Rail Liaison Committee covering the North Coast and Conwy Valley Lines and wish to invite your organisation to be represented on the group.

The new Liaison Group is being set up with the support of Transport for Wales and is not there to replace existing groups involved in the line but to add to it. The main purpose is to give Community Councils a direct liaison with the rail operators including Transport for Wales, Network Rail and the British Transport Police.

The Group will be active and not just a 'talking shop' so that it can be supportive and constructive in gaining improvements to the North Coast and Conwy Valley lines.

The enclosed document setting out the proposed way forward with the Liaison Group are listed below:

- a) The proposed format of the Liaison Group
 - b) The full list of those invited to attend (initially) on pages 2 & 3 of the proposed format document.
- I would be pleased if you could let me know, when you are able, if you have any observations regarding the Liaison Group and do hope that you will be part of it.

The new group will be administered by the North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils so that the Liaison Committee will have stability.

To give you some idea how the new group will work please see the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee which operates for the Cambrian Lines at www.shrewsburyaberystwythrailway.org.uk

The programme for setting up the Liaison Committee is planned to be:

- a) Initial letters sent out the interested parties. - 25th June 2020
- b) Web Site up and running. - 14th July 2020
- c) Initial first meeting (subject to Coronavirus restrictions) - October 2020

I will keep you informed as matters progress.

To view the proposed format document referred to above, please email the Guildhall.

Cllrs John Rooney and Gary Willets have offered to be Conwy Town Council's liaison officers in order that they can report back to the Town Council on the Committee.

- c) Good evening, I hope all are well.

I enclose a document (read your way to sleep) which is a Welsh Government Consultation on scoping for Transport Policy in Wales. I also enclose a suggested response for comment by Members so that the Executive can consider it later this month. Please can I have any comments, suggestions or observations by 23rd July.

Thanks, keep safe and well. Regards.

Robert Robinson, Secretary

Cllrs John Rooney and Gary Willets will respond to the above on the Town Council's behalf.

The consultation and suggested response are available to Councillors on request.

- d) Several Welsh stations are to lose train services for a "short time" because their platforms have raised social distancing concerns. They are either too short or too curved to allow the opening of two train doors, Transport for Wales (TfW) said. Services will no longer stop at Llanfairpwll and Valley on Anglesey, Conwy, Gilfach Fargoed in Caerphilly county or Sugar Loaf in Powys. The changes come into force on Monday, [6th July 2020] TfW said.

- First drop in rail journeys in 24 years
- Transport for Wales 'breaks Welsh language rules'
- 'Inadequate' toilet provision on new TfW trains

Prees and Hopton Heath and Yorton in Shropshire, and Earlestown in Merseyside, England, are also affected. A TfW spokesman told the Local Democracy Reporting Service risk assessments had found two train doors had to be in operation to allow a safe distance between customers and conductors. The move has been criticised by Anglesey county councillors in Llanfairpwll, who said passengers would be forced onto buses to catch rail services from Bangor. Councillor Alun Mummery said: "In our view, the move is quite ridiculous when you consider that services, albeit limited, have been running through Llanfair all through the pandemic. Yet now that restrictions are slowly being lifted, we're told that trains will no longer stop here. "It makes no sense to be honest." Councillor Gwilym O Jones said there were similar concerns in Valley, but he accepted the difficulties facing TfW and had invited a representative to address the Valley community council. The island's member of the Senedd (MS), Rhun ap Iorwerth, added: "Safety is vitally important of course, but to say that the only safety measure possible is to effectively stop the service for many rail users seems unreasonable to me. "Rail links to and from these Anglesey stations are essential for many users including key workers, who have kept Wales going throughout this pandemic." He said TfW had told him it was looking into a rail replacement services. A TfW spokesperson said the safety of its customers and staff was its top priority.

5. Transport for Wales

We wanted to provide you with an update on the results of the latest risk assessments that have been undertaken at our stations, as we continue to introduce additional safety measures at stations across Wales and Borders and on our trains, due to Covid-19.

In order to maintain a safe distance between the conductor and customers, we need to be able to operate two train doors. The risk assessments identified some of our stations, with short platform lengths and curvatures will not facilitate this – please see the list of the stations impacted below.

We would appreciate it if you could share this message with your wider networks and do let us know if it impacts any key workers who may be dependent on a service from one of the stations named. We are currently monitoring passenger numbers in order to understand demand and inform decisions around any Rail Replacement Services.

Passengers will be informed via our usual communication platforms, as well as posters at affected stations, neighbouring stations and CIS screens.

As you will be aware, current Welsh Government guidance is to Keep Wales Safe and travel only if your journey's essential. A reduced timetable is operating throughout the Transport for Wales network. This timetable has been developed to provide as reliable a service as possible for essential journeys whilst social distancing is in place.

We will continuously review these stations in line with Welsh Government and UK Government guidelines.

Stations affected and the nearest stations to them/other details

Gilfach - Fargoed Bargoed

Conwy - Llandudno Junction

Llanfairpwll - Bangor

Valley/Fali - Holyhead/Caergybi

Hopton Heath - Bucknell

Sugar Loaf - Llanwrtyd Wells

Yorton- Some services removed – Crewe shuttle still in operation

Prees - Some services removed – Crewe shuttle still in operation

Earlestown - TfW services impacted

6. Road Works

Traffic Cymru/Traffic Wales - A55 Junction 19 Glan Conwy Pinchpoint Scheme

Proposed Works: Widening of circulatory, installation of traffic signals and upgrade to the street lighting.

Programme Start Date: Tuesday 16th June 2020.

Programme Completion Date: Wednesday 30th September 2020

Further information, including regular updates, regarding this project can be obtained on the website of the Welsh Government's Traffic Information Service www.traffic.wales

7. Awel y Mor Offshore Wind Farm

I hope that you are well during these uncertain times. I am writing to update you on two developments which may be of interest. Please find enclosed two separate update letters for your attention with a supporting infographic.

Firstly, we are delighted to announce that following permission granted by The Crown Estate in October 2019 to extend the existing Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm, the Agreement for Lease for the [Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm](#) (its 'sister' project) has now been successfully signed by all shareholder parties. As I am sure you will agree, this is an exciting early milestone for the project as it works towards becoming operational by 2030, in line with Welsh Government (and UK) net-zero targets. The project will also help increase opportunities for our valuable supply chain following the recent challenging times.

Secondly, we would like to inform you that the major asset swap between RWE and E.ON is now finally complete, with the renewables business of innogy joining RWE. This reinforces our position as a major global energy player and leading renewables generator. The integration of innogy further strengthens our position in Wales, comprising over 2,650MW installed capacity across 11 sites, directly employing 315 people (with many more indirectly). In the UK as a whole, we employ over 2,600 people and generate enough power for over 10m homes (see attached infographic detailing our footprint in UK & Ireland). As a company we have set our sights high, envisaging RWE will play a key role in developing the energy world of tomorrow and driving progress towards net-zero.

I hope that the above finds you well. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Ffion Davies, Senior Public Relations Officer, RWE Renewables UK

Please email the Guildhall if you wish to see the update letters and infographic referred to above.

8. Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board: Covid Conversations

Dear Colleague

As part of our Covid Conversations we have put together an information sheet directing you to advice and guidance on some of the issues raised in relation to:

- Symptoms & Self Isolating: <https://gov.wales/symptoms-and-self-isolation-contact-tracing>
- Applying for a Covid-19 test: <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>
- Using the home testing kit: <https://gov.wales/using-coronavirus-home-testing-kit>
- Contact Tracing: <https://gov.wales/test-trace-protect-process-summary>
- Shielding Guidance: <https://gov.wales/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-people-defined-on-medical-grounds-as-extremely-vulnerable-from-coronavirus-covid-19-html>

Please follow the links on each heading for up to date information. We would be grateful if you could share this information sheet widely with your stakeholders, service users and employees.

Additional useful links

- BCUHB Covid Conversations Survey: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/GS6HY6/>
- Welsh Government Resources: Test, Trace, Protect in different languages <https://gov.wales/test-trace-protect-process-summary>
- Easy read overview of what happens <https://gov.wales/what-happens-when-you-get-test-coronaviruscovid-19-easy-read>

Please email the Guildhall if you would like a copy of the original information sheet forwarding to you.

9. Newsletters

a) Play Wales e-bulletin – July 2020

To view the e-bulletin use the following link:

<https://mailchi.mp/playwales/ebulletin-july-efwletin-gorffennaf?e=ab6fcd0a9f>

b) Welsh Hearts / Calonau Cymru – The Heart Charity for Wales / Elusen Y Galon Dros Cymru

Newsbeat – June 2020

Dear Supporter,

I hope our June Newsletter finds you all safe and well during these difficult times.

Like so many other charities and small businesses, it is such a difficult and worrying time, and my heart goes out to you all. Welsh Hearts continues to give vital support to communities in these unprecedented times but we urgently need your help, so we can carry out our life saving work.

Welsh Hearts was set up as Wales needed better access to defibrillators and heart screening sessions, we work tirelessly to save lives in Wales. We have done this without government support, but sheer hard work and with the help and support of all our supporters. Unable to hold events and fundraise publicly over the last few months, the charity has found itself in a difficult position. Every second counts when someone is having a cardiac arrest, and we still need more publicly-accessible defibrillators, and for young people to have free heart screenings to detect life-threatening illnesses, which otherwise would go unnoticed.

It would be devastating to lose everything we have fought for. There is so much more to be done to continue saving lives in Wales, but we cannot do it without you. When this horrible pandemic has passed, Welsh lives will be lost from a lack of a defibrillator being near, or by a heart screening not being freely available.

COVID-19 is a virus which attacks all of the major organs of the body including the heart and of course those with underlying health conditions are most at risk. As a result of the pandemic ambulance response times which were on average 8-10 minutes are now understandably much longer. Because of all of this the absolute need for heart defibrillators to combat cardiac arrest within communities could not be greater.

Please give what you can, no matter how little. We are determined to get through this, but we need your support as you will continue to need ours. Please donate what you can go to www.welshhearts.org/donate

Thank You from the bottom of my heart, stay well and safe. Thank you Diolch o Galon

Grants for Defibrillators

Welsh Hearts have grants available for defibrillators for churches, places of worship, funeral homes and crematoriums throughout Wales.

We know that funds are short especially now and that everyone is fundraising hard to place these vital life saving devices in communities this is why Welsh Hearts can help you!

We are offering you a special grant to help you at this time, as we know there is a higher than average incidence of cardiac arrest at places of worship.

Please follow the link to apply online: <https://welshhearts.org/apply-for-a-defib>

Please email the Guildhall if you wish to see the entire newsletter

10. Welsh Government Consultations

	Closing Date
<u>Education and Skills</u>	
Embedding a whole-school approach to mental health and well-being	30th September 2020
<u>Environment and Climate Change</u>	
Coal policy in Wales	23 rd September 2020
<u>Farming and Countryside</u>	
Ban on commercial third party sales of puppies and kittens: young people's consultation	17 th August 2020
Ban on third party sales of puppies and kittens	17 th August 2020
<u>Justice and Law</u>	
The Draft Senedd Cymru (Disqualification) Order 2020	1 st September 2020