

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**2nd February 2015****TOWN CLERK'S REPORT****1. Conwy Environment Day – 11/2/15**

Waste skips will be located in Morfa Bach Car Park, Conwy, off the B5106 Llanrwst Road. Please bring any unwanted household items, recycling or garden rubbish to the skips between 9.30am and 2.30pm. Free Compost will be available – bring a container if you want to take some away. If you are physically unable to bring your items to the skips & require assistance please contact Conwy's Environment Advice Team by 5pm on the Monday before the event. Please do not leave unwanted items outside your property as this will be classed as fly tipping & enforcement procedures will be taken. We will also be undertaking graffiti removal, litter picking, street sweeping, overgrowth clearance & minor repairs in the area. For further information please contact Environment, Roads & Facilities Tel: 01492 575337, E-mail: erf@conwy.gov.uk Environment Days are funded by Welsh Government through the Tidy Towns initiative

2. Important Changes to Applications for Social Housing

"You may recall that the Council adopted new housing allocations policy for the county. The new policy was approved following extensive consultation with people on the waiting list & stakeholders from across the county. Representatives from Conwy, Flintshire & Denbighshire Councils have been working together along with North Wales Housing Associations for some time to develop systems & processes to implement policy. We are writing to inform you of the important changes implemented by the new policy on Social Housing Applications that will take effect from April 2015 in Flintshire & Conwy. (These changes will also take place in Denbighshire at a later date that is still to be confirmed.)

The new policy will see a single housing register for which county which will mean that instead of applicants being on a waiting list with each housing organisation there will be 1 application & 1 housing register. The new system will be much simpler & easier for residents to understand. The new housing registers will be administered within each local authority for all the housing providers in each county.

You may be aware we do not have enough properties to give everyone on the waiting list a home & therefore the new policy, which has been adopted by all the councils, will change how social housing is allocated to ensure that the people in the most need are helped first. The new system will see all people who apply for social housing assessed to see if they meet certain, statutory criteria that will determine their level of housing need. They will also be assessed as to their local connection with the area & community in which they want to live. The new system has a number of bands & only those people in the greatest & most urgent need will be in the higher bands & therefore get priority for housing. The new system will also apply to those people already on the waiting list. We are writing to all these people in the next few days explaining the new system & asking if they wish to be considered for the new list. Those people that return their form will be contacted in person & their housing needs discussed. They will be offered advice & assistance to meet their housing needs & if necessary, placed on the new waiting list in the band that best reflects their level of housing need. We look forward to your continued support as we work through these changes. You can contact the Housing Solutions Services team on 0300 124 0050. Sam Parry, Housing Services Manager, Conwy County Borough Council"

3. If Your Home is Hard to Heat, Call Nest

The Welsh Government's Nest scheme is here to help you keep warm & save money on your energy bills. Nest is open to all householders in Wales & provides advice on saving energy, money management, energy tariffs & benefit entitlement. In addition to free advice, if you own or privately rent your home & you or someone you live with receives a means tested benefit, you may be eligible for home improvements at no cost. These may include a new central heating boiler, loft insulation, or cavity wall & solid wall insulation. If your home is hard to heat, please contact Nest on Freephone 0808 808 2244 for free advice & to see if you are eligible for energy saving home improvements, or visit www.nestwales.org.uk for more information.

4. North Wales Police

a) Gun Owners to be Well Prepared for Certificate Renewal

Gun owners due to renew their shotgun or firearms certificate this year should make sure they get their application in with plenty of time to spare. 2015 is one of the peak years of licensing activity as a regular 5-year cycle of large numbers of certificates needing renewal approaches. North Wales Police are advising owners to get their applications in at least 8 weeks before their certificate is due to expire. It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that their certificates are renewed. If you submit your application from outside of this 8 week period then it is your responsibility to find alternative storage arrangements for your shotguns/firearms & ammunition. The possession and use of firearms in the UK is prohibited unless you have been granted a suitable licence by the police. A licence to use or possess firearms or shotguns will only be granted to those people who can demonstrate they have good reason for using a firearm & pose no risk to the public. In accordance with Home Office Guidance North Wales Police will not issue you with a section 7 permit if you have failed to submit your application form in good time. If your renewal application is unfortunately delayed by North Wales Police we will automatically issue you a section 7 permit prior to the expiry date to cover your continued possession of shotguns/firearms and ammunition. In October last year North Wales Police joined other police forces across England & Wales as part of a campaign calling for firearms owners to ensure their guns were kept securely. The campaign was launched in support of the Home Office who updated their firearms guidance allowing forces & constabularies to conduct unannounced home visits. The Firearms Act state that weapons must be kept safe & secure at all time to prevent unauthorised access, as far as is reasonably practicable. Further guidance regarding the safe storage of firearms is available via the Home Office (link to

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117794/security_leaflet.pdf) Further information regarding firearms licensing – including all fees is available via this link (<http://www.north-wales.police.uk/about-us/departments/firearms-licensing.aspx>)

b) New Years' Resolution – Join the Special Constabulary

Are you looking for a new challenge for 2015? Want to get fit, meet new people & boost your CV? Why not consider joining the North Wales Police Special Constabulary? Working in conjunction with Heart FM, North Wales Police have launched its New Year Special Constable Recruitment Campaign. The campaign includes a series of social media messages as well as an advertising campaign on Heart FM North Wales. By supporting the regular force in meeting local policing needs, the Special Constabulary are an important part of the police service & have a vital role to play in the future of policing. With North Wales Police you would be expected to carry out a variety of tasks. Duties could include assisting regulars on patrol, crime prevention work & community liaison projects. North Wales Police currently have 115 Special Constables, who each volunteer up to 16 hours per month. The role of the Special Constable is a voluntary one which means there is no salary but any expenses incurred carrying out the role are covered so any volunteers are not left out of pocket. Many organisations support the Employer Supported Policing (ESP) scheme, an initiative aimed at helping employers support their staff to become special

constables. Employers are encouraged to sponsor those of their workforce that are, or wish to be Special Constables by allowing a specific amount of paid time to help them fulfil part of their duties. Vacancies are now open to applicants over the age of 17 years & 9 months. However, please note that you must be 18 years old before starting training. Between 1/9/15 & 31/12/14 North Wales Police Special Constables volunteered 11,644 hours. Further information on how to join the Special Constabulary is available via the North Wales Police website www.north-wales.police.uk If you are an employer and are interested in participating in the Employer Supported Policing scheme please phone 01492 804699 or email the team (link to SSFSpecialsRecruitment@nthwales.pnn.police.uk)

5. Public Service Ombudsman

The Finance Committee of the National Assembly for Wales is consulting on its inquiry into Consideration of Powers: Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. Please see link: <http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/documents/s35937/Consultation%20Letter.pdf> The Committee would be grateful if you could forward a copy of this letter to any individuals or organisations that might like to contribute to the inquiry. A word version of the consultation letter is available upon request by emailing SeneddFinance@Assembly.Wales The consultation closes on 20 March 2015.

6. Conwy County Borough Council – Meetings

The time of the meeting of Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 5/2/15 at 2pm at Bodlondeb has been brought forward to 1pm

7. Conwy Morfa Coastal Repair Works

I am pleased to inform you that coastal defence repair works along the Conwy Morfa frontage will commence the week commencing 26/1/15 & are scheduled to take 6 weeks to complete. Please note that diversions will be put in place for pedestrians using the coastal path as it will be closed for the duration of the works to ensure public safety. Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me. Ryan Garner, Environment Officer, Flood Risk & Infrastructure Group, Environment, Roads & Facilities, Conwy County Borough Council

8. European Walled Towns 47th Executive Meeting

3rd to 6th June 2015, Bergen Op Zoom, The Netherlands
For more information please contact the Town Clerk

9. Funding

a) Social Care Small Grants (< £10k)

Social Care Small Grants (up to £10k) are available for organisations which support the delivery of Conwy County Borough Council Social Care aims. This money is available for delivery between April 2015 & March 2016, & should not be relied upon to deliver “core” services on an ongoing basis. We want to work with local organisations to support people in our county, putting in place approaches & services which reduce their need to access statutory social services. Social Care in Wales is going through huge changes. The Social Services & Well Being Act 2014 placed a responsibility on Local Authorities to help people to avoid needing to access social care services. Closing date 16/2/15. For more information & an application form email wellbeing@conwy.gov.uk

b) 0% Business Loans Available to Welsh SMEs

0% unsecured business loans remain available to small & medium sized businesses in Wales wishing to upgrade to more energy efficient equipment. Loans are available from £3k to £200k & are repayable over 1-4 years. The loans are designed to pay for themselves – with the projected energy savings being equal to the monthly repayments. The 0% business loans can be used for a variety of energy efficient technology projects including lighting, heating, air conditioning, refrigeration/chillers,

biomass. Many customers start with the more straightforward projects such as lighting & then move on to others once they have seen the benefit of energy cost reductions. Customers may have more than one loan up to a total value of £100k. Terms & Conditions & eligibility rules apply. For more information please [visit our website](#) or call our team on [028 9073 4398](tel:02890734398). The Carbon Trust Loans team

c) GwirVol Grants 2015-16

GwirVol is pleased to announce the launch of the 2015-2016 youth volunteering grants. The aim of the GwirVol Youth Volunteering Grants scheme is to support the delivery of a wide range of new volunteering opportunities in Wales & overseas that will support the step change in access to volunteering for young people aged 14-25 & especially for disadvantaged young people. The GwirVol grant scheme offers 3 different strands of funding.

- **Creating Opportunities:** For organisations looking to create new youth volunteering projects, new youth volunteering roles or to recruit more young people into existing volunteering roles. Creating Opportunities grant applications can be for up to a maximum amount of £10k
- **Millennium Volunteers:** For organisations looking to recognise the commitment young people give to volunteering through offering the 200 hour award of excellence. Millennium Volunteers grant applications can be for up to a maximum amount of £10k

- **International:** For organisations looking to develop overseas volunteering opportunities that benefit young people & their communities in Wales as well. International grant applications can be for up to a maximum amount of £30k
How to apply:

You can get more information & download the application forms & guidance at <http://www.gwirvol.org/en/organisations/funding/> The deadline for applications is 5pm 13/3/15

Volunteering in Wales Fund has also launched, for more information about the fund contact WCVA's Helpdesk on 0800 288 329, help@wcva.org.uk

d) CVSC Funding News

The January edition of the bulletin is available on the Chamber table in the Guildhall

10. Courses/Workshops/Training/Conferences

a) Society of Local Council Clerks

- Finance, 10/2/15, 9:30am to 4:30pm, De Vere St.David's Park, Ewloe, Members £95 plus vat, Non-Members £125 plus vat
- Positive Relationships Equal Stronger Communities, 24/3/15, 9:15am to 4:30pm, Ramada Plaza, Wrexham, Members £145 plus vat, Non-Members £185 plus vat
- North West Regional Roadshow, 25/3/15, 9am to 4pm, Mercure Last Drop Village Hotel, Bolton, Members £69 plus vat, Non-Members £89 plus vat

For more information or to book please contact the Town Clerk

b) WCVA

- Training Skills

3rd, 4th & 24th March, Rhyl

Get the knowledge, skills & confidence to plan, prepare & deliver training sessions with this 3 day accredited course. One of our most popular courses, Training Skills gives you an overview of learning theory, provides practical planning tools for designing & evaluating training, and helps prepare you for training delivery.

The course is ideal for those who are new to training &/or may have taken on a training role in their organisation for the first time. Our in-house trainers support you to get accreditation via written assessment and the design of a training course, part of which you will deliver during the 3rd day.

- Employment Law & Safeguarding Update
11th February, Rhyl

An opportunity to get your organisation up to scratch on its employment law & safeguarding responsibilities. This session, jointly delivered by Hugh James Solicitors & WCVA's specialist Criminal Records Unit, will blend theory with practical case examples to give those with management responsibilities the knowledge & skills to nip potential staffing issues in the bud before they have a chance to escalate. It also offers an exploration of the safeguarding responsibilities for third sector organisations, together with guidance on safer recruitment of staff & volunteers including DBS checks, & the circumstances in which checks are not available.

To view full information on both courses, including prices & places available, please click course title or contact our Helpdesk 0800 2888 329 or help@wcva.org.uk

c) Growing The Future

Growing & gardening related courses from 31/1/15 to 28/6/15 at:

- Bangor – Busybees food skills for all, 3 Pen y Bonc, Cyttir Lane, Bangor, LL57 4DB
- Bangor – Moelyci Environmental Centre, Felin Hen Road, Bangor, LL57 4BB
- Denbigh – Woodland Skills Centre, The Warren, Bodfari, Denbigh, LL16 4DT
- Conwy – Pencynant Conservation Centre, Sychnant Pass, Conwy, LL32 8BJ

For more information or to book visit www.growingthefuture.co.uk

call 01558 667100 twitter @GTFcymru www.facebook.co.uk/GrowingTheFuture

d) One Voice Wales Courses

Introduction to Community Engagement, 19/2/15, Mold Town Hall

Chairing Skills, 24/2/15, Bangor Isycoed Village Hall, Wrexham

Making Effective Grant Applications, 26/2/15, Caernarfon Town Hall

All courses start at 6:30 pm finishing at 9pm & cost £45 per person.

To book, please contact the Town Clerk

e) Sharing Personal Information Through Wales Accord on the Sharing of Personal Information (WASPI)

CVSC & DVSC cordially invite you to a joint information session on the benefits of WASPI (Wales Accord on the Sharing of Personal Information) specifically for Voluntary Sector Organisations. To date our focus has been on the protection of the sector's independence, impartiality & of course our personal data & respect for privacy. How can we retain all of this & still share personal information? Come along to find out how & when you can share information & how WASPI can

- help break down barriers to sharing personal information
- support you & encourage the involvement of third sector/voluntary organisations
- raise awareness of your involvement in the health & social care of service users
- encourage consistent working across public, private & voluntary sectors

Join us & Leanne Cheers from WASPI, at Dewi Sant Centre, Pensarn, Abergele on 17/2/15 from 1.30pm to 4pm. Please contact CVSC on 01492 534091 or email mail@cvsc.org.uk to book your place, remembering to let us know of any specific requirements you may have.

11. Events

a) Welsh Hearts

This March get together with friends & family in your community to hold a tea party or coffee morning for Welsh Hearts, the heart charity for Wales, & help us to save lives in Wales! Why not have a cake sale or a massive tea party with friends & family & raise much needed funds for Welsh Hearts, your local heart charity! Your event can be held during the official Wales' Biggest Tea Party month from 1st to 31st March 2015 or any time during the Spring! All monies raised in Wales is spent in Wales on heart research, funding public access defibrillators in the local community, free CPR training in schools & organisations and our soon-to-launch heart screening sessions. To register for your Wales' Biggest Tea Party fundraising pack, which contains everything from invitations, ideas, posters to stickers & balloons, please contact the Welsh Hearts Fundraising

Office: Call 02920 786 521, Email fundraising@welshhearts.org or download a fundraising pack at <http://welshhearts.org/teaparty>

b) Llandudno Youth Music Theatre – “13”

Following the recent success of Llandudno Youth Music Theatre’s production of the musical ‘AIDA’, the group is delighted to be performing another new musical called ‘13’. The show is a grown up story about growing up! With an unforgettable rock score from Tony Award-winning composer Jason Robert Brown, ‘13’ is a hilarious, high-energy musical for all ages about discovering that cool is where you find it, and sometimes where you least expect it. Come and enjoy this fabulous show & follow the story of Evan Goldman as he becomes 13 and tries to navigate the complicated circles of a new school. Comments from members of our audiences include:

“All of the leading and supporting roles handled the production with experience and maturity.”

“Llandudno Youth Music is clearly an exceptional training ground for any young talent.”

“A huge credit to a vocally incredible ensemble.”

For more information on Llandudno Youth Music Theatre, please visit our website at www.lymt.co.uk Book your tickets now to avoid disappointment. Call the Box Office on 01492 577888 or visit www.venuecymru.co.uk 6th & 7th February 2015 at 7.30pm, 7th February 2015 at 2.30pm. Tickets: £12.50 Adults, £10.50 Children, £42.00 Family All Saturday Matinee Tickets at £10.50. No Booking Fee Payable. CVSC member tickets £10.50 for the matinee, please quote CVSC when booking

c) Information Drop In Event

25/2/15, 1pm to 4pm, Conwy Borough Football Club, Y Morfa Stadium, Penmaen Road, Conwy, LL32 8HA

Conwy County Borough Council, Citizens Advice Bureau, CVSC, Credit Union, Nest

12. Newsletters

a) Gwynt Y Môr Community Investment

The December 2014 Update is available on the Chamber table in the Guildhall

b) Superfast Cymru Newsletter

Issue 2 is available on the Chamber table in the Guildhall

13. Welsh Government Consultations

Education & Skills

Closing Date

The designation of higher education courses at alternative providers for the purpose of student support 10th April

Aligning the apprenticeship model to the needs of the Welsh economy 24th April

Finance & Law

Consultation on the Draft National Assembly for Wales (Disqualification) Order 2015 11th March

Housing & Regeneration

Consultation on the statutory instruments under part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 26th February

Consultation on the Code of Guidance to Local Authorities on the Allocation of Accommodation & Homelessness 2012 23rd March

Consultation on the future of the Right to Buy & Right to Acquire – a White Paper for social housing 16th April