

# **PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2016**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Derlwyn Rees Hughes (Chair)  
Councillor Alun Wyn Mummery (Vice-Chair)

Councillors T LI Hughes, W T Hughes, Carwyn Jones, R LI Jones and Dylan Rees.

Councillor Aled M. Jones – Portfolio Holder (Housing & Social Services) (In respect of Items 4 & 5).

### **Other Members of the County Council invited to attend**

Councillors R.A. Dew, Jim Evans, Jeff M. Evans, John Griffith, K.P. Hughes, Vaughan Hughes, T.V. Hughes, H. Eifion Jones, R. Meirion Jones, J. Arwel Roberts, Peter S. Rogers, Alwyn Rowlands.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,  
Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation) (In respect of Items 4 & 5),  
Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community and Services Improvements) (In respect of Item 6),  
Head of Democratic Services,  
Policy and Strategy Manager (CWO) (In respect of Item 6),  
Technical Services Manager (DR) (In respect of Items 4 & 5),  
Senor Property Officer (GJ) (In respect of Items 4 & 5),  
Scrutiny Manager (BS),  
Scrutiny Officer (GR),  
Committee Officer (MEH).

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Richard O. Jones, Dafydd R. Thomas – Members of the Committee

Councillors Lewis Davies, Llinos M. Huws, Raymond Jones, Bob Parry OBE, Ieuan Williams

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mrs. Nia Haf Davies – Planning Policy Manager (Joint Planning Policy Unit – Gwynedd and Anglesey).

Mr. Mike Evans, Senior Planning Officer (Joint Planning Policy Unit – Gwynedd and Anglesey).

Ms. Rebecca David-Knight, Principal Consultant – Wales Centre for Public Scrutiny.

The Chair wished to sympathise with the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ieuan Williams and his family on the recent loss of his mother. Members and Officers also wished to extend their sympathy to Councillor Williams.

## **1 APOLOGIES**

As noted above.

## **2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

No declaration of interest received.

## **3 MINUTES**

The minutes of the following meetings were confirmed :-

- Minutes of the meeting held on 12 May, 2016
- Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 13 May, 2016

## **4 TEMPORARY STOPPING PLACES FOR GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS - CENTRE OF THE ISLAND**

Submitted – a report by the Head of Housing Services in relation to the above.

The Portfolio Holder (Housing & Social Services) stated that three sites were considered :-

Site 1 - Strip of land between the A55/A5 between Llanfairpwll and Star Crossroads;  
Site 2 - Parcel of land at Gaerwen smallholding;  
Site 3 - Land adjacent to the A5 near Cymunod Farm, Bryngwran.

He noted that following extensive consultation it was considered that the site identified in Bryngwran was unsuitable due to issues raised by the Highways Authority regarding the access to the site not meeting the minimum visibility safety requirements. Sites 1 and 2 remained for consideration as temporary stopping places for gypsies and travellers.

The Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation) reported that in the period of consultation there have been Drop-In events and meetings with the Community Councils for the locations where sites could be situated. Questionnaires were completed online and correspondence received from numerous residents and businesses. Responses from public sector consultees were also received which were included with the report to this Committee.

The Officer stated that there are factors in favour and against the sites at Gaerwen and Star. Gaerwen smallholding is currently in the ownership of the County Council and access via the A55 would not impinge on local villages, however the proximity to the Science Park needs to be considered. The Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service have noted a Major Restraint; this does not rule out this site since staged archaeological investigations, combined with careful consideration during the design of the site, could address these concerns. There are fewer economic development and technical concerns about the site at Star, however there would be additional costs due to the need to purchase two separate pieces of land to establish a site.

The Chair afforded Mr. Mark Inwood who is a resident and was representing the residents of Star, Gaerwen the opportunity to address the meeting. Mr. Inwood stated that a lot of work and effort has been made in understanding the policies with regard to how the Council has approach a decision with regard to the site in Star. He stated that presently the residents of Star are unable to accept the policies used by the authority; there is no reference as to whether the site is within a Landscape Conservation Area. The residents have numerous issues regarding the assessment process, one key concerns is that no risk assessment has been made on the site in Star; it is Mr. Inwood's view that it is a legal requirement that such an assessment is made. Mr. Inwood further stated that recent correspondence between him and Council officials was not afforded to members of the Committee until 24 hours before the meeting; therefore the residents of Star have lost trust in the authority's processes with regard to the traveller's site in Star and have no option but to trigger the complaints process with the Local Government Ombudsman. The Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation) responded and stated that the Authority has extensively responded to issues raised in recent correspondence and a meeting has been held between Officers and Mr. Inwood to address his concerns.

The Planning Policy Manager (Joint Planning Policy Unit – Gwynedd and Anglesey) stated that she was confident that the Authority had addressed issues raised with regard to the proposed Star Temporary Travellers Place; the factors the Authority have used to consider that the site are clearly documented in the consultation document and are acceptable. Other factors were also considered, such as accessibility, infrastructure, physical and environmental factors, habitat and protected species when deciding of specific potential stopping places. Other issues raised by Mr. Inwood are more appropriate to be addressed as part of site design and in preparing a planning application, whilst others relate to the operational management of any site.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following main issues :-

- A risk assessment needs to be undertaken on every potential traveller's site. The Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation) responded that once a site has been earmarked, a site design will be undertaken and thereafter a planning application will need to be made to the local authority. A risk assessment will be part of the planning application process; the Planning Policy Manager confirmed that there is no requirement to undertake a risk assessment to identify sites for inclusion in the Joint Development Plan;
- Questions were raised as to the possibility of gypsies and travellers deciding not to use the designated sites and encamping on unauthorised land on the Island. The Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation) responded that dialogue has been undertaken through an Independent Facilitator with the gypsies and travellers and it is understood that some have visited the Island over a number of years and would only need a site for a short period every year. They have stated that they would use a designated site and would be willing to pay a fee for the use of the site. This had been reaffirmed when the Technical Services Manager visited the unauthorized encampment at Mona during July; he was certain that the two sites identified are suitable;
- Councillors stated that both sites at Gaerwen and Star would be visible from the A55/A5. The Officer's responded that screening options would need to be discussed during the site design process before submitting a planning application;
- Councillors referred to recent reports that travellers had left a site in Mona in an untidy state with waste left all over the land. The Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation) responded that she visited the site following the departure of the traveller's and the land where the caravans had been sited was not

left in an untidy state, though there had been fly-tipping of industrial waste in another part of the site;

- Questions raised regarding how the Authority will monitor and control the gypsy and travellers sites. The Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation) responded that resources will need to be put in place to open the site when required, and to liaise with the Gypsies and Travellers in advance of their visits; the authority will work closely with North Wales Police in designing the site and agreeing site management arrangements;
- Concerns regarding the impact on the Science Park in attracting businesses to the site and potential of having to secure the Park so that it is not accessible to the use of the local residents;
- A Councillor raised questions about what he perceived to be inconsistencies in the consultation document, as well as some responses from Community Councils not included;
- No information available about the costs of preparing Temporary Stopping Places for gypsies and travellers have been made available. The Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation) responded that there are three types of costs – land will need to be purchased if the site in the Star is approved; costing will need to be calculated with regard to the creation of access to either site as well as preparing facilities for hard standing and screening; thereafter costing regarding the running of the site will apply regardless of which site is selected. She noted that the approval of the Executive will need to be secured before any resources can be released.

It was **RESOLVED to recommend to the Executive that it gives consideration to all the recommendations in the report and decides on the preferred temporary site from the two options outlined in the report.**

**ACTION : As noted above.**

## **5 TEMPORARY STOPPING PLACES FOR GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS - HOLYHEAD VICINITY**

Submitted – a report by the Head of Housing Services in relation to the above.

The Portfolio Holder (Housing & Social Services) stated that extensive public consultation was undertaken by the Council with regard to two identified sites at Tyddyn Lantern Farm, Holyhead and Former farm off Cyttir Road, Holyhead. He noted that following the consultation it is considered that both sites are unsuitable to proceed as sites for the allocation of temporary stopping place for gypsies and travellers within the Joint Local Development Plan.

The Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation) reported that a recorded pattern has emerged with Irish Travellers travelling to and from Ireland and stopping at various locations near the port in Holyhead for short period of time i.e. 1 to 2 days. This established a need for a temporary stopping site in Holyhead to be included within the Joint Local Development Plan. The consultation response had clearly shown that the two sites included in the consultation were not appropriate, for the reasons outlined in the report. However, the consultation process had proved valuable in that it had provided Officers with further information about the travel patterns to and from the Port. It was further stated that negotiations need to be undertaken with large companies who intend to develop in Holyhead with regard to land been made available for a temporary stopping place for gypsies and travelers in the Holyhead vicinity.

The Officer further reported that a short-term solution needs to be considered by placing bins to reduce domestic waste and fly-tipping in locations where travellers establish unauthorised encampments in locations in Holyhead.

It was **RESOLVED to recommend to the Executive that it approves all the recommendations contained in the report.**

**ACTION : As noted above.**

## **6 WELSH LANGUAGE STRATEGY 2016 - 2021 (DRAFT)**

Submitted – the report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community and Services Improvement) in relation to the above.

The Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community and Services Improvement) gave a background to the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011 with regard to the Welsh Language Strategy. It was reported that the Strategy outlines the proposed approach towards promoting the Welsh Language and facilitating its wider use within the area and targets the increase/maintaining the number of Welsh speakers by the end of the 2021. The Anglesey Strategic Language Forum membership of which was included within the report, has been established to identify priorities and formulating the Welsh Language Strategy. It is intended to create an action plan for the second year before the end of the Strategy's first year. It will be the responsibility of the Strategic Language Forum to monitor progress against set targets. The Assistant Chief Executive stated that the 2011 Census showed a decrease in Welsh speakers on the Island and the Council's vision is to increase the number of Welsh speakers to at least 60.1% by the 2021 Census.

It was further stated that there is a proposal to offer 'welcome packs' to newcomers to the Island explaining the language and culture of Wales. The Chair wished it to be recorded the success of the Welsh Football Team during the European Championship recently and how Wales has been given an enhance profile of the culture and its language.

The Policy and Strategy Manager reported that the Anglesey Language Forum has agreed to focus on three themes :-

- **Children, Young People and the Family**

**Aim :**

- An increase in the number of families where Welsh is used as the main language with children, with an increase in the opportunities and support for it to be used socially;
- Ensuring that all children have the right to be fully bilingual by the age of 16;
- Increasing the capacity and the use of Welsh as a medium of communication and learning among children and young people in education and in social activities.

- **The Workforce, Welsh Language Services, the Infrastructure**

**Aim :**

- To promote and increase the availability of Welsh language services, increase opportunities/expectations to use Welsh in the workplace and work together to identify opportunities to mainstream the language into developments and activities.

The Officer reported that whilst the Authority aims to increase the development of the Welsh language within the workplace it is hoped to increase the profile of the Welsh language within the Town/Community Councils on Anglesey. The Strategic Plan has identified that a Welsh Language Champion is needed within the Town/Community Councils.

- **The Community**

**Aim :**

- Promoting and marketing the value and importance of Welsh;
- Promote and identify opportunities to strengthen the Welsh language within the communities and identify gaps in provision.

The Officer reported that it is important that the Strategic Plan conforms with policies within the Local Development Plan to have an adequate number of housing for local residents so as to increase the linguistic prosperity of the Island. It was also noted that empty homes and affordable housing need to be made available.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following main issues :-

- The need to strengthen opportunities within the local communities to enable people who wish to learn the Welsh language;
- Town/Community Councils should be afforded further resources to allow for the services of a Translator, if required, at their meetings. Resources should also be available to enable agendas and minutes of meetings been bilingual. The Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community and Services Improvement) responded that whilst agreeing with the comments made, she noted that there are no further resources available at present. She noted that Town/Community Councils may have to consider raising the precept of the Council Tax to address the issue raised. She further stated that Unllais Cymru have noted that they are willing to afford Town/Community Council with a presentation as to how to deal with their meetings and administration bilingually;
- The influx of potential Wylfa Newydd workers living on the Island will impact on the Welsh language statistics. The Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community and Services Improvement) responded that dialogue with the owners of Wylfa Newydd has been undertaken to ascertain as to how they intend to protect the Welsh language on the Island when the workers arrive to construct the power station in the future. She further stated that a suggestion has been put to them that they should consider financing 5 dedicated Officers within the catchment areas of the Island to promote culture, sports and the Welsh language;
- Concerns raised with regard to some children choosing not to speak Welsh when they leave primary schools to secondary schools. The Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community and Services Improvement) responded that the Education Department have been working with the new Head of Ysgol Cybi in Holyhead and the Heads of the three schools that will amalgamate into the new school have agreed on priorities within their improvement plan which includes the improvements in the literacy of children attending the school. The Holyhead High School has also been part of the improvement plan with regard to the work required to improve the Welsh language within the school. She further stated that School Governors should also be encouraged to priorities the use of the Welsh language within their schools;
- That young people within the Authority's secondary schools be able to be guided into the opportunities that will be created within the Energy Island major projects with regards to administration posts and engineering opportunities. The Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community and Services Improvement) responded that the

Authority has stated that they would like to see 90% of the apprenticeships afforded opportunities within the Energy Island projects to be bilingual;

- Whilst welcoming the County Council intentions to further enhance the use of the Welsh language within the day to day running of the authority, it was suggested that there is a need to go a further step with regard to having meetings of the Senior Leadership Team, Head of Service and Senior Managers meetings through the medium of Welsh. Specific departments should be targeted to enhance the use of the Welsh language. The Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community and Services Improvement) responded that most meetings are conducted through the medium of Welsh but agreed that some departments need to enhance the use of Welsh language. She stated that the Policy and Strategy Manager has been instrumental in guiding staff opportunities to be able to attend courses and activities to enhance and learn the Welsh language;
- The enhancement of the use of the Welsh language within the administration of the Authority would enlighten the young people of the Island to appreciate that there are opportunities within the local authority to use the Welsh language and to keep them on the Island;
- The need for enhancing opportunities to use the Welsh language within Community activities within the Island. Organisations within the communities should consider making applications to the Isle of Anglesey Charitable Trust with regard to enhancing the use of the Welsh language during activities they are responsible for.

Following further deliberations it was **RESOLVED to endorse the Welsh Language Strategy 2016-2021 (Draft) for approval by the Executive and thereafter by the full Council.**

**ACTION : As noted above.**

## **7 DEVELOPMENT OF SCRUTINY OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD**

The Committee adjourned into a workshop to receive a presentation by Ms. Rebecca David-Knight, Principal Consultant – Wales Centre for Public Scrutiny.

## **8 WORK PROGRAMME**

Submitted - the report of the Scrutiny Officer on the Committee's Work Programme to April 2017.

A Member stated that he considered that the Scrutiny Committee should be afforded a presentation by the major developers who intend to develop on the Island with regard to employment possibilities, community benefit and promote the Welsh Language. The Scrutiny Officer responded that he considered that any presentation by major developers should be afforded at the monthly Members briefing sessions and any specific topic raised at the briefing meetings be thereafter included on the Committees Work Programme.

**RESOLVED to note the Work Programme to April 2017.**

**ACTION : As noted above.**

The meeting concluded at 5.00 pm

**COUNCILLOR D.R. HUGHES  
CHAIR**