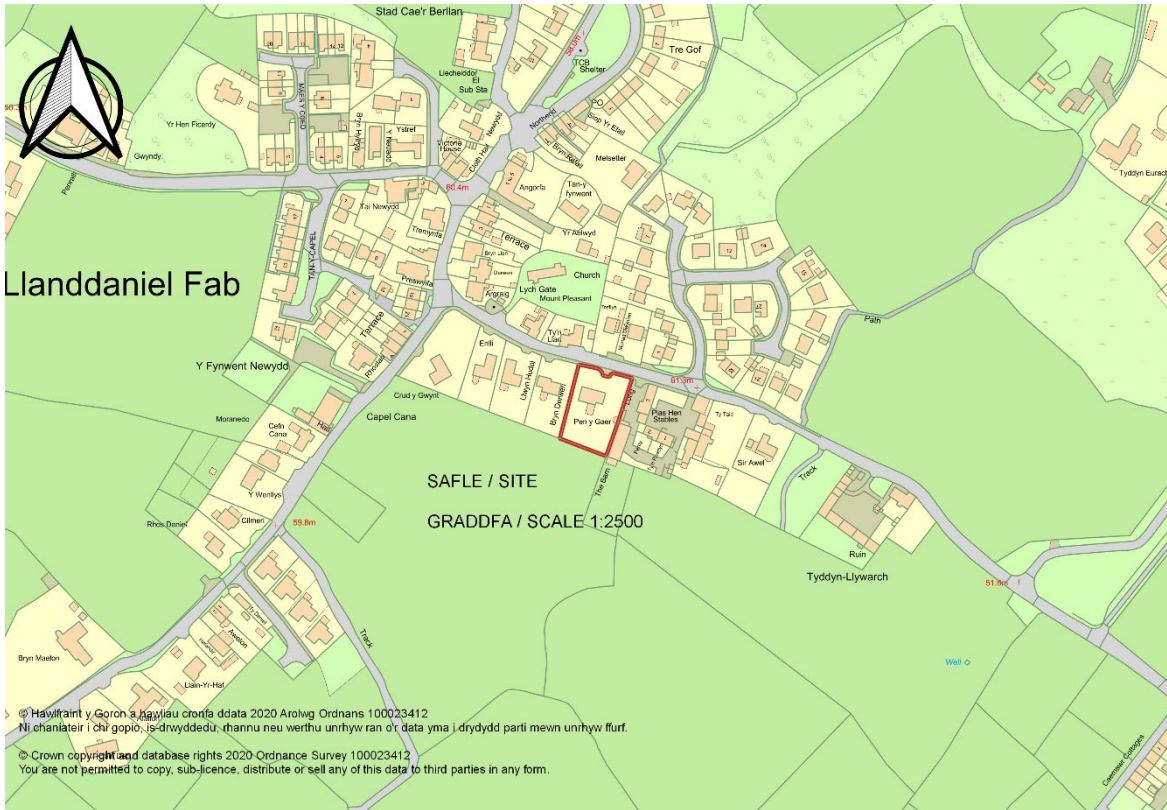


Application Reference: HHP/2020/278

Applicant: Mr. Dafydd Yaxley

Description: Full application for the erection of a double garage at

Site Address: Pen y Gaer, Llanddaniel



### Report of Head of Regulation and Economic Development Service (Nia Jones)

#### Reason for Reporting to Committee

To report for information that the above application was submitted on behalf of the applicant by his professional agent but the question on the standard form asking whether the applicant is or is related to an Authority employee or elected member was ticked negatively. Following the assessment of the application after the expiry of statutory consultations and publicity, the proposal was approved under delegated powers on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021. No objections had been received from neighbouring occupiers and the Community Council confirmed it had no objection to the application.

In May 2021 it was brought to the Authority's attention that the applicant is the spouse of an Authority employee and the son in law of an elected member. In accordance with the Council's Constitution,

(vi) applications including Lawful Development Certificate applications submitted by serving Members of the Council or officers of the Council who may be seen to be involved in processing and / or determination of planning applications (ie staff employed in the Planning Service, Chief Executive, Deputy

Chief Executive, Directors, Heads of Service and other officers who regularly have an input into the planning system – eg highways and drainage, legal, environmental health, housing officers, economic development or their close relatives (defined as spouses / partners, parents, children, brothers and sisters)(or a close friend of a serving councillor or such officer)).

Albeit the Authority employee in this case is not named as the applicant, and is not herself involved in processing or determining planning applications, she was a beneficiary of the planning permission and as she is the daughter of an elected Member, the application ought to have been submitted to the Planning and Orders Committee for determination. The application form did not disclose the relationship and the planning officers were unaware of the relationship in determining the application. The Deputy Monitoring Officer has reviewed the file and confirmed the application has been determined in the usual manner.

He adds that no blame can be laid at the door of planning officers and they have acted reasonably in the matter. There appears to have been a misunderstanding on the wording of paragraph (vi) above but the applicants have gained no advantage in this matter and the application has, in all other respects, been processed in the normal way. He advises that paragraph (vi) be reworded to make it clearer and that publicity is given to the change amongst members and the officers to whom it applies.