

Town and Community Councils Liaison Meeting

Thursday, 23 January 2014 at 7.00 pm

Present

Arfon Owen
Margaret Thomas
Arnold Milburn
Marilyn Hughes
Gwyn Jones
Gareth Cemlyn Jones
Chris Gordon Topps
Jack Jones
Arfon Jones
John Jukes
Anna Jones
Cliff Everett
Dafydd Roberts
Geraint Parry
Eifion H. Jones
Elfed Jones
Ian Owen
Ted Thomas
Owen Davies
B Kotkowicz
Stan Zalot
Dafydd Griffiths
JE Lewis
Julia Dobson
Enid Mummary

Representing Town and Community Councils

Cylch y Garn
Llangefni
Llangefni
Amlwch
Amlwch
Llanfairpwll
Aberffraw
Llanerchymedd
Llanerchymedd
Llanerchymedd
Tref Alaw
Tref Caergybi
Dwyran
Llangoed a Llanddona
Pentraeth
Llanbadrig
Llanfihangel Esceifiog
Llanfihangel Esceifiog
Llanddyfnan
Beaumaris
Beaumaris
Llaneilian
Llangristiolus a Cerrigceinwen
Llanbadrig
Bro Rhosyr

Hefyd yn bresennol/Also Present:

Cllr Ieuan Williams
Cllr H.E. Jones
Cllr Alwyn Rowlands
Richard Parry Jones
Gwen Carrington
Clare Williams
Huw Jones

Leader, Isle of Anglesey CC
Portfolio Holder – Finance
Portfolio Holder – Corporate Governance
Chief Executive
Director of Community
Head of Function - Resources
Interim Head of Democratic Services

Apologies:

Trewalchmai Community Council
Menai Bridge Town Council
Cllr Meirion Jones

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 4th July 2013 were confirmed as a correct record.

2. Meeting the Challenges – Budget Consultation 2014/15

Councillor H.E. Jones, Portfolio Member for Finance summarised the context of the Council's medium term financial strategy and the key issues noting in particular the projected £7.5m of savings required during 2014/15. He also referred to the guidelines received from Welsh Government in relation to the Council's budget and requested the views of the Town and Community Councils on the proposed 5% increase in Council Tax. In conclusion, the Portfolio Holder highlighted the fact that the Council's proposals focused on protecting front line services.

Comments were then invited on the details in the consultation document. The main points raised by Town and Community Councils representatives are summarised below:-

Local Service and Joint Working

- Town and Community Councils have powers to raise revenue in order to provide local services. Town and Community Council's should be encouraged to work jointly together to manage local services e.g. public conveniences. More should be done to involve local communities to raise revenue. Town and Community Councils on Holy Island and further afield should work together to explore options (Holyhead Town Council).

Grants and Community Services

- Town and Community Council's should be able to access capital grants. However, rules concerning e.g. Cyfenter prohibit this. The new Leader Programme should allow Town and Community Councils to access grants. Holyhead Town Council have recently refurbished the Empire Cinema for community use and more should be done to share good practice (Holyhead Town Council).

- Use of Charitable Trust Budget and one-off payments to Town and Community Councils to provide services e.g. via capital grants. The Charitable Trust should consider this in the next financial year (Holyhead Town Council).

Action: Holyhead Town Council and Beaumaris Town Council to provide an overview at the next meeting on managing community services.

Assets

- The need to utilise Council assets in order to realise savings (Holyhead Town Council). The Leader of the Council noted that an Officer in the Economic Development Service had been appointed to develop local partnerships and to liaise with Town and Community Councils on such matters.

Community Benefits

- The issue of Community Benefits was raised in the context of major developments and scope to re-invest in community services (Holyhead Town Council). The Leader noted that a report on Community Benefits would be considered shortly by the Executive.

Increase in Council Tax

- In relation to the proposed 5% increase in the Council Tax, clarification was requested on what a 1% increase would equate to in monetary terms (Llangoed Community Council).
- The 5% increase was considered fairly reasonable and would equate to an increase of 86p per week for a Band D property (Llangefni Town Council).
- The impact of 5% Council Tax rise in real terms for local residents was raised and scope to raise revenue e.g. charging for the use of public conveniences (Beaumaris Town Council).

Education

- School budgets and use of savings arising from closure of Ysgol Llanddona. Reference was made to the strategic outline programme and modernisation strategy considered recently by the Executive. The Leader drew attention to strategic proposals in the following areas:

- Holyhead, Beaumaris, Llannau and the South West area.
- Use of vacant school buildings and what are the Council's intention e.g. use for social housing (Aberffraw Community Council).
- Staffing Levels in schools and ratio of teacher to classroom assistants (Aberffraw Community Council).

Toursim

- Council Attractions – reduction in opening hours. Concern about the implications of proposals on tourism and the contribution of tourism to the local economy (Beaumaris Town Council).
- Importance of tourism to the Island referred to and local facilities e.g. public conveniences.

Public Conveniences and Housing

- Public conveniences in Church Bay and management of the facility during the winter. Community Council awaiting a response from the Council (Cylch y Garn Community Council).
- If this provision is to be transferred to Community Councils then the Council should provide a financial contribution (Llangristiolus and Cerrigceinwen Community Council).
- Grants for Businesses re: public conveniences. Clarification requested on status of grant and this would need to be communicated to Town and Community Councils. Also signage on buildings which are part of the scheme should be more visible (Amlwch Town Council).

Action: Information to be provided to Town and Community Councils

- Housing development in Newborough and closure of public conveniences. Facilities should be provided for public conveniences due to close proximity to Ynys Llanddwyn. Also access issues to be addressed if housing development is to proceed (Newborough Community Council).

Maritime Service

- Maritime Service and the level of beach wardens required (Aberffraw Community Council).
- In relation to beach wardens, the Council should consider the role of voluntary bodies e.g. RNLI (Beaumaris Town Council).

Social Care

- Social Care – The current consultation on Older Adult Social Care was referred to and the importance of dialogue with local communities at the outset (Beaumaris Town Council).

Level of Detail in consultation document and other observations

- Insufficient details to comment fully and not enough background information in the document e.g. what does a reduction of £104k in relation to public conveniences provision mean in reality (Llaneilian Community Council).
- Timescale of consultation raised and limited time to respond.

3. Any Other Business

Llanfairpwll Community Council drew attention to a public meeting held on 24 January 2014 in the village regarding transmission lines.