

CYNGOR TREF LLANFAIRFECHAN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Held on the 10 June 2013 in the Council Chamber at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Councillors: **Chair – Mr Ray Jones**
Mrs Tamzin Hopwood, Mrs Christine Roberts, Mr Glenn Robinson
Officer: Mrs E Shepherd Town Clerk & RFO

670. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURE 2011 PART 7: COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS –Purpose of Document to examine what is CLEAR & USEFUL

Overview: Generally recognises what is current practice in operation of Community Councils. Fair comment on their functions and purpose. Highlights co-option and community youth representatives - Possibly most useful suggestions in Consultation Document.

Chapter reference - Comment

CH 1 Community Meetings and Community Polls

In Llanfairfechan Normal Democratic existing process works well, a number of Committees are held and they report back to the Council, members of Community are invited to the Council Meetings and given the opportunity to discuss issues. Makes residents aware of guidelines if Meeting of members is required outside normal democratic process.

Directions are clear and useful.

CH2 Organisation of Communities and Councils

This does not really apply. Guidance if need arises to set up or dissolve Community Council.

Guidance Clear and useful.

CH3 Co-Option of Members of Community Councils

Recognises importance of Co-option. Public perception of democracy in operation in Council. Brings much needed expertise and alternative approach to existing Council deliberations.

Clear and useful.

CH4 Appointment of Community Youth Representatives

Proportion not helpful criterion. Does this concept apply to composition of Council as it exists in its current form? Gender Bias, Age Bias, Disability, etc.

**4.4 Both Criteria are welcomed.

**4.5 should include a residential qualification.

**4.11 Accept proposal of 'Youth View'

**4.13 Short sighted...Where is the Partnership?

**4.14 Implies youths are outside community – what's the point of involvement and recognition for 3 years then rejection – surely some recognition is required to encourage these representatives to continue in this role perhaps as Senior Youth Representatives with some status as Permanent Co-Opted members if the Democratic Process cannot be altered to accommodate them as full Councillors.

**** 13/14 Clearly Un-useful.**

CH5 Reviews of Community Areas & Electoral Arrangements

Welcome controlled cycle of review of Educational Arrangements. 15 Years far too long a period. Whatever length of time set up feedback required to Community Councils with inbuilt time to respond.

CH6 Community Councils Powers to promote Well-Being.

**6.3 welcomed although, conventionally, Community Councils' already operate with this concept in mind. Good to formalise it.

**6.6 welcome flexibility to accept change.

Clear and Useful

CH7 Grants to Community Councils

**7.3 As demands on Community Councils change and develop Direct Grant Funding are vital. Concept of Grant them becomes that of a loan?

Clear and Useful.

CH8 Model Charter Agreements between Local Authorities and Community Councils

Already in Place in Conwy.

Uncertain about the operation of the relationship, Councils uncomfortable about level of partnership, uncertainty about the level of Community Council participation in this Charter, awareness of domination by Principal Council.

**8.12 Awareness of opportunity for Principal Council to delegate services without consultation, setting inappropriate criteria for Community Council to operate, Monitoring by WAG required here.

Clear and Useful.

CH9 Schemes for the Accreditation of Quality in Community Government.

**9.3 Whilst accepting standards in Local Government must be maintained are very wary of 'accreditation'.

Apart from giving WAG the facility to identify PC's and CC's on a common framework this weakens the democratic process by imposing artificial criteria on the selection system.

Ending up with a League Table of Councils –surely WAG must have learnt from the mistakes in Educational League Tables by now. This process is completely artificial it draws attention away from the things that really matter to Communities.

It is a Bureaucratic Measure without accountability – is this democratic?

Clear and Useful.

Agreement to send the Consultation as a Committee of Llanfairfechan Town Council.

671. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 REVIEW OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOUNDARIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS IN THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF CONWY

Agreement to respond to the questionnaire – Further information will be provided following the Forum meeting with CCBC held on the 1 July 2013.

CLOSE - the meeting closed at 8pm