## Mel ab Owain - Development Officer, North Wales

Mel has worked in Local Government and the voluntary sector for most of his working life, latterly as Town Clerk for Penmaenmawr in North Wales for 4 years. Before that he worked for organisations as diverse as the Magistrates Courts, Inland Revenue, Wales Council for Voluntary Action and the CAB.

Mel was brought up in Cardiganshire and Conwy and gained a degree from the University of Wales at St David's University College, Lampeter. He subsequently gained a CILCA qualification.

After a number of years successfully promoting the 'Green Flag Award' for public and community green spaces in Wales on behalf of the Welsh Government, Mel returned to local government as Clerk and RFO of Penmaenmawr Town Council. Penmaenmawr was a progressive council and Mel has been involved in a number of initiatives to take over services from the Unitary Council including the library, street cleaning and the upgrade of the promenade. He has worked closely with local community groups on most of these projects.

More recently he worked as Clerk for Tremeirchion and Bodfari Councils. Mel hopes that his experience and skills can now be used to help community and town councils across North Wales.