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Y LLAIS

THE VOICE

**Dr Brian Gibbons
AC, Y Gweinidog
dros Gyfiawnder
Cymdeithasol a
Llywodraeth Leol yn
annerch cynhadledd
flynyddol Un Llais
Cymru yn
Llandrindod**



**Dr Brian Gibbons
AM, Minister for
Social Justice and
Local Government
addressing One
Voice Wales'
annual conferene
at Llandrindod
Wells**

Cynnwys: Y Comisiwn Etholiadol—Galluogi pobl i gymryd rhan; Sustemau cynllunio ar-lein; Sgwrs gyda Cyng Mair Stephens; Digwyddiadau hyfforddiant.

Contents: The Electoral Commission—Helping people to become involved; Online planning systems; Talking to Cllr Mair Stephens; Training events.

Llais Cyngorau Tref a Chymuned yng Nghymru

The Voice of Town and Community Councils in Wales

Un Llais Cymru

One Voice Wales

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I hysbysebu neu ymholiadau am y newyddlen—
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Annwyl gyfeillion,

Adeg yma'r flwyddyn mae'n draddodiad i fyfyrion ar y flwyddyn aeth heibio ac i edrych ymlaen at yr hyn y gallwn ei ddisgwyl yn y flwyddyn i ddod.

Roedd 2007 yn flwyddyn bwysig i Un Llais Cymru wrth inni ddechrau medi'r hadau a heuwyd yn 2006. Mae lefelau gwasanaethau wedi gwella'n fawr, ac erbyn hyn caiff dros 90% o ymholiadau eu hateb o fewn 5 diwrnod gwaith gyda'r mwyafrif ohonynt ar yr un diwrnod.

Gwelwyd hefyd fod ein cyfraniad at y gwaith ehangach o ddatblygu polisi ar ran y sector yn dechrau dwyn ffrwyth. Roedd hynny'n amlwg iawn yn yr ymgynghoriadau ar Cyfrifoldeb a Rennir a Chymuned a Rennir, oedd yn argoeli'n addawol iawn ar gyfer dyfodol y sector. Atgyfnerthwyd hyn gan y Dr Brian Gibbons AC, y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol & Llywodraeth Leol, pan siaradodd yn ein cynhadledd genedlaethol ym mis Hydref. Rwyf yn falch o ddweud fod y Gweinidog hefyd yn gefnogwr cryf i Un Llais Cymru. ac fe'i cymharodd ni â Joe Calzaghe. Mewn cyfarfod pwyllgor diweddar dywedodd mai "Un Llais Cymru erbyn hyn yw llais diamheuol cynghorau cymuned a thref yng Nghymru, a chafodd effaith lesol ar ansawdd y perthnasau rhwng cynghorau cymuned a thref, y WLGA a ninnau." Wedi cyfeirio at y gynhadledd, hoffwn hefyd dawelu meddyliau aelodau fod y trefniadau ar gyfer cynhadledd a Chyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol y flwyddyn nesaf yn cael eu hystyried yn barod, ac y rhoddir sylw arbennig i'r trefniadau cyfieithu.

Yn gyffredinol felly, bu 2007 yn flwyddyn gadarnhaol iawn i Un Llais Cymru. Gwelir hynny yn y cynnydd yn nifer ein haelodau, gan fod 504 o gynghorau (68%) yn aelodau erbyn hyn, o'i

gymharu â 489 ar ddiwedd 2006-2007. Rydym hefyd wedi meithrin cysylltiadau agos gyda phartneriaid allweddol eraill a bydd y rhain yn cryfhau sefyllfa'r sector fwy fyth yn y blynyddoedd nesaf. Ar yr ochr fewnol, llwyddwyd hefyd yn 2007 i sefydlu ein Pwyllgor Cynghorau Lleol Mwy newydd fel rhan o Un Llais Cymru ac, yn fwy diweddar, i symud i swyddfeydd llawer mwy pwrpasol fydd yn ein galluogi i wella lefelau ein gwasanaethau ymhellach fyth.

Ni ddylem fyth anghofio, fod cynghorau a chynghorwyr ar bob lefel yno i wasanaethu'r bobl yn ein cymunedau. Mae hynny'n arbennig o berthnasol o gofio y cynhelir yr etholiadau lleol ar y 1af Mai 2008. Os credwch y dylai fod gan gynghorau cymuned a thref rôl gref a pharhaus, un o'r pethau pwysicaf a mwyaf heriol y gall cynghorydd lleol ei wneud yw annog mwy o bobl i gynnig eu henwau yn yr etholiadau, yn enwedig felly bobl iau a phobl o grwpiau mwy eithriedig cymdeithas. Mae Un Llais Cymru yn gweithio gyda'r Comisiwn Etholiadol i annog mwy o bobl i gymryd rhan yn yr etholiadau lleol ond pe bai pob cynghorydd yn addo cysylltu â dim ond un ymgeisydd posib, rwyf yn hyderus y gallem gael deffroad mewn democratiaeth a chyfranogiad lleol.

Yn naturiol ni fyddai unrhyw beth a gyflawnwyd dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf na'n cynlluniau ar gyfer 2008 yn bosib heb frwdfrydedd ac ymroddiad ein staff. Yn anffodus bydd John Lumley, ein Swyddog Datblygu yn y Canolbarth yn ein gadael ar ddiwedd Ionawr a hoffwn ddiolch iddo'n gyhoeddus am ei gyfraniad amhrisiadwy i Un Llais Cymru. Diolch yn fawr iawn, John.

Simon

Mae'r incwm o'r hysbysebion yn ein cynorthwyo i barhau i wella ansawdd y newyddlen.

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Diolch yn fawr.

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Simon White



Dear Colleagues

At this time of year it is traditional to reflect on the year just gone and look forward to what we can expect in the year ahead.

2007 was an important year for One Voice Wales as we started to reap the benefits of foundations laid in 2006. Service levels have improved markedly with over 90% of queries answered within 5 working days and most answered on the same day.

The increased involvement in wider policy development on behalf of the sector also started to pay dividends. This was particularly evident in the Shared Responsibility and Shared Community consultations, which set out a very positive future for the sector. This was reinforced by Dr Brian Gibbons AM, the Minister for Social Justice & Local Government, when he spoke at our national conference in October. I am pleased to say that the Minister is also a strong supporter of One Voice Wales. Likening us to Joe Calzaghe, he said in committee recently "One Voice Wales is now the undisputed voice of community and town councils in Wales, and that has really had a qualitative beneficial effect on the relationships between community and town councils, the WLGA and us." Having mentioned the conference, I would also like to reassure members that the arrangements for next year's conference and AGM are already being considered and that particularly close attention is being paid to the translation arrangements.

Overall then, 2007 has been very positive for One Voice Wales. This is reflected in our increasing membership levels, with 504 councils (68%) now in membership compared to 489 at the end of 2006-2007. We

have also built strong relationships with other key partners and these will further strengthen the position of the sector in the years ahead. Looking internally, 2007 has also seen the establishment of our new Larger Local Councils Committee within One Voice Wales and, more recently, a move to much improved office accommodation from which further service level improvements will be possible.

We should never forget that councils and councillors at all levels are there to serve the citizens in our communities. This is especially relevant with the local elections taking place on 1st May 2008. If you believe community and town councils should have a strong and continuing role, one of the most important and challenging things a local councillor can do is encourage more people to stand for elections, particularly from the younger and more excluded groups in society. One Voice Wales is working with the Electoral Commission to promote wider participation in the local elections but if every councillor undertakes to approach just one potential candidate then I am confident that together we could achieve a renaissance in local democracy and participation.

Of course none of our achievements in the past year, or our plans for 2008, would be possible without the enthusiasm and dedication of our staff. Sadly John Lumley, our Development Officer covering Mid Wales, will be leaving us at the end of January and I would like to thank him publicly for his invaluable contribution to One Voice Wales. Diolch yn fawr iawn, John.

Simon

**Nodyn
gan ein
Prif
Weithredwr**

**A note
from our
Chief
Executive**

Ymwrthodiad: Mae Un Llais Cymru yn datgan nad yw cyhoeddi unrhyw hysbyseb yn golygu ei fod yn cymeradwyo nac yn noddi'r hysbysebudd na'u cynnyrch oni ddywedir hynny.
Nid yw'r safbwyntiau a fynegir yn y cylchlythyr hwn o reidrwydd yn adlewyrchu barn swyddogol Un Llais Cymru.
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Gwefan Un Llais Cymru.

Datblygiad cyffrous newydd y bydd Un Llais Cymru yn ei gyflwyno yn fuan yw ein gwefan newydd. Yn ogystal â chynnwys gwybodaeth ar ddod yn gynghorydd a sefydlu cyngor newydd, byddwn hefyd yn cynnwys tudalen ar y wefan ar gyfer pob cyngor yng Nghymru. Bydd aelodau Un Llais Cymru yn gallu ychwanegu, yn rhad ac am ddim, wybodaeth elfennol ar y dudalen hon gan gynnwys cyswllt â'u gwefan eu hunain os oes ganddynt un, copi o'u cofnodion diweddaraf ac agenda'r cyfarfod nesaf. Bydd aelodau'r cyhoedd yn gallu dod o hyd i'w cyngor trwy "fap gwasgadwy" neu trwy roi eu cod post. Gyda'i gilydd, bydd y datblygiadau hyn yn golygu y bydd llawer mwy o wybodaeth ar gael yn hwylus am gynghorau lleol. Dylai'r wefan roi hwb sylweddol i gynghorau sy'n ceisio manteisio ar dechnoleg fodern a bydd yn ffordd o gyflwyno'r sector yn gyffredinol ac aelodau Un Llais Cymru yn arbennig.

Swyddfa Ddi-bapur Radur & Threforgan

Un cyngor sydd eisoes yn defnyddio'r dechnoleg newydd yw Radur & Threforgan, a benderfynodd, rai blynyddoedd yn ôl, o dan arweiniad rhai o'i we aelodau, 'ymuno â'r 21ain Ganrif' trwy ddefnyddio'r dulliau diweddaraf i gyfathrebu a chasglu gwybodaeth. Mae pob aelod namyn un arlein erbyn hyn ac mae'r un sy'n weddill yn gobeithio ymuno â'i chyd gynghorwyr yn seibr ofod cyn bo hir. Danfonir hysbysiadau am gyfarfodydd, cofnodion a gwahoddiadau i ddiwyddiadau at yr aelodau dros y we. Mae gan gymuned Radur & Threforgan wefan broffesiynol - www.radyr.org.uk. Mae gan y Cyngor Cymuned ei dudalennau ei hun ar y wefan. Caiff holl gofnodion ac agendau'r cyngor eu harddangos ar y wefan yn ffeiliau pdf ac fe'u darllenwyd 82 o weithiau ym mis Hydref 2007. Rhestrir ceisiadau cynllunio lleol bob wythnos.

Trowch at dudalennau 12 & 13 i ddarllen erthygl fanwl ar y datblygiadau diweddaraf yn y defnydd o TG yn y system gynllunio.

Banc effro yn atal dwyn arian Cyngor

Mae aelodau Cyngor Cymuned Llangyndebyrn yn ddiolchgar iawn i Fanc Barclays Caerfyrddin am atal twyll yn erbyn y Cyngor. Bu i dau gais am arian, un am £50,000 am offer cyfrifiadurol a chais arall am £9,000 am rhywbeth tebyg gael ei wneud yn erbyn cyfrif banc y Cyngor. Yn ffodus iawn roedd y Banc yn wylidwrs iawn, ac fe drechwyd y twyllwyr. Mae'r Cyngor eisiau rhybuddio cynghorau eraill drwy Gymru am y perygl yma.

Cofeb Rhyfel Cyngor Cymuned y Mymblys

Ar yr 11eg Tachwedd 2007 cwblhawyd ail gymal y gwaith o adnewyddu'r Gofeb. Cysegrwyd y cymal cyntaf i'r sawl a laddwyd yn y ddau ryfel byd a ddiwyddodd rhwng 1914 ac 1945.

Bwriad yr ail gymal oedd cynnwys enwau "Pawb a gollodd eu bywydau mewn gwrthdrawiadau ers 1945". Cynhaliwyd y cysegriad cyn y gwasanaeth coffa ar yr 11eg Tachwedd a daeth cynulleidfa o 200 o bobl ynghyd.

One Voice Wales website.

An exciting new development which One Voice Wales will be launching shortly is our new website. As well as including information on becoming a councillor and setting up a council, we will also include a page on the site for every council in Wales. Members of One Voice Wales will be able to add, at no extra cost, further information to this page, including a link to their own website if they have one, a copy of their latest minutes and the agenda of the next meeting. Members of the public will be able to locate their council via a "clickable map" or by entering their postcode. Taken together, these developments will lead to a massive improvement in the availability of information on local councils. The website should provide a huge boost to councils in their efforts to embrace modern technology and will act as a portal for the sector as a whole and One Voice Wales members in particular.

Radyr & Morganstown Paperless Office

One council already embracing new technology is Radyr & Morganstown which some years ago, under the guidance of cyber flying members, 'entered the 21st Century' with up-to-date methods of communication and information gathering.

All but one of their members is now on-line and she is working on joining the other councillors in cyber space. Notices of meetings, minutes, and invitations to events are forwarded to members over the ether.

The community runs a professionally designed website - www.radyr.org.uk. The Community Council has its own web pages within this site. All main council minutes and agendas are posted on the site as pdf files and were viewed 82 times in October 2007. Local planning applications are listed weekly.

See pages 12 & 13 for a detailed article on the latest developments in the use of IT in the planning system.

Theft of Council funds foiled by eagle eyed bank

Members of Llangyndebyrn Community Council are very grateful to Barclays Bank Carmarthen for preventing fraud against the Council. Two requests for money from the Council's bank account were received, one for £50,000 for computer equipment and another for £9,000 for similar equipment. Fortunately, the Bank was eagle-eyed and the fraudsters were stopped in their tracks. The Council wants to warn other councils throughout Wales of this danger.

Mumbles Community Council War Memorial

The 11th of November 2007 saw the completion of the second phase of the refurbishment of the Memorial. The first phase had been dedicated to those fallen in the two world wars that had taken place between 1914 and 1945.

The second phase was to include the names of those "Whose lives were lost in conflicts since 1945". The dedication took place before the service of remembrance on 11th November and was attended by around 200 people.

DIGWYDDIADAU HYFFORDDIANT			TRAINING EVENTS	
BETH	BLE	PRYD WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Cynllunio	Aberystwyth	11/2/08	Planning	Aberystwyth
Cynllunio	Caerfyrddin	13/2/08	Planning	Carmarthen
Delio â Chwynion, Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru	Aberystwyth	14/2/08	Complaints Handling, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales	Aberystwyth
Delio â Chwynion, Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru	Llanrwst	18/2/08	Complaints Handling, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales	Llanrwst
Cynllunio	Abertawe	18/2/08	Planning	Swansea
Cynllunio	Y Bala	21/2/08	Planning (Welsh session)	Y Bala
Delio â Chwynion, Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru	Llantrisant	21/2/08	Complaints Handling, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales	Llantrisant
Cynllunio	Caerffili	25/2/08	Planning	Caerphilly
Cynllunio	Llanddulas, ger Abergele	28/2/08	Planning	Llanddulas, nr Abergele
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Oes angen hwb ar eich pentref

chi? A yw'n ffynnu? A yw eich cymuned yn croesawu syniadau newydd, ac a yw'n mwynhau her? Os yw'r ateb i unrhyw un o'r cwestiynau hyn yn gadarnhaol, dylech gynnig yng

ngystadleuaeth **Pentref y Flwyddyn**

Calor® Cymru 2008. Trwy roi cynnig ar y gystadleuaeth genedlaethol hon, mae gan bentrefi'r cyfle i gael cyfran o gronfa wobrau'r gystadleuaeth ac o gymryd rhan yn yr hyn a ddisgrifiwyd fel 'prawf ffitrwydd cymuned'. Nid y gwobrau ariannol sydd ar gael yw'r unig fantais o gymryd rhan. Mae Pentref y Flwyddyn Calor® yn symbylydd: mae cymryd rhan ynddo'i hun yn dod

â chymunedau at ei gilydd.

Ar gyfer 2008, bydd y pentrefi sy'n cymryd rhan yn cael eu rhannu'n dri rhanbarth – y Gogledd, y Canolbarth a'r Gorllewin, a'r De. Mae'r gystadleuaeth yn agored i bob cymuned bentref wledig â phoblogaeth o 5,000 neu lai ac mae'r categorïau yn cynnwys Pobl, Busnes, yr Amgylchedd a Chyfathrebu.

Bydd tri phentref o bob rhanbarth yn cael eu rhoi ar restr fer ar gyfer ymweliad gan feirniaid y gystadleuaeth, fydd yn dewis enillydd ar gyfer pob rhanbarth, enillwyr pob categorï ac enillydd cyffredinol i Gymru. Yn 2007, enillodd pentref Overton on Dee o ardal Wrecsam deitl rhanbarthol y Gogledd, gan gollu'r teitl cenedlaethol o drwch blewyn i Lawrenny o Sir Benfro.

Er mwyn cael mwy o wybodaeth ar sut all eich cymuned gynnig danfonwch e-bost at info@calorvillageoftheyear.org, neu ewch i wefan y gystadleuaeth yn www.calorvillageoftheyear.org



Sophie Grigson gyda chynrychiolwyr o'r pentref Sue Glover a Joanne Kember gyda RhG Calor Alex Davis

Sophie Grigson with village representatives Sue Glover and Joanne Kember with Calor's MD Alex Davis

Does your village need a boost? Is it thriving? Is your community open to new ideas, and does it relish a challenge? If the answer is 'yes' to any of these questions then you should enter the **2008 Calor Village of the Year® for Wales** competition. By entering this national competition, villages have the opportunity of sharing in the competition's prize fund and of participating in what is best described as a 'community fitness test'. The prize money on offer is not the main benefit of taking part. Calor Village of the Year® acts as a catalyst: simply taking part brings communities together. For 2008, participating villages will be split into

three regions for judging – North Wales, Mid and West Wales, and South Wales. The competition is open to all rural village communities with a population of 5,000 or under and categories cover People, Business, Environment and Communications.

Three villages per region will be shortlisted for a visit from the competition judges who will decide on a winner for each region, category winners, and an overall winner for Wales. In 2007, the Wrexham village of Overton on Dee won the North Wales regional title, just missing out on the national title to Lawrenny Pembrokeshire.

For more information on how your community can enter please email info@calorvillageoftheyear.org, or visit the competition website at www.calorvillageoftheyear.org



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sgwrsio hefo -

Mair Stephens

Cyngor Cymuned

Llandyfaelog

Bydd Y Llais yn cynnwys cyfweiliadau gyda chynghorwyr cymuned a thref o bob rhan o Gymru yn y rhifynnau nesaf. Yn y rhifyn hwn cawn air â'r Cyng Mair Stephens o Gyngor Cymuned Llandyfaelog.



Soniwch rywfaint am eich hunan –

Rydw i'n briod â Ralph ac mae gen i fab 22 oed Rhys ac mae'r ddau'n rhedeg y busnes teuluol Swansea Floor Services. Er bod fy rhieni wastad yn siarad Cymraeg â'i gilydd fe ddysgais i Gymraeg ar ôl dod i fyw i Gymru yn 1963. Euthum i Brifysgol Abertawe i astudio Peirianneg Systemau Diwydiannol, yr unig ferch. Ar ôl gweithio mewn amgylchedd diwydiannol, symudais i'r sector gwirfoddol i weithio'n rhan amser yn Drefnydd Sirol i Sefydliad y Merched Sir Gaerfyrddin ac yn swyddog datblygu i Gynulliad Menywod Cymru.

Rwyf wedi bod yn gynghorydd cymuned i Landyfaelog ers 1983, ar ôl ennill is-etholiad, ac yn gynghorydd sir i ward San Ishmel ar Gyngor Sir Gaerfyrddin ers 2004.

Rhowch ddisgrifiad cryno o Landyfaelog –

Ardal wledig sy'n rhedeg ar hyd yr A484 o tua 2 filltir y tu allan i Gydwelli i tua 2 filltir y tu allan i Dref Gaerfyrddin. Mae'n cynnwys 5 pentref o fewn yr ardal. Mae ysgol uwchradd ac ysgol gynradd o fewn ei ffiniau. Mae 27% o'r trigolion yn 60+, mae 16.7% i fyny at 15 oed ac mae 71% yn siarad Cymraeg. Mae'n ardal llawn ysbryd cymunedol gyda chymdeithasau o bob math sy'n hapus i weithio gyda'i gilydd.

Beth mae Cyngor Cymuned Llandyfaelog yn ei wneud orau?

Mae'r aelodau'n gweithio fel tim, cawn drafodaethau agored ar y materion dan sylw ac nid ydym yn gadael i anghytundebau ar faterion y cyngor effeithio ar ein bywydau personol. Mae'n chwilio am syniadau newydd y tu hwnt i ffiniau'r cyngor, ac ar hyn o bryd rydym yn gobeithio gefeillio gyda chynghor tebyg mewn rhan arall o Gymru. Mae'n defnyddio holiaduron penodol i ymgynghori â'r gymuned; mae'r rhain yn cael eu dosbarthu a'u casglu gan gynghorwyr. Mae'n cefnogi ei gymuned ac yn credu mewn cael pethau wedi'u gwneud, hyd yn oed os yw'r rhai o'r prosiectau yn rhai hirdymor

Soniwch am eich gwaith gydag Un Llais Cymru –
Roeddwn yn Gadeirydd Cenedlaethol y gymdeithas flaenorol, Cymdeithas Cynghorau Cymuned a Thref Cymru ac roeddwn yn un o'r bobl oedd yn teimlo'r angen i sefydlu un llais ar gyfer ein lefel ni o lywodraeth. Rydw i'n bendant yn teimlo mai 'fy mabi

i' yw hwn a byddwn

yn falch iawn o'i weld yn tyfu'n oedolyn gan ei fod yn dechrau cropian! Rwyf yn is gadeirydd Pwyllgor Ardal Sir Gaerfyrddin ac yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor Gwaith.

Llongyfarchiadau ar gael eich penodi am ail dymor i gynrychioli cynghorau cymuned a thref ar y Cyngor Partneriaeth.

Beth yw pwrpas y Cyngor Partneriaeth?

Yn ôl y Cynllun Partneriaeth a) dylid rhoi cyngor i Weinidogion Cymru am faterion sy'n effeithio'r ffordd y cyflawnant eu cyfrifoldebau a b) cyflwyno sylwadau i Weinidogion Cymru am faterion sy'n effeithio, neu'n ymwneud â'r sawl sydd ynghlwm wrth lywodraeth leol yng Nghymru ac c) rhoi cyngor i'r sawl sydd ynghlwm wrth lywodraeth leol yng Nghymru. Ond o'm safbwynt i mae'n fodd o hyrwyddo Cynghorau Cymuned a Thref, eu safbwyntiau a'u gweithgareddau.

Allwch chi ddisgrifio un o lwyddiannau

cynrychiolaeth Un Llais Cymru ar y Cyngor?

Rwyf wedi bod yn aelod o'r Cyngor Partneriaeth ers y cyfarfod cyntaf un ac mae wedi bod yn wych gweld ein lefel ni o lywodraeth yn cael ei derbyn yn bartner pwysig. Datblygwyd y papur ymchwil 'Rolau a Chyfrifoldebau Cynghorau Cymuned a Thref' yn y Cyngor Partneriaeth a bu'n sylfaen llawer o'r pethau da a ddigwyddodd ac mae hefyd wedi'n helpu i baratoi cynllun busnes y gymdeithas hon.

Beth yw eich gobeithion ar gyfer y rôl hon dros y tymor nesaf?

Fod y dyheadau yn 'Cyfrifoldeb a Rennir' y dylai Cynghorwyr Cymuned a Thref ddod yn Lladmeryddion Cymunedol yn dechrau cael eu gwireddu.

Yn eich barn chi, pe bai cynghorau yn gwneud un peth a fyddai'n cryfhau eu rôl a'u statws beth fyddai hwnnw?

Ni ddylent ofni newid ond dylent hefyd yrru'r broses o newid. Mae'n rhaid iddyn nhw hefyd hyrwyddo eu hunain a'r hyn y maen nhw'n ei wneud orau. Ymddiheuriadau – mae hynny'n ddau beth!!!

talking to -

Mair Stephens

Llandyfaelog Community Council

The Voice will be featuring interviews with community and town councillors from across Wales over forthcoming issues. In this edition we feature Cllr Mair Stephens of Llandyfaelog Community Council.

Tell us a little about yourself –

I'm married to Ralph and have a 22 year old son Rhys who both run the family firm Swansea Floor Services. Although my parents always spoke Welsh to each other I learnt Welsh after coming to live in Wales in 1963. I went to Swansea University and read Industrial Systems Engineering, the only girl. Having worked in an industrial environment, I moved to the voluntary sector to part time work as County Organiser for Carmarthenshire Women's Institutes and as development officer for Wales Assembly of Women.

I became a community councillor for Llandyfaelog in 1983, having fought a by-election, and a county councillor for St Ishmaels ward of Carmarthenshire County Council in 2004.

Describe Llandyfaelog in a nutshell –

A rural area which runs along the A484 from about 2 miles outside Kidwelly to about 2 miles outside Carmarthen Town. It has 5 definite villages within the area. There is a secondary and a primary school within its boundary. 27% of the residents are 60+, 16.7% are aged up to 15 and 71% speaking Welsh. It is an area with a great community spirit with many organisations who are happy to work together.

What does Llandyfaelog Community Council do best?

Members work as a team, have a frank discussion on topics and do not let disagreements on specific council issues spill into personal lives. It looks outside the boundary of the council for new ideas, currently looking to twin with a similar council in Wales. It uses specific questionnaires to consult with the community; these are delivered and collected by councillors. There is support for its community and believes in getting things done even if sometimes projects are long term!

Tell us about your involvement with One Voice Wales –

I was National Chair of the predecessor association The Wales Association of Community and Town Councils and was one of the people who felt the need to establish a single voice for our level of government. I feel very much that it is

'my baby' and would love to see it grow into adolescence now that it is beginning to toddle! I am vice chairman of the Carmarthenshire Area committee and a member of the National Executive.

Congratulations on your recent appointment for a second term representing community and town councils on the Partnership Council.

What is the purpose of the Partnership Council?

According to the Partnership Scheme, a) to give advice to the Welsh Ministers about matters affecting the exercise of their functions, b) make representations to Welsh Ministers about any matters affecting, and or concerning, those involved in local government in Wales and c) give advice to those involved in local government in Wales. As far as I'm concerned though it is a means of promoting community and town councils, their views and activities.

Can you describe one of the achievements following One Voice Wales' representation on the Council?

I have served on the Partnership Council since the very first meeting and it has been great to see the acceptance of our level of government as an important partner. The research paper 'The Roles and Responsibility of Community and Town Councils' was initiated in the Partnership Council and has formed the basis of a lot of the achievements and indeed helped formulate the business plan of this organisation.

What are your hopes for this role over this next term?

That the aspiration in 'Shared Responsibility' of Community and Town Councillors becoming Community Champions begins to come to fruition

In your view, if councils were to do one single thing which would strengthen their role and status what should it be?

They should not be afraid of change but should also be drivers of change. They must also promote themselves and what they do better. Sorry that's two isn't it!!!

Galluogi pobl i gymryd rhan

Y
Comisiwn
Etholiadol

Gyda 736 o gynghorau cymuned a thref yng Nghymru yn wynebu etholiadau ym mis Mai 2008, mae sicrhau bod cyn gymaint o bobl â phosib yn rhan o'r broses etholiadol mor bwysig ag erioed.

Wrth wraidd eu hamcanion, mae gan bob cyngor y dyhead i wasanaethu eu cymunedau ac i barhau i geisio gwella ansawdd bywyd eu cymdogaethau drwy gydol yr amser.

Mae gan Y Comisiwn Etholiadol rôl bwysig i chwarae mewn adeiladu ymwybyddiaeth gyhoeddus ynglŷn â'r broses etholiadol, sy'n cynnwys cael cofrestru etholiadol cywir a phroses cofrestru etholiadol sy'n cael ei rhedeg yn dda. Mae hefyd yn gyfrifol am sicrhau bod etholiadau'n cael eu rhedeg yn dda a bod dealltwriaeth gyhoeddus dda ar gael o'r broses ddemocrataidd ac o'r rôl bwysig y mae etholiadau'n chwarae ym mywydau pawb.

Fel haen gyntaf llywodraeth leol, mae cynghorau cymuned a thref hefyd yn chwarae rhan bwysig mewn cynorthwyo pobl i ymrwymo gyda'r broses etholiadol, p'un ai a yw hynny drwy annog unigolion i ystyried sefyll am etholiad, neu drwy berswadio pleidleiswyr i fynychu'r etholiadau.

Er mwyn i gynghorau lleol wasanaethu eu cymunedau'n effeithiol, mae'n bwysig eu bod nhw'n gynrychiolwyr o'r cymunedau hynny, a'u bod

nhw'n adlewyrchu'r cymysgedd o ryw, cenedl a diddordebau, sy'n eu galluogi nhw i siarad o'r galon ar ran eu hetholaeth.

O'n hochr ni, mae'r Comisiwn Etholiadol yn hyrwyddo cofrestru etholiadol, yn enwedig ymysg y grwpiau hynny y maen nhw'n credu sydd ddim yn cael eu cynrychioli digon ar y gofrestr, fel pobl o grwpiau lleiafrif ethnig, pobl ifanc a phobl sy'n symud tŷ.

Mae gan y Comisiwn ran hefyd i'w chwarae mewn sicrhau bod dealltwriaeth gyhoeddus ar gael o'r broses ddemocrataidd ac o'r ffordd y mae'n effeithio ar fywyd pob dydd.

Mae ymchwil yn dangos bod llai na 40 y cant o bobl yn dweud eu bod nhw'n teimlo fel eu bod nhw'n deall llawer am wleidyddiaeth, ac mae nifer fawr o bobl yn dweud nad ydynt yn deall swyddogaethau llywodraeth leol a chanolog.

Er mwyn i'r broses fod yn llwyddiannus, mae angen i'r Comisiwn weithio'n agos gyda chynghorau lleol, y pleidiau gwleidyddol ac ymgyrchwyr eraill sy'n chwarae rhan bwysig mewn ysgogi'r cyhoedd i gymryd rhan mewn gwleidyddiaeth. Mae'r Comisiwn yn gallu helpu i wneud pobl yn ymwybodol o rolau a chyfrifoldebau sefydliadau democrataidd y D.U, ond gwaith y rhai hynny sydd ynghlwm mewn gwleidyddiaeth a'r cynghorau lleol yw sicrhau bod pobl yn teimlo'n ddigon

brwdfrydig iddyn nhw gymryd rhan mewn etholiadau yn y dyfodol. Yr unig ffordd y bydd hynny'n cael ei gyflawni yw drwy gael pobl i ddeall bod rôl y cyngor cymuned neu dref yn effeithio ar eu ffyrdd a'u hansawdd bywyd.

Mae'n bosib i unigolyn dros 18 mlwydd oed sefyll fel ymgeisydd yn etholiadau'r cynghorau cymuned sydd ar y gweill - mae'r broses yn un syml, ble mae angen cwblhau ffurflen enwebu, sy'n gallu cael ei chasglu o'r awdurdod lleol ac sydd hefyd yn gallu cael ei darganfod yn y cyfarwyddyd i ymgeiswyr ag asiantau a fydd ar gael ar wefan y Comisiwn yn gynnar yn 2008. Dylai person sy'n dymuno sefyll sicrhau bod eu henwebiad wedi cael ei gynnig a'i gefnogi ar y ffurflen enwebu, a'r dyddiad cau ar gyfer cyflwyno'r papurau enwebu yw hanner dydd ar 4ydd Ebrill 2008.

Rydych chi eisoes yn gwybod pa mor bwysig ag allweddol yw'r rôl y mae cynghorau lleol yn chwarae - fell pam na weithredwch chi fel llysgennad democrataidd ac ysbrydoli eraill?

I ddarganfod mwy am rôl y Comisiwn Etholiadol a'r gwaith y mae'n wneud i ysgogi pobl i gymryd rhan mewn democratiaeth, ewch i unrhyw rai o'n gwefannau yn www.electoralcommission.org.uk, www.dopolitics.org.uk a www.aboutmyvote.co.uk neu cysylltwch â Swyddfa Cymru'r Comisiwn ar 02920 346 800.

Helping people to take part

The
Electoral
Commission

With the 736 community and town councils in Wales facing elections in May 2008, ensuring that as many people as possible are involved in the electoral process is as important as ever.

Each council has, at the heart of its objectives, the desire to serve their communities and to continually strive to improve the quality of life in their locality.

The Electoral Commission has a major role to play in building public awareness about the electoral process, which includes ensuring accurate electoral registers and a well run electoral registration process. It is also concerned with ensuring elections are well run and that there is good public understanding of the democratic process and the importance elections play in all our lives.

As the first level of local government, community and town councils also play an important role in helping people to engage with the electoral process, whether that be encouraging individuals to consider standing for election or persuading voters to turn out at the polls.

For local councils to serve their communities effectively it is important that they are representative of those

communities and that they reflect the mix of gender, nationality and interests, enabling them to truly speak on behalf of their electorate.

To this end the Electoral Commission promotes electoral registration particularly among those groups which are believed to be under-represented on the register, such as people from ethnic minorities, young people and home movers.

The Commission also has a role to play in ensuring public understanding of the democratic process and how it impacts upon everyday life.

Research shows that less than 40 per cent of people say they feel knowledgeable about politics and a significant proportion of people do not understand the roles of local and central government.

For the process to be successful the Commission needs to work closely with local councils, the political parties and other campaigners who are the main players in motivating the public to participate in politics. The Commission can help to make people aware of the roles and responsibilities of the UK's democratic institutions, but it is for those engaged in politics and the work of local councils to ensure people feel motivated enough for them to take part in future elections.

That will only be achieved by people understanding that the role of the community or town council has an impact on their way and quality of life

It's possible for an individual aged 18 or over to stand as a candidate in the upcoming community council elections - the process is a simple one and requires the completion of a nomination form, which can be collected from the local authority and can also be found in the candidate and agents guidance which will be available on the Commission's website early in 2008. A person wishing to stand needs to get their nomination proposed and seconded on the nomination form and the deadline for submission of nomination papers is noon on 4th April 2008.

You already know how important and fundamental a role is played by local councils - so why not be a democratic ambassador and inspire others?

To find out more about the role of the Electoral Commission and the work it does to encourage participation in democracy, visit any of its websites at www.electoralcommission.org.uk; www.dopolitics.org.uk or www.aboutmyvote.co.uk or contact the Commission's Wales Office on 02920 346 800.

Gwneud synnwyr o systemau cynllunio ar-lein newydd

Mae David Payne, Rheolwr Cyfrif Rhanbarthol Cymru ar gyfer y Porth Cynllunio, yn cyflwyno 1APP-Cymru & both eYmgynghori, gwasanaeth rhyngwrwyd ar gyfer hwyluso proses gyflymach a mwy effeithlon o gyfnewid ceisiadau cynllunio ac ymatebion rhwng awdurdodau cynllunio lleol a chynghorau cymuned a thref.

Y Porth Cynllunio

Y Porth Cynllunio yw adnodd ar-lein Llywodraeth y DG ar gyfer cael gwybodaeth a chanllawiau ar gynllunio a rheoliadau adeiladau. Mae ar gael i unrhyw un yn rhad ac am ddim a gellir ei ddefnyddio i ddod o hyd i wybodaeth ar gynigion datblygu lleol, apelio yn erbyn penderfyniad cynllunio ac ymchwilio polisïau diweddaraf y llywodraeth.

Mae'r Porth yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth gydag awdurdodau cynllunio ledled Cymru a Lloegr, sy'n golygu, ar ben canllawiau cenedlaethol, y gall defnyddwyr deipio eu cyfeiriad eu hunain, lle o ddiddordeb neu god post i gael gafaél ar wybodaeth leol ar gynllunio a datblygu.

Chwaraeodd y Porth Cynllunio rôl allweddol yn helpu awdurdodau cynllunio lleol (ACLIau) i e-alluogi eu gwasanaethau cynllunio gyda'r bwriad yn y pendraw o gynnig manteision pendant ar ffurf gwelliannau i'r gwasanaeth ac enillion effeithlonrwydd a chynhyrchiant.

Y ffurflen gais cynllunio safonol

Mae'r Porth, mewn cydweithrediad â Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, yn gyfrifol ar hyn o bryd am gyflwyno'r Ffurflen Gais Gynllunio Safonol newydd (1APP-Cymru) sef, ar ôl yr Hydref 2008, yr unig ffordd o gyflwyno cais cynllunio "ar-lein" ar gyfer bron pob math o ganiatâd cynllunio. Bydd ceisiadau papur yn dal i gael eu derbyn.

Bydd y ffurflenni newydd yn cymryd lle'r ffurflenni electronaidd unigol a ddefnyddir gan bob awdurdod lleol ac fe'u cynlluniwyd fel eu bod yn hawdd i'r cyhoedd a'r gweithiwr cynllunio i'w llenwi.

Y both eYmgynghori

Rydym hefyd wrthi'n datblygu dull rhyngweithiol o safoni'r broses ymgynghori ar gyfer ceisiadau cynllunio – y both e-Ymgynghori.

Bob blwyddyn mae awdurdodau cynllunio lleol yng Nghymru a Lloegr yn danfon mwy na miliwn o geisiadau ymgynghori i'w hymgynghoreion – cyrff cenedlaethol, mudiadau rhanbarthol, adrannau priffyrdd, cwmnïau cyfleustodau ac, wrth gwrs, cynghorau tref a chymuned.

Mae'r ymgynghoriadau hyn yn aml yn rhai papur ac maen nhw'n gallu bod yn ddud, yn cymryd amser ac yn aneffeithlon i'r awdurdod cynllunio lleol a'r ymgynghorai.

Bydd y both e-Ymgynghori, sy'n cael ei ddatblygu gan y Porth Cynllunio a'i ariannu gan Lywodraeth y DG, yn helpu hwyluso proses gyflymach a mwy effeithlon o gyfnewid ac ymateb i geisiadau cynllunio rhwng y gwahanol bartïon.

Bydd y system – gwasanaeth rhyngwrwyd – yn rheoli'r broses o gyfnewid dogfennau, negeseuon ac ymatebion ar gyfer ymgynghoriadau cynllunio.

Mae'r gwaith datblygu yn mynd yn hwylus iawn ac mae disgwyl i'r both gael ei gyflwyno ledled Cymru a Lloegr o fis Ebrill 2008.

Manteision posib

Bydd ymgynghoreion yn gallu defnyddio'r gwasanaeth newydd mewn sawl ffordd ond fel cynghorydd tref neu gymuned, y nod yw eich helpu i wasanaethu eich cymuned leol yn fwy effeithiol.

Gellir cysylltu â'r both e-Ymgynghori yn electronaidd a bydd yn caniatáu ichi:

- sicrhau nad ydych ond yn derbyn yr wybodaeth berthnasol ar gyfer pob ymgynghoriad, gan wastraffu llai o amser;
- gweld y sylwadau a wneir gan yr holl ymgynghoreion a chael gwybod yn syth am benderfyniadau cynllunio;
- gweld ceisiadau cynllunio ymlaen llaw a helpu trefnu ceisiadau ymgynghori o ansawdd uchel all helpu lleihau hyd cyfarfodydd pwyllgorau;
- cynnig ffordd arall o ymateb i geisiadau ymgynghori; a chael gafaél ar yr wybodaeth sydd ei hangen arnoch drwy'r dydd, bob dydd.

Bydd ymgynghoreion hefyd yn gallu pori ar yr un pryd trwy gasgliad helaeth y Porth Cynllunio o bolisiau a gwybodaeth cynllunio er mwyn cryfhau eu hymatebion, gan eu helpu i wasanaethu eu cymunedau yn fwy effeithiol.

Mae hyn yn naturiol yn creu rhai heriau i lawer o gynghorau cymuned a thref ac rwyf yn awyddus iawn i gyfarfod gyda chynghorau i gael gwell dealltwriaeth o beth yw'r heriau hynny a'u helpu i'w goresgyn. Fodd bynnag, nid yw systemau papur yn diflannu ond mae'r Porth Cynllunio yn cynnig potensial enfawr i alluogi cynghorau cymuned a thref i wneud llawer mwy o gyfraniad os gellir cael gwared â'r heriau.

Beth nesaf?

Rwyf wedi cyfarfod ag Un Llais Cymru yn genedlaethol yn barod ac rydw i'n edrych ymlaen at gyfarfod aelodau yn lleol mewn Pwyllgorau Ardal cyn bo hir, er mwyn cyflwyno'r Porth Cynllunio, trafod yr agenda e-gynllunio ac arddangos y both e-Ymgynghori. Y gobaith yw y bydd hynny'n annog mwy o ymgynghori ar-lein ac y bydd yn y pendraw yn golygu fod llai o bapur yn y system.

Manylion cyswllt:

Er mwyn cael mwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch â David E-bost : david.payne@planningportal.gov.uk
Rhif Symudol: 07767 648 170
Gwefan: www.planningportal.gov.uk

Making sense of new online planning systems



David Payne, Wales Regional Account Manager for the Planning Portal, introduces the 1APP-Wales & eConsultation hub, an internet based service to facilitate a more rapid and efficient exchange of planning applications and responses between local planning authorities and community and town councils

The Planning Portal

The Planning Portal is the UK Government's online resource for information and guidance on planning and building regulations. It can be accessed by anyone for free and can be used to find information on local development proposals, appeal against a planning decision and research the latest government policy.

The Portal works in partnership with local authorities across England and Wales which means that in addition to national guidance, users can type in their own address, a place of interest or a postcode to find local planning and development information.

The Planning Portal has played a vital role in helping local planning authorities (LPAs) to e-enable their planning services with the long term aim of delivering tangible benefits in the form of service improvements and efficiency and productivity gains.

The standard planning application form

The Portal, in conjunction with the Welsh Assembly Government, is currently responsible for the roll out of the new Standard Planning Application Form (1APP-Wales) which, after Autumn 2008, will become the only method of submitting an "on-line" planning application for the majority of types of planning permission. Paper based applications will continue to be possible.

The new forms will replace the individual electronic forms used by every local authority and have been designed to be easy for the general public and planning professional to complete.

The eConsultation hub

We are also currently in the process of developing an interactive solution designed to standardise the planning application consultation process – the e-Consultation hub.

Every year LPAs in England & Wales make more than a million consultation requests to their consultees - national agencies, regional bodies, highways

departments, utility companies and, of course, town and community councils.

These consultations are often paper based and can be expensive, time consuming and inefficient for both LPA and consultee.

The e-Consultation hub, which is being developed by the Planning Portal and funded by the UK government, will help to facilitate more rapid and efficient exchange of planning applications and responses between the parties.

The system – an internet based service – will manage the exchange of documents, messages and responses for planning consultations.

Development is well under way and the hub is due to be rolled-out across England & Wales from April 2008.

Potential benefits

There will be various ways in which consultees will be able to engage with the new service but as a town or community councillor, the aim is to help you to serve your local community more effectively.

The e-consultation hub can be accessed electronically and will allow you to:

- ensure you only receive the relevant documentation for each consultation thus reducing time wasted;
- view comments made by all the consultees and receive instant notifications of planning decisions;
- preview planning applications and help to deliver higher quality consultation requests which may help to reduce the length of committee meetings;
- provide an alternative method of responding to consultation requests; and access the information you need at any time of the day, every day.

Consultees will also be able to simultaneously browse the Planning Portal's comprehensive repository of planning policy and information to substantiate their responses, helping them to serve their communities more effectively.

Of course, I recognise that this also creates some challenges for many community and town councils and I am very keen to meet with councils to understand better what these challenges are and try and help overcome them. However, paper based systems are not being done away with but the Planning Portal offers huge potential to enhance the input of community and town councils if the challenges can be resolved.

What's next?

I've already met with One Voice Wales nationally and look forward to meeting members locally at some forthcoming Area Committees, with a view to introducing the Planning Portal, discussing the e-planning agenda and demonstrating the e-consultation hub. This will hopefully encourage more online consultation and ultimately, minimise the amount paper in the system.

Contact details:

For more information contact David

E-Mail : david.payne@planningportal.gov.uk

Mob tel: 07767 648 170

Website: www.planningportal.gov.uk

Newyddion Pwyllgorau Ardal

Area Committee News

Gogledd Cymru 07917 846510
Swyddog Datblygu Jane C Evans

Arfon/Dwyfor – yn eu cyfarfod ym mis Ionawr cafodd yr aelodau gyflwyniad diddorol gan swyddogion o adran gynllunio Cyngor Gwynedd.

Conwy/Sir Ddinbych - etholwyd y Cyng Merfyn James, Cyngor Cymuned Henllan yn Is-gadeirydd y pwyllgor, a hefyd yn gynrychiolydd ar Bwyllgor Gwaith Cenedlaethol Un Llais Cymru.

Meirionnydd – Deryck Evans, Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru fydd y siaradwr gwadd yng nghyfarfod y pwyllgor ardal ar 19 Mawrth yn Nolgellau.

Wrecsam/Sir Fflint – bydd Deryck Evans hefyd yn siaradwr gwadd yng nghyfarfod pwyllgor ardal Wrecsam/Sir Fflint ar 20 Mawrth. Bydd yn trafod gwaith y Swyddfa Archwilio a chyfrifoldebau cynghorwyr.

Ynys Môn - Wrth i ddyddiad etholiadau cynghorau lleol agosáu, Rhydian Thomas o'r Comisiwn Etholiadol fydd y siaradwr yng nghyfarfod y pwyllgor Ardal ar 13 Mawrth yn Llangeferni.

Canolbarth Cymru 07917 846513
Swyddog Datblygu John Lumley

Brycheiniog a Maesyfed– yng nghyfarfod 7fed Rhagfyr cafodd aelodau wybod am y trefniadau etholiadol ar gyfer 2008.

Gostyngwyd isafswm oed ymgeiswyr i 18. Treuliwyd y rhan fwyaf o'r noson yn trafod yr adolygiad o Strategaeth Gymunedol Powys. Roedd y cynrychiolwyr yn bryderus y byddai'r setliad llywodraeth leol i Bowys yn arwain at dorri gwasanaethau.

Sir Benfro - cynhaliwyd cyfarfod mis Ionawr yn Hwlfordd, pryd trafodwyd gweithrediad cynlluniau Iaith Gymraeg a goblygiadau'r Ddeddf Gwahaniaethu ar sail Anabledd.

Maldwyn - cyfarfu Pwyllgor Ardal Maldwyn yng Ngharreghofa, Llanymynech ar yr 17eg Ionawr pan fu Pennaeth Cyfathrebu a Datblygu Busnes Ymddiriedolaeth Ysbyty'r Amwythig a Telford yn annerch y cynrychiolwyr ar y ddadl o blaid statws ysbyty sylfaen.

Ceredigion - Cynhelir y cyfarfod diwethaf ar yr 21ain Ionawr yn Neuadd y Sir, Aberaeron pryd cafwyd anerchiad gan gynrychiolydd o Gymdeithas y Cerddwyr, Ceredigion.

Sir Gaerfyrddin - cynhaliwyd cyfarfod

Pwyllgor Ardal Sir Gaerfyrddin ar y 24ain Ionawr pan enwebwyd cynrychiolwyr i fforwm rhanddeilwyr y Cynllun Datblygu Lleol.

De Cymru 01269 595400
Swyddogion Ken Burton & Lyn Llewellyn, Dirprwy Brif Weithredwr

Abertawe - mae datblygiadau tai newydd ac arfaethedig yn ardal Abertawe yn rhoi cryn bwysau ar y system gwaredu carthion bresennol, gymaint felly fod gorlifiadau carthion yn digwydd yn ystod tywydd garw. Gofynnodd Un Llais Cymru, ar ran ei aelod gynghorau, i'r AC Lleol, Mrs Edwina Hart, gysylltu ar frys â Dŵr Cymru i alw arnynt i gynyddu maint rhwydwaith carthffosiaeth y cylch, fel y gall ymdopi â'r galw arno, ar hyn o bryd ac i'r dyfodol.

Castell-nedd Port Talbot - Mae Un Llais Cymru yn cyflwyno sylwadau i Heddlu De Cymru i fynegi pryderon cryn dipyn o aelod gynghorau am gyfarfodydd Partneriaeth yr Heddlu a Chymunedau Ynghyd (PACT), sydd wedi cymryd lle'r arfer o gael swyddogion heddlu i fynychu cyfarfodydd cynghorau.

RhCT/Merthyr/Caerffili – etholwyd y Cyng Josephine Rao a'r Cyng Judith Pritchard yn Gadeirydd ac Is-Gadeirydd ac mae'r ddwy erbyn hyn yn aelodau o'r Pwyllgor Gwaith Cenedlaethol.

Cymoedd Gwent – cafodd y Cyng Derry Tucker a Hugh Edwards eu hail-ethol yn Gadeirydd ac Is-Gadeirydd.

Sir Fynwy a Chasnewydd – cafodd y Cyng John Harvey a John Small hefyd eu hail-ethol yn Gadeirydd ac Is-Gadeirydd.

Penybont/Caerdydd/Bro Morgannwg – ail-etholwyd y Cyng Malcolm Davies a Howard Lewis yn Gadeirydd ac Is-Gadeirydd ar gyfer y flwyddyn i ddod.

Gofynnir i aelodau geisio sicrhau fod cynrychiolaeth gan ei cyngor yn y cyfarfodydd Ardal. Maent yn rhan gxwerthfawr o'r pecyn aelodaeth, ac yn gyfle i rannu syniadau gyda chynghorau eraill yn eich ardal, yn ogystal a chlywed y newyddion diweddaraf, gwybodaeth a siaradwyr gwadd.

Newyddion Pwyllgorau Ardal

Area Committee News

North Wales 07917 846510
Development Officer Jane C Evans

Arfon/Dwyfor – during their January meeting members enjoyed an interesting presentation by Officers from Gwynedd Council planning department.

Conwy/Denbighshire – Cllr Merfyn James, Henllan Community Council was elected Vice-chair of the committee, and also representative on the National Executive Council of OVW.

Meirionnydd – Deryck Evans, Wales Audit Office will be the guest speaker at the area meeting on 19 March at Dolgellau.

Wrexham/Flintshire – Deryck Evans will also be the speaker at the Wrexham/Flint area meeting on 20 March. He will be discussing the work of the Audit Office and the responsibilities of councillors.

Ynys Môn – With the date for the local council elections fast approaching, Rhydian Thomas of the Electoral Commission will be speaker at the Area meeting on 13 March at Llangefni.

Mid Wales 07917 846513
Development Officer John Lumley

Brecon & Radnor – during the meeting held on 7th December information was received on the electoral arrangements for 2008. The minimum age for candidates had been reduced to 18. The majority of the evening was taken up with the Powys Community Strategy review. Representatives were concerned that the local government settlement for Powys would result in a diminution of services.

Pembrokeshire - at their January meeting in Haverfordwest, matters for discussion included the operation of Welsh Language schemes and the implications of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Montgomeryshire - the Montgomeryshire Area met at Carreghofa, Llanymynech on 17th January when the Head of Communications and Business Development for the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust addressed representatives on the case for foundation hospital status.

Ceredigion – the last meeting was held on 21st January at County Hall, Aberaeron and was addressed by a representative of the Ceredigion Ramblers Association.

Carmarthenshire - The Carmarthenshire

meeting was held on 24th January during which the Area Committee nominated representatives to sit on the Local Development Plan stakeholder forum.

South Wales 01269 595400
Development Officer Ken Burton &
Lyn Llewellyn, Deputy Chief Executive

Swansea - existing and proposed new housing developments in the Swansea area are putting the existing sewage disposal system under considerable pressure, so much so that sewage overflows are being experienced during adverse weather conditions. One Voice Wales, on behalf of its member councils, has asked the local AM, Mrs Edwina Hart, to make urgent representations to Welsh Water urging it to increase the capacity of the area sewage network, particularly the Gowerton Sewage Disposal Works, so that it will be able to cope with current and future demand.

Neath Port Talbot - One Voice Wales is making representations to South Wales Police expressing the concerns of a significant number of member councils with the Police Partnership and Communities Together (PACT) meetings, which have replaced the monthly attendance of police officers at council meetings.

RCT/Merthyr/Caerphilly - Cllr Josephine Rao and Cllr Judith Pritchard have been elected Chair and Vice Chair respectively and both now serve on the NEC.

Gwent Valleys - Cllrs Derry Tucker and Hugh Edwards were both re-elected as Chair and Vice Chair.

Monmouthshire and Newport - Cllrs John Harvey and John Small were also re-elected Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

Bridgend/Cardiff/Vale of Glamorgan - Cllrs Malcolm Davies and Howard Lewis were re-elected Chair and Vice Chair for the ensuing year.

Members are urged to ensure that their council is represented at Area meetings. They are part of your membership package and offer a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas with other councils in your area, as well as to hear the latest news, information and guest speakers.

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