

**CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE PROVISION OF THE BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION
SERVICE IN GWYNEDD, DECEMBER 2012-JANUARY 2013**

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

1. Steve Roddick	If the Council wish to close Registry Offices, then they should offer a visit to the home of the person requiring to make a registration I think this level of service would be what the population in general would find acceptable.
2. Matthew Tapping, Groeslon	Used the service several times to register births (Bangor & Caernarfon Office). Although live near Penygroes would question need to offer service there since registration could be undertaken with joint trips to shops etc in the towns. Although good case for keeping Caernarfon, only 10 mins travelling time to Bangor and given the catchment area of Pwllheli/Dolgellau, one site in North Gwynedd would be justifiable since service only occasionally used . If I were doing it would stick to 3 sites.
3. Norman Bond, Penrhyndeudraeth	Surely most of the work for births and deaths could be done on-line without the need for attending in person.
4. Councillor Gethin Glyn Williams, Barmouth	I support the proposals. There is a need to save a lot of money over the next few years. I feel that although this service is important it is not a 'front-line' service.
5. Clerk, Bala Town Council	The Council does not want to lose this service from the town. Provides a valuable service to the community and there is surprise that consideration has been given to only have three locations in Gwynedd. We believe that Bala is a town of sufficient size to retain a satellite station and your figures show that it is intermediate. Could the service be provided in a public building (owned by the Council) to save costs so that you are not paying rent / as much rent? Therefore, would you take note that the Town Council does not wish to lose services in Bala.
6. Councillor Anne Lloyd Jones, Tywyn	Service in Tywyn used by over 30 people every year for the past three years. Even though a small number, it is still an important service for those who have used it. Number of people without cars in Tywyn and they would be inconvenienced having to travel by bus to Dolgellau, especially the parent who had no alternative but to take their small baby with them. Would be willing for the service to be relocated from the current office to the Library which would be a saving but I am opposed to having no facility at all in the town.
7. Clerk, Porthmadog Town Council	In order to mitigate the impact for users, it was strongly felt that one office of the cluster (Porthmadog, Penrhyn, Blaenau, Criccieth and Trawsfynydd) should be kept open in order to provide a service that is more central and within easy reach to a wide geographical area; an area which does not have the most convenient public transport system to reach Bangor, Pwllheli or Dolgellau. If the figures are amalgamated, it creates a strong case for this option. The Council is not in favour of keeping the office in Caernarfon open as Bangor, and even Pwllheli is within easy reach by public transport to this area. It is difficult to keep two offices within a stone's throw of each other at the expense of keeping at least one office in this area. Was the proposal to keep offices open in the towns where the main Council offices are located a coincidence?
8. Clerk, Criccieth Town Council	As very little use is made of the part-time office in Criccieth, the members had no observations to make. It would be interesting to know how much money this re-structuring will save.
9. Clerk, Trawsfynydd Community Council	The Council feels strongly that the service in Meirionnydd should be retained without change. This is a crucial service for residents of the area. Although the service is only for an hour in Trawsfynydd, it is an invaluable service for families who have been bereaved or families who are under stress of caring for a new baby. Residents of the area are suffering with the current recession and the service is important since a bus journey could be difficult. They want the existing service to be kept.
10. David Church Tywyn	As local elected representative, concerned about any further reduction in availability of a local service in a rural area with high proportion of retired people with no close family. Tywyn can be cut off by snow, flooding. Would prefer to keep and increase service in Tywyn and not closure. Suggest encourage demand for certificates to increase income
11. Clerk, Caernarfon Royal Town Council	The Council is pressing to keep the Registrar's Office in Caernarfon open and for the office to be open every day and to extend the opening hours. To keep the registers safe in one of the offices in Caernarfon.
12. Clerk, Tywyn	Council opposed to proposals – limited service availability in town – 2 hours once a week is the reason

Town Council	why figures using the service in Tywyn are so low and misleading Profile of service so low-key in Tywyn not all are aware of its existence. The use made of such a limited service shows that there is a need. Proposal to centralise service would be difficult for some e.g. single parents, working parents, parents having to rely on public transport and lead to financial hardship and worse service. Proposals will not benefit clients but only the service. Question value of consultation, future of satellite sites last and indirect question of the 5 questions. Impression that an irrevocable decision has been taken to close them. Town Council strongly objects to proposal to end the service in Tywyn, ask Gwynedd to reconsider and propose locating service in local library.
13. Myfyr W Hughes. (Chairman, Gwynedd Family History Society)	We wish to see the Historical Registers of the former Caernarvonshire being located in Caernarfon and the Historical Registers of the former Merionethshire being located in Dolgellau since the Archivist Offices are in these two towns. This would assist the hundreds of people who now investigate their family histories and who also bring revenue to the service by purchasing copies of certificates. We would also wish to see more collaboration between the Registration Service and the Archivist Offices.
14. Clerk, Llanllyfni Community Council	The Council is against the proposal to cancel the service in Penygroes. The statistics shown do not present a clear picture of the demand for this service locally in Dyffryn Nantlle since registration officers have not been available to undertake duties in Penygroes for the past two years. In order to make savings, the existing office could be relocated to the library building in the village – there is room there. This would mean that the Council could rent the existing office to someone else and receive an income. Would it be possible for the library staff to be trained to take registration details of births and deaths? They are already on-site and it would mean that officers would NOT have to travel back and forth from Bangor. Would it be possible for librarians to take the reins in all the villages?
15 Clerk-Ffestiniog Town Council	The Council understands the desire to rationalise the service but believes strongly that the emphasis should be on the ease of those using the service. Births are times of great pressure within families, while deaths can be times of great stress. Blaenau Ffestiniog is the third most populous town in Gwynedd, after Bangor and Caernarfon, and Gwynedd has excellent and highly suitable premises for the registration of births and death, at the town's library. The building enjoys Internet access and is thus suitable for Gwynedd Council's 'Tell us once' approach to registration of deaths. On that basis, Ffestiniog Town Council urges Gwynedd Council not to approve plans to close the registration service in Blaenau Ffestiniog but rather to keep this service open for the benefit of the local community
16 Plaid Cymru Arfon Constituency Committee	Concern was expressed that the registry offices at Llanberis,Deiniolen and Penygroes were to close as a result of cutbacks. Suggested that the Council should use local libraries and train their staff to do this work

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County Councillors	
Community/Town Councils for following areas	Gwynedd Council Website
Caernarfon	Llanllyfni
Llanddeiniolen	Llanberis
Porthmadog	Cricieth
Penrhyndeudraeth	Ffestiniog
Y Bala	Tywyn
Trawsfynydd	Harlech
Funeral Undertakers	Properties with licenses for the conduct of civil ceremonies

