
DWYFOR AREA COMMITTEE 17-09-12

Present: Councillor Peter Read (Chairman)
Councillor John Brynmor Hughes (Vice-chairman)

Councillors: Stephen W. Churchman, Anwen Davies, Aled Evans, Gweno Glyn Simon Glyn, Alwyn Gruffydd, Jason Humphreys, Llywarch Bowen Jones, Michael Sol Owen, Liz Saville Roberts, W. Gareth Roberts, Angela Ann Russell, Eirwyn Williams, Gruffydd Williams, Owain Williams, R.H. Wyn Williams and Robert J. Wright.

Also present: Alun Roberts (Dwyfor Area Engineer), Dafydd Wyn Williams, (Chief Engineer – Transportation and Street Care), Gerwyn Jones (Integrated Transport Unit Manager) and Ioan Hughes (Members' Support and Scrutiny Officer).

Apologies: E. Selwyn Griffiths

1. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any member present.

2. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on 26 March, 2012, as a true record.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

a) The Chairman referred to a letter received from *Cyfeillion Llŷn*, expressing concern regarding what they considered to be a substantial threat to the beauty of Llŷn as a result of the development of the wind energy industry.

b) The Chairman was eager for this Committee to discuss the matter as an urgent item and he noted that the reason for his decision to approve the discussion was the statutory duty of every councillor to safeguard the natural beauty of the Llŷn area.

c) An opportunity was given to members to voice their opinions on the matter and concern was expressed regarding the number of planning applications for wind turbines that were currently being received.

ch) It was added that Gwynedd Council did not have clear policies in relation to dealing with wind turbines. However, a member noted that further guidelines would be published imminently and they would become part of existing policies.

d) It was suggested that a decision on every application for a wind turbine could be deferred until a detailed review had been undertaken and specific

policies had been implemented. However, other members emphasised that this could lead to appeals being lodged against the Council.

It was agreed that the Dwyfor Area Committee should:

a) express concern regarding the number of planning applications currently being submitted for wind turbines and the effect that this could have on the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and also adjoining areas.

b) contact the appropriate Scrutiny Committee and draw attention to the observations made in the letter that had been submitted by *Cyfeillion Llŷn*.

c) request the Scrutiny Committee to address some aspects of policies associated with wind turbines, especially in the Llŷn and Dwyfor area in general.

4. PROPOSED HIGHWAYS AND MUNICIPAL WORKS PROGRAMME IN THE DWYFOR AREA

a) The report of the Dwyfor Area Engineer was submitted and members were given an opportunity to ask questions and submit observations.

b) The officer elaborated on aspects of the work programme in response to Members' enquiries and the following main points were highlighted:

- More detailed information was needed regarding the Welsh Government Loan Scheme which meant that Gwynedd Council borrowed £4.3m annually over a period of three years for a programme of roads resurfacing and improvements across the County.
- The possibility of extending the work of the Street Enforcement Team to dealing with dog fouling issues. Currently, the work was concentrated in Porthmadog, Pwllheli and Criccieth.
- Special care had to be taken and the families must be contacted when dealing with the programme of inspecting memorials in cemeteries.
- The condition of many toilets in the Dwyfor area was a cause for some concern.
- Additional dog fouling bins were needed in appropriate areas along the Coastal Path and this was obvious between Llanbedrog and Pwllheli.
- There was a need to ensure high quality playing fields in the Area.
- The condition of some specific roads, such as to the rear of the Church in Clynnog and the road between Llanaelhaearn and Nefyn were being addressed.
- The possibility of devolving some powers from Gwynedd Council to town and community Councils should be considered and the budget for the services had to be transferred also.

c) A request was made for the appropriate Scrutiny Committee to draw up a report on the principle of devolving powers, such as caring for cemeteries and playing fields, to town and community councils and for the financial implications of doing so to be addressed.

4. LOCAL BUS SERVICES AND LEARNER TRANSPORT IN DWYFOR

a) The report of the Head of Regulatory Department was submitted by the Integrated Transport Unit Manager and the Transport and Street Care Senior Manager.

b) It was explained that at the moment a review of transport services for passengers in the Dwyfor Area was being addressed and the scope of the review included transport for learners and local bus services.

c) A member referred to a meeting that had been held with officers, the relevant Cabinet Member, three other councillors and representatives of local bus services. He believed that the meeting had been constructive and he noted that there was now an opportunity for the companies to consider the bus routes and make them more efficient with some services being cut if not required.

ch) However, the member called for evidence that a comprehensive consultation had been undertaken and that a draft was in place so that the Area Committee could scrutinise it prior to implementing the new arrangements.

d) Members were given a further opportunity to make observations and ask questions and attention was drawn to the following main points:

- There was a need to address in detail the situation regarding services in rural areas.
- There was a need for bus companies to collaborate to ensure sustainability of services.
- The costs of transporting children and young people to schools and sixth form colleges were unreasonably high and this was more so for families with more than one child.
- The field in question was very broad and any cuts would have an impact on various groups, such as the elderly, within a community.
- Reasonable changes were needed to ensure that an effective service was available.

A draft report was called for on the result of the consultation on the local bus services and learner transport in the Dwyfor Area, to be submitted to the Area Committee for scrutiny prior to implementing the new arrangements.

The meeting commenced at 5.15pm and concluded at 7.45pm