

MEETING	Full Council
DATE	5 December 2024
REPORT TITLE	Request to change name of Llanaelhaearn Community
RECOMMENDATION	To approve changing the name of the Community
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Menna Trenholme, member for Corporate Services
AUTHOR	Siôn Huws, Propriety and Elections Manager

Background

1. The authority has received a request from Llanaelhaearn Community Council to change the name of the Community from *Llanhaelhaearn* to *Trefor a Llanaelhaearn*. This request can be found in the **Appendix**.

2. Section 76 of the Local Government Act 1972 entitles Gwynedd Council as 'principal council' to change the name of a community if it receives a request to do so from the community council.

3. The Act does not prescribe any process to be followed by the community council or the principal council nor provide any further guidance. In the absence of a specific procedure, the community council was advised that the Full Council would require, as with any decision, sufficient information to allow it to form an opinion after considering the merits of the application. That would include the rationale for making the request and information regarding the views within the community. Members will note that the attached request includes an explanation of the reasons for submitting the application and the steps taken to ascertain the views of the community.

4. Members will be aware that the Council is already undertaking a Community Review process under the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 in order to look at the boundaries and electoral arrangements of communities. The community review process however does not provide a means for changing the name of an existing community and the power under the 1972 Act is the relevant provision.

5. If the Council decides to change the name of the community then the Act provides that it must :

- send a notice to the Welsh Ministers, to the Boundary and Local Democracy Commission for Wales, to the Director General of the Ordnance Survey and to the Registrar General; and
- publish the notice in the community and elsewhere in any manner it considers appropriate.

The Act also provides that a change of name made pursuant to this section will not affect any rights or obligations of any community or any council, authority or person, or render any legal proceedings defective; and any legal proceedings may be initiated or continued as if there were no name change.

Local Member's Views

6. The local member Councillor Jina Gwyrfai, Eifl Ward has stated that she is very supportive of this application in order to be inclusive, fair and to satisfy the wish of the residents of both villages.

Recommendation

7. To approve changing the name of the Community of Llanaelharan to Trefor a Llanaelhaearn in accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 1972

Views of the Statutory Officers

Monitoring Officer

Legal Services have prepared the report. I have no comments to add in relation to propriety.

Chief Finance Officer

Nothing to add from the perspective of financial propriety.