

**19 January, 2011.**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 377 – 382**

At a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 19 January, 2011, at 4.45 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. D. J. Davies (Chairman)

**Cllrs.**

T. D. Bowen	T. Rh. Ifan
M. V. Davies	A. G. Morgan
H. J. Evans	B. C. M. Reynolds
A. C. Thomas	

**377. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. Devichand, T. J. Jones (Cllr. B. C. M. Reynolds deputising) and V. R. Thomas.

**378. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. D. J. Davies declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 379 as he was Vice-Chairman of the Housing Scrutiny Committee, Carmarthenshire County Council.

**379. GYPSY AND TRAVELLER COMMUNITY STRATEGY  
FOR CARMARTHENSHERE COUNTY COUNCIL  
2011-2014**

Cllr. D. J. Davies declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following matter as he was Vice-Chairman of the Housing Scrutiny Committee, Carmarthenshire County Council. Cllr. Davies withdrew from the meeting before discussion began. The Vice-Chairman of Committee, Cllr. T. D. Bowen chaired the meeting for the following item.

The above draft document, together with a questionnaire, was received from the Area Housing Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council, and circulated to Members for consideration.

The document stated that, by working closely with other partner agencies, such as Education and Planning, Elected Members and the local gypsy and traveller community, the development of the draft strategy showed Carmarthenshire County Council's continued commitment to addressing inequalities in the county and looking at best practice and Government guidelines.

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The key aims of the document were:-

- To improve the Local Authority owned Gypsy and Traveller site.
- Improve mutual understanding and trust between Gypsy and Traveller communities and the settled communities.
- To deal with unauthorised encampments fairly, through implementing joint procedures and partnership working with the Police and other agencies.
- Ensure fair access to services including health and education.

The immediate focus was on accommodation and management of the Penybryn site, access to services and dealing with unauthorised encampments fairly. Research had shown that Gypsy and Traveller communities experienced many disadvantages including:-

- Discrimination
- Barriers to accessing services
- Poor health and education
- Poor living conditions

The aims of the Strategy were to:-

- Resolve the lack of adequate accommodation in the County, reflecting the needs and aspirations of Gypsies and Travellers.
- Improve the quality of the Penybryn Site in Llanelli.
- Recognise that Gypsies and Travellers needed full access to care and support including education, health and social care, without discrimination.

The Carmarthenshire Gypsy and Travellers population included Welsh Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers, Polish Gypsies and New Age Travellers. Until 1994, local authorities in England and Wales had a statutory duty to provide enough sites and since the removal of this duty, the provision worsened in many parts of Britain. There was now a legal framework in place for authorities to identify and address the needs because of these difficulties.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that draft strategy be supported and that the Clerk forward the completed questionnaire to the Area Housing Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council.

Cllr. D. J. Davies returned to chair the remainder of the meeting.

### **380. CARBON CAPTURE CYMRU**

Cllr. T. Rh. Ifan drew Members' awareness to a practical community focused carbon saving programme for Wales funded by the Welsh Assembly Government, which would enable communities:-

- to reduce their future greenhouse gas emissions and impact on the climate;
- adapt to the inevitable impacts that would take place in our lifetimes; and
- conserve and enhance existing stocks of carbon in the environment.

The programme would support projects addressing three key aims:-

- (1) Energy Efficiency – a condition of the grant would be the purchase of electricity from an approved renewable energy supplier;

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- (2) Renewable Energy Generation – most types of renewable energy schemes would be supported however, C3 (Carbon Capture Cymru) did not intend to fund ‘bio-fuel’ projects;
- (3) Demonstration and Evaluation projects – a small number of demonstration projects would be supported.

Eligible projects would be accepted from social enterprises, land based community projects, community councils and voluntary and community groups.

Cllr. Ifan felt that perhaps more could be done to raise local public awareness about the merits of the programme and suggested that an information point located in a shop or other town centre building could be utilised in the future to disseminate information and advice to the general public.

During discussion, Members also recognised that the programme might well benefit the future sustainability of the Council’s premises and having supported the principle of Cllr. Ifan’s suggestion it was

**RESOLVED** that the concept of the Carbon Capture Cymru programme be noted and that opportunities to either promote or take advantage of the programme be borne in mind for future reference.

**381. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960**

**RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the following matter be considered in private and that the power of exclusion of the public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960 be exercised.

**382. STAFFING MATTERS**

Members were circulated with the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) informing of staffing matters.

**RESOLVED** that the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) be received and adopted.

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The Meeting concluded at 5.30 p.m.

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The afore-mentioned Minutes were declared to be a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman presiding thereat and were, on 8 February, 2011, adopted by the Council.