

DAILY POST

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Eirian Roberts

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Cyngor Gwynedd / Gwynedd Council

Swyddfa'r Cyngor

Caernarfon

Gwynedd

LL55 1SH

27.05.015

Dear Ms Roberts,

Thank you very much for your letter enclosing details of the motion passed by Gwynedd Council expressing concern at the closure of our office in Caernarfon at the end of June.

The council's understandable concern that we maintain our role in local democracy and as a provider of information and news for the communities we serve in north west Wales is one which we at Trinity Mirror share.

However, the newspaper industry has been under severe financial pressure for many years now, and careful management of our costs is important if we are to continue to be able to provide a service to our audiences in the communities we cover.

The company's policy in this regard is to invest in our talented people rather than in bricks and mortar. So, faced with the need to reduce our costs, it makes sense for the company, our employees, and the customers to whom we provide a service, for us to close buildings and have our fully digitally equipped journalists and advertising sales teams working in the field.

No journalists will lose their jobs as a result of this announcement, and we will continue to work hard to deliver the best coverage of the area. The numbers of local people who called in at our office to give us stories or book adverts had dwindled to just a handful a week. Most people today either email us or call us on the telephone. We can respond to their enquiries just as quickly and effectively without the expense of maintaining an office base in the town.

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We are consulting individually with all our affected staff at the moment, and considering some innovative options for hi-tech solutions to ensure all their needs are met. This will mean our journalists spending a lot more time out in the communities they serve, meeting people, interviewing them and getting stories. It has worked well for us in other areas, and we are confident that it can work just as effectively for Caernarfon. As part of this process we are looking, in conjunction with the NUJ, at a number of options for bases where our journalists can log into wifi networks and file their stories.

We are of course aware of Caernarfon's long traditional links with newspaper production, and we are conscious of the fact that we are the last newspaper office in a town which once had many. That is clearly a cause for some sadness, and it is a sentiment which we share. But the fact that all those other offices have long since gone demonstrates both the economic realities, and we hope, the fact that Trinity Mirror remains very deeply committed to Caernarfon and to North West Wales in general.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Thomas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Thomas,
Editor,
Daily Post