

### **Appendix 3 – “More than Books” Spatial Impact: Local Responses.**

The strategy has more impact on some communities in the authority, specifically in the eight communities where a change to the current arrangement is recommended.

Below is a summary of the responses as per community.

In the four communities where a Community Library is recommended the following can be noted:-

- 1) Penygroes:- Antur Nantlle and Llanllyfni Community Council have stated their support in principle to adapt and support a Community Library arrangements in Penygroes. (appendix 3a).
- 2) Nefyn:- We have met with representatives from the Town Council, a statement of willingness to collaborate to identify opportunities to establish a community library has been made, but the Council requires more time and detailed discussion prior to making any final decision.(appendix 3b).
- 3) Cricieth:- The Town Council has stated its support to collaborate with the Library Service to establish a community library arrangement in the town, but members state that they would favour establishing that arrangement by re-locating to the Encil y Coed site jointly with the Day Centre, Adults Service, rather than remaining on the current site (appendix 3c).
- 4) Bethesda:- We have met with representatives from the three community councils that serve the catchment area of the library in Dyffryn Ogwen and have received a written response from 2 of them noting support in principle to collaborate on establishing a community library in Bethesda (appendix 3d/3e).

In the four communities where it is recommended that maintaining a library service from a building comes to an end and replaced with a Community Link the following can be noted :-

- 1) Llanberis:- Llanberis Community Council has not responded to the strategy although several attempts have been made to engage with them and to seek their opinions.
- 2) Harlech:- The town council has provided a response (appendix 3f) stating its objection to what is recommended for Harlech Library. The local member is keen to see the library remaining in the town but re-located to the secondary school.
- 3) Penrhyndeudraeth:- The community council has stated their objection to the recommendation but a willingness to establish a community link as well as a request to mitigate the impact by arranging for the Mobile Service to visit the village. Deudraeth Cyf Company has stated its willingness to collaborate on establishing a link. (appendix 3g /3h)
- 4) Deiniolen:- The community council has stated its objection to what is recommended (appendix 3i). The Community Council submitted a request to us to consider the following instead of what is recommended:-

To reduce the opening hours from 8 hours to 6 hours per week.

To move the library to Ysgol Gwaun Gynfi

We have considered these suggestions and have reported back on our conclusions to representatives from the community council and the local member.

We are not of the opinion that maintaining a library to be open for less than 10 hours per week is an efficient provision, in accordance with the findings of the "Specialist Report on Public Libraries in Wales 2014" which was commissioned by Welsh Government.

Moving to the School is not an option, although it is supported locally, as there is no capacity in the building, according to the Education Department's calculations, to release part of the school's main building for this purpose. The Property Department has considered a lower part of the building (that does not form part of capacity calculations for education) but it was concluded that due to the structure, fabrication and health and safety matters that it is not suitable or viable to be converted for combined public use such as a Library.

We are now collaborating with the local member, the community council and Menter Fachwen on identifying other solutions. Menter Fachwen are eager to collaborate on establishing a community link on the Library's current site, as well as other facilities such as a book exchange, homework club, free public connectivity to the internet (appendix 3j).

Such an arrangement would allow access to new books through the community link's click and collect service. However, representatives from the community council continue to note a concern that such an arrangement would not meet a local need for access to new books on shelves that could be browsed.

Appendix 3a

*Translation of original correspondence from Antur Nantlle. Cyf.*

Dear Catrin,

Re: Letter dated 24 of May 2016.

Thank you to you and Hywel for meeting with myself and Owain recently, and for your letter.

The Antur Board have discussed your letter and have asked me to respond as follows. The response follows your referencing of the matters presented.

- 1) Current annual rent for the Penygroes Library is £6,292.80. As mentioned in our meeting the Antur run a annual maintenance programme for the 10 buildings it operates in Dyffryn Nantlle, and this year these costs have been higher than usual. A decrease in your rent to £5,000 per annum, to start on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2017, could be accommodated without significant implications to the Antur's core services. In addition we are keen to co-operate with you and would be willing to allow you the continued use of the foyer within the decreased rent ( i.e. to maintain the current library floor space). We hope that this would avoid any costs or trouble for the service to re-arrange its layout, and would also allow the Library to remain "the same" from the public's perception.
- 2) In addition to the above the Antur will contribute £768.50 towards the cost of maintaining the network connection to the PC's. This would lead to a saving of £2,061.30.
- 3) In response to the proposal to reduce the hours, the Antur are keen to see the current hours maintained but cannot contribute financially to this. We would be willing to work with you in presenting a proposal to the Community Council, in the hope that they could contribute to maintaining the opening hours.

The management Board accept the financially challenging times facing public services, and we believe that the above response is fair and reasonable for both parties whilst striving to protect this important service.

We look forward to your response in the near future. Your welcome to call or visits at any time.

Thank you for your attention

Yours sincerely

ROBAT JONES

Chief Officer.

Appendix 3b

*Translation of original correspondence from Nefyn Town Council.*

26/08/2016

Dear Sir / Madam

As Nefyn Town Council does not meet during August there has not been sufficient time for us to discuss our willingness to support and finance a Community Library, based on the latest information received. In conclusion, we would require more time to seek further information.

During our initial meetings we expressed some concerns and questions which we would appreciate your response:

- Will it be possible for the library building to be transferred?
- Would the council be willing to undertake repair works to the flat roof and guttering prior to any transfer of the building to the Town Council?
- Will Cyngor Gwynedd give assurances that this is not the first step in moving towards a volunteer led Community Library?

With these word,

SHARON FRANCIS WILLIAMS

(On behalf of Nefyn Town Council)

Appendix 3c

*Translation of original correspondence from Criccieth Town Council*

12 July 2016

Dear Catrin,

**Criccieth Library.**

Following your presentation to the Town Council on the 13 of June 2016 the members have had the opportunity to discuss the options further at the latest meeting, and have asked me to convey their comments to you.

1. The members agree in principle to re-locate the library to Encil y Coed, and this, unanimously, is their preferred option. Therefore they would be keen to discuss this further once all the details are available.
2. If Gwynedd Council decides to move forward with the relocation option, the members were unclear if there was an expectation on the Town Council to contribute financially towards any costs, including the relocating costs, maintenance cost, or to contribute towards any aspect of the service within a new location. We would appreciate if you could clarify such matters so that I could report back to the council.

I look forward to hearing further from you, once Gwynedd Council's Cabinet have discussed its report.

Yours sincerely

EILIR ANN DANIELS

Clerk, Criccieth Town Council.

Appendix 3d

*Translation of original correspondence from Bethesda Community Council*

17 August 2016

Dear Catrin

Re: "More than Books" Library Service Strategy.

Further to your letter dated 29th of June 2016 regarding the above, I write to confirm the Bethesda Community Council agrees in principle to work with Gwynedd Council to establish a Community Library service in Bethesda.

Yours sincerely

DONNA WATTS

Clerk.

Appendix 3e

*Translation of original correspondence from Llandygai Community Council*

19 August 2016

Dear Catrin

Re: "More than Books" Library Service Strategy.

Further to your letter dated 29th of June 2016 regarding the above, I write to confirm the Bethesda Community Council agrees in principle to work with Gwynedd Council to establish a Community Library service in Dyffryn Ogwen, but require more time to discuss the matter.

Yours sincerely

DONNA WATTS

Clerk.

Appendix 3f

*Translation of original correspondence from Harlech Town Council*

05 July 2016

Subject: Gwynedd Library Service – Harlech Town Council

Dear Catrin

Thank you for the below email and the letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> of June regarding the above matter.

Following a meeting of Harlech Community council on the 4<sup>th</sup> of this month it was asked of me to respond by declaring great disappointment that the library in Harlech should close, and that a Community link should be established, and it was agreed to object to what was being proposed for the library within the town and express great concern that this would lead to less use of the library service.

Yours sincerely

ANNWEN HUGHES

Clerk.



Appendix 3g

*Translation of original correspondence from Penrhyndeudraeth Community Council*

21 June 2016

Dear Officers

Re: Re-modelling of the library service for the future and its impact upon Penrhyndeudraeth and Minffordd.

Thank you to you both for attending a meeting of the council on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2016.

The matters raised during your presentation have been discussed and see below our response:-

1) Penrhyndeudraeth Library Costs

£26,000 is the cost for providing the library, but upon breakdown £5,000 is the cost of renting the building. The other costs were general costs associated with any library building e.g. staffing, cleaning, taxes, insurance, network connection, electricity and gas etc.

2) Mobile Service

2.1 Penrhyndudraeth and Minffordd

It was understood that 1 or 2 monthly visits is usual – but we would envisage 3 stops would be ideal in Penrhyndeudraeth, and to continue with the current arrangement in Minffordd.

2.2 Penrhyndeudraeth Mobile Library stops

The 3 locations we would suggest for Penrhyndeudraeth are Parc y Mileniwm car park, Adwy Ddu and Penlan. The town council, if possible, would request that 1 or 2 monthly visit would stop at these locations via a rota – which would allow for weekly presence in Penrhyndeudraeth e.g. week 1 in Parc y Mileniwm car park; week 2 in Adwy Ddu, week 3 in Penlan etc

2.3 Mobile Library Stops in Minffordd

We would request that the current arrangements remain.

3) We agree on how users should be informed of the rota / dates / locations

4) We agree with the amount of books that could be borrowed within a month

5) In regard to the location of the Community Link - consult local businesses.

6) The Council deplore and complain that Governmental financial cuts are restricting what the library service can deliver but understand that Gwynedd Council officers must respond and make changes.

Yours sincerely

GLYN E.ROBERTS

Clerk.

Appendix 3h

*Translation of original correspondence from Deudraeth Cyf.*

20 July 2016.

Dear Ms Thomas

“More than Books” Library Service Strategy.

I refer to your letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2016, and in particular the establishment of a Community Link in Penrhyndeudraeth.

Our Board has met and discussed the matter and are keen to offer this service to the public if possible. As it seems that using volunteers to deliver this service is the case we would require further information, see below:

- 1) Would the Council be providing training to these volunteers?
- 2) Would it be required for them to be DBS checked?
- 3) If yes, would the Council be willing to pay for this ( we could envisage up to 10 volunteers)
- 4) How much would the council be willing to contribute towards the internet access?

We look forward to receiving further information.

Yours sincerely

MALDWYN JONES

Chair.

Appendix 3i

*Translation of original correspondence from Llanddeiniolen Community Council*

13 July 2016

Dear Mr Edwards (Council / Leader Dyfed Edwards)

Re: More than Books Strategy – Deiniolen Library.

On Tuesday evening, 5<sup>th</sup> of July, Hywel James and Catrin Thomas attended a meeting of the Community Council. Following the statement on the latest cuts to the county's libraries a lively discussion ensued due to the concern that the above named library could close. It was stated to us that the cabinet would discuss the recommendations presented to them and make a final decision on the way forward at their September meeting, and therefore it is critical that we contact you before the end of the month. We ask that this letter be circulated to every member of the cabinet before the September meeting, and we thank you for this beforehand.

I would like to present to you in this letter some background and the council's opinion.

The cost of providing Deiniolen Library, located within a room in Ty Elidir, a building at the centre of the village is £16,760.40. From all of the 17 libraries within the county (apart from Harlech) this is the library of least cost. Ty Elidir is used throughout the week by Menter Fachwen, and they are responsible for the building. Menter Fachwen hire the building to societies from the village during the evenings, and therefore the building is a community centre in the true meaning of the word, and how important this is for its users, and to Deiniolen's High Street which has been deprived of shops.

It was stated by the officers that the residents of Deiniolen had presented comprehensive information to the consultation led by Sian Shakespeare Associates. This is to be commended of course.

We sympathise with Gwynedd Council in dealing with the challenging financial cuts that they face but we must disagree wholeheartedly with you in respect to what is being proposed for Deiniolen Library. The recommendation of bringing the current provision to an end and establishing a Community Link is a disgrace to say the least.

We have presented some background of the situation and now we wish to submit some options, whilst there's a Library still in Deiniolen, which are:

- 1) Reduce the library from 8 hours to 6.  
The library to open on Wednesday's between 2 and 6 pm so that pupils from the Secondary School may attend, and on Friday mornings from 10 – 12 am so that pupils from Ysgol Gwaun Gynfi, who has 154 pupils could attend.
- 2) The school.  
On the 24<sup>th</sup> of June a new head teacher was appointed to Ysgol Gwaun Gynfi, who will take up her post in January, and we have heard that she is willing to work closely with the community and that this is an essential role of any school. Would it be possible for you to

explore the possibility of locating the library in the school? This would also reduce costs. Could you discuss this with the new head and the Governing Body?

3) Community Council.

We as a community council are committed to support the wider marketing of Deiniolen Library, beyond Deiniolen, Clwt y Bont, Dinorwig and Fachwen, but also to nearby communities. We are keen as a council to do all that we can within our means to support this because of the importance of keeping a library in Deiniolen.

As you can see we have suggested constructive options which deserve your response to co-operate. We therefore ask that you give thorough consideration to these constructive options.

We have seen a letter (June 13<sup>th</sup>) from Ken Skates from the government (Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure) stating:

**“I understand that the council (Gwynedd) will be working closely with each library to discuss the options to ensure your views are considered.”**

Therefore, we as the community council representing the Deiniolen area have presented these options and ideas to you in a constructive and polite manner.

We are concerned, that if Deiniolen and Llanberis libraries were to close that there would be no library left in the Dyffryn Peris area, one of the Welsh stronghold areas in Wales. In this valley there is a natural social movement between its villages. It would be easy for the residents of the valley to come to a library in Deiniolen for example, less travelling and cheaper than visiting the Bangor or Caernarfon library.

It has also been mentioned, if it would be possible to use some of the profits from the old vicarage, NODDFA, here in Deiniolen as a contribution towards maintaining the library? Only you as a Council could answer this.

We all know that valuable resources that do not produce profits shouldn't be closed, because in the case of every LIBRARY this was not the reason for their creation, but it was

**TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING DIFFERENT – AND WE ALL KNOW THAT THAT DIFFERENCE IS PRICELESS.**

We appeal to you as members of Gwynedd Council's Cabinet to read our letter in detail and thoroughly. Deiniolen is a post-quarrying community that has contributed greatly to the county and country's civilised society (and is still in abundance with activities). We ask that you do your best on our behalf.

Yours Sincerely,

ELERI BEAN

Clerk.

## menter fachwen

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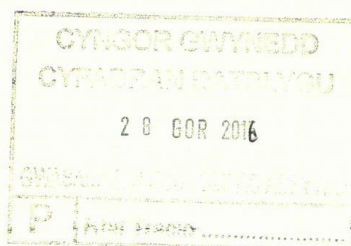
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26<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Catrin Thomas  
**Senior Manager Community Learning**  
Swyddfa'r Cyngor  
Caernarfon  
Gwynedd  
LL55 1SH



Dear Catrin,

Thank you for your letter and the copy of Gwynedd Council's Library Service "More than Books" Strategy. I found the copy of the strategy very interesting reading.

I really enjoyed meeting with Mr Hywel James and appreciated his update on the possible changes to the Library Service in Deiniolen.

I fully understand that the Strategy is still subject to cabinet approval. I am also glad to hear that there will still be a Library Service available to the community of Deiniolen; we would like to be a part of that service as the links we form with our communities are absolutely vital to our organisational aims which are to be a valuable part of the communities we work from.

1. We would be proud to be part of a Community Link Library Service and would be very happy to house the space for a computer access point, notice board and lockable cupboard.
2. Community Link opening hours for example of Monday 15:00 – 17:00.  
The hours for access are agreeable to us and we do have the staff available to facilitate this. We have trained and experienced staff, all of whom are DBS checked (Disclosure Barring Service)

One member of staff who is very keen to be part of the project perhaps running an after school homework club for young people who may not have a computer at home, is a qualified teacher PGCE in Further Education and she has been teaching IT for many years.

3. The idea of Free Public access to Wi-Fi is also agreeable to us and we run a similar project and have done for many years in Cwm y Glo. This has been a great success and it continues to work well, again, this is because the connections we make with our communities are very important to us. The hours we would be available would be 09:00 – 16:00 Monday to Friday.
4. We are also keen to set up a book swap club, so if there were some book shelves available if and when the library closes we would really appreciate this.

Ty Elidir is used by many groups of people of all ages.

We are enjoying sharing the building with the community, the caretaking duties provide a wealth of tasks for our staff and service users to perform.

I hope you think we are capable of running a successful Community Link Library Service, because we would see this project as an extension of the service we are already providing in Ty Elidir and across the road in EB's Cafe - which I think are both much appreciated by the people of Deiniolen.

I look forward to hearing from you and I hope the Cabinet will look favourably on our suggestions.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CMToms'.

Catherine Mary Toms (Kate)  
**Chief Executive Officer**