Cyngor Tref Llangollen Town Council. Agenda. 17.12.2024.

1.

Croesawiad a chyhoeddiadau Faer y Dref. Town Mayors welcome and announcements.

2. Cyflwyniad.

Rhannu Bwyd Llangollen.

3. Datganiadau gan y cyhoedd.

I dderbyn datganiadau oddiwrth y cyhoedd ar faterion ar yr agenda.

5. Datganiadau gan Cynghorwyr y Sir.

I dderbyn datganiadau gan Cynghorwyr y Sir ar faterion sy'n ymwneud â Llangollen.

6. Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.

I dderbyn, ystyried a derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.

7. Datganiadau o Fuddiant.

I dderbyn unrhyw ddatganiadau o fuddiant ar eitemau ar yr agenda.

8. Cofnodion.

a) Awdurdodi'r Cadeirydd i lofnodi cofnodion y chyfarfodydd cyffredin blaenorol y Cyngor y Dref a gynhaliwyd ar 19.11.2024 fel cofnod cywir.

7. Adroddiadau ariannol.

I dderbyn adroddiadau a gyflwynwyd gan yr Clerc y Dref ac ystyried yr argymhellion ynddo. Mae adroddiadau ariannol yn ddogfennau gwaith ac felly nid ydynt yn cael eu cyfieithu

- a) Datganiadau Ariannol.
- Taliadau Awdurdodedig. b)
- C) Cymodi banc.

9. Adroddiadau Clerc y Dref.

I dderbyn adroddiadau a gyflwynwyd gan yr Clerc y Dref ac ystyried yr argymhellion ynddo. Mae adroddiadau yn ddogfennau gwaith ac felly nid ydynt wedi'u cyfieithu.

Presentation.

Llangollen Food Share.

Statements from the public.

To receive statements from the public on matters on the agenda.

Statements from County Councillors.

To receive statements from County Councillors on matters relating to Llangollen

Apologies for absence.

To receive, consider and accept apologies for absence.

Declaration of Interest.

To receive any known declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

Minutes.

To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the previous ordinary meetings of the Town Council held on 19.11.2024 as a correct record.

Financial reports.

To receive reports submitted to the Town Clerk and considered the recommendations therein. Financial reports are working documents and are therefore not translated.

Authorised Payments. Financial Statements. Bank reconciliation.

Town Clerk's Reports.

To receive reports submitted to the Town Clerk and considered the recommendations therein. Reports are working documents and are therefore not translated.

- a) Ymgynghoriadau Cyfarwyddiaeth Cynllunio Llywodraeth Cymru.
- b) Ymchwiliad Pwyllgor Menywod a Chydraddoldeb Tŷ'r Cyffredin ar gydlyniant cymunedol.

Welsh Government Planning Directorate consultations.

House of Commons' Women and Equalities Committee inquiry on community cohesion.

10. Ceisiadau Cynllunio.

I ystyried ceisiadau cynllunio a gyfeiriwyd at y Cyngor a gwneud unrhyw benderfyniadau angenrheidiol arno.

Cais: 03/2024/1212

Lleoliad; The Royal Hotel Bridge Street, **Cynnig:** Ymestyn ac addasu adeilad presennol i ffurfio 12 fflat hunangynhwysol gan gynnwys defnydd tir fel maes parcio a

gwaith cysylltiedig

Cais: 03/2024/1213

Lleoliad: The Royal Hotel Bridge Street, **Cynnig:** Ymestyn ac addasu adeilad presennol i ffurfio 12 fflat hunangynhwysol gan gynnwys defnydd tir fel maes parcio a gwaith cysylltiedig (Caniatâd Adeilad

Rhestredig).

Cais: 03/2024/1445

Lleoliad: 2 Mill Street, Llangollen,

Cynnig: Amrywiad i amod rhif 4 o gais rhif 03/2023/0328 i ganiatáu defnyddio'r adeilad

allanol fel diben preswyl HMO

Cais: 03/2024/1494

Lleoliad: Tamarisk, 4 Fron Castell, Fron

Bach.

Cynnig: Codi estyniadau a newidiadau i'r

annedd.

Cais: 03/2024/1527

Lleoliad: Riversdale, Ffordd yr Abaty., **Cynnig:** Cael gwared ar un sycamorwydden

o fewn Ardal Gadwraeth Llangollen

Cais: 03/2024/1510

Lleoliad: Belmont, Berwyn.

Cynnig: Codi estyniad unllawr i ochr yr

Planning Applications.

To consider planning applications referred to the Council and make any necessary decisions thereon.

Application: 03/2024/1212

Location: The Royal Hotel Bridge Street, **Proposal:** Extension and alteration to existing

building to form 12 self-contained flats including use of land as parking and

associated works

Application: 03/2024/1213

Location: The Royal Hotel Bridge Street, **Proposal:** Extension and alteration to existing

building to form 12 self-contained flats

including internal and external alterations and associated works (Listed Building Consent)

Application: 03/2024/1445/PS Location: 2 Mill Street, Llangollen, Proposal: Variation of condition no. 4 of application code no. 03/2023/0328 to allow

the use of the outbuilding as an HMO residential purpose

Application: 03/2024/1494

Location: Tamarisk, 4 Fron Castell, Fron

Bache.

Proposal: Erection of extensions and

alterations to dwelling

Application: 03/2024/1527

Location: Riversdale Abbey Road.

Proposal: Removal of one sycamore tree within Llangollen Conservation Area

Application: 03/2024/1510 **Location:** Belmont, Berwyn.

Proposal: Erection of a single storey extension

annedd a gwaith cysylltiedig.

Ailymgynghori.

Cais: 03/2019/0548

Lleoliad: Tir wrth ymyl stryd Bwthyn Melin

Dyfrdwy.

Cynnig: Codi bloc o fflatiau sy'n cynnwys 16 o unedau preswyl ac annedd ar wahan; ffurfio mynediad; creu parcio cysylltiedig;

tirlunio a gwaith cysylltiedig

11. Trefnu cyfarfodydd yn y dyfodol.

I ystyried ymgynghoriad cymunedol cyn ymgeisio a gyfeirir at y Cyngor a gwneud unrhyw benderfyniadau angenrheidiol ar hynny.

Parc Gwledig Pentre Eirianfa`, Stryd y Berwyn, Llangollen, Sir Ddinbych, LL20 Datblygu tir drwy godi 22 o unedau llety gwyliau newydd (Dosbarth Defnydd C6) ac un adeilad storio, ffurfio llwybrau parcio a mewnol, gosod gwaith trin pecyn, tirlunio a gwaith cysylltiedig (yn lle caniatâd sydd ar gael 03/2001/0028 & 03/2003/1196) www.eirianfa.co.uk to side of dwelling and associated works.

Re-consultation.

Application: 03/2019/0548

Location: Land adjacent to Dee cottage Nill

street

Cynnig: codi bloc o fflatiau sy'n cynnwys 16 o unedau preswyl ac annedd ar wahan; ffurfio mynediad; creu parcio cysylltiedig; tirlunio a

gwaith cysylltiedig

Pre-Application Community Consultation

To consider pre-application community consultation referred to the Council and make any necessary decisions thereon.

Pentre Eirianfa Country Park, Berwyn Street, Llangollen, Denbighshire, LL20 8AD Development of land by the erection of 22 new holiday accommodation units (Use Class C6) and one storage building, formation of parking and internal pathways, installation of package treatment plant, landscaping and associated works (in lieu of extant permissions 03/2001/0028 & 03/2003/1196) www.eirianfa.co.uk

Authorised Payments December

Taleb/Voucher	Description/Disgrifiad	Cyflenwr/Supplier	Net	TAW/VAT	Gros/Gross
177	PAYE M8	HMRC	£1,468.94	£0.00	£1,468.94
178 - 181	Salary M8	Staff	£4,574.88	£0.00	£4,574.88
187	Stamps Direct	Ink pad	£16.08	£3.22	£19.30
188	Fes and charges	Unity Trust Bank	£10.50	£0.00	£10.50
189	Cloud Services	ACS Technology	£190.30	£0.00	£190.30
190	Licences	ACS Technology	£125.00	£0.00	£125.00
191	Computer hardware	ACS Technology	£1,485.00	£0.00	£1,485.00
192	Contract Cleaning	Border Janitorial	£183.05	£36.62	£219.67
193	Corporate Card	Barclaycard	£404.97	£0.00	£404.97
194	Broadband	British Telecom	£54.56	£0.00	£54.56
195	Business Rates	CSD/DCC	£1,238.00	£0.00	£1,238.00
196	Equipment	Exporta	£230.55	£46.11	£276.66
197	Electricity	Good Energy	£49.19	£2.46	£51.65
198	Electricity	Good Energy	£908.28	£181.66	£1,089.94
199	Electricity	Good Energy	£244.33	£12.22	£256.55
200	Gas	Good Energy	£2,538.52	£562.92	£3,101.44
201	Water Charges	Hafren Dyfrdwy	£431.50	£0.00	£431.50
202	Translation	B Jones	£122.30	£0.00	£122.30
203	Civic costs	Poppy Appeal	£85.00	£0.00	£85.00
204	Printing	Rawsons Digital	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
205	Subscriptions	SLCC	£385.00	£0.00	£385.00
206	Contract Cleaning	Ultraclean	£243.75	£48.75	£292.50
207	Office supplies	Viking Direct	£119.59	£23.92	£143.51
208	Repair and renewal	Watkin and Williams	£20.09	£0.00	£20.09
209	Contract Cleaning	J Williams	£60.00	£0.00	£60.00
210	Pension	Nest	£203.65	£0.00	£203.65
211	Staff expenses	LTC1	£75.60	£0.00	£75.60
Total			£15,468.63	£917.88	£16,386.51

Llangollen Town Council Net Position by Cost Centre and Code

Cost Centre Name

Administration Code Title	Bal. B/Fwd.	Receipts Budget Actu	Payme ual Budget	ents Actual	Current Balance Budget
	Dai. D/I Wu.	Budget Acti	· ·		•
8 Fees and charges			2,200.00	3,201.90	-1,001.90
9 Cloud services			3,700.00	1,671.87	2,028.13
10 Health and safety			2,700.00	899.51	1,800.49
11 Insurance			5,550.00	5,610.12	-60.12
12 Licenses			550.00	460.40	89.60
13 NNDR			14,000.00	8,662.22	5,337.78
14 Payroll			750.00	384.00	366.00
15 Subscriptions			1,600.00	805.00	795.00
45 Staff Training			1,500.00	60.00	1,440.00
48 Expenses			500.00		500.00
			33,050.00	£21,755.02	11,294.98
Asset Management		Pagainta	Boume	unto	Current Balance
•	Bal. B/Fwd.	Receipts Budget Actu	Payme	Actual	Budget
Code <u>Title</u>	Dai. D/FWU.	Budget Acti	ıal Budget	Actual	Buaget
16 Equipment			14,500.00		14,500.00
17 Projects			20,000.00	11,590.25	8,409.75
18 Cleaning			3,300.00	2,871.89	428.11
19 Grounds maintenance			13,000.00	5,972.50	7,027.50
20 Christmas illuminations			11,000.00	1,729.08	9,270.92
21 Repairs and renewals			15,000.00	31,392.74	-16,392.74
22 Waste collection			1,100.00	159.25	940.75
23 Water charges			900.00	251.75	648.25
			78,800.00	£53,967.46	24,832.54
Capital Financing		Receipts	Payme	anto	Current Balance
Code Title	Bal. B/Fwd.	Budget Actu	•	Actual	Budget
33 Loan repayments	Dai. D/I Wu.	Budget Acti	iai buuget	Actual	Budget
Community Code Title	Bal. B/Fwd.	Receipts Budget Actu	Payme ıal Budget	ents Actual	Current Balance Budget
34 Community grants	bai. b/Fwu.	Budget Acti	6,500.00	Actual	6,500.00
35 Donations			,		
36 Cittaslow			1,000.00		1,000.00
			7,500.00		7,500.00
Cost of Democracy		Receipts		ents	
Code Title	Bal. B/Fwd.	Receipts Budget Actu	7,500.00 Payme	ents Actual	7,500.00
Code Title 24 Election expenses 25 Civic costs	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	-	7,500.00 Payme ual Budget 2,000.00		7,500.00 Current Balance Budget 2,000.00
Code <u>Title</u> 24 Election expenses	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	-	7,500.00 Payme ual Budget		7,500.00 Current Balance Budget
Code Title 24 Election expenses 25 Civic costs 26 Civic events 27 Mayor's allowance 28 Remuneration	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	-	7,500.00 Payme Budget 2,000.00 3,800.00 1,800.00	Actual	7,500.00 Current Balance Budget 2,000.00 3,800.00 1,800.00
Code Title 24 Election expenses 25 Civic costs 26 Civic events 27 Mayor's allowance	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	-	7,500.00 Payme Budget 2,000.00 3,800.00		7,500.00 Current Balance Budget 2,000.00 3,800.00
Code Title 24 Election expenses 25 Civic costs 26 Civic events 27 Mayor's allowance 28 Remuneration 29 Member Training	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	-	7,500.00 Payme Budget 2,000.00 3,800.00 1,800.00	Actual	7,500.00 Current Balance Budget 2,000.00 3,800.00 1,800.00
Code Title 24 Election expenses 25 Civic costs 26 Civic events 27 Mayor's allowance 28 Remuneration 29 Member Training 30 Member allowances	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	Budget Actu	7,500.00 Payme Budget 2,000.00 3,800.00 1,800.00 2,000.00 9,600.00	40.00 £40.00	7,500.00 Current Balance Budget 2,000.00 3,800.00 1,800.00 1,960.00 9,560.00
Code Title 24 Election expenses 25 Civic costs 26 Civic events 27 Mayor's allowance 28 Remuneration 29 Member Training	Bal. B/Fwd.	-	7,500.00 Payme Budget 2,000.00 3,800.00 1,800.00 2,000.00 9,600.00 Payme	40.00 £40.00	7,500.00 Current Balance Budget 2,000.00 3,800.00 1,800.00 1,960.00
Code Title 24 Election expenses 25 Civic costs 26 Civic events 27 Mayor's allowance 28 Remuneration 29 Member Training 30 Member allowances Energy Costs Code Title		Budget Actu	7,500.00 Payme Budget 2,000.00 3,800.00 1,800.00 2,000.00 9,600.00 Payme ual Budget	40.00 £40.00 ents Actual	7,500.00 Current Balance Budget 2,000.00 3,800.00 1,800.00 1,960.00 9,560.00 Current Balance Budget
Code Title 24 Election expenses 25 Civic costs 26 Civic events 27 Mayor's allowance 28 Remuneration 29 Member Training 30 Member allowances		Budget Actu	7,500.00 Payme Budget 2,000.00 3,800.00 1,800.00 2,000.00 9,600.00 Payme	40.00 £40.00	7,500.00 Current Balance Budget 2,000.00 3,800.00 1,800.00 1,960.00 9,560.00 Current Balance
Code Title 24 Election expenses 25 Civic costs 26 Civic events 27 Mayor's allowance 28 Remuneration 29 Member Training 30 Member allowances Energy Costs Code Title 31 Electricity		Budget Actu	7,500.00 Payme Budget 2,000.00 3,800.00 1,800.00 2,000.00 9,600.00 Payme all Budget 11,000.00	40.00 £40.00 ents Actual 4,946.54	7,500.00 Current Balance Budget 2,000.00 3,800.00 1,800.00 1,960.00 9,560.00 Current Balance Budget 6,053.46

Current Balance

Llangollen Town Council Net Position by Cost Centre and Code

Receipts

Payments

Cost Centre Name

Income

Code <u>Title</u>	Bal. B/Fwd.	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
1 Precept		165,350.00	110,837.17	_		-54,512.83
2 Interest			2,240.36	2,700.00		4,940.36
3 Room hire		14,500.00	9,866.50			-4,633.50
4 Rents		23,500.00	14,121.69			-9,378.31
5 Grants						
6 Tenants recharges		3,000.00	1,266.26			-1,733.74
7 VAT refund		1,100.00	13,969.34			12,869.34
49 Donation			156.29			156.29
		207,450.00	£152,457.61	2,700.00		-52,292.39
Office Costs		Rece	eipts	Payme	ents	Current Balance
Code Title	Bal. B/Fwd.	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
37 Office supplies				1,100.00	135.44	964.56
38 Broadband				700.00	725.00	-25.00
39 Photocopier rental				1,000.00	612.00	388.00
40 Printing				1,400.00	87.26	1,312.74
41 Translation				700.00	111.76	588.24
47 Computer hardware				2,500.00	150.00	2,350.00
				7,400.00	£1,821.46	5,578.54
Staff Costs		Rece	•	Payme		Current Balance
Code <u>Title</u>	Bal. B/Fwd.	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
42 Salaries				39,600.00	25,368.62	14,231.38
43 HR fees and charges					200.00	-200.00
44 Pension				3,500.00	4,682.60	-1,182.60
46 HMRC				9,000.00	8,890.91	109.09
				52,100.00	£39,142.13	12,957.87
NET TOTAL		207,450.00	£152,457.61	210,650.00	£131,927.65	23,729.96

Llangollen Town Council

	Bank Reconciliation at 30/	11/2024		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2024			217,669.55
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2024 - 30/11/2024		152,485.61	
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2024 - 30/11/202		370,155.16 147,101.56	
A	Cash in Hand 30/11/2024 (per Cash Book)		223,053.60	
	Cash in hand per Bank Statement	S		
	Petty Cash Llangollen Town Council Current Llangollen Town Council Instant	30/11/2024 30/11/2024 30/11/2024	0.00 58,881.72 164,171.88	
	Less unpresented payments			223,053.60
	Plus unpresented receipts			223,053.60
В	Adjusted Bank Balance			223,053.60
	A = B Checks out OK			

REPORT AUTHOR: Town Clerk.

SUBJECT: Welsh Government Planning Directorate consultations.

REPORT FOR: Decision.

1. Summary.

1.1 To consider responding to Welsh Government Planning Directorate consultations.

2. Background.

- 2.1 The Welsh Government Planning Directorate have launched consultations on promoting a resilient and high performing planning service and preserving trees and woodlands new regulations.
- 2.2 The Welsh Government is committed to collaborating with all stakeholders to ensure the planning system is better equipped to deal with current and future challenges and are therefore seeking views on two specific areas of the directorates work as detailed below.

3. Promoting a resilient and high performing planning service

- 3.1 The Welsh Government Planning Directorate is seeking views on improving the resilience and performance of planning authorities by:
 - Increasing planning application fees (including proposing a pathway to full cost recovery)
 - Measuring and monitoring the performance of planning authorities by reinvigorating and reintroducing the Performance Framework
 - Supporting the resilience, capacity and capability of Local Planning Authorities through skills retention, bursaries and apprenticeships
 - Improving resilience and resources by Corporate Joint Committees through shared service delivery, planning skills hubs and extending the Local Development Plan Review period
- 3.2 The consultation document is detailed and can be viewed at https://www.gov.wales/promoting-resilient-and-high-performing-planning-service, and is two p[arts. Part 1 focuses on increasing Planning Fees and part 2 on the Performance, Resilience and Capacity of Local Planning Authorities.

4. Preserving trees and woodlands: new regulations

- 4.1 This consultation relates to proposed changes to the law protecting trees and woodlands in Wales This consultation relates to proposed changes to the law protecting trees and is seeking stakeholder views on the principles underlying the proposed new regulations for the protection of trees and woodlands, referred to in this document as "the new regulations".
- 4.2 The Planning Act 2008 introduced a simpler system of control whilst retaining the existing level of protection for trees and woodland. It is envisaged that the new system introduced by the 2008 Act will be brought into effect in Wales when, and if approved by the Senedd, the Planning (Wales) Bill comes into force, accompanied

by a new set of regulations. The Planning (Wales) Bill is expected to be laid before the Senedd next year.

4.3 These regulations provide for focused changes to the current system which include for example, a more streamlined process for the protection of trees, the introduction of woodland preservation orders and a definition of amenity. The consultation can be found on the Welsh Government's consultation pages at: https://www.gov.wales/preserving-trees-and-woodlands-new-regulations.

5. Town Council response.

- 5.1 The format of the consultation is set of specific questions to which the Welsh Government is seeking a response. The document Promoting a resilient and high performing planning service includes sixty-five questions and the consultation on preserving trees and woodlands: new regulation has a total of twenty-nine aimed capturing the views of stakeholders. Both consultation documents are very technical in nature and the bulk of the questions are aimed at Local Planning Authorities and the private sector and therefore a detailed response from the Town Council is not appropriate.
- 5.2 However, there are elements within the documents on which the Town Cocuncil should respond as detailed below:
 - a) In relation to promoting a resilient and high performing planning service, the Town Council supports the move ensure the most expedient and efficient way of maintaining LDP coverage, whist facilitating a move to a regional approach through SDPs.
 - b) Agree that the statutory review period in LDP Regulations (Regulation 41) 4 years to 6 years because a longer review period would assist LPAs in moving towards the regional delivery agenda.
 - c) The Town Council also believes that the preserving trees and woodlands new regulations will provide for a much shorter and more straightforward approach and that any changes to the regulations are given effect immediately, regardless of when the order was made.

6. Recommendation.

6.1 It is recommended that the written statement once considered by Members should be forwarded to the Senedd's Planning Directorate.

7. Reasons for recommendation.

7.1 To respond to consultations.

REPORT AUTHOR: Town Clerk.

SUBJECT: House of Commons' Women and Equalities inquiry on community cohesion.

REPORT FOR: Decision.

1. Summary.

1.1 To responding to the House of Commons' Women and Equalities Committee inquiry on community cohesion.

2. Background.

- 2.1 The House of Commons' Women and Equalities Committee has today launched a new inquiry on community cohesion and are seeking views on the state of community cohesion in the UK, what threatens it and how it can be strengthened. They are currently accepting written evidence on the following topics:
 - What assessments have been made of community cohesion in the UK in a local and national context?
 - What are the primary barriers and threats to community cohesion?
 - How can social media impact community cohesion?
 - What can be done at a local and national level to improve community cohesion?
 - What examples are there of best practice which has positively impacted community cohesion?
 - How should community cohesion be best approached in schools?
- 2.2 The details of the call for evidence can be viewed at https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/3497/ and the deadline for written evidence submissions is 31 January 2025.

3. Community cohesion

- 3.1 The concept of community cohesion was established in the UK in 2001 and has gradually developed and become a key part of understanding and responding to the changing dynamics of diversity in many parts of the world. Community cohesion policy and practice demands contact and interaction to break down barriers, undermine prejudices and stereotypes and pro-actively tackle the grievances, injustices, divisions, and segregation of 'parallel lives' a term that was also first used to describe the deep divisions that undermine cohesion.
- 3.2 This fundamentally new approach, has become the mainstay of race and community relations policy and practice after 2001 and has now been extended to many other societal divisions, including faith, sexual orientation, disability, age, and health.
- 3.3 One of the Cittaslow goals, of which Llangollen as a member subscribes to is on social cohesion which emphasises the need for; policies and programmes to reduce the discrimination of minority groups, the encouragement of social integration in the housing of all ethnic groups, the promotion of multicultural integration within society e.g. in schools, policies and interventions to integrate

- disabled people and the encouragement of affordable, accessible, safe and flexible child care and nursery provision.
- 3.4 This, coupled with the ethos of the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod the vision that the ancient Welsh Eisteddfod tradition could provide a means of healing the wounds of the Second World War, and help to promote lasting peace, are key drivers of the Town Council's aspirations in relation to community cohesion. Therefore, a detailed submission has been prepared for consideration by Members and is appended.

4. Recommendation.

4.1 It is recommended that the written statement once considered by Members should be forwarded to the House of Commons' Women and Equalities inquiry.

5. Reasons for recommendation.

5.1 To respond to consultations.

Llangollen Town Council's Written Evidence to House of Commons' Women and Equalities inquiry on community cohesion

Introduction

Llangollen Town Council appreciates the opportunity to respond to the consultation and wishes to comment on each of the elements to be consider within the terms of reference for the inquiry as detailed below and looks forward to further discussions on this important initiative.

Assessments of community cohesion: Local and national context

Llangollen is a diverse and welcoming community, renowned for its international events such as the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod. These events have fostered intercultural understanding and local pride. However local challenges remain including ensuring that smaller, rural communities like Llangollen maintain integration amidst demographic changes, such as migration or generational shifts.

Nationally, community cohesion is uneven, with urban areas often experiencing greater strain due to economic disparity, housing pressures, and cultural misunderstandings. Post-Brexit tensions and ongoing challenges such as misinformation about migration have affected national cohesion.

Primary barriers and threats to community cohesion

Economic inequality is a significant driver of division, leading to resentment and reduced trust between communities and cultural misunderstanding and stereotyping of different cultural or religious groups.

Rural communities, like in parts of Wales, may struggle to access initiatives that foster integration. Additionally increasing divisiveness in political discourse can exacerbate tensions locally and nationally which can be propagate through divisive rhetoric and hate speech on social media platforms.

Impact of social media on community cohesion

Some social media platforms facilitate cross-cultural exchange, allowing communities to connect and share experiences. Local councils and organisations can use platforms to promote events and initiatives aimed at fostering inclusion. However, the amplification of hate speech and misinformation can fuel division and mistrust. Incidents of online abuse can alienate vulnerable groups, reducing participation in community life. Misrepresentation on social media can also lead to unwarranted antisocial behaviour targeted at specific groups in society.

Improving community cohesion: Local and national level

At the local level enhance funding for local events celebrating cultural diversity has in the past proved successful and should be encouraged moving forward as it would support grassroots organisations that provide integration services, such as language classes or intercultural workshops. Local accessible spaces where different groups can meet and collaborate, such as community centres are vital and should be resourced appropriately.

At the national level, the funding of national campaigns promoting inclusion and understanding is key together with support programs addressing systemic inequality, especially in housing, education, and employment. To address the negativity that can be caused by social media it would be useful to introduce legislative measures to regulate harmful content on platforms.

Examples of Best Practice.

Locally, Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod as a model for cultural exchange and community pride. An example of this was the partnership with the Multi-Cultural Hub (MCH), Wrexham. This project was run by Community Cohesions, Ty Pawb and Race Council Cymru, to support Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority community groups and creative practitioners living and practicing in North East Wales to celebrate who they are and where they live. The purpose of the project was to ensure that ethnically diverse communities living in North East Wales had the opportunity to take part in a way that was meaningful to them, and to further create an opportunity for wider community members to link with and learn about out the range of diverse communities that we have in North East Wales.

National Examples include the UK Government's "Stronger Together" campaign, which encouraged interfaith dialogue and volunteering and the Scottish Governments publication - Cultural engagement in Scotland: insights from people's experiences Community Cohesion in Schools

In Wales the guidance document Respect and Resilience: Developing community cohesion – a common understanding for schools and their communities (published in January 2011). This document sets out the requirements for a range of institutions, including all schools in Wales, focusing on the assessment of risk, staff training, learner support, policies, monitoring, and enforcement. It also sets out definitions of common terms like extremism, the vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Since the introduction of the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 the sections of the Act relating to schools have become a duty as from 1 July 2015. Therefore, the curriculum emphasize education about diverse cultures, religions, and histories in the curriculum.

How should community cohesion be best approached in schools?

In Wales, the document detailed above, developing community cohesion – a common understanding for schools and their communities has been an instrumental document in supporting schools to address community cohesion.

However, more could be done to encourage programs like buddy systems or cultural exchange projects within schools, provide teachers with resources and training to manage sensitive discussions and foster inclusive classroom, support multicultural clubs, debates, and events to allow students to interact across cultural divides and organise events that include families to broaden community involvement.

A god example of this intercultural exchange was delivered in Llangollen by ECTARC (

European Centre for Traditional and Regional Cultures) with its charitable objects of the promotion maintenance, improvement and advancement of education particularly by the promotion within the area of benefit of education about and in traditional and regional cultures of Europe by the encouragement of the arts including the arts of music, ballet, singing drama and dancing and schemes such as the Erasmus Programme, the European Union student exchange programme for education, training, youth and sport, sadly both lost following the United Kingdoms withdrawal from the European Union and the decision not to take part as an associated country in the new Erasmus+ programme 2021-27.