**Cyngor Cymuned Ysgubor y Coed Ysgubor y Coed Community Council**

**Cofnodion Cyfarfod 08fed Mai 2024**

**2024/25. Presennol:** Cynghorwyr Swanson (yn y Gadair), Stevenson, Goodman, Griffiths, & Davies. Roedd y clerc yn bresennol.

**9. Ymddiheuriadau:** Cynghorwyr Thomas, Mason & Toland.

**10. Cofnodion o’r cyfarfod diwethaf:** Derbyniwyd a llofnodwyd cofnodion cyfarfod 13eg Mawrth 2024, 12fed Ebrill 2024, a 29ain Ebrill 2024. Cynghorydd arfaethedig Stevenson. Ail Gynghorydd Griffiths.

**11. Datganiad o ddiddordeb:** Dim

**12. Materion i’w godi:**

*i.* *A487.* Adroddodd y clerc e-bost arall at ymholiad Asesiad sgrinio troedffordd Eglwys-fach a anfonwyd at Lee Waters MS ar 28/03/2024 – derbyniwyd e-bost cadarnhad ond dim ateb hyd yma.

Adroddodd y Cynghorydd Stevenson nad oedd ymateb pellach wedi dod i law gan y Pwyllgor Deisebau yn dilyn rhannu'r fideo ymgyrchu gyda nhw ar 27/02/2024.

Nododd y Cyngor y datganiad i'r wasg yn rhifyn Newyddion Cambrian 27/04/2024. Mynegodd y Cynghorydd Goodman bryder bod cyfryngau'r BBC/S4C yn cysylltu safbwynt y Cyngor yn: palmant, ag ymgyrch terfyn cyflymder 20mya Llywodraeth Cymru - Roedd y Cyngor o'r farn y gallai Newyddion Cambrian fod wedi gwneud hyn er mwyn tynnu sylw at yr ymgyrch 'palmant'. Cadarnhaodd y Cynghorydd Davies fod y meini prawf ar gyfer terfyn cyflymder ar 20mya drwy ardal benodol yn ddibynnol ar nifer y tai sy'n wynebu ei gilydd.

Nododd y clerc ohebiaeth a dderbyniwyd gan Elin Jones MS re: Llwybr Troed ar yr A487 rhwng Eglwysfach, Ffwrnais a Glandyfi, Ceredigion. Gofynnodd y Cynghorydd Davies am ohebiaeth hanesyddol ar: llwybr troed - bydd yn gofyn i Ben Lake AS ystyried.

**Pwynt Gweithredu:** a). Clerc i fynd ar ôl Lee Waters MS.

 b). Clerc i anfon gohebiaeth llwybr troed hanesyddol ymlaen i'r Cynghorydd Davies.

 c). Cynghorydd Stevenson i fonitro ac ymateb i ohebiaeth y Pwyllgor Deisebau.

*ii.* *Maes Parcio Dyfi Ffwrnais.* Sylwch nad oes gwaith wedi'i wneud hyd yma er gwaethaf cadarnhad e-bost gan Anneka Morris ar 26/02/2024 :

*Thank you very much for bringing this to our attention. We have just also been made aware of it via a site inspection listing.*

*I can assure you This will be looked into.*

Holodd y Cynghorydd Griffiths unrhyw ddiweddariad re: pwyntiau gwefru EV, yn y maes parcio?

**Pwynt Gweithredu:** Clerc i gysylltu â CADW.

*iii. Blwch ffôn diffibriliwr Eglwys-fach.* Dywedodd y clerc ei fod wedi derbyn grant Cymunedol Cyngor Sir Ceredigion - £323.00. Mae'r Cynghorydd Goodman wedi prynu'r rhannau sydd eu hangen ar gyfer atgyweirio'r drws. Bydd y gwaith yn cael ei gwblhau unwaith y bydd y tywydd yn gwella.

**Pwynt Gweithredu:** a). Cynghorydd Goodman i gwblhau gwaith ar ddrws blwch ffôn pan fydd y tywydd yn gwella.

*iv. Adolygiad Cymunedol Ceredigion – cynigion drafft.* Adroddodd y clerc fod yr ohebiaeth y cytunwyd arni wedi'i chyflwyno i'r Comisiwn Ffiniau ar 07/05/2024 – gweler ynghlwm.

**13. Cyllid**

i. Anfoneb SLCC – 13eg Argraffiad Gweinyddiaeth Cyngor Lleol – £141.80 wedi'i dalu 17/06/2024 Clerc (T Jones).

ii. Gwefan Parth Cymraeg – anfoneb Yola - £13.95 wedi'i dalu 16/06/2024

iii. Anfoneb Four Square Healthcare Ltd – batri diffibriliwr - £256.50 wedi'i dalu 16/06/2024

iv. Aelodaeth flynyddol Un Llais Cymru 2024/25 - £62.00 wedi'i dalu 16/06/2024

v. Cyngor Derbyniadau Ceidwad Allweddol CADW Llywodraeth Cymru 2023/24 - £162.00 wedi derbyn 09/04/2024

vi. Contract Ceidwad Allweddol CADW 2024/25 – anfonwyd drwy e-bost 16/06/2024

vii. Praesept 2024/25 Rhandaliad 1 - £1283.34 wedi derbyn 30/04/2024

viii. Taliad grant Cyngor Sir Ceredigion – drws blwch ffôn diffibriliwr a batri diffibriliwr - £323.00 wedi derbyn 28/03/2024

ix. Zurich Insurance - £431.33 wedi'i dalu 03/06/2024

x. Anfoneb Flic Eden – glanhau cysgod bysiau - £100 wedi'i dalu 18/04/2024

xi. Bwrsariaeth hyfforddiant Llywodraeth Cymru 2024/25 – anfonwyd drwy e-bost 16/06/2024

xii. Ceisiadau Cymorth Ariannol – diolch i chi negeseuon e-bost – Nodyn.

xiii. HMRC ERP – iawndal gwasanaeth gwael - £50.00 wedi derbyn 22/03/2024

**14. Gohebiaeth a Chyfathrebiaeth:**

*i.* Cyngor sir Ceredigion

 → Cynllun Cydraddoldeb Strategol

## *ii.* Un Llais Cymru

##  → Pwyllgor Ardal Ceredigion 15.4.24

## *iii.* Cyngor sir Ceredigion

##  → Bwletin Cost Byw Ceredigion

## *iv.* Un Llais Cymru

##  → Lwfansau Aelodau

## *v.* Un Llais Cymru

 → Cyfnod cyn etholiad Amserlen Camau Gweithredu

## *vi.* Un Llais Cymru

##  → 2024 - EBRILL, MAI , & MEHEFIN DYDDIADAU HYFFORDDI MEHEFIN

**15. Cynllunio:**

## *i.* A240261 → Rspb, Ynys Hir Nature Reserve, Eglwys Fach, Machynlleth, Ceredigion, SY20 8TA - cefnogaeth y Cyngor.

**16. Unrhywbeth arall:**

*i.* Nododd y clerc nad oes gan Ysgubor y Coed bolisi Bioamrywiaeth ar waith.

 **Pwynt gweithredu:** a). Y Cynghorydd Stevenson i baratoi polisi drafft i'r Cyngor ei ystyried yn hydref 2024.

*ii.* Nododd y Cynghorydd Swanson fod Cyngor Sir Ceredigion wedi cyflwyno tâl am bob bag am symud sbwriel o fannau cymunedol. Bydd hyn yn effeithio ar Eglwys Sant Mihangel a'r Ystafell Haearn wrth symud ymlaen.

**17.** **Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf:** 10 Gorffennaf 2024

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 8.30pm*

**Cyngor Cymuned Ysgubor-y-Coed Community Council**

# **Ceredigion Community Review – Draft Proposals**

# The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales - Ceredigion Community Review – Draft Proposals aims to achieve “effective and convenient local government” whilst ensuring that “communities continue to reflect local identities” (pg 5).

The Commission considers that effective and convenient local government is served by community arrangements which are internally coherent, in the sense that communities have reasonable internal road links and mirror patterns of settlement and ease of communications. This is intended to ensure that **all** electors in the community can **engage** in the affairs and activities of all parts of it without having to travel through an adjoining community, for example.

We, Cyngor Cymuned Ysgubor-y-Coed, are writing in respect of the proposal to merge Ysgubor-y-Coed community council with Llangynfelyn and Ceulanamaesmawr,  We would argue that this merger does **NOT** ensure effective and convenient local governance and does **NOT** reflect the different local identities of each community, which would become internally incoherent. Ysgubor-y-Coed has a very different demographic to the villages of Tre'r Ddol, Taliesin and Talybont and our residents will no doubt suffer from under representation by being ‘lumped in’ with these other far more dominant and contrasting villages.

**Local Identity**

Ceulanamaesmawr, focusses on Talybont, a large village with a shop, petrol station, pharmacy, school, and a vibrant community hall.  Llangynfelyn has 2 smaller villages with a prosperous community owned café and shop, guardianship of land at Cors Fochno, and a small but well supported community hall. Ysgubor-y-Coed is 5 miles, by public highway, away from Talybont and is a very rural community, with a clear identity of its own. It contains the three villages of Glandyfi, Eglwys-fach, and Furnace spread for several miles along the A487 Trunk Road. There are clusters and isolated dwellings within the four valleys: the Llyfnant up to Glaspwll, Cwm Einion, the road to Bwlch Einion, and the road to Dynyn. On the Dyfi estuary side of the A487, there are a number of family farms, the RSPB Reserve of Ynys Hir, and the renowned Ynys Hir Hall Hotel boasting their Mitchelin star restaurant and rooms.

Even though Ysgubor-y-Coed currently has only 240 electors, who form 124 individual households spread over a very wide area – 4237 hectare [1]. The community has cohesion through the many groups that use the community hall – The Iron Room (Yr Ystafell Haearn) such as pilates, yoga, quiz nights, a practice room for the Georgian Choir, and a well-attended community run weekly Warm Space initiated by the Community Councillors, just to mention a few. The Community Council hold all its meetings at The Iron Room. St Michael's Church – located within walking distance of The Iron Room, is another central hub of the community and is where the biennial R.S. Thomas Literary Festival is held.

Ysgubor-y-Coed is a very tight knit community with a strong sense of place and identity. It is well represented by its current x7 Community Councillors. The community council is highly regarded by community electors and has never had a problem attracting councillors.  The current councillors span a range of age, occupation, and represent the whole community well. The community council has been pivotal in driving many issues for the community and, we feel, this drive would be lost if the merger of the 3 communities was to go ahead, as the sense of place and identity would be lost.

One of the many issues addressed by Ysgubor-y-Coed community and council has been the issue of safety on the A487 in its villages. Led by the Community Councillors, the lack of pavements between the villages has been brought to the attention of both the County Council and the North and Mid Wales Trunk Roads Agency over many years. Traffic speed on the A487 through the villages is another major problem and again, led by the Community Councillors, the community have recently held protests to lower the speed limit, currently 40mph, through the villages of Furnace and Eglwys-fach. These protests were attended by over 100 people, including our local County Councillor and Senedd Member. The community has appeared many times, and again recently, in the local and national press around this issue.  The community has also got together to generate a community film about the issue, and this evidence is currently being considered by the Petitions Committee of the Senedd.

The passion showed by Ysgubor-y-Coed Community Councillors towards this, and other local issues, would be lost if a **sole representative** would be campaigning for Ysgubor-y-Coed on a much larger area Community Council.

The Community Council is responsible, on a day-to-day basis, for :

1. Consults on planning applications.
2. Initiates special events e.g a community barbecue, coronation celebration, fundraising events, well-being workshops, etc.
3. Provides and maintains the Community Council website, which is a crucial source of local information in such a rural area.
4. Provides and maintains public information notice boards.
5. Provides and maintains Public Access Defibrillators.
6. Financially supports the community hall.
7. Financially supports St Michael’s Church with the up-keep of the community graveyard.
8. Ensures that all street lighting within the villages is working properly.
9. Maintains verges on various parish lanes.
10. Monitors bus-stop condition and maintenance – reporting to Ceredigion County Council if necessary.
11. Monitors and reports problems to both the NMWTRA and Ceredigion County Council on the many roads within the ward (approx 30 miles of Trunk and B roads - not including smaller roads which can be even more difficult to supervise).
12. Monitors and reports on problems with the CADW car park including bringing pressure to bear in clearing rubbish and fly tipping from the Dyfi Ffwrnais car park.
13. Currently collaborating with CADW to improve the Dyfi Ffwrnais car park surface.
14. Supervises, on behalf of CADW, the water wheel at Dyfi Ffwrnais – a "Perfectly-preserved example of Welsh industrial heritage in a sublime rural setting".
15. Monitors and reports on problems with the Dyfi Junction BR station and actively lobbies British Rail over improving the access to Dyfi Junction station.
16. Monitors and maintains local public benches.
17. Collaborates with the RSPB at the Ynys Hir Reserve - an area of 800 hectares containing some really important sites for wildlife including Wales' only wintering population of Greenland White-fronted Geese.
18. Applies for grants on behalf of the community, including a recent one for restoring the old phone box which houses one of the community defibrillators.
19. It supports local enterprises and events with small grants drawn from a very small precept.

And much more.

This level of care and attention to detail displayed by the current x7 community councillors, on all of the above, would be lost if only **one representative** would be campaigning for Ysgubor-y-Coed on a much larger area Community Council.

**Size of Councils**

The Commission suggests that a Community Council should have no fewer than 400 electors, However, it adds that consideration will be given to the creation of Community Wards of less than 400 electors based on natural boundaries and the coherence of communities. The rural community of Ysgubor-y-Coed spans a very large area – 4237 hectare [1], with sparse population and **should be seen as an exception to this policy.** The Commission notes that the size policy is not prescriptive and acts as a guide only (pg 6).

The review and the proposals outline a certain number of councillors to represent each of the present day wards - i.e. Ceulanamaesmawr (4), Llangynfelyn (2) and Ysgubor-y-Coed (1) but does not explain how this will be enabled or enforced.  There is no indication as to if there would be separate elections in each of the present day wards, thus allowing the electorate of Ysgubor-y-Coed to only vote for their 1 councillor, the electorate of Llangynfelyn only voting for their 2 councillors, and so on, or is there another method yet to be revealed?

If 70% (average electorate turnout) of the proposed 1560 elector number engage in future elections, and 90% or above of the 70% were from the current Ceulanamaesmawr or Llangynfelyn communities, then potentially either of those communities could secure the x1 allocated councillor from Ysgubor-y-Coed, thus leaving Ysgubor-y-Coed totally unrepresented.

**Effective, Convenient Local Government**

We firmly believe that the rural cohesion currently displayed within Ysgubor-y-Coed will effectively be destroyed if the proposed merger goes ahead. It will also undermine the Commission's general duty which is to "seek to ensure effective and convenient local government".  The proposal that a rural Ysgubor-y-Coed should have a **single councillor** with two from Llangynfelyn and four from Ceulanamaesmawr, would mean it will be extremely difficult to ensure that our rural problems would receive the proper consideration.

This proposed larger area and lower member community council will have a greater number of assets to manage, more competitive pressures on limited resources, and a wider range of challenges and opportunities to consider, eg. planning applications from residents in our remote areas will be  difficult for Ceulanamaesmawr and Llangynfelyn councillors to reference and make comments on. This will inevitably have an impact on Councillors' time and ability to fully engage and participate with matters where the agenda of the proposed community council becomes even more extensive, whilst reaching consensus will become much more difficult.

Being the sole member for the whole Ysgubor-y-Coed ward – 4237 hectare [1] while the total area of the current Ceulanamaesmawr ward is 6225 hectare [1], will have an impact on this x1 Councillor’s ability to fully report and monitor any problems - they will simply not have enough time to be able to fully represent the ward.

The proposed ward merger will also put greater pressures on limited resources as each councillor vies for their community – how will x1 representative from Ysgubor-y-Coed make their voice heard above the x6 others?

Indeed, how will the x1 community councillor from Ysgubor-y-Coed ever achieve a majority position on any matter?

Finally, we fear that Ysgubor-y-Coed would see a loss of financial resources following proposed amalgamation with Llangynfelyn and Ceulanamesmawr community councils and we also believe that the proposed amalgamation would lead to an unfair dominance in the numbers of Ceulanamesmawr community councillors on any new council.

We therefore ask the Commission to recognise the uniqueness of Ysgubor-y-Coed ward and not to proceed with the proposed merger that would have a very detrimental effect on this unique community.

**We ask again, as the rural community of Ysgubor-y-Coed spans a very large area – 4237 hectare** [1]**, with sparse population which has natural boundaries and a coherence of communities, that it should be seen as an exception to the policy of having fewer than 400 electors. The Commission notes that the size policy is not prescriptive and acts as a guide only (pg 6).**

Yours sincerely

Dr Barry Thomas (Chair)

On behalf of Cyngor Cymuned Ysgubor-y-Coed

Post Script :

Commission : "When developing our proposals, we have considered local connections and looked very carefully at every representation presented to us".

During the first consultation period in May 2023, the Chair of Ysgubor-y-Coed sent a letter on behalf of the Council and residents - in **THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION REPORT** this is noted as being only one response form Ysgubor-y-Coed thus downgrading it - we see this as being an extremely unfair representation of that letter. [1] UK Census 2021