

NEW RADNOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 21st October, 2019 At 7.30 p.m. in the Community Centre, New Radnor

1. Present: Cllrs. R. Harris (Chairman)(arrived during meeting), J. Hodge (Vice-Chairman), E. Giordano, M. Cooper, N. Dodman, E. Blackman.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Clerk. County Councillor M. Jones.

2. Apologies: Cllr. K. Williams.

3. Declarations of Interest: None this month.

4. Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th October, 2019 were approved as circulated and duly signed by the Acting Chairman, Cllr. Hodge.

Cllr. Harris joined the meeting during the discussion on the following item.

5. Welsh Government National Development Framework Consultation: Members agreed to complete the formal consultation response form and to work through the form section by section. Comments made were –

- Whilst noting the stated aim to support jobs and services in rural areas this seems to be directly contradicted by the concentration of growth and development in major towns and cities. Only two towns in Powys are actually mentioned at all. How can jobs be supported under these circumstances.
- The concentration of renewable energy via wind turbines and solar panels in mid Wales amongst some incredibly scenic Welsh countryside may well lead to a decline in tourism and this should be thoroughly researched.
- The Community Council feels that the local authority is best placed to decide where growth should be.
- Affordable Housing. Again the Community Council feels the local authority should have more input into this area as it has local knowledge and is better able to assess relevant factors. Increase in Mobile Phone Coverage: The Community Council would like it to be noted that there is a need to assess any health implications when extending coverage.
- Low Emission Vehicles: The need to consider where the electricity is coming from and how it is produced is considered a necessary part of this programme.
- Renewable Energy. There is at present no grid infrastructure to support proposed developments of this scale and there appears to have been no discussion of other opportunities such as hydro, off shore turbines or tidal power. The introduction of such large scale developments would seem to contradict the policies on biodiversity and tourism. The targets stated would seem to exceed the requirements for Wales. Educating the public to use less energy would seem sensible.
- Generally:
 - Need to differentiate between rural and urban areas as these have very different needs.
 - Disagree strongly with the joining of Powys with the urban areas of Swansea and Llanelli – to combine these areas will inevitably mean that resources are concentrated on the urban area and it will be difficult to fully and properly address rural issues.
 - Rural areas need their own set of targets.
 - Swansea and Neath Port Talbot should be with the other urban areas.

A full copy of the completed form will be placed on the Community Council website.

6. Date of Next Full Meeting: Thursday 14th November, 2019.

The meeting closed at 9.26 pm.