

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Welsh Language Committee

DATE: 25 May 2023

LOCATION: Hybrid

TITLE: Street Naming and Numbering Policy Update

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT: Progress report of the Street Naming and Numbering Policy

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of the Street Naming and Numbering Policy is to process all requests to name streets and to ensure that all properties in Ceredigion are assigned an official address that is clear and unambiguous. In turn, this will ensure that Council services, emergency services and other services are able to locate any property address. The aim of this Policy is to encourage property developers and owners to apply for new or changed official addresses as early as possible. This in turn will ensure that the delivery of council services and external services will be carried out without delay.

Ceredigion County Council also recognises its duty to safeguard the Welsh language within its communities, and to promote and facilitate the language in all aspects of the social and economic life of Ceredigion. Ceredigion is one of the strongholds of the Welsh language.

Regarding the report, the Policy has been updated to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language and to encourage homeowners to consider Welsh house names, which may have linguistic origins, with reference to historical or cultural reference within the geographical area.

The Policy has recently received acknowledgment of good practice from Cymdeithas Enwau Lleodedd Cymru, who has asked the Authority for permission to share this good practice with other Local Authorities.

The policy stipulates that anyone who wishes to name a newly built house or to re-name a house in Ceredigion, must apply in writing to the Street Naming & Numbering Officer with the proposed name for the new dwelling(s). Should the current name be original and historic, especially a historic Welsh name, then a standard letter is sent to the customer asking them to reconsider and keep the current name (even if the proposed new name is a Welsh name). The standard letter gives the customer 10 working days to reconsider their decision. However, the final decision does lie with the customer (Ceredigion County Council has no jurisdiction). The Language Committee and Cabinet made recommendations to the policy (September 2016) that a disclaimer should be included with the letter, thus ensuring that the applicants must acknowledge receipt of the letter by signing and returning it, in respect to their final decision on naming or re-naming their home.

This is an update on how the Street Naming and Numbering function has progressed over the last year (April 2022 – March 2023)

1. Property Names

Property name changes

Welsh to English – 3 applications

Crud y Gwynt to Sleepy Hollow
Ysgol Llanwenog to The Old School
Ty Dew to Sea Dew House

English to Welsh – 7 applications

Five Acres I Gors Villa
Quindon I Llysfaen
Castlehill I Tan-Y-Bryn
Glenover I Yma Mae Dreigiau
Pony Paradise I Cae Fychan
West Meath I Gorllewin Meath
Rose Cottage I Howny Fach

Welsh to other language – 1 application

We find there is no trend in applicants of these types, but we have examples of English residents, who have recently moved to the area, applying to change the name of their English property to the Welsh Language. Their reasoning for this is to support the local traditions and to form a bond with the local community.

New properties

In the last year we received 172 applications.

Named in Welsh – 158 applications

Named in English – 14 applications

Since the new policy and the inclusion of the letter, there has been no significant change in the figures. The letter to consider the context of changing the property's name appears to have influenced people, but regardless of the letter the property owner has the right to name their property anything (within reason) and in a language of their choice.

2. Street Names

Regarding street naming, we have received seven official applications to name new streets. In our Street Naming and Numbering Policy we demand that all new named

streets be named in Welsh only. Therefore, the new streets were named in Welsh and as the policy states, were consulted with the Community Council.

CLOS LLWYN PIOD, ABERTEIFI

Y GEULAN, ABERPORTH

CAE'R WINLLAN, ABERTEIFI

NEW SITE, LLANARTH – *No name approved - Under consultation*

GWAR Y GARTH, PENRHYNCOCH

RHOS Y BRENIN, PONTARFYNACH

GOLWG Y DYFFRYN, LLANWNNEN

We have noticed that there is an increase of developers using local schools to help create / choose street names. A good example of this, is the workshop in Penrhyncoch.

Ysgol Penrhyncoch and Angharad Fychan (Enwau Lleoedd Cymru) took part in a workshop to choose a name for the new estate in Penrhyncoch. The children suggested GWAR Y GARTH.

"Garth is the old name of the upper part of the village (formerly Penrhyn Uchaf), and Garth Uchaf and Garth Isaf are the names of the two streets opposite the Village Hall. With that name falling from use, it is an excellent opportunity to keep the name alive. Garth means 'ridge' – i.e. it describes the ridge of land that rises from Cae Mawr and extends towards the bus garage.

The term 'Gwar' was chosen to provide some variety in the names of estates in the village, where there are a large number of estates named 'MAES Y [something]', and Gwar also provides neat alliteration with Garth. Gwar is also a familiar name because Cae Gwar Felin was the name given on the Tithe Map for the field where Glan Seilo and Ger-y-cwm are now located.

I would like to thank Angharad Fychan as secretary of Place Names Wales for giving up so much of her time to lead two workshops with pupils at Ysgol Penrhyn Coch. The workshop has benefited everyone as "Cynefin"(habitat) is the theme of the school curriculum.

Here are pictures from the workshop on the school Twitter - [Ysgol Penrhyn-Coch on Twitter](#): "

The street naming policy seems to be working, albeit that the Authority only received seven applications during this year. It is likely that the Community Council is well placed to approve the naming of streets within their communities, in which the members have good local knowledge in terms of the heritage and cultural aspects of the community, ensuring that the Welsh only name is pertinent to the locality.

3. Other work

Five Year Report – The List of Historic Place Names of Wales

I was part of the task and finish group as the only Street Naming and Numbering Officer in Wales. Hopefully the input will help this project move forward.

The List of Historic Place Names has existed for five years now, and a great deal has happened in that time. The List was established in response to growing concerns about threats to our historic place names. The List had two purposes: firstly, to raise awareness of the rich heritage of historic place names and encourage their continuing use, and secondly, to create a record of the whole wealth of place names in Wales, so that the names could be preserved, even in those circumstances where they are no longer in active use.

The fifth anniversary of the List has given us an opportunity to take stock and gauge the opinion of the public and the experts as to how we can strengthen the List and promote it more effectively so that as many people as possible in Wales can learn about our place names. The public filled in a questionnaire giving their views about improving the List, and we formed a task and finish group with representatives from the Welsh Government, local authorities, the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office and the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies to consider the next steps. This process is now finished, and you can find the task and finish group's report here:

[RCAHMW | News | Five Year Report – The List of Historic Place Names of Wales](#)

Place Names County Forum

I was invited to set up a new Forum to discuss the issues that arise regarding Place Names. As you probably know, place names are an area that is addressed in the Program for Government and in the Collaboration Agreement between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru: 'Welsh place names - Ensuring that Welsh place names in the built and natural environment are be protected and promoted'.

Language officers and/or property and street naming officers of the Local Authorities of the areas considered to be 'strongholds' of the Welsh language are initially included on the Forum, namely Ceredigion, Gwynedd, Carmarthenshire and Anglesey. This forum will help create a new policy on place names through the Welsh 2050 Division.

RECOMMENDATION:

- Member of the Welsh Language Committee to receive the report.

Contact Name: Steffan Jones

Designation: Street Naming & Numbering Officer

Date of Report 2 May 2023