

# CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report to:** Language Committee

**Date of meeting:** 10 July 2024

**Title:** Street Naming and Numbering Policy Update

**Purpose of the report:** Progress 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. This Policy aims to encourage property developers and owners to apply for new or change 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.

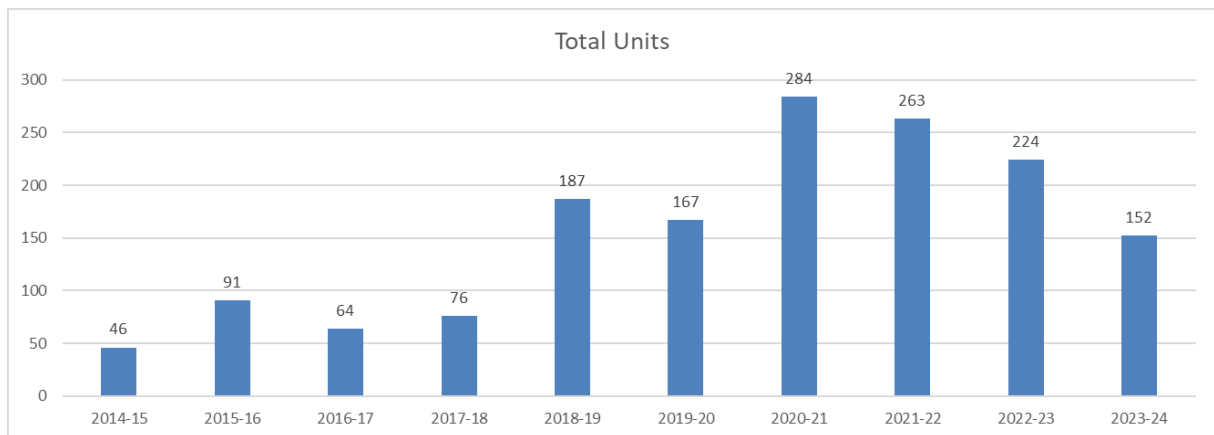
Ceredigion County Council also recognises its duty to safeguard the Welsh language within its communities, and to promote and facilitate the language in all aspects of the social and economic life of Ceredigion. Ceredigion is one of the strongholds of the Welsh language.

The Street Naming & Numbering 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 references 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). 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 2023 – March 2024). As shown below, applications received have reduced over the last few years.



## 1. Property names

### Property name changes

We have received 25 property name changes over the last year. Here is a breakdown of the language choices.

#### Welsh to English – 1 application

Pensarn Ddu Uchaf to Hunters Lodge, Tanygroes

#### English to Welsh – 6 applications

Oyster Cottage to Efail Fach, Ceinewydd  
 Dawnway to Toriad y Wawr, Penparc  
 Three Gables to Pared Bach, Gwbert  
 The Vicarage to Cynefin, Aberaeron  
 Branstome to Arfon, Llanbedr Pont Steffan  
 Sea Cliff to Pentraeth, Y Borth

#### Welsh to Welsh – 4 applications

Blaenbarre to Anialwch, Rhydlewis  
 Rhun to Rhiwlas, Pontarfynach  
 Allt Bran to Ty Creyr, Y Borth  
 Pell Orwel to Tawelfan, Tanygroes

#### Other language – 2 application

Casaurina to Ty Nant, Dol-Y-Bont  
 Nabucco to Chautara, Aberporth

Other applications include Welsh and English property names added to already numbered properties and business (including building) name changes.

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 110 applications.

Named in Welsh – 102 applications.

Named in English – 7 applications.

Other language – 1 application.

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**

We have received 3 official applications to name new streets. In our Street Naming and Numbering Policy, we insist that all newly 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.

CWRT Y FARCED, ABERTEIFI

CLOS CORWEN, CLARACH

CAE CRUG, PENRIWLLAN

### Additional

NEW SITE, LLANARTH – \*No name approved - Ongoing\*

We have noticed there is an increase of developers using local schools and other groups to help create/choose street names. A good example of this is the workshop in Penrhynoch School.

The street naming policy is working, albeit the Authority only received 3 applications this year. It is likely 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**

### Place Names Forum

I was invited to set up a new forum to discuss the issues that arise regarding Place Names in Wales. 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.

**Recommendation(s):**

**Members of the Language Committee to receive the report.**

**Background Papers:**

None

**Appendices:**

None

**Contact Name:**

Steffan Jones

**Designation:**

Street Naming & Numbering Officer / Master Data Coordinator

**Date:**

18 June 2024