

# Penybont and District Community Council

You are summoned to attend a Council meeting of the Penybont and District Community Council to be held at **7.30pm**, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024 in Main Hall of [Penybont Community Hall LINK](#)

Geraint Evans  
Clerk to Community  
Council  
3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. Declaration of interest:**

*Reminder to members. A personal Interest is also a Prejudicial Interest because under the objective, public perception test (Para 12(1) of the Members' Code of Conduct) where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority you also have a prejudicial interest in that business if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest. Forms available from the Clerk*

**3. Minutes.**

To authorise the Chairman to sign minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on the: -

14<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**4. Clerk's Update.**

**5. County Councillors Report**

**6. Planning: (Mention Only)**

**24/0697/FUL**

Erection of oak frame seating area (including some demolition works)

Site Address: Severn Arms Hotel,

Penybont, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5UA

**24/0652/REM**

Section 73 application to remove condition 4 of planning permission R1057 in relation to occupancy restrictions

Ashlea , Llandegley,

Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5UD

**7. Community Issues Raised or Ongoing**

- Climate Change
- Llandegley Road Signs (Clerks report)
- Public Consultation: Nant Mithil Energy Park/Hendy Windfarm. – Cllr Lyall...\*\*\*\*\* to be heard as last item on agenda.
- Vacant Properties (Raised during public questions)

# Penybont and District Community Council

## 8. One Voice Wales

See Attached Minutes

## 9. Finance

### (i) To Approve:

1/4/24	Membership to One Voice Wales	£82
31/5/24	Welsh Audit fee for 2022/23	£260.00
13/05/2024	Refund adjustment	+£3.96

## 10. Correspondence

- Letter of complaint from Bute Energy
- Letter of response from Chair of Community Council
- Response to above from Re-Think
- PAVO Numeracy 2, grants available.

## 11. Public Discussion <sup>1</sup>

## 12. Date of Next Meeting and format

**10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.30pm Hybrid available.**

### Public Attendance and Involvement at Community Council Meetings

1. Members of the public are entitled to attend Community Council Meetings except when the Council has something of a confidential nature to discuss.
2. Members of the public have no automatic right to speak at Community Council Meetings
3. Penybont and District CC have allocated a space at the end of meetings when members of the Public are invited to raise matters for the Community Council to consider as items to be put on the agenda for their next meeting.
4. Members of the public who bring other matters to the attention of the Community Council may be listened to at the discretion of the Chair.
5. Members of the public who are told that an item is not relevant to the work of the Council may be told to desist. Failure to desist could mean that the person is asked to leave. Failure to leave the Meeting could result in the Chair adjourning the Meeting and/or calling the Police.
6. The Chair may call upon members of the public who have specialist knowledge on an item being discussed to speak at any time during the Meeting.

<sup>1</sup> Standing Orders 2.15C

**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>  
May 2024 at Penybont Community Hall at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:** D.Turner Bufton:R.Duggan:R.Watkins;J.Lawrence,D.Lyall

**Apologies:**

**Absent:** Cllr D.Bayliss

**Others:** County Councillor Morgan

*The live link was not operational there being wi-fi issues. Will be resolved with the installation into the Penybont Hall.*

**PD/0026/24 Declarations of Interest:**

*Reminder to members. A personal Interest is also a Prejudicial Interest because under the objective, public perception test (Para 12(1) of the Members' Code of Conduct) where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority you also have a prejudicial interest in that business if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest. Forms available from the Clerk*

The above information was augmented by the Clerk with the General Dispensation on energy parks dated 9/12/2022.

DOI: Cllrs Bufton; Watkins; Duggan, item PD/09030/24 and PD/0031/24 (iii) Financial Interests.

**PD/027/24 Minutes**

To authorise the Chairman to sign minutes of the previous meetings of the Council held on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
**Proposed** to accept Cllr Duggan Unanimous

**PD/0028/24 Clerk's update:**

In Minutes

**PD/0029/24 County Councillors Report**

Non-specific issues brought to councils' attention. With the Annual Meeting in the

coming week and divisions within the different political parties. (see community questions)

**PD/0030/24 Planning:**

24/0512/LBC Severn Arms Hotel Withdrawn

**PD/0031/24 Community Projects/Issues:**

- (i) Climate Change – Cllr Turner outlined his and the councils’ aspirations to take a more positive action in the support of their policy commitments under The Environmental (Wales) Act 2016, adopted by the council and reported on their web site, and sort that the agenda item remains there to encourage others to participate in ideas.
- (ii) Llandegley Road Signs. The road traffic sign indicating a ‘crossroads’ is devoid of painting and information. Clerk to photo the sign and inform Highways.
- (iii) Public Consultation: Nant Mithil Energy Park/Hendy Windfarm. (This item moved to end of agenda to permit Cllrs with DOI to participate in the remainder of the items).

**PD/032/24 One Voice Wales**

No schedule meetings published

**PD/0033/24 Finance**

**(i) to approve:**

1/5/2024	VuPoint	Conference Camera	£499.99*
1/5/2024	Receipt	VAT	£631.38
1/5/2024	Receipt	Precept	£2012.00
17/1/2024	Zoom	Online facilities	£155.88*
30/1/2024	ICO	Information Commissioners Office	£40
30/1/2024	Currys	Computer	£278.98*
14/5/2024	Mrs T Price	Internal Audit	£71.50
*VAT to be reclaimed			

**Proposed Cllr Bufton Unanimous**

- (ii) To approve 2024 Financial Regulations
  - (iii) To approve 2024 Standing Orders
  - (iv) To approve Ms T Price as internal auditor for 2023-24.
- The above resolved to approve Cllr Duggan Unanimous

- (v) Annual Accounts. Councillors were supplied with copies of the documentation to be sent to the National Audit Office, together with the internal auditor's report.  
Proposed to authorise the submission. Cllr Lyall Unanimous

#### **PD/0034/24 Correspondence**

Penybont Hall support for grant of Solar panels. Clerk to write a letter of support this being in the ethos of the above item on their environmental objectives. Proposed Cllr Lawrence Unanimous.

#### **PD/035/24 Public Discussion**

- Ms Jill Jenkins asked CC Morgan his progress on the entrance/exit of Penybont Station. He stated that much of the hedge boundaries had been cut. He was pleased to announce that the CEO Emma Palmer would attend a site visit in June/July, and he extended an invitation to Ms Jenkins to attend.
- Ms Jenkins enquired whether any notes/minutes of the public meeting held by Llandrindod Wells concerning Nant Mithil Energy Park. The clerk was not aware of any as the meeting was not organised or minutes taken by the council.
- Eddie (Mellowcroft) asks that at the next meeting the council discusses vacant/disused properties. Clerk to put on the agenda.

#### **PD/036/24 Nant Mithil Energy Park**

Cllrs Watkins;Duggan;Bufton leftb the meeting 20230

- The council establish through the Electoral Boundaries Ordinance survey maps, compared to the recently available Ordinance Survey Maps published by Nant Mithil proposed planning area, that Penybont & Llandegley are within the planning boundaries particularly at a point referred to as 'Big Wood'.
- That Penybont and Llandegely Community Council has at no time been contacted directly by the above company or received any invitations or documentations directly.
- That such an oversight would be in contravention of 'Pre-Application' requirements of the 'Developments of National Significance' procedural guidance.
- That this council will write to the above informing them of their error, seek recognition of being a directly interested party; receive appropriate documentation, in line with other community councils effected; and allow an extension of time to be able to participate following a public meeting with their thoughts during the pre-application time.

- For the Clerk to organise facilities to hold a public meeting preferably at Penybont Hall at 7pm on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
  - To encourage the community to ask questions directly at the public awareness dates organised by Nant Mithil at the Penybont Hall, 2pm – 7pm 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024
  - Following this to raise any issues with the councillors enabling them to participate with the required documentation available to them.
- 
- **0022/24 Date of Next Meeting at Penybont Community Hall 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024, 7.30pm- Hybrid available.**

DRAFT

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>  
May 2024 at Penybont Community Hall at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:** D.Turner Bufton:R.Duggan:R.Watkins;J.Lawrence,D.Lyall

**Apologies:**

**Absent:** Cllr D.Bayliss

**Others:** County Councillor Morgan

*The live link was not operational there being wi-fi issues. Will be resolved with the installation into the Penybont Hall.*

**PD/0023/24 Election of Chairperson**

Nominated Cllr D Turner by Cllr Duggan, Unanimous accepted by Cllr Turner.

**PD/0024/24 Election of Deputy Chairperson.**

Nominated Cllr D. Lyall by Watkins unanimous and accepted by Cllr Lyall.

**PD/0025/24 Approval of Annual Meetings Calendar**

The following dates were proposed by the Chair for the council dates May-May2025.

<b>14th May</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
<b>10th September</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
<b>12th November</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
<b>14th January-Budget</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>

**Approved Unanimous**

Meeting close at 1940hrs

**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>  
June 2024 on line only at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:** D.Turner J.Lawrence,(by phone)D.Lyall

**Apologies:** Bufton:R.Duggan:R.Watkins; (declared prejudicial interest)

**Absent:** Cllr D.Bayliss

**Others:**

*(Limited minutes available as Clerk admitted to hospital shortly following the 12<sup>th</sup> of March)*

**PD/0023/24 Declarations of Interest:**

*Reminder to members. A personal Interest is also a Prejudicial Interest because under the objective, public perception test (Para 12(1) of the Members' Code of Conduct) where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority you also have a prejudicial interest in that business if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest. Forms available from the Clerk*

- As declared

**PD/0024/24 Nant Mithial Wind Farm**

For the council to approve a letter following the community meeting relating to additional matters raised.

**Proposed Cllr D.Lyall Unanimous**

**PD/0025 Date of Next Meeting at Penybont Community Hall 9<sup>th</sup>  
July, 7.30pm- Hybrid available.**



## **Shelter Cymru and empty homes**

We believe empty properties represent waste, financial expense and missed opportunity for providing much needed affordable housing for people in Wales. They can blight communities, attract fly tipping, vandals and squatters and tie up the resources of the council and the emergency services.

Living next to an empty property can devalue a home by 18%. Unsightly properties deter investment in an area and can lead to decline. The absence of adequate housing whether in terms of quantity, quality or size has also significant adverse impacts upon people's health.

Studies have shown that the average cost of returning empty homes to a habitable state is between £6,000 and £12,000 per property. Around 2,000 empty homes could be brought back into use for £20m.

Shelter Cymru has been supporting local authorities and their partners to make more effective use of privately owned empty homes to meet housing need, by providing free advice, consultancy and good practice exchanges to accelerate current work in this area. We have produced a Good Practice Guide in partnership with the Welsh Government, which is available from their website.

## **Houses into Homes Scheme**

The Welsh Government launched the **Houses into Homes scheme** in April 2012 to help tackle the substantial numbers of empty homes in Wales. The scheme is supported by a £20million recyclable loan fund which provides loans to bring empty houses or commercial buildings back into use as homes for sale or rent. The loans are interest free and are available to individuals, charities, companies and businesses. A maximum loan of £25,000 is available per property and this has to be paid back within two or three years, depending on whether the property is sold or let. The scheme is operated by individual Local Authorities who are working together in regional groups and evaluated by Sheffield Hallam University.

- **Evaluation of Houses into Homes Scheme**
- **Houses into Homes - Housing Loans North Wales**

In 2016 a joint steering group was established to monitor and review the Houses into Homes Scheme and Home Improvement Loans Scheme. The group meets on a quarterly basis with membership from the WLGA, Welsh Government and Welsh local authorities.

# Empty Properties

**We want to see as many empty properties as possible within Powys returned to use. Houses that stand empty can cause nuisance and damage to neighbouring houses. They are also a waste because they could be used as homes.**

We can advise owners of empty properties to help them bring the house back into use.

If the owner refuses to bring the house into use or fails to repair it, the Council can:

- Serve a notice on the owner to carry out repairs and carry out the works itself if the owner fails to do so.
- In exceptional circumstances, force the sale of the house to repay certain debts owed to the council.

## **Apply for an empty homes grant**

Do you own a property that is currently empty?

Do you need help making it safe and secure before you move in?

Are you thinking about buying an empty property to live in, but you will need help to bring it back into use?

We have developed various financial packages as an incentive to bring empty units back up to standard: **Home Improvement Loans and Grants**

**National Empty Homes Grants**

## **Why report an empty property?**

Empty homes can cause problems to neighbours, fall into disrepair and in some circumstances attract anti-social behaviour. Reporting an empty

property gives you the power to help us identify these homes and allow an investigation to be carried out. Although it is unlikely that you will immediately see much happen with the property a lot of work will be going on in the background to try and find out exactly why it has been left empty.

Unfortunately, some cases can be very complex, and it is important that you are aware that they can often take a long time (sometimes years) to resolve, however by reporting it you have set the wheels in motion.

[Report an Empty Property >](#)

## **How long does the property need to have been empty?**

Usually we won't start investigating the reason a property is empty until it has been unoccupied for at least six months. Most properties will become reoccupied during this period without the need of any intervention from the Council.

## **Can the Council take action for every empty property?**

Some properties are empty for a very genuine reason; examples are that maybe the owner is in hospital or caring for an ill or elderly relative elsewhere. In circumstances such as these it is unlikely the Council will be able to take action. However the property should be secure against intruders.

We have developed a range of options we can use to either help or require owners to return properties to use, depending on the circumstances of each case. In the beginning we always try and encourage owners to return properties to use and work with them through our various schemes.

Unfortunately there will always be cases where the owner doesn't want to do anything. In these circumstances the Council may consider enforcement action where appropriate.

# Report an Empty Property

## Your details

### Name

Please enter your first name

First name ✘

i18n{pcc.standardtext.lastnameerror}

Last name ✘

## Address

### Address lookup

Postcode

**Find address**

### Address

**Invalid**

**Postal address**



**Contact details**

Please enter a valid email address

**Email**



**Phone number**

**Mobile**

**Next >**

# Report an Empty Property

## Empty Property details

**Please provide the address of the empty property you are reporting**

**Is the empty property domestic or commercial?**

Domestic     Commercial

**Type of empty property**

- House
- Flat
- Bungalow
- Maisonette

**Is the empty property unsecure/accessible to the public?**

Yes     No

**How long do you believe the property has been empty?**

- 0 to 6 months
- 6 to 24 months
- more than 24 months
- Unknown

**How is the empty property affecting the local area (please select all that apply)?**

- Accumulating rubbish
- Poor visual appearance
- Affecting neighbouring properties
- Overgrown garden
- Poor condition
- Other

**DRAFT Minutes of the Brecon & Radnor Area Committee held at Llyswen Community Hall  
on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

At the start of the meeting a presentation was made by Emma Palmer the Chief Executive of Powys County Council.

Emma told members that her three main strategic priorities were:

- 1 To put in place a corporate leadership team structure.
- 2 To achieve a sustainable Powys, especially with regard to its future budget and funding arrangements. EP highlighted the severe budget pressures that the County Council was facing in future years; this was an extremely serious and unprecedented situation that could not be addressed without dealing with some very difficult questions.
- 3 To enhance and develop existing and new partnerships between Powys CC and others across the county, including town and community councils.

EP stressed that policy decisions and strategy were the responsibility of the county councillors, her role and that of her officers and staff was to implement those policy decisions.

This was followed by a number of questions from members, including the following:

- AA had submitted the following question beforehand: 'Approximately 5 years ago Powys County Council drafted a Memorandum of Agreement setting out the basis upon which its responsibility for maintaining and improving rights of way could be shared with Town and Community Councils, who would enlist the help of local volunteers. Is it intended to develop this approach and, if so, what actions are planned?' EP said that grants were being secured to help with this work and there was certainly an opportunity to implement the existing memorandum of understanding.

**NOTE: a written response to this matter and other information relevant to town and community councils was received from EP's office on 09.4.24, and this is attached at Appendix A.**

- Concerns were expressed about the volume of planning applications for wind farms in the county and requested consideration of a public referendum on this issue. EP said that consultation about this was a matter for Welsh Government and that there would be no local referendum.
- GJ said there was a perception amongst the local councils that they were not being listened to by the County Council. CE said that communication between PCC and local community and town councils was poor, and this was something that needed to be improved so that the town and community councils and Powys CC could work more effectively together.



He said that he and AH attended a meeting in 2022 with the new Leader, when promises were made about this - but there has been no improvement. CE added that One Voice Wales and local councils could provide a lot of expertise and assistance to PCC in helping it deliver its various services, but it appeared that this was not recognised by the County Council. AP asked what was being done about the poor internet connectivity in different parts of the county including Erwood.

EP said that she saw the local town and community councils as an extension of PCC and looked forward to working more closely with them. She expressed her disappointment that only 38 of the councils had attended a recent forum organised by PCC. EP said that she noted that there were three county councillors in attendance this evening and added that she could not guarantee the attendance of senior officers at every OVW Area Committee meeting but will try to arrange attendance when required.

EP added that the Director of Communications and IT at PCC – Diane Reynolds – was working hard to try to address the historical challenges, but that the ownership of internet and other related connectivity technology was ultimately the responsibility of Welsh Government.

- BL asked about performance management and monitoring of service delivery by PCC, referring to a historical problem regarding the football playing facilities at Brecon Leisure Centre. EP said that the County Council was data rich and there was a lot of information available to it to allow it to measure the effectiveness of its work. She expressed some concern that many services were currently outsourced and added that this was something she was monitoring closely.
- JM referred to the funding challenges faced by the National Parks Authority due to the funding settlement provided by Welsh Government.
- CE asked how PCC and its other partners and stakeholders could work more effectively together. EP replied that PCC had 3 statutory priorities, namely safeguarding, education and social services. Given the budget pressures already referred to it was almost inevitable that other services provided by PCC would have to be reviewed. CE suggested that sponsorship or funding might be considered from other sources, including the tourism sector. EP replied that those sort of policy issues were a matter for the politicians to determine.
- CE referred to the Clyro Passif housing Development and the lack of performance date from the project to allow it to be evaluated properly. EP will review the project.
- MH enquired whether there were plans to review the Core Areas Project, as it appeared that resources were in future likely to be focused around Llandrindod Wells, Brecon, Welshpool and Newtown. EP replied that there was evidence to suggest that very low use was being made of certain services in different areas and to continue to deliver services as had been done previously could not be sustained into the future. Her team is currently reviewing the available data and will make recommendations to county councillors about this.

- GJ asked what the next steps would be in respect of the Sustainable Powys initiative. EP replied that the challenges were huge, and PCC needed all the assistance it could get from the local town and community councils. PCC was currently consulting with young people about how they saw the delivery of its services into the future.

This link will take members to the 'Sustainable Powys' presentation that was provided at the recent Powys Town & Community Council Webinar:

<https://youtu.be/W4sgmZVSAp4?si=eCZ7H3uKwOPhhp9c>

### **Present:**

CLlr Clive Easton (Chair)  
CLlr Gareth Jones

CLlr Mark Hammond  
CLlr Alan Pryce  
CLlr Geoffrey Lewis  
CLlr Barbara Lloyd  
CLlr Pauline Hill  
CLlr Geoff Morgan  
CLlr Alan Austin  
Megan Pryce (Clerk)  
CLlr Angela Yates  
CLlr Douglas Coleman  
CLlr John Morris  
CLlr Bryan Davies

Lyn Cadwallader  
Alun Harries

Llanwrthwl CC  
Aberedw CC and representing Llanellwedd CC,  
Glascwm CC and Painscastle CC  
Builth Wells TC  
Erwood CC  
Erwood CC  
Glasbury & District CC  
Glyn Tarrell CC  
Llanbister CC  
Llanwrthwl CC  
Llanwrthwl, Llanafan Fawr, Treflys & Duhonw CC's  
Old Radnor CC  
Talgarth CC  
Vale of Grwyney CC  
Powys County Council

CEO of One Voice Wales  
One Voice Wales

### **Apologies:**

CLlr Julia Gruffydd  
CLlr James Prothero  
Rhayader TC

Crickhowell TC  
Hay on Wye TC



# Bute Energy

17<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dear Candidate,

RE: Concerns for Bute Energy / Windward Group staff safety.

I feel compelled to write to you to ask for your support to de-escalate and address the increasingly hostile behaviour towards Bute Energy staff and partners.

In recent weeks there has been a clear escalation in behaviour directed towards our staff and our partners. Whilst we accept that everyone is entitled to their own opinion on our projects, the recent behaviour of some members of the public towards our staff is simply not acceptable.

You are aware that Green GEN Cymru and Bute Energy are part of the Windward Energy Group. Through our continuous commitment to staff wellbeing and safety, matters of HSSE are shared across the group. We have been informed in recent days that one of the Green GEN Cymru team members has been targeted at his home address and his personal vehicle tampered with such that his wheel came off whilst driving with his children in the car. This comes alongside two separate incidents of harassment and threatening behaviour towards Green GEN Cymru ecology surveyors, both of which resulting in police intervention.

At recent Bute Energy events for Nant Mithil, staff have experienced an unacceptable increase in verbal abuse and threats of violence. Most recently, staff at a consultation event were warned that residents would attend the event with weapons. This has led to staff feeling unsafe and has triggered an internal conversation as to how we proceed with our consultation events in future.

As you are aware, a vital part of the developments of national significance (DNS) process is community consultation. We engage extensively and frequently with communities to gain valuable feedback that help shape and inform the final design of our projects. For the vast majority this results in constructive dialogue and feedback that we take very seriously. Recent events are a clear departure from this.

Bute Energy has prioritised our engagement with communities. We remain committed to doing so and to finding ways of improving engagement wherever possible. However, the safety of our staff is our first priority and, should the level of abuse and threats continue, we will be forced to revisit our approach.

I trust that you share our concerns that this behaviour is wholly unacceptable. As a trusted member of the local community we request that you kindly take action on our behalf to protect the wellbeing of our staff from this escalating behaviour. We would appreciate if you could communicate your disapproval of such behaviour and request and immediate cessation of anything further.

Finally, the receipt of financial support from Bute Energy is in no way deemed an endorsement of our portfolio or individual projects. We endeavour to work with a range of organisations who can provide invaluable services in communities; services we are proud to support and enable. The online abuse experienced by some of our partners is also unacceptable and must also cease.

If any member of the public would like to raise any concerns about any aspect of Bute Energy or our activities, we would ask that they do so directly with us.

Bute Energy  
Hodge House, Guildhall Place  
Cardiff CF10 1DY  
029 2167 9750  
info@bute.energy  
www.bute.energy

Registered office: Hodge House, Guildhall Place, Cardiff, CF10 1DY  
Bute Energy Limited registered in England and Wales. Company number 12474011



I trust that you share our concerns that this behaviour is wholly unacceptable. I would please ask that you take this risk to the safety of our team seriously and communicate your disagreement with the behaviour detailed above publicly.

I would like to also meet with you personally to discuss such matters and take your advice on how we move forward constructively.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart George  
Managing Director



THOMAS SHOP  
MAESYFED  
PENYBONT  
LLANDRINDOD WELLS  
POWYS  
LD1 5UA



'for new beginnings'

Phone/Fax: 01597 851951 Email: [info@thomas-shop.com](mailto:info@thomas-shop.com)  
Website: [www.thomas-shop.com](http://www.thomas-shop.com)

Stuart George  
Bute Energy  
Hodge House, Guildhall Place  
Cardiff CF10 1DY

18<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dear Mr George

**RE: Concerns for Bute Energy / Windward Group staff safety.**

Thank-you for your letter sent to the Clerk of the Penybont and District Community Council, Geraint Evans.

As a member of this Community and Chair of the Penybont and District Community Council, I am deeply shocked and saddened to receive your letter and to learn of totally unacceptable behaviour towards Bute Energy Staff. I am pleased to hear that you have involved the Police to deal with at least one of the matters you have mentioned. I would encourage you to involve the Police at any time unacceptable behaviour has impinged on the life of members of your staff.

Clearly, I will do all that I can to discourage such behaviour. Other than publishing a statement on our website and encouraging all of our Councillors to dissociate themselves and the Council from such activity, I am unsure about what I can do. Personally, I do not know any person who would participate in such activity.

Recently, the Council held a Community Meeting, following your consultation event in Penybont Community Centre, to give members of our community an opportunity to comment on your proposals. To date our Council has not discussed your proposal as the proposal has not gone to Planning. At this meeting there were a few people present who indicated that they were members of Re-think. There was no indication at this meeting that underhand tactics were being considered by these people. Some concerns were raised about the

proposals and about the Consultation Process by these people but also more widely by some of the people who attended the Consultation Event.

The problem that exists is that people are beginning to take sides and I am really concerned that I, Bute Energy, our Community Council, Re-think and members of the public; do not 'take sides' against each other.

It is really important that Bute Energy answers questions and concerns raised by members of the public and explain what steps they can take to deal with any challenges that may arise if the proposals go ahead. There was a feeling given to us at the Community Meeting that the people who were at the Consultation Event from Bute Energy did not note their concerns or answer their questions. While there was no suggestion that anyone was even considering inappropriate behaviour there was a sense of 'frustration' within the comments that were made at the Meeting.

Community members are worried that flicker, vibrations, and noise from these very large turbines may impact on their health and mental health. Already a house sale has fallen through because of the proposals. People are worried that house valuation will collapse. There is a concern about tourism and the impact on local businesses. While Climate Change is the biggest problem globally it will not be helped if people locally feel that their capacity to live in Mid Wales becomes untenable. I do not know if any of these concerns are valid. Bute Energy needs to have answers to these concerns and needs to be open and honest in communicating to people in our community.

Having said this, I am happy to meet with you to try to ensure that your staff members feel safe as they go about their daily life.

Yours sincerely

Derek Turner



---

## Don't Break the Heart of **Wales**

---

1 July 2024

Dear Councillor,

**Letter from Stuart George, Managing Director, Bute Energy, dated 14 June 2024**

It has been brought to our attention that Stuart George, Managing Director of Bute Energy has written to you by letter dated 14 June 2024, in which he has published a number of allegations about the behaviour and activities of RE-think.

Please be aware that those assertions, which are entirely unsubstantiated, are without any valid foundation and RE-think strongly refutes them. Notably, RE-think has received no direct communication from Bute Energy or the wider Windward Group in relation to any of the matters referenced in Mr George's letter, nor have any instances of '*proven misinformation*' been raised with us.

It appears to us that it is Mr George's intention to implicate RE-think in the alleged incidents referenced in the letter, and to infer involvement on its part. RE-think robustly denies any such involvement and objects in the strongest possible terms to his inference.

We hope that you will see Mr George's letter for what in our view it is — a deliberate and underhand attempt to smear RE-think, and thereby to influence the opinions of the elected representatives of the communities that will be affected by Bute Energy's proposals, and close down public opposition.

RE-think does not and would never claim to influence or control the behaviour of people living near the proposed wind farms and pylon route. Bute Energy should not be surprised at how distressed and angry people are at its proposals, but how that manifests is nothing whatsoever to do with RE-think, which has always conducted itself in an entirely orderly fashion and will continue to do so.

We have written to Mr George accordingly and put him on notice that any repetition of those assertions, or further unfounded assertions, may be met with legal action.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jenny A Chryss'.

On behalf of the Directors, RE-think Heart of Wales Ltd

**Dear Town / Community Council,**

'Numeracy 2 - Making a Difference in Powys' is a PAVO grant scheme administering £150,000 in 'multiply funding'. The project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, supported by Powys County Council.

Powys Town and Community Councils **and Third Sector organisations** can apply to:

- deliver 1 to 3 numeracy improvement sessions\*
- receive £500 for each event.

\*Session plans provided. They can be adapted.

'Numeracy 2' sessions must improve basic numeracy confidence and skills in people aged 19 and over. Applications accepted at any time before 30th September, for delivery before 30th November 2024.

You will be told if your application is successful (or not) within 4 weeks of applying.

You are invited to a short 'Meet the Funder' online session:

- **Tuesday 25th June 1.15pm**
- **Thursday 27th June 9.15am**
- **Wednesday 3rd July 1.15pm**
- **Thursday 11th July 9.15am**

This information, the 'Meet The Funder' booking form and the application form are available here: <https://www.pavo.org.uk/help-for-organisations/funding/pavo-grant-schemes/numeracy-fund-2/>

Please would you reply to this email, so I know you have received it?

Best wishes,

Ruth

--

Ruth Stafford

Swyddog Datblygu'r Sir, Gwneud Gwahaniaeth ym Mhowys - Cynllun Grant Rhifedd 2. Dw i'n gweithio o ddydd Mawrth, Mercher & Iau.

County Development Officer, Making a Difference in Powys - Numeracy Grant Scheme 2. I work Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.