



Environment Department



The Department manages a broad range of fields within the three specific Services, namely:

- **Planning and Public Protection**
- **Property**
- **Transportation and the Countryside**

Planning Service

The purpose of the Planning Service is to facilitate and manage sustainable developments for the benefit of our communities, the economy and the environment within the Gwynedd planning authority area (which does not include the National Park area).

In order to reach this aim, there are many aspects to the work:

Since adopting the Joint Local Development Plan (Gwynedd and Anglesey), the work of preparing 8 (of a series of 17) Supplementary Planning Guidance documents is ongoing. The guidance will add details to the planning policies, and strengthen the Plan's ability to provide firm grounds to make decisions on planning applications in the future. The arrangements for monitoring the Plan every year are also prepared to assess whether or not the Plan's strategy and policies are working.

We also provide guidance on planning policy matters to the Gwynedd Planning Authority, the Isle of Anglesey County Council Planning Authority and to external organisations and the public.

During 2017-18, over 2,300 general planning enquiries / pre-application enquiries were received.

We make decisions on **planning permissions** to develop land and deal with approximately 1,100 planning applications annually and, on average, over 85% of applications are granted permission.

On average, it takes 64 days to make a decision on applications, with a decision made on approximately 82% within the required timeframe.

Major developments have recently been approved including new schools, an electricity sub-station and poultry units. A very large number of applications for developments providing existing businesses with opportunities to expand and for new businesses to be established have also been approved, especially in the field of tourism attractions and associated businesses. The Planning Service is also a key part of the Wylfa Newydd Development Consent Order applications process and the National Grid's North Wales Connection Scheme, along with advising on a number of other large National Grid projects within the county.



Percentage of customers stating that they were satisfied with the level of service in the Planning Department

We take **enforcement steps** against developments that have not received planning permission and we deal with approximately 400 cases every year. We investigated 75% of the enforcement cases within 84 days and a number of enforcement notices have been issued.

The Department is responsible for monitoring the expenditure of Planning financial contributions [106 agreements] within the LPA which can be significant amounts.

The Department also undertakes an annual programme of proactive work in accordance with the objectives of the Enforcement Strategy, which includes proactive monitoring, in addition to administering, maintaining, updating and reviewing the Council's register of Tree Preservation Orders

Public Protection

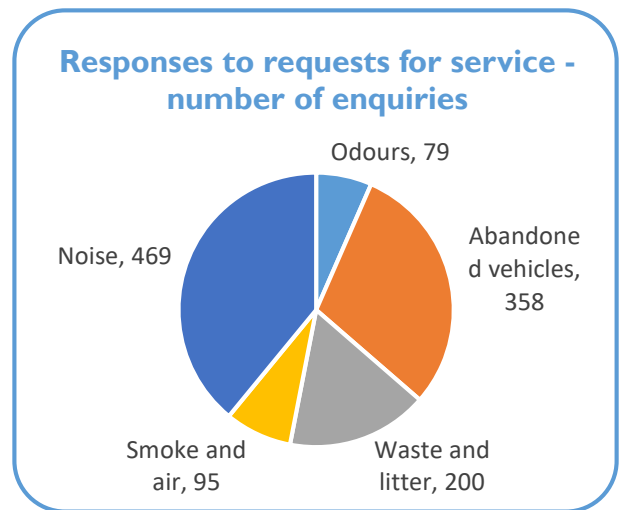
The purpose of the Public Protection Service is to protect the public in relation to a range of environmental and health matters - such as air quality, noise, the food chain and alcohol as well as fake businesses and traders that unintentionally or intentionally breach the acceptable standards noted in legislation.

In order to reach this aim, there are many aspects to the work:

Pollution Control

We ensure that businesses or individuals do not pollute the air, the land, or seas with undesirable substances or noise by investigating and responding to complaints of pollution and statutory nuisance.

We also assess the safety of private drinking water supplies and the quality of bathing water and enforce improvements as required - 730 drinking water samples and 35 bathing water samples were taken over the past year.



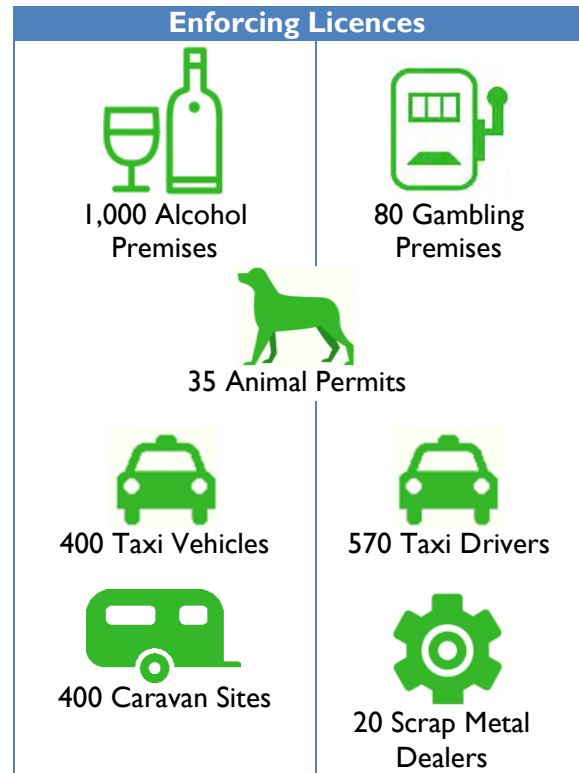
We investigate and monitor **industrial processes** on 47 sites and regulate industrial airborne emissions (oil waste burners, mobile crushers, cement machinery).

We also carry out **burials** in cases where there are no family members - we had 5 cases during the past year.

Licensing

We license the following fields in order to protect the users, businesses and communities of Gwynedd from any detrimental impacts.

- Alcohol and entertainment Licensing (including events) and gambling.
- Animal permits including pet shops, riding establishments and dog breeding establishments.
- Taxi vehicles, drivers and operators.
- Caravan sites and Scrap Metal dealer licences.
- Business sectors that could be dangerous.

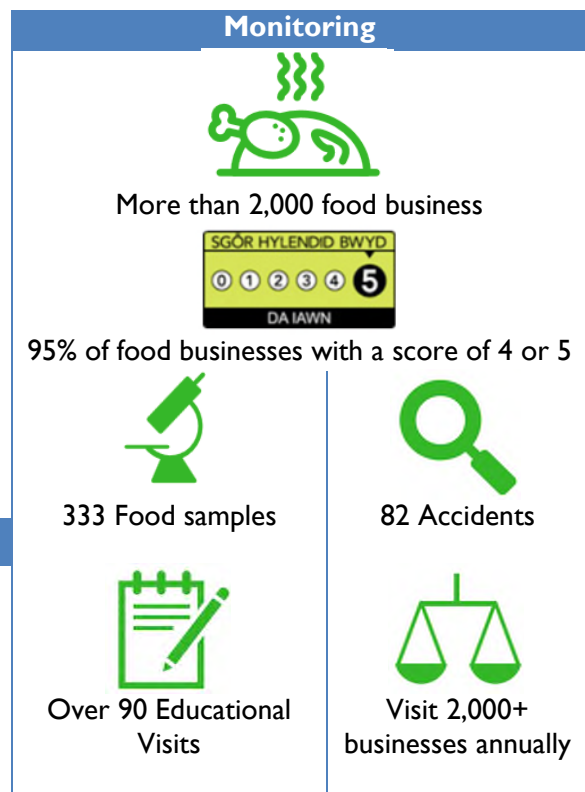


Welfare

We ensure that businesses in Gwynedd meet requirements in relation to food hygiene, food standards and health and safety in the workplace by responding to complaints, undertaking regular inspections and holding educational campaigns.

We protect residents and visitors to Gwynedd against infectious diseases and harmful chemicals.

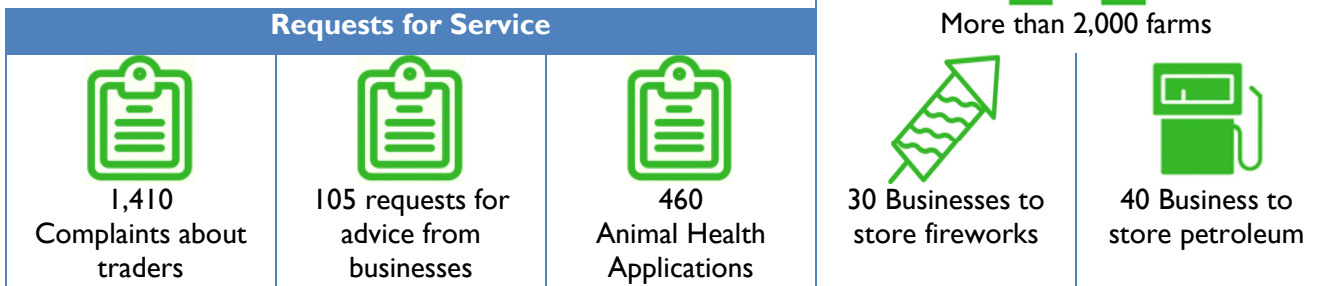
We also investigate accidents and cases of infectious diseases promptly so that any further risks to individuals are removed.



Trading Standards

We ensure that businesses and traders in Gwynedd meet product safety requirements (including age-restricted goods), fair trading, consumer protection, animal health and welfare and animal feed.

We do this through a combination of responding to complaints, undertaking regular inspections, holding educational campaigns and targeting problematic traders.



Property Service

The purpose of the Property Service is to ensure that we have property that is suitable to Council services and to manage those property assets.

In order to reach this aim, there are many aspects to the work:-

Property Safety and Maintenance

We ensure that our **buildings are safe and in good condition** to be used to provide services for the residents of Gwynedd by ensuring that we comply with the range of statutory responsibilities and ensure that we have an effective maintenance programme.



The New Ysgol Bro Llifon

Property Development

The purpose of the Unit is to develop new buildings or adapt and renovate existing buildings to improve the service provided for the residents of Gwynedd.

During 2017-18, 97% of our customers were happy with the work provided by the Property Development Team.



Estates and Facilities

Our purpose is to ensure that the Council receives the best value when managing its property assets and ensure that only those assets that we genuinely need are kept.



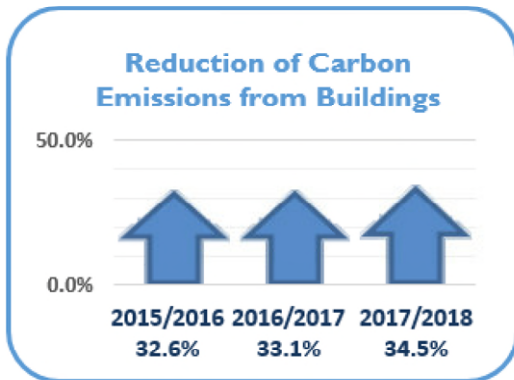
Office Service

The Offices Team provides office space for approximately 1,500 staff in seven substantial buildings including all relevant services that this covers such as caretaking and cleaning and safety arrangements for the buildings and their users.



We also provide a **cleaning service** for other buildings used to carry out the Council's front line services. We are also a provider to external companies such as Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park.

Energy Conservation Unit



After adopting our Carbon Management Plan, the Energy Team is implementing a number of projects to **reduce carbon emissions**.

The team's work to reduce our use has created annual revenue savings of over £900,000 for the Council.

A programme to raise awareness among school children has been an important part of this work and we have used characters such as Sbarci and Fflic to do so.



Parking Management and Enforcement

The parking team is responsible for **managing over 100 car parks** across the County and is responsible for parking enforcement on our streets and in our car parks. The team's aim is to use enforcement powers in a reasonable and fair way in order to ensure safe parking and traffic flow for the public.

There is concern in the Caernarfon and Ogwen Valley area about the lack of public car parking for local people. The residents of the Penllyn area had concerns about the lack of parking spaces for workers on Bala Industrial Estate, which have now been resolved. We did not succeed in responding to these concerns in the Caernarfon and Dyffryn Ogwen areas in 2018, and we will investigate and consider options to address the problem.

Pest Control

We offer a service to **control and destroy all types of pests** by means of contracts and by responding to daily calls from the public for assistance to control pests in their homes or businesses. We also carry out the statutory service of caring for stray dogs.



Transportation and Countryside Service

There are four fields of work within the Service:

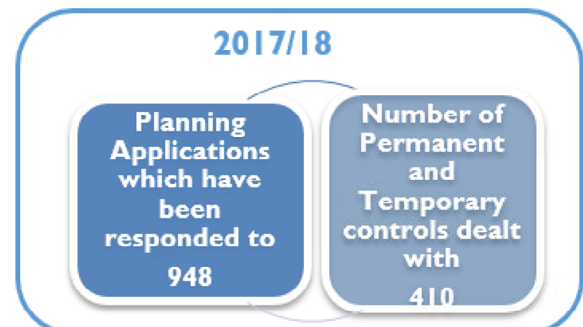
- Traffic, Projects and Street Works
- Integrated Transport
- Road Safety
- The Countryside

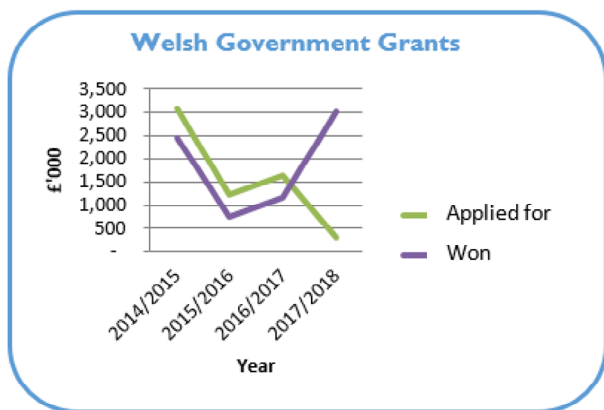
Traffic, Projects and Street Works

Our purpose is to enable the public to use Gwynedd roads in a safe and unobstructed way.

We do this by assessing sites on the highways network in order to identify any potential hazards and implement solutions if needed. The solutions can be in the form of creating traffic orders (speed or parking restrictions) or undertaking road signing or marking plans to raise the public's awareness of hazardous situations.

We are also responsible for ensuring that proposed works from developers that could affect the highways network are carried out safely and in accordance with the correct standards. This involves providing advice to developers and submitting observations on planning applications received by the Council.





We also manage various road improvement projects across the County.

We are always looking for opportunities to fund our transport and safety plans from external sources and we often succeed to attract grant funding from various sources for these purposes.

Road Safety

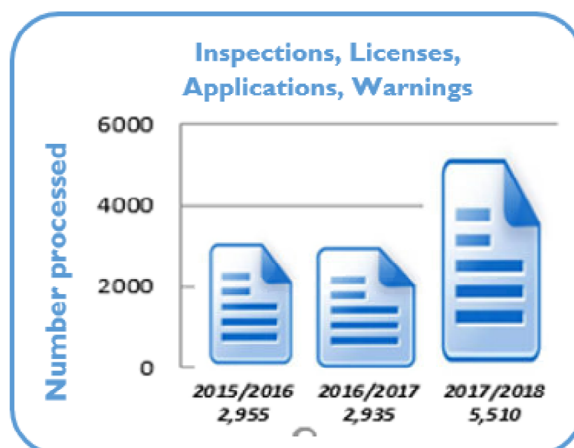
We attempt **to reduce injuries and accidents** on our roads by undertaking appropriate initiatives (local, regional and national), including engineering measures, educational programmes, training, publicity and enforcement.

Concerns were raised regarding road safety outside primary and secondary schools in Penygroes which serve the Dyffryn Nantlle area. In the same manner, concerns were raised regarding road safety outside some of the schools in Caernarfon. We have already visited the schools to discuss their concerns with them and we are currently assessing the sites in order to try to find different options to help to reduce risks for users.

Street Works

We are also responsible for coordinating and monitoring the activities carried out on the public highway network by statutory contractors (e.g. Welsh Water, BT) or their contractors. This involves processing applications for e.g. drilling roads to fix equipment and closing roads to facilitate the undertaking of maintenance work.

We also **license the siting of skips and scaffolding** on our roads as well as enforce property owners to fell trees, move obstructions off the road and so on.



Integrated Transport

Our purpose is to **provide safe and quality transport** which is cost effective as well as raising awareness and educating specific groups on how to cope with road hazards.

We do this by securing a network of public transport.

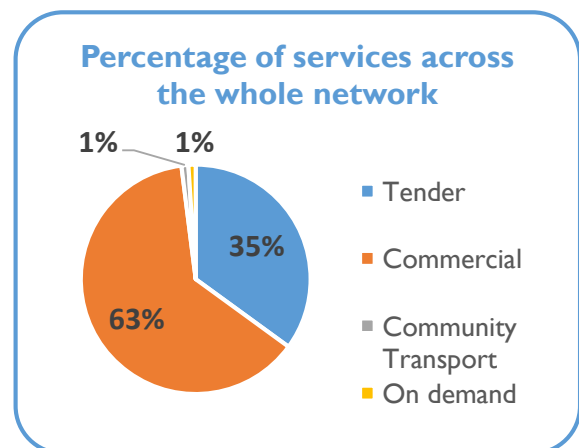
Public Transport

Over half the **bus routes** in Gwynedd receive financial assistance to run them because they are not commercially viable. To facilitate this, we prepare public transport contracts as well as prepare and create service timetables for the various routes.

We are also responsible for arranging **education transport contracts** (including a seat purchasing scheme) in order to provide free transport for eligible pupils.

In areas where a conventional transport provision is not available, or for our residents who are unable to, or find it difficult to, use conventional public transport, we also consider opportunities for **community transport**.

In future we will consult with our communities to understand how we can use the resources we have to better serve our residents. We will also seek to innovate to meet with the requirement in the most cost effective way possible while ensuring quality and reliable services.



The Countryside

We **facilitate and maintain public access rights** to the countryside and coast, protect biodiversity and habitats on land and sea and we safeguard the quality of the landscape of the Pen Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Biodiversity



We ensure that we comply with the Council's duties to protect our Biodiversity in Gwynedd. We provide specialist advice on planning applications and developments and have held 976 consultations over the 2017/18 year.

The Department is responsible for coordinating the work of managing a designated European site for marine habitats and species of European importance in the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation, and manages and implements environmental projects such as the Marine Ecosystems Project.

The Department also holds activities with local groups and the public to raise awareness of the importance of our biodiversity.

Access to the Countryside

The **Gwynedd public footpath network** is 3,800km long and we have given priority to maintaining those paths that have been identified by communities as the ones that are important to them.



We also develop and maintain the **national coast path** which stretches approximately 300km in Gwynedd.

A scheme has already been realised near Ty Moelwyn in Porthmadog which assists in improving the Coastal Path provision in the town. We will look at opportunities to improve the condition of other paths in the area in due course. There has been demand locally to complete the cycle path between Tywyn and Aberdyfi and it is already one of the Council's priorities. There has been progress on this scheme and we will be submitting a bid to the Welsh Government's Active Travel Fund in order to develop the scheme further. Calls are also being made to build a multi-use path between Pwllheli and Llanbedrog that would enable users to have easy access along Pen Llŷn's southern coast. We will also submit a bid to Welsh Government to further develop the plan

We deal with applications to divert and create paths and maintain and update the definitive map which shows the **county's rights of way network**.



We have also prepared a Rights of Way Improvement Plan which sets a framework for improving the network and manages lands that include six Nature Reserves and other lands.

The Department protects and seeks to manage the quality of the **Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)** in accordance with protocol. The AONB Management Plan is implemented by the Council and other organisations.



In future, our intention is to ensure that our cycling network is fit for purpose, and in that, solve aspects that prevent their full use. We will also take advantage of grant opportunities to expand the "Active Travel" network that offers health and environment benefits.