



Mr Hywel Wyn Jones BA (Hons), BTP, MRTPI
Mr Richard Duggan BSc (Hons), DipTP, MRTPI
Arolygwyr Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Gwynedd a Môn
Gwynedd and Anglesey Local Development Plan Inspectors
Gwynedd Council
Programme Officer
Council Offices
Stryd y Jêl
Caernarfon
LL55 1SH

01/09/2016

Dear Inspectors

Independent Examination of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Local Development Plan

The Welsh Language Commissioner was established by the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. The Commissioner's statutory functions include giving assistance to any person, submitting observations to any person and giving advice to any person. I submit the observations in this letter in accordance with those functions.

In its statement for the first hearing of the examination Horizon has noted its opinion that *'elements of the Plan which involve protecting the Welsh language are inconsistent with the approach noted in national policy and, therefore, fails the first test of soundness in Planning Policy Wales7 and CE18 in the Plan itself'*. According to the statement by Horizon, the basis of this allegation is that elements of the plan are inconsistent with paragraph 4.1.12 of Technical Advice Note 20 (2013) ("TAN 20").

Welsh Government policy for land use in Wales is set out within Planning Policy Wales. Welsh Government technical advice notes provide advice on how to deliver that policy. It is therefore not possible to argue that the content of the Local Development Plan is inconsistent with national policy on planning in Wales on grounds of inconsistency between the Plan and a technical advice note. Nonetheless, it is worth noting that TAN20 is currently being amended in order to strengthen it in accordance with the new provisions for the Welsh language within planning included in the Planning (Wales) Act 2015.

Comisiynydd y Gymraeg
Siambrau'r Farchnad
5-7 Heol Eglwys Fair
Caerdydd CF10 1AT

0845 6033 221
post@comisiynyddygymraeg.org
Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg

comisiynyddygymraeg.org

Welsh Language Commissioner
Market Chambers
5-7 St Mary Street
Cardiff CF10 1AT

0845 6033 221
post@welshlanguagecommissioner.org
Correspondence welcomed in Welsh and English

welshlanguagecommissioner.org

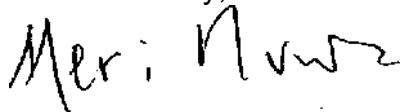
Planning Policy Wales was amended in January this year, with the incorporation of well-being aims which now form the basis of Government policies, including the aim of seeing '*Wales with a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*'. Planning Policy Wales stresses that local planning policies should have positive effects on the Welsh language where possible and should avoid negative effects

4.13.4 It should be the aim of local planning authorities to provide for the broad distribution and phasing of housing development taking into account the ability of different areas and communities to accommodate the development **without eroding the position of the Welsh language**¹. Where possible, the planning system should seek to create conditions which are conducive to the use of the Welsh language.

Based on the above, I believe that the relevant elements of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Local Development Plan are consistent with the national policy on land use in Wales and I disagree with the statement to the contrary by Horizon.

I appreciate your consideration of these observations when undertaking your examination of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Local Development Plan

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meri Huws". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Meri Huws
Welsh Language Commissioner

¹ Author's accentuation

