



communities first *cymunedau yn gyntaf*

The Community House,
57 Cynlas
Off Chester Avenue.
Kinmel Bay
LL18 5LP

To Whom It May Concern,

17.12.09

Re: DECC Low Carbon Communities Challenge Application by Kinmel Bay & Towyn Sports & Recreation Association

I am writing as the Co-ordinator of Kinmel Bay's Communities First Project, which is based on the Chester Avenue Estate to the South side of the main Y Morfa Sports Fields, but easily accessible on foot or by bike by residents here.

A lot of the initial work in the Kinmel Bay Communities First programme was to do with involving residents in environmental improvements in and around this Estate, including a play area bordering the Y Morfa play grounds, and a Safe-Route path that takes in this estate on its way to connect through to/from Towyn. The programme is centred around a Community House, with office accommodation upstairs, but a welcoming range of well-used facilities downstairs that includes a large general-purpose room with an open-up IT suite at one end.

Communities First schemes all over Wales do face some future uncertainty, in that beyond the next Assembly elections there can be no cast-iron certainty that the scheme will continue – or, to put this another way, schemes are already being asked to evolve and find creative links with other projects and themes in the neighbourhood which, with the right ongoing partnership attitudes, can be made to take over some of the roles we've developed and make them sustainable long term.

During the past year I have had increasing contact with the Chair of the Board for Y Morfa Leisure Centre and his team and have been highly impressed with the way they have set about trying to steer a new course. Such novelties as the Keep-Fit class, Adult Youth Club and now the Smiles Club for families affected by autism bode well for the future of the Centre - which somehow always seems to attract the most enthusiastic young Centre managers as well. (The Communities First notice this latter point particularly during the holiday activity weeks during, when the present manager shows amazing flexibility and willingness to oblige parents).

As one looks through this draft LCCC application it is clear that a new vision is emerging that is truly user-group driven, and hence both accessible and refreshingly diverse and open to change, therefore with potential to 'tick all the boxes' so far as residents in the Communities First ward are concerned - in particular as regards an inclusive approach that starts with the youngest age-group whose future it is, but leaves no-one out in the rest of the family and community. As part of the new child

poverty remit, we have identified there is a distinct lack of family provision in the area.

If one had to single one thing out, a venue to help “house” dedicated youth provision in the area is key to the needs of young people in Kinnel Bay and will help the youth service to operate more in the area as they currently wish to.

The new extension also looks particularly promising, particularly with the potential for a Travel Awareness and Engagement Plan to encourage a different way of thinking for local young people to engage with as they think about how to access their leisure. This being something in particular that we would be more than happy to try to help the Board to develop....

There is much to think about here (always a sign of a good project!) that could have big implications for how infrastructure investment is made in the whole area, but in the meantime I have no hesitation in warmly welcoming this application and offering it our whole-hearted support in partnership and look forward to continued links with our Communities First partnership.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me,

Yours sincerely,

Tania Donn
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