Councillors Association Newsletter

WORKING FOR ALL PLAID CYMRU COUNCILLORS

Spring Conference 2014 Special

Nerys Evans came to explain the Report of the Williams Commission to the Association Officers

We have the largest number of elected members of the 5 levels of government with around 150 County Councillors and hundreds of Town and Community Councillors. We regularly contact each county council group generally via the group leader with information relating to relevant Assembly and Westminster issues. The eternal challenge of compiling an electronic list of town and community councillors continues.

Williams Commission

The National Council in February gave us clear guidance. This is not a report by Plaid Cymru. This is a report by Sir Paul Williams, who was also responsible for the re-organisation of our Health Services, and we all know the mess our Health Boards are in now. The commission was instigated by Carwyn Jones and was not cross-party, although we were very fortunate to have Nerys Evans as a member, and our thanks go to her for such an insightful input. The reaction to the report is that the Labour Party is tearing itself to pieces. Let us sit back for a while and watch the internal fighting and vicious wrangling within their own party. Our aim should be to look at the current situation where the 'status quo' is not an option. Then we should proceed to present an alternative report. This would consider what should be done nationally and what is better at community or County level remembering that Saint David taught us that we should 'do the little things well'.

Powerful Chief Executives

Recently we have had three cases of Chief Execs. being investigated by Police Authorities for misconduct in Public Office. Three Chief Execs. earn more than the Prime Minister. It appears that one reason for this situation is that these authorities are controlled by Independents. These motley groups have no policies, no manifestos, no central office to assist, and in being so rudderless,they rely too heavily on the opinion and suggestions of their Chief Execs. some of whom have absolutely no interest in democracy or politics.

West is Best!

Congratulations to Plaid controlled Ceredigion Local Education Authority on having the best schools in Wales.

If you would like to contribute to the next issue of 'Cyngor' contact Siân

'Money is no object' says David Cameron to the rich of the Thames Valley, whilst muttering under his breath 'but not a penny of new money and nothing at all from me for you lot in Wales.
So how much financial support has your Council had?

Plaid Cymru Councillors Association

To know who's who visit our website

www.councillors.plaidcymru.org

740 is too many

Another message in the Williams Commission report is that there are too many Community Councils. Do we agree? There some that are just too small to cope with the services that County Councils are attempting to off load on to them as part of foregoing their duties to their communities in light of the enforced cuts e.g. in Carmarthenshire some Community Councils have 5 County Councillors while other County Counciloors have 5 Community Councils in their ward. What is the acceptable size?
However the latest we heat from the Assembly is that these proposals will not be put into effect until after the next Assembly elections.

Latest news from the Association

We were pleased to be invited to meet with Assembly staff and AMs on a monthly basis to discuss local government issues. If councillors have important items that they wish to bring to AMs notice let us know. Some of our discussions have included;

Learner Travel Measure. A letter from the Language Commissioner was considered regarding the withdrawal of school transport for post 16 pupils. Concern was expressed on the impact this would have on Welsh Medium and faith Schools. We are pursuing this with the Commissioner and AMs.
Work programme. The focus for the next 12 months would be on developing the links with the Assembly Group.
Planning Bill a 'missed opportunity.' The Association noted that the Welsh Government is missing a golden opportunity to deliver a modern planning system. Welsh Government is currently consulting on the planning system. (http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/planning/draft-planning-wales-bill/?lang=en). It was feared that the proposals would weaken the role of councillors. Also there was concern that the language was not a planning issue and there was a need for TAN 20 to be stronger.
This matter will be raised at the meeting with the Assembly Group.
'Local Authority Services Performance, 2012-13'; This contains the latest performance data including links to follow to get more performance and contextual data.
Fair funding for Wales. Further to the adverse comments regarding funding for Welsh Local authorities no reply has been received from the Local Government Association however the tone of the 'debate' in the LGA Newsletter was changed to include that well known country of 'Englandandwales'.
Working with the Women's Sections. We are working with Eli Jones on behalf of the Women's Section to attract more women candidates.
The Association was addressed by Nerys Evans who presented the Williams Commission report. Members comments included;

* That there were 35 District Council in 1996 and that Mid Glam County Council had 6 distinct education offices.
* That the Tories only wanted to 'save' the Vale and Monmouth.
* That there was no reference to STV; that there was no reference to scrutiny resources; that ring fencing was continuing and there was no evidence of any aspect of 'nation building'.
* That there was no reference to ward boundary review/councillor numbers.

Cyngor, Plaid Cymru, Ty Gwynfor, Anson Court, Atlantic Wharf
CARDIFF CF10 4AL cyngor@plaidcymru.org 02920 472272

Cylchlythyr Cymdeithas y Cynghorwyr

YN GWEITHIO DROS HOLL GYNGHORWYR Y BLAID

Rhifyn Arbennig at y Gynhadledd Wanwyn 2014

Daeth Nerys Evans i esbonio Adroddiad Comisiwn Williams i swyddogion y Gymdeithas

Gyda ni mae'r nifer fwyaf o aelodau etholedig o'r 5 haen o lywodraeth, gyda tua 150 o Gynghorwyr Sir a channoedd o Gynghorwyr tref a Chymuned. Rydym yn cysylltu â phob grŵp Cyngor Sir yn rheolaidd drwy gyfrwng arweinydd y grŵp yn gyffredinol, gyda gwybodaeth yn ymwneud â materion perthnasol y Cynulliad a San Steffan.
Mae`r her tragwyddol i lunio rhestr electronig o chynghorwyr tref a chymuned yn parhau .

Comisiwn Williams

Rhoddodd y Cyngor cenedlaethol yn Chwefror arweiniad clir i ni. Nid ein adroddiad ni fel Plaid Cymru yw adroddiad Syr Paul Williams. Ef oedd yn gyfrifol am ad-drefnu ein gwasanaethau iechyd, a ni gyd yn gwybod beth i ni'n meddwl o'r gawlach honno. Sefydlwyd y comisiwn gan Carwyn Jones, ac nid oedd yn drawsbleidiol, er i ni fod yn ffodus iawn o gael Nerys Evans fel aelod ohono, a mawr yw ein gwerthfawrogiad o'i mewnbwn arbennig. Yr ymateb i'r adroddiad yw bod y Blaid Lafur wrthi yn rhwygo'u hunain yn ddarnau. Gadewch i ni eistedd yn ôl am ysbaid a gadael iddynt ymladd yn fewnol dros eu hadroddiad eu hunain. Ein nod ni dylai fod i edrych ar y sefyllfa, gan bod pawb yn cytuno nad yw'r 'statws quo' yn opsiwn. Yna mynd ati i lunio adroddiad amgen, sy'n holi beth y dylid wneud yn genedlaethol a beth fyddai orau ar lefel gymunedol neu sirol, gan gofio dysgeidiaeth Dewi Sant i wneud 'y pethau bychain'.

Mae 740 yn ormod

Neges arall o gomisiwn Williams yw bod gormod o Gynghorau Cymuned. A ydy ni'n cytuno? A oes rhai yn rhy fach i ymdopi gyda'r gwasanaethau mae'r awdurdodau sirol yn ceisio llwytho arnynt yn ddiofyn wrth iddynt geisio ysgafnhau eu dyletswyddau yn sgil y toriadau enbyd. e.e. yn Sir Gar mae cynghorydd sy'n 1 o 5 cynghorydd sir ar un cyngor cymuned tra bod cynghorydd sir cyfagos yn 1 ar 5 o wahanol gynghorau cymuned. Pa faint sy'n dderbyniol. Wedi dweud hyn y diweddaraf a glywn o'r Cynulliad yw nad oes diddordeb mewn camu ymlaen gydag awgrymiadau Williams tan ar ôl etholiadau nesaf y cynulliad.

Prif Weithredwyr Pwerus

Yn ddiweddar cawsom dri achos o Brif Weithredwyr yn cael eu archwilio gan awdurdodau Heddlu am gamreoli mewn gwasanaeth cyhoeddus.
A tri yn ennill tipyn mwy na'r Prif Weinidog. Ymddengys mae un achos am y sefyllfaoedd yma yw eu bod y ddau yn cael eu rhedeg gan grŵp Annibynnol. Bydd rhain heb bolisïau, heb maniffesto, heb swyddfa ganolog i'w cynorthwyo, ac o fod mor ddigyfeiriad a hyn yn dibynnu'n helaeth ar farn ac awgrymiadau eu Prif Weithredwyr nad sydd yn coleddu unrhyw ddiddordeb mewn bod yn ddemocrataidd nac yn wleidyddol.

Newyddion Diweddaraf o'r Gymdeithas

Yr ydym yn falch o gael ein gwahodd i gwrdd a swyddogion o'r Cynulliad a'n AC yn fisol er mwyn trafod materion o bwys i Awdurdodau Lleol.
Os oes ganddoch chwi gynghorwyr unrhyw achos yr hoffech ddwyn i'w sylw rhowch wybod. Dyma rhai materion y buom yn trafod.
Mesur Teithio Dysgwyr. Ystyriwyd llythyr gan y Comisynydd Iaith parthed peidio talu am drafnidiaeth ôl 16 a'r effaith y byddai hwn yn gael yn arbennig ar addysg Gymraeg ac addysg ffydd. Rydym yn dilyn hwn gyda'r Comisynydd., a gyda'n AC.
Rhaglen Waith Ein ffocws am y 12 mis nesa yw datblygu ein cysylltiadau gyda'r grŵp Cynulliad.
Deddf Gynllunio - 'cyfle a gollwyd'. Nododd y Gymdeithas bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi colli cyfle euraidd i gyflwyno fframwaith gynllunio modern. Ar hyn o bryd mae allan i ymgynhoriad (http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/planning/draft- planning-wales-bill/?lang=en
Y gofid yw ei fod yn gwanhau rôl cynghorwyr. Heblaw hyn dyw'r Iaith ddim yn ystyriaeth wrth gynllunio a mae angen cryfhau'r TAN 20. Byddwn yn codi hwn gyda grwp y Cynulliad.
'Perfformiad Gwasanaethau Llywodraeth Leol 2012-13'; Mae hwn yn dangos y perfformiad ac yn cynnwys sut i gael mwy o wybodaeth.
Cyllido Teg i Gymru. Wedi sylwadau anffafriol pellach gan y Gymdeithas Lywodraeth Leol (LAG) nid ydym wedi cael ateb eto ond mae'n nhw yn dal i son am y wlad fytholegol 'Lloegrachymru'
Gweithio gydag Adran y Menywod. Rydym yn cyd-weithio gyda Eli Jones ar rhan AyM i ddenu mwy o ymgeiswyr benywaidd
Daeth Nerys Evans atom i esbonio gwaith Comisiwn Williams.
Nododd aelodau.

* Bod 35 Cyngor Dosbarth yn 1996 a bod gan Morgannwg Ganol 6 swyddfa addysg leol.
* Dim ond achub y Fro a Mynwy oedd gan y Ceidwadwyr ddiddordeb mewn gwneud.
* Nad oedd dim sôn am dull pleidleisio STV; nag ychwaith adnoddau craffu; bod heipothoceiddio i barhau; a doedd dim byd am 'adeiladu cenedlaethol. '.
* Doedd dim son am adolygu ffiniau na niferoedd cynghorwyr.

Ceredigion Campus

Llongyfarchiadau i Gyngor Ceredigion, sy'n cael ei rheoli gan y Blaid ar gael yr ysgolion gorau yng Nghymru

Os hoffech gyfrannu i'r rhifyn nesaf o 'Cyngor' cysylltwch a Siân

'Dyw arian ddim yn broblem' meddai David Cameron wrth cyfoethogion Dyffryn Tafwys, gan sibrwd dan ei anadl 'ond does dim ceiniog o arian newydd i'w gael a dim byd i chi yng Nghymru wrtha i. Felly faint o gymorth arianol y cafodd eich Cyngor chi?

Manylion Cyswllt Cymdeithas Cynghorwyr Plaid Cymru

Ar gael ar ein gwefan
www.councillors.plaidcymru.org

Cyngor, Plaid Cymru, Ty Gwynfor, Anson Court, Glanfa'r Iwerydd, CAERDYDD, CF10 4AL cyngor@plaidcymru.org 02920 472272