

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth  
Minister for Local Government and Government Business



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-482 & P-04-478  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/01467/13

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

30 June 2013

Dear Bill

Thank you for your letters of 24 May regarding two petitions received from Sovereign Wales.

I agree there is a need for the electorate to know who represents them and how they may be contacted. The petition suggests the use of large public notice boards to be placed within all electoral wards in Wales through a national system developed by the Welsh Government. It would be difficult for the Welsh Government to co-ordinate such a scheme. Local authorities, at both principal and community level, have various duties to publish notices in public places. In some cases, where communities have natural centres, this is done through public notice boards.

I am not convinced an obvious site for a public notice board exists in all electoral wards, especially those areas without a community council. Also, it is not obvious who would maintain and publish information on them.

Ensuring the information on notice boards is kept up to date and relevant can only be a local responsibility. I would support the principal of public notices being large and clear enough for most people to understand.

Many people today would expect to be able to obtain information such as this from the internet. All County and County Borough Councils in Wales already have websites which contain relevant information about elected members.

There is a lack of information available electronically about Town and Community Councils. The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill was passed by the National Assembly for

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence.lesley.Griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk  
Printed on 100% recycled paper

Wales on 18 June. The Bill includes a provision requiring Town and Community Councils to have websites and to publish certain information electronically, including the Council's membership, contact information and minutes of meetings.

The timing, location and frequency of Council meetings are a matter for each Council. It is not practical to prescribe the time and frequency of Council meetings. Local Authorities are required to have regard to the Statutory Guidance to support the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, which states Local Authorities should review the times at which meetings are held at least once every term.

The second petition calls for the Welsh Government to issue information on how people can stand for election. However, there is already considerable information available for candidates and potential candidates. The Welsh Government, in partnership with the Welsh Local Government Association, produced a leaflet on becoming a Councillor, which is available on the WLGA's website.

The Electoral Commission is responsible for providing information on how to participate in the democratic process. Information is available on their website on the importance of registering to vote, the different voting systems and how to vote. The Electoral Commission also provides guidance for candidates which includes a section on standing for election.

Regards  
Lesley

**Lesley Griffiths AC / AM**

Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth  
Minister for Local Government and Government Business