

Un Llais Cymru



One Voice Wales

National Conference 2024 Report

Official Conference Sponsors:



CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION

Pre-Conference Promotion	3
Chair's Welcome: Cllr. Mike Theodoulou	4
Conference Agenda	5

2. OFFICIAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW)	6
Save a Life Cymru	7

3. ADVERTISEMENTS

Paid Conference Advertisements (in alphabetical order)	
Llais	8
National Association of Memorial Masons	9
Wicksteed	10

4. PRESS RELEASE

Press Releases	11-14
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5. COUNCIL CASE STUDIES & EXHIBITORS

Council Case Studies & Exhibitors	15
One Voice Wales Project Displays	16
Prize Winning Councils	17

6. TESTIMONIALS

Testimonials	18
Images of the day	19

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledgements	20
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Un Llais Cymru - One Voice Wales
CYNHADLEDD GENEDLAETHOL
2024

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Dydd Mercher 16 Hydref / Wednesday 16 October
Llanelwedd, LD2 3SY

**Dathlu hanner can mlynedd ers ffurfio Cyngorau
Cymuned a Thref yng Nghymru!**

**Celebrating 50 years since the formation of Community
and Town Councils in Wales!**

Dathliad dwbl wrth i ni ddathlu ein penblwydd yn 20 oed hefyd!

A double celebration as we celebrate our 20th birthday too!



**Cyfraddau
Gostyngol
ar gael!**



**Discounted
Rates
available!**



Cysylltwch â ni nawr i archebu lle!!

Contact us now to book your place!



Os hoffech noddi'r digwyddiad neu archebu gofod arddangos, cysylltwch â ni.

**If you would you like to Sponsor this celebratory event, or book an exhibition
space, please get in touch with us.**

admin@onevoicewales.wales
gweinydd@unllaiscymru.cymru
www.onevoicewales.org.uk



The Chair's Welcome

Cllr. Mike Theodoulou



Cllr. Mike Theodoulou, Chair of One Voice Wales, officially opened this year's National Conference by giving a warm welcome to the delegates and guests, thanking them for their time and presence at this important annual event. He commented that yet again there were a number of new faces amongst the audience, some councils being represented for the first time whilst others sending different representatives to a One Voice Wales event, which should be encouraged. He looked forward to engaging with as many councillors, clerks and staff of councils during the day.

He congratulated the One Voice Wales staff for preparing such an interesting and engaging agenda, which included a list of quality presenters and speakers on a variety of important themes and topics concerning councils. He urged delegates and guests to participate in all activities throughout the day, and to listen and learn as much as possible, before returning to their respective and neighbouring councils and sharing those experiences.

This year's national conference was a double celebration which was made clear in the communications leading up to the event, with it being 50 years since the formation of community and town councils in Wales (1974) and the 20th anniversary of the establishment of One Voice Wales as a new membership organisation (2004). A refreshed One Voice Wales logo was being launched today, very visible on the new corporate marketing material surrounding the arena and exhibition hall.

A group of councils from across Wales were on display in the conference arena which were case studies and exemplar projects of best practice within their own rights, and delegates were encouraged to ask questions and learn as much about how other councils have achieved great successes with community projects. One Voice Wales' Projects were also on display and teams of officers present to engage as much as possible with delegates - the whole team had been invited to attend and join in the celebration, an opportunity for networking and putting faces to names.

The exhibition hall was packed with excited exhibitors, keen to promote and sell their services and products to councils. Without further hesitation, he introduced the first speaker of the day, Jane Bryant MS and Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government.

National Conference 2024 - Agenda

One Voice Wales National Conference
Wednesday 16 October 2024



The Montgomery Pavilion - Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, LD2 3SY

AGENDA

- 09:30 – 10:15am Registration, Tea / Coffee and Exhibition Time
- 10:15 – 10:30am Chairs Welcome / Housekeeping: Cllr Mike Theodoulou
- 10:30 – 11:00am Jayne Bryant MS, Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government
- 11:00 – 11:30am Adrian Crompton, Auditor General for Wales
- 11:30 – 12:00pm Tea / Coffee Break and Councils Case Study time
- 12:00 – 12:30pm Helen Nelson, Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
- 12:30 – 1:00pm Lyn Cadwallader, Chief Executive One Voice Wales
- 01:00 – 2:15pm Lunch / Exhibition Time
- 02:15 – 2:45pm Michelle Morris, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
- 02:45 – 3:15pm Cllr Lis Burnett Presiding Member, WLGA and Cllr Mike Theodoulou Chair One Voice Wales
- 03:15 – 3:20pm Signing of Memorandum of Understanding OVW and WLGA
- 03:20 – 3:30pm One Voice Wales Chair's closing remarks

SPONSORED BY



National Conference - Joint Sponsors



The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales ("Panel") would like to thank One Voice Wales for the opportunity to sponsor this event and further strengthen the Panel's engagement with members of Community and Town Councils (CTCs).

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales is responsible for determining the level of payments to elected members of councils, corporate joint committees, national park authorities and fire and rescue authorities in Wales.

This has been a busy year for the Panel, with the focus on compliance, engagement, fairness and research, whilst also preparing for the transfer of functions to the Democracy Boundary Commission Cymru.

Since its inception, the Panel has had a significant and beneficial influence on the value of elected members of community and town councils and other authorities within its remit. In particular, the Panel has sought to ensure that remuneration does not act as a barrier to participation in local democracy.

Providing support for local communities to engage with democracy is key to delivering a healthy democracy in Wales. With this mind, the Panel has received and considered evidence to ensure it can support CTC members by removing financial barriers to inclusion. This has resulted in the determining provision of mandatory allowances for cost of care, working from home, ICT consumables and more recently global reporting.

Communication and engagement is key to the Panel's work which is why the Panel has regularly met with One Voice Wales to discuss issues which are important to CTCs and to ensure that the Panel's determinations and requirements are understood and followed. This includes areas such as the treatment of tax on allowances.

The Panel is legally required to publish Annual Reports on proposed determinations. The **draft Annual Report for 2025 to 2026** is open to consultation until 29 November. This provides CTC members with opportunity to feedback on the Panel's proposals ahead of the final Annual Report being published in February. Members can provide feedback on the draft report by completing the **online form** or by emailing us at **irpmailbox@gov.wales**.

National Conference - Joint Sponsors



Save a Life Cymru is a Welsh Government programme to increase out of hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) survival by promoting CPR and defibrillators across communities. Part of NHS Wales.

Our aim is to increase OHCA survival from around 5% in Wales to match the best in Europe, estimated as 18%, in a 2020 study. Between April 2020 and March 2021, the Welsh Ambulance Service responded to 6,585 OHCA's of which, 2,791 resulted in resuscitation attempts. Over 70% of these happened in the home.

Sponsoring the One Voice Wales Conference 2024 is an excellent opportunity for us at Save a Life Cymru to explain how we can provide specific support to Community and Town Councils and help save lives, by:

- 1) Introducing the team of Save a Life Community Coordinators, who work across Wales, to provide advice on CPR and defibrillators and guidance on registering defibrillators on The Circuit – the national defibrillator network.**
- 2) Being aware that Save a Life Cymru is the go-to organisation for any queries on community public access defibrillators in Wales.**
- 3) Ensuring that councils receive the best possible information about purchasing new defibrillators and how to maintain and manage them in the long term.**
- 4) Developing NHS Wales specific resources to provide support for the public.**

You can contact Save a Life Cymru by e-mail: SaveALifeCymru@wales.nhs.uk



**ACHUB BYWYD CYMRU
SAVE A LIFE CYMRU**



**GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES**

Ydych chi eisiau
helpu i lunio
dyfodol iechyd
a gofal
cymdeithasol?

Do you want
to help shape
the future
of health and
social care?

DARGANFOD DISCOVER

LLAIS

Eich llais mewn iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol | Your voice in health and social care



llaiscymru.org
llaiswales.org
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The National Association of Memorial Masons.



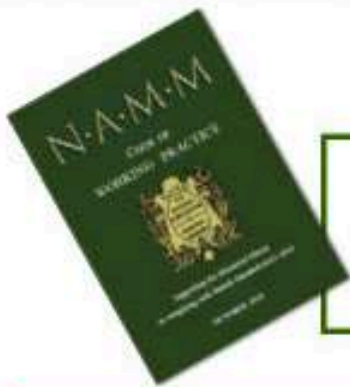
Providing high standards of workmanship and service to burial authorities and consumers alike has been the constant objective of NAMM.

As an established trade association since 1907 NAMM is the recognised memorial masonry consultative body and trusted training provider to both the trade and burial authorities.

NAMM is a City & Guilds Assured training provider and actively supports burial authorities in their legal obligation to ensure burial grounds are safe environments.

S.I.A.M. (Safety Inspection and Assessment of Memorials) **Ensures compliance with Ministry of Justice guidance and BS8415-2018**

NAMM Safety Inspection and Assessment of Memorials training is assured by City&Guilds for individuals responsible for all aspects of safety inspection relating to burial grounds and their infrastructure from the initial planning right through to practical application. For detailed information on NAMM training please phone 01788 542264 or email enquiries@namm.org.uk.



The NAMM Code of Working Practice established in 1996 is the original recognised industry standard and the founding document for BS8415 and is free to download at www.namm.org.uk

The NATIONAL Association of Memorial Masons are proud supporters of ONE VOICE WALES and all its initiatives.



The RQMF is a database administered by NAMM of registered businesses and memorial fixers who have demonstrated practical competency and essential knowledge to install a memorial to the required standard as detailed in the NAMM Code of Working

Burial Authority access to the RQMF register is free via an individual login, technical help and support and real time monitoring of RQMF registered memorial fixers insurance details are also provided. More details can be found on the RQMF website at www.rqmf.org.uk

The National Association of Memorial Masons is the trusted memorial Industry consultative body providing training and trade expertise for the common good.



Our Services

- ◆ UK playground manufacturer since 1918
- ◆ Full maintenance & inspection service
- ◆ Free site visit & design
- ◆ Spares stocked at our UK factory
- ◆ Extensive guarantees
- ◆ Bespoke play structures



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Happy Birthday One Voice Wales!

One Voice Wales, the representative body for Community and Town Councils in Wales, held a sparkling event at the Royal Welsh Showground in Builth Wells recently to celebrate 20 years since the organisation was formed.

The National Conference of One Voice Wales was attended by Community and Town Councils from across Wales to look back on the last 20 years and look ahead to what the future holds for the grassroots local government in Wales. There was even a birthday cake!

The event was a double celebration, as Councils themselves came into being in 1974, marking 50 years of providing services, representing communities and supporting local people.

Despite the party atmosphere though, there were still important matters to discuss. Community and Town Councils face a period of change and uncertainty. Delegates heard from a range of decision-makers and opinion-formers about what could lie ahead.

The keynote address was delivered by Jayne Bryant, the Cabinet Secretary with responsibility for local councils at Welsh Government. She emphasised how Community and Town Councils were the closest form of government to the people and outlined her vision for a thriving and dynamic Community and Town Council sector. New powers and tools were available to help Councils meet this challenge. Collaboration with partners would be critical, we heard.

The Cabinet Secretary encouraged Councils to engage with the current Senedd Inquiry into the role, governance and accountability of the Community and Town Council sector.

The Cabinet Secretary faced questions from the floor about working in partnership, the need to create more Community and Town Councils across Wales, training, housing and the need to develop communities which supported people with disabilities.

Next up was Adrian Crompton, Auditor General for Wales. He audits the accounts of Community Councils and plays a key role in checking on their governance and financial arrangements. He described the work he undertook and some of the current challenge. Delegates asked him about fraud, climate issues, research and the reasons why some audits led to Qualified Opinions. It was important that all statutory procedures were followed, Adrian advised.

Others to address an enthusiastic audience included Helen Nelson, from the office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales and Michelle Morris, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. Question from the floor covered areas such as affordable housing, an inclusive “green agenda,” flooding, and the processes for investigating complaints that Councillors had breached the Code of Conduct. Some delegates were worried about bullying within Councils.

Delegates had chance to visit a range of stalls and displays from other Councils and exhibitions about the work of One Voice Wales itself. There was much excited chatter across the magnificent venue of the Montgomery Pavilion. A new logo for One Voice Wales was met with great interest from the many council representatives present.

The Chief Executive of One Voice Wales delivered a passionate address about the achievements of One Voice Wales – record numbers of Councils in membership, a first-class training and consultancy offer and exciting recent developments to tackle the Cost-of-Living crisis, the challenges of digital communications and providing local places for nature. He explained how policy advice and guidance was delivered by One Voice Wales to help Councils manage an ever-evolving landscape. He also cited examples of many Councils who had taken important steps to deliver innovative solutions to local problems.

But these were challenging times for local councils, we heard. Funding and financial constraints, supporting an ageing population, responding to technological advancements, supporting environmental sustainability and delivering community engagement were issues which faced all Councils.

Further to these challenges, the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent Cost of Living Crisis had exposed and accelerated problems that had long been embedded in our communities; in places where people lived and worked. Lyn set out a vision to enable communities to understand and serve their areas and described how places should be designed to bring people together.

Lyn brought also delegates right up to date on current issues, quoting the current Local Government and Housing Committee inquiry into role, governance and accountability of the Community and Town Council sector. This was a golden opportunity to rethink the place of Community and Town Councils he said, He emphasised the importance of Councils to communities and community identity. Questions picked up on the need to support disabled people and encourage diversity within Councils.

The highlight of the day was the announcement of an exciting new partnership between Community and Town Councils and their “big brothers,” the larger Councils which represent areas such as Cardiff, Powys and Wrexham. 22 in all. The partnership was sealed by the ceremonial signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between One Voice Wales and the Welsh Local Government Association. The formal agreement represented a new partnership between key providers of local services across the whole of Wales.

The Chair of One Voice Wales, Councillor Mike Theodoulou, drew an informative and challenging day to a close. He echoed the need for collaboration between Councils and the third sector. Community and Town Councils could deliver place-based services which were closest to communities. There were challenges but also opportunities. There was work to be done!

Exciting times ahead then, as One Voice Wales plans the next 20 years. 2044? Save the Date!



Council bodies seal new partnership

The bodies which represent local authorities across Wales came together at a historic meeting at the Royal Welsh Showground in Builth Wells recently.

One Voice Wales represents the majority of Community and Town Councils in Wales. The Welsh Local Government Association represents Unitary Authorities such as Powys County Council. The two membership bodies used the One Voice Wales National Conference to seal an agreement which provides an important framework for their partnership.

2024 marks the 20th anniversary of One Voice Wales and delegates heard from a host of informed speakers about the achievements of Community and Town Councils and their importance to local communities.

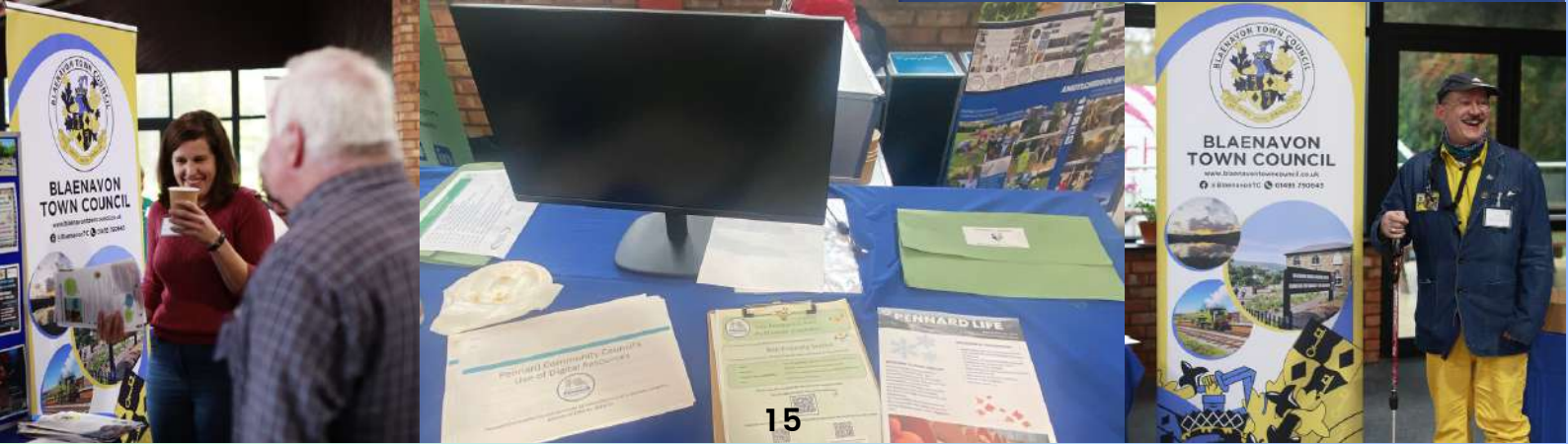
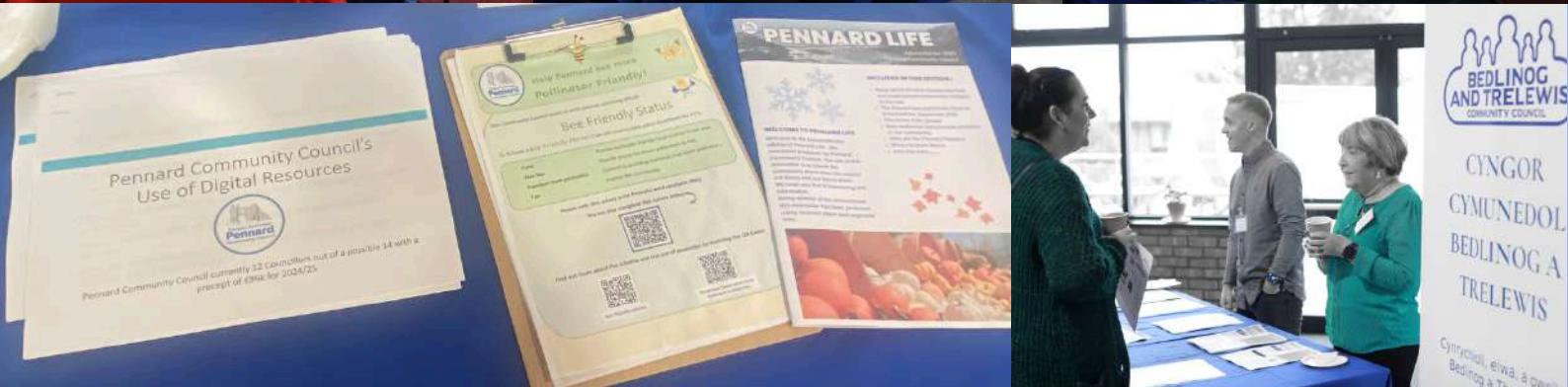
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The signing of the historic agreement was therefore well timed.



Photo: Cllr. Mike Theodoulou (Chair, One Voice Wales) and Cllr. Lis Burnett (Presiding Member, Welsh Local Government Association).

Photo: Steel Wall Photography





Congratulations!

As a new incentive at our National Conference this year, we offered all delegates an opportunity to enter a Prize Draw.... with no purchase necessary!



For a chance to win free prizes, delegates had to visit the exhibitors/suppliers that were on display in the exhibition hall, and ask at least 10 different exhibitors to place their initials next to their company's name on the delegate's Entry Form - then submit their form before the end of the day.

Prizes included:

**Two free tickets to the One Voice Wales National Awards Conference in April 2025
and**

free places at a One Voice Wales training event of your choice.

This year, the winning councils were:

 **Dolgellau Town Council
Cynwyl Elfed Community Council
Llanfrynach Community Council
Welshpool Town Council
Magor with Undy Community Council
Newtown & Llanllwchaiarn Town Council
Llandough Community Council
Cwmaman Town Council** 

Well done to all councils for participating in the free prize draw, which appeared to add to the excitement in the exhibition hall!

We look forward to seeing you at our next event, as well as on our training courses very soon!

Testimonials

"One Voice Wales....thank you for a great and informative day, most useful on many levels"

Cllr. Paul Fletcher,
Abergele Town Council

"Very well done to One Voice Wales for organising such a great national conference again this year. It really was engaging on so many levels and our community council will take so much information back to our small rural community. We will spread the word to our neighbouring councils".

"Hi Tracy. I'm keen to record in writing what I said to you after lunch at Builth today. I really enjoyed the OVW Conference and thought it was a very professionally organised event and well worth attending. I learned a lot! Thanks again."

Cllr. Steve Shepstone,
Felinfach Community Council

Diolch yn fawr. Thank you for a truly engaging and well organised national event and happy birthday One Voice Wales!
Clerk of Community Council



Thank you!

One Voice Wales would like to express its appreciation to everyone who contributed to the very successful National Conference 2024.

Thank you to Tony and his team at the Royal Welsh Show Society for their continued co-operation in organising the venue in readiness for the event.

Thank you to Shirley and her team at 'Fingers & Forks' for the catering, to 'Technegol Ltd' for the sound and video services, and to 'Trywydd' for the translation services during the event. Thank you to Garry from Steel Wall Photography for his photography and videography work.

A huge thank you to all our Guest Speakers and Presenters, and to the Independent Remunerational Panel for Wales and Save a Life Cymru our official Joint National Conference Sponsors.

Thank you to all our Suppliers and Exhibitors for supporting us again this year, we look forward to seeing you again at our next large public event.



Our '**National Awards Conference**' will be held on Wednesday **23rd April 2025**.....



look out for the Nomination Forms to enter your community or town council for a community award!

Also, our annual **Innovative Practice Conference** will be held on **Wednesday 2nd July 2025** - mark it in your diaries now!

We are always looking to improve our event management and will consider any feedback as we plan future events.

One Voice Wales
24c College Street
AMMANFORD
SA18 3AF
01269 595400
07917 846510

www.onevoicewales.org.uk



admin@onevoicewales.wales

Find us on social media:

