

## County Councillor Martyn Holland's Monthly Report – December 2020

### Tree Felling Moel Famau

NRW has reported that they will be felling a large number of Larch trees in the forest at Moel Famau because they are sadly diseased. This will involve traffic lights between the two car parks and some footpaths may have to be temporarily closed for H&S reasons.

### Maeshafn Bus Turning

I have reported that the bus is once again struggling to turn around in the village centre in Maeshafn. The County will investigate to see how we can resolve this problem which may involve restricting parking in that area. Can I please ask people not to park in such a way as to prevent the buses turning because we do not want to lose the service.

### Saw Mill Defibrillator

There is a New Defib unit at the Saw Mill in Forestry road which can be used by local residents in the case of an emergency. Our thanks go to Mathew Davies and his family for allowing residents access to what could be a life saver in an emergency.

### S Bend at Aberduna

I have once again asked the County to revisit placing Chevrons on the bends by the old Aberduna Quarry. The police very kindly provided details of five accidents at this spot over the last four years which I have passed on to the Highways Team.

### COVID-19 Restrictions

Because of the COVID-19 Crisis and the problems with the number of people breaking the COVID-19 regulations I have asked the County to consider closing two key lay-bys in the ward. This request includes the Plymog lay-by which was used during the recent snow falls for access to local fields for sledging.

### Sledging at Cadole

As you all know DCC and the Police had placed No Trespassing signs around the field in Cadole that has been used illegally for sledging for some years. We thought that these signs had worked when snow fell in the area over New Year because no one accessed the field. Sadly, by midday last Saturday the first sledges were reported once again in the field. We had additional concerns because there were sheep in the field which may have been carrying lambs at this time of year and any human activity and dogs may have caused the sheep to abort. Any broken fences could have also let sheep out onto the A494. Because of this activity the police were called and they did ask all those involved to leave the area.

### New Year's Eve at Moel Famau

I spoke to the Police and Countryside Services just before New Year because I had serious concerns about the potential influx of visitors to Moel Famau on New Year's Eve. Traditionally many people walk up Moel Famau to see the New Year in and under normal circumstances they are welcome to do so. Sadly, we are not in normal times and with pubs closed and parties cancelled because of the COVID-19 restrictions I was concerned that people would break the COVID-19 regulations and that we would have even larger crowds this year. This could have been a huge COVID-19 spreader event!! The Police and Countryside services agreed to provide support to send these people home.

### Snow Fall

We have had two major snow falls over the last two weeks and despite COVID-19 stay at home regulations the area became a magnet for sledgers and walkers so much so that the Forestry Road was gridlocked on New Year's Eve.

The previously agreed plan was then put into action and the police provided two cars and officers in Tafarn Y Gelyn and Llanbedr to stop people entering the area and to send them home. The police were deployed until 3.00am New Year's Day.

Rangers were also deployed to ask people who had already arrived to again leave the area and go home. One driver from Ellesmere Port skidded off the road the other side of the Penbarras Car Park and the emergency services had to be called out to recovery him and his vehicle.

The problems at Moel Famau made the BBC and Sky News.

### Local Government Reorganisation

Once again the Welsh Government are proposing to reorganise Local Government and they are still wanting to create Regional tiers. These will be called CJs Corporate Joint Committees with far more unelected/appointed members. This is again a threat to local Government and local democracy and DCC will be opposing these proposals.

### Car Park Closures

All Car Parks in our Country Parks are now closed in support of the COVID-19 regulations. Locals can still walk to them and in them. People should not drive to take exercise!!

Sadly, because the car parks are closed the Loggerheads garage has reported visitors from out of the area parking on their garage forecourt and then heading for the park!! This I have reported to the police.

### Flashing Speed Limit Signs at Loggerheads

Great News about the long overdue flashing speed limit signs for Loggerheads. It has only taken two years from the Ministers original promise but hopefully it will help to stop speeding through that busy area and improve safety for visitors, businesses and residents alike.

### AONB Sustainable Development Fund

I am pleased to report that the AONB Sustainable Development Fund has been doubled to £100k for 2021. If you are a local organisation based within the AONB and are looking for a contribution towards a project now is the time to check the AONB website for details and application forms.

### County Councillor Kevin Hughes

I have already reported the sad news about the death Kevin Hughes from COVID-19 complications. Kevin was the Flintshire County Councillor for Gwernymynydd and he and I had worked together on a number of issues that effected both Cadole and Maeshafn.

It was Kevin who kindly got Flintshire to resurface their section of the road past the Youth Hostel. I have written to his widow and his family expressing my deepest sympathy.

### Contact Details for Cllr Holland

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