

Minutes of Bala and Penllyn Tourism Association
Plas yn Dre, Wednesday 21st March 7.30pm

Present: Mel Williams, Ray Hind, Katrina Le Saux, Olwen Davies, Carys Davies, Stella Welch, Mark Lind.

Guest: Dilwyn Morgan

Guest Speaker: Christine Rhisiart

Apologies: Rosina Jones, Helen and Ron Hotson, David Mitchell, Gwyneth Jones, Cate and Peter Field, Jack Reeves.

Minutes were read from September's meeting 2011.

Approved by; Katrina Le Saux.

Seconded by; Ray Hind.

The meeting opened with a discussion of the T.I.C. Mel had spoken to Shan Banfield about the concerns the Association held regarding the reduction in opening times to 26 weeks of the year, and to the reduced days, and times, Friday to Tuesday, 10am-4pm.

Shan Banfield informed Mel that the proposal was now to move the T.I.C. into the Leisure Centre, as the cost of partitioning the current building, in order to share the facilities, with a third party, is prohibitive. The room proposed opens onto the court yard, and is down the corridor leading to the café.

There is no increase proposed to the reduced hours and days.

There is no suggestion, as yet, as to parking

Ray said that he did not support the move of the T.I.C. from its current position.

Stella said couldn't the opening times of the T.I.C. be the same as the Leisure Centre, if that is where it will be sited?

The group discussed the ongoing issue of poor signage for the T.I.C.

Mel Williams said that the brown signage is poorly positioned and means that if you're in a high sided vehicle it precludes seeing to the right when leaving the Leisure Centre car park. The group felt that if the T.I.C. was definitely moving to a position where it could not be seen from either the road, or the lakeside, then more and improved signage would be very important.

There was an overall feeling of lack of confidence in the future of the T.I.C., no, 'flutter signs', on roadside, though promised since last year. As yet no, 'Information Points', have been installed, though frequently discussed, to support tourism when the T.I.C is shut.

Mark Lind said that for two days every week, during the T.I.C. opening times, tourists are directed to Barmouth, and would the staff there have the knowledge and interest, to promote the facilities and businesses in Bala. In the winter, tourists telephoning Bala

T.I.C. are directed to Barmouth all the time, this could be a significant loss to tourism in our area.

Ray said that Shan Banfield should be invited to a meeting of Bala and Penllyn Tourism Association, so that concerns and issues can be raised. One issue is the training of staff to promote what the Bala area has to offer.

The T.I.C. is opening this Easter.

Mel Williams presented, The Chairman's Report, and thanked Ray Hind for all his hard work in producing the excellent brochures and leaflets.

Ray Hind presented, The Treasurer's Report.

Christine Rhisiart presented a talk about, 'Business Point', Coleg Merion-Dwyfor. All private businesses are eligible, for a one off fee of £50.00, to attend all courses available, before 2014. Some examples of courses are; Health, Safety and the Environment, First Aid, Fire Safety, Food and Hygiene, Risk Assessment. Christine will develop a personal training plan with each individual, should a course be requested to run in Bala, a minimum of 10 people are needed.

Please contact on 0845 450 59 60, for more information.

Dilwyn Morgan was asked to say a few words; he is standing for election in the County Council, and has a special interest in Tourism in the area. He suggested that it might be beneficial to hold a joint meeting with the Business Group, to discuss the changes at the T.I.C.

Membership was discussed; members who have not renewed need to be contacted.

There is a list of all accommodation providers on the Visit Bala website, it was suggested that Shan Banfield may be able to print off a few hundred to insert onto the new brochures, these would then be available in other T.I.C's.

Any Other Business.

Carol Keys Shaw said that Bill Spalding has put new pictures on the Visit Bala website. Carol said that Llandderfel has started a, 'Tidy Llandderfel' group, and been awarded a grant of £300.00.

Cake stalls will once again be held at the Bala Triathlons.

There is a facebook page for Bala.

Next meeting will be held 25th April, Plas yn Dre, 7.30pm. There will be a talk about, 'Greening your Business'.

Meeting closed 20.45hrs.

Chairman's Report – March 2012

I should like to offer our sincere thanks to Ray Hind for all his hard work in producing our new publicity information. I have been working alongside Ray in assisting where I can together with Penri Jones, Elfyn Pritchard and Gareth Griffiths who have been doing the translation work.

- Publicity Brochure
- Map Leaflet
- Information Board Display Type A for the town
- Information Display Type B (for Penllyn Villages)
- Postcard

These brochures are now available and I would like to ask all of you to give these out to your guests/prospective guests in a bid to promote the area. The pdf version will also be available very soon to attach to email messages.

The TIC will be opening at Easter through until the end of September 2012. There is a new touch screen info point to be installed in the Leisure Centre at Bala.

Our continued work on promoting Bala & Penllyn has resulted in us retaining our 'Walkers are Welcome' status for 2012.

Stephanie and Toby Hickish have opened the Tegid Café at the Leisure Centre. I would like to wish them well in their new venture.

Sarah & Mark Lind, Bala Adventure and Watersports invite you to be part of the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile along the shores of Bala Lake on Sunday 25th March 2012. All the details are on VisitBala.org

There is to be a "Greening your Business course" at our 25th April meeting - On behalf of Visit Wales and Snowdonia National Park Authority, Snowdonia-Active would like to extend the offer of a free 'Greening your Business' Workshop to our association. A flexible format which can be tailored specifically for our association will enable the workshop to provide members with practical, relevant information on how to become more profitable and more environmentally friendly.

Dr Emma Edwards-Jones

Eryri Bywiol/Snowdonia-Active

01286 685501

07900 500588

www.green-snowdonia.co.uk - Promoting Sustainable Tourism

www.eryri-gwyrdd.co.uk - Hyrwyddo Twristiaeth Gynladwy

The 'North Wales Country Fair' will be held on Saturday 18th & 19th August 2012 - 10.00am until 6.00pm

Finally I should like to wish everyone a great forthcoming season.

Best wishes

Mel Williams