



AGENDA

**for a meeting of the Executive of the Association
to be held on Friday 15th December 2023
at 10.30am by Zoom**

1. Record of attendance

To record attendance and any apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the last Executive Meeting

To approve the minutes of the last meeting. See appendix 1

3. Actions taken from the last meeting

To note any actions from the last meeting as follows:

No	Subject	Status
1	Issue minutes and post of web site	Completed
2	Issue details of the Welsh Government consultation on representation	Completed
3	Consider and issue details of what improvements are sought to the A55	Details to be agreed.
4	Publish the rail report and press release regarding the rail surveys	Completed
5	Arrange meetings with the Minister and TFW regarding the rail surveys	TFW meeting held Awaiting Ministers office replay ORR replied Awaiting H&S reply
6	Arrange for future meetings to be hybrid.	Being arranged
7	Letter to be sent to the IRPW	Completed

4. Financial and governances

4.1 General

To receive a financial report and to note the bank balance.

To note that the audit for the year to 31st March 2023 has been completed with no issues.

To note the invoices for membership have been issued for the current year.



5. Agenda for next quarterly meeting – January 2024

To consider the proposed agenda as set out at appendix 2

6. Any other business

To consider any other business.

7. Date of next meeting

To note the date of the next executive meeting which is to be held on Friday 22nd March 2024 at 10.30am by Zoom.

**APPENDIX 1****MINUTES**

**of a meeting of the Executive of the Association
held on Thursday 21st September 2023
at 10.30am by Zoom**

1. Record of attendance**Present were**

Cllr Ian Hodge (Chair), Cllr Norma Davies (Vice Chair), Cllr Joan Butterfield MBE (President), Cllr Michael Davies, Cllr Bernise McLoughlin and Robert Robinson MBE Secretary.

Apologies received from

Cllr Vivienne Blondek, Cllr Lynnette Edwards, Cllr Peter Morton and Cllr Jabek Oakes.

2. Minutes of the last Executive Meeting

The meeting considered and approve the minutes of the last meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Norma Davies and seconded by Cllr Bernise McLoughlin.

3. Actions taken from the last meeting

The meeting noted the actions from the last meeting as follows:

Item	Status
Prepared and publish minutes	Completed
Report on future membership of association	For this agenda
Complete rail surveys and report	Under way
Progress with new web site with new information format	Completed
Prepare and launch a Facebook page	Prepared
Arrange to meet Minister's Office regarding A55 traffic maybe on zoom at a future meeting.	For this agenda
Arrange rail survey details	Arranged
Letter to each council on youth representatives	Completed
To take forward the youth forum	Completed



4. Financial and governances

The meeting received a short financial report. The current bank balance was noted as £4,381.45p. The bank balances are lower than normal due to the delay in sending out membership fee invoices pending the discussion at this meeting regarding the future membership arrangements.

4.3 Membership report

The meeting noted the current membership schedule.

No	Council	Status
1	Abergele	Current
2	Argoed	Current
3	<i>Baguillt</i>	<i>No response</i>
4	<i>Bangor</i>	<i>No response</i>
5	Bay of Colwyn	Not renewed
6	Beaumaris	Current (new)
7	Broughton & Bretton	Current
8	Buckley	Current
9	Caerwys	Current
10	<i>Caia Park</i>	<i>No response</i>
11	Connah's Quay	Current
12	Conwy	Current
13	Denbigh	Current
14	Flint	Current
15	Hawarden	Current
16	Holyhead	Current (new)
17	Holywell	Current
18	<i>Llanasa</i>	<i>No response</i>
19	Llandudno	Current
20	Llanfair Caereinion	Current (new)
21	Llanfairfechan	Current
22	<i>Menai Bridge</i>	<i>Not renewing</i>
23	Penmaenmawr	Current
24	Prestatyn	Current
25	Rhyl	Current
26	Ruthin	Current
27	St Asaph	Current
28	Shotton	Current
29	Towyn & K Bay	Current



The email survey has given some idea of where member councils are seeking the association to deliver. The general views were supportive of the work of the Association with the social interaction being important.

The meeting did consider alternatives as set out at appendix A to these minutes. After discussion regarding the future membership arrangements it was agreed that the following would be taken forward:

- a) The main meeting to receive a recommendation to leave membership arrangements and meetings as they are now and have been for many years.
- b) The invoices for the agreed fee levels set at the Annual Meeting are to be sent out immediately following the next quarterly meeting.
- c) The next meeting is to be held at Connah's Quay.
- d) A check on hybrid meeting facilities is to be made and considered when venues are chosen in the future.
- e) The newsletter to follow the next meeting to be sent to all Anglesey councils in particular.

5. Agenda for next quarterly meeting

The meeting considered and agreed the next quarterly agenda.

(since the meeting a consultation on the extension of Senedd members has been received)

7. Rail survey work

The meeting received the draft report following the survey work carried out by volunteers in August. A further one day survey will be required in October as an addendum.

After careful consideration of the content of the survey report it as agreed:

- i) The report was generally accepted subject to agreement by the main meeting in October.
- ii) The definition of 'dangerous' as set out in the report was accepted.
- iii) The use of the word 'dangerous' was considered appropriate.
- iv) The draft report is to be considered by both rail groups (North Coast and Cambrian) before the main meeting which will be asked to give final approval.
- v) The report is to be issued as an 'open report' meaning it will be issued to the press and media at the same time as it is issued to Transport for Wales, Network Rail, Welsh Government and the Minister.



8. Publicity

The meeting considered the following:

- a) Facebook page – ready to go.
- b) Newsletter – first one to be issued following the October meeting.
- c) Website – This was considered good and fit for purpose.

9. Smart Towns

From the last quarterly meeting of the Association where Smart Towns was presented to the members it is noted that many of the member councils are now taking forward this initiative.

10. Date of next meeting

To note the date of the next Executive meeting which is to be held on Friday 15th December 2023 at 10.30am by Zoom.



APPENDIX A TO THE EXECUTIVE MINUTES

MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. Introduction

Following the Annual Meeting the Association Executive was asked to consider how best to take forward membership of the Association into the future.

The factors to take into account are:

- i) Number of members
- ii) Cost of membership (fees and lunches)
- iii) What the Association offers and how the members see it
- iv) At present there are no bank charges, however this may change.

2. The current status

The current status of the Association is that it is still very strong but has lost members since the beginning of Covid. There has been 3 new members against 5 lost.

The latest member lost related the reason being the cost.

3. Possible options

There a range of option including:

- i) Staying as we are
- ii) Reducing cost and fees by hosting only 2 in person meetings pa, the remainder being by zoom.
- iii) Reducing costs to a minimum by hosting all meetings by zoom.
- iv) There is a healthy bank balance so consideration can be given to investing say £4,000 which in return would give an income of approx. £120 to £200pa in a fixed term and rate Lloyds Bank bond.



4. Basic costs

The costs pa for each option are set out below:

Heading	As now	2 meetings a year in person	1 meeting a year in person
Secretariat	£900	£480	£360
Web site	£100	£100	£100
Sundries	£100	£100	£100
Total	£1,100	£680	£560

Income

Main members	£1,800	£760	£560
Investment	£0	£200	£200
Associate	£90	£90	£90
Total	£1,890	£1,050	£850

Fees

Larger town	£100	£55	£35
Med town	£80	£40	£20
Small town	£60	£30	£10
Associate	£10	£10	£10

Total income

Option	As now	Option 1	Option 2
Larger town	£1,500	£750	£550
Med town	£260	£150	£100
Small town	£240	£120	£150
Associate	£90	£90	£10
Total income	£2,090	£1,110	£840

**APPENDIX 2****AGENDA**

**For the quarterly meeting of the
Association to be held on
Friday 19th January 2024
at 10.30am**

1. Welcome

To receive a welcome from the Chair.

To receive a welcome to the meeting by the

2. Record of attendance

To record attendance and any apologies for absence.

3. Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting

To consider and approve the minutes of the last meeting held in October 2023 - see appendix A

4. Visiting speaker

To receive a presentation Fields in Trust.

5. Actions taken from the last meeting

To note the actions from the last meeting as set out below:

No	Subject	Status
1	Issue minutes and post of web site	Completed
2	Issue details of the Welsh Government consultation on representation	Completed
3	Consider and issue details of what improvements are sought to the A55	Details to be agreed.
4	Publish the rail report and press release regarding the rail surveys	Completed
5	Arrange meetings with the Minister and TFW regarding the rail surveys	TFW meeting held Awaiting Ministers office replay ORR replied Awaiting H&S reply
6	Arrange for future meetings to be hybrid.	Being arranged
7	Letter to be sent to the IRPW	Completed



6. Executive

To note the executive meeting minutes from the meeting held on 21st September 2023. See appendix B

7. Financial and governance. To receive a financial report and to note the bank balance.

To note completion of the audit.

8. Transport Committee

8.1 Update on survey report

To consider an update on the survey, railways and where we are.

9. Holywell (Greenfield Station)

To consider an update on the new station at Holywell. There are also new stations planned for Wrexham and Deeside.

10. Homeless

To consider an update on progress as reported. To consider the White Paper on Homeless in Wales. See appendix C.

11. National Park for North East Wales

To consider the consultation on the proposal to introduce a new National Park in North East Wales. See appendix D.

12. Any other business

To consider any other business notified to the Chair or Secretary prior to the meeting.

13. Date of next meeting

To note the date of the next meeting – Friday 19th April 2024.



APPENDIX A

MINUTES

**of the quarterly meeting of the Association held on
Friday 20th October 2023**

at the offices of Rhyl Town Council,
Civic Offices, Wellington Community Centre
at 10.30am in person and by video
link

Present were

Cllr Ian Hodge (Chair)	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Norma Davies (Vice Chair)	Flint Town council
Cllr Joan Butterfield MBE (President)	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Jeannette Chamberlain-Jones	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Lynda Carter	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Michael Davies	Beaumaris Town Council
Cllr Lynette Edwards	Caerwys Community Council
Cllr Lynda Griffiths	Towyn & Kinnell Bay Town Council
Cllr Shirley Jones Roberts	Abergele Town Council
Cllr Barry Mellor	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Peter Morgan	St Asaph City Council
Gareth Nicols	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Ted Palmer	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Helen Roberts	Conwy Town Council
Cllr Jackie Webster	Conwy Town Council
Cllr Adrian West	Prestatyn Town Council
Daryn Wilcox	Penmaenmawr Town Council
Robert Robinson MBE (Secretary)	Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

Part of the meeting the Independent Review Panel of Wales members attended.

Apologies for absence received from

Cllr Vivienne Blondek	Buckley Town Council
Cllr Bill Crease	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Paul hinge	
Cllr Carol Holliday	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Alan James	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Bob Murray	Prestatyn Town Council
Cllr Alan Owen	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Mike Pearce	Llandudno Town Council
Cllr Lorraine Rathbone	Buckley Town Council
Cllr Suzanne Wilson	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Andrew Wood	Abergele Town council



A lot of members were hoping to attend but due to the very poor weather conditions could not get there.

1. Welcome

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair.

The Mayor of Rhyl Town Council - Jacquie McAlpine -addressed the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting held in July 2023. The only alteration being to note that Cllr Helen Roberts should be noted under Conwy Town Council. Proposed by Cllr Joan Butterfield and seconded by Cllr Lynette Edwards. The vote was unanimous.

3. Actions taken from the last meeting

The meeting noted the actions from the last meeting as set out below:

Item	Status
Prepared and publish minutes	Completed
Report on future membership of association	Report at this meeting
Complete rail surveys and report	Completed
Progress with new web site with new information format	Completed
Prepare and launch a Facebook page	Prepared
Arrange to meet Minister's Office regarding A55 traffic maybe on zoom at a future meeting.	Report at this meeting
Youth forum meeting to be held	Completed

The meeting considered the details of the matters to be raised with the Minister's Office regarding the A55 so that a meeting can be arranged. The Chair is to consult with those needed to come up with a plan.



5. Executive

The meeting noted the executive meeting minutes from the meeting held on 21st September 2023.

6. Finance and governance

The meeting received a financial report with bank balances reported as £4,306.45pm. This is lower than usual due to the membership fee notices not going out until after this meeting.

Members were asked to note their council's name on BACS payments so that the secretary can see where the payment has come from.

The Audit of the accounts to 31st March 2023 is well in hand.

7. Future role of the Association

The meeting received a report from the Chair on membership arrangements into the future for the Association proposing no change to current situation. The meeting **AGREED** that arrangements will be made asap for hybrid meetings. The meeting also noted that although each member council may send multiple representatives (up to 3 plus the Clerk) this does not affect voting as in all cases it is one vote per council.

9. Transport Committee

To receive a presentation on the rail surveys completed in the past two months and to consider an update on the results and the actions the Association should consider taking forward.

A youth forum for North and Mid Wales was held with no attendees. There is a short report on transport within the document from Llanfair Caereinion' Youth Council.

Many members gave accounts of their travel experiences which support what the document outlines.

The meeting also confirmed the statement 'unsafe bordering on dangerous – possible illegal'.

After discussion it was **AGREED** to the following:

- i) To adopt the report
- ii) To publish the document widely
- iii) To issue the report to Welsh Government, TFW, ORR and Health and Safety.
- iv) To seek a meeting with the minister and with the CEO of TFW
- v) The youth view should be sought from individual local council youth forums.
- vi) Further surveys to be completed in November.



- vii) The secretary with support from the Chair to deal with interviews and press coverage.

10. Consultation

To consider a consultation by Welsh Government regarding the increase in numbers of members for the Senedd. It was agreed that the members needed more information so the matter was deferred until the next meeting.

11. Consultation on Local Councils and representation

A consultation has just been published by the Welsh Government and details will be sent to each member over the next week.

13. Independent Review Panel for Wales

The meeting received a presentation by zoom from the IRPW regarding the annual report for 2024-2025.

The main matters arising out of the report were:

- i) The basic allowances are tax free – a letter on the subject is being issued.
- ii) The dates of issue of the report (out of line for setting budgets) are set in statute. The IRPW was asked to consider the dates again.
- iii) The view was put forward that mandatory should mean that. However with the new rules on publishing those taking allowances this was not considered necessary.
- iv) The new rules do not require individual members to be identified but an overall figure only is now allowed.

The secretary is to write to the IRPW to confirm the above views.

14. Date of next meeting

The meeting noted the dates for future meetings.

15. Actions being taken forward

The following actions are to be taken forward from the meeting:

No	Subject	By
1	Issue minutes and post of web site	Secretary
2	Issue details of the Welsh Government consultation on representation	Secretary



3	Consider and issue details of what improvements are sought to the A55	Chair
4	Publish the rail report and press release regarding the rail surveys	Secretary
5	Arrange meetings with the Minister and TFW regarding the rail surveys	Secretary
6	Arrange for future meetings to be hybrid.	Secretary
7	Letter to be sent to the IRPW	Secretary



APPENDIX C

**HOMELESS WHITE PAPER
(a simple guide to what is planned)**

Getting support sooner

Proposal: We want anyone at risk of becoming homeless in 6 months time or less to get help. Right now, it's 8 weeks.

We think 8 weeks isn't enough time, and people need support before then.

Planning support

Proposal: We want local authorities to have to give people a Personal Housing Plan (PHP) as part of their assessment.

When someone is at risk of homelessness, the local authority talks to them and assesses their needs. Some local authorities give people a PHP, but others don't. We think everyone should have PHP because it helps people know what's happening, when it's happening, and why.

Proposal: We want the PHP to be reviewed at least every 8 weeks.

Things change, and we want to make sure PHPs are up to date.

Proposal: We want to make sure people have a say and their views are included in their PHP.

People should be involved in decisions about their lives, especially about where they live.

Proposal: We want people to have the right to ask for a review or challenge decisions in their PHP.

Not every PHP will be perfect. Local authorities should tell people how to raise concerns and challenge decisions.



Helping people who need it the most

Proposal: We want to end the Priority Need Test.

Removing the priority need test means that people facing homelessness won't have to prove they meet the Priority Need Test before getting the help they need.

Proposal: We want to end the Intentionality Test.

The Intentionality Test checks if someone's making themselves homeless on purpose. If someone fails the test, it might stop them getting the services they deserve. Some local authorities use it, others don't. This isn't fair for people across Wales.





Local connection

Proposal: We want to add more groups of people to the list of exemptions so more people can move out of their area if they need to. We'd like to add people who:

- are care-experienced
- are Veterans
- are at risk of or have experienced domestic abuse, other abuse or exploitation
- are leaving prison.

Sometimes people need a new start because of circumstances in their lives. But the law right now doesn't let this happen.

Stop homeless repeating

Proposal: We want local authorities to help people keep the accommodation they've been given.

Sometimes people need help so they don't keep becoming homeless. When someone gets secure housing, services should work together with landlords to make sure they don't become homeless again.



Making systems easier

Proposal: We want to remove the Relief Duty which means local authorities have to find people accommodation for at least 6 months.

Everyone who's at risk of homelessness will get ongoing support and interim accommodation so we don't need this anymore.

Proposal: We want to set out clearly what an unreasonable failure to cooperate is, and what it isn't.

Being homeless can have a huge effect on people's lives and we want to limit the application of the unreasonable failure to cooperate test. We want to set out clearly that unreasonable means:

- threatening behaviour towards staff.
- consistent non-contact with housing services.

Communication

Proposal: We want local authorities to communicate with people in ways that are easy to understand and meet their needs.



Support for children, young people, and care experienced young people

Proposal: We want to make sure:

- young people aged 16-17 get the right support and aren't in unsupported temporary accommodation like hotels
- local authorities give care leavers extra support.

Support for people leaving hospital

Proposal: We want people to get an assessment of their housing needs before they leave the hospital so they don't end up on the streets.

Support for survivors of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV)

Proposal: We want to change the definition of domestic abuse to include controlling or coercive behaviour, economic or psychological abuse.

This means more people will get support with housing and be safe.



Supporting disabled people

Proposal: We want all local authorities to have a register (list) of housing that can meet the needs of disabled people.

Supporting veterans

Proposal: We want all local authorities to understand and support the needs of Veterans and their families, and involve them in decisions that affect their lives.

Supporting adults in the Criminal Justice System

Proposal: We want to make sure people get an assessment of their housing needs when they go to prison so they don't face becoming homeless when they leave.

Proposal: We want to make sure all parts of the local authority help children who've been in the youth custody system and are preparing for release.

Keeping people healthy

Proposal: We want to make sure no one is given accommodation that has Category 1 hazards like damp, mould, and excess cold. Things like that can seriously damage people's health.

Keeping people safe

Proposal: We want to stop people being offered shared sleeping space, even in temporary or emergency accommodation.

People can share facilities like kitchen and laundry but have their own bedrooms.

Stopping overcrowding

Proposal: We want to make sure that the right number of people are in accommodation and stop overcrowding.



Supporting young people

Proposal: We want to make sure people aged under 25 aren't placed in unsuitable temporary accommodation.

Challenging decisions

Proposal: We want people to have the right to ask for a review of their accommodation at any time, not just in the first 21 days.

Proposal: We want the local authority to have to complete reviews within 3 weeks so people get decisions quickly.

Location

Proposal: We want to make sure accommodation is only seen as suitable if it is in the right place to meet people's needs.

Proposal: We want local authorities to have to take into account people's health and well-being, any impairments, family needs, and other circumstances if they're offering accommodation outside the local area.

Using Social Housing in the right ways

Proposal: We want to make sure Social Housing helps the people who need it the most.

Proposal: We want to make sure RSLs can't refuse a referral from a local authority unless they have valid reasons to.

Removing people from the waiting list

Proposal: We want local authorities to have the power to remove people from the Social Housing waiting list if they're not in need of housing.



Helping people who need it the most, first

Proposal: We want people who are homeless, in targeted groups or have urgent housing needs to be given social housing before others on the list.

Having a housing register

Proposal: We want local authorities to have one Housing Register that clearly shows all the accommodation and social housing available in their area.

Unacceptable behaviour test

Proposal: We want local authorities to be able to stop people having social housing if they are abusive or guilty of unacceptable behaviour.

Being fair

Proposal: We want local authorities to have a 'Deliberate Manipulation Test' that they can use before someone gets social housing.

Even though local authorities will still have a duty to find them accommodation, we don't want people to become homeless on purpose so they can jump the list and get social housing sooner. That isn't fair.



More housing options

Proposal: We want local authorities to have more housing options they can offer like:

- supported lodgings
- supported accommodation
- returning to previous accommodation, including the family home, if this is safe.

Systems

Proposal: We want to use the systems that each local authority has to deliver these changes.

The systems we have right now, work well:

- Local authorities know their areas, they run homelessness services and allocate accommodation. They check how they work, deal with complaints and make sure people get the right support.
- There are already organisations in place who check that services and accommodation are good.
- If there are concerns, the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) can investigate.
- We want to find other existing ways we can support our changes.

Gathering information

Proposal: We want to have the power to ask for data collected by local authorities.

We need to understand homelessness better. Information about the number of people needing support across Wales, how services work, and other things would help us meet people's needs and plan for the future.

QUESTIONS?

Where will all these new homes come from to meet the new criteria?

Is it open to abuse?

What will it cost?

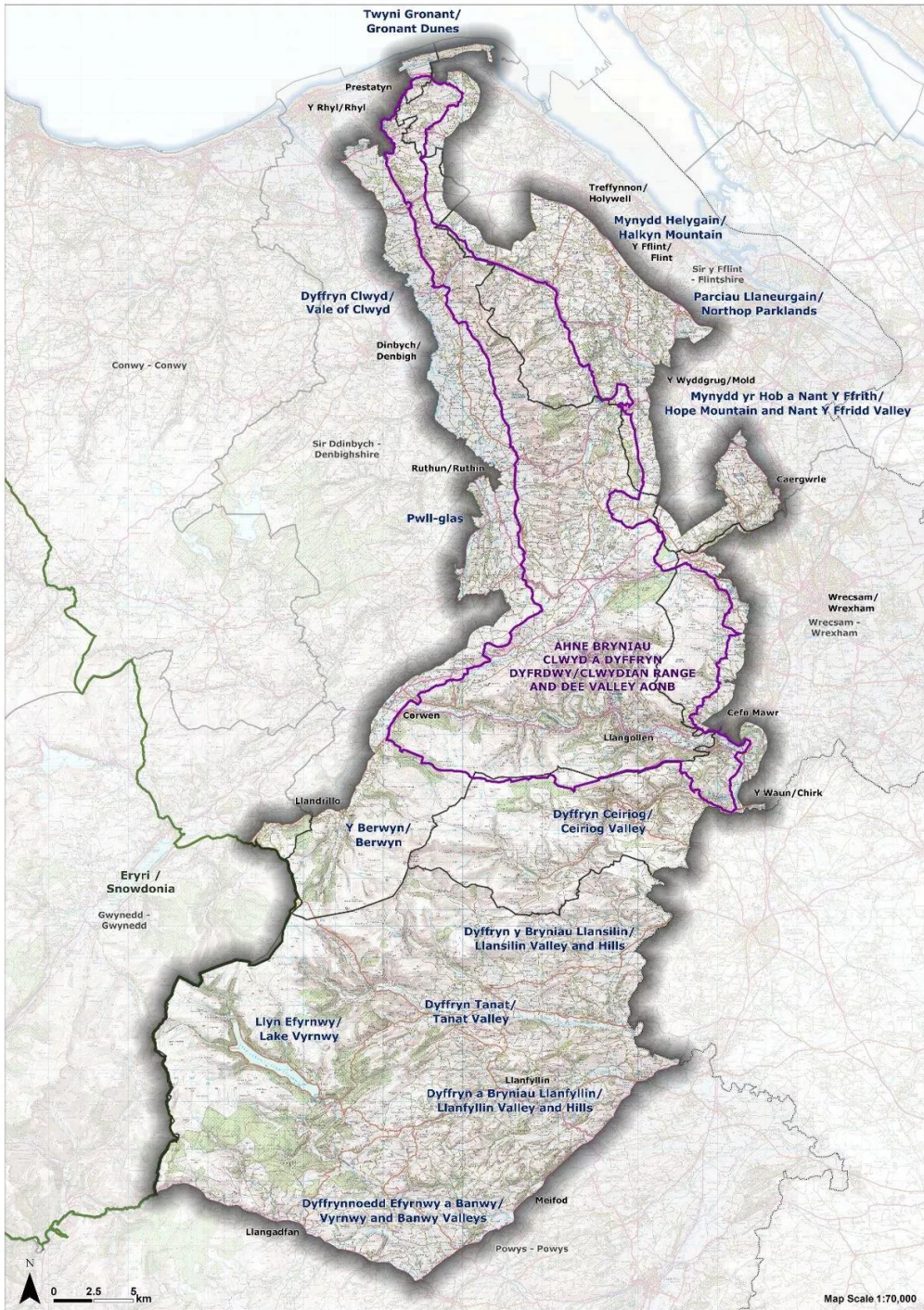
Is this achievable?



APPENDIX D

A new National Park for North East Wales

Where is it?



Created by Alex the BarDawg. Source: Name: NPP, IRI, SpecialDuties, AIL, Sources: OS, NEIG, Ordnance OS data © Crown copyright and database right. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number: A060028462.



The advantages and disadvantages of a National Park status

Pros of National Parks

1. **Preservation of Biodiversity:** National parks play a crucial role in conserving and protecting diverse ecosystems, habitats, and wildlife species.
2. **Recreation and Outdoor Activities:** National parks offer opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts to engage in various recreational activities such as hiking, camping, fishing, and wildlife watching.
3. **Educational and Research Opportunities:** National parks serve as living classrooms, providing educational programs and research opportunities for students, scientists, and conservationists.
4. **Economic Benefits:** National parks can stimulate local economies through tourism, job creation, and revenue generation.
5. **Cultural and Historical Preservation:** Many national parks possess cultural and historical significance, preserving the heritage of indigenous communities and historical landmarks.
6. **Natural Beauty and Aesthetics:** National parks are known for their breathtaking landscapes, scenic vistas, and picturesque views.
7. **Climate Regulation and Carbon Sequestration:** National parks play a vital role in mitigating climate change by acting as carbon sinks, absorbing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
8. **Health and Well-being:** Spending time in nature has numerous health benefits, including stress reduction, improved mental well-being, and increased physical activity. National parks provide accessible spaces for people to connect with nature and reap these benefits. The Forest of Dean in the UK, a national park, offers tranquil woodland areas for recreation and relaxation.
9. **Environmental Protection:** National parks act as buffers against urbanization, pollution, and industrial activities, safeguarding natural resources and ecological integrity.

Cons of National Parks

1. **Visitor Overcrowding and Pressure:** Popular national parks often face challenges of overcrowding, especially during peak tourist seasons, which can lead to environmental degradation, trail erosion, and disturbance of wildlife.
2. **Conflicts with Local Communities:** The establishment and management of national parks can sometimes lead to conflicts with local communities, particularly regarding land use, resource extraction, and traditional livelihoods.



3. **Limited Access and Exclusion:** The designation of national parks can limit access to certain areas, restricting the use of resources and land by local communities, who may have ancestral or cultural ties to those places. This can lead to feelings of exclusion and marginalization.
4. **Financial Constraints and Maintenance:** National parks require funding for maintenance, infrastructure development, and staff salaries. However, limited budgets can lead to inadequate facilities, deferred maintenance, and reduced visitor services. This is evident in some national parks where aging infrastructure, such as visitor centres and trails, may not receive timely upgrades or repairs.
5. **Invasive Species and Ecological Disruption:** National parks face the constant threat of invasive species, which can outcompete native flora and fauna, disrupt ecosystems, and threaten biodiversity.
6. **Natural Disasters and Climate Change:** National parks are vulnerable to natural disasters, including wildfires, floods, and storms, which can cause extensive damage to ecosystems and infrastructure. Climate change exacerbates these risks, leading to increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. For example, the Australian bushfires severely affected national parks like the Blue Mountains National Park, leading to habitat loss and wildlife devastation.
7. **Illegal Activities and Poaching:** National parks face challenges related to illegal activities such as poaching, wildlife trafficking, and illegal logging.
8. **Conflicting Management Priorities:** Balancing conservation goals with visitor experiences and recreational activities can pose challenges in national park management. Conflicting priorities can arise, particularly in cases where the preservation of sensitive habitats conflicts with activities like off-road vehicle use or fishing.
9. **Lack of Diversity and Inclusivity:** National parks have historically faced issues of limited diversity and inclusivity, with underrepresentation of marginalized communities in visitorship, employment, and decision-making processes. Efforts are being made to address this, but further progress is needed to ensure equitable access and representation for all.
10. **Geopolitical Challenges and Transboundary Issues:** National parks that span international boundaries may face geopolitical challenges and differing management approaches.