

PAPER AS PART OF CWMNI BRO FFESTINIOG'S PRESENTATION TO THE
SOCIAL BUSINESS WALES CONFERENCE

25 / 09 / 2019

COMMUNITY MODEL, MANIFESTO & MOVEMENT

SECTION A. The future of Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog's community development model

SECTION B. A Manifesto and a Community Movement for Wales

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SECTION A

THE FUTURE OF CWMNI BRO FFESTINIOG'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MODEL

Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog is a network of fourteen social enterprises. The company facilitates cooperation amongst the enterprises and with the elements of the private and public sectors that are central to the foundational economy of the area. The co-operative and integrated model of community development that is being pioneered combines environmental, economic, social and cultural aspects of community. It is emphasised that the implementation of the model is in its early days but the model's potential is becoming increasingly apparent, not only for Bro Ffestiniog but more widely, for communities across Wales and beyond. In Bro Ffestiniog a cultural change is underway; toward increasingly doing things for ourselves. On this foundation the next steps are being taken, as noted below.

A1. Facilitating the growth and development of existing social enterprises and new ones in Bro Ffestiniog.

A2. Promoting further co-operation between the community sector and the private businesses which are anchored locally.

A3. Further co-operation with government at community council, Gwynedd, Wales, United Kingdom and European Union levels.

Promote further co-operation with county and national development agencies, such as Arloesi Gwynedd, Mantell Gwynedd, Wales Co-operative Centre, Wales Council for Voluntary Action, Development Trust Association and the Wales Audit Office.

A4. Work with academia, including Manchester University's Business School, and the Foundational Economy Network to research the relationship between Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog's integrated model of community development and foundational economy theory and practice.

A5. Intensify and formalise the existing co-operation between Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog and other slate quarrying communities in Gwynedd. To this end a social business, called Cwmni Llechan Lân, is to be set up jointly by Dyffryn Ogwen, Dyffryn Nantlle and Bro Ffestiniog to promote networking across these communities and to share knowledge and experience with other communities in Gwynedd and beyond in order to promote the development of these communities.

A6. Expand the co-operation between social enterprises across Wales that work in Welsh in order to strengthen the relationship between community development and sustaining and promoting the Welsh language and culture.

A7. Work on a project with slate, coal and rural areas across Wales to create educational and work opportunities to nurture future community leaders.

A8. The Wales Co-operative Centre mapped the social business sector in Wales in 2018/19 and compared the results with previous surveys of the sector (see: businesswales.gov.wales/socialbusinesswales). The research shows that there has been a steady increase in the number and size of social businesses in Wales but that there is much unrealised potential. Lack of access to finance is the most commonly identified factor constraining growth in the social business sector.

Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog is currently facilitating a discussion on establishing a community financial intermediary specifically to invest in the community sector.

A9. Create a strategy and an economic and community manifesto for a sustainable future for Gwynedd and Môn.

A10. Further develop **BROcast** Ffestiniog, a digital community broadcasting venture, and work with other areas to promote a network of pioneering community media across Wales.

**BRO
CAST**
Ffestiniog

SHARING - SEEING - LISTENING



**"THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR
OUR FUTURE LIES LARGELY
IN OUR OWN HANDS.
THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY
IN THIS AREA TO CREATE
AN ENVIRONMENTAL,
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL,
CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL
FUTURE BASED ON THE BEST
IN OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE.
WE HAVE STARTED TO
PIONEER A WAY AND NOW
WE MUST ACT. THIS IS
THE OPPORTUNITY AND
CHALLENGE FOR US IN BRO
FFESTINI OG"**

SECTION B A

MANIFESTO AND A COMMUNITY MOVEMENT FOR WALES

B1. Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog's integrated community development model provides a pattern which can be emulated and adapted by other communities in Wales and beyond. This is beginning to happen. For example, there are plans to establish a network of social enterprises in Anglesey, bearing the title Bro Môn.

B2. By adopting the community development model and combining the model with the principles and development of the foundational economy there is a potential to transform the economy and communities in Wales. Work has started on creating an economic and community strategy and manifesto for a sustainable future for Gwynedd and Anglesey. The aim is to co-operate with other communities to expand upon the manifesto for Wales as a whole. The manifesto will have different sections on the actions that could be taken by individuals, communities, community and county councils, development agencies and Welsh, United Kingdom and European Union Governments.

B3. Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog's community development model is based on the principles of co-operation rather than competition, co-production, on producing social value, on integrated development rather than the

reductionism of the state's silos, on facilitating rather than managing, on supporting and developing community and culture, on liberating rather than ruling our people.

B4. A tradition of community enterprise runs through the history of Wales and there is an opportunity to build upon this legacy. For example, in the middle of the nineteenth century a higher proportion of people could read and write in Wales than in probably any other country. This was achieved through the community venture of the circulating schools. Religious establishments were built across the land, workers' institutes, building societies, agricultural co-operatives, sports clubs, retail co-op shops, credit unions, political movements and parties, trade unions, educational and cultural organisations, community health services, and a multitude of environmental, social and cultural charitable ventures right up to the present. The challenge is to adapt this rich tradition of community enterprise in order to create our future.

B5. Our tradition and history of community enterprise provide fundamental lessons for today's politics. For example, the vision portrayed in 'The Miners Next Step', published in 1912, was one of democratic workers and community ownership and control of the coal industry rather than the bureaucratic nationalisation subsequently brought about by the state. For the Left today questions about the nature of democracy and the balance between the role of the state and the role of the community in the future are crucial.

B6. Our tradition and history of community also provide fundamental lessons as regards education today. As the state increasingly came to serve the needs of capital much of the vision and tradition of workers and community education were lost. Today, we need education to understand and develop community based on the principles of community development and on a philosophy and vision that is dialectical, integrated and holistic. We need to see community from the perspective of ecosystems, rather than the reductionism that is characteristic of education for capital. In the words of the poet Waldo Williams (translation):

*"Save us from the disaster that lies to the hand of the reductionist
Who loses, between his fingers, a world."*

B7. Based on our experience with BROcast Ffestiniog it is evident that there is the potential and opportunity to develop community digital broadcasting throughout Wales and to network across Wales and internationally.

B8. In the face of the environmental, economic and social crisis of capitalism communities across the world are becoming empowered and are developing sustainable answers to transform the system from the bottom up. We share a vision with communities from California to Kurdistan.

B9. Several communities across Wales have started to network and co-operate and the prospect of a Welsh Community Movement is gaining ground. The experience of communities in Sweden provides a pattern which could be emulated and adapted by Wales. In Sweden communities throughout the land have co-operated to create a community movement with a National Parliament of the Communities to ensure a powerful and effective community voice.

B10. As well as promoting a community development model, manifesto and movement we need to consider not only the aim but also the means of transforming the system. Throughout the world progressive movements have adopted the principle and methods of non-violence and this, as in the case of campaigns for the Welsh language, have proven to be effective.

Despite capitalism's huge forces we as individuals and communities have a weapon even more powerful than their Plutonium. We share a love for humanity, fairness, equality and freedom and a vision of community transformed locally, nationally and internationally, together with a sustainable future for our planet.

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