**NOTES FROM PLANNING AID WALES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015**

Cllr Coles, Cllr Pugh and Cllr Rogers attended this meeting at Glyndwr University on 22 June 2015.

Peter Kingsbury (Chair) welcomed everyone.

The first part of the meeting was ‘formal business’ covering:

* + Apologies
  + Minutes of the last meeting held on 7 July 2014
  + Annual Report 2014/15
  + Election of Management Board members
  + Election of Officers of the Board

The second part of the meeting was ‘Community Engagement in Planning – the potential’ covering:

**Elwyn Thomas** (Planning Aid Wales) went through the Annual Report and explained that there are three things happening to planning:

(1) **Change** – the Planning Act is going through Royal Assent on 6 July 2015.

(2) **Roles** – All changing that is being delivered through Planning authorities – cannot protect from budget cuts – Local Authorities need to cut back.

(3) **Culture** – Training to be given to Community and Town Councils who are not understanding roles and change. Development frame network from Welsh Assembly identifying responsibilities/infrastructure and preparing plans with better engagement with Communities, challenging proposals.

**Chris Smith** (Wrexham County Borough Council) explained the in April 2015 workshops were held linking into LDP covering:

* Strategies/retail/housing etc.
* Talking to Agents and Developers
* Mobility prospective
* Shape priorities

This proved to be a valuable exercise and in Autumn 2015 further consultations and training sessions will be held. WCBC are looking at a new 3D model computer to explain and give public an overall view.

**Kay Powell** (Llandaff Society) discussed the Local Civic Society (250 members). She explained their link to Traders, Schools, University, Cathedral and BBC Wales. The Community Trusts hold annual walks. 41,000 homes ear marked (2026) in Llandaff. Looking into having Pilgrimage Planning across Communities – being active with Communities. Transport is an ongoing big issue.

Comments and additional contributions were noted:

A request for a written format for deaf people (something that is coming in law in Scotland). A question was raised about having Braille in English and Welsh available.

Cllr Pugh voiced concern about Community Councils not being listened to by Local Authority. Elwyn Thomas suggested that the Community Council meet with Planning Officers and discuss views and why objections were ignored and get to understand their decision. Try to meet with Planning Officers prior to any decisions to get our points across.

Overall the attendance of the meeting was low – no other Community Councils attended.