

**Meeting notes: 07.03.2025**

**Apologies:**

Cyng Medwyn Hughes (Cyngor Gwynedd), Ceri Williams (Castell Penrhyn), Stephen Churchman (Cyngor Cymuned Garndolbenmaen), Andrew Edwards & Gwenan Hine (Prifysgol Bangor), Nia Haf (Cyngor Gwynedd), Llywela Haf Owain (Cyngor Gwynedd)

**Present:**

Lord Dafydd Wigley (Chair), Sioned Williams (Cyngor Gwynedd), Kate Robert (Cadw, Zoom), Hannah Joyce (Cyngor Gwynedd), Roland Evans (Cyngor Gwynedd), Naomi Jones (Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri, Zoom), Sian Rees (ICOMOS-UK, Zoom), Gareth Jones (Cyngor Gwynedd), Phil Bushby (Amgueddfa Cymru), Christopher Catling (RCAHMS, Zoom), Angharad Tomos (Yr Orsaf), Dafydd Roberts (Partneriaeth Ogwen, Zoom), Elwyn Evans (Cyngor Cymuned Llanfihangel y Pennant, Zoom), Lowri Hedd Vaughan – GwyrddNi, Zoom), Michael Bewick (JW Greaves), Jenny Emmet (Heneb, Zoom), Dafydd Gwyn (Govannon), Dan Amor (Cyngor Gwynedd)

<p><b>1. Welcome, introductions and apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apologies were noted and DW welcomed all, including new members, who introduced themselves</li> <li>DW outlined the purpose of the Partnership Board as well as roles and responsibilities of members</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members were urged to let us know if they felt there were any issues in terms of Llechi Cymru communications</li> <li><b>Action DA:</b> Ask University for a further presentation on their study (effect of World Heritage Status on Language)</li> <li>Brief update on recent heritage crime communications and actions. Members urged to contact us if they hear of any incidents in their areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New section on Llechi Cymru website: <a href="#">click here</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>March Update document <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DA: contact University</b></p>
<p><b>3. Overview of roles and responsibilities of board members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further detail provided on role and responsibility of board members, along with a summary of the new Llechi Cymru management structure</li> <li>Partnership Board to input on decision making at a strategic level (e.g. horizon scanning, opportunities, risk)</li> <li>Implementation group to function at an operational level, with reporting between board and implementation group</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members asked to let us know if they have suggestions for content of thematic meetings</li> <li>• Brief summary of how LleCHI LleNI community projects fit into governance structure</li> <li>• We learn lessons from communities in terms of the challenges we face, we have a responsibility to these communities throughout the WHS</li> <li>• Benefits for these communities are of key importance in what we are trying to achieve</li> <li>• This is a new version of our Governance structure, so we can make adjustments if necessary</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. Risk management arrangements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation group will be responsible for identifying risk and reporting to board</li> <li>• Implementation group has not met yet</li> <li>• Board members asked to notify us of any risks which may arise</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. WHS update</b></p> <p><b>Conservation and Planning sub-group update KR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Context of group was provided for the benefit of new board members</li> <li>• Overview of new 'Caring for the Slate Landscapes of Wales' booklet - why slate is important and what we can all do to care for these landscapes</li> <li>• Means of circulating the digital (<a href="#">click here</a>) and physical versions were discussed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Circulate to education groups, other subgroups, partners, stakeholders</li> <li>- Circulate via libraries</li> <li>- Cadw inspectorate</li> <li>- LleCHI LleNI programmes, events and activities</li> <li>- Schools</li> <li>- 'Piggybacking' onto events of other partners, stakeholders and organisations</li> <li>- Communications / press release around the publication</li> <li>- Presence on Cadw and Llechi Cymru websites</li> <li>- Heneb could help circulate (<b>Action, DA</b>)</li> <li>- Yr Orsaf could help circulate and asked for 20 copies (Action DA)</li> <li>- PCE happy to help circulate</li> <li>- Planning authorities have said they could circulate some copies</li> <li>- This could slot into a thematic meeting on communications</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Members urged to let us know of any events or activities where the booklet could be distributed</li> </ul> <p><b>Benefitting sub-group update MB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Context of group provided for the benefit of new board members</li> <li>• Group is growing</li> <li>• We're seeing lots of progress in terms of community engagement (particularly with regard to the LleCHI LleNI project)</li> <li>• Proposed developments in the WHS, heritage crime (North Wales Police were present) and proposed new Llyn Padarn circular walk were discussed during the most recent subgroup meeting, there was also discussion with Eryri Mynydd a Môr on promotion of the Slate Landscape as a tourist destination</li> </ul> <p>Discussion: the WHS in terms of promoting tourism:</p>	<p><b>DA: contact Heneb and AT re booklet</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed that there is of course scope for promoting parts of the WHS (along with the Castles WHS) as visitor destinations but that before any such endeavour is embarked upon, we must be ready, ensuring our communities benefit from any such objectives. This should be a symbiotic relationship, there must be balance</li> <li>• Any such objectives must be conducted in line with the Gwynedd Eryri Sustainable Tourism Plan</li> <li>• This could form the basis of discussion in a future thematic meeting</li> <li>• It was suggested community representatives as well as businesses should be involved in the design process of such endeavours</li> <li>• It was asked how resulting benefits to communities could be measured</li> <li>• Concerns raised in terms of negative effect on rental properties, housing</li> <li>• When reopened, the Slate Museum will serve as a natural WHS hub, as a visitor attraction</li> <li>• Concerns raised regarding the environmental impact of targeting, and attracting visitors from abroad</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. Funding update HJ</b></p> <p><b>Llewyrch o'r Llechi (funded by UK Gov)</b></p> <p><b>Dinorwig Hub</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slate Museum: redevelopment work is progressing well. 'Behind the scenes' open days scheduled for March and April</li> <li>• Parc Padarn: A1 incline conservation work to be completed shortly. Work has begun on Welcome Centre. Planning permission in place for Fire Queen shed and Hafod Owen Chwarel Vivian structures</li> <li>• Joint application to Visit Wales, Brilliant Basics fund submitted by Parc Padarn and Slate Museum</li> </ul> <p><b>Hwb Ogwen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neuadd Ogwen: new soundproofing and new sound and lighting has now been installed and is proving to be of huge benefit to the venue</li> <li>• Yr Hen Bost – work has begun on site</li> <li>• Footpaths – various improvements to Lôn Las Ogwen</li> </ul> <p><b>Hwb Ffestiniog</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aelwyd yr Urdd, Llwybr Llechwedd and 22 / 23 Church Street projects are progressing</li> </ul> <p><b>Destination improvements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bethesda, Llanberis, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Penygroes, Porthmadog a Tywyn, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visibility of Llechi Cymru brand</li> <li>- Signage strategy</li> <li>- Resurfacing walkways and roads</li> <li>- Slate inserts in walkways</li> <li>- Smart benches</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Public Art</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blaenau Ffestiniog – Original Roofing Company mural complete</li> <li>• Penygroes – Angharad Pearce Jones sculpture</li> <li>• Porthmadog – Howard Bowcott sculptures</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tywyn – replica slate wagon and landscaping</li> <li>• Bethesda – carved slate as part of Yr Hen Bost project (to be completed at the end of the building contract)</li> <li>• Llanberis – planning consent refused, alternative project being developed</li> </ul> <p><b>LleCHI LleNI (Heritage National Lottery)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 guided walks and 3 public lectures have been delivered, all fully booked and well received</li> <li>• Other events and activities delivered include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Llechi'r Enfys event (part of LGBTQ+ Month)</li> <li>- A session for those newly arrived in the area – introduction to the Language and history and mythology</li> <li>- Session sharing old photographs and discussing the work of photographer Issac Hughes</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LleCHI LleNI community grants programme (many applications)</li> <li>• Cynefin a Chymuned course (empowering communities to embrace sustainable community tourism) to be delivered by Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog</li> <li>• Health and safety messaging campaign to launch in the coming weeks</li> <li>• Initial stages of community conservation projects (Ffestiniog area) have begun (working with Heneb: The Trust for Welsh Archaeology)</li> <li>• Projects working with local schools have begun (LleCHI LleNi Education and Skills officer)</li> <li>• Young Slate Ambassadors project to launch in September</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BBC Countryfile March 16<sup>th</sup> – episode on Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales WHS</li> <li>• DW thanked Llechi Cymru staff for their hard work. DW also thanked Nia Jeffreys for her work as part of this group, noting that we'll welcome Cyng. Medwyn Hughes during the next meeting</li> <li>• Bespoke behind the scenes tour of National Slate Museum being offered to Llechi Cymru members, diary marker will be circulated for April 3<sup>rd</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Action HJ</b></p>	<p><b>HJ: circulate placeholder calendar invite</b></p>
<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26 September 2025 <b>Action DA</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>DA: circulate placeholder calendar invite</b></p>