

Llangoedmor Community Council	
Meeting Date:	July 2025
Report Title:	Proposal for an Informal Open Community Meeting
Agenda Item Number	6.3.5
Paper Reference	July 2025-6
Presented By	Cllr C. Wychwood
For	Decision

Introduction

It is proposed that the Council holds an informal open community meeting.

Details of the Proposal

Details of the proposal are attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Action

Motion: That the Council holds an informal open community meeting.

APPENDIX 1

Proposal for an Informal Open Community Meeting

Purpose

To create an informal, welcoming forum where members of the local community can raise issues, share ideas, and engage constructively with the Community Council outside the formal meeting structure.

This is **not a decision-making meeting** of the Council, but a **consultative and participatory space**.

Legal Position and Compliance

While this open meeting is informal and not governed by Schedule 12 of the *Local Government Act 1972*, the following safeguards will ensure it operates within the law:

- **No council decisions** will be taken.
- Any discussion of council policy will be non-binding and brought to a formal meeting later for consideration.
- **No confidential council business** will be discussed.
- The meeting will not misrepresent itself as a formal meeting of the Council.
- The Council's **Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy** will apply to all councillors present.
- Data protection responsibilities under the *UK GDPR* will be upheld (e.g. not recording names or comments without consent).
- The meeting will be advertised and hosted in line with the Council's **public engagement duty** under the *Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021*.

Format and Boundaries

1. Chairing:

The Chairman of the Council will welcome participants and guide the meeting, without exerting authority.

2. Participation:

Open to all residents and community stakeholders. Councillors may attend, make statements and engage in a listening and responsive role but not act as decision-makers or represent the council as a corporate body.

3. Agenda:

Councillors and Members of the Public shall request agenda items to the Clerk not less than 7 days in advance of the meeting. The agenda is open and need not conform to any existing Council format for an open meeting of this nature.

4. Ground Rules:

- All participants to treat one another with respect.

- No political campaigning or party-political content.
- Comments should be constructive, relevant, and non-discriminatory.
- Disruptive, violent (including shouting) or abusive behaviour will result in an immediate request to leave the session.
- Recording by individuals must be disclosed and gain consent of participants.

5. **Reporting Back:**

Ideas from the meeting may be passed to the Clerk for inclusion on future Council agendas. No personal data or identifying comments will be published.

6. **Publicity:**

Notice will be given on the Council website and noticeboards with not less than 5 days' notice, with clarity that this is **not a formal council meeting**.

What This Meeting Is Not

- It is **not a formal council meeting**, and cannot approve resolutions or allocate spending.
- It is **not a complaint forum**; individual grievances must follow the formal council complaints process. Whilst general objections and discontent may be heard the meeting is being held in a spirit of positive inclusiveness and shall be run accordingly.
- It is **not a substitute** for democratic decisions — all official business must return to the Council table.

In Summary

This Open Meeting offers a **lawful, inclusive, and low-barrier** space for community dialogue. While informal in nature, it supports the spirit of the *Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021*, promoting local voice, participation, and transparency without risking legal overreach or misrepresentation.