

Library Project in Cemaes, Ynys Mon

The foregoing is an example of how involvement in one enterprise on the Island can help people with their ideas of setting up an enterprise elsewhere.

In 2012 A group of people in Beaumaris took over the running of their Leisure Centre from the County Council and have built up a reputation of running such a service by the Community for the Community. In the time since taking over Footfall has trebled, employment of Staff has increased and the Canolfan is now the Centre of everything that is Community orientated in the Seiriol Ward.

As a result I was asked if I would become associated with Enterprise Solutions and help develop budding enterprises across Ynys Mon and the Mainland. Knowing that such a facility was available, in Autumn of 2018 I was approached by Sandra Volkert from Cemaes who had been working with a group of people to try and take over the redundant Library in the Town with the possibility of providing Community activities for Residents to enjoy.

Initially the group consisted of Local Residents and Local Councillors, but had hit a stumbling block where the County Council were not keen to hand over the building. The group started to deplete and Sandra found herself somewhat on her own to continue with the plan. Hence her approach to myself and Menter Mon.

I arranged to meet Sandra in Cemaes and got the facts to what they were trying to do. I explained how we in Beaumaris had gone about the same problem with the County Council regarding the Transfer of an asset and also matters relating to drawing on the assistance of the Community.

The result was that we agreed to hold a meeting in Cemaes with an open invitation to anyone who wanted to be there, but also encouraging attendance. I contacted Jackie Lewis of Menter Mon who is in the forefront of assisting budding enterprises in Anglesey and also County Councillor Aled Morris Jones so that there was a conduit to the County Council in regard to the possible acquisition of the Library. The meeting was reasonably well attended and the result was an agreement to support Sandra and her colleagues in their endeavours.

Since then, and not without it's difficulties, a Community Interest Company has been set up and discussions have taken place regarding the long term lease of the Library, and a Business Plan has been drawn up that will help the Committee to carry on with their work. Activities have been taking place there, but like everyone else unfortunately Covid 19 has had an effect but I am sure that with the determination and drive of Sandra and her colleagues that the CIC will serve the Community of Cemaes for many year to come.

Our help and assistance does not finish there. Because of the changes that go on within the 3rd Sector it is important that people like Sandra and her colleagues know that help is only a phone call/email away and Bro Mon's aim is to be that helping hand.

Alwyn Rowlands MBE

Director Bro Mon