

Consultation on park homes commission rate published

Plans for a formal consultation were announced in March following a review of the economics of the sector commissioned by the Welsh Government which made several recommendations to improve standards in the sector.

Announcing the publication of the consultation [the consultation](#), the Cabinet Secretary said:

“The review into the industry rightly highlights that commission rates are a complex issue with the potential for significant consequences. We know there are strongly held, but conflicting views amongst park owners and residents on this issue.

“As the review I commissioned last year into the economics of the park homes sector did not provide sufficient evidence to determine the future of the commission rate, I wanted to provide a further opportunity for those affected to have their say. The options published for consultation include reducing or even abolishing the commission rate, as well, of course, as retaining the status quo.

“I hope all interested parties will take advantage of the opportunity this consultation provides to submit further information and to provide robust evidence to support their views. In particular, park owners should provide access to detailed financial information if they wish to justify maintaining the current position.”

Lib Dems replace TV Election Broadcast with personal message from Tim Farron

The Liberal Democrats have withdrawn their Party Election Broadcast that was due to air on BBC One in England this evening. The party is replacing it with a heartfelt, personal and non-political message from leader Tim Farron following the heinous attack in Manchester on Monday.

In the emotive and deeply personal message, recorded yesterday, he reflects on his experience of visiting Manchester for the vigil in Albert Square on Tuesday night.

He goes on to talk of his love for Manchester, which he describes as 'his capital' having grown up in Lancashire, about the people he met there on Tuesday and the human acts of kindness and solidarity in response to the atrocity. He also says that while those who died will be remembered, the terrorist who killed them 'died in vain' attempting to divide a community that has rallied together instead.

He ends by quoting the poet Tony Walsh, who spoke at the vigil, saying that we are 'all Manchester' and 'all Britain', "whether we were born here or drawn here".

Kirsty Williams opens "wonderful" new Panteg Primary

The new site has been made possible thanks to £20.5 million of investment in three schools in the area, with funding of £10.25 million under our 21st Century Schools and Education Programme.

The 21st Century Schools programme represents the largest investment in Welsh schools and colleges since the 1960s, and will see over £1.4 billion being invested in the five years to 2019.

Kirsty Williams said,

"We are committed to provide our students with the best and most inspiring learning environments. From what I've seen today I think your wonderful school is a perfect example of this.

"It is fantastic what we can achieve in partnership with local government and our schools, in terms of bringing together resources to deliver new bespoke facilities for our communities.

"Schools like this one are also crucial to achieving our aim of a million Welsh speakers by 2050. Learning through the medium of Welsh is pivotal to successful language acquisition and provides a building block to the creation of confident Welsh speakers."

Ysgol Panteg opened in September 2010 with 36 children – that's why 36 daffodils encircle the school badge on the school sign, with each child planting a daffodil bulb on that first day.

The original buildings were shared with Griffithstown Infant School after which they amalgamated with Griffithstown Junior School to form a primary school on the site.

They outgrew those buildings in 2014 and work began on the new site in January 2016. The new school, which has a nursery and 420 primary places, opened its doors for the first time to pupils on in February this year.

The Cabinet Secretary also took the opportunity to congratulate and thank all involved in creating new school, including the project managers, the design and construction team, Torfaen Council, Wilmot Dixon Construction, Powell Dobson Architects and the school itself.

News story: Vacancy: Receptionist

The AAIB is looking for someone who is highly motivated, flexible and enthusiastic to work on the AAIB Reception, answering switchboard and dealing with visitors.

A full job description and role profile is on the [Civil Service Jobs Website](#). The deadline for applications is 8 June.

School children in Scotland should have access to counselling

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25 May 2017



Counselling services in Scotland's schools should be on a par with other parts of the UK, the Scottish Conservatives have said.

Speaking at First Minister's Questions today, leader Ruth Davidson cited evidence from the Scottish Association for Mental Health that youngsters in Wales and Northern Ireland have guaranteed access to schools-based counselling.

She urged Nicola Sturgeon to offer similar guarantees for pupils north of the border.

The question on the mental health of children came following the Manchester

terror attacks, which targeted young people leaving a concert on Monday night.

In a mental health paper published last year, the Scottish Conservatives called for the idea of school champions and counsellors to tackle mental health challenges facing young people.

Ruth called on the Scottish Government to examine the possibilities of this scheme.

Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson said:

“It would not have been right, in my judgement, to use today to indulge in the knockabout of an election campaign.

“But I also believe that we best show our contempt for the tactics of terror by going about our business of practising the very democratic values that the bombers seek to destroy.

“So with the welfare of young people at the forefront of our minds, it’s right we find the best ways to support school pupils who may be experiencing mental health difficulties.

“We often talk about money and resources when discussing these issues, but there are other factors too. “SAMH points out children in Wales and Northern Ireland have guaranteed access to schools-based counselling, while those in Scotland could be missing out.

“This is something we have called for in the past, and I urge the Scottish Government to examine this approach too.”

For more on SAMH’s calls for mental health counselling in schools, visit:
https://www.samh.org.uk/documents/SAMH_View_-_Counselling_in_Schools.pdf

To see the Scottish Conservatives’ paper on mental health, visit:
<http://www.scottishconservatives.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Scottish-Conservative-Mental-Health-Policy.pdf>