GWYNEDD: PLACEMAKING IN ACTION

Community enterprise, culture and the foundational economy in Gwynedd

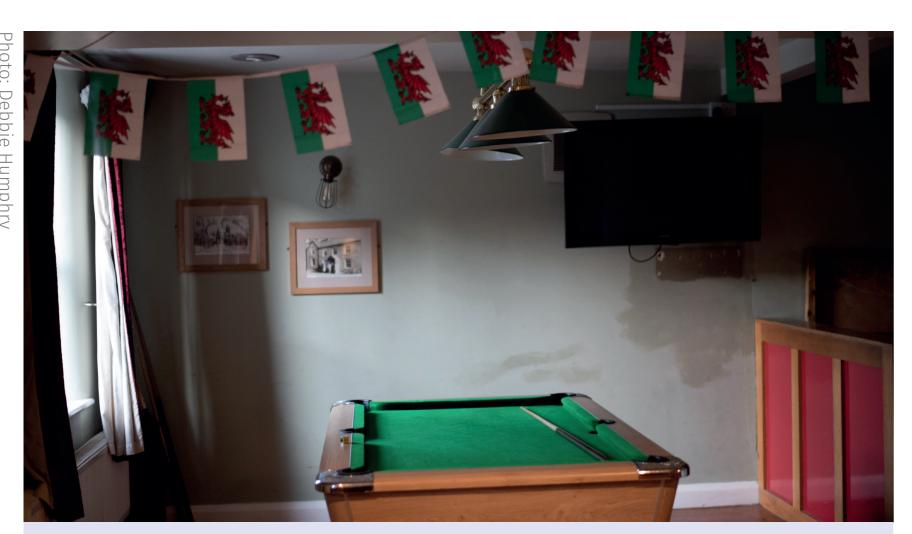
Gwynedd, in Northwest Wales, has a numerous and dense cluster of community enterprises. Emerging in the 1970s in response to de-industrialisation and disinvestment, communities took over a range of services facing closure. They have ultimately developed mixed portfolios across social, cultural, industrial and commercial spheres, with sub-

stantial spatial implications as they have changed high streets, villages and towns.



Driving the cultural ethos

Gwynedd has the highest percentage of Welsh speakers in Wales and is a stronghold for Welsh identity, driving the cultural ethos of numerous community enterprises.



Tafarn Y Fic is the oldest village cooperative pub in Europe, bought by local people in 1988.

Villagers plan take-over if school is forced to shut

villagers AT Llanaelhaearn, on the Lleyn Peninsula, will take over their local school if Caernar-vonshire Education Authority goes ahead with its plans to close it.

The county education committee has given notice that it intends to shut the school because it is too small, and to transfer pupils to enother school two miles away at

her school two miles away at or.

But a village action committee, includes parents and school agers, is determined to run the olif other attempts to keep it fail.

Llanaelhaearn is only a few from the village of Bryn-

re two years ago parents the school after it had ally closed by the educativity.

ran the school with two teachers, but eventually and agreed to send their to other school until a school was opened.

anaelhaearn general practical amember of the action protest to the Secretary of St. Wales, Mr. Peter Thomas, a the closure of the school white pulls and two teachers, agrees to the closure, it is to shut in July.

A petition, with 200 name be presented to the Welsh it to Office this week, and against the closure will be her the village on Easter Sat Parents will also lobby the meeting of the education content of the school and run east if other ways of keep-

but in other counties of North Wales there are schools smaller than ours and the respective education committees have no intention of closing them.

"If every authority adopted the same attitude as Caernarvonshire, there would be no future for the rural school in Wales. A school is the pivot of a small community, and it will suffer if the school closes."

Caernarvonshire's director of education. Mr. Mansei Williams, said that following the Gittings and Plowden reports on primary education, it was now Government policy that the minimum size for schools should be 30 children and three

Community enterprises emerged from "a very exciting time in the history of Wales in the 60s and 70s ... The campaign for status for the Welsh language was gaining ground... a time of radical thinking and of getting people involved in the future of their communities and their nation" FOUNDER OF CYMDEITHAS TAI GWYNEDD COMMUNITY HOUSING ASSOCIATION



Antur Aelhaearn started with a caravan to house their knitting business in 1974.

A holistic approach

Gwynedd offers an alternative economic model for communities to collectively focus on foundational

economies in their localities, aiming for resilience and cohesiveness in the face of economic downturns. They show, through practice, what a holistic approach to placemaking and planning from below might look like.



Antur Aelhearn senedd, 1974















