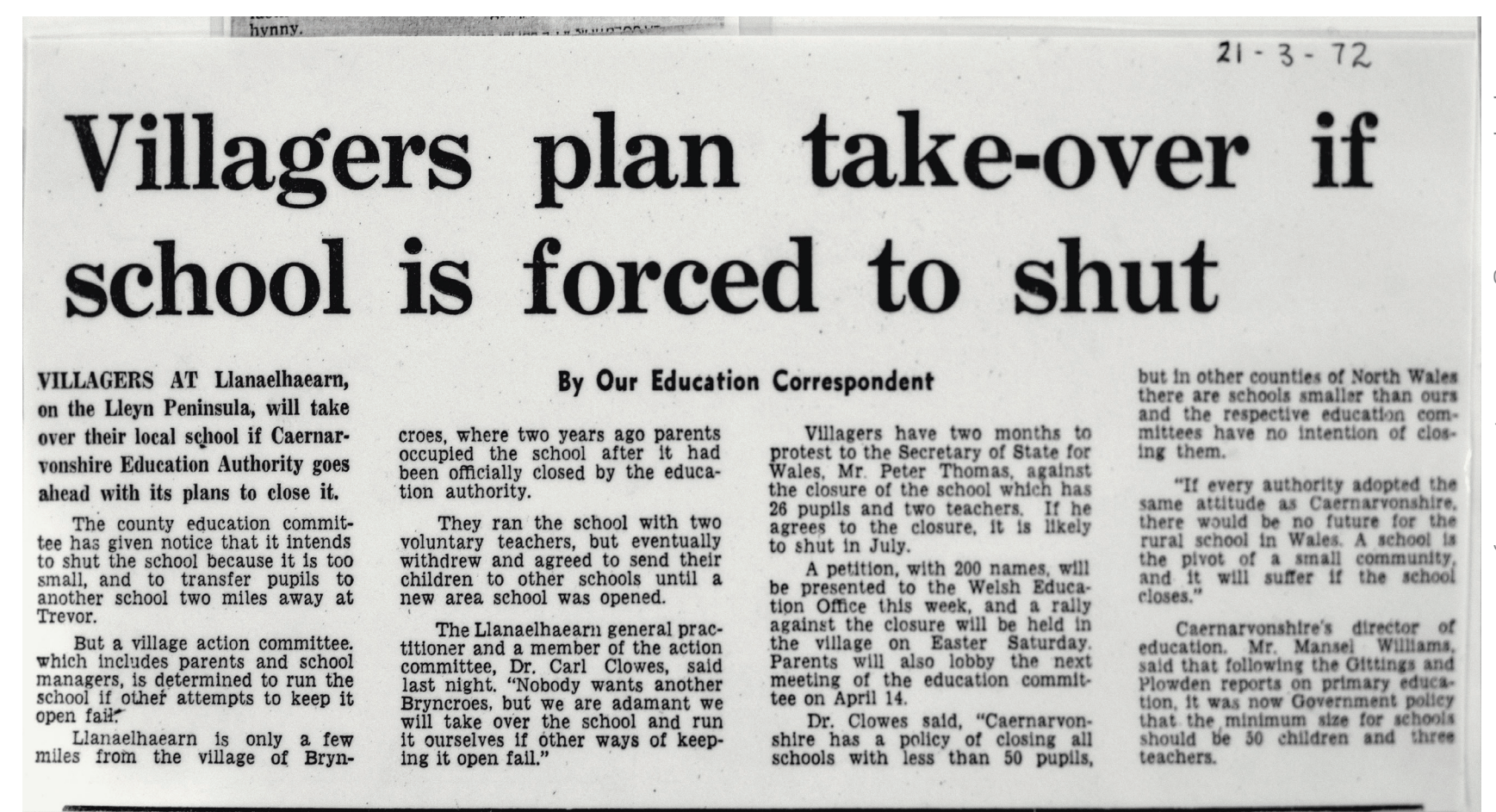


# GWYNEDD: PLACEMAKING IN ACTION

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



Newspaper cutting 21.03.1972, courtesy: Antur Aelhaearn

**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



Partneriaeth Ogwen has provided numerous space and services in Bethseda and led high street regeneration.

### 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.



Photo: Geoff Charles, courtesy Antur Aelhaearn

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 Aelhaearn senedd, 1974

Photo: Geoff Charles, courtesy Antur Aelhaearn

