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Ann Jones,
Chair, Local Government
& Public Services Committee,
Cardiff Bay,
CARDIFF.
CF99 1NA.

1st August 2006

Dear Ms. Jones,

Electoral Arrangements in Wales

Thank you for your letter of 2nd June 2006 enclosing a copy of your consultation document and seeking views on the issues raised and the questions posed in the report. The Town Council has considered the report and I enclose details of the responses to the various questions posed.

Yours sincerely,

Town Clerk.

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ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS IN WALES – DISCUSSION DOCUMENT
RESPONSE FROM PENARTH TOWN COUNCIL

Question 1

Although registration is compulsory in Wales, the penalties for non registration are hardly ever used.

Should penalties be used and would this encourage more people to register?

Response: Yes

Question 2

What methods could be used to ensure that more people living with their parents, who have moved recently or are living in rented accommodation register?

Response: No Comment

Question 3

Will individual registration with personal identification help to increase registration?

Response: No

Will it help to make voting more secure if the personal identification has to be produced before you can vote?

Response: No comment

Question 4

Should there be some form of automatic registration as in other countries?

Response: Yes

If yes,

What sources of information could be used to ensure that everyone was automatically registered.

Response: National Insurance Numbers and/or through the Taxation System

Question 5

What methods could be used to encourage more Black and Ethnic Minority people to register?

Response: Communication with Race Relation Organisations, and Church Leaders and the encouragement of gendering issues.

Question 6

Would an all postal vote be workable in Wales?

Response: No

Please give your reasons for your views.

Response: The Council believes in the need to demonstrate the right to vote in person.

Question 7

What forms of electronic voting (e.g. internet, text, at polling stations) could be used in Wales?

Response: No Comment

What could be the benefits/problems of using the methods you have suggested?

Response: No Comment

Question 8

Could alternative venues be used as polling stations? (e.g. supermarkets, post offices etc.).

Response: Yes

Question 9

Why do so few young people in Wales vote?

**Response: Politics is seen as older people's monopoly.
Politicians speak a different language to young people.**

Please give any examples you have come across (leaving out any personal details).

Response: See above

Question 10

Are young people given enough information in schools to make an informed decision about how they are going to vote?

Response: No

Question 11

Should party politics be taught in schools?

Response: Yes

If so, how?

Response Through youth wings and school councils

If not, why not?

Response: n/a

Question 12

Should political parties be involved in informing young people about politics in schools and other youth groups?

Response: No Comment

Question 13

Are there examples of good practice in informing young people about politics in your area?

Response: No comment

Please tell us about them (leaving out any personal details).

Response: n/a

Question 14

Is there enough provision for people with disabilities to help with the registration process?

Response: Yes, but are people aware?

If not, what practical things could be done?

Response: No comment

Question 15

Is there enough provision for people with disabilities to help with voting?

Response: Disability groups should be asked.

If not, what practical things could be done?

Response: See above

Question 16

Should there be statutory standards for the accessibility of registration and voting material and polling stations?

Response: Yes, but the Town Council thought there were.

Question 17

What are your views on the use of mobile ballot boxes for people who have difficulty getting to polling stations?

Response: Good Idea

Question 18

Should polling station managers be required to produce a report similar to that in the Netherlands?

Response: Yes

Question 19

What are your views on the availability of help and advice available bilingually at elections in Wales?

Response: Help and advice should be multilingual

Question 20

What could be done in terms of documents and advice to encourage more BME people to register and vote?

Response: No comment

Question 21

Do you consider the forms and information given about registration and voting to be straightforward and easily understandable?

Response: No, they are not straightforward. They should be written in plain English