

PENHOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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National Assembly for Wales
Local Government and Public Services Committee
Cardiff Bay
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15TH august 2006

ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS IN WALES

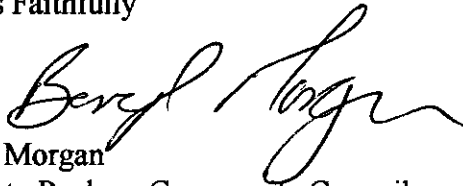
Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find below responses from Penhow Community Council on your Discussion Document on Electoral Arrangements in Wales, June 2006. Our comments are in direct response to the series of questions posed within the paper.

1. Penalties for non-registration should NOT be used.
2. To encourage registration, Registration Applications forms should be automatically included with house sale documentation, tenancy agreements and provisional driving licenses.
3. The need to provide personal ID may REDUCE registration, could improve voting security, but would probably REDUCE TURNOUT.
4. We do not believe that any form of automatic registration could achieve better than 94% of correct addresses.
5. No suggestions.
6. NO – security and confidentiality could be compromised. Postal voting is already available by request for all who need it.
7. Electronic voting sounds like the best method for the future, but at present there are too many problems. There is, as yet, no secure method for text or internet voting – could one be developed? Electronic voting at polling stations would probably be far too slow – hundreds of people will be trying to use the system at the same time. Strange though it sounds, manual counting is probably still the fastest system.
8. Many issues to sort out here – security, staffing. Why would it be an improvement on polling stations?
9. Lack of education / experience. Young people have no forum for learning the system if parents are not politically motivated.
10. No – as far as we are aware young people are not taught anything about politics in school..
11. No – party politics should not be taught in schools, but the ELECTORAL SYSTEM should be, as part of citizenship. The Schools' curriculum is already crowded, but this is an important omission that should be addressed.
12. No.

13. One example of a school (several years ago) that held mock elections at election time – candidates were all senior pupils.
14. No information on which to judge this issue.
15. Yes, as far as we are aware.
16. No, what is suitable in some areas (e.g. towns) might not be workable in other areas (e.g. rural communities).
17. Would require more staff, but could be workable.
18. Yes – a report from polling station Managers may well provide answers to some of the questions posed in this document..
19. Appears to be OK at present.
20. No suggestions
21. Yes.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Beryl Morgan', written in black ink.

Beryl Morgan
Clerk to Penhow Community Council