



Y Ffordd Ymlaen
BMC Cymru Gogledd
The Way Forward in Wales

Questionnaire Results from Local Area Meeting - 21 November 2018

Background

At the first meeting of the All-Wales Working Group*, on 13 October 2018, it was agreed, amongst other things, to move forward on four fronts.

1. to develop Terms of Reference for the All-Wales Working Group. Action: Will Kilner.
2. to produce a matrix/graphic illustrating areas of interest, influence, incapacity and shortcomings in Wales. Action: Elfyn Jones,
3. to engage at a senior level with equivalent organisations in Wales.
4. to agree a set of questions, designed to promote discussion and elicit opinion from members attending local area meetings in November, and, as necessary, for wider circulation, thereafter.

As a result of point 4, the questions below, used at the North Wales Local Area Meeting on 21 November 2018 in Llanberis, were compiled by Tim Jepson and commented on in detail by Peter Salenieks.

Thirty-eight members discussed the questions in small groups and submitted consensus answers/comments on 9 sheets. In addition, there was one individual submission.

Questions, (in Black), with Results and Comments (in Red)

Question 1:

Assuming that appropriate resources and funding could be made available, please indicate your opinion of the importance of each of the following options as a strategy for improving the identity and influence of the BMC in Wales.

- i. BMC Cymru should become a separately constituted body, independent of the BMC in England.

Responses were split between Agree (5) and Disagree (3), but all responses qualified their answers around the notion that they did not want BMC Cymru to be completely independent of The BMC. One answer indicated 'only if adequate staffing and funding were available' and another that members in Wales should have automatic dual membership of BMC and BMC Cymru.

- ii. BMC Cymru should have its own bilingual website.

Agree (7); Disagree (2)

Comments: Only in priority areas; Webpage not website.

- iii. BMC Cymru should have its own Office Address in Cardiff.

Agree (9); Disagree (1)

Comments: In Wales, not necessarily in Cardiff (x6); Influence in Cardiff, rather than an address (x1).

iv. BMC should designate one of its senior, paid officers as responsible for all Welsh issues.

Agree (7); Disagree (1)

Comments: Needs own Officer; Must be in addition to Access and Conservation Officer; Care needed not to end up with the perception that an 'English' officer is overseeing matters in Wales.

v. BMC should employ a Policy Officer in Wales.

Agree (10)

Comments: Officers (plural!), not necessarily restricted to policy (x2); Until BMC Cymru becomes operational.

vi. BMC Cymru should work in collaboration with other organisations with similar interests and structures (e.g. Ramblers Cymru and/or Canoe Wales)

Agree (10)

Comment: A shared office in Cardiff would be ideal.

Question 2:

In relation to the Welsh Language:

i. BMC Cymru needs a language policy

Yes (8); No (2)

Comments: May be required legally; Should be a progressive process, start slowly, develop opportunities and attract more Welsh members.

ii. BMC needs a language policy

Yes (6); No (4)

iii. BMC Website should contain some prominent Welsh language content.

Yes (7); No (1)

iv. Professional translation should be available for area chairs to use as appropriate.

Yes (7); No (1)

Comment: As needed (x2).

v. Translation should be left to volunteers.

No (8)

Comments: Possibly; Some translation by volunteers, but not simultaneous translation.

vi. Any advert for a post for a paid officer in Wales should include 'Welsh Essential'.

Responses were equally split, Yes (3) and No (3), but 7 responses wanted to qualify their answer by stating 'Welsh Desirable', rather than 'Welsh Essential'.

Further Comment received from individuals:

1. The title BMC Cymru is inappropriate for Welsh members. Alternatives, such as 'Dringo Cymru', should be explored.

2. The questionnaire would have been more useful after members had seen an analysis of BMC Cymru's current areas of interest, influence, incapacity and shortcomings in Wales. (Due to be produced by Elfyn in December 2018).