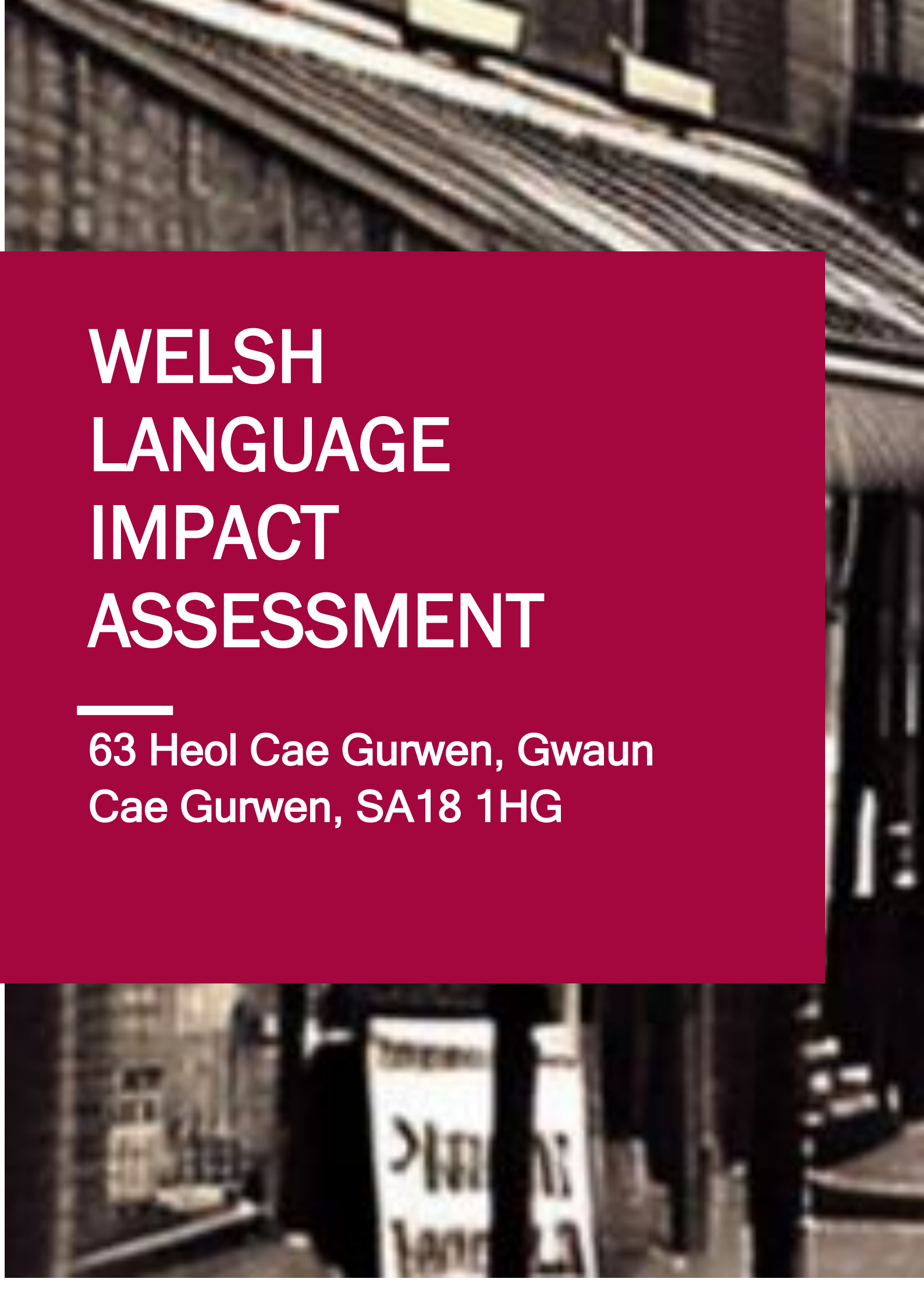


The background image is a photograph of a building with a corrugated metal roof. A sign is visible on the right side of the building, but the text on it is blurry and difficult to read. The overall tone of the image is somewhat muted and grainy.

WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

63 Heol Cae Gurwen, Gwaun
Cae Gurwen, SA18 1HG

63 Heol Cae Gurwen Welsh Language impact assessment

Ar ran /On Behalf of: Rapid IT (Outsourcing
Services) Ltd

O ran /In Respect of: 63 Heol Cae Gurwen, Gwaun
Cae Gurwen, SA18 1HG

Dyddiad Terfynol /Final Date: October 2023

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Rhagymadrodd /Introduction

- 1.1 Paratowyd yr Asesiad Effaith Iaith Gymraeg hwn gan Mathew Hennah ar ran Rapid IT (*Outsourcing Services*) Ltd mewn perthynas â 63 Heol Cae Gurwen, Gwauncaegurwen. Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn sefydlu a fyddai'r ailddatblygiad arfaethedig yn cael unrhyw effaith ar yr iaith Gymraeg, yn enwedig mewn perthynas â'r gymuned leol a'r camau a gymerwyd i liniaru'r datblygiad.

This Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been prepared by Mathew Hennah on behalf of Rapid IT (Outsourcing Services) Ltd in respect of 63 Heol Cae Gurwen, Gwaun Cae Gurwen. This report establishes whether the proposed re-development would have any impact on the Welsh Language, particularly in relation the local community and the steps taken to mitigate the development.

- 1.2 Paratowyd yr asesiad hwn fel sy'n ofynnol gan Bolisiau SP22 a WL1 Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Castell-nedd Port Talbot. Mae Polisi SP22 (Yr Iaith Gymraeg) yn mynnu bod yr iaith Gymraeg yn cael ei diogelu a'i hyrwyddo yn ardal ieithyddol sensitif Pontardawe ac mae Polisi WL1 (Datblygu mewn Ardaloedd Ieithyddol Sensitif) yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i gynigion mewn ardaloedd ieithyddol sensitif. Cyflwyno Cynllun Gweithredu Iaith i warchod, hyrwyddo a gwella'r Gymraeg.

This assessment has been prepared as required to by Policies SP22 and WL1 of Neath Port Talbot's Local Development Plan. Policy SP22 (Welsh Language) requires the Welsh Language to be safeguarded and promoted in the language sensitive area of Pontardawe and Policy WL1 (Development in Language Sensitive Areas) requires proposals in language sensitive areas to submit a Language Action Plan to protect, promote and enhance the Welsh Language.

Cyd-destun y Safle a Datblygiad Arfaethedig / Site Context & Proposed Development

Y Safle /The Site

2.1 Heol Gwau Cae Gurwen is located Gwau Cae Gurwen and is a village and community in Neath Port Talbot, South West Wales. Historically a part of Glamorgan, Gwaun Cae Gurwen is a parish made up of the electoral wards of Gwaun Cae Gurwen and Lower Brynamman. Gwaun Cae Gurwen is located five miles east of the nearest town of Ammanford and nearly fifteen miles north of Swansea. Nearby villages include Cwmgors, Lower Brynaman & Tairgwaith. At one time, almost all of the land of The Waun was owned by the Jones Family who also owned the "Pwll-y-Wrach Estate". It was run by the Head and later by their sons (and spouses). They still own parts of the land of the village but most has been sold off. Both farmhouses connected to the Estate are still standing. The villages grew along with the development of the anthracite coal industry during the 19th and 20th centuries. This was sparked by the building of turnpike roads along the Amman Valley and to Brynamman in the early 19th century, making it much easier to export coal and iron ore out of the area.

2.2 Gwaun Cae Gurwen was a mining village in the west Wales anthracite district. There were six or seven pits in the early 1920s. his quiet rural society was to be change dramatically in the 19th century, when the demand for top quality anthracite coal saw a big expansion in the mining industry locally. By the 1870s, several small collieries were being worked, with the larger Cwmgors Colliery opening in 1888. This pit grew to be one of the largest in the area and was employing over 400 men at the start of the First World War. The Duke Colliery, south of Cwmgors, became the site of the Abernant super-pit, which employed over 1000 men in the 1980s. No remaining mining pits are open, the village declined when the anthracite coal mining ended. The village and surrounding areas suffered mass unemployment since and a poor living standards.

2.3 In 1849 cholera was rampant in the district, particularly bad in Brynamman and again in the district in 1866, hundreds died, people flocked to the chapels for refuge and solace. Many people also died from Tuberculosis or consumption, this had a devastating impact on the Welsh language spoken in the area. The site was used as the local chemist that served the wider community and excavation has revealed local artifacts form that period that have been catalogued and preserved.

Until the C20 the culture of the Welsh people in the area was firmly based on the bible. People met in their homes to discuss the rules of poetry, the englyn, and

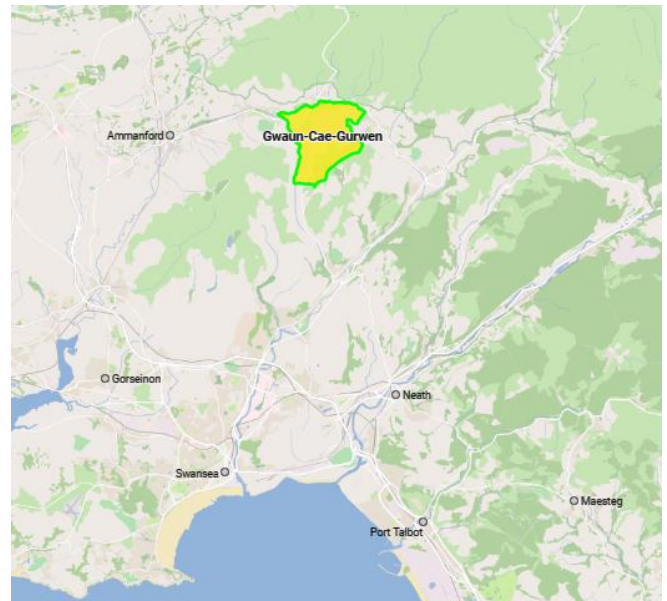
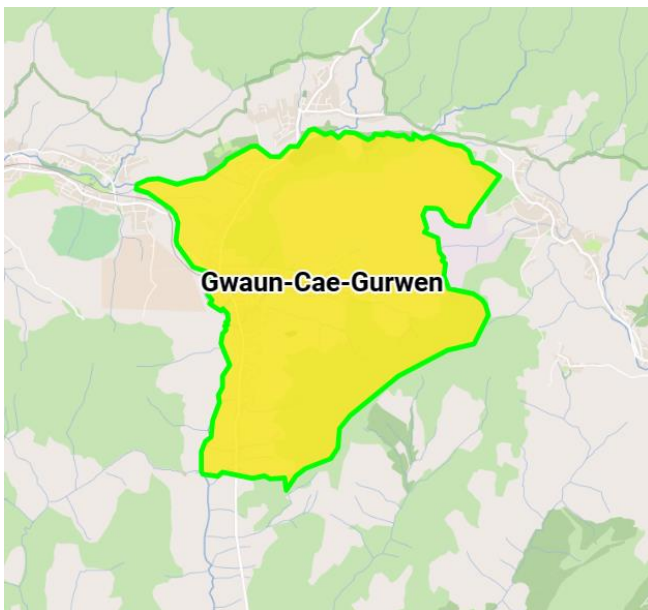
the ballads of the National Eisteddfod. Eisteddfodau served to some extent as a spur to poets, essayists, soloists, instrumentalists, male, ladies and mixed choirs. Writing dramas, acting plays and holding celebrity concerts assisted culture in the district. The Welsh Language Board reported in 2009 that 67.9% of the population of Gwaun Cae Gurwen can speak, read or write in Welsh. 10–19 year olds were the group with the highest percentage of Welsh speakers.

2.4 Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Gwauncaegurwen (Welsh Primary School) used to be on Heol y Dŵr (Water Street) which is where the Pwll y Wrach estate is based. It has since been moved to Heol Newydd (New Road), overlooking the village. Secondary age children in the area have the choice of going to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera in Ystalyfera (for full Welsh-medium education), Ysgol Dyffryn Aman (for Welsh- and English-medium education), or Cwmtawe Community School (for English-medium education). There are existing bus routes and ease of access for the local Welsh Medium school. Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera has recently been renovated with plenty of capacity for Welsh Medium Education and existing pupils travel to the said School.

2.5 The community of Gwaun Cae Gurwen is represented in the House of Commons by Christina Rees (Independent) and in the Senedd by Jeremy Miles; they both represent the Neath constituency. The electoral ward mentioned above has a population taken at the 2011 census of 2,910.

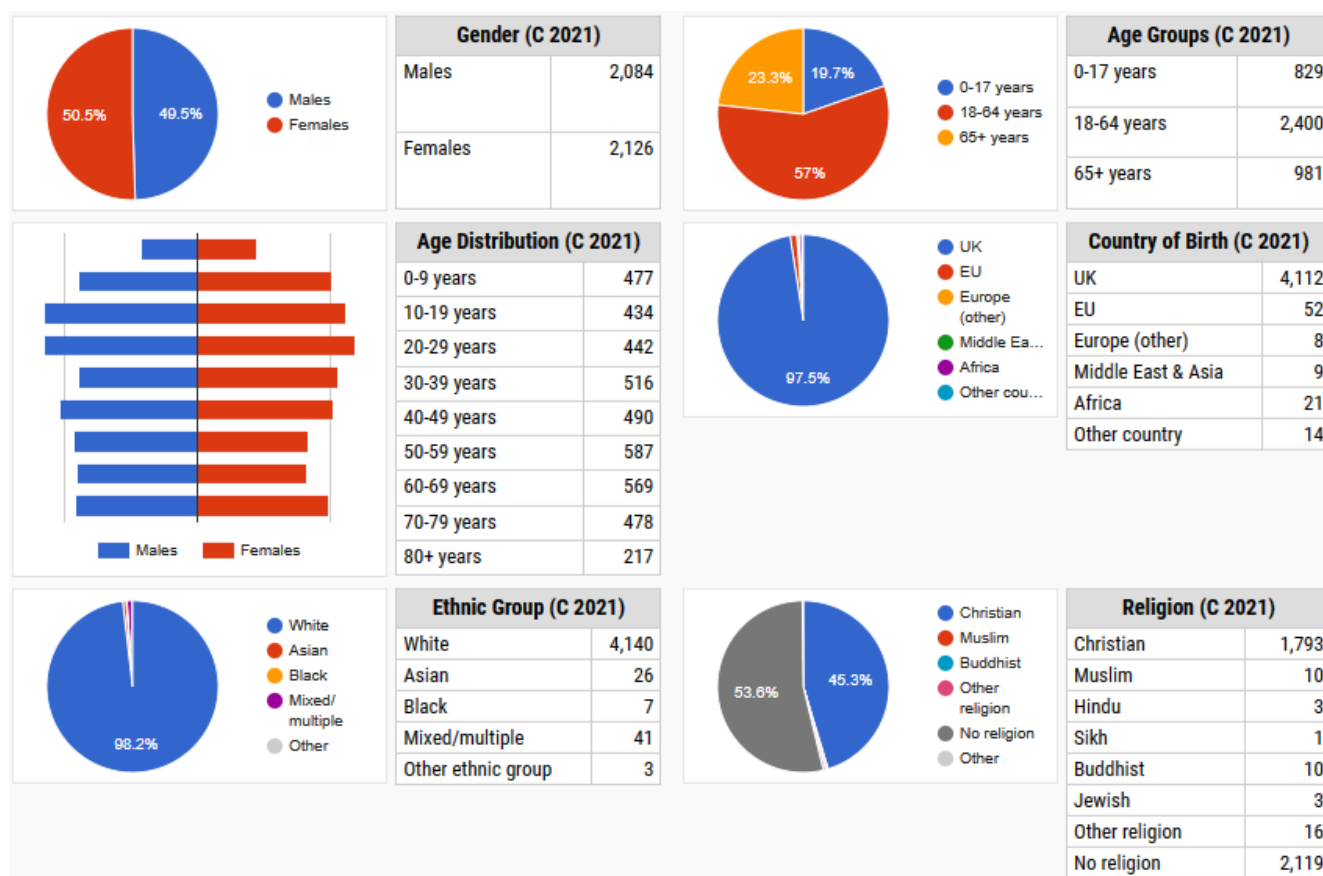
Statistical Data

2.6 Parishes as at May 2022. All population and corresponding area figures of parishes are based on assigning output areas by using population-weighted centroids. Thus, slight discrepancies are possible compared to the actual parish boundaries that are depicted in the map. No population figures (and the actual area) are provided for parishes smaller than output areas.



Name	Status	Population Census 2001-04-29	Population Census 2011-03-27	Population Census 2021-03-21
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen (Gwauncaegurwen)	Community	4,133	4,240	4,220
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen (Gwauncaegurwen)				
○ 4,220 Population [2021] – Census ◦ 13.65 km² Area ● 309.1/km² Population Density [2021] ➡ -0.050% Annual Population Change [2011 → 2021]				
Wales (Cymru)	Constituent Country	2,903,085	3,063,456	3,107,494

Further Information about the population and structure



Population

2.7 In 2001 the population of the Amman Valley was 4133 residents.

The population profile for Lower Brynamman and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen follows a similar pattern to that of Neath Port Talbot as a whole.

Closer examination of the population indicates that in the Amman Valley there is a higher percentage of the population aged 0-19 than average for the County Borough, hence there is a younger population. Between 2001 and 2005 there was an increase in population in both Lower Brynamman and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.

Ethnicity

2.8 The Ethnic makeup of the wards in the Amman Valley illustrates that like much of Neath Port Talbot as a whole, Black and multi-ethnic groups are very much in the minority and there is little to no evidence of BME groups learning Welsh. Recently outside of the scope of data obtained from Amman Vally, there is a small Irish settlement that own businesses in the area and Turkish and Albanian settlement owning local businesses such as the local barbers and small convenient store. A interview was undertaken to the local ethnic groups, Charles Birthrate the local tree surgeon of Black Caribbean heritage, Leonna Whymark Irish estate agent. Kemal Ahment barber and Mohammed Ibrahim worker at the fast food outlet collectively specified no interest in learning the Welsh language.

Welsh Language

2.9 Lower Brynamman and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen are traditionally Welsh speaking areas and a high percentage of residents speak Welsh. In Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Lower Brynamman respectively 69.4% and 67.9% of the population above the age of 3 can speak, read or write Welsh. These are the highest levels in Neath Port Talbot. Therefore, priority must be given to Welsh Speakers for affordable housing to be in the catchment area for Welsh Medium education in this re-development.

Health

2.10 In both Lower Brynamman and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen a higher proportion of the population describe their health as not good compared to the County Borough and Welsh average. This trend is reflected in the number suffering from a long-term limiting illness with slightly higher rates than average for the Authority and significantly higher rates than average for Wales.

Housing

2.11 Between 1996 and 2008 no large housing sites have been developed in the Amman Valley and building development has focused on smaller sites within the area. In recent years there has been an increase in the number of smaller sites which have been developed with 20 houses built during the last 3 years. In Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen there are a higher percentage of one-person households and pensioners living alone than the County Borough average. In Lower Brynamman there are a higher percentage of households containing dependent children and other pensioner households. In terms of housing stock in Lower Brynamman there are a higher percentage of owner-occupiers whereas in Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen there are a higher percentage of properties rented from the Council.

Economy and Employment

2.12 In both Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Lower Brynamman there are lower rates of employment and a higher proportion of residents who are unable to work as they are permanently sick or disabled compared with the County Borough average.

Unemployment levels in Lower Brynamman have fluctuated greatly between June 2004 and June 2008 and, with the exception of June 2006, have remained above the levels in Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen. In June 2008 unemployment rates in Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen were at their lowest at 2.2% and were below the average for Neath Port Talbot and for Wales.

A higher proportion of the population in Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Lower Brynamman are employed in skilled trades or personal services compared to the Welsh and County Borough average. In Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen there are also more employed in professional occupations (although the numbers are below average for Wales) and in Lower Brynamman an above average proportion are employed as process plant and machine operators or in the administrative and secretarial sectors. In both Lower Brynamman and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, there are above average numbers, when compared with the County Borough average, employed in agriculture, hunting and forestry, mining and quarrying (especially in Lower Brynamman), in public administration and defence and in health and social work. In addition above average numbers in Lower Brynamman are employed in transport, storage and communication.

2.13 Overall, the wards are in the top 25-50% of the most deprived LSOAs in Wales and fare worst in the categories of income, employment, health and education. For example, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen 2 is in the top 25% most deprived wards in Wales in terms of income and access to services and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen1 is in the top quartile in relation to health. In relation to the employment indicators all wards are in the top quartile of the most deprived wards.

The wards however fared well in relation to the Physical Environment Indicators with all being in the top 25% of the least deprived wards.

Public Transport

2.14 Public transport from the Amman Valley is limited with no direct service to Port Talbot.

As of the 23rd of February 2009 there will be a new service running every 2 hours from Monday to Saturdays connecting Ammanford and Neath.

Service X13 and X14 provide an hourly service until 14:40 to Swansea via Ammanford which serves Brynamman and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen however there are no services on a Sunday and limited services in the afternoon and evening. Service 148 from Ammanford to Pontardawe serves Cwmgors and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen every 60-90 minutes however there is no service on a Sunday.

On college days service number 905 to Neath College serves Tairgwaith and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen with one service in the morning and return in the evening.

Proposed Re-Development

2.15 The proposal for redevelopment will bring affordable housing stock back into the market where it can serve the local community of Welsh speakers to take advantage of existing routes and encatchment area for Welsh medium education as currently there are no stock of available housing in Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and a waiting list of families wanting to live local in the area. As originally constructed 2 bed 3 person flats that will be expanded utilising the existing foot print to bring better quality of housing and off street parking and is an ideal location that can support up to 9 bedsits as a HMO.

2.16 NPTCBC have calculated the average number of school children/dwelling in their Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning

Guidance (SPG). Below is an extract from the SPG showing the calculation:

Age group	2011 Census Population	Number of units (2 or more spaces)	Average School Age Person per Dwelling
Primary (aged 3 -11)	11,893	56,716	0.21
Secondary (aged 11 -16)	9,211	56,716	0.16
ALL	21,104	56,716	0.37

2.17 Having regard to the above multipliers, it can be estimated that the proposed re-development would have considered the building as still being active and no such additional changes will be made however, as per any new development, there will likely be a mix of Welsh and English-speaking children should there be no uptake in the first priority group for affordable housing. It is very unlikely that there will be non Welsh speaking as we have received an interest from local families wanting places to stay locally so they can benefit from existing transport links and encatchment area for Welsh Medium education.

Baseline Information

2.18 As part of one of the main towns within NPTCBC's area, Gwau Cae Gurwern benefits from a number of facilities, including:

- Primary Schools;
- Secondary Schools;
- Community/Public Halls
- Places of Worhsip (Mixed);
- Library;
- Health Centre/ GP Surgery;
- Dentist;
- Convenience Stores and a local Supermarket;
- Public House / Clubs
- Youth Clubs
- Other non-food shop;
- Bank / Building Society (Now mobile in the area);
- Post Office;
- Café/Takeaway;
- Sports Pitches;
- Formal Children's Plan;
- Indoor Leisure

- Cinema
- Builders Merchants and general supplies
- Car garages.
- Bus Service.

2.19 In addition to the above facilities which are available within the Gwaun Cae Gurwen ward, a wider range of facilities are available in the adjoining Ammanford and Pontardawe wards which will be easily accessible to residents of the proposed re-development.

Linguistic context

National Level

3.1 From a national perspective the general trend of the number of people living in Wales with an ability to speak Welsh has declined over the last century.

3.2 Encouragingly, however, following devolution and the introduction of the 1993 Welsh Language Act, Welsh is being taught more in schools and therefore the number of Welsh speakers stands higher than it was in 1991. However, despite this rise, concern continues to be raised over the preservation of the language in the future and this has led to it now forming part of the planning decision making process, particularly since the introduction of Technical Advice Note 20: The Welsh Language – Unitary Development Plans and Planning Controls (2000). This was revised and updated in October 2017 – ‘Planning and the Welsh Language’.

3.3 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 seeks to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It contains seven well-being goals which certain public bodies (including local authorities and National Park authorities) must seek to achieve in order to improve well-being both now and in the future. One of the well-being goals is to create “A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language”.

3.4 The number of Welsh speakers overall has fallen from 582,000 in 2001 to 562,000 in 2011, despite an increase in the size of the population. This represents a two percentage point drop - from 21% to 19% -in the proportion of Welsh speakers. This can be attributed to settlement of population outside of Wales and the resettlement of Welsh speakers to other parts of the country and continent.

County Level

3.5 At the 2011 Census it was found that 10.48% of the County Borough’s population were either able to read, write or speak Welsh. This compares with a comparable figure of 23.25% in the 2001 Census. Compared to the local area respectively 69.4% and 67.9% of the population above the age of 3 can speak, read or write Welsh.

3.6 According to the Council's website 17.85% could speak Welsh in 1991 compared to 17.96% in 2001 and 14.9% in 2011 thus represent a pronounced decline, particularly in the last 10 years.

The figures also shows a marked reduction in the percentage of Welsh speakers from within traditional Welsh speaking communities within the county between 1991 and 2001.

Local Town (Pontardawe)

3.7 As highlighted earlier in this report, Pontardawe benefits from a higher than average percentage of people who speak Welsh when compared to the County and National levels. It can be attributed to a very successful and well established local Welsh Medium School of Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera.

3.8 The following table provides a comparison of the Welsh language skills related data collected by the 2011 Census in terms of the Ward in which the site lies, the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot, and Wales as a whole.

Variable	Pontardawe (% of total)	Neath Port Talbot (% of total)	Wales (% of total)
All usual residents	5,421	139,812	3,063,456
No skills in Welsh	2,994 (55.2)	105,916 (75.8)	2,263,975 (73.9)
Can understand spoken Welsh Only	641 (11.8)	8,820 (6.3)	162,859 (5.3)
Can speak Welsh	1,629 (30)	20,843 (14.9)	568,500 (18.6)
Can speak but cannot read or write Welsh	329 (30)	3,784 (2.7)	85,605 (2.8)
Can speak and read but cannot write Welsh	201 (3.7)	2,301 (1.6)	45,767 (1.5)
Can speak, read, and write Welsh	1,092 (20)	14,664 (10.5)	431,759 (14)
Can speak and other combinations of skills in Welsh	7 (0.1)	194 (0.14)	5,369 (0.18)
Can read but cannot speak or write Welsh	108 (2)	2,915 (2)	44,327 (1.45)
Can read and write but cannot speak Welsh	41 (0.8)	1,055 (0.75)	18,742 (0.6)
Can write but cannot speak or read Welsh.	8 (0.15)	236 (0.19)	5,053 (0.16)

3.9 Over time the number of Welsh speakers at the local level has reduced. The table below demonstrates the change from 1991, 2001 and 2011 Census data:

Ward	% Welsh Speakers in 1991	% Welsh Speakers in 2001	% Welsh Speakers in 2011	% Change in Welsh Speakers 1991-2001	% Change in Welsh Speakers 2001-2011	% Change in Welsh Speakers 1991-2011
NPTCBC	17.9	18	15.3	+0.1	-2.7	-2.6
Wales	18.7	20.8	19	+2.1	-1.8	0.3

3.10 According to the Welsh Language Topic Paper, dated 2013, the decrease is partly down to the younger population who are more likely to be able to speak Welsh migrating out of the Borough and an increase of older population (who don't have the same linguistic skills) being left and/or in-migrating into the Borough.

3.11 In terms of Education, in 2022, the local Welsh primary School had 183 pupils enrolled with a capacity of 230. Inspectors unanimously agreed that the school has GOOD standards in all inspection areas.

In simple terms, the school performs very well in Standards, Well-being, Teaching, Care & support, and Leadership with elements of which are outstanding. The school is designated as a Welsh Primary School. Welsh is the medium of instruction in the Infant Department. In the Junior Department all subjects are taught through the medium of Welsh. Children should be bilingual at the end of Year 6. Welsh is also the official language of communication throughout the school but every effort is made to notify parents of school activities bilingually. To enable non-Welsh speakers to join the school, special provisions are made; the Nursery/ Infant age group will be supported by the teacher whilst learning Welsh. Late-comers to the school are also offered the opportunity to a series of extra Welsh lessons to development their grasp of the language. By the end of Key Stage 2 all pupil are fluent in both languages.

3.12 In terms of local groups and organisations that operate locally through the medium of Welsh, they are:

- Menter Iaith NPT;
- Merched Y Wawr;
- Ty'r Gwrhyd (Welsh language centre);

- Yr Urdd.

3.13 The Ward benefits from a number of successful and popular Welsh language organisations and groups. Each of the above provide different kinds of services to the local community, both in Pontardawe and further afield. An extract from the Ty Gwrhyd website states:

Tŷ'r Gwrhyd 's purpose is to act as a one-stop shop for information about Welsh medium services in the Swansea and Neath Valleys and to be vibrant community centre for Welsh medium social activities, community events and educational programmes for all ages. It also houses a Welsh bookshop and the offices of organisations that promote the Welsh language locally.

Organisations, businesses or individuals can hire meeting rooms to host Welsh medium events, workshops or parties for children and refreshments and lunch can be provided for those attending events throughout the day. There is a free wifi service and a large screen and video conferencing facilities are available. Office space is also available for hire for short or long term periods.

Menter Iaith Castell-nedd Port Talbot is based at Tŷ'r Gwrhyd, and the centre supports their projects and activities to promote the use of Welsh in the area. Our shop sells Welsh books and resources and regularly attends local events and school fairs. Local residents are welcome to call in for a coffee, cake and a chat in Welsh and we use local businesses to provide all our refreshments.

Classes for Welsh learners are held at the Centre daily - during the day and the evening - as well as community courses and social activities to support learners. The Menter Iaith holds various events for children of all ages, from babies up to age 18, including the monthly Sbri Sadwrn on Saturday mornings for children under 7, and Rock School during school holidays for teenagers.

Academi Hywel Teifi staff organise regular varied educational and cultural events, including lectures, talks and book launches, a Welsh medium science club for primary school children, and social evenings such as screening Welsh international football and rugby matches and Welsh music gigs. The Swansea Valley Welsh Book Club and Merched y Wawr, Pontardawe also meet at the Centre.

Summary

3.14 Whilst there has been a decrease in the number of Welsh language speakers in the area, the ward has a higher percentage figure for most of the data groups. Indeed, the percentages of residents who speak Welsh, and who can speak, read and write Welsh are around twice that of the County Borough. This would indicate that the Welsh language plays a larger role in this ward than for Neath Port Talbot as a whole. This is evidenced by the number and range of services provided to the local community through the medium of Welsh. Therefore, providing affordable local housing to serve the Welsh speaking community should be a priority taking advantage of the footprint of the original development and support better standards of living. By redeveloping this building to a higher standard it would be a of major benefit for the community and future generations.

Language Impact Assessment

General Impacts

4.1 It is considered that the proposed redevelopment, and the resulting Welsh population increase, will have a significant positive impact on local shops, services and facilities in terms of helping to support and sustain them.

4.2 Notwithstanding the above, it remains that one of the key issues with regard to the proposed re-development relate to whether the proportion of Welsh speakers will be partly increased by the redevelopment and the local school 350 meters away has sufficient resources to cope with the additional pupils. Both of these issues are considered in further detail below.

Impact on School

4.3 The proposed development falls within the catchment area for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Gwau Cae Gurwen and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Ystalyfera for Welsh medium education.

4.4 In terms of local Welsh Language school provision, Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Gwau Cae Gurwen lies some 350 metres to the north West of the site. The school is a designated bilingual school, which means that Welsh is the main medium of teaching and that English is introduced when pupils

reach seven years of age. Approximately 52% of pupils come from English-speaking homes. The school has a capacity of 300, with 183 on the roll in 2022.

4.4 The school is designated as a Welsh Primary School. Welsh is the medium of instruction in the Infant Department. In the Junior Department all subjects are taught through the medium of Welsh. Children should be bilingual at the end of Year 6. Welsh is also the official language of communication throughout the school but every effort is made to notify parents of school activities bilingually. To enable non-Welsh speakers to join the school, special provisions are made; the Nursery/ Infant age group will be supported by the teacher whilst learning Welsh. Late-comers to the school are also offered the opportunity to a series of extra Welsh lessons to development their grasp of the language. By the end of Key Stage 2 all pupil are fluent in both languages.

4.5 The school admits pupils on a full-time basis at the beginning of the September following their fourth birthday. Approximately 5.2% of pupils are entitled to free school meals, a figure that is much lower than the national average. Eight per cent of pupils have additional learning needs, which is also much lower than the national figure.

4.6 Band A of the Council's 21st Century Schools Capital Funding Programme comprises 7 schemes, 2 of these relate to improving Welsh-medium education by providing for new build premises on the Ysgol Gymraeg 8 Ystalyfera - Bro Dur north campus site that transform secondary phase education and establish primary phase education in an 'although' Welsh-medium provision for pupils aged 3 -18. This scheme secures secondary phase Welsh-medium education in the north of the County Borough, including provision for pupils from a neighbouring authority, Powys. The north campus development is complemented by a further new build that establishes secondary phase education (11-16) in the south of the County Borough. This development addresses significant concerns of parents over long travel times to and from Ystalyfera, concerns that influence parental decisions when considering opting for primary phase Welsh medium provision.

4.7 Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council have produced a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020. This confirms that Welsh-medium education is an integral and essential part of the

learning offer in Neath Port Talbot. The authority underpins this principle by ensuring universal access to this provision. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council recognises that language and culture are critical parts of an individual's identity and is committed to promoting and celebrating Welsh language learning across all phases and sectors. The Plan (WESP) 2017-2020 details how they plan to support and further develop Welsh language education in schools and in the wider communities and future growth will be planned for. The WESP aligns itself to national policy and guidance in order to contribute to the Welsh Government's aim of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

4.8 Officers have identified a number of projects that will be submitted to WG to accessing funding aimed at delivering capital projects dedicated to supporting and growing the use of the Welsh language in education. All proposed projects are aimed at increasing WM provision and addressing key WESP priorities such as improved transition between key stages 2 and 3 in specific geographical areas.

4.9 The scheme would aim to strengthen WM education in the Gwau Gae Gurwen area, enabling the school to further develop as a thriving and sustainable provision which in turn would impact positively on the transfer rate from primary to secondary phase, supporting the Council's Band B proposal for further accommodation at YG Ystalyfera -Bro Dur (north campus).

4.10 Notwithstanding the above and in feeding schools near buy Table 4.8 of NPTCBC's LDP Welsh Language Topic Paper states that, in Pontardawe, the demand for English medium education is 30.8%, the demand for Welsh medium education is also 61.5% with 7.7% being undecided.

4.11 Therefore, based on these percentages, of the 2 primary school aged children and or later 2 secondary school aged children likely to live on the proposed development, 2 children will require a place at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Gwau Cae Gurwen and or later 2 children will require a place at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Ystalyfera.

4.12 Given the evident current surplus in spaces at both schools, and in light of future improvements to the schools through 21st Century School Funding,

the development can be accommodated without causing harm to Welsh medium education.

4.13 The proposed redevelopment, therefore, will assist in supporting and increasing the numbers at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Gwau Cae Gurwen and Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera-Bro Dur and enhance the Welsh language in the area.

Impact on local population

4.14 The proposed redevelopment seeks to provide a total of 2 residential dwellings. The provision of these dwellings within Gwau Cae Gurwen may assist in retaining Welsh speakers within the local area as the proposed development has been designed to assist local Welsh speakers to live closer to the School to be in walkable distance and affordable housing stock. This will reduce the carbon footprint and traffic in the area by reducing the need to commute from outside the area.

4.15 The redevelopment will bring 2 bed 3 person homes that are affordable and with energy saving technology integrated to the building will appeal to local people looking to stay in the area thus helping to strengthen the Welsh speaking population in Gwau Cae Gurwen.

4.16 The proposed redevelopment, therefore, will have a positive impact on the number of Welsh speakers in Gwau Cae Gurwen by enabling them to stay in the area and is supported by the local community who have encouraged development.

Impact on Community Facilities and Services

4.17 As outlined above, it is considered that the proposed development will have a significant positive impact on local shops, services and facilities in terms of helping to support and sustain them. The local supermarket being CK Supermarkets GCG has a shortage of retail staff, butchery and part time positions that will benefit from part time staff that can work locally without the need for commuting.

Action Plan

5.1 LDP Policy WL1 - Developments in Language Sensitive Areas states that residential developments for 10 or more developments in an identified language sensitive area, which includes Gwaun Cae Gurwen, will be required to submit a Welsh Language Action Plan setting out the measures to be taken to protect, promote and enhance the Welsh language.

5.2 Further clarification regarding a WLAP can be found in NPTCBC's Planning Obligations SPG and Development and the Welsh Language SPG which states that there is a need to mitigate the negative effects from new development through supporting the use of the language in the local community and helping residents of new housing to learn and use the language.

Action Plan - Schools

5.3 As previously noted, the development could result in an additional 2 children requiring or and a place at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Gwaun Cae Gurwen and/or 2 children requiring a place at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Ystalyfera and as there are surpluses at both Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Gwaun Cae Gurwen and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Ystalyfera - Bro Dur all of the children could receive a Welsh medium education at both primary and secondary school and means there is no need for a financial contribution to be made with regards to the provision of additional places at the Welsh medium schools that will serve the proposed development.

Action Plan - Additional Parking

5.4 The building has a large car park that the old chapel once stood that was later demolished before an ambulance station was used post world War 2 and demolished in the 1980s. There is a significant parking space for multipole vehicles with enough room to turn around and possibly integrate electric charging stations.

Action Plan - Waste storage

5.4 There is a designated area to store and segment waste and Welsh Language Sings need to be used to promote the use of the language.

Action Plan - Welcome Pack

5.5 Rapid Lettings will provide each tenant/contract holder with a “Welcome Pack” This pack includes details of the various features of the house, instructions for the various appliances eco energy saving appliances, emergency evacuation plans, emergency contact numbers, sustainable travel information and other relevant matters. These packs will be in the Welsh Language and an English version will be provided on request. This in turn will promote a good ethos and Welsh language objectives.

5.6 Therefore, it is proposed to include within this pack details of Welsh language services and groups available in and around Gwau Cae Gurwen. These could include:

- ‘Menter Iaith CNPT’ (for general welsh language events in and around Gwae Cae Gurqen and beyond);
- Mudiad Meithrin, Gwau Cae Gurwen - Sesiwn Ti a Fi (Baby & Toddler Group);
- Mudiad Meithrin, Gwau Cae Gurwen - Sesiwn Meithrin (Pre-School);
- Merched Y Wawr;
- Tyr Gwrhyd;
- Welsh Book Club

Action Plan - Summary

5.7 The measures proposed above will help protect, promote and enhance the Welsh language as the housing on offer will enable local people to stay in the area and may even assist in reversing the decline in the number of Welsh speakers within Gwau Cae Gurwen by enabling Welsh speakers to move back into the area who had previously moved out due to a shortage of suitable affordable housing.

5.8 Furthermore, the ability of both the local Welsh medium primary school and Welsh medium secondary school to accommodate all 14-16 of the children from the proposed development that will require a Welsh medium education will also have a positive impact on the Welsh language and may, again, assist in reversing the decline in the number of Welsh speakers within Gwau Cae Gurwen by enabling Welsh speakers to move back into the area who had previously moved out due to a shortage of suitable housing. This in turn will off set a loss in another area of the County.

Conclusions

6.1 Overall, it is considered that the proposed redevelopment is unlikely to result in material harm on the Welsh language and may actually have a positive impact on the Welsh language by increasing the proportion of Welsh speakers in the community and improve the standard of living and carbon footprint using new proposed energy saving features that will further attract Welsh speakers back to the area.

6.2 The proposed development will provide a good range of houses that will assist in retaining Welsh speakers and may even enable Welsh speakers to move back into the area that had previously moved out due to a shortage and non-existing housing in the local area.

6.3 In addition, the subsequent increase in the population of Gwau Cae Gurwen will encourage any incomers to integrate with the prevailing linguistic character of the local community as both the Welsh medium primary school and the Welsh medium secondary school have sufficient surplus places to accommodate all 14-16 of the children from the proposed redevelopment that will require a Welsh medium education.

6.4 Furthermore, the use of existing Welsh names for the redevelopment area, the provision of information on the Welsh language services and groups available in and around Gwau Cae Gurwen, along with the provision of a local facilities in walkable distance where Welsh language sessions are taking place will also help to protect, promote and enhance the Welsh language as they can be secured through the use of appropriately worded planning conditions to ensure that priority housing should be aimed at Welsh speaking people to enshrine that the Welsh language thrives in the community.