Subject:	Better Together, in opposition
From:	"Town Clerk, Llanidloes Town Council" <clerk@llanidloestowncouncil.gov.wales>
Sent:	03/11/2026, 14:57:06
To:	clerk@llanidloestowncouncil.gov.wales
Attachments:	Letter of No Confidence.docx

Further to my email last week regarding the Powys Teaching Health Board's proposals and my council's vote of No Confidence in PTHB (attached for reference), many fellow clerks have responded with information about their councils' responses to the proposals. It has been good to hear we are largely like minded in opposing the imposition of harmful changes that we are not genuinely having a voice in developing.

Hundreds of residents walked from our town hall to our Memorial Hospital at the weekend and read a dedication to the hospital and its staff, in gratitude for 110 years of continuous care despite several attempts to close it previously.

Today, PTHB are at our community centre as part of their drop in tour, and a large number of our community are gathering to 'show them the red card'. We are planning some drop in events of our own to help residents complete the questionnaire that PTHB have released for comments. It does not appear to be designed to capture opposition to their proposals, so we will be advising residents on how to best get their opinions across within the limitations of the form.

My main reason for writing today is to ask if clerks could please let me know if they and or their councillors would value a county wide conference online at some point soon to discuss further coordinated actions? If there is enthusiasm for this I will organise something.

Many thanks

Darren Bender

Clerc y Dref /Town Clerk
Gyngor Tref Llanidloes/Llanidloes Town Council
Town Hall
Great Oak Street
Llanidloes
SY18 6BN

T: 01686 412353
E: clerk@llanidloestowncouncil.gov.wales

Office Hours: 9am-4pm. Monday to Thursday.

Cyngor Tref y Llanidloes Ymwadiad
Mae'r e-bost ac unrhyw ffeiliau a drosglwyddir gydag ef yn breifat ac wedi'u bwriadu ar gyfer defnydd yr unigolyn neu'r endid y maent yn cael sylw. Gall gynnwys gwybodaeth freintiedig. Os yw wedi eich cyrraedd trwy gamgymeriad ni ellwch ei gopio, ei ddosbarthu na'i ddangos i unrhyw un arall a dylech gysylltu gyda Cyngor Tref y Llanidloes ar unwaith. Mae unrhyw gynnwys nad yw'n ymwneud gyda busnes swyddogol Cyngor Tref y Llanidloes yn bersonol i'r awdur ac nid yw'n awdurdodedig gan y Cyngor.

Llanidloes Town Council Disclamer
This email and any files transmitted with it are private and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to which they are addressed. The content may contain privileged information. If it has reached you by mistake, you should not copy, distribute or show the content to anyone but should contact LlanidloesTown Council at once. Any content that is not pertinent to Llanidloes Town Council business is personal to the author, and is not necessarily the view of the Council.

CYNGOR TREF **LLANIDLOES** TOWN COUNCIL

Neuadd y Dref
Great Oak Street
Llanidloes
Powys
SY18 6BN
Ffôn: 01686 412353
E-bost: clerk@llanidloestowncouncil.gov.wales

Town Hall
Great Oak Street
Llanidloes
Powys
SY18 6BN
Tel. 01686 412353
Email: clerk@llanidloestowncouncil.gov.wales

For the attention of **Dr Carl Cooper, Rhiannon Beaumont-Wood, Ronnie Alexander, Steve Elliot, Mick Giannasi, Jennifer Owen-Adams, Cathie Poynton, Ian Thomas, Simon Wright, Hayley Thomas, Pete Hopgood, Mererid Bowley, Nicola Johnson, Elaine Lorton, Claire Madsen, Paul Hooton, Debra Wood-Lawson, Kate Wright, Hywel Pullen, and Helen Bushell at Powys Teaching Health Board, and Rt Hon Rhun ap Iorwerth MS, Mabon ap Gwynfor MS, Nerys Evans MS, and Delyth Jewell MS, of Welsh Government, and Alyson Thomas, Professor Medwin Hughes, Mair Gwynant, Bamidele Adenipekun, Karen Lewis, Jack Evershed and Mwoyo Makuto of LLAIS, and Future Generations Commissioner for Wales Derek Walker.**

RE: Formal Notification of a **Vote of No Confidence** in Powys Teaching Health Board regarding the *Better Together* Consultation Proposals and Process, and call for intervention

1st November 2026

I write on behalf of Llanidloes Town Council to formally communicate that this Council has passed a unanimous vote of No Confidence in the leadership, governance, and strategic direction of Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB). This decision follows the launch of the Health Board's *Better Together* consultation. This council, echoing the profound distress of the residents of Llanidloes, objects to both the deeply flawed consultation process and the catastrophic wider impact these proposals will bring to rural healthcare across Montgomeryshire and Powys.

1. Objections to the *Better Together* Proposals

The proposed removal of physical health inpatient beds from Llanidloes War Memorial Hospital, alongside similar swingeing cuts at Machynlleth and Welshpool, is both unfathomable and unacceptable. Concentrating north Powys' inpatient care exclusively into Newtown represents a dangerous centralisation of services.

By slashing community beds county-wide, the Health Board is actively designing a healthcare desert. Under these numbers, Powys will be left with just one bed for every 2,250 patients. This is in a vast rural county, almost a quarter of Wales, which lacks any general hospital or dedicated hospice facility. Removing inpatient care is, in the eyes of our community, an unacctable downgrade of Llanidloes Hospital at a time when the future suggests more care will be needed.

2. Concerns over the Consultation Process

Llanidloes Town Council has No Confidence in the legitimacy of the ongoing public consultation, which runs until January 2027. The presentation of the information appears heavily predetermined and deeply disingenuous.

While the Health Board publicly insists that no decisions have been made, previous under-the-radar decisions, such as instructing local GPs to bypass available beds in Llanidloes, demonstrate that the Board has been actively engineering service reductions.

Rather than consulting on a genuine spectrum of options that champion rural healthcare, the Health Board is forcing communities into a corner by presenting a narrow set of damaging, cost-cutting scenarios.

3. Wider Impact on Healthcare

The structural failure of these proposals will be felt far beyond our town's boundaries.

• The Domino Effect on Acute Hospitals: Stripping Llanidloes of its step-down and rehabilitative inpatient beds will severely exacerbate bed-blocking. Our local GPs and health professionals have already warned that this shifts an untenable burden onto neighboring acute hospitals, including Bronglais Hospital in Aberystwyth.

• Unviable Travel and Rural Isolation: Forcing frail, elderly, or acutely ill patients to criss-cross Powys for admission separates them from vital support networks. In an area with limited public transport infrastructure, requiring families to travel extensive distances to visit loved ones creates an unacceptable and inequitable barrier to care.

• Disregard for Professional Expertise: The Health Board has systematically ignored the vocal and expert opposition of current and former local GPs, nurses, and clinical staff who know this terrain and understand that these plans are fundamentally unsafe.

In Summary

Whilst the financial pressures facing PTHB are acknowledged, closing local beds to resolve structural deficits is short-sighted and dangerous. For too long, Powys residents have been expected to tolerate an ongoing cycle of downgrades and diminishing services.

We demand a complete halt to the *Better Together* proposals, and call upon the Welsh Government and our regional political representatives to urgently intervene, reject this managed decline, and commit to funding a resilient, safety-first model for rural healthcare.

Llanidloes Town Council stands in absolute solidarity with the many hundreds of local residents and healthcare staff who have taken to our streets. We have lost all confidence in Powys Teaching Health Board's ability to protect the health, safety, and well-being of our community.

Yours sincerely,

Town Clerk, On behalf of Llanidloes Town Council