

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
5 October 2023**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Sandra Davies
Cabinet Member for Future Generations**

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan

This Council has on several occasions expressed support for the Welsh language and the cross-party political will is clear with regard to that wish. However, whilst recently highlighting English only street signs on a new housing development in Ceri to the Planning Department the response was that they weren't responsible, even though it is a new estate supervised by the Planning Department! It was stated that it was the Highways Department that was at fault.

On questioning the Highways Department the response was it was the developer's fault and the development will be completed within the year. This was even though the development has already been completed and every house has a resident! The only conclusion one can come to is that everyone is trying to blame someone else instead of taking responsibility in the hope that the issue will be forgotten. Well, I can assure you it will not be forgotten.

In light of this, your responsibility for the Welsh language within the Council, the expectations of the Language Standards from the Commissioner, the desire of this Council and common sense. Do you agree with me that this situation is unsatisfactory and that you will try to get to the bottom of the matter to rectify the situation?

Response

From a Welsh Language Standards perspective, Powys' position is clear. All street signs should be bilingual with Welsh shown so that it is likely to be read first, i.e. to the left or above the English. We followed the Welsh Language Standards in that the street naming officer opposed an application from Ceri Community Council for street names that were in English only. We translated the English names the community council suggested.