

Tourism Levy

We all experience the difficulty with Councils in Wales, reducing services and budgets while year on year increasing council tax and costs. Our community also faces challenges in deprivation and employment, flood risk and little development – residential or industrial. In parallel we host large numbers of visitors putting pressure on traffic management, infrastructure and access to services.

There could be an opportunity to bring about change to benefit the whole community in the form of a levy on visitors which could pay for improvements.

“Wales plans to introduce a tourism levy, starting in 2027, the levy will be hypothecated, meaning funds will be designated specifically for tourism and resident related projects.”

<https://www.bangor.ac.uk/news/2024-12-04-wales-plans-a-tourism-tax-from-2027-what-it-means-for-visitors-and-communities>

RE attached letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language.

“The Visitor Accommodation (Register and levy) Etc. (Wales) Bill was introduced into the Senedd on 25th November 2024 and is now being scrutinised by the Senedd. The Bill requires Welsh Ministers to maintain a register of visitor accommodation providers and their premises in Wales.

*If the Bill passes, local authorities will be able to choose if they wish to introduce a visitor levy on overnight stays in their area following consultation with local communities and businesses **and I would encourage you to engage with Conwy Borough Council as they consider whether or not to consult on introducing a levy.***”

<https://www.gov.wales/VisitorLevy>

Such levies are passed elsewhere (including Scotland). It is possible that in our community the levy could be raised on visitors staying overnight in holiday park caravans. As I understand it the levy of £0.75 per night per visiting person and would not apply to caravan owners but could apply to those renting a van.

Reasons for supporting the levy include but are not limited to the following and a forum going forward could manage the opportunity:

- Increased CCBC rates year on year with cuts in services makes it difficult for our deprived community with many visitors.
- Flood risk reduces the probability of our community being developed to the point where S106 income could assist community projects.
- There is a case that projects like Toilets; Traffic management; Access; Place planning; medical; Sandy Cove and other unmade roads could be funded in part through the levy as this improves the visitor and resident experience.
- Projects in our place plan like Parc Hanes could be helped by the levy which also improves the resident and visitor experience (active travel, environment etc).
- The levy could help ours to be a better place to live, work and visit, improving our environment, access, facilities so better for visitors and residents.
- Revenue cases when employment may assist to improve our resident and visitor service (doctor; local bus; staff for community functions).

There will be many other applications and over time the levy could support grant funding applications as matched funds and could serve to more closely unite our resident and visitor communities.

I propose TKBTC write to CCBC in support of the levy.

Kind regards,
Cllr Barry Griffiths.

TKBTC

31 May 2025