

# could ease exodus of villagers



## Scheme to build more than 30 affordable homes revealed

A PLAN to build 32 affordable homes could help ease a chronic housing shortage in a popular village.

Cheshire based developers, Snowdon Development Ltd, want to build a mixture of two, three and four bedroom houses at Tan Y Maes, Felinheli, near the primary school on the outskirts of the village.

Because of its location near the Menai Strait the village has always been popular with buyers but the downside to that is many people born and raised in Felinheli are having to move elsewhere to find homes to rent or buy, as identified in a survey carried out by Gwynedd

By **ALEX HICKEY**

Council's affordable housing officer Aled Evans for the village's community council.

The application for this development is expected to go before the Arfon planning committee in December.

A design statement, submitted to the council for Snowdon Developments, by the Llangefni based architects Russell Hughes Cyf, reveals that the proposed site would include eight two bedrooms, 14 three bedrooms and 10 four bedroom houses, with front and back lawns giving each property "maximum living space".

Each house would also have space for

two cars and "would be ideal" for first time buyers or local people who are struggling to get on the property ladder.

The statement added: "There is a need for a fundamental change in the quality of new residential environments to make better use of the land we have available, widen access to local facilities, support community safety and create more attractive places in which to live.

"The new housing will be responsive to its environment and has been sensitively integrated into the fabric of Felinheli and integrated to the periphery of the village.

"Our client wishes to create a development of high quality and aesthetically pleasing affordable dwellings. The vari-

ety of different house sizes would create a "more balanced community", it said.

Felinheli county councillor Sian Gwenllian would not comment specifically on this application but confirmed there was a shortage of affordable accommodation in the village.

She said: "There is a need for affordable homes and local people have had to move out of the village because of this shortage.

"Even in the rental sector houses are at a premium so if more homes were built it might have a knock-on effect of freeing up terrace properties in the heart of the village, allowing families with children to move within Felinheli."

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being dug

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Wednesday this week while contractors carried out remedial work to last year's resurfacing.

Caernarfon county councillor and chamber of trade chairman Bob Anderson said he was "very disappointed" by the council's apparent penny pinching.

"I'm not happy seeing the square being dug up for remedial work, not long after the £2.4m upgrade. It's also disappointing for local businesses that the square has to be closed off while this is taking place in the run up to Christmas."

It made "no sense" to spend millions on the square's surface while doing nothing about the infrastructure underneath, he added.

The Silver Star offices on Y Maes lost brochures, paperwork and damage to its electrical equipment.

Office manager Karen White said: "The water was just pouring in to the basement and the entire floor was quickly flooded out. At its worst the carpet was underneath two inches of water."

Poundstretchers suffered minor structural damage to the basement and had to close for nearly three hours on one of its busiest mornings in the run up to Christmas.

The store's manager Elaine Davis said: "It does seem shortsighted that the council did not take up the chance to replace the water main last year."

Oriel Dafydd Hardy was flooded so badly that it will have to remain closed until February.

A Dŵr Cymru spokeswoman said: "We were alerted to a burst water main on The Maes, Caernarfon, last Saturday and a team was immediately dispatched to carry out repairs.

"When the street was redeveloped, we offered the local authority, as is common practice, the opportunity to jointly fund the installation of a new water main but the offer was declined at that time."

A council spokesman blamed Dŵr Cymru for not making the offer to replace the water main quickly enough.

"Unfortunately Dŵr Cymru did not act upon this information within the available timescale and the opportunity to install a new water main was lost."

Delay to the construction work would have resulted in "significant additional costs" to the council but as much upgrading of utilities as was possible did take place, he added.

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## Llanllyfni fashion show

TRENDY volunteers will be strutting their stuff on the catwalk later this week to raise money for a local good cause.

A special fashion show will be held at the Llanllyfni Memorial Hall on Saturday, November 28 to raise money for the village's under 16s football team.

Local models will be striking a pose in a selection of styles provided by Caernarfon based Edge clothing during the event.

Tickets cost £5 for adults and £2.50 for children with a glass of bubbly and a mince pie included in the ticket price.

There will also be a discounted bar open, as well as tea and coffee available on the night.

The event starts at 7pm.

## Protestor jailed over action

A WELSH language campaigner has been sent to prison for a month after a hearing at Caernarfon magistrates on November 25.

In April 2008, Osian Jones, from Dyffryn Nantlle, protested against big retailers in north Wales, including Boots and Superdrug, over their lack of basic services for customers in Welsh by spray painting slogans on the stores.

The action was part of the Welsh Language Society's campaign for a change in the private sector's treatment of the Welsh language.

They are calling for a new language act to covering these retailers, in order for the language to be promoted and normalised in everyday life.

Cymdeithas yr Iaith have sent a letter to Superdrug and Boots asking for their reaction to M R Jones's imprisonment.

