

Local politicians welcome Big Weekend

Showing that Gwynedd is a great place to live and work.

The news that Gwynedd Council has been successful in its bid to draw Radio One's Big Weekend to the Faenol near Bangor has been welcomed by local Plaid Cymru politicians.

"It's great that young people (and the not so young !) will be able to enjoy an event on this scale on our door step," said Councillor Sian Gwennlian, who represents the nearest village, Y Felinheli.

"It's understood that the majority of the 40,000 free tickets will go to local people.

"This is much more than a live broadcast that will be heard throughout the world - it's also an event with lots of fringe activities and we can put a unique Welsh stamp on it and I hope Welsh bands will be prominent.

"I'm sure Gwynedd Council will take full advantage to promote the job opportunities available throughout the county and to remind us all that Gwynedd is a good place to work and live."

Boost to the economy

"This will be a huge pre-season economic boost to the area and an opportunity to raise the profile of Gwynedd to a very wide audience," said Plaid Councillor John Wyn Williams who's ward includes the Faenol estate.

"For example, we understand that over the coming months up to 200 Radio One staff will visit the area on a regular basis - they will all need places to stay and eat.

"There are other benefits - dozens of journalists from across the world will be writing about the area as international stars visit Gwynedd.

"There will be opportunities for local people to work preparing the site and in catering and Gwynedd Council will use the event to promote job opportunities in the area

Hard work of officers

"Gwynedd Council, and the Economic Development Officers in particular, are to be praised for all the hard work that has gone into attracting this huge event to the Faenol," said Sian.

"The area is well known for holding all sorts of major events and we are experienced in pulling all the agencies - police, firefighters, council - together to lay-on events such as Bryn Terfel's Faenol Festival,

the 2005 Nationla Eisteddfod , the Snowdon Marathon and other major events," said John Wyn Williams.

"We are confident that the Faenol Estate will be a fitting stage for the Big Weekend,"said Dyfed Edwards, Plaid Leader of Gwynedd Council.

"Hosting such an event is an exciting opportunity for us to show the wider world what makes the area such a special place."

A reminder of the past

Councillor Sian Gwennlian said : "The Faenol used to be owned by the owners of the huge Dinorwig quarry that made its fortune on the backs of the area's poor quarrymen. Seven miles of wall to keep local people out. It's amazing to think that 40,000 of us will be able to enjoy ourselves there in May!"