

Date: Friday 2 February 2001

Time: 10.30am to 1.00pm

Venue: Gwernyfed School, Three Cocks

Ceredigion in Statistics

Is a small, rural, agricultural, sparsely populated county.

Population 70,500

- this represents a sustained overall growth in population over the past 20 years
- it hides the fact that there is a net migration of young people from the county, masked by the presence of two university towns, and the in-migration of older people.
- 1.3% of the population is of non-white ethnic origin, but again, university students account for a large proportion of this figure.

Population Centres

- Aberystwyth in the north, a University town and regional centre is by far the largest centre of population
- Cardigan in the South and Lampeter which is another University town together with Aberystwyth are the three towns with populations above 2,000
- Aberaeron, Llandysul and Tregaron are the remaining three key market towns, and these six towns house the county's secondary schools.

Employment

- 48% of VAT based enterprises in the county are of an agricultural nature

- Local government/ education account for a greater part of what is left.

The Welsh Language

- 64% of the population is Welsh speaking, and the County is one of the Welsh language heart-lands.

Young People

- there are 9,011 persons aged in the 5-15 age category,
- of these 4,975 receive Secondary Education in the County.
- there are 42,733 persons aged in the 16 – 59 age category

Schools

- The LEA has a language policy aimed at making children bi-lingual by the time they leave primary school.
- 68 of the county's 76 Primary schools are schools in which Welsh is the main medium in the life and work of the school
- Of the 76 primary schools many are very small and are scattered throughout the rural communities.
- Secondary schools achieve high standards of performance in formal examinations having been top of the Welsh league tables at GCSE O level and A level every year since the inception of these tables.

Rural Inaccessibility

- Transport is one of the big issues in the county - the accessibility of services to those stranded with no transport, in this case, young people.
- This is a factor which multiplies significantly the disadvantage of any other disability.

