



Dŵr Cymru
Welsh Water

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Press Release

Welsh Water buys Lisvane and Llanishen reservoirs

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water has confirmed that it has acquired two high profile reservoirs, Lisvane and Llanishen, in Cardiff.

The company, which provides water and sewerage services to over three million people across much of Wales, Deeside and Herefordshire, has secured the 999 year lease for Lisvane and Llanishen reservoirs and the surrounding land from CELSA UK. The international steel company bought the site and reservoirs from Western Power Distribution in 2013.

This acquisition will enable Welsh Water to strengthen its drinking water resources in the Cardiff area whilst also enabling the company to help any future economic growth and development in the capital city. The lease, whilst allowing Welsh Water to use both reservoirs for water supply and recreational purposes, will also enable CELSA UK to continue to take its water supply from Lisvane reservoir.

This latest investment follows Welsh Water recently publishing its half year results which confirm that the company is on track to deliver some £300 million of investment in its services across the area it serves in the 12 months to April 2016. Without any shareholders, Welsh Water remains unique in the UK's utility sector and ensures that any profit is reinvested directly into the company for the sole benefit of its customers by reducing bills, accelerating investment and providing social tariffs to help low income families. Welsh Water is the only water and sewerage company in England and Wales that is on track to deliver a decade of below RPI inflation price increases by 2020, whilst also helping some 50,000 customers who struggle to pay their bills.

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water Chief Executive, Chris Jones, said: "We provide the most essential of public services and so it is important that the decisions we make benefit our customers now and long into the future. By acquiring the long term lease of Lisvane and Llanishen reservoirs, we can strengthen the resilience of the services we provide whilst also playing a key part in safeguarding what is a much valued asset for us and the local community. We have been working closely with CELSA UK to secure this agreement, which offers a truly sustainable solution for the site, its recreational users and local residents."

Luis Sanz, Managing Director of CELSA UK, said: “CELSA is one of the biggest recycling companies in the UK and Welsh Water share our commitment to maintaining the highest environmental standards for the site. The reservoir has always supplied our plant and this announcement means we can continue to use the water at the same time as creating the best solution for the community.

“I want to thank everyone who has helped us reach this point. This would not have been possible without everyone working together to find the best solution. We take our responsibility to the local community, and as a Welsh anchor business, extremely seriously. Ensuring that the high environmental standards that run throughout all our work are shared by Welsh Water has been very important to us.”

Carl Sargeant AM, Minister for Natural Resources said: “I am pleased that the long term future of this site has been secured after many years of uncertainty for local residents. I hope the acquisition of these assets by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water will in time deliver benefits for the environment, economy, the local community and surrounding areas.”

Richard Cowie, Chairman of the Reservoir Action Group said: “The Group is absolutely delighted to hear that Llanishen and Lisvane reservoirs have been acquired by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water. We look forward to working with Welsh Water so that the site can eventually reopen for public access and this much loved Cardiff beauty spot can be enjoyed once again”.

Craig Williams, Member of Parliament for Cardiff North said: “Today’s announcement that Welsh Water has taken a long lease on Lisvane and Llanishen reservoirs and that there is potential for recreational activities is very welcome. Residents across Cardiff are aware of the importance of both reservoirs and have campaigned long and hard to protect them from housing development. Much of that work has been carried out by the Reservoir Action Group and this news is tribute to their efforts. I hope that this news will lead to the eventual refilling of Llanishen reservoir.”

Julie Morgan, Assembly Member for Cardiff North said: “I am absolutely delighted Welsh Water have acquired Lisvane and Llanishen Reservoirs and I would like to thank CELSA and Welsh Water for reaching this arrangement. I have been campaigning for over 12 years to keep this much loved area free from development and for the reservoirs and the surrounding land to be used for water supply and recreational activities. I would also like to pay tribute to RAG (Reservoir Action Group) for their tireless campaigning over many years.”

Notes to Editor

- Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water serves most of Wales, Deeside and Herefordshire. It is one of 10 water and sewerage companies in England and Wales and is the sixth largest. Unlike other water companies, it does not have any shareholders.
- Since 2001, it has been owned by Glas Cymru which was formed in April 2001 for the sole purpose of acquiring and owning Welsh Water.
- It is a ‘company limited by guarantee’ and our business model is unique in the water industry. It has no shareholders which means that all financial surpluses are reinvested in the business for the benefit of customers.
- Glas Cymru’s constitution strictly limits its purpose to that of financing water assets in Welsh Water’s area of appointment and managing Welsh Water’s business so that high quality water and wastewater services are delivered at least cost to the communities served by Welsh Water.

- As part of our £26 billion network of assets, we operate and maintain 27,500km of water mains, more than 30,000km of sewers, 838 sewage treatment works and 66 impounding reservoirs.

End

Further Information: Contact Welsh Water Press Office: 01443 452 452 or press@dwrcymru.com