

Emlyn Thomas, Conway Councillor

I represent a rural ward where there is a large proportion of pensioners, elderly and infirm people. Some of them do not have residential telephones and the only way they have of keeping in touch is by the local call box. Those boxes in remote rural areas may not be economically sustainable but they provide a lifeline for people and should be retained.

The Department of Employment seems determined to close Job Centres in rural areas, and are planning to close the one in Llanrwst. They suggest that for benefits etc claimants can telephone the nearest office in Llandudno.

Claimants are unlikely to have access to a residential telephone or own a mobile phone, and will be severely discriminated against if Call Boxes are also closed indiscriminately.

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