

Cydweithio i gael y gorau o'r ystad gyhoeddus
Working together to make the best use of the public estate



Edition 6



Welcome to your Spring Newsletter 2022

The Annual Ystadau
Cymru Awards are back!
see page 4

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Chair's Introduction



Welcome to issue 6 of the Ystadau Cymru newsletter.

I appreciate that you are making time out of your busy schedule to read this new issue. Indeed, the competing pressures for our time show no signs of relenting.

Wales, as a proud nation of sanctuary, is facing the pressures of the human cost of the invasion of the Ukraine, with refugees seeking new homes in our country. For those of us in the public and third sector, this follows on from COVID and the near heroic efforts of all in the public sector estate and asset managers in collaborating to deliver the best for the people of Wales. All of which had and continues to have an effect to deliver the “day job”. But the climate change crisis means that the day job needs to be re-focused with laser precision to implement the zero-carbon future that our children and grandchildren deserve.

The Welsh Government Cabinet and the leadership teams in each of our councils are looking for improvements in the way we use our buildings to deliver our services to the people of Wales. Through collaboration, collation of data and clear decision making, we must identify what the Welsh public estate looks like in 2025 and 2030 and what improvements are needed to improve energy use, promote biodiversity and promote renewable energy on our buildings. We also need to acknowledge that this will result in surplus buildings which can be transferred to other public sector, the third sector or repurposed for sale to the private sector, or a varied partnership-based combination of these options.

With new build buildings and net zero in mind, we will need to carefully plan how we design, build and locate the buildings to best deliver services in the most sustainable way. This includes making buildings more accessible in every way possible and ensuring that public transport links are world class. The Welsh Government's published route has set out a strategic overview and key milestones for achieving net zero goals **Net zero carbon status by 2030: A route map for decarbonisation across the Welsh public sector (gov.wales)**.

The Ystadau Cymru Board recently received a presentation of the work started in North Wales on decarbonisation of the public sector estate to enable our shared vision of a better future; work will no doubt begin in other regions of Wales thanks to the funding secured from our Welsh Government Minister, Rebecca Evans MS. You can expect to read more about this work not just in this newsletter, but also in future newsletters.

I'll end this issue's introduction by highlighting a project close to home, in the Maindee area of Newport. An active community group, Maindee Unlimited, has taken on long leases of buildings owned by Newport City Council and is using these assets as a focus for regenerating the local area. I hope their experiences will encourage other communities to think what their area needs and how they can best deliver it through the imaginative use of existing assets.

Announcements



The Annual Ystadau Cymru Awards are back!

Our annual Ystadau Cymru Awards are a celebration of successful collaborative asset management across the Welsh public sector and this year we have launched our Awards early to allow more time for entrants to nominate their project.
Ystadau Cymru Awards 2022 | GOV.WALES

Our Ystadau Cymru Awards 2022 launched on 8 June 2022.

All you need to do is tell us about your successful collaborative projects that have taken place across the Welsh public sector estate ... **no matter how big or small.**

Closing date for entries – 5pm on 16th September 2022

The categories for 2022 nominations are:

- Creating Economic Growth --
- Demonstrating Environmental Responsibility --
- Delivering Social Value --
- Delivering Innovation --

Take a look at last year's winners, to get a real feel for the amazing work that has already been done:

Ystadau Cymru newsletter: edition 5 | GOV.WALES

Cylchlythyr Ystadau Cymru: rhifyn 5 | LLYW.CYMRU

Could you be one of our 2022 Ystadau Cymru Award winners?

Launch of the Assets Collaboration Programme Wales Phase 3 - (ACPW3)

The Welsh Government Assets Collaboration Programme Wales grant scheme will soon re launch in its third phase.

Entitled ACPW3, the grant scheme will encourage public sector collaboration that supports key priority areas of work:

- Provide effective, high quality and sustainable healthcare
- Embedding our response to the climate and nature emergency
- Reducing educational inequalities
- Building a Stronger Greener Economy as we make progress towards decarbonisation
- Reducing inequality
- Make our cities, towns and villages even better places in which to live and work

With the key priority areas of work in mind particular focus will be required on:

- Improving the sustainability of the public estate in Wales; and
- Removing the barriers to collaboration

Projects that contribute to the following will be particularly welcome:

- Decarbonisation of buildings and other public assets
- Improving biodiversity using public assets
- Improving environmental sustainability using public assets
- Generating or supporting economic growth or resilience using public assets
- Creating social value using public assets
- Innovation using public assets

Look out for the ACPW3 launch and grant Guidance for Applicants.
For any queries please contact the YstadauCymru@gov.wales mailbox.



Feature stories



What is the new Tree Mapping function on Datamap Wales, I hear you say?

With the Welsh Government's deep dive into identifying areas across Wales for woodland creation, the Ystadau Cymru secretariat hosted a demonstration from Datamap Wales and National Forest who introduced us to the new tree mapping function available to all public sector bodies.

National Forest explained how the new datamaps function depicts a set of story maps across our regions, showing how a national forest can work across Wales.

Datamaps showed us the layer base maps to help build a picture of tree locations and the various functions to help raise surveys on tree planting. The link to where we should grow our national forest is below:

<https://datamap.gov.wales/survey/2/>

Datamaps also gave us a user demonstration on the functions. Showing us tree scopes across Wales, sample maps where the user can visualise the data and interact with maps across Local authorities, Natural Recourses Wales areas and Local health board areas as examples.

The demo showed us tree canopy coverage, types of trees that are planted and coppice trees, including areas where trees can be planted based on air quality. The demo also included community woodland space, how this can be accessed, carbon tree planting areas, connective tree visuals, ancient woodland and inventory valuable for biodiversity. The maps also show links to cycle paths, transport links and rivers.

It was inspiring and exciting to see how we can potentially contribute to the creation of a more expansive woodland across Wales.

For more information please see below:

A link to tools and data to visualise the possible national forest space:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/db09bcb722174bfeab27510b565ed2ba>

A link to data map Wales

<https://datamap.gov.wales/>



You've heard of the Bermuda Triangle, but have you heard of the Maindee Triangle?

To start off our series on Community Asset Transfer's across Wales, we look at the community group Maindee Unlimited and their work in progress, in transforming a disused toilet block into a community café, outdoor space and yes, public toilets in Newport, South Wales.

This follows a successful community asset transfer from Newport City Council of Maindee Library in September 2017. After the local toilets, located between Chepstow Road and Livingstone Place, had been closed in 2017, they had fallen into disrepair.

Maindee Unlimited negotiated the transfer of the disused local toilets in March 2021, securing planning permission to redevelop the site and funding from Welsh Government's community facilities programmes and other funding from the National Lottery and Natural Resources Wales. The community café facility is expected to open in summer 2022, allowing locals the chance to spend more than just a penny in their own community and encourage more local shopping.

The project has had positive coverage in the South Wales Argus and Wales Online. More details on Maindee Unlimited can be found at their website [Home | Building a New Maindee Together | Maindee.org](#)

Have a Community Asset Transfer you have been involved with and want to share the good practice?

Get in touch at ystadaucymru@gov.wales and we may feature it in an upcoming issue of the Newsletter.

For information on best practice in Community Asset Transfer visit: [Community Asset Transfer \(CAT\): guidance for applicants | GOV.WALES](#)

Our soil, taken for granted?



Amanda Mark is a member of the Ystadau Cymru Secretariat team and recently attended a Nature wise course on Biodiversity. Amanda was keen to write a personal account of what she took from this course.

I recently attended a Nature wise course on Biodiversity and it really made me stop and think. I wasn't aware of the scale and scope of biodiversity especially when it comes to soil, we really take this for granted and it has a major impact on our planet !

During the course we were shown pictures of a river basin landscape complete with mountains and we were asked to consider the different parts that make it into an ecosystem. A simple way to describe an ecosystem is below.

- The animals and plants in a given area, and the relationships between them and the non-living parts of the area such as rocks, soils and climate.

We were then set a small task to complete in our own time.

- To observe a habitat, relationship or ecosystem near to you and capture this in a drawing, photo or some other means to show and discuss tomorrow.

Whilst admiring the view of these snowdrops in the picture below, I thought about the ground underneath that enables them to grow, we do not see or fully appreciate the soil and insects that make this ecosystem work.



In my curiosity I found out:

- Soils doesn't form overnight, it mostly forms over thousands of years.
- This living layer of our world is something we do not appreciate, but we expect it to provide us with all food we need.
- A single teaspoon of soil contains thousands of species.
- Every year erosion washes millions of tonnes of soil into land and rivers.

Here is a link to more information on soil biodiversity, which you might find interesting, I know I did!

ENV-09-038_soil-biodiversity-brochure-EN.indd (europa.eu)

Many of us did not learn about ecosystems and climate during our years in education. This course gives time and space to enable us to learn more about our world in a scientific way. I enclose the link to the Nature Wise course, I would really recommend it and believe it will really open your eyes if you are not aware of this expansive topic.

Nature Wise – Cynnal Cymru – Sustain Wales

Ventilation in Buildings

As we emerge from the height of the pandemic and people return to the workplace, there is a continuing responsibility on asset managers to ensure public buildings are properly and well ventilated. Evidence suggests the spread of COVID -19 and other airborne viruses is higher in areas of poor ventilation, so there is a need for us to adapt and change.

Here are some useful links regarding this topic.

New campaign to 'Stop COVID-19 hanging around' - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Ventilation in the workplace (hse.gov.uk)



Case Study

Energy Efficiency on the Welsh Government Administrative Estate:

The Story So Far for Welsh Government...

Our journey towards creating a more efficient estate started in 2003 when we received our first Environmental Management System (EMS) accreditation. Since then, we have embraced the challenge to embed sustainability into our business practices. With the development of an intelligent Building Management System, we have been able to provide a pleasant working environment for staff with a substantial decrease in energy consumption. Between 2010/11 and 2021/22 we have achieved an impressive 76% energy related carbon reduction.

Working in close partnership with our Hard Facilities Management (HFM) contractor, we undertook a comprehensive review of existing procedures and developed and implemented a bespoke carbon reduction plan in connection with our Sustainability Strategy.

We have achieved substantial energy efficiencies by taking a **two-pronged approach to energy management**. At our older, more established offices we decided to optimise the systems that were already in place. We have corrected problematic and wasteful processes by re-designing energy intensive areas such as air conditioning, domestic hot water systems and chiller usage. The second approach relates to the **new construction** or large-scale refurbishment of our offices on the estate. In line with the European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and BREAAAM, we investigated and **integrated low carbon solutions at the design stage**.

The combination of both methodologies has reinforced that simplicity of design combined with best industry practice can produce the highest building performance. Specific actions have included:

Embedding an energy engineering function into our HFM contract.

Regular, in-depth energy audits undertaken by experts.

Re-design of the Building Energy Management System which incorporates local energy targets.

Installation of biomass heat systems at 3 sites.

Roll-out of smart metering at all offices.

Creation of a bespoke temperature policy

Rigorous monitoring of energy usage, assisted by an online energy management platform.

Pipework, flange and valve insulation.

Installation of photovoltaic panels at various sites.

Roll-out of intelligent LED lighting systems with daylight dimming and presence detection

We are very proud of our achievements so far but understand that our journey must continue as new challenges present themselves. In the past few years we, like everyone across the globe, have had to **navigate extreme weather** events, leading to the substantial flooding of two main offices, along with the **Covid** pandemic.

These unprecedented circumstances will shape and in many ways, accelerate the actions we take going forward. **Achieving Net Zero carbon by 2030** is not going to be easy but we will continue to aim high and will work in **partnership** with our stakeholders.

We will utilise **innovative technologies** where possible and investigate potential efficiencies relating not just to energy usage but those connected to water and waste management, biodiversity and supply chain.

Carbon Management

across the Welsh Government Administrative Estate



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Estate Wide

- Increasing building energy efficiency via capital projects and optimisation
- Internet based metering, monitoring and targeting
- Pipework, flange and valve insulation
- Revised Building Temperature Policy
- Instantaneous electrically heated taps
- Waterless urinals at various sites
- Frequent building surveys



Rhodfa Padarn, Aberystwyth,

- District heating system utilising biomass boiler
- Free cooling from automatic windows
- Mechanical fresh air cooling of server rooms
- Car park solar PV array



Picton Terrace, Carmarthen

- Refurbishment designed for energy efficiency
- Roof mounted Solar PV array



Llys-Y-Ddraig, Swansea

- Roof refurbishment
- Building management system optimisation



Tŷ'r Afon, Bedwas

- Upgraded ventilation and cooling system



Sarn Mynach, Llandudno Junction

- Biomass boiler
- Zone valves for heating system
- Pond water free cooling
- Free cooling from automatic windows
- Mechanical fresh air cooling of server rooms



Rhyd-y-car, Merthyr Tydfil

- Biomass boiler installed
- Air quality monitors and inverter motors for fresh air supply
- LED lighting in stairwells and toilets



Cathays Park, Cardiff

- Re-engineering of heating system
- Building management system upgrade
- Car park ventilation based on CO₂ monitoring
- Night time lighting reduction



Clare's Corner



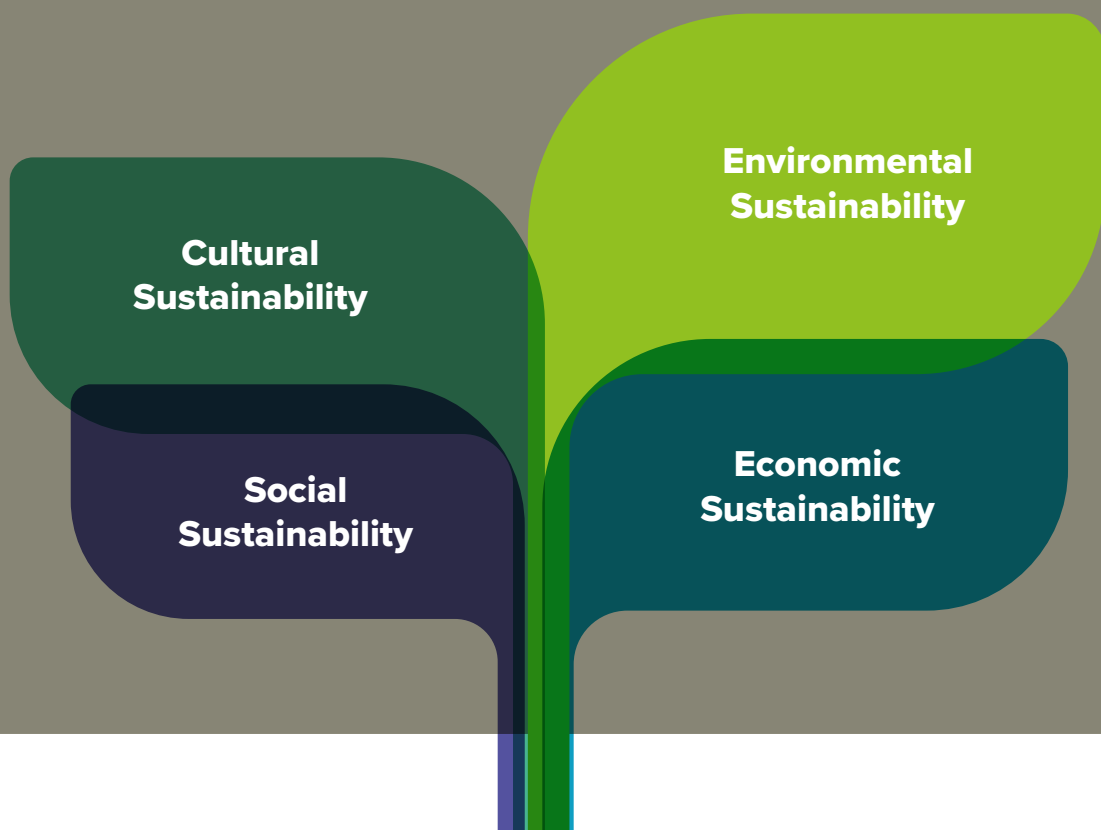
We would like to introduce you to Clare Philips, our new Ystatadu Cymru Secretariat Sustainability Manager. Clare brings with her a breadth of experience in sustainability and asset management and will have a regular spot in our quarterly newsletter.

In this edition...

Growing a Sustainable Organisation: The Pillars of Sustainable Development

Creating and maintaining a sustainable organisation can be a difficult balancing act as competing priorities are set against each other in a fight for recognition. By **embedding the key principles of sustainable development**, we can start to align priorities and not only protect the natural environment but implement more efficient businesses practices that are beneficial for staff, the local community and the nation as a whole. Growing from the concept that development and environment should be inseparable,

the **three pillars of sustainability** include environmental, social and economic dimensions. By balancing these aspects we start to formulate a vision of sustainable development, but do they go far enough?! **The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** states that sustainable development is 'the process of improving the **economic, social, environmental and cultural** wellbeing of Wales'. **So how do we define these aspects and how are they put into practice?**



Cultural Sustainability

Refers to the integration of culture into all policy work. The embodiment of a cultural dimension has the power to create policies that are **more inclusive and people-centred, whilst creating new jobs, enhancing skills and fostering positive behaviours that benefit the natural environment**. UNESCO have created a framework of goals that can protect and promote the diversity of expression, **key indicators include:**

Develop policies that support the development of **dynamic** cultural and creative sectors such as digital enterprises and diverse media outlets

- Create policies and operational programmes that support the **mobility** of cultural professionals and artists
- Support balanced international **flows** of cultural goods & services and equity in the distribution and **access** of cultural resources
- Promote and protect **freedoms of cultural expression and participation**

(Source: **Reshaping policies for creativity: addressing culture as a global public good - UNESCO Digital Library**)

Social Sustainability

Is classified by the UN as '**identifying and managing business impacts, both positive and negative, on people, with a view ...to ensuring all business processes benefit society and protect people**'. Evidence shows that lack of social development (poverty, inequality and weak law making) can hamper business operations and growth in a major way so achieving social sustainability can be a major benefit. **Positive outcomes** can include: Attracting and retaining business partners; innovative product development; increased staff morale; reduction in workplace risk and improvement in local community engagement.

Actions to develop social sustainability include areas such as:

- Protecting human rights and providing **equal opportunities** for all.
- Creating fulfilling jobs that are paid at **living wage levels**.
- Developing more **inclusive supply chains** that add value to procurement processes by favouring goods and services with **enhanced community benefits**.
- Partnering with other organisations and community groups to **advocate positive change**.

(Source: **Social Sustainability | UN Global Compact**)

Economic Sustainability

Is defined by the principle that we must **reject wasteful short-sighted processes and implement actions that protect the planet's long-term well-being**. By creating organisational practices and policies that enable economic growth without damaging the natural environment, we can preserve human life, ensure longevity of economic activity and unlock undiscovered natural potential in the future. **How can economic sustainability be achieved?** Here are some examples:

- Development of **less waste full systems** - more sustainable, less intensive land use and supply chains.
- Prioritising low-impact economic growth – investing in the 'green' economy
- Switching to renewable energy sources

(Source: **Economic Growth - United Nations Sustainable Development**)

Environmental Sustainability

Promotes the **responsible use of natural resources** by conserving natural capital and protecting global ecosystems for future generations. The guiding principles are:

- Develop **renewable sources** to replace current non-renewable energy
- Ensure waste generation (pollution) **doesn't exceed** the assimilative capacity of the environment
- Ensure rates of **natural regeneration** can support the rate of harvest

The World Health Organisation reported that in 2016, **24% of deaths worldwide** were due to modifiable environmental risks. Environmental sustainability is therefore intrinsically linked to our quality of life and mental well-being. So what actions can we take? See some examples below:

- Using less disposable products and buying goods that contain high levels of recycled materials
- Reducing energy and water usage and limiting food waste
- Buying locally produced goods from companies that promote sustainable processes
- Procuring renewable energy and/or installing renewable technologies
- Protecting natural habitats and enhancing biodiversity where possible

(Further information: **Policies and strategies | UNEP - UN Environment Programme**)

It is clear that all four aspects are required to truly reach our sustainability goals.

The economy has been in the forefront for a long time with the key objective being profits over people and planet.

Isn't it time we rebalanced our priorities and gave environmental, social and cultural sustainability time to thrive?!

Training and interesting links

Sustainability

A Sustainability Training Directory has been created and circulated to Ystadau Cymru members. The directory highlights some of the best training available in Wales and by chartered institutions, covering a variety of subject areas including biodiversity, energy management and procurement. Some key organisations are listed and linked below.

- Energy Institute
- Chartered Institute of Waste Management
- Wales Biodiversity Partnership
- Supply Chain Sustainability School
- Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment

If you would like a full copy of our Training Directory, please contact the YstadauCymru@gov.wales mailbox.

Asbestos

HSE

Guidance on your duty to manage Asbestos in buildings

HSE - Asbestos safety link for Awareness

www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/duty.htm

FAAM

The Faculty of Asbestos Assessment and Management (FAAM) the home for practitioners who manage and assess asbestos

www.bohs.org/membership/for-individuals/working-professional/faam-membership/

Biodiversity

The Wales Biodiversity Partnership

Take a look at the Wales Biodiversity Partnership webpage, for their work, actions and objectives, including biodiversity events and news

Wales Biodiversity Partnership - Home (biodiversitywales.org.uk)

The Wales Biodiversity conference will be held in autumn 2022

www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Conference

If you would like to subscribe to our Newsletter, have any suggested topics for our next edition or would like to be considered as a feature story please contact YstadauCymru@gov.wales