

National Development Framework: Easy Read questionnaire

Part A – the main points of the NDF

Q1. 1. Do you think we are aiming to do the right things with our plan?

Yes

Comments:

Generally I support your aims, however I disagree with the way you intend achieving those aims. The main problem is that there is insufficient flexibility to cater for the diverse needs of the communities within the geography of Wales. Aim 1 " a place where people are connected and feel included" I'm concerned about Mid Wales, according to the plan, a place with no connectivity to North or South Wales. Aim 3 " where people have the same chances wherever they live", how can this be true when the plan focuses growth on areas a world away. A region has definable characteristics, geographically, socially and historically. Montgomeryshire has no connectivity in any way with the Swansea region. I'd guess that 90% of residents had never been to the Swansea region, there's not even a direct road network linking communities. I note that improved links are to be encouraged between N Wales and Liverpool, Chester and Manchester. However there is no mention of improved links between Mid Wales and Liverpool, Chester, Birmingham, Hereford etc. Has nobody noticed the congestion on the A5 between Oswestry and Chester, or even looked at the impact that has on A483, the artery to Mid Wales? There are too many conflicts between the aims and the impacts on the local environments of Mid Wales.

Q2. 2. We have 10 aims in the NDF. Should we think about anything else? Tell us anything we've missed out

Not sure

Q3. 3. Do you think the Plan will help achieve healthy and well-planned places?

No

Comments:

Yes if you live in the cities and regional growth centres of NE Wales, Swansea region and Cardiff region. No if you live elsewhere. Powys and Ceredigion should be treated as a region, since their needs and characteristics are completely different from the region they are forced into. Powys has closer links and connectivity to England, and that should be developed to fulfil the aims. There are already too many cases of Mid Wales residents having to go to Cardiff for health care, away from family and friends instead of being treated close to home over the border.

Q4. 4. Do you think the plan will help us take care of our environment?

Comments:

The impacts of the renewable policy conflicts totally with the aims of the plan, in desecrating the local environment for the benefit of the cities. Whilst I support the need to tackle climate change, the policies should not be in conflict with the environment. I support the use of renewables...in the right place. Energy is needed in urban areas. Energy is lost in transit, so should be generated as close to need as possible. P36 " large scale on shore wind and solar development in these areas (Mid Wales), there is an acceptance of landscape change". This is in conflict with the plan. There is a fragile rural economy, where agriculture and tourism are entwined. There is an acceptance on P28 of the importance of tourism and the major role it has in the economy. Proportionately tourism adds greater value to the rural than urban economy. Wind and solar developments that create landscape change make a mockery of those aims. We are told that "growth is based on what people who live there need and want", Mid Wales wants to grow, but doesn't want that growth and environment harmed to the detriment of the local economy and further depopulation. Any renewable policy must be flexible and appropriate. The plan must remove strategic wind and solar development areas and seek to generate clean energy more strategically close to need in a less intrusive way, that has less harm to the environment. In the Pentland Firth, between Orkney and the Scottish mainland a wave powered Hydro turbine will generate energy for 1000s of homes. All new buildings, homes, factories, warehouses, and farm buildings need to have solar panels built into building regulations. In Germany there are solar walkways and cycle paths, in Japan there are already solar carparks. The plan talks about the growth in electric cars, but no linkage between car and powering. Urban areas should have solar carparks, so that the car is charged while folk are at work, At the Powys Local Plan enquiry, we were told by Formula E car team, about cars moving over solar pads, and remotely taking energy. The way forward is to have solar hoardings along side roads and plan for solar hard shoulders and laybys. HEP is under utilised and tidal seems totally neglected, as is off shore wind. Why can't Wales do a "Dogger Bank ", in the Bristol Channel where depths are less than 50m. Why has the off shore wind off the North Wales coast been accredited to Wales? Why should Wales' rural landscapes be less worthy than those of England? Do Welsh folk not care as much, or is it that the landscapes of Mid Wales are more remote from the eyes of the urban masses on the coasts!! All this hints at different standards and expectations, and is at odds with the planned aims. Mid Wales landscapes should be protected and the plan needs to be more clever and even handed in developing renewables. The rural landscape supports 1000s of businesses that depend on the scenery for their existence. In these rural areas there are few choices, these proposals will take those away, by frightening off the tourists who provide the lifelines to the rural economy. There is no reference to accessing the power. Such development on a large scale will require National Grid connections that will further impact the environment, and be in conflict with community wishes. It is outrageous that power is to be taken from local councils, and unacceptable that decisions will be made by Welsh Govt often against the wishes of the local communities. Why have AIM 1 " where people are connected and feel included", when this policy blatantly says the opposite? The best policies "should work with us, for us".

Part B – different parts of Wales

Q5. 5. Do you agree with our plans for North Wales?

Comments:

No Comment

Q6. 6. Do you agree with our plans for Mid and South West Wales?

No

Comments:

Mid Wales, Powys and Ceredigion should be treated as the 4th region of Wales.

Q7. 7. Do you agree with our plans for South East Wales?

Comments:

No comment

Part C

Q8. 8. Do you have any other comments you would like to make about this plan?

The plan is about connectivity and networks. The Mid and West Wales maps show no connectivity. Connectivity is built by networks over time. The roads don't even join up! Montgomeryshire people have never had links to Swansea! all valleys lead east, and the hills are in the way! Networks to England are to be encouraged in the North Wales region, but not from Mid Wales to the NW of England or Midlands. Networks are built on historical movements, and these need to be built on. Improved internet and mobile phone networks must exist everywhere, in order to generate the rural enterprise economy. Rural depopulation has been a problem for generations. In the past its been down to lack of, and diversity employment opportunity, however, now in the digital age this should be less of a problem. Why is Higher Education still centred on the university towns, with no satellites in rural growth areas? The Faroe Islands seem to have done a good job in keeping their young, particularly young women on the Islands. traditionally they lost their young to higher education in Denmark, never to return, however under devolution, they have set up community based university courses, that allows young to stay, helping the rise in population. Its worth a look! Such links and growth areas could exist between the University of Aberystwyth, or any Midlands University and Newtown or Welshpool. In these vast rural areas, a hierarchy of hubs should be developed to cater to community needs. Welshpool deserves to be a growth hub town in its own right, while others could be lesser hubs. If this is not tackled, towns like Machynlleth, Llanidloes, Knighton, Llanfyllin will be deprived even faster.

Submit your response

Q9. You are about to submit your response. Please ensure you are satisfied with the answers you have provided before sending.

Name ROBERT DELWYN ELLIS

Where are you from?

[REDACTED]

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Q10. If you want to receive a receipt of your response, please provide an email address.
Email address

[REDACTED]

Q11. Responses to consultations may be made public. To keep your response anonymous (including email addresses) tick the box.

No Response