

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



Edition 5

Welcome to your first Ystadau Cymru Newsletter of 2022

It has been an exciting time as the new Programme for Government takes shape, our appointment of a new YC Chair, Beverly Owen, and the YC Awards continue to reach further into the regions.

--- YC Newsflash ---



Innovation Award & Ystadau Cymru Overall Award 2021 goes to...

Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Town Council

Winners of the YC Innovation Award and Overall winners 2021, exemplifying the growing Circular Economy in mid Wales. See spotlight feature later in this Newsletter.

Contents

Update from Beverly Owen	3
YC Conference 2021	4
Ystadau Cymru Category Winners 2021	5
Overall Ystadau Cymru Award Winner 2021 – Newtown as a Pioneer Reuse & Repair Economy	6
Decarbonisation of Public Sector Estate gathers pace	7
Digital Infrastructure Barrier Busting Taskforce – Public Assets Working Group	7
Useful Information	8

Update from Beverly Owen



It is my pleasure to introduce the first Ystadau Cymru newsletter of 2022, and my first as Chair for Ystadau Cymru. It has been a very interesting time for me to join and I look forward to facing the challenges ahead to all of us in public service.

With Ystadau Cymru's continuing support from our sponsoring Minister— Rebecca Evans MS, our budget will give us a strong foundation for continuing our work.

Our initial priorities for 2022 are:

- determining what our public estate will look like in 2025;
- taking a citizen focused approach to our services provided;
- encouraging collaboration with other public sector partners, the third sector and where appropriate the private sector;
- learning from the changes to working life from the pandemic;
- the release of public sector land and buildings for housing and de-carbonising initiatives.

Much of the above will involve difficult decisions. We need to learn from best practice and have the courage to be bold in our collaborative work.

Several challenges to delivering within limited budgets remain, especially the climate emergency and our ambitious aim to be a zero carbon nation by 2030. The changes need to be far reaching in:

- renewing our town and city centres;
- meeting our targets for low and zero carbon social housing;
- rebuilding our physical infrastructure to support, in an energy efficient way; our digital living and working goals;
- re-forestation of Wales and moving to a circular economy.

2022 will be a challenging but exciting time!

We must seek out opportunities that enable us to collaborate in new ways, reduce our carbon footprint and support the numerous policy challenges that lie ahead.

I have confidence that the Board and Regional Groups will support the challenges we have set ourselves.

YC Conference 2021

Building a Stronger Greener Economy

We were delighted that the Minister for Finance and Local Government, Rebecca Evans MS, was again able to join us in the afternoon for our annual Awards. The Minister addressed the ceremony and talked about the ambitious agenda for government. The key message was to promote collaboration, explore relationships and share goals in building a stronger and greener economy in Wales. Rebecca thanked everyone for supporting the valuable work of YC, with the YC award ceremony being a celebration of success.

This year's conference was held online on 2 December 2021, highlights of the day included:

Climate Emergency: The Public Estate

Lee Waters MS, Deputy Minister for Climate Change gave an address highlighting his expectations of the public estate as a critical resource in tackling climate change. DataMap Wales provides a mapping resource to identify potential sites for planting trees. [Home | DataMapWales \(gov.wales\)](#)

National Forest and Places for Nature

We also heard from Welsh Government policy leads on the National Forest and Places for Nature and how funding is available to support this important work: [Local Nature Partnerships Cymru – About Us \(Inp.cymru\)](#) [National Forest for Wales / GOV.WALES](#) [Community Woodlands / The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)



Belfast One Million Trees

[One Million Trees \(belfastcity.gov.uk\)](#) closed the session by sharing their experiences and how they have overcome some of the challenges they have faced.



Decarbonisation in the NHS Estate

Des Keighan, Assistant Director of Operations – NHS Estates Swansea Bay University Health Board took delegates through how the Brynwhilach Solar Farm was created with Re:Fit funding. The £5.9 million development is directly wired to Morriston hospital and the benefits are:

- Self-sufficiency in electricity at certain times during the day.
- Excess electricity exported to the grid.
- 26% of total annual hospital demand met by the solar farm.

[Green for go at Morriston Hospital's unique new solar farm – Swansea Bay University Health Board \(nhs.wales\).](#)

Ystadau Cymru

Category Winners 2021

and the winners are...



Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

**Creating
Economic
Growth –
Llys Cadwyn**

Llys Cadwyn (Chain Court) is Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's flagship regeneration of Pontypridd Town Centre. The name was chosen to reflect the town's strong and proud industrial heritage, and the world famous Brown Lenox chain works which was situated in Pontypridd.



Vale of Glamorgan Council

**Demonstrating
Environmental
Sustainability –
Schools
Decarbonisation**

The 21st Century Schools Team launched a project to explore how construction practices could be adapted to support decarbonisation of the education estate as part of Band B of the 21st Century Schools Programme.



St Davids Befriending Group & Pembrokeshire County Council

**Delivering
Social
Value**

A group of volunteers got together with the local authority to identify the potential use of the school kitchen to produce food in a safe environment. Meals are produced in the school kitchens, in the heart of the community, and are delivered once a week to vulnerable people by volunteers.



Newtown as a Pioneer Reuse & Repair Economy

**Delivering
Innovation**

We introduce you to Newtown & Llanllwchaiarn Town Council, who are also Overall Ystadau Cymru winners in our spotlight article. They have taken an innovative approach to community leadership by 'doing things differently' see below for more.

Overall Ystadau Cymru Award Winner 2021 ...

Newtown as a Pioneer Reuse & Repair Economy



Newtown & Llanllwchaearn Town Council (NLTC) set out, in partnership with social enterprise, Circular Economy Mid Wales (CEMW) Ltd, to draw on both the industrial pioneering heritage of Newtown and its reuse and repair foundations to create a new future for the town, a movement for change toward a zero-waste society and a circular economy.

NLTC took the role of trusted community enabler, dealing directly with Welsh Government to obtain, channel, monitor and account for funds to Welsh Government to the value of £675,550 to a third sector partner. CEMW's role was:

- Establishing a town centre Reuse & Repair Emporium – purchasing a high-profile redundant town centre premises to bring it back to use with a new purpose.
- Upgrading the Maker Space adjacent to the college – adding two new reclaimed and converted shipping containers as the upcycling and repairing facility.
- Enhancing the town's Salvage Shed at the Household Waste Recycling Centre – installing a covered area to protect the substantial amount of stock; and
- Purchasing an Electric Van
- Forming a distinct 'Reuse and Repair' brand that can apply to all locations/ vehicles – to make the idea of reuse and repair economy an everyday part of the town.

Long term, the project is focussed on creating a culture of re-use rather than single use, of repair rather than buying new. This sustainable management of natural resources is key for an ecologically sustainable future.

Double Win at Prestigious National Awards – 09/12/2021: Newtown

Decarbonisation of Public Sector Estate gathers pace

Ystadau Cymru has been identified as a strategic lead network in encouraging excellence and good practice in the Public Sector Estate by:

- Working collaboratively with the Welsh Public Sector.
- Identifying and shaping the existing and future property portfolio.
- Providing direction and advice on property management.
- Sharing knowledge on decarbonisation.
- Developing a decarb skills and training framework for estate managers.
- Building up a bank of decarbonisation estate case studies.
- Hosting and contributing to working groups in priority areas.

Digital Infrastructure Barrier Busting Taskforce

Public Assets Working Group

There is no doubt about the importance of home and business broadband and the use of mobile phones to our lives, this has brought sharp relief during the pandemic. However this digital connectivity relies on underlying infrastructure, such as mobile phone masts and fibre optic cables. Deploying this digital infrastructure is complex, with technical constraints and other dependencies impacting on speed and cost of delivery.

Working together the public and private sector can bring benefits to our cities, towns and communities, enabling high quality connectivity to support economic growth. Barriers to deployment are being explored by a Task and Finish Group set up by the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales **Digital communications infrastructure in Wales: report / GOV.WALES.**

Some good examples of best practice have been shared including:
Digital Infrastructure – Scottish Futures Trust.

SCOTTISH
FUTURES
TRUST

If anyone has some good examples within Wales they would like to share – please send details to YstadauCymru@gov.wales

Useful Information:

Forest Research (FR): The FR is Great Britain's principal organisation for forest and tree related research and is the research agency for the Forestry Commission. Below is a link to the web based support system which helps forest managers and planners select ecologically suited tree species to specific sites, as defined in the National Vegetation Classification for Great Britain: **Ecological Site Classification (ESC) – Forest Research**

Natural Resources Wales (NRW): If you are carrying out work which may affect a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) there are responsibilities for Public Bodies and Statutory Undertakers. Please see link for information from NRW: <https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/protected-areas-of-land-and-seas/sites-of-special-scientific-interest-responsibilities-of-public-bodies-and-statutory-undertakers/?lang=en>

Quick Links to the Welsh Government Strategy:

Welsh Government Corporate Asset Management Strategy 2021 – 2024
<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-11/corporate-asset-management-strategy-2021-to-2024.pdf>

Welsh Government Corporate Asset Management Policy 2021 – 2026
<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-11/corporate-asset-management-policy-2021-to-2026.pdf>

Welsh Government document-Net Zero Carbon status by 2030 –
Route Map for Decarbonisation across Welsh Public Sector.
<https://gov.wales/net-zero-carbon-status-2030-public-sector-route-map>

Welsh Government Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales
<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-09/electric-vehicle-charging-strategy-for-wales-action-plan.pdf>

Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales: Action Plan
<https://gov.wales/electric-vehicle-charging-strategy-wales-action-plan-html>

CLAW

The Consortium of Local Authorities in Wales

Route Map to net zero carbon buildings in Wales

<https://www.claw.wales/assets/images/uploads/documents/RoutemapnetzerocarbonbuildingsWales.pdf>

Courses and Events which may be of interest:

UKGBC (UK Green Building Council) Sustainability Essentials E-Learning Module
A one hour awareness session in understanding the impact buildings and infrastructure have on people and the environment. See link:
UKGBC Sustainability Essentials E-Learning Module

The Government Property Conference on 24th March 2022

Bringing together property professionals from across Government and the wider public sector, The Government Property Conference is being held on Thursday 24th March 2022. The Conference is free to Public Sector Delegates, see link for more information:
<http://governmentproperty.co.uk/>