



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



Arwain cydweithredu – un ystad gyhoeddus Cymru  
Leading collaboration – one public estate Wales

## Welcome to your Summer Newsletter 2023

EDITION  
NINE

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## CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

I am especially pleased with our ninth issue of the Ystadau Cymru newsletter, which is essential reading for all involved in the Welsh public estate.



Beverly Owen

**With all the competing pressures on our time and the unprecedented strain on public finances, Ystadau Cymru's mission of encouraging "excellence in active management of the Welsh public sector through strategic collaboration and good practice guidance" is more important than ever.**

There is huge amount of good quality work going on in the Welsh public estate and we want you to help share this more widely across Wales.

If you're leading (or have led a recent) collaborative project I would encourage you to enter it for the 2023 Ystadau Cymru Awards.

Our last newsletter will give you some idea of the types of project which have entered and won the Awards. We always welcome new case studies, especially those demonstrating collaborative working, de-carbonisation, retrofitting or rethinking the use of our public estate.

Shortages of skilled estate managers in Wales is widely acknowledged.

The RICS recently identified that the average age of members in Wales is 55. Board members Clive Ball and Geoff Bacon have worked with the RICS and University of South Wales to gain accreditation for the first Real Estate degree course to be offered in Wales for nearly 20 years.

Degree apprenticeships will also be available in coming years from a number of Welsh universities.

Although it will be some years before we see the benefits of this in our workforce, this is an important milestone for our partners.

There is much more read in this issue – I will leave you to enjoy.





# YSTADAU CYMRU AWARDS 2023



## NOW OPEN

Rebecca Evans MS, Ystadau Cymru’s sponsoring Minister and Minister for Finance and Local Government has formally launched the 2023 Ystadau Cymru awards.

We would love to see your collaborative projects from across the Welsh Public Sector.

Last year’s projects can be seen in Edition 8 of the newsletter:



## THE CATEGORIES FOR 2023 NOMINATIONS ARE:

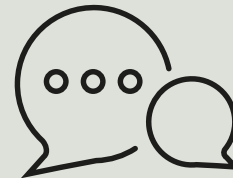
### CREATING ECONOMIC GROWTH



### DEMONSTRATING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



### DELIVERING SOCIAL VALUE



### DELIVERING INNOVATION



Ystadau Cymru newsletter:  
edition 8 | GOV.WALES



More details are at:  
Ystadau Cymru Awards  
2023 | GOV.WALES



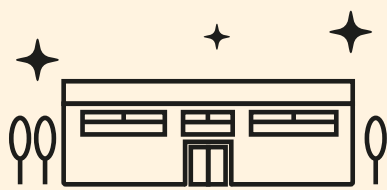
# FUNDING PROGRESS – LLANELLI TOWN COUNCIL

## PENYGAER SPORTS FACILITY CHANGING ROOMS ARE GETTING INTO SHAPE!

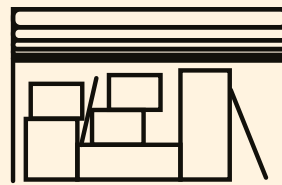
A successful asset transfer from Carmarthenshire County Council to Llanelli Town Council has resulted in the refurbishment of a much-needed community facility.

Working in partnership with **Penygaer Management Committee** and the **Love Lliedi Community group**, **Llanelli Town Council** has transformed an aged sports changing facility at **Penygaer Sports Field**.

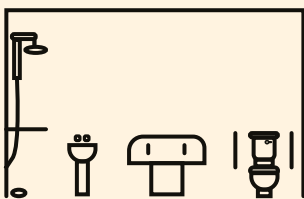
The project has created a number of benefits, including:



Improved Changing facilities



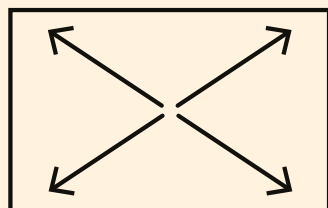
Improved storage facilities



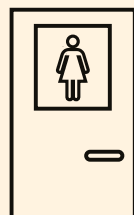
Installation of Changing Places toilet for community use



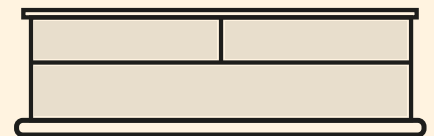
Installation of kitchenette for community and sporting use



Creation of dedicated space for club and community use



New separate ladies changing room



Improved energy efficiency due to upgraded insulation and windows

The steering group worked in collaboration with numerous groups and individuals from the local community and the facility now has far-reaching benefits.

The Dewi Sant and Penygaer Schools can now utilise the facility for their physical education and outdoor learning and the Llanelli Community

Partnership and Multicultural Network, will undertake activities and outreach from the facility using the community space.

Due to the success of this project, The Love Lliedi Community Group has ambitious plans for the future – so watch this space!



# FUNDING PROGRESS – NHS WALES SHARED SERVICES

## FUTURE OF OUR PROFESSION – RE-ESTABLISHING REAL ESTATE COURSE – CLIVE BALL

**After a gap of almost 20 years, following the closure of the Property Management & Valuation degree course at the then University of Glamorgan in the early 2000s, a BSc (Hons) Real Estate degree will commence in September 2023 at the Treforest campus of the University of South Wales (USW).**



The University of Glamorgan and its predecessor, the Polytechnic of Wales (the 'College of Knowledge') had a long tradition of surveying and built environment courses and produced a great many of the general practice (GP) chartered surveyors currently working in South Wales.

### **There are several flexible options available to study the course, namely:**

- » 3-year full-time
- » 4-year full-time with a sandwich placement year
- » 5-year part-time (including via the Network 75 scheme).

**\* All these options can be accessed directly or via a foundation year.**

The Real Estate degree has come about following an approach to USW by Clive Ball (Head of Property at NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership – Specialist Estates Services and Ystadau Cymru Board member) after he discovered that USW was developing a Building Surveying course.

An encouraging response to his initial approach led to the establishment of a working group, a survey of the public and private sector (to evidence demand) and the development of a business justification case which was approved by USW in autumn 2022 followed by USW course validation in March 2023.

An Industry Advisory Board was subsequently established to help shape the course modules and their content in response to what the industry and profession needs, together with the aim of establishing links between USW, the degree, and the industry/profession in Wales.

The course is also being designed in discussion with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors with an application for RICS accreditation to be submitted during 2023.

**You can find out more about the course at:**



**The USW website –  
BSc (Hons) Real Estate |  
University of South Wales**

**The Network 75 website –  
Degree Courses |  
University of South Wales**



# LEARNING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE IN A NEW WAY

## Carbon Literacy

Over the past few months, Ystadau Cymru, in partnership with Cynnal Cymru, has been running Carbon Literacy training sessions. Amanda attended and was keen to share what she learnt.

The course has been developed in line with the Carbon Literacy Project that originates from Manchester and is now recognised across the world.

It is unique in that is adaptable for every person whether it is in a personal capacity, an educational setting or in an organisation. The universal approach stimulates more honest conversations, especially in group activities.



### Organisation – The Carbon Literacy Project

Before the course I had limited knowledge about climate change.

#### **Our learning included:**

- » Identifying the group of gases responsible for climate change
- » Thinking about how these gases are in our assets and lives
- » Rating carbon footprints in a range of everyday products and activities
- » Understanding and sharing our organisations approach to de-carbonisation
- » Open discussion about difficulties and barriers when making improvements within our organisations.

I learned that even though being carbon literate may seem like an overwhelming challenge, it is more about how we adapt our thinking and personal approach to climate change.

It is very difficult to learn about how little time we have left to reduce our carbon emissions, but I would encourage you to be open to learning. Nobody is expecting you to have all the answers, just to be able to learn and take part in guided discussion.

There may be an organisation out there that can help you with a project they are doing.

It adds up to better collaboration and as members of Ystadau Cymru we need to take every opportunity to take the lead.



### Carbon Literacy – Cynnal Cymru – Sustain Wales

# LLANRUMNEY HALL – CARDIFF'S HIDDEN TREASURE

In the Spring of 2019, Cardiff saw the re-opening of Llanrumney Hall.

A beautiful building located in the East of the city that had laid dormant for many years - that is until The Llanrumney Hall Community Trust was created!

Established in 2016, the trust, a registered charity, was set up to steer the regeneration and redevelopment of Llanrumney Hall into a vital and thriving community hub.



Llanrumney Hall was originally built in 1450 and has seen many forms of transformation over the years. It has been a home to important Welsh families, a hotel, and most recently a public house.

The brewery handed back the Hall to Cardiff Council in 2013, by which time the building was in a serious state of disrepair.

In 2015, a local business owner approached the council with a comprehensive refurbishment plan and was granted a 30-year lease together with planning permission for the redevelopment of the site.

After a lot of sympathetic restoration, the building is now a usable and accessible community asset.

The Hall offers the community and local business the space and amenities that have been lacking in the immediate area for some time.

Current facilities available include a health & wellbeing centre, a variety of rooms to hire, a music recording studio, an arts & crafts room, a community food hub (The Pantry), a gardening polytunnel, hot desk areas, a childcare crèche, a community café, pet food hub and a multi-use centre for holistic therapies.

Alongside providing a range of essential facilities, the Hall has also supported local people through employment & volunteering opportunities.

As of 2022 the Trust had employed 11 local people and benefitted from 12 regular volunteers.

Llanrumney Hall is a wonderful example of what a community can do when they work together.



For more information please visit: [Home](#) | [Llanrumney Hall Community Trust](#)

# Clare's Corner

## Social Sustainability

### Growing a Sustainable Organisation

#### Social Sustainability

Following on from edition 6 of our newsletter where we discussed the Pillars of Sustainability, this section will look at social sustainability in more detail.

Social sustainability is about creating places that understand and consider what people need from the environments where they live and work.

By combining design of the physical space with the design of the social world we can create an infrastructure that supports social and cultural life.

This includes the provision of amenities, systems for citizen engagement and a space that can evolve over time.

It is an essential element of a community's longevity and well-being but is often neglected with environmental and economic sustainability taking centre stage.



### A community is as much a social environment as a physical one so what are the key dimensions of social sustainability?

Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen suggests that social sustainability has a variety of elements including:



From an organisational perspective, social sustainability is about understanding what affect your processes may have on people and society.

According to the UN Global Compact, organisations should be proactive in managing and identifying potential business impacts on employees, workers in the value chain, customers, and local communities.



# So how can an organisation achieve social sustainability?

The key is to think about stakeholders – both internally (employees, suppliers & consumers) and externally (local community or broader society)



Internal stakeholders: employees and the supply chain Leaders should ensure that employees rights are central when it comes to the supply chain, not secondary to financial gain.

## Three areas should be prioritised:

1. Health & Safety Practices.
2. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion.
3. Fair Labour Practices.

## Outside stakeholders: In the community and society

Organisations should think about how to proactively engage with the community.

How society can benefit from your business practices rather than these practices causing harm or greater inequality.

This might mean collaborating with community groups that promote positive change, enhancing or creating a community asset or including local goods and services in the supply chain.

Social sustainability may not be as clearly defined as environmental sustainability, but it is still vital. Organisations can face different expectations in different locations, over time or as they grow.

The key is to work with your stakeholders to develop an understanding of what they need to thrive at work or in their local community.

**For further information see links below:**



**Social Sustainability | UN Global Compact**

**ISO – ISO 26000 — Social responsibility**

**GRI – Home ([globalreporting.org](http://globalreporting.org))**

**Home – Network for Business Sustainability (NBS)**

# Asbestos Update

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

**Ystadau Cymru has a sub-group dedicated to researching, providing advice, and promoting best practice through circulation of best practice in asbestos handling?**



**The work originated from a request by TUC Wales and included a survey of all public organisations in Wales.**

This important area of health and safety needs to be more consistently managed at a strategic level.

The results of the survey highlighted that there is good practice across Wales.

Standards for monitoring, handling and removal of asbestos in the Welsh public sector was generally good.

The survey also identified some areas of concern, with varying standards of knowledge and succession planning for key staff.

Having identified a need for support, Ystadau Cymru will be procuring a bilingual online asbestos awareness course specifically aimed at those working in Town and Community Councils.

We will also be looking to how best to embed good practice.



**For further information please visit [Asbestos Industry standards and best practice \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk)**

# Richard's Report

## Richard Baker –

Welsh Government lead for Ystadau Cymru gives an update on Welsh Government in his regular column for the newsletter.



## 2022-23 was a busy year, at times close to being overwhelming in terms of the different challenges and additions to our workload.

We have, however achieved a great deal, not least of which was to successfully deliver the ACPW grant scheme.

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**We funded £990,000 of the £1m capital grants and £300,000 of the £600,000 revenue.**

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Lack of capacity from de-carbonisation consultants meant that we were unable to deliver more. We will be following up the projects we funded and will publish case studies to share the good work that has been taking place.

I was pleased to be appointed joint head of Profession for property in the Welsh Government on St David's Day.

This appointment brings responsibilities in providing and promoting continuous professional development opportunities and increasing the visibility of the profession within the Welsh Government.

I am proud of the work that the profession does in and for the Welsh Government.

Welsh Government has been reviewing our office occupancy rates now that hybrid working has become the default way of working.

This has inevitably revealed that we have more office space than we need, leading us to look for opportunities to let surplus space in our freehold buildings.

Ensuring our public buildings are fully occupied brings financial efficiencies and retains money within the public purse.

Rationalising the public estate as a whole also means we are improving our collective carbon efficiency.

The Land and Buildings Release Fund remains open to applicants, with funding available for projects to be delivered across financial years.



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