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Y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA-(P)-JH-/02797/19

Helen Mary Jones AM
Assembly Member for Mid and West Wales

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29 July 2019

Dear Helen Mary,

I am writing to you in response to the points you raised during Business Questions on 18 June. You asked for information on the support available to community groups seeking to protect community assets in Wales, and whether local authorities should consider community benefit in light of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. I am responding as community asset transfers lies within my portfolio.

The Welsh Government is committed to helping communities to protect community assets which bring people together and also to helping community groups take ownership of these assets where this is the most appropriate option.

Ystadau Cymru (formerly the National Assets Working Group) has published *Community Asset Transfers in Wales: A Best Practice Guide* to help support the public sector and community groups through the process of asset transfer. The guide is currently being refreshed, with an updated version due to be published later in the year. The current guide can be found at <https://gweddill.gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/community-asset-transfer/best-practice-guide/?skip=1&lang=en>.

Ystadau Cymru also has a work-stream dedicated to community asset transfers. This group is led by representatives of One Voice Wales and the WCVA. As result of this, the Welsh Government is carrying out research which will help us to understand the barriers community groups face when considering taking on a community asset. This will also help us to identify the gaps in support available to community groups in this position. This builds on previous research carried out in 2017 with town and community councils. This can be found at: <https://gov.wales/management-and-delivery-services-and-assets-community-and-town-councils-0>.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The Welsh Government funds support for social and community businesses which can be accessed by contacting Social Business Wales on 03000 603000 or at: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/socialbusinesswales/>. This service provides a range of advice including signposting groups to appropriate sources of funding.

The Welsh Government's Community Facilities Programme provides capital grants of up to £250k for community led projects seeking to improve well used and much needed community facilities. This could be a potential source of funding for the purchase and improvement of community assets. Applications have to demonstrate that the building will have a wider community use. For more information on the fund visit: <https://gov.wales/community-facilities-programme>.

The Wales Council for Voluntary Action provides access to a range of grant and loan funds for social businesses. For more information please visit: <https://www.wcva.org.uk/funding/social-investment-cymru>.

As you already know, the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act places a duty on local authorities to deliver public services that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The seven wellbeing goals and the five ways of working provide a framework for public sector bodies to use when considering decisions such as how best to dispose of publicly owned assets. That said, the Welsh Government believes that this type of decision is best made by the local authority as they will have a better understanding of local priorities.

Best wishes,

Jane

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