
Cymorth Cynllunio Cymru

Ymgysylltiad y gymuned a chynllunio

Planning Aid Wales

Community engagement in planning



Response to '*Planning Policy Wales, Edition 10*' consultation

To: planconsultations-c@gov.wales

Date: 18th May 2018

1. About Planning Aid Wales

1.1 Planning Aid Wales (PAW) is the charity supporting communities and planning authorities to work better together in shaping places. We are core funded by Welsh Government but retain a high degree of freedom to act independently on behalf of communities.

1.2 Planning aid is about giving people the information and support they need to understand and engage positively with planning. We work to help local communities in Wales to understand and engage more effectively with planning. We do this by explaining the planning process from a community perspective and building capacity for constructive community engagement.

1.3 Planning Aid Wales also works with the planning profession, planning authorities and Welsh Government to encourage more effective community involvement in the planning process. When responding to consultations such as this, our aim is to identify potential barriers which might prevent effective or manageable community involvement in planning.

1.4 Our responses to specific consultation questions are given in italics below.

1.5 We are happy for our response to this consultation to be made public.

2. Consultation response

Consultation Question 1

Do you agree planning policy topics be clustered around themes which show their relationships with each other and the 7 well-being goals? If not, please explain why.

PAW welcomes the emphasis on page 4 of the consultation document on “users (of the planning system being required) to think about the long-term, work better with people and communities, prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach to delivering sustainable development.” and “embracing the concept of place--making.” and agrees in broad terms with the allocation of topics to the 4 themes in the diagram on page 6.

Given that PPW has been extensively updated to reflect recent changes to Welsh Government legislation, PAW suggests that when it issues it is accompanied by a training package for all sectors involved in the planning system in Wales.

Consultation Question 36

Are there any existing policy statements in PPW Edition 9 which you think have not been included in the draft of PPW Edition 10 and you consider should be retained? If so, please specify.

While the “significant importance of monitoring” is mentioned in para 1.09, PAW suggests that the diagram on page 24 could include “Monitoring”. The importance of monitoring success in placemaking - as well as changes in waste, housing numbers/Joint Housing Land Studies, retail and commercial development/Annual Monitoring Reports, water, landscape, green infrastructure - could also be emphasised in revised versions of the Development Management and LDP Manuals.

PAW welcomes the greater emphasis given to assessment and allocation of sites for Gypsies and Travellers in the consultation draft, in line with Local Authority duties under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. However to reflect that Act fully we suggest that the word “should” is replaced by “must” in the second sentence of paragraph 3.49 so that it reads: “*Where a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) identifies an unmet need, a planning authority **must** allocate sufficient sites in their development plan to ensure that the identified pitch requirements for residential and/or transit use can be met.*”