

Development Consultation

Wrexham 2 Oct 2019

Tim Stratton, LAF chair and horse-riding advocate. [REDACTED]

David Collins LAF member and leisure walking advocate. [REDACTED]

Wrexham and Deeside have already been identified as population growth areas. The Local Access Forum for Flintshire and Wrexham is concerned to enhance local wellbeing, green Infrastructure and good access to the countryside. This involves supporting Active Travel and leisure schemes to improve walking, cycling and horse riding connectivity. To do this we can influence local planning issues and work closely with Wrexham and Flintshire councils.

We request that LAFs are involved in the development of Welsh government strategies.

We are aware that our councils are not adequately funded to maintain rights of way. This is a national problem. We support simplification of legislation as proposed in the Welsh Government's Access reforms proposal 2019 and ask for funding to councils to be reinstated to former levels. (For example, to finance Rights of Way Action plans which are required by statute but no longer funded)

We have seen the consultation work of NRW, developing regional plans for Wales, and have made similar representations.

North East Wales is an area with strong connections to England, cross border travel to work is commonplace, housing is cheaper in Wales, whereas many jobs are in England. The development of Wrexham and Deeside could take this into account by providing good transport links within Wales and across the border. Use of Wales' tourism potential equally depends on good transport links from English cities into Wales.

Agriculture in NE Wales is mainly upland sheep and beef cattle farming, with arable and dairy farms on lower ground. The opportunities for scenic tourism and the leisure use of countryside are important for health and wellbeing. The coast along Deeside is one focus, and the river Dee and the Clwydian Hills also attract many visitors. Population growth in the area will be successful if access to the countryside and employment security are both developed and supported.

October 2019