



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



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

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EDITION
TEN

Welcome to your Ystadau Cymru Conference and Awards Special

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Celebrating collaboration within our communities overall winner of the YC awards 2023 goes to...



Announcement!!!

The 2024 Ystadau
Cymru Awards are
now open!

See page 3 for
further information

Llantwit Food Project, Vale of Glamorgan

Read on to find out how this collaborative project
is improving access to affordable food and bringing
together a rural community. See how on page 7

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

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



Beverly Owen

The 2023 Ystadau Cymru (YC) Conference & Awards event was once again, a great success. Showcasing some inspirational projects, the conference theme was One Public Estate Wales, celebrating what we can achieve through partnership working.

The event provided an opportunity in our busy calendars to celebrate our achievements, share best practice and explore different ways of overcoming barriers.

I thank Rebecca Evans MS Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Cabinet Office for presenting the YC awards, the YC team for managing the event and Tom Bowring, MC extraordinaire.

We received some great feedback from attendees and as the event evolves, we appreciate your ideas around what themes you would like to be covered at future conferences.

This special edition is in recognition of the projects and presenters at the conference and to those who won or were shortlisted for an award.

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



YSTADAU CYMRU AWARDS 2024



NOW OPEN

We have now launched the 2024 Ystadau Cymru awards and we'd love to see your collaborative projects from across the public sector. We welcome all types of projects from colleagues across Wales – no matter how big or small.

Ystadau Cymru Awards 2024 | GOV.WALES

We look forward to seeing your nominations!

Submit your application by 5pm on 14th October 2024. Take a look at our Ystadau Cymru Awards Webpage to find out more.



Ystadau Cymru newsletter:
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Ystadau Cymru Awards
2024 | GOV.WALES

BIG BOCS BWYD

The story of Cadog's Corner



Speaker:

HANNAH COGBILL-DAVIES,
Cadoxton Primary School, Barry

Big BOCS BWyD

Thought provoking and inspirational, our first presenter at the 2023 conference was Hannah Cogbill-Davies from Cadoxton Primary School in Barry.

Hannah shared the story of Cadog's Corner, a project led by the school but creating opportunities for the whole community.

Activities under the umbrella of "Cadog's Corner" aim to address social isolation, health and employability and the scheme is not only tackling food poverty but increasing access to nutritional meals and improving well-being.

Cadoxton Primary School was the first organisation to support Big Bocs Bwyd, an initiative that has now spread to 14 Local Authorities in Wales!

The work at Cadog's Corner has been both innovative and transformative. The project has focused on removing barriers and embracing challenges as opportunities.



See more about the initiative here:
Website: [Big Bocs Bwyd](#)

READ CONSTRUCTION PARTNERSHIP WITH WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Refurbishment of Crown Buildings



Speaker:
ALEX READ

We were very pleased to welcome back the team who were the overall winner at the 2022 Ystadau Cymru Awards.

Wrexham County Borough Council and Read Construction worked in partnership to redevelop the 1960's council buildings in Wrexham town centre.

The building is now a base for all social care and education staff, delivering children and adults' services with the creation of a new Wellbeing Hub to the ground floor of the building.

The refurbishment has also improved the buildings energy performance from EPC D to EPC A, which has helped to reduce the carbon footprint whilst extending the lifespan of the existing structure by over 50 additional years.

This project also won the 2022 YC award for Environmental Sustainability.

Alex gave the audience some very useful advice which included:

- » Always carry out a project specific assessment.
- » Early engagement with competent Contractors and Designers is essential.
- » Project teams with Net Zero experience should be deployed at the earliest opportunity.

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL –

Coed Ely Solar Farm



Speakers:
**ENERGY & CARBON
REDUCTION TEAM**



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

This project will be the Council's first land based solar farm and alongside generating 5 Megawatts of power to the national grid, power will also be supplied to the nearby Royal Glamorgan Hospital.



The site – a former colliery location which is now used for grazing – is expected to generate electricity for a minimum of 40 years!

The development has had a number of initial challenges. These include site accessibility; whether connections to National Grid were technically possible; recognising that this is a significant civil engineering project and ensuring that the council has enough technical expertise either in-house or through consultants.

The Council expects that with the completion of A4119, the private wire element of the project will be partially completed and the power purchase agreement with the Royal Glamorgan Hospital agreed. This would provide some 20% of the hospitals electricity

requirements. The solar panels on site will be raised so sheep can graze underneath and an ecologist has been appointed to produce a wildlife protection and biodiversity management plan.

The Council recognises that there is much work to be done, but with the real possibility of major benefits for the council, the local hospital and for the environment.



Local consultation underway for proposed Coed Ely 'Land Based Solar Farm' (rctcbc.gov.uk)





Enillydd Gwobr Award Winner

2023

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OVERALL WINNER!

Llantwit Food Project, Vale of Glamorgan

We are proud to announce Llantwit Food Project as our overall winner of the Ystadau Cymru Awards 2023.



The project is a collaborative project based in Llantwit Major, Vale of Glamorgan. In October 2020 multi-sector partners came together to explore what could be done to remove barriers to accessing good food amidst a cost-of-living crisis and pandemic.

Through community & expert engagement and data analysis, an action plan on how to tackle food insecurity in a rural area was developed. Community members fed back:

“We need something where we can do everything in one go, food, advice on cooking, mental health ...”.

Many of the project actions are run through the thriving CF61 Community Centre and while food is the anchor of this project, it also seeks to cultivate many other benefits for and in partnership with the local community.

Home to initiatives such as the More Than Food Hub, the centre has enabled a place-based approach whereby multiple agencies can work in partnership under one, welcoming, roof.

The projects numerous benefits include:

-  **Ensuring everyone in Llantwit can have a good meal every day.**
-  **Tacking food insecurity and inter-related issues.**
-  **Increasing awareness and access to locally available support.**
-  **Building stronger relationships and connectivity between support providers.**
-  **Promoting and enhancing community spirit.**
-  **Encouraging local growing of food.**

The Llantwit Food Project is a wonderful example of the strength that can come from a collaborative, community focussed approach. This learning is now being used to build further partnerships between the council and local stakeholders to tackle collective issues.

See further information below:



Llantwit Food Project scoops Ystadau Cymru Award (valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

Llantwit Food Project - Food Vale

YSTADAU CYMRU AWARDS RUNNER-UP

The Hub with a Heart – Together we can

The Ystadau Cymru runner-up award went to The Hub!



The Hub project is a partnership between the Housing Department and Employability Team at Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and, provides an innovative service that has been designed to meet housing needs as early as possible.

The service, initially based in a tiny public building in the heart of Merthyr town, was created to stop individuals and families reaching an urgent crisis point. This much needed support has prevented many households from having to access unsuitable, temporary accommodations – reducing the impact of the risk of homelessness on households.

As it grows from strength to strength, it has also been essential in signposting other vital support services. With various organisations working together, the team have been able to enhance community resilience, provide essential information and offer timely support.

The project has been so successful that in early 2024, the Hub Team secured funding to develop a significantly larger property in Merthyr Town Centre. Jennifer Rees, Strategic Housing Officer at Merthyr County Borough Council shared her views with us when the YC team visited earlier this year:

“Working in collaboration with other Local Authority departments, we secured funding and developed a significantly larger property in the Town Centre that would have been sitting empty. This expanded Hub now serves as a more accessible space for the community. Various organisations work together to enhance community resilience, provide essential information, and offer timely support. With prevention as a central focus, the outcomes achieved are truly impactful for individuals and families throughout the county borough during challenging times.”

The expanded Hub, with its friendly welcome, and a wide range of easily accessible key services and guidance, has seen unprecedented numbers come through its’ doors. This project clearly highlights how an empty asset in the right location can have multiple community benefits.



Town Centre Hub wins ‘Runner Up’ at Ystadau Cymru Awards | Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

YSTADAU CYMRU AWARDS - COMMENDATION

Last but certainly not least, our commendation award went to **Parc Gelli Werdd**. Based in Carmarthenshire, this project is an innovative demonstrator development of low carbon commercial property.



Built in an area that forms part of the public estate, Parc Gelli Werdd is located at the Cross Hands East Strategic Employment Site. This Employment Site has been created by the Welsh Government & Carmarthenshire County Council (the Council) via a Joint Venture (JV) agreement with the key aim of collaboratively delivering economic development by providing sites and premises for employment purposes, together with wider policy objectives.

The project demonstrates how commercial development of offices and industrial premises can achieve net zero carbon targets by using active building principles. Providing state of the art workshops and offices whilst reducing energy bills, following sustainable building practices, and supporting the local economy!

Benefiting from a highly collaborative approach involving multiple partners, this project will be a demonstrator for both the public and private sectors to learn from to deliver low carbon developments.

In advance of the strategic site development, mitigation, compensation, and enhancement of land in Carmarthenshire's wider public estate was provided for the priority Marsh Fritillary butterfly species.



For those who want to learn more please visit

Parc Gelli Werdd (gov.wales)

www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/biodiversity/marsh-fritillary-project/

[MarshFritillaryLeafletA4_ENG.pdf](http://butterfly-conservation.org/MarshFritillaryLeafletA4_ENG.pdf)
(butterfly-conservation.org)

FUNDING NEWS

Asset Collaboration Programme Wales (ACPW3) – awaiting your applications.

We are pleased to announce ACPW3 is open for applications.

Grant applications are welcome for up to £75,000 (revenue) and up to £250,000 for capital projects. For guidance and application form please visit the **Ystadau Cymru website**.

Projects must involve publicly owned assets and the project must be completed within the 2024-25 financial year (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025).



Land and Buildings Development Fund

LBDF is a targeted capital driven regeneration programme that concentrates on freeing up public land and buildings where development has stalled.

It is intended to enable public bodies and public sector partners to overcome barriers to development i.e. bridge the “viability gap” and advance change.

This complements the ambitions of other interventions delivered across Welsh Government and wider public sector with the aim of unlocking the potential for developing public land for public good, particularly to meet the demands for social and affordable housing.

For advice and guidance on the application process please contact Land Division at **Yrls-adranTir.LandDivision@gov.wales**.

Richard's Report

Richard Baker –

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



2023/24 was another incredibly busy year with many challenges, but we managed to achieve a great deal!

The 2023 Ystadau Cymru Conference & Awards was a great success, showcasing some innovative and thought-provoking projects.

I extend my gratitude to Rebecca Evans MS, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Cabinet Office for her support for the conference and, the work of Ystadau Cymru.

I am happy to announce that our 2024/25 ACPW3 grant scheme is now open. We have supported many outstanding projects over the past few years and we're very excited to see this years' applications. Further details can be found in the funding section of this newsletter.

Over the past several months, we have also been busy establishing a Community Assets Commission. This work will be undertaken by a Task & Finish group in partnership with Cardiff university. Recommendations from this work will be presented to the Senedd next Spring.

With lots of great projects in the pipeline, this year is set to be another busy one. I hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter and have a great summer!