

Consultations and Information

Consultations

The Welsh Parliament's Local Government and Housing Committee has published a consultation for stakeholders as part of its inquiry into second homes. The consultation will **run until 14 January 2022**.

Written evidence should be emailed to:- SeneddHousing@senedd.wales

Welsh Government – Planning Directorate has published the following consultation:

[Consultation on planning legislation and policy for second homes and short-term holiday lets](#)

This consultation is seeking your views on proposed amendments to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 to amend the current use class for 'Dwellinghouses' and to create new use classes for 'Second Homes' and for 'Short-term Holiday Lets', and on related proposed amendments to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995.

The consultation also covers related proposed amendments to *Planning Policy Wales*.

Action required: Responses by **23 February 2022**.

Welsh Government - The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils see link to consultation below:-

[Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021: Community and Town Councils statutory guidance | GOV.WALES](#)

The consultation closes on 17 March 2022

Information

Welsh Government issued a letter dated 13th December 2021 concerning Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 section 30(3) specifying the qualifications a clerk to a community council must hold to satisfy one of the three conditions for a council to resolve itself to become an eligible community council for the purpose of exercising the general power of competence.

The Eligible Community Councils (General Power of Competence) (Qualifications of Clerks) (Wales) Regulations 2021 has been put before the Senedd, with a coming into force date of 5 May 2022 recognising CILCA as the qualification.

The regulations are unchanged from the draft issued for consultation and can be found on the Senedd Cymru website:-

<https://business.senedd.wales/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=38504>

Welsh Government - The Minister for Finance & Local Government, Rebecca Evans MS, has published the Welsh Government's draft budget for 2022-23.

The draft budget, along with several supporting documents, can be found on the Welsh Government's website:

Draft Budget 2022-2023:

[Draft Budget 2022 to 2023 | GOV.WALES](#)

Save a Life Cymru (SaLC) - Welsh Government announced an additional £500k funding to improve public access to defibrillators and consequently survival rates from Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest.

The money has been allocated to the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust (WAST) to purchase the defibrillators and they are to be distributed to community groups in conjunction with Save a Life Cymru.

To receive one of these defibrillators the applicant must agree and confirm to fulfil the following criteria:

- 1) identify, with rationale, the best place to site a defibrillator (there currently should not be a defibrillator within 500m of the proposed site)
- 2) have purchased or fundraised for a heated defibrillator cabinet and it has been installed on an external wall in an area which is accessible 24/7
- 3) have an electricity supply so that the defibrillator is maintained at the right temperature, to prevent the battery and pads from deteriorating
- 4) ensure the defibrillator will be available for public use 24/7
- 5) register the defibrillator on The Circuit database
- 6) appoint a defibrillator guardian (to ensure regular maintenance)
- 7) have a backup guardian to cover absence
- 8) ensure they hold CPR and defibrillation awareness sessions for individuals involved in the organisation/group

We believe that SaLC Partners can provide that much needed support to applicants who are looking to source heated defibrillator cabinets and providing CPR /defibrillation training for their communities.

The application process is simple and can be accessed on www.gov.wales/save-a-life-cymru

National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) has a 40m COVID -19 response fund available to support heritage assets

https://www.nhmf.org.uk/funding/covid-19-response-fund?mtm_keyword=COVID-19%20Response%20Fund%20guidelines&mtm_source=HF_newsletter&%20mtm_m

[edium=email&mtm_campaign=12867227_NHMF%20COVID-19%20Response%20Fund%20-%20Wales%20%28umbrella%20orgs%29&dm_i=12AA,7NSEZ,6RTERN,V7KMY,1](https://medium.com/email&mtm_campaign=12867227_NHMF%20COVID-19%20Response%20Fund%20-%20Wales%20%28umbrella%20orgs%29&dm_i=12AA,7NSEZ,6RTERN,V7KMY,1)

The fund is open to applications from charities, not-for-profit and public sector organisations. NHMF is encouraging any eligible organisations in Wales to **contact them** so that they can advise on what funding is available.

Welsh Government - As part of the Shaping Wales' Future programme, the Welsh Government has published the first wave of Wales' national milestones under the seven well-being goals, an updated suite of national well-being indicators, and the second edition of the Future Trends Report Wales.

These are three important parts of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 that tell us about the progress we're making towards our well-being goals, help us better understand any challenges we might face on the way and ensure we seize the opportunities we have to do things better. You can access the publications below:

[National Milestones](#)

[Updated national indicators](#)

[Future Trends Report Wales 2021](#)

Welsh Government - Please find below links to two reports on 'Councillor remuneration and citizen engagement in Wales' that have been published on the Welsh Government's website:-

Councillor remuneration and citizen engagement in Wales: evidence review

[Councillor remuneration and citizen engagement in Wales: evidence review | GOV.WALES](#)

[Cydnabyddiaeth ariannol i gynghorwyr ac ymgysylltu â dinasyddion yng Nghymru: adolygiad o dystiolaeth | LLYW.CYMRU](#)

Councillor remuneration and citizen engagement with councillors: survey of public attitudes

[Councillor remuneration and citizen engagement with councillors: survey of public attitudes | GOV.WALES](#)

[Cydnabyddiaeth ariannol i gynghorwyr ac ymgysylltiad dinasyddion â chynghorwyr: arolwg o agweddau'r cyhoedd | LLYW.CYMRU](#)

Welsh Government - People's Practice Peer-to-Peer Network

Is your Town or Community Council working with others to act on the Climate or Biodiversity emergency?

As part of its response Welsh Government is offering free access to a monthly support session for anyone convening public groups to take practical action as opposed to simply raising awareness.

Welsh Government is aware that a range of groups are active in Wales including Community Councils, People's Practice, Transition Towns and others and it is keen to invite anyone who is bringing together a local group of people to enable local action and positive responses to the challenges of today into its growing **Peer-to-Peer Network**.

Welsh Government can also offer (resource-limited) free training in **achieving win-win scenarios** and **speaking for the more than human**. [See introduction here.](#)

If you are interested in any of these three opportunities, please write, in Welsh or English to diana.reynolds@llyw.cymru stating which of these three options is of interest.

Or see free guidance here:

<https://academiwales.gov.wales/Repository/resource/167128bd-14fa-4979-8e12-74ae8a5b9063/en>

<https://academiwales.gov.wales/pages/quick-tips-awgrymiadau-cyflym>

Welsh Ministers have taken some key decisions in respect of the Local Elections (Principal Areas) (Wales) (Rules) 2021 and Local Elections (Communities) (Wales) Rules 2021.

The majority of the rules governing local elections remain the same as for previous years except for changes made necessary by the extension to the franchise. However, there were also several additional draft rules included which gave effect to the proposals contained in the Electoral Reform in Local Government in Wales consultation. Following the consultation on the draft rules, Ministers have made decisions on how these and other changes will be progressed as follows:

- *Candidate's home address*

In line with the approach taken in other elections, candidates will be required to include with their nomination paper a separate home address form. This will allow a candidate to state that they do not want their home address to be made public or published.

- *Statement of political party affiliation*

A new draft rule was included in the consultation which required candidates to include, on nomination forms, details of political party membership in the preceding 12 months. This provision will remain in the final rules but is amended to make clear the intention that Returning Officers will not be required to check the information (which will be publicly available) or to act on accusations of false information.

- *Personal statement for candidates*

Given the delay in making these Rules due to Covid, Ministers have taken on board feedback and have decided that candidate statements will not be implemented for the local elections in 2022. However, they will be subsequently taken forward in the near future given the importance of supporting electors in accessing information around those wishing to represent them.

- *Electronic submission of candidate nomination forms*

This provision in the draft rules allows for the Returning Officer to consider offering an option to candidates to submit the nomination electronically. The draft rules proposed that the decision to do so should rest with the Returning Officer. The revised rule will make it a requirement for Returning Officers to enable candidates to submit nominations electronically. We expect most local authorities to receive the nominations by email, but if the local authority is able to provide for online submission, the Returning Officer will be able to do so. In any event, they must be able to receive nominations by at least one of these arrangements. The option for candidates to submit nomination in person remains as well.

So there is no dispute as to whether a nomination submitted electronically has been submitted in time, the new rule will require the nomination paper to have appeared in the host authority's computer system before the close of nominations. It will be incumbent on the candidate to make sure the nomination paper has been received in time – in the same way as it is the candidate's responsibility to ensure their nomination paper has been delivered manually before the deadline and is correct.

- *Counting Agents and polling agents' formula*

The draft Rules removed the current formulas associated with polling and counting agents and allowed numbers to be determined by the Returning Officer. However, in light of responses to the consultation and learning from the Senedd election the formulas are reinstated in the final Rules.

- *Independent/ Annibynnol*

Further provision has been made in the Rules for an independent candidate to include on a nomination paper the term "Independent", "Annibynnol" or both those words.

- *Timetable and Consequential rules*

In order that the current timetable for having the Rules come into force in December may be met, certain consequential amendments arising from the changes introduced in the Rules will need to be made in a secondary set of regulations. These consequential amendments will be mainly technical in nature (for example, amending both sets of 2006 Rules so they no longer apply in Wales) and are not necessary for planning the election to commence.

National Lottery – Queen's Platinum Jubilee Funding the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has made an announcement about lottery funding pots for the Jubilee see link below:-

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/news/press-releases/2021-11-17/over-22million-the-queens-platinum-jubilee>

Wales Council for Voluntary Action - is running the Catalyst Cymru: Broadening Horizons project in partnership with Wales Co-operative Centre.

The project is also supported by Ethnic Youth Support Team, Disability Wales and Pride Cymru.

Learning from previous Catalyst Cymru projects, Broadening Horizons will continue to offer in-depth coaching to heritage organisations, and organisations running heritage projects in Wales on topics that will help them to improve their resilience and ability to deal with change (click on link for more information) :-

[Catalyst Cymru: Broadening Horizons - WCVA](#)

The Older People's Commissioner wants to hear about your experiences of re-connecting with your community as restrictions have changed, and your views on what needs to happen to make sure that older people can do the things that matter to them, and that no-one is left behind as we move forward.

The Commission wishes to invite you to take part in one of their upcoming online focus groups (dates below) to share your experiences, discuss your concerns and help guide the Commissioner's work.

They particularly want to hear about how you are coping this winter – what are the challenges you are facing and what you are looking forward to doing when the weather gets better.

To join a session, please register and select one of the dates below:

- Wednesday 26 January, 1pm-2pm - <https://tocyn.cymru/event/d45e291d-2725-4404-b700-ebd64f491eee/s>
- Friday 18 February, 11am-12pm - <https://tocyn.cymru/event/ef8db87b-1979-44d7-952b-43ec0ca9fc89/s>
- Wednesday 9 March, 11am-12pm - <https://tocyn.cymru/event/a3f804f2-5390-4dda-9600-0d7e930bae5b/s>
- Wednesday 30 March, 11am-12pm - <https://tocyn.cymru/event/67b347b4-81e5-4216-b120-320255ab1dfe/s>