

ONE VOICE WALES NEWSLETTER



OUR NEW-LOOK NEWSLETTER...

Dear Member Council, welcome to our new-look Newsletter! We have listened to your suggestions and we've given it a 're-vamp'! We hope you enjoy reading our Sector-related articles, the new Case Studies section and all the good news stories from across Wales. Your Councils are involved in so much important work on behalf of your communities that we want to share it with other Councils on your behalf! This is our first edition and we must thank the Councils that have sent us their stories and articles for us to showcase across the Sector - if your story isn't included this time, we are sure it will be featured in a future edition!



Lyn Cadwallader, One Voice Wales Chief Executive and Mike Theodoulou, Chair of One Voice Wales, getting ready for the opening of the Conference.



A special thank you to our Conference Sponsors **Utility Aid** and **BHIB Councils Insurance** and all the Exhibitors, Speakers and Workshop Facilitators who made the Conference a successful event for the Sector.

INNOVATIVE PRACTICE CONFERENCE 2023

A very successful Innovative Practice Conference was held at the Royal Welsh Showground on 5th July 2023 with over 100 delegates in attendance. If you attended the Conference and would like to receive a copy of the **Presentations or Workshops Feedback for your Council**, please get in touch.

Did you know that One Voice Wales now has its own YouTube Channel? You can watch a video of the Keynote Speakers here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDqBOZ-6eeY>



Key events.....

- **'FACING THE CHALLENGES OF A DEMANDING FUTURE'.....**
- Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government, is Keynote Speaker...
- A new 'Tackling Climate Chaos' Guide for Community & Town Councils is launched.....
- "A fantastic opportunity to meet fellow Councillors and Clerks from across Wales".
- Over 100 delegates attend the first face-to-face Conference in over 3 years.....



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Minister addresses the delegates at the Conference...



Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government, was welcomed as a Keynote Speaker at this year's Conference. As Rebecca addressed the audience on Welsh Government's vision of the role of community and town councils in the coming years, she added, ***"Community and town councils are uniquely placed to identify and help the most vulnerable people in our communities. Your contribution to your local communities is invaluable and my aim is to equip and enable you to be a strong, confident sector with the tools and skills that you need to deliver services for your communities."***

A new Guide for Councils is launched...



Bloddyn Lake of Friends of the Earth Cymru and Dr.Catrin Jones of One Voice Wales at the Conference.

Tackling Climate Change

A brand-new climate change and nature action guide for Community and Town Councils was launched at the Conference - the new document, a collaboration between One Voice Wales and Friends of the Earth Cymru, seeks to give Councils some practical ideas on what they can do on a range of issues such as energy use, water use, protecting nature, finances, chemicals, waste, food, and transport. It also draws together Case Studies of the good work already being done within the Sector on these issues. To read or download a copy of the Guide, click the image below:



Newsletter

CASE STUDIES



Promoting Good Practice across Wales....

This is a new section for our Newsletter. Here are some Case Studies of Member Councils that have delivered important and innovative projects for the benefit of their communities. One Voice Wales would like to thank the Member Councils that have contributed their stories and articles for us to showcase in our Newsletter. If you would like us to feature your Council's projects or stories in a future Newsletter, please email Emyr John, Communications Officer, and we will try to include your story: ejohn@onevoicewales.wales

Prestatyn Town Council - 'Warm Hubs' initiative....

Prestatyn Town Council started a new initiative called 'Warm Hubs' in November 2022 to provide a warm and welcoming environment across the different wards of Prestatyn and Meliden. In partnership with local organisations, the Town Council utilised local facilities throughout the town of Prestatyn and village of Meliden to offer a safe, warm and friendly environment to enjoy social engagement, activities, refreshments, and information/advice services to assist residents who may be daunted and facing difficult times in funding the cost of heating their own homes throughout the day. An initial pilot scheme was operated over a six-week period during weekdays, with set days and times of the week at different locations. The opening times vary at each site, and range between 3 and 5 hours per day. Volunteers offered their time to serve refreshments at all sites which included soup/meals, drinks, and snacks, all free of charge.

Due to the success of the initiative, the Town Council will again offer Warm Hubs in the communities this autumn. A proportion of the people being targeted to attend may not be as familiar with modern social media or have access to the various platforms, so a two-pronged approach is taken to promote the initiative, including word of mouth.



Representatives from various organisations are invited to visit the sites and offer their advice, whether just having someone to talk to, access to a variety of services including training and employment, or assistance with different types of benefits entitlements. In addition, to help engage both young and old, games and other social activities including crafts, line dancing, and music will be offered to encourage a healthy interaction within the local community.

The Town Council encourages residents to spread the word within the community and to try the Warm Hubs and enjoy the sessions planned for this autumn.

For further information on the arrangements of the upcoming Warm Hubs sessions, please visit Prestatyn Town Council's website: <https://atprestatyn.co.uk/>.

You can also watch a short video about the Warm Hubs initiative on our YouTube Channel...



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CASE STUDIES

Promoting Good Practice across Wales.....

Llangattock Community Council - Defibrillators

Llangattock have secured another life-saving Public Access Defibrillator, following a public fundraising campaign run by volunteers. Through the hard work of volunteers and collaboration with the Welsh Government's free defibrillator scheme, Llangattock Community Council, a local luxury hire boat company, and the Canal and River Trust, the Llangattock community has potentially saved many lives in the future. The defibrillator has been fitted to the amenity block at the Lime Kilns, just above Bridge 115 on the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. The fundraising campaign to pay for the bright yellow cabinet to house the defibrillator was run by the Llangattock Village Society (LVS).



Sian Davies of Save a Life Cymru (in the uniform) with Helen Burns of Llangattock Village Society (holding the defibrillator), Alasdair Kirkpatrick of Beacon Park Boats (black jacket) and members of Llangattock Village Society. Image: 'As You See It Media', Llangattock.

The Welsh Government and The Welsh Ambulance Service/Save a Life Cymru supplied the defibrillator and steered the groups through the process. Llangattock Community Council agreed to take responsibility for the equipment. Cllr. Tim Jones, Vice Chair of Llangattock Community Council said: "When the Village Society asked us to take long-term responsibility for this life-saving piece of equipment, it was supported unanimously. We are grateful to them for doing all the hard work to help make Llangattock safer."

Sian Davies, Save a Life Cymru, Powys Community Co-ordinator Lead said: "Save a Life Cymru is delighted to have been involved in securing a new Welsh Government defibrillator for Llangattock community. We know that a person's only chance of surviving a cardiac arrest depends on a bystander acting quickly; calling 999, starting CPR and using a defibrillator. A cardiac arrest can happen suddenly, to anyone, at any age, at any time, and having defibrillators located in busy locations can be lifesaving.

For further information on this project, please email the Clerk at: llangattockcc@gmail.com or telephone 07989 187920.

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CASE STUDIES

Promoting Good Practice across Wales....

Community secures vital funds to improve Gresford Lake

A Wrexham community is pulling together to save a much-loved lake for future generations to enjoy. Gresford Lake has been slowly deteriorating for decades but the Friends of Gresford Lake and Gresford Community Council are determined to restore and enhance the natural habitats around it. To help the project advance, the voluntary group and the Council successfully managed to secure over £48,000 from the Welsh Government's Landfill Disposal Tax Community Scheme. Once a thriving oasis, the introduction of carp in the 1980s has led to a steady decline of Gresford Lake. The grant funding will help to restore the biodiversity of the lake. Ahead of the work starting, the project partnership were keen to ensure the wider community was aware of their project and engaged with nearby All Saints' Primary School and other community groups and residents.



Mark Fleming, Rob Jones, Andrew Bailey, Lesley Griffiths MS, Marian Williams, Jan Jones and Rob Grey. (Image: Andrew Price)

After writing a letter of support for the funding application, Wrexham's Member of the Senedd, Lesley Griffiths recently visited Gresford Lake to meet the volunteers and find out more about the project. She said: "Gresford Lake is a unique feature and clearly holds a special place at the heart of the community. I commend the work of Friends of Gresford Lake and Gresford Community Council. In a relatively short amount of time, they have taken huge strides towards saving the lake and am pleased they were able to secure this significant Welsh Government funding". She added "There is, of course, plenty of work still to do but the determination, knowledge and passion demonstrated by the volunteers is inspiring. I will do all I can to support the volunteers and I am sure their work will be championed by the entire Gresford community."

For further information on the Gresford Lake project or to participate in the various volunteering activities organised, visit Friends of Gresford Lake on Facebook or call Gresford Community Council on 07470 631184 or e-mail: clerk@gresfordcommunitycouncil.gov. You can also read more on the Lake Biodiversity Project website (click the image below):



Project Update - Local Places for Nature

Great news! The 'Local Places for Nature' programme has been funded until March 2025. Keep Wales Tidy are again offering free garden packages to qualifying Community & Town Councils and community groups. The packages include the starter and development packages, available in Wildlife and Food growing variants. Available again this year is the Orchard packages. There is a rolling deadline for the Wildlife food growing packages but the deadline for Orchard package applications is October 27th. Please see their website for more details and contact Rachel Carter our LPfN Officer for advice on applying.

Unfortunately there has been a delay of the launch of the National Lottery Heritage fund element of LPfN and I will send out an update this as soon as I can. Don't forget any member or employee of our Community & Town councils can register to join Pethau Bychain, the One Voice Wales Nature Hwb. Our next online meetings are on September 27th and we will be discussing Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUD) solutions.

Don't forget.....

One Voice Wales

Annual Conference & Annual General Meeting 2023

Saturday 30th September 2023 (Registration from 9:30am)

Royal Welsh Showground, Llanellwedd, Builth Wells LD2 3SY

If you would like to attend our combined National Conference and AGM please complete our Delegates Booking Form available on our Website:

Click on the image:



Follow us on our Social Media platforms:
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and watch the Playlist of videos on our new
YouTube Channel



If you would like your Council's projects or stories to be featured in a future edition of our Newsletter, please contact

Emyr John (Communications Officer): ejohn@onevoicewales.wales

or ask your Area Development Officer.