



## Cymru Can Newsletter: October 2025



## Appeal from Derek – Give communities the power to buy

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*Without giving communities a fair chance to save them, we could lose more much-loved pubs, parks, religious buildings, village halls and heritage buildings.*

*I'm calling for political parties to [introduce a Community Right to Buy Bill in Wales](#) and strengthen community ownership rights.*

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From reducing loneliness to boosting local economies – communities know best what they need to thrive. But too often, they're locked out of decisions about the places that matter most.

It's time to give them the power to act.

That's why I'm calling for Wales to introduce a **Community Right to Buy Bill**, ensuring vital spaces stay at the heart of community life.

In my [Future Generations Report 2025](#), I've recommended that Welsh Government supports communities to lead and [own local assets as its been shown](#) to keep money in the local economy, improve health and well-being, and safeguard spaces for culture, food and green energy.



Communities in Wales are ready to lead – but they need the tools and levers.

A Community Right to Buy Bill would give local people the first right of refusal and support when land or buildings important to them go up for sale, particularly from local authorities.

It would also put Wales on a level footing with Scotland and England, where communities already have stronger legal rights to protect local assets.

There are already 438 examples of community-led or community-owned assets across Wales, but there are many more important assets at threat of closure that could benefit from community ownership.

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*In Pembrokeshire, the Hubberston and Hakin Community Centre (HHCC) faced closure before residents stepped in to save it in 2018.*

*Since then, the centre has become a thriving hub, hosting more than 350 people a week during term-time and offering everything from art classes, Welsh language groups and gardening clubs to mental health drop-ins, playgroups and dance sessions. Improvements including solar panels, LED lighting and a new play area have cut costs and boosted sustainability.*

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*“It’s hard to believe how close the centre came to closing. Now it’s a vibrant hub, offering well-being activities for all ages and abilities.*

*Trustees and volunteers take great pride in keeping it alive for the community.*

*All communities should be able to do what we've done. It is helping to connect the community and providing that crucial space for everyone, which is especially important at a time when communities can be divided or when people are experiencing loneliness.*

*One of the biggest changes is perception - people know that it's ours and a sustainable community centre that we want to be here for years to come."*

***Peter Llewellyn, HHCC trustee***

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Without supporting communities to own their local assets, we could miss out on opportunities to improve health, celebrate our heritage, generate local energy, and boost economies.

By enshrining community rights in law, Wales can ensure that treasured places remain at the heart of community life, not just for today's residents but for generations to come.

**Cymru Can.**

## Survey on the WFG Act - your input needed

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, I'm asking stakeholders to share their perspectives and experiences around how they're engaging with the legislation and our team through [a stakeholder survey](#).

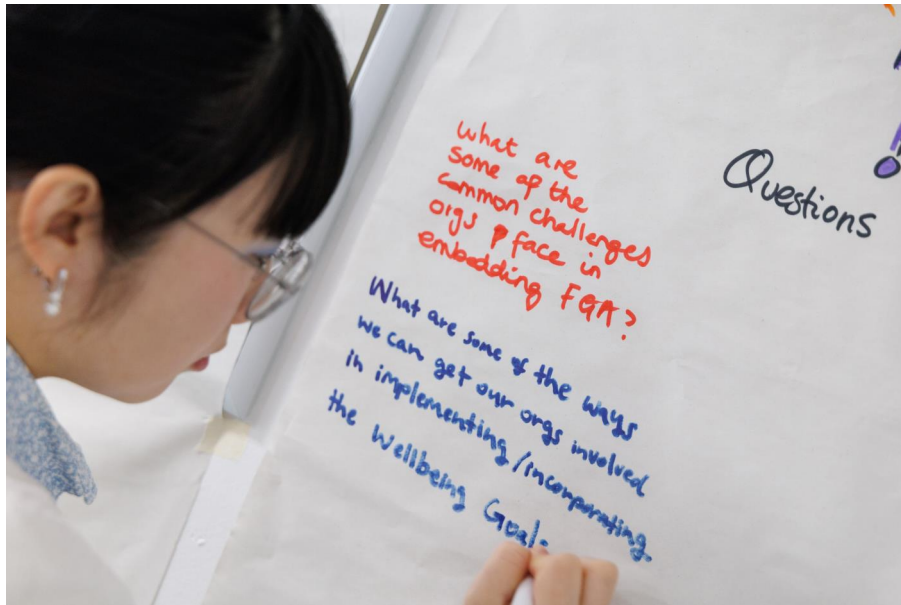
To inform the delivery of my Cymru Can strategy and guide our future work, I want to know:

- how influential the WFG Act is on your work
- how useful is our current guidance and advice
- what could be improved

[Complete the survey now](#) and share your valuable insights.

Deadline to complete is **17 October 2025**.





## Cymru Can in Action

### Leadership Academy

31 young Welsh leaders have started on their leadership journey through our [Future Generations Leadership Academy](#).

The fifth group of young leaders convened in Sport Wales to set intentions for the programme, share ideas and work together to prepare presentations on how they'll make positive changes in their role.

This is only the start of their journey, with exciting adventures ahead including their Graduation in March 2026 and joining the active and ever-growing Alumni network.

If you're interested in supporting the Leadership Academy or joining the next round of young leaders, [visit our website for more information](#).





### Removing junk food advertising

In my [Future Generations Report 2025](#), I recommended that public bodies ban the advertising and promotion of Ultra-Processed and high in fat, salt and sugar foods from all publicly owned advertising and marketing spaces.

Positively, Cardiff Council, [following Vale of Glamorgan's lead](#), have announced they are also banning junk food advertising in public spaces to improve health and well-being.

Working in collaboration with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, the [new policy will also ban ads](#) for petrol and diesel vehicles, payday loans, tobacco and vapes, and instead encourage brands to promote healthier and more sustainable options in Wales' capital city.

### WFG Act attributed to M4 decision

The Well-being of Future Generations Act was attributed as inspiration for [landmark decision to not approve the M4 relief road](#) by Mark Drakeford MS, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language and former First Minister, at Policy Live 2025 where more than 400 people from across the UK discussed how to do policy differently.



1 - [Policy Live 2025](#) - 03:04:50

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“Probably the first really big decision that I had to make when I became First Minister was a decision on whether or not to give the go ahead to a new six lane M4 relief road around the city of Newport in South East Wales....

And the Well-being of Future Generations Act was very influential in that decision....

In the end, I thought to myself, **I think the obligation to future generations to go on enjoying things that have been such an established part of our history and our heritage outweighs the immediate advantage of a policy solution...**

So there is an example of where the WFG Act made a very practical and actually very high-profile difference in policy."

*Mark Drakeford MS*

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### Keeping seals safer

To keep Atlantic Grey seals safer and keep our beaches cleaner, Neath Port Talbot Council have [banned plastic flying rings](#) from Aberavon Beach and Small Beach.

The decision was supported unanimously by the council and follows similar actions by Swansea and Vale of Glamorgan councils, and supermarkets like Tesco and Sainsbury's volunteering to stop selling the toys.



2 - [Gower Seal Group](#)

### Red Line Cymru: Why the WFG Act means Wales must do more for Gaza

This month, as schools reopened, it has been impossible not to think of Palestine, where it's estimated that a classroom worth of Gaza's children are being killed every day.

The WFG Act binds public bodies (our councils, health boards, government) to act in ways that ensure our decision-making stands up for the long-term, and to play their part as a globally responsible nation.

But if Wales is to live up to its own legal and moral standards, we need to do more.

Read my full Nation Cymru article, *Why the Future Generations Act means Wales must do more for Gaza*, [on their website](#).



## Get involved – free events and training

### Understanding the Act

We've held seven Understanding the Act sessions since April 2024, reaching more than 320 people from across the public, private and voluntary sectors who want to learn how to implement the WFG Act's ways of working and goals to create practical change.

- **22 October 2025, 10.00am - 12.30pm.** *Register by 8 October*
- **3 December 2025, 10.00am - 12.30pm.** *Register by 19 November*
- **10 February 2026, 1.30pm - 4.00pm.** *Register by 27 January*

[Sign up to join](#) our next online training sessions and find more information on [our website](#).







### **Hwb Dyfodol – long-term training**

Do you want to know more about how to think long-term and apply futures techniques to your work?

Join our in-person training sessions:

- Llandrindod Wells – 1 October 2025
- North Wales – 9 December 2025

[Register now through our online form.](#)

### **Contact us**

Want to catch up on previous issues of the newsletter? You can find them on our website [here](#).

For more information get in contact here:

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