



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

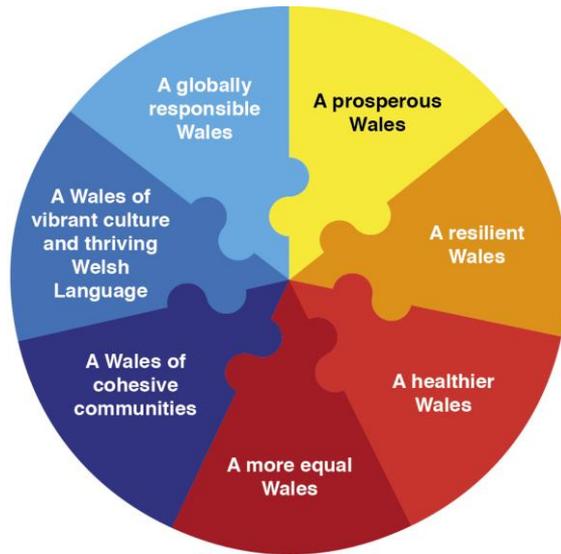
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The management of roadside verges

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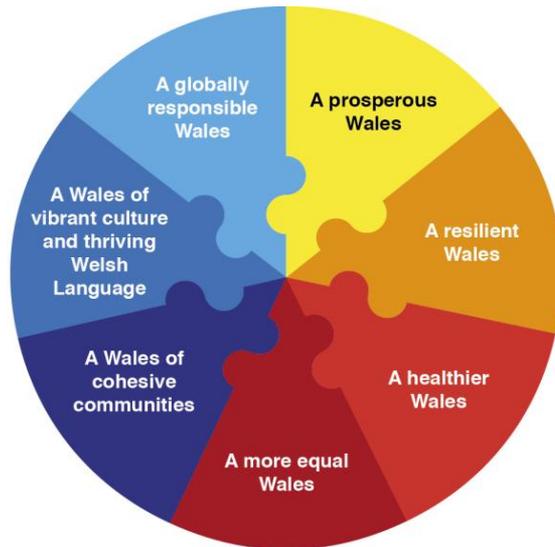
Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015



Each public body listed in the Act must work to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. To do this they must set and publish well-being objectives.

These objectives will show how each public body will work to achieve the vision for Wales set out in the well-being goals. Public bodies must then take action to make sure they meet the objectives they set.

Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015



A resilient Wales A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

A healthier Wales A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016



Section 6 : **an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty** for Public Authorities in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales.

Public Authorities **must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with** the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing **promote the resilience of ecosystems.**

Public Authorities should **embed the consideration of biodiversity** and ecosystems into their early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes and projects, as well as their day to day activities.

To comply with the S6 duty, most public authorities must **prepare and publish a plan** setting out what they propose to do to comply with the duty.

This plan can and should be **an integral part of any planning document** as part of the public authority's business or corporate planning processes. A standalone plan is not necessarily required.



Road verges are critical for pollinators!

- Road verges in Wales are estimated to cover over 10,000 ha of land
- They provide important habitats for plants, small mammals and pollinators
- Provide wildlife corridors
- Traditional wildflowers on road verges provide a sense of place

Good practice can save money

- **Monmouthshire County Council** saved £30,000 per year from sowing wildflowers instead of providing and maintaining annual bedding plants

Sensitive management can help wildlife and keep roads safe

- In general 2–3 cuts a year, one early; one late
- Leave some grass longer; cut only once a year
- Allow flowering herbs to flower and set seed
- Prevent smothering of delicate herbs by cut grass
- Remove cuttings
- Sow native wildflower mixes on roundabouts and similar areas

Existing good practice can become the norm

- **Blaenau Gwent** - eleven roundabouts and road verges have been seeded with a pollinator-friendly seed mix, 1km of hedgerow has been laid, and 60m of new hedgerow planted
- **Bridgend** - Wildflower mixes have been sowed on gateway roundabouts
- **Denbighshire** - nine Roadside Nature Reserves are being established
- **Monmouthshire** - Has reduced numbers of roadside verge cuts on selective sites from seven to two per year

Images

Main: @buglife - Pollination and the invertebrate fauna of roadside verges by Claire Dinham
Left: As above
Middle: As above
Right: Corwy County Borough Council

Action Plan for Pollinators - 2013



First in the UK!

Reducing and reversing the decline in pollinators in Wales through:

- Providing more diverse, flower rich habitats
- Maintaining healthy, sustainable populations of pollinators
- Raising awareness and providing information
- Encouraging positive action by everyone
- Building an evidence base to inform future actions.

Caru Gwenyn / Bee Friendly



- Get more people more active in conserving pollinators
- Get people interested in finding out more about nature and the environment
- Brings together existing and new actions
- Provides a focus for action across a wide range of sectors such as schools, communities and businesses

The 4 Bee Friendly priorities

- Food
- Five star accommodation
- Freedom from pesticides and herbicides
- Fun



Food – providing pollinator-friendly food sources in your area



Five Star accommodation – providing places for insect pollinators to live

The 4 Bee Friendly priorities



Freedom from pesticides and herbicides – committing to avoid chemicals that harm pollinators



Fun – involving all the community and telling people why you are helping pollinators.