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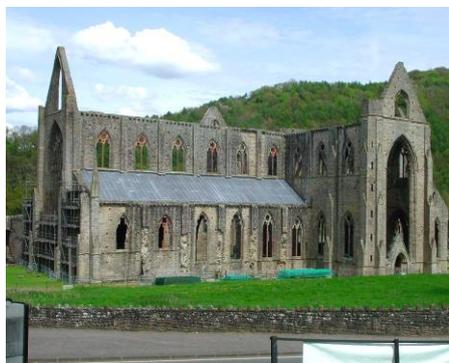
# CYTŪN POLICY BULLETIN

## MAY 2015

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### THE ENVIRONMENT – HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY



The Welsh Government has laid two new Bills at the National Assembly for Wales, bearing very similar titles.

The first is the [Historical Environment \(Wales\) Bill](#). This Bill amends current legislation regarding the control of scheduled monuments and listed buildings in Wales, puts the present Historic Environment Records on a statutory footing and creates a new Advisory Panel on the Welsh Historical Environment.

It is hoped that scheduled monuments will be offered better protection, as many are fragile sites.

In terms of listed buildings – many of them religious buildings – it is intended:

- to protect a building while Welsh Ministers decide whether it should be listed;
- to establish a review process for Welsh Ministers' decision regarding amending the list of protected buildings;
- to enable an owner or developer to apply to Welsh Ministers for a certificate of immunity from a building for 5 years;
- to establish “heritage partnership agreements” so that Welsh Ministers or local planning authorities may agree in advance with the owner a programme of work on a listed building, thus reducing the need for individual permissions; and
- give more powers to Welsh Ministers to prevent unauthorised work on a listed building and take urgent steps to safeguard a listed building.

There will now be consultation and scrutiny of the Bill by the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee. Cytûn has called a meeting of the Property Officers and equivalents of the Christian denominations to discuss the Bill on the morning of **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May**. If you would like to attend, please contact Revd Gethin Rhys ([gethin@cytun.org.uk](mailto:gethin@cytun.org.uk)). Or you may respond directly to the Committee through its website [here](#), by 19<sup>th</sup> June.

The [Environment \(Wales\) Bill](#) covers at least eight different areas. The Welsh Government states its aim for the Bill is to ‘put in place legislation that will enable Wales’ resources to be managed in a more proactive, sustainable and joined-up manner and to establish the legislative framework necessary to tackle climate change’.

The main provisions are:

- to require Welsh Ministers to adopt a **National Natural Resources Policy** and will require Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to introduce **area statements** setting out the challenges and opportunities for sustainable natural resource management at an area level. It will also require NRW to publish a **State of Natural Resources Report** which will set out evidence on Wales’ progress towards its environment and natural resource management goals. It will also strengthen existing duties on public authorities to have regard to **biodiversity**.

- to introduce **statutory emission reduction targets** and **carbon budgeting** in an aim to tackle climate change in Wales.
- to give Welsh Ministers wider powers to **raise charges on all carrier bags**, not only single use bags.
- Welsh Ministers would be given wider powers to require different types of waste to be collected separately and prohibit the incineration of some recyclable waste.
- Change the legal requirements regarding Regulating Orders for shellfish and make new charges for some services connected to the issuing of marine licences.
- To establish the Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee

The Environment and Sustainability Committee has launched a [consultation](#) on the Bill.

## IMPLEMENTING NEW WELSH LAWS

Passing a new Act is not the end of the story. There is much further work to be done before the new law can be implemented effectively. The Welsh Government is currently consulting on the detailed implementation of three Acts passed recently by the Assembly.

The **Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act** places duties on Welsh Government, local authorities and Health Boards to have strategies in place for combating domestic violence and abuse and sexual violence, and a National Adviser will be appointed to assist and monitor this process. Welsh Women's Aid has been asked by the Welsh Government to develop a Good Practice Guide on a Whole Education Approach to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. This Guide will help schools and Higher Education/Further Education establishments to develop such a whole education approach. The consultation is available (in English only) at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8RDBW2M>

The **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act** introduces a duty on public bodies to consider the interests of future generations as they make decisions. It establishes Public Service Boards and local well-being plans (one for each local authority) to realise this aim, and a Commissioner will be appointed to assist with and monitor the work. Introducing a new mindset across the public sector is a considerable ambition, and the statutory guidance to be published will be a substantial influence on how seriously public bodies take this change. Cytûn has been involved in the initial consultation process, and there is a widespread desire to see the guidance published in a much more user-friendly form than the traditional document full of numbered paragraphs. Christian organisations such as Christian Aid and Tearfund had an important role in influencing the legislation, and faith organisations will also be key to ensuring that in implementing the Act the wider vision is not lost.

The regulations, codes of practice and statutory guidance which will implement the **Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014** have been developed in two stages. The [second stage of consultation](#) on these materials has opened and will end on 31<sup>st</sup> July. This consultation relates especially to the steps to be taken to assess the needs of adults, children and carers in the community to see which services they need to receive – a vital step in the process of helping people in need. The Act will commence in April 2016.

The Care Council for Wales are developing a one-stop shop where all current resources relating to the Act will be accessible to all. If you have any information you have developed about the Act within your own organisations, or have found any published relevant information from other sources, Care Council for Wales would like to know about it. Please email Sian Howell, Communications Officer, Care Council for Wales at [sian.howell@ccwales.org.uk](mailto:sian.howell@ccwales.org.uk) if you have any information that can be shared.



## CARE AND CARERS

[Carers Week 2015 - Monday 8 - Sunday 14 June](#)

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The Assembly is currently considering further legislation relating to the care sector. The aim of the [Regulation and Inspection of Social Care \(Wales\) Bill](#) is to improve care services and set quality standards for them. The Welsh Government wants the Bill to ensure that there robust monitoring and oversight systems are in place to decide whether services are good enough, and to take swift action if they are not.

The social care services which are currently regulated (that is they are formally registered and monitored) are residential accommodation services; adoption and fostering; adult placement and home care services. The Bill gives powers to add or remove services from this list by regulation, and it is proposed to include advocacy services immediately when the Bill commences in April 2016.

The social care staff who currently have to register with regulators are social workers, managers of regulated services (such as care homes), social workers in training and residential child care workers. Again, the Bill does not extend this list but gives powers to Welsh Ministers to do so by regulation. Welsh Government does not plan to change the current situation at the moment – so care workers in adult residential homes, for example, will not be covered.

The Health and Social Care Committee will continue to consider the Bill until 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

## WALES REMEMBERS 1914-1918

Churches and other faiths groups have joined many other organisations to help the Welsh Government commemorate the centenary of the events of the First World War.



You can link here to the [Programme 2015](#) brochure on the First World War. The brochure details the centenary commemorative events that will take place in Wales, or beyond if relevant to Wales. It also contains in-depth articles written by partner organisations which are developing commemorative events and projects.

More information can be found on the *Cymru'n Cofio* Wales Remembers 1914-1918 website ([www.walesremembers.org](http://www.walesremembers.org)) and associated social media ([Twitter: @walesremembers](#) and [Facebook: Cymru'n Cofio Wales Remembers 1914-1918](#)) We would also like to encourage you to let us know of any commemorative events or projects you are planning via the *Cymru'n Cofio* Wales Remembers 1914-1918 website.

## CONGRATULATIONS AND FAREWELL

Congratulations to two Assembly Members who were elected to serve in Parliament in the May 2015 election – Byron Davies (Gower) and Antoinette Sandbach (Eddisbury). They will be replaced in each case by the next available Conservative member on the Regional Lists in South Wales West and North Wales respectively.

# EQUALITIES IN WALES

The Welsh Government is conducting a consultation on its equalities objectives for the period 2016-2020, and Cytûn has received a small financial grant from the Welsh Government to hold a Focus Group on this matter on behalf of the Inter-faith Council for Wales on **Tuesday 14th July**. As this is a Focus Group we do not want the numbers to expand too much, so we have booked two slots (10am-12noon and 1.30-3.30pm) in the Baptist College, Richmond Road, Cardiff (opposite the Cytûn office). You will need to attend one session only.

If you would like to attend, please reply to [gethin@cytun.org.uk](mailto:gethin@cytun.org.uk) at your earliest convenience, and certainly by **Friday 26th June at the latest**, saying: (1) whether you can attend (2) whether you will wish to speak in Welsh during the meeting, so that we can arrange translation (3) Whether your preference would be to attend am or pm, should there be a choice.

You can read more about the consultation, and see the background documentation, at: <http://gov.wales/consultations/people-and-communities/draft-equality-objectives-2016-2020-consultation/?skip=1&lang=en> A more concise guide will be circulated to everyone who books a place.

## **Shaping the Future - Equality and Human Rights Exchange Conference June 10th 2015, Llandrindod Wells**

This conference will:

- explore new approaches to equality, human rights and social justice impact assessments
- consider how impact assessments can lead to positive outcomes
- increase your understanding of how decisions may impact on people
- help you to challenge discrimination and human rights abuses
- help you to protect and promote equality and human rights
- focus on how to make the most of the Public Sector Equality Duty

### **Keynote Speakers:**

**Helen Mott**, University of West England and Bristol Fawcett Society

**Sue Bent**, Director Coventry Law Centre

**Kate Clayton-Hathway**, Oxford Brookes University

Attendance at the conference is free. If you would like to reserve a place please download our online form [here](#) and email it to us at [wales@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:wales@equalityhumanrights.com)

## **Is Wales Fairer? 8th July 2015 10.00am - 3.30pm University of South Wales, Conference Centre, Treforest**

The Equality and Human Rights Commission in Wales would like to invite you to attend a conference to share the early findings of 'Is Wales Fairer?', the follow up to our 2011 review, '[How Fair is Wales?](#)' and its companion '[Human Rights Review](#)' of 2012.

'Is Wales Fairer?' will provide the first opportunity to measure progress in equality and human rights over the past five years. It will examine six areas: health; safety, security and right to life; home and family life; education and learning; work and income; and participation in society. The conference will provide you with the opportunity to:

- hear about the big equality and human rights challenges facing Wales
- identify next steps in tackling the challenges
- discuss how the challenges can help to identify the new strategic objectives of public bodies

Attendance at the conference is free. To book go [online](#)

If you have any questions about either conference please contact us on 029 2044 7710.



## CLIMATE CHANGE LOBBY, WESTMINSTER, 17<sup>th</sup> JUNE

On June 17th, a coalition of 100 organisations – including CAFOD, Tearfund and Christian Aid – is organising a day of action and celebration to speak to MPs and tell them why fighting climate change matters.

There'll be workshops, music, entertainment and a rally finale for all the family. This will be the biggest ever UK climate lobby, and the first mass lobby of the new government. You can sign up at: <http://fortheloveof.org.uk/speakup/>

## WHEN YOUR LUCK RUNS OUT...

You are cordially invited on behalf of Living Room Cardiff and CAIS to register for 'When Luck Runs Out', the 1st Welsh national conference on excessive gambling. The half-day conference, which is free to attend, will be held at the Pierhead Building, Cardiff Bay on the morning of **Wednesday June 24th 2015**.

Later that same day, the annual Living Room Cardiff lecture will be held at the same venue from 5.30pm onwards. This year will see two guest speakers: Tim Leighton, Director of Professional Education and Research at Centre for Addiction Treatment Studies, Action on Addiction, Warminster who will speak about *Emotions, Identity & Recovery* while Dr Phil Townshend, Clinical Psychologist, Head of Gamblers Help Services, Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation, Melbourne, Australia will deliver a lecture on *Addressing Excessive Gambling – the Victorian Experience*

Both events are kindly sponsored by Alun Ffred Jones AM.

To book your place at either event: Call 029 2049 3895 or email: [livingroom-cardiff@cais.org.uk](mailto:livingroom-cardiff@cais.org.uk)

## AGEING WELL IN WALES

We would also like to invite you to complete an online survey from our partners at the Campaign to End Loneliness. They'd like suggestions on how to focus their future work to best reduce loneliness. Please let them know your views by completing the following by 31 May 2015, and get the chance to win one of three, £50 John Lewis vouchers:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LonelinessStrategy2017>

If you have any questions about Ageing Well in Wales, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

**Steve Huxton** Network Co-ordinator – Ageing Well in Wales Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Cambrian Buildings, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff, CF10 5FL

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[www.ageingwellinwales.com](http://www.ageingwellinwales.com) / [www.olderpeoplewales.com](http://www.olderpeoplewales.com)

Follow us on Twitter [@AgeingWellCymru](https://twitter.com/AgeingWellCymru) / [@talkolderpeople](https://twitter.com/talkolderpeople)



## BENEFIT SANCTIONS

A number of Cytûn member churches – the Methodist and United Reformed Churches, the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Church in Wales – have published a searing report on the effect of sanctions on benefit recipients. The report is available in Welsh and English at <http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/society/benefit-sanctions/>

It is hoped to publish shortly an appendix including statistics about the effects in Wales in particular. It will be launched publicly, in the presence of elected representatives and church leaders, in St Catherine's Church, Pontypridd. The date pencilled in is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June, but this has not been confirmed as we go to press. If you would like to know more, please contact Carol Wardman at [CarolWardman@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:CarolWardman@churchinwales.org.uk)



## EUROPE – FUNDING AND THE FUTURE

WCVA invites you to 'save the date' for information and support events that will be introducing and explaining upcoming European funding opportunities. Events will be running across the West Wales and the Valleys region between 26 May and 10 June and will comprise of a morning of presentations and Q&A opportunities, with the opportunity to stay on into the afternoon

for individual advice sessions. Further details will be announced soon, but meanwhile if you would like to book a place, e-mail [activeinclusion@wcva.org.uk](mailto:activeinclusion@wcva.org.uk)

Cytûn and its member churches are also considering how best we can serve churches and faith communities in preparation for the **referendum** on Britain's membership in the European Union to be held in 2016 or 2017. We would like to hear your ideas.

## ELECTION 2016 – YOUR IDEAS

As well as the European Referendum, Cytûn and denominational officers are planning ahead for the National Assembly for Wales elections in May 2016. We would like to hear from you:

- What resources you would like to receive to help you understand and discuss the main issues which will be contested?
- What help you will need to arrange hustings with your local candidates, or engage with the election in other ways?
- If you arranged hustings or used our resources for Election 2015, what worked for you? And what failed to meet your expectations?

Please contact Gethin Rhys (details below) with your ideas.



## CONTACTING THE CYTÛN POLICY OFFICER

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*Hapus i gyfathrebu yn Gymraeg ac yn Saesneg. Happy to communicate in Welsh and English*

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