



News from One Voice Wales:

Welcome to Issue 19 of the One Voice Wales E-Bulletin. This edition is packed with our regular update from our *Cost of Living* team and *Local Places for Nature* programme, along with key news and opportunities to support your work in local communities.

Please can we ask all clerks to share with their members and staff

NEWS

**COVID-19
DAY OF
REFLECTION
8 MARCH 2026**

What the Day of Reflection is

The National Day of Reflection is a moment to pause, remember, and acknowledge the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities across Wales and the UK. It is also an opportunity to recognise the quiet, consistent work that helped communities through that time, particularly the efforts of Community and Town councils, clerks, councillors, and local volunteers who supported residents in countless practical and compassionate ways.

[Covid -19 Day of reflection](#)



Recruiting a New Clerk?

There have been issues in the sector for some time about recruiting new Clerks. Recruitment of Clerks needs to be carefully managed and a range of matters needs to be accounted for if the recruitment process is to be effective. One Voice Wales and the Society of Local Council Clerks have produced a recruitment and selection guide for use by councils and is available on our website . It is important to point out that when a candidate has been selected for appointment references should be taken up and a copy of qualification certificates should be confirmed.

[**Recruitment Guide**](#)



Chwarae yn y 1000 diwrnod cyntaf



Endorsed by Early Years Wales, *Play in the first 1000 days* features information about:

- the importance of play for immediate and long-term health and wellbeing
- the power of play for babies, toddlers and young children
- the role of adults
- support for caregivers
- play and the sensory systems
- the role of professionals in promoting play.

[Full document](#)

Chwarae o Safon



To celebrate **Dydd Gŵyl Dewi (St David's Day)**, we are launching **Chwarae o Safon – Play Wales’ new playwork quality mark**. The meaning of the Welsh title ‘Chwarae o Safon’ in English is ‘Play of Quality’.

Chwarae o Safon is intended to be used in unregulated playwork settings, as well as settings regulated by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). It also applies to those involved in playwork in non-dedicated playwork settings.

[Full Document](#)

Welsh Government
Consultation
Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

FEATURED CONSULTATION
Review of school attendance codes

Review of school attendance codes

We want your views on revisions to the school attendance codes for primary and secondary schools.

Welsh Government
Consultation
Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

FEATURED CONSULTATION
Developing the UK automated vehicles regulatory framework

Developing the UK automated vehicles regulatory framework

The Department for Transport wants your views to inform the

development of the laws about automated vehicles

Document

Document

Meaningful Consultation, Lasting Impact: The best practice guide for pre-application consultation for the Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024.

Working in collaboration with industry, Welsh Government has produced a user-friendly best practice guide for developers undertaking pre-application consultation on significant infrastructure projects.

One Voice Wales was pleased to attend the launch of the guidance, in Cardiff on 2 March 2026. The guidance sets out advice for designing and planning consultations that are compliant with statutory requirements and deliver positive meaningful engagement to support project success.

The guidance was launched in Cardiff by the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning, Rebecca Evan MS. The Cabinet Secretary emphasised the importance of improving the quality of engagement. Colleagues from Grasshopper Communications and Planning Aid Wales also joined the event, to discuss the work they are doing to support Community and Town Council and local groups to engage with the new process.

The guidance can be seen here:

<https://www.gov.wales/significant-infrastructure-projects-si...>

Have your say: National survey of the current experiences of people aged 50 or over in Wales

Are you aged 50+ and living in Wales? Age Cymru wants to hear from you!

This year, we're launching our seventh annual survey to better understand the experiences and views of people aged 50 or over across Wales. Since 2020, nearly 8,000 people have shared their experiences and insights with us, providing valuable information that has helped to shape Welsh Government policy and informed Age Cymru's ongoing campaigns.

Your voice matters – whether it's health, social care, employment, transport, communications or finances, we want to know what matters most to you. Your responses help us make a real difference.

Take part and ensure your views are heard!

How to complete our survey:

· Click [here](#) to complete the survey online



· Call **029 2043 1555** for a paper copy of the survey, in English or Welsh and return via our freepost address: Age Cymru, FREEPOST RTZG-JHGC-RYJJ, Ground Floor, Mariners House, Age Cymru, Trident Court, East Moors Road, CARDIFF CF24 5TD

The deadline for completed surveys is 17 April 2026.

If you'd like to help us campaign on any of the issues raised in this survey, please let us know.

We are always looking for people aged 50 or over in Wales to tell us their story and support us to raise issues that impact older people with the media, politicians, and many other key stakeholders.

Want to become an Age Cymru storyteller?

Contact 029 2043 1555 or email

policy@agecymru.org.uk

Worth taking the time to view on the One Voice Wales Website:

Model Governance Documents and guidance for Councils



Model Governance Documents and guidance for Councils:

One Voice Wales has published model arrangements to help Councils run effectively and meet their statutory obligations. We also circulate statutory guidance and other guidance.

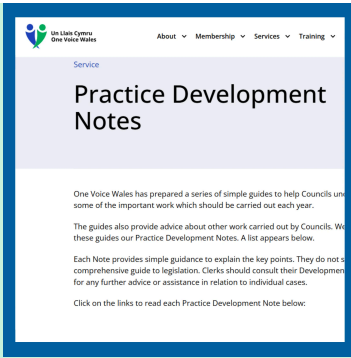
We keep these arrangements under regular review, helping Councils to maintain a sound governance framework.

Click on the the link to see the wealth of documents that are available

For further information

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Practice Development Notes:



Practice Development Notes:

One Voice Wales has created Practice Development Notes - simple guides to help Councils understand key annual tasks and provide advice on other council activities.

We hope that colleagues continue to find these Notes helpful. They offer practical, clear advice about issues Councils face on a daily basis. It is worth checking the versions on our website as we keep them under constant review to ensure that they remain up to date and any links included work properly. We also welcome suggestions for topics for future Practice Development Notes.

[View all Practice development notes here](#)

One Voice Wales Training Dates:



Councillors wishing to attend training modules please contact your clerk who will book you on to the relevant session.

[Click here to view dates](#)

JOBS

Vacancies within Community and Town Council Sector:



Vacancies:

As part of annual membership, One Voice Wales offers member Community and Town Councils the opportunity to advertise sector-related vacancies, such as Clerks, Responsible Financial Officers, and other staff roles.

[Further Information on vacancies](#)

Welsh Government Jobs



If you are looking for a new career then a job in the Welsh Government is a great place to start.

A career in the Welsh Civil Service offers you:

- the opportunity to make a difference to people's lives in Wales
- learning on the job and good career development opportunities
- flexible working hours and comprehensive benefits

To view the latest advertisements for public appointments in Wales, please visit:

[The Agricultural Advisory Panel for Wales - Appointment of a Chair - Welsh Government \(Cais\)](#)

**Closing date for the above appointments is
06/03/2026 at 16:00**



Save the Date

"Improving our Local Places – Welsh Case Studies and Planning Updates"

Date: 19 March 2026, 10:30am–1:30pm (Online: Teams)

Register Here

ONE VOICE WALES NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AWARDS CEREMONY

1st JULY 2026

ONE VOICE WALES INNOVATIVE PRACTICE CONFERENCE

30th September 2026

One Voice Wales Funded Projects Updates:

Cost of Living Crisis Project News:

Share Your Story – Let's Celebrate the Work You Do



Following the fantastic response we received from councils who shared quotes and photos about how they supported their communities during COVID-19, we were reminded just how much incredible work is happening across Wales every single day.

We want to hear your good news stories; recent events, new initiatives, ongoing projects, or small ideas making a big difference. If you have any photographs then please feel free to send them too.



Let us celebrate and showcase the vital role Community and Town Councils play. Let's shine a light on your impact.

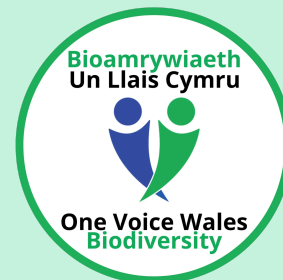


Email us at colc@onevoicewales.wales

Get in Touch



LOCAL PLACES FOR NATURE



Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Section 6 Reports

We are about to send the final list of compliant councils, who have submitted their Section 6 reports, to the Welsh Government. So far, 24% of Town and Community Councils have met their statutory duty to write and publish a Section 6 report, due at the end of December 2025.

Please send your report to biodiversity@onevoicewales.wales.

Reports will be published on the Wales Biodiversity Partnership [website](#).

There are a number of useful resources available on our [website](#) to guide you through the process.

Planning for dark skies quick guide published by Welsh Government

The Welsh Government has published a new [Planning for Dark Skies Quick Guide](#), to coincide with Wales Dark Sky Week (13 – 22 February). This guide sits alongside the Good Practice Guidance – Planning for the Conservation and Enhancement of Dark Skies in Wales.

The Quick Guide is designed as a simple, easy-to-read introduction to dark sky friendly lighting. It offers clear and practical advice that can support conversations about protecting our dark skies, and shows how small changes to lighting can reduce light pollution and make a real difference for biodiversity and health and wellbeing.

The guide is a practical resource for:

- Local authorities explaining dark sky principles to householders
- Community councils encouraging dark sky friendly lighting
- Groups running dark sky awareness or nighttime environment focused activities
- Residents looking for straightforward steps to make their outdoor lighting dark sky friendly

The guide highlights the benefits of dark skies for wildlife, health, wellbeing and placemaking. It also sets out simple actions that can be taken in homes, businesses, community buildings and public spaces.

The quick guide is available to download from the [Welsh Government website](#)



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This E-Bulletin is distributed to all Councils in Wales . Please note that if you unsubscribe you will unsubscribe from both languages and the



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one version please send to
kbrown@onevoicewales.wales

[Dad-Tanysgrifio / Unsubscribe](#)

