

**Feedback from group sessions – Access to urban green space and allotments
Cardiff, 24th September 2013**

Y nodiadau hyn yw testun yr holl sylwadau ac awgrymiadau oddi ar y siartiau fflip a ysgrifennwyd gan gyfranogwyr yn y gweithdy hwn. Maent felly yn cynrychioli barn y cyfranogwyr, ac ni ddylid eu dehongli fel barn Llywodraeth Cymru. Mae pob ymdrech wedi ei wneud i atgynhyrchu'r testun gwreiddiol yn gywir. Lle mae'r ysgrifennu yn annarllenadwy mae yn cael ei nodi gan *****.

These notes are the text of all the observations and suggestions written on the flipcharts by participants at this workshop. They therefore represent the opinions of participants, and should not be interpreted as the view of the Welsh Government. Every effort has been made to reproduce the original text. Where writing is illegible this is indicated by *****.

Table 1

Session 1 - Challenges	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. safety issues 2. not well used 3. opening up areas which are not currently rights of way 4. consideration of future uses of paths (currently not used) - linking communities 5. lack of resources (forestry *****): encourage access to woodland areas 6. learn lessons from NT 7. not focus on activities – need to focus on people – demographic trends – we are all living longer 8. with pushchairs 9. engagement with all sectors 10. need to build up confidence of those ***** to use green spaces 11. public pride in green spaces – planting trees etc. 12. need to start at schools 13. need for investment in dev green spaces CBH needed – public rights of way etc. 14. LAs need to coordinate resources better 15. engagement with schools – how good is it? 16. need to educate value of trees 17. need for community owned? ***** 18. leeway needed in urban areas for kids to explore 19. fragmented approach of Las 20. need to share budgets – health – C&S 21. interesting to see which urban parks are being used less 22. allotment investment 23. need to dispel old school allotment image
Session 2 - Solutions	- aligning resources to issues: one place to draw resources

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - proposed funding as a result of savings from LA change in trading? resources - ring fencing of resources - money from health & criminal justice should be put for this area - cross cutting - need for robust countryside code as in Scotland - learning from good examples: drawing up active travel bill; sustainable urban change; come outside, e.g. active travel bill - investment – delivering financial return - is this a cost-cutting exercise? – need to make best use of resources - green benefits; social justice - allotments – reclaiming green space - should the law be relaxed i.e. allow produce to be sold? - spare spaces – car park utilised - use of previously restricted areas should be ***** - volunteer dev officer need to co-ordinate activities - ‘underground investment’ - CBA - Access to water - open up WCP – can’t we open up access to water? - need to promote countryside code e.g. Scottish code
Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - worked in Scotland - ‘scandal’ of golf course development
Other	

Table 2

Session 1 - Challenges	<p>a) Lack of joined up thinking from above – currently no common language. Areas of works are split across different ministerial portfolios, with different priorities which can work ?negatively? - consequences are: things working against each other rather than with each other, opportunities to influence legislation & direction are missed within WG + ASPBs + government advisers.</p> <p>b) WG reluctant to legislate, they want LAs to come up with solutions to problems without forcing them to do it as part of their duties. They LAs cannot or are reluctant to do these things without proper funding at times when workforce being reduced. At same time there is no value in WG making up legislation that is not soundly based.</p> <p>c) Access to & availability of land – more & more people want to engage with the natural world & become more sustainable – need to provide access to land to enable this to happen. Current allotment provision is not meeting demand AND provision of land for access</p> <p>d) conflict between users for access land in urban areas</p>
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	<p>e) problems with byelaws & specifically cyclists/pedestrians/shared use – integration challenge. Specific designated spaces for uses – where we have mixed use there conflict</p> <p>f) Info and communications – people need to know what they have got. If you want to explore your local area the info is not freely available. Involving community councils + community groups in provision of info Establish baseline for need + what we already have</p> <p>g) How do you establish what you need? Current standards based on old legislation. We need to change the approach to provision.</p> <p>h) Misunderstanding / confusion about current allotment legislation. What is it? What does it do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) PROW – legislation – everyone says simple is better but you really need to understand the complexity to be able to simplify – the real risks of simplification are to lose the opportunities for the public to have a say in the process j) Planning & community growing & allotment agenda – lack of provision of land under LDPs. Change of use & permitted development for community gardens. Inconsistencies between planning authorities & no clear guidance K) Ensure there is provision of sustainable community spaces / outdoor green space in all LDPs
<p>Session 2 – Evidence / Solutions</p>	<p>a) New planning legislation doesn't contain anything to do with green infrastructure or provision/allocation of land for community growing spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lots of different terminology for same thing e.g. enhancement can mean to make something better, or bigger - use of word green infrastructure – what does it mean – need common terminology. Many of us are talking about same thing but don't realise it due to range of terms used <p>b) Baseline info & good practice turning on a lessons learned approach to develop new legislation. Can't ID need unless you know what is working e.g. Tan 16. open spaces assessments. If all LAs had completed the Tan 16 O.S. assessments then we would have a starting point. Open spaces – Quality Value Assessment development – Rosie James (Cardiff) to look in more depth at Open Spaces – but it has not gone anywhere beyond Cardiff.</p> <p>c) - pressure/priority for housing strong: overrides need for land for access - lack of trust in LAs being able to deliver</p> <p>d) - cyclists in parks - no coordinated groups to assist in understanding the extent of problem</p>

e) conflict + reports

f) currently it is word of mouth from interest groups which could be broad or narrow – but not all inclusive. Some people do not have the confidence to find out or try things.

Cultural change needed – there will be a presumption in favour of access, coupled with a strong code of conduct, such as respect for the land
Build this into education & way of life – this will encourage community ownership & therefore engagement as they will have a public stake in the land

All needs to link to:

- education at an early age is a must, enabling a change in peoples' life values – we need to ensure people understand how they can interact with their environment, so that they value them. This needs to be delivered throughout their school life - not just when they are little, making or creating opportunities for work / apprenticeships etc. – seen as a career pathway
- use people on the allotments waiting list to put in the man power or help with resources to the provision of allotments
 - a) joined-up thinking needs to be led by WG across ministerial portfolios

Monitoring – WG needs to know what works & what doesn't to avoid reinventing the wheel

Solution across the board – set up green space network made up of a true cross section of users / suppliers & funders / managers of green space who will inform legislation & good practice

K) - ensure engagement with the community within that development to ensure the space meets their needs e.g. play, food growing, biodiversity, wildlife

- ensure budget in place to enable this to happen
- onus on developer to ensure green space initially meets some basic standards before consultation with community
- clear guidelines for planners
- ensure that each planning application is considered in a wider context taking into account other nearby areas of green space – Green Infrastructure

- need guidelines for LAs to ensure a consistent approach is applied to each planning application across the board

C) – audit & map all land available including public owned land & private sector & make information available to all

- the areas of land need to be assessed for what their uses could be
- all organisations with an interest in outdoor green space to look at how this land can meet the needs of communities
- assess needs of the communities & marry up to the available land e.g. through community Land Advisory Service
- developers need to be on board to ensure that they include community green spaces within their development but also that they make land not

	<p>currently under development available to communities for them to use (terms on which this is offered need to be made very clear from the offset)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - there needs to be a policy to cover green infrastructure with regard to planning that ensures that LAs are working to the same guidelines (TAN) - LAs need to have policies in place so that if communities want to access LA-owned land e.g. for community growing there is a mechanism by which they can do so - develop some kind of benchmark / incentive that shares on LA good practice & allows them or encourages them to network. Focus on quality.
Other	

Table 3

Session 1 - Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Collaboration all bodies conflict of interest - & use of land b) Users being able to use same areas paths c) Land use green spaces use for development d) Working with developers needs to be done better e) Health seems to be on back burner f) Holistic thinking on green infrastructure – GI <p>Lots of legislation & policy for different areas that are not joined up Cultural mind set separates green spaces, commons, etc. need to look at them all together Pete Frost emailed list to CMD Lucie Taylor economic boundaries – Sheffield Hallam University with Defra & Natural England</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g) provision for use of volunteers advice to encourage LAs to do so h) duty on LAs to assess green space & need <p>LAs have volunteers but can't use them</p>
Session 2 - Solutions	<p>WG – LAs green infrastructures TAN to make a key part Mind set needs to change Environment has to state that it has to integrate with other leg Message to Chief Exec etc. to look at GI to achieve solutions in other areas – could be on event with ***** or guidance or env bill Highlight the cost savings of GI Something like ROWIPs extended to cover all green areas LAFs remit extended (health & recreation) LAFs need community engagement Ring fencing Make it easier for volunteers to work on footpath green space Section 130 notice HA link into prioritisation – prioritising areas of green that have biggest impact with regular review Make temp diversions much easier</p>
Evidence	

Other	
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Table 4

<p>Session 1 - Challenges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) need more joined-up thinking re legislation at the moment Process needs to be set in the Green Infrastructure (GI) approach/infrastructure as part of the ecosystems service framework. Terminology & definitions need to be consistent. Clear policy needs to be driven through all bills coming through at the moment – Need a specific TAN to deliver this greenspace can't be delivered on its own – needs to be part of the bigger picture. Cash value health & wellbeing; encourage healthy ***** for schools. Delivery mechanisms needed b) Public green space – fear around this re antisocial behaviour, buy in from community helps with this. Access to funding for community groups to set up trusts etc. Disempowered communities. c) Difficult to hook into GP surgeries – using & recognising the infrastructure that's there. People need to access the environment not necessarily greenspace. Why do people not access the greenspace on their doorstep? Willingness for it but not happening at the moment. d) Peri urban area – very negative perception from landowners – they'll always remember the 'bad things that happened'. Urban fringe going out towards the countryside. Need to ensure some protection in the legislation to ensure livelihoods of landowners isn't diminished. Need to engage early on with landowners e) Mindset needs to be changed from 'where you can go' for people in Wales. Not be set in your ways re what you can and can't do. ***** for multiuse – economic benefits you get from this f) Confusion about the info – where you find it, it's all over the place on different websites. Lack of awareness for urban living people of what they can do, where they can access. Needs coordination; it's not happening at the moment. Need a vision. g) Urban access- need to know what the community wants in their area. Lack of resources to get this done, need to facilitate start up of groups. The areas that really need the support is where you don't have access to funding, often you find this and difficult to get people interested in starting a group. Need a sense of place and pride. Bring people / community together.
<p>Session 2 - Solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) connection needed; start to identify sites and key things to deliver. Consistent terminology / definitions (this applies to access to water / wider countryside & urban access). Process needed, top down & bottom up approach & meet in the middle. All bills need to have a similar purpose; this needs to be driven through Planning Policy Wales. Specific TAN leading down to LDP policy, SPG (encapsulating a strategic regional vision), delivered through the development control process, infrastructure, CILS, SIPS. Sustainable delivery mechanism. Coordinate funding to deliver this process. Inclusive rather than exclusive. Green paper – if these points aren't encapsulated in green infrastructure terminology the coordination of the scope of the green paper the multifunctional benefit will be

	<p>lost.</p> <p>b) unknown – don’t know how to get out there. Buy in from the community, on a regular basis. Facilitated by Participation Cymru. Holding events in the actual greenspace, changing perceptions from fear to wanting to access the spaces – confidence. Bring the people to the space. Work with the police. Quality assessment, monitoring spaces to understand what’s important to them. Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens, travel bursary to share info & knowledge, available for a group of residents who would like to use the green space and not sure how to go about it. Community Foodie part of Bridgend reach – successful, community gardens. ‘Growing the Future’ learn from this – sharing best practice and learning from other people’s experiences. Access to internet – what about some elderly people who don’t use the internet.</p> <p>c) Need more evidence & value of people accessing green space. Evaluated health benefits needed – clinical trials etc. Need to look further afield for the evidence. Set the benefits within the health framework in Wales. Financial system to support it – clear financial process to deliver this. Active Woods Programme.</p> <p>d) Engage early on with landowners. Listening to them. Reconnect people back with food – farmers need to do this. Subsidy system needs to reflect the policy approach. Agri-environment scheme – need an access element, these subsidies need to be connected to all of the legislation and policy approaches. Landowners need to recognise that the EU subsidy they already received comes from the public’s purse. Work out what it is you want and work your way back from that. Sharing best practice – more positive experiences. Need more guidance / requirements about how to deliver these kinds of targets.</p> <p>e) Demonstrate benefits (health & economic) to change people’s mind set. Inform / educate people so that people feel confident to do something that they couldn’t do before. LA newsletters available but there’s too much info in them so the messages are not conveyed. Build on the ‘Change for Life’ campaign. Connecting with the place sense of pride is what’s important to them. Got to invest in the ‘right’ thing. A lot more signposting needed – reciprocal links between websites. Need media on board re benefits / good news stories e.g. Wales Coastal Path & economic benefits etc. What are the key cultural features that people can visit from the Coastal Path? Benefits lost without signposting. Multifunctional benefits – ‘green infrastructure’ - people are looking at things in their own silos.</p> <p>f) One stop shop needed and / or signposting between websites. Coordinated vision from the beginning. Climate change – using that to get people to ‘sign up’ to the idea. Looking at the holistic view.</p>
Evidence	<p>a) assessments undertaken for LAs coordinated approach across departments isn’t happening. Look at sustainability resilience factors. Need to be driven from bottom up.</p> <p>b) Research in Edinburgh re older people fearing public greenspace in general. Natural England have done some work on this. Dr. William Bird benefits from environmental concept accessible greenspace</p>

	<p>(presentation WeCAN Conference). Food growing benefitting older people (GHOP Cardiff University report).</p> <p>c) ANGST underwritten by LAs (Google) reports on benefits of green infrastructure from Natural England website. Good example in Scotland – infrastructure strategy. GI’s contribution to economic growth: ***** Sheffield Hallam University</p> <p>d) Anecdotal; FUW or NFU for evidence</p> <p>e) Seeing how it works in Scotland. Learn from other European countries. Open space use reports for Scotland ‘Greenspace Scotland’ regular newsletters National Research</p> <p>f) Examples of good projects (community) out there</p>
Other	

Table 5

Session 1 - Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horse passport :- we now know how many horses there are in/near urban areas. • 3% rights of way in Cardiff are bridleways. • Horse Riders put in money • Negotiated horse routes in Cardiff being taken over by cyclists. Danger? • Horse routes are not bridleways :- cyclists are not entitled to use, Signage, public education, respect for other users . Get info out to people. • Urban Rights of way not recorded:- urban fringe loss of row • Cost and lack of resources of ongoing management. • Urban areas don’t have a definitive map. Are routes being used by people, but are they ROW? • L.A’s need to look where the green space deficits are and take steps to improve access. • Consider future needs e.g old miners tracks now used by walkers and bikers • Consider how linking existing ROW in urban areas a practical access to green areas also important, safe road crossing for example, slowing traffic. • Simplifying existing legislation between L.A departments, to bring people together to manage and plan joined up green resources. Demonstrate cross department involvement. • Access to local education, promotion, knowing where it is . Quality disabled/pushchair access:- local ownership can help. • Spatially targeted green spaces. Not always “ all inclusive”. • Stop verges being designated footpaths/cycleways – horse riders use them. • Sources of Grant aid, imported targeted. • Waterside access – mixed. Being by water – slower pace. • Taff trail – barriers to horses • Consider location and space for waterside access. • Codes/Guidance and education are important • Health and safety needs to be considered – Scottish model is strong in this.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems in place to avoid conflicts • Routes can be designed to control speed. • Horse riders would like access to control towpaths.
Session 2 – Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horse routes solution :-Signage, respect for other users. • Signage :- very important to show relevant information. This also to show what is available e.g. distances, time to walk, café etc. However must be appropriate. • Legislation gets in the way for relevant signs • Simplify signage – simple messages. Education consistent and repeated examples dog control. • Education: Scotland repeated until it becomes the norm. WG to lead. • Urban greening initiatives – more attractive. Encouragement. • Who are we educating influencing? i.e. educate local people influencing politicians. • Cross party buy in into this • Definitive Map :- does not matter where, need greater sense of protection. • Protection of routes and consideration for design purpose. • Agreed criteria for what is a high/good quality green infrastructure, this to include cycling route, footpaths, horse routes, play areas (this list is not exhaustive and wide) • Green infrastructure is a multiply facility i.e. considers health. • Green infrastructure strategy :- reducing conflict. Ensuring inputs from several spaces e.g. planning, user groups, health benefits, growing etc. and climate change considerations. • Needed: high level political commitment which is ongoing. • Clear common language across WG into how this is presented and discussed. • Victorian industrialists and developers understood the importance of GI for healthy workforces – how can we tap in and promote this way of seeing things? • Design green infrastructure to be embedded into developments. • Combination of factors:- Health, recreation, links etc. leadership from WG. Promotion of what they achieve:- • Money! More available (if possible!). Grants specifically for green purposes. ROW's positive. More bridleways :- the only multi use access route. • Highlight the economic benefits of group/departments working together e.g. health – more physical activity economic – tourism etc. • Reduction in Bureaucracy – innovative culture:- take risks? Why not it is positive benefit. Long term partnerships grants. • Fly tipping :- reduce charges or remove charges at city/county tips • Engagement :- consistent approach from WG on how this is carried out • Allotments :- compile a directory of public land suitable for allotments.
Evidence	
Other	

