



Otherwise, we risk taking existing inequalities into the future.

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§At Wrexham's Ty Pawb, I just hosted a masterclass alongside Public Health Wales (PHW) and Future Literacy researchers (FLiNT) to launch the second phase of my work around inequalities and climate change, [Communities and Climate Change in a Future Wales](#). The masterclass was for policy makers across Wales on how to use innovative methods to involve people and communities in long-term thinking.

To ensure existing inequalities are not carried into future generations, I've been working with PHW and FLiNT to pilot a way of involving people who are not usually heard, but most often worst affected, in the long-term thinking of government and public bodies; specifically, when it comes to addressing the climate and nature emergencies.

Our project's pilot set out to use alternative and creative methods to find new ways to gain a deeper understanding of these issues in these under misrepresented communities, collect insightful and meaningful qualitative data on the topic and stop 'survey fatigue'.





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“We all have a duty to reduce inequalities across everything we do, including climate change.

This starts with the need to think long-term and involve the people and communities that will be affected, with a focus on less heard from groups.”

*Tracey Cooper, Chief Executive, Public Health Wales*

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The five most under-represented groups we identified were;

- communities already affected by climate and nature emergencies
- social renters
- Black and Minority Ethnic women and refugees
- disabled groups
- rural and farming communities



The pilot found that telling stories and using narratives and illustrations prompted insightful conversations with communities about climate and inequalities and helped uncover what problems might need addressing in the future which otherwise may not have come to light.

This way of involving communities allowed them to share and pass on the strategies and strategies they have already developed for living lives that are both ‘greener’ and more cost-effective – showing how those seldom heard frequently already have the answers we’re searching for!

We also identified that participants’ concerns do not exist in isolation, their worries for their future health and well-being in relation to climate and nature emergencies intersect with a range of other issues and that ‘climate means home’.

Participants also identified the legacy of COVID-19 as a cause for enormous concern and shared their anxiety of “being left behind” by transport as we work towards our net-zero transport ambitions.





Other key findings from the pilot were around how tackling the climate emergency ‘takes a village’, with participants recognising and celebrating the value of their communities, and their awareness of the engaging with the natural world for their health and well-being.

While the pilot was done through the lens of climate change, this approach to involvement can be applied to other policy areas and is a valuable tool for policymakers to make sure decisions reflect the needs of everyone and ensure the bold and effective policies we urgently need truly benefit everyone in Wales.

During yesterday’s event alongside Public Health Wales, FLiNT and Glyndwr University we shared our experiences of using the power of stories and narratives to involve people and led a masterclass on Character-Led Storytelling methods so that policymakers from across Wales can take this way of working back to their own organisations and communities.

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*Are you trying to meaningfully involve communities in your work and decisions? Find out more about our new involvement method [here](#) and at our online event next month - more info to come.*

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## Supporting public bodies – our regional events

Since 2021 I've piloted a new structure for supporting public bodies and Public Services Boards, by assigning staff members (Public Body Leads) to support them with their responsibilities under the Act. These public body leads have been assigned on a regional basis, ensuring that North Wales, Mid and West Wales, South East Wales, and Gwent public bodies all have their own contact.

Following the end of this pilot, in May I hosted a meeting with public bodies and other stakeholders to share findings and plans for next steps.

Feedback found, both from the pilot and the meeting, that public bodies liked this way of working and that they would value regional events to help build connections, learn best practice and develop their approaches.

In response, I've kept this structure in place and have been organising regional events for public bodies and other stakeholders to come together to aid collaboration. To date, three of these have been held and, following positive feedback, more are in the pipeline.

### **Gwent**

Held in Newport in mid-September, our Gwent event had a focus on the involvement and gave participants a space to refresh their thinking on what good involvement means and what it can look like in practice.

We heard from:

- Naureen Blanluet from the Co-production Network for Wales on involvement not being "one-size-fits-all" and the importance of not just asking questions but genuinely trusting people when hearing their opinions and lived experiences;
- FGC's own Inclusion and Anti-racism Partner Patience Bentu on power dynamics and discrimination in service design and delivery and how we as decision-makers can better promote the needs of those most often excluded from the conversation.



In addition to Naureen and Patience’s brilliant talks, participants broke up into smaller collective to apply learning and discuss how they could’ve better applied involvement in a recent project. The conversations were enlightening and galvanising; driving energy into understanding how involvement can support all of our work each and every day.

Topics discussed included the need for trust to flow two ways, the benefits of applying pressure where we already have energy, how “showing the human” and becoming more accessible as organisations can increase meaningful engagement, alongside unpacking common barriers to involvement including short-term funding and consultation fatigue.



### **Mid & West Wales**

Our Mid & West Wales event was held at the end of September in Carmarthen with –like Gwent– a focus on involvement. We heard again from Patience Bentu on the importance of understanding and recognising power differences during involvement but also from:

- The North Wales Research & Insight Partnership on how meaningful collaboration can support involvement practices across PSBs

- Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Services on how involvement with suppliers had shaped their procurement practices, which meant they were able to contract small, local businesses
- Swansea Bay UHB discussed the importance of using art as a means to engage with patients, but also improve their health outcomes

Importantly, the event was held before PSBs went out to consultation on their latest iteration of their Well-being Plans, meaning learnings from the event could help inform how they promote individual and community involvement and co-production during these final stages.

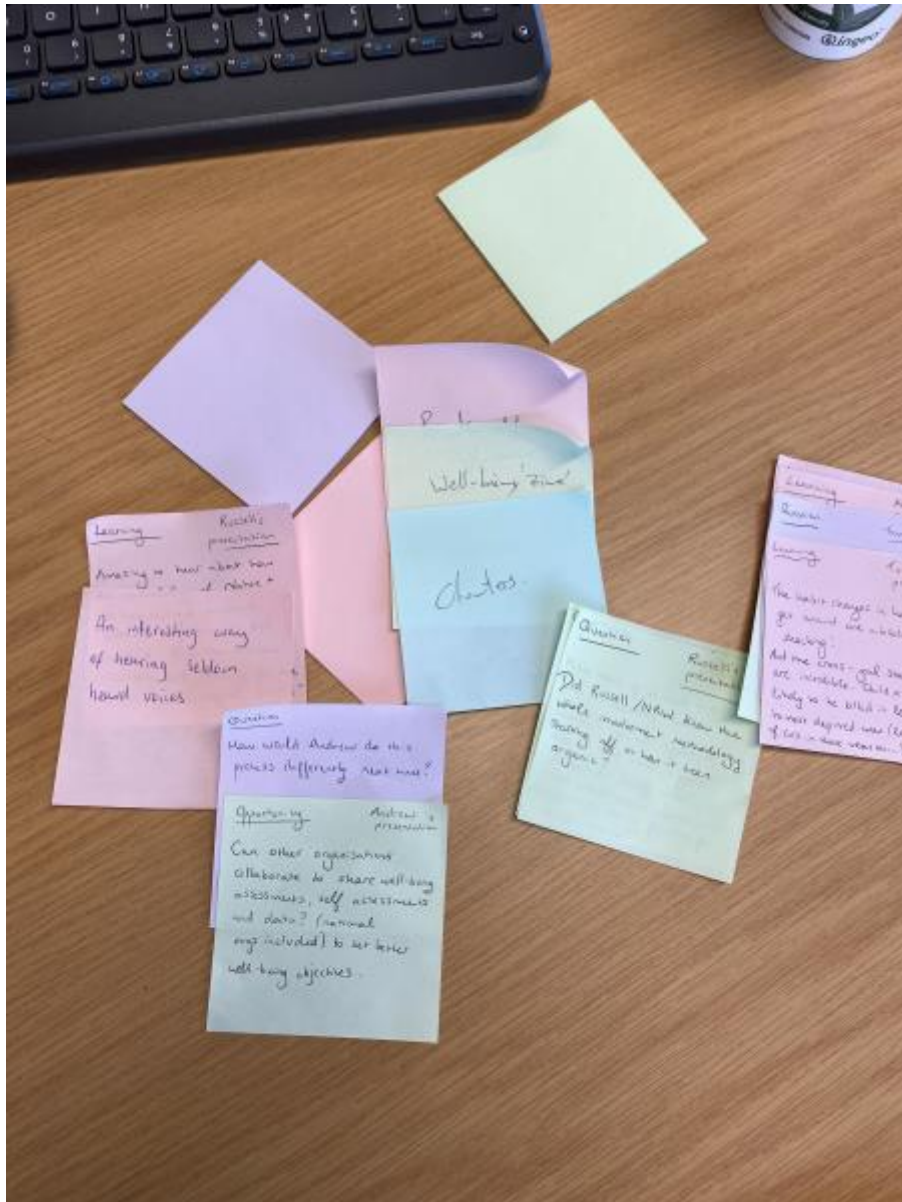


### South East Wales

With a focus on networking and sharing good practice, the South East Wales event was held in Cardiff in October. In addition to ‘speed meeting’, sharing a daily gratitude and discussing our ‘superpowers’, speakers included:

- Andrew Mogford from Merthyr Tydfil Council on their approach and work so far to update their corporate well-being plan;
- Dr Tom Porter from Cardiff and Vale University Health Board who spoke about the Healthy Travel Charter, why it is needed and what is next now that some regions are completing the first phase.;
- Emily Reddy, Mike Corcoran and Nina Ruddle spoke about the North Wales Insight Partnership and provided insights into their work in the region and partnership working; and
- Russell De’ath from Natural Resources Wales spoke about Nature and Us, the national conversation asking “what do you want the natural environment in Wales to be like in 2050?”.

A key reflection from the day was “If you want to be a leader, be a bridge” and attendees all considered the importance of integration and how different organisations can support each other, especially around involvement.



## North Wales

Next month, we'll jointly be holding an event in North Wales with Cwmpas to look at how public bodies can review their procurement practices to align with the Well-being of Future Generations Act. I've previously highlighted how the spending power of public bodies is a significant opportunity to support local economies, lower carbon emissions, and promote fair and decent work.

Keep an eye out in a future newsletter for an update on our North Wales event.

## Meet the Team: Rhiannon

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*Each month we will be publishing a Q&A with a member of my team who will share their insights into their time with my Office.*

*This month it's Rhiannon Hardiman, Change Maker (Nature, Climate Change and Decarbonisation). Rhiannon is supporting public bodies in Wales to go net zero by 2030 and to take action to address the climate and biodiversity emergencies. Her main areas of interest are housing and transport decarbonisation including getting her own life on track to net zero!*

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**When did you start with the office?**

July 2022.

**What are your current priorities?**

I'm a Change Maker with a focus on climate, nature and decarbonisation. Right now, I'm focusing on decarbonisation in transport, housing and the Welsh Government budget.

I'm also exploring a growing area of interest for me which is the nature emergency, how it intersects with the climate emergency and how it maps across the well-being goals. A lot more needs to be done to take the nature and biodiversity emergency more seriously, including establishing both Welsh and global statutory targets. I'll be keeping an eye on developments at COP15 Biodiversity later this year!



**What has been your proudest moment so far?**

Despite only being a few months into the role, I've been proud to represent the Office in two Senedd Committees.

In September I provided a briefing to the Senedd's Finance Committee on climate budgeting. This is a process of looking at the net impact of the Welsh Government's budget on the climate and nature emergencies. All spending decisions will have both good and bad impacts so it's important that we understand how major spending decisions like the Welsh Government's budget will help us on our pathway to net zero.

This month I also provided evidence at the Senedd's Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee on approaches to decarbonising houses which are privately owned or are privately rented – by far the largest and most challenging housing tenure to decarbonise. The ongoing cost-of-living crisis coupled with these unprecedented energy price increases only highlight the importance of ensuring we have an energy efficient housing stock, and we reduce our reliance on fossil fuels as soon as possible.



1 - [Senedd Cymru's Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee meeting on approaches to decarbonising houses](#)

**What has been your biggest piece of learning in your time with the office?**

I have really enjoyed getting under the skin of the Act, breaking it down, understanding how it should best be applied. I'm still learning about what good really looks like when it comes to taking action on climate and nature under the Act. How far should we be pushing that ambition now?

There are some great case studies across the work of public bodies in Wales and it's brilliant to see the Act having such an impact on how we do things here. I think this is something we can really shout about to inspire and motivate others to do the same.



**What is your foremost hope as the work of the office continues into the future?**

I'm really looking forward to the day when we can tangibly see the difference we are making to things like species and habitat decline, carbon emissions, air quality. The Act is only one part of that very big and complex puzzle but already we are seeing an aspiration to adopt the principle and approach of the Act beyond the public sector, such as private sector working with us on sustainability and decarbonisation plans, young leaders across all sectors championing the key messages and climate action taking place all around us by our very own future generations. All of this fills me with hope.

**What advice would you give to new team members?**

Take a deep breath then dive in headfirst.

**One word that sums up your time at the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales:**

Full-on!

## Wales to the World

Wales boldly and unapologetically strives to be a Globally Responsible Nation which is why part of my work is showcasing Wales to the World and working with other countries to learn from them about similar challenges and opportunities facing Wales.

Over the last few months, I've worked with Welsh Ministers and the Welsh Government's International Relations team to promote sustainable development globally, showcase our ways of working and secure partnerships with international stakeholders.

Here are some of the interesting conversations, innovative ways of working, and examples of good practice from across the World that I've been inspired by...





While attending a roundtable hosted by Vancouver Economic, I met First Nations Communities from British Columbia who shared their approach to well-being. With an inherent focus on protecting the interests of future generations, First Nations are leading the way in how they consider well-being and tackling global crises.

I'm proud that Wales has a Well-being of Future Generations Act, but we can use it to go further, allowing First Nations thinking and the experiences of people who live in sympathy with their environment, to guide our route to a better future.

Especially inspiring was the Seventh Generation Principle, based on an ancient Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) philosophy which says that the decisions we make today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future. It was a reminder on how we can, and should, take the lead from First Nations people, and other indigenous people who already have many of the answers, to protect our children and grandchildren from global crises.



I was lucky enough to attend [Furthr Festival](#) in Dublin, Ireland last week to deliver a keynote address on the importance of technology in achieving our well-being goals but how we must also ensure we're creating tech for a 'well-being world'.

[While in Ireland](#) I attended a Futures Thinking lecture held by University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin to discuss governing for well-being and how Wales is already leading the way with our Well-being of Future Generations Act. I also delivered a lecture at the [Dublin City University Centre for Climate & Society](#) to talk about our way of working and Wales' approach to well-being legislation.

I was also honoured to meet with Irish Government Ministers Simon Coveney (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence) and Eamon Ryan (Minister for Transport, Climate, Environment & Communications) to discuss how they might be able to legislate to protect the interests of future generations in their own country, taking inspiration from Wales' Well-being of Future Generations Act.



While attending the World’s largest gathering of futurists I had the chance to discuss with world changemakers how they’re working to prepare for the future and solve future problems now, and learn about their future-focused ideas –some of which included an idea that could “halve New York’s traffic”, another that could “produce a carbon zero district heating system for Helsinki” and another on “medicine administering robots”.

I was particularly inspired by the voices of young people throughout the conference including a 10-year-old student from Dubai’s School of Humanity’s personal goal to help regulate and support technological innovation, and was reminded about the importance of bring people together to discuss what the future might hold and how can we shape the future we want together.

Find out more about how I'm flying the flag for Wales internationally in my [latest annual report](#).



## What's going on?

- **Pint of Nature**

Don't miss Pontyclun Environment Group's next 'Pint of Nature' event with guest speakers from Natural Resources Wales on the biodiversity, habitat and water quality in River Ely and how they're working improve these. Monday 14th November in Pontyclun, sign up via the QR code.

- **Wales Real Food and Farming Conference**

The independent conference on sustainable food and farming, Wales Real Food and Farming Conference, is being held in person in Lampeter on 23-25 November 2022 and is exploring how a new vision for food and society can be realized through local action.

Interested in mapping out what a sustainable 21st century food system for Wales might look like and how we might begin to build it? Join the conversation and attend the conference next month: tickets available [here](#).

# A Pint of Nature Pontyclun



Join us to hear from Emma Tucny and Simon Whitton from *Natural Resources Wales* about the biodiversity, habitats and water quality of the River Ely catchment, the work being done to improve these and how "citizen scientists" may be able to help.



**Date:** Monday 14th Nov 2022

**Time:** 7pm- 8.30pm

**Location:** Lounge, Pontyclun Athletics Club, Castan Road, Pontyclun, CF72 9EH. 5 mins walk from Pontyclun train station

**Cost:** Free. The session is aimed at adults but there are no age restrictions for attendance

**Got questions?** Drop us a message on social media

**Book:** by scanning the QR code below



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Cyfoeth  
Naturiol  
Cymru  
Natural  
Resources  
Wales

- **Moving House Project**

Velindre Cancer Centre are moving in the next few years and are looking for a writer and an artist to help them record in words and images their existing Centre, the spirit of Velindre and people's workplace stories so they can be celebrated and preserved for the future.

They are taking individual or joint applications and you can find more information on how to apply on their website [here](#).

- **Have your say - New GCSEs for Wales**

Earlier this month, Qualifications Wales' consultation on GCSEs launched and we're pleased to see our advice and recommendations reflected in the proposals including reducing the focus on exams with 28% being put forward as majority examination assessments!

Help Qualifications Wales realise the ambition of the new Curriculum for Wales and meet the needs of learners through their new consultation. Closing on 14th December, [have your say](#) on new GCSEs and the future of skills in Wales now.



## 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:

[futuregenerations.wales/](http://futuregenerations.wales/) / [futuregenerations2020.wales](http://futuregenerations2020.wales)

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