



Future Generations February 2023 Newsletter



Foreword

Wales is putting the brakes on road building and taking another step in the right direction for future generations.

[We were very pleased earlier this month](#) to see the [Welsh Government publish their report](#) accepting the recommendations of the [Roads Review Panel](#).

Once more Wales is leading the way, implementing real transformational change for the way we move now and in the future. While is not an easy decision, it is what future generations need.

In October 2022 we called on decision makers for transport in Welsh Government to place the climate emergency, our net zero carbon targets and the well-being of Wales front and centre of their recommendations. And are pleased to see that the Welsh Government's commitments reflect the points raised.

To ensure the well-being of current and future generations were accounted for, we set out three priorities that should underpin decisions for all road schemes, both now and in the future:

1. **The need to tackle climate change and meet the net zero targets:** 17% of Welsh emissions are from transport with half of those coming from cars. The stark reality is that unless we significantly reduce our transport emissions, we are not going to reach our net zero targets.
2. **The need to improve well-being and address the cost of living:** we must reduce costs for mobility and move away from expensive car ownership; we need to break down the barriers that prevent people from finding decent work and getting to work every day; to reach their place of study, caring or play; or to keep in touch with members of their family and wider support network.
3. **The need to foster economic resilience and strengthen cohesive communities:** road schemes have been shown to have little to no effect on local economies and we must stop cutting off communities from each other and their local high streets.



The announcement from Welsh Government on the 14th February means several proposed road building projects across Wales will not go ahead and in future, any new road schemes will be scrutinised under new tests to ensure they are not increasing road capacity, vehicle speed or emissions and aren't adversely affecting ecologically valuable sites.

Any schemes that are going ahead, new conditions will be applied and any alternative approaches which had previously been suggested during their Stage 1 WelTAG process will be revisited.

It also means that new schemes should only proceed on the basis that they improve safety or adapt to climate change and are developed in a way that maximises the opportunity for modal shift to sustainable modes of transport.

We understand this may be a polarising issue, particularly in rural areas whose access to reliable public transport and low carbon transport options can be poor, but our current transport system is based on outdated approaches to transport that are not fit for the future. Until we spend less on roads, we'll never have the investment needed for better public and active travel.

"The Welsh Government's proposals are a good step in the right direction..."

They recognise that road building by default is an outdated response founded on a bias towards cars which is not founded in good economic, environmental or social sense."

Rhiannon Hardiman, Change Maker (Nature, Climate Change and Decarbonisation), Office of the Future Generations Commissioner



We're aware of the importance of mobility and how integral accessible transport is to our everyday lives but truly sustainable transport solutions have to meet the needs of a much more diverse range of people.

Not only will de-prioritising car use reduce our carbon emissions, it will also bring benefits for people's health and help create A More Equal Wales - important benefits considering 20% of people do not have access to a car in Wales.

Recent reviews of the actual economic impacts of road investment also show how building roads is not the golden ticket to local prosperity many believe.

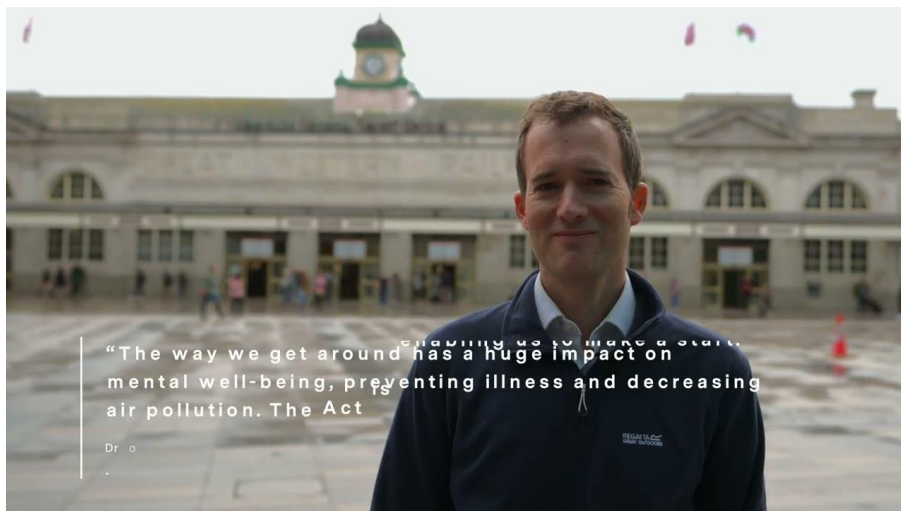
A study by [What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth](#) examined 2,300 studies of transport projects in OECD countries and the UK; of those, only 17 had robust effects on the local economy.

Road infrastructure which often physically cuts through a community can reduce social connections and increase our reliance on taking the car whenever we need to pop to the shop. Some communities which are low in traffic on the other hand are seeing a return to thriving high streets.

Our current way of travelling isn't sustainable, especially with the current cost of living crisis. And attitudes are changing, over half (57%) of those [surveyed by the RAC](#) said they would be willing to use their cars less if the quality of public transport improved.

Providing people with a choice of affordable, sustainable transport choices will help improve air quality, our health, help to reduce the gap between areas of high and low deprivation, improve economies and create cohesive communities.

We must move away from investing in new roads, to investing in integrated and affordable active travel and public transport if we're going to reduce our carbon emissions, tackle the climate emergency and protect our future generations.



Future Generations Changemaker 100

To mark the end of Sophie Howe's term as Future Generations Commissioner, last month we launched the **Future Generations Changemaker 100**, a list of 100 people and organisations from across Wales who are acting today for a better tomorrow.

There are thousands of people championing the Well-being of Future Generations Act across Wales and the list recognises just a small number of them.

These are just a handful of the people included in our Future Generations Changemaker 100:



1 - Noreen Blanluet



2 - Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog Team



3 - Cllr Caro Wild



4 - Cllr Dan De'Ath

- The Co-founder of the Co-production Network for Wales, **Noreen Blanluet** is working to transform public services through co-production and citizen involvement. A key aspect of the Act, involvement is at the heart of Noreen's work and she's an all-round champion of embedding co-production principles in public policy and the statutory and voluntary sectors.
- In a community of vibrant and successful social enterprise and businesses, the **Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog Team** are working to improve cooperation between community enterprises, charities, voluntary bodies, and public and private agencies operating in the area. With the aim of initiating, nurturing and promoting new ventures in the area, their work to offer sustainable career opportunities not only contributes to the development of individuals, but also to the economic, environmental, social, cultural and educational development of the area.
- **Councillors Dan De'Ath** – Cardiff's first Black Lord Mayor - and **Caro Wild** – a passionate advocate for active travel – are both leading Cardiff's efforts to reduce car use and increase walking and cycling. Role models for how to develop a city in line with the Well-being of Future Generations Act their work has led to some brave decisions and ambitious commitments to sustainable travel.



5 - Ysbyty Gwynedd Green Group



6 - Ruth Fabby MBE



7 - Pedr ap Llwyd

- Taking their 'do no harm' oath one step further, **Dr Tom Downs, Dr Stacey Harris** and **Yasmina Hamdaoui** are leading a multi-disciplinary team from Ysbyty Gwynedd and have formed a Green Group. Their group is challenging the healthcare system to reduce its own waste and emissions and have brought more than 80 others on board with their mission to save the planet as well as patients. They are growing their movement from Gwynedd to a network of climate-smart green healthcare groups across the whole of Wales.
- **Ruth Fabby MBE** has worked tirelessly to ensure that everyone can participate in the arts in Wales and that disabled and deaf people are pivotal to the creative industries. Former Artistic Director at Disability Arts Cymru, Ruth championed the importance of disabled people's rights as human rights and articulated the links between art and social change.
- As Chief Executive and Librarian of the National Library Wales in Aberystwyth, **Pedr ap Llwyd** is a big believer in embedding sustainable development at the core of the library's actions and is working toward his vision of 'A Library for Wales and the World', looking to inspire meaningful change as he does so.



8 - Wanjiku Ngotho-Mbugua



9 - Noel Mooney and the FAW Team



- The Acting CEO of BAWSO Cymru, **Wanjiku Ngotho-Mbugua**'s work is supporting people from Black and Ethnic backgrounds who are affected by domestic abuse, violence, and exploitation in Wales. In addition to leading the organisation which currently runs 25 projects supporting over 4,000 people every year, Wanjiku has also supported our own policies to support people in the workplace experiencing domestic abuse.
- **Noel Mooney and the Football Association of Wales Team** are making connections between the Wales' passion for football and opportunities to enhance well-being. Their first sustainability and well-being strategy includes an ambitious aim of 'becoming the most sustainable football association in the world' and lays out a clear plan of action to develop sustainable and stronger clubs, leagues, and initiatives across the whole of Wales in order to achieve this.
- Working to support others in achieving their dreams and ambitions, **Chis Roberts** is one of the founders of the award-winning **North Wales Dragons** recreational community football team. Framing all their work around the Act and the United Nation's sustainable development goals, the team and players have "a social conscience helping to make a difference by playing for purpose."



11 - Mymuna Soleman



12 - Wrexham Well-being Hub

- **Mymuna Soleman** is an influential changemaker for race equality in Wales, challenging civil society to do more to tackle racism. In 2020 she established the Privilege Cafe, bringing together hundreds of people for weekly online sessions exploring a wide range of race related topics. With a knack for speaking truth to power, Mymuna is bringing people together to dismantle prejudice and systemic inequality.
- A great example of the five ways of working of the Act in practice, the **Wrexham Well-being Hub** is bringing community and statutory services together to meet the needs of local people. A collaboration between Wrexham County Borough Council, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, and the Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (AVOW), the Hub offers community, health, social care and third sector activities and services all in one place.

You can [view the full Future Generations Changemaker 100 list](#) on our website.

And this list is just a drop in the ocean when considering those who are working for a better future in Wales.

Who are your changemakers? Who is inspiring you? Celebrate them and tag us on social media - @futuregencymru.



100 trees for a 100 Changemakers

Instead of printing off a certificate for each Changemaker, we worked with **The Carbon Community** to plant 100 trees – one for each Changemaker - with tags and stakes bearing their name.

The Carbon Community is a fantastic Charity on a mission to bring together trees, science, and people. At their site near Llandovery, they are exploring the most optimal way to help trees and soil remove carbon from the air, which they hope will inform all reforestation in the UK and beyond in the future.

The Carbon Community generously gifted us the trees, the tags, and the stakes we used to mark our 100 Changemakers trees and so, on the 9th of February members of Team FGC embarked on a tree-planting mission.

While spending the day planting trees and marking stakes, the team also learnt a lot about the science behind carbon sequestration, tree planting and the cutting-edge science the Carbon Community are doing to tackle climate change.



They learned about soil microbiome restoration and how their research is providing data on optimal conditions for carbon sequestration via tree planting. This includes harvesting biodiverse soil from around existing mature trees and giving it to saplings straight out of the nursery; and using basalt (a by-product of quarry work in nearby Builth Wells) which acts as a 'nutrient package' for the trees and captures more carbon in the soil as it rains.

Conscious of working in a way which contributes to multiple well-being goals at the same time, The Carbon Community are also trying to enhance biodiversity in a land that was used for farming through their wildflower meadows and their edible hedges.

After our hard work planting a mix of Beech, Sweet Chestnut, Copper Beech, Wild Cherry and Field Maple trees, we enjoyed the breath-taking view of the Cynghordy Viaduct.





Luckily, we are able to go back and check on the 100 trees and see how they're growing in the autumn so keep an eye out later in the year for updates.

Changemakers can view their own trees on the [Carbon Community website](#) and see photos of the newly planted forest in Cynghordy, Carmarthenshire.

Diolch yn fawr to The Carbon Community for hosting us for the day! If you're interested in a day out which is helping to tackle the climate and biodiversity emergencies, go and visit The Carbon Community project.

You can get involved in their work as a volunteer and support them by planting trees, maintaining the grounds, or measuring trees. Find out more about their volunteering days and work [on their website](#).







The next 7 years

Derek Walker will begin his term as the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales on Dydd Gŵyl Dewi - St David's Day, 1st March 2023.

Building on the achievements of Sophie Howe as Commissioner, we will continue to work to achieve the ambitions of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and act today for a better tomorrow.

Keep an eye out in our March newsletter for more information on the new Commissioner and our work going forward.



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:

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