



*Edition 3*

## A warm welcome to the Newport Green and Safe Spaces e-bulletin



This newsletter is being delivered to you by Natural Resources Wales on behalf of the One Newport Public Services Board partnership.



Thank you to those that attended the Green and Safe Network workshop in April 2021; I hope you found it interesting and energising to see so much going on in Newport! We also have plenty of ideas for the next workshop in the Summer.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch and let me know if you have anything you would like to include in upcoming e-bulletins. I'm here to help promote your projects any time, so please do send them my way.

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## **New Green and Safe spaces Vision and Steps**

**Newport has healthy thriving ecosystems  
where all communities feel connected to nature and  
have easy access to safe, quality green and blue space  
for health, wellbeing, play and recreation.**

I'm excited to share and launch the new [Green and safe spaces](#) Vision and Steps! Following a workshop in January of a steering group representing a variety of interests from across the Network, these new steps were approved by the Public Services Board (PSB) in March 2021

The new Vision and Steps builds on and refreshes the previous versions and represent our shared goals for [Green and safe spaces](#) across Newport, acting as a helpful guide to drive forward, support and deliver the work of the Network.

**Step 1: Maintain, protect, enhance and increase nature, green and blue infrastructure, health and resilience of ecosystems, connected greenspace & biodiversity across Newport.**

**Step 2: Understand safety issues and take action to reduce barriers that affect individual and community use of green spaces, and enable easy access for all communities.**

**Step 3: Empower all communities to take an active role in making decisions and managing local green spaces long term, connecting people with nature to realise the multiple health and wellbeing benefits.**

# Projects across Newport

There are many projects happening around Newport, and I would love to hear from you to include them in the upcoming e-bulletins. Here are updates from just a few.



## Branch Out

Branch Out is a project for young people aged 15 - 25 to encourage them to Get Out, Get Active and Get Connected! The outdoor activities and sessions help improve health and wellbeing, and range from gardening to taking a walk around Tredegar House and its surroundings.

See the poster for more info [Branch Out - Promotional Poster.pdf](#), or get in touch with the team via email to find out more: [changingminds@newportmind.org](mailto:changingminds@newportmind.org)

## Newport Litter Strategy

This edition, we hear from Steve Preddy, Newport Litter Strategy Co-ordinator.

“Three years ago, an initiative was started, aiming to address the problem of litter and fly-tipping in Newport. Public sector bodies, voluntary groups and individuals already do a huge amount of work getting rid of waste from our city, but there are some areas where the problems are stubbornly difficult to solve. The first task was to understand where these were, so a one-year survey was carried out, covering the whole of the core urban area of Newport: residential areas, commercial land and green spaces. The results of that survey can be viewed on the [Newport Litter Strategy website](#).



Using all this information, 52 Priority Action Zones were identified, where litter or fly-tipping volumes were particularly bad or where they had a high environmental or visual impact. In some cases, there was already work going on e.g. at Barrack Hill green space where Newport City Council is taking the lead, and in Pill, where the community group Pride in Pill does excellent work. For other areas, the process of developing action plans was started, great work was done through 2019 and early 2020 ... and then the COVID restrictions hit. Understandably, Newport City Council had to scale back its work supporting community litter groups; community litter groups were unable to hold large group events, and so on.

However, with some creative re-planning, we were able to start implementing plans on several sites: particularly around the River Usk through the centre of Newport, where hundreds of bags of litter were collected by Pride in Pill and Keep Wales Tidy

volunteers and removed by Newport City Council. Other volunteer groups such as Newport East Litter Pickers are planning to resume work soon and will be tackling some of the other zones. Over time we hope to have plans for dealing with the historic problems in all 52 zones.” This is just one element of the work involved in the strategy; to find out more, please contact Steve Preddy, Newport Litter Strategy Co-ordinator [steve.preddy@me.com](mailto:steve.preddy@me.com)

To join a litter pick group near you [click here](#), or click the links below:

#### Groups in Newport

- [Celtic Horizons Litter Pickers](#)
- [Duffryn Dusters](#)
- [Graig Best Kept Villages](#)
- [Lliswerry Ward community litter pick](#)
- [Newport East Litter Pickers](#)
- [Pride in Bettws](#)
- [Pride in Pill](#)
- [Rogerstone Routes](#)
- [St Julians Litter Pick Group](#)
- [Green Caerleon](#)
- Woodland routes to Wellbeing: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)
- [Countryside and Canal volunteers - Fourteen Locks/Allt-Yr-Yn](#)
- [Marshfield Magpies Action Group](#) or contact the group [here](#)

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## Virtual Events

## Living Levels virtual events – May 2021

### The 'Mega' Tides of the Severn Estuary

The Severn Estuary experiences the second highest tides on the planet!

Thursday, 20 May

19:00 - 20:00

[BOOK HERE](#)



### Little Flanders beyond Wales; Whitson as a planned settlement on the Levels

The Gwent Levels bare striking comparisons with the Low Countries but is there are stronger connection?

Wednesday, 26 May

19:00 - 20:00

[BOOK HERE](#)

*Photo Credit: Chris Harris/Living Levels Partnership*



### Coed Lleol online nature sessions

Coed Lleol are continuing to help people across Wales improve their wellbeing by connecting to nature. Just head to their [website](#) to explore the topics and sign up!

**Mondays** – *Nature Watch*

**Tuesdays** – *Foraging & Nutrition*

**Fridays** – *Mindfulness*

### Llais Y Goedwig community woodland virtual events

Llais Y Goedwig also have a full calendar of [online events](#), covering topics around Health & Wellbeing with Community Woodlands to Engaging Young People, take a look at their website or get in touch with the team on: [booking@llaisygoedwig.org.uk](mailto:booking@llaisygoedwig.org.uk)



# Green Infrastructure Map of Newport



I'm excited to share with you that we now have a multi layered map showing us Newport's accessible green spaces, woodland, parks, nature reserves, conservation areas, green verges, and blue spaces, reens, rivers, and wetlands. It also includes air quality data, Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) data, greenspace contribution to flood risk management, and general level of vegetation and habitat in gardens.

One Newport PSB partners have worked with [Environment Systems](#) to gather this information on green and blue space across Newport, with the aim of using it to help inform planning decisions, protect greenspace by demonstrating its value, contribute to the Replacement Local Development Plan, contribute to a Green Infrastructure Assessment, inform greenspace management practices such as possible changes to mowing regimes, help create green corridors and connect green spaces, and help us focus our efforts on increasing and enhancing quality green space for those who need it most.

We are working on making this information widely available either with an app or online portal, and offline resources, so the people of Newport can find out what's on their doorstep, where to visit for their health and wellbeing, and to encourage habitat creation and more planting in their own gardens.

## Safety and green spaces data dashboard

We also now have a map of fly tipping, anti-social behaviour incidents, and deliberate fire setting in green spaces. This will be updated quarterly, and used by Newport City Council, Natural Resources Wales, Gwent Police, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and Fly Tipping Action Wales; who are working in partnership to get a better picture of the current situation and focusing efforts to make greenspace safe and accessible for all.

## Green Recovery



*Photo Credit: Chris Harris/Living Levels Partnership*

### Public Health Wales – Green Opportunities

Here is the [spring 2021 edition of 'Green Opportunities'](#) from Public Health Wales' Health & Sustainability Hub. Providing the latest insight, best practice and learning to inform Wales' green recovery from COVID-19, the quarterly updates aim to provide inspiration on a range of sustainable opportunities to contribute towards a healthy, fair and sustainable future for Wales. This edition focuses on energy and air pollution.

## Launch of State of Natural Resources Report 2020 (SoNaRR2020)



Back in December last year, NRW released Part One of the State of Natural Resources Report 2020 (SoNaRR2020), showing pressures, impacts and opportunities for action. Now, Part Two of SoNaRR2020 and the full ecosystem and cross-cutting theme assessments, has also been published.

- [SoNaRR2020 Executive Summary](#)
- The more detailed [Natural Resource Registers](#) with handy interactive infographics

Together, the [SoNaRR2020](#) reports make up an important evidence base for Welsh Ministers, public sector organisations and local authorities to use in producing policy, making informed planning decisions and writing management plans. It's also freely accessible to all individuals and organisations, as we all play a role in achieving Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) in Wales.

The key recommendation from SoNaRR2020 is that we need to "*take action for people and our planet*", and consider the ecosystem (management of natural resources), economic (incentives and regulation) and social (social systems, values and behaviour) in "*transformation of our food, energy and transport systems*".

## New Planning Policy Wales – Green spaces, health and wellbeing



This February, Welsh Government (WG) published [Edition 11 of Planning Policy Wales](#). It's positive to see that this edition contains strong messages about drawing public health into planning, achieving well-being through placemaking, and creating:

*“sustainable places which are attractive, sociable, accessible, active, secure, welcoming, healthy and friendly”.*



The national sustainable placemaking outcomes and their relationship to Planning Policy Wales Themes and Well-being Goals, paint an excellent picture of how WG sees the 'on-the-ground' expression of this.

Below are just a few which relate to Green and Safe spaces. A Sustainable Place has...

- Resilient biodiversity and ecosystems
- Integrated green infrastructure
- Is resilient to climate change
- Accessible and high quality green space
- Accessible by means of active travel and public transport, and not car dependent
- Minimises the need to travel and provides equality of access
- Feels safe and inclusive, supporting a diverse population
- Promotes physical and mental health and well-being

## **Training and Resources**



- Natural Resources Wales has a whole host of exciting learning resources and [upcoming training courses](#) for outdoor educators on topics such as 'Naturally Happy and Healthy!', 'Early Years in the Outdoors' and 'Treemendous Trees & Wonderful Woodlands'. Please explore the pages linked to above, and [get in touch with the education team](#) for more information.
- [Trees for Cities](#) offer a range of free resources and a [Wild Teaching Toolkit](#) to encourage children's sensory engagement with nature and tree planting.
- [Living Levels offer learning resources](#) specifically tailored to the history, culture and environment found in our unique Gwent Levels landscape.
- [Food for Life Get Togethers](#) are regular community activities that connect people from all ages and backgrounds through growing, cooking and eating good food. Visit the website to find out more, and check out the tools, materials, ideas, tips and advice on [growing](#), [cooking](#) and [food sharing](#) activities once restrictions allow. In the meantime, [Plant and Share Month](#) is a celebration of growing your own, and from 19 April - 19 May, the nation are being encouraged to dig in and sow, grow and share veg with their communities.

# Funding



## Funding Wales

[Funding Wales](#) is a new funding search platform created by Third Sector Support Wales. You can search hundreds of grant and loan finance opportunities from local, national and international sources. From small grants to large capital projects, it can help you find the funding

you need.

Here are a few funding opportunities below.

### The National Lottery Heritage Fund

- [Nature Networks Fund](#) to strengthen the resilience of Wales' network of protected land and marine sites, supporting a green recovery for nature and communities. Grants available between £50,000 and £500,000. Applications for £50,000–£100,000 close midday on 24 May 2021.
- [Local Places for Nature](#) to enable communities in Wales to restore and enhance nature. Grants available of up to £250,000.
- [Community Woodlands](#) to restore, create, connect and manage woodlands in Wales. Grants available from £10,000-£250,000.

### Social Farms and Gardens - Children's Summer Activities Grant

The charity Social Farms and Gardens, in partnership with the Hilden Charitable Fund, have made available [small grants to support summer activities](#) (18 grants of £1,500) to help children from disadvantaged backgrounds connect with nature.

The fund is available to *members of Social Farms & Gardens members only*. Membership is free and open to any organisation delivering nature-based activities that improve people's lives. Grants must be spent by the end of August 2021. Applications close midday 24 May 2021. Check out the link above for all the details

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## Dates for your Diary



[Plant and Share Month](#) (19 April - 19 May)

[National Walking Month](#) (May)

[No Mow May](#) (May)

[Mental Health Awareness Week](#) – the theme this year is ‘Nature’ (10 – 16 May)

[Outdoor Classroom Day](#) (20 May)

[Spring Clean Cymru](#) - Keep Wales Tidy (28 May - 13 June)

[Wales Nature Week](#) (29 May - 6 June)

[National Children's Gardening Week](#) (29 May - 6 June)

[Bike Week](#) (20 May - 5 June)

[Have A Grow Day](#) (5 June)

[World Environment Day](#) (5 June)

[National Growing for Wellbeing Week](#) (7 - 13 June)

[Clean Air Day](#) (17 June)



For more information contact Harriet Bleach:  
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