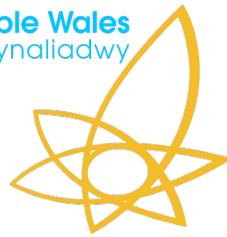


Sustainable Wales  
Cymru Gynaliadwy



**the future is here**  
**y dyfodol sydd yma**



[WWW.SUSSEDWALES.COM](http://WWW.SUSSEDWALES.COM)

4-5 James Street Porthcawl CF36 3BG  
01656 783962

## Appropriation Response and Participatory Planning From Sustainable Wales & SUSSED

June 2022 FAO: Bridgend Borough Council and Legal &  
Regularity Services, council leader, cabinet and senior officers.





## Appropriation Of Land Including Open Space Land At Griffin Park & Sandy Bay, Porthcawl

### FAO: Bridgend Borough Council Legal & Regularity Services

Local charity, Sustainable Wales Cymru Gynaliadwy, and SUSSED Community Cooperative's response to Bridgend County Borough Council's consultation re: Acquisition and CPO's of c. 19.84 hectares land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay, Porthcawl.

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/business/licensing/legal-notices-and-orders/>



Sustainable Wales Cymru Gynaliadwy, registered charity and SUSSED Community Cooperative's overall position regarding the regeneration of Porthcawl is that **any** development responds to the climate and ecological emergency and is carbon neutral as indicated in our previous contributions to Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

<https://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/s/Regeneration-Plans-for-Porthcawl-Sept2020.pdf>

We would also add that there should remain plenty of family open space in land developments. Space that as residents we do not have to pay entry for.

Sustainable Wales and SUSSED are not against the development of Porthcawl, indeed we welcome it, having been a long-time coming!

However, many local voices are telling us that they have significant concerns over the quantity of housing, the increase in infrastructure and services that will be then required, cars and parking, the lack of open space and indeed the urbanization of the town. Their fears are increased by the acquisition of the land proposal above.

For example, could a local designation like a Green Wedge (Planning Policy Wales 2021 - Edition 11 p.40 be established to create a buffer zone for any development on Sandy Bay?

<https://www.ecosia.org/search?q=Planning%20Policy%20Wales&addon=firefox&addonversion=4.1.0&method=topbar> )

Over the years the community consultation offered by BCBC to developments has been old style, dismissive, and limiting which has caused constant carping and political alienation.

Essentially also wasting the energy and enthusiasms of many people, some of whose ideas are sensible and exciting. We need to move on.

Sustainable Wales and SUSSED believe that informed decision-making is key to achieving a sustainable future. As such, democratic participation in land-use, development and design of the land around a community, **with** the community is essential.

'The National Principles of Public Engagement' which are just being updated in Wales, require this approach.

BCBC have an obligation to ensure that the development is in line with the "Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015" (WFGA). Of particular relevance to this development are the goals:

- a resilient Wales - creating and not destroying habitats
- a more equal Wales - proportion of truly affordable homes
- a more cohesive Wales - allowing people easy access to greenspace and easy reach of facilities needed.
- a globally responsible Wales - low carbon houses - both in design and in occupancy

Indeed, also the principles and ways of working outlined in the WFGA which include **collaboration, and involvement.**

*"Public bodies need to make sure that when making their decisions they take into account the impact they could have on people living their lives in Wales in the future."*

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act provides for better decision-making by ensuring that public bodies

- take account of the long-term help to prevent problems occurring or getting worse
- take an integrated approach
- take a **collaborative approach**, and
- consider and **involve people** of all ages and diversity.

The Five Ways of Working defined by the Act, that are supposed to ensure long-term planning include the requirement for public bodies to involve and collaborate...



Porthcawl's regeneration is providing a unique opportunity to be an outstanding example of best practice for future generations. Fully involving the community in the shaping of the town and surrounds will result in a project with better outcomes and full community support.

**'Participatory planning' is a deliberative democratic process designed to review our shared values, considering the past, the present and future generations to establish a common long-term vision.**

This process of **'co-production'** is when professionals work in partnership with people who have **'lived'** experience to share power and responsibility to achieve mutual solutions. This includes councillors, **'experts'**, officers and community representatives. The process is often delivered by trained facilitators who build confidence and trust to help focus on what matters to all.

Therefore, **unless** there is a serious attempt by BCBC to require informed community engagement in any subsequent procurement contract, regarding the change of use above, then Sustainable Wales and SUSSED would be minded to reject the acquisition of land/CPO as above.

There are various examples of communities working in this co-production way worldwide. Some work over a few months, others over a number of years. Citizens juries, forums, assemblies.

In Wales notably, backed by the First Minister, Mark Drakeford and the Natural Resources Wales, the Skyline project <https://futureforestvision.co.uk/> developed with help from the 'Green Valleys' community interest company, explores, with the community and Natural Resources Wales, sustainable community land-management for the long term. <http://www.thegreenvalleys.org>



Skyline is a respected programme that has established trust with Welsh Government, NRW, Cardiff University's Sustainable Places Research Institute, the wider community sector, the Future Generations Commissioner's Office, local authorities, and crucially, funding organisations: Lottery Climate Action Fund, Friends Provident Foundation and others.

Co-production Network Wales <https://copronet.wales/>

<https://citizensassemblies.org/>

[Evaluation Guidelines for Representative Deliberative Processes](#)

We look forward to your response.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'M. Minhinnick'.

Margaret Minhinnick  
mm@sustainablewales.org.uk  
On behalf of Sustainable Wales & SUSSED

cc: Cllr. Huw David., Mark Shephard Chief Executive,  
Janine Nightingale Corporate Dir. Communities, Cllr.  
Neelo Farr, Sarah Murphy MS, Bridgend & Porthcawl.