

## Invitation

### Planning Aid Wales & RTPI Young Planners Quiz Night

Quizmaster James is inviting Planning Aid Wales friends and supporters to another Quiz Night on **Thursday, 5th February 2009** at 6.30pm (quiz to start at 7pm sharp) in Tiger Tiger, Cardiff.

The cost of the quiz will be £4 per entrant (payable on the night), with all proceeds going to Planning Aid Wales. We are looking for teams of no more than 5 to enter, and non-planners are welcome!

A registration form and directions to the venue are available on <http://www.planningaidwales.org.uk/volunteering/quiznight>.

If you have any questions about the quiz, please contact James Davies on **02920 464 205** or <mailto:james@planningaidwales.org.uk>.

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## New planning handbook for Gypsies and Travellers

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The Welsh Assembly Government has just published a booklet entitled *Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites*, which has been prepared by Planning Aid Wales. It explains in plain language the rules and procedures for establishing new Gypsy and Traveller sites. It also gives information about the rights of people who live on a site without planning permission. And there are hints where to go for further help and information.

The illustrations have been produced by students of the Monkton Priory Project in Pembrokeshire. Planning Aid

Wales would like to thank the students for their wonderful work as well as Andrée Morgan-Andrews, Bev Stevens, Charlotte Cortazzi, Kay Powell, Max Smith, Pauline Le Britton, Steve Ball and Susan Alexander for their valued contributions to the project.



The booklet can be downloaded from the Assembly Government's website on <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/policy/guidance/gandtcaravansites/?lang=en>. Paper copies are available free of charge from **The Publications Centre, Welsh Assembly Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ; tel: 02920 823 683; e-mail: <mailto:assembly-publications@wales.gsi.gov.uk>**.

## Hands-on teamwork in the community

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The Planning Aid Wales staff team recently spent an energetic day out in the woods helping to build a log circle and wildlife learning area at Porthkerry Country Park. We were looking for a challenge which would take us out of our normal roles and also help the community, and we certainly found it at Porthkerry!

The day was organised by Business in the Community under their employee volunteering initiative. Our challenge was to clear a woodland glade of scrub and brambles, create a new footpath, make a wooden log circle with enough seating space for groups of up to thirty school children, and putting up bat and bird boxes.

Mel Stewart, ranger at Porthkerry said: *"This is a fantastic new resource for the Park, visiting schools and community groups which can be used for all sorts of exciting outdoor activities. The activities will help give children an appreciation of the natural world. It has already been used by the Wildlife Watch Group who have added a few hedgehog homes."*

***The Planning Aid Wales staff team is on the lookout for another challenging community project for next autumn. If your project would benefit from eight energetic helping hands for a day, do contact us (contact details below).***

## Case study

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### Traveller family wins appeal

Planning Aid Wales have assisted a group of Travellers to win a planning appeal to retain three caravans on a site they own in South Wales.

The family in question had been living on a piece of land they bought several years ago, but were served an enforcement notice when it was discovered there was no planning permission for a residential use on the site.

The family submitted a planning application to keep one large static and two touring caravans on the site, which was refused on the grounds that the site was in open countryside (normally, no residential uses are allowed in open countryside unless there is an agricultural need), and because the site was located in a high-risk floodplain.

Following the refusal of their permission, the family approached Planning Aid Wales for help in preparing an appeal. As Planning Aid Wales consider Gypsies and Travellers a high-need group, we provided ongoing advice,

support and advocacy to the family.

As the appeal progressed, we helped to prepare the family's case by taking statements of personal circumstances, preparing letters, preparing a flood risk assessment and eventually by speaking on their behalf at the appeal hearing.

Their case focused on the fact that as there was no alternative site available for travellers in the county, as required by the Welsh Assembly Circular *Planning for Gypsies and Traveller Caravan Sites*, they should be allowed to stay on their site because they would have nowhere else to go.

The Planning Inspector agreed, and allowed the family to stay on the site temporarily for three years on the condition that a flood evacuation plan was prepared to ensure the family could leave the site safely should a flood occur.

## Events

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If you would like to know more about any of the listed events, please contact us (see below).

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### **29th January 2009, Blaenau Ffestiniog**

Planning Aid Wales training session on Local Development Plans for Ffestiniog Town Council

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### **4th February 2009, Carmarthenshire**

Local Development Plan workshop for community and town councillors, facilitated by Planning Aid Wales on behalf of Carmarthenshire County Council

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### **5th February 2009, Cardiff University**

Planning Aid Wales seminar on ethics in urban planning for Urban Design students

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### **5th February 2009, Cardiff**

Planning Aid Wales & RTPi Young Planners Quiz Night. See above for details.

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### **14th February 2009, Carmarthenshire**

Local Development Plan Key Stakeholder Forum workshop, facilitated by Planning Aid Wales on behalf of Carmarthenshire County Council

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## Contacting Planning Aid Wales

**Planning Helpline: 02920 45765**

**Website:** [www.planningaidwales.org.uk](http://www.planningaidwales.org.uk)

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