

## Vacancy at Planning Aid Wales

### Training Officer

**Location:** Cardiff (or Penygroes near Caernarfon, or home-based)

**Hours:** Full-time (37 hours per week)

**Salary:** £23,000 per annum

**Duration:** Fixed-term six month contract initially

Planning Aid Wales is the registered charity working to increase public understanding of, and participation in the Welsh land use planning system.

We are looking for a self-motivated and organised person who can work with others to initiate and develop training projects.

You will be co-ordinating and developing Planning Aid Wales's training programmes for disadvantaged groups, community representatives and planning professionals.

The post is offered initially as a fixed-term six month contract, but we aim to make the post permanent subject to funding. Applications from people wishing to job share will be considered.

Application packs are available to download from our website on

[www.planningaidwales.org.uk/about-us/recruitment](http://www.planningaidwales.org.uk/about-us/recruitment) or by telephoning 02920 464225. The deadline for receipt of completed applications is midday, Monday 5th October 2009. For an informal conversation about the post, please contact Elwyn Thomas on 01766 762244.

Planning Aid Wales strives to be an equal opportunities employer.

### In this Edition...

-  Planning Aid Wales Annual Report 2008-09
-  Planning for community assets
-  Directors wanted
-  Review of the planning system in Wales
-  National Gypsy Traveller Strategy
-  Case study
-  Events
-  Contacting Planning Aid Wales

## Planning Aid Wales Annual Report 2008-09

Back to Menu 

The Planning Aid Wales Annual Report for 2008/09 is now available to download from <http://planningaidwales.org.uk/about-us/annualreport>

Planning Aid Wales is the independent charity working for a fairer, more inclusive Welsh planning system. With funding from the Welsh Assembly Government and RTPI Cymru, we provide independent information, advice and support on planning matters.

We work for people and groups who cannot afford a planning consultant, or who have barriers preventing them from engaging with planning. We work with our growing network of planning and community volunteers and a range of partner organisations to deliver a growing range of services. Some of these are outlined in the Annual Report for the last year.

If you would like the Annual Report in a different format or as a hard copy, please contact Marika on 01286 882 834 or [marika@planningaidwales.org.uk](mailto:marika@planningaidwales.org.uk)

## Planning for community assets

Back to Menu 

Planning Aid Wales and the Conwy Rural Business and Community Assets project have joined forces to help community groups and community councils in the rural wards of Conwy give disused properties a new lease of life.

The Rural Business and Community Assets project is one of 31 projects operating in Conwy with funding from the Rural Development Plan. The main aim of the project is to identify disused buildings and land across rural Conwy which may have potential for redevelopment for business or community use. Local demand for buildings and land is also being recorded as well as details of potential developers in the community and business sectors. Where owners give their permission, their properties will be made known to anybody searching for development opportunities. The information collected will also be used to help meet future rural employment land requirements, as described in the Local Development Plan.

The project is working with local businesses and community groups for compiling the register of disused properties and potential developers as well as encouraging and supporting them in developing buildings or sites for their use.

One important aspect of developing a new use for a disused building or site is of course planning. Even if it eventually turns out that you don't need planning permission for what you want to do, you still need to think about it and check.

This is why Planning Aid Wales has been invited to run a training workshop for community groups and community councils in the area. Workshop participants will not only learn how to make a planning application, but also have an opportunity to think through those aspects of emerging development projects that are relevant to land use planning, sharing ideas and inspiring each other in the process.

The training event, to be held on **Thursday, 24th September, 10am to 1pm, at Glasdir, Llanrwst**, is open to any interested members of community groups and community councils within the rural wards of Conwy.

If you want to register for the workshop or learn more about the Conwy Rural Business and Community Assets project, please contact project officer Stuart Whitfield on 01492 643 154 or [stuart.whitfield@conwy.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.whitfield@conwy.gov.uk)

If you are interested in Planning Aid Wales' training services, please contact Marika Fusser on 01286 882 834 or [marika@planningaidwales.org.uk](mailto:marika@planningaidwales.org.uk) or visit [www.planningaidwales.org.uk/how-paw-can-help/training](http://www.planningaidwales.org.uk/how-paw-can-help/training)

If your community group has a query about planning, you can also contact Planning Aid Wales' free Helpline on 02920 485 765.

## Directors wanted

[Back to Menu](#)

Planning Aid Wales is recruiting new members to its Management Board. This is an opportunity for you - either as a planner or someone with an interest in the voluntary sector - to develop your skills, broaden your understanding of the planning system and meet new people.

The Board includes Directors with expertise and experience in planning, housing, environment and community development. It includes both professional planners and others with an interest in the planning system from north and south Wales. The Board meets quarterly, alternating between virtual and face-to-face meetings.

For further information please download a Director application pack from <http://planningaidwales.org.uk/news/1991> or contact us directly (details below).

## Review of the planning system in Wales

[Back to Menu](#)

As part of a comprehensive review of the operation of the planning application process in Wales, the Welsh Assembly Government has commissioned a research study which will examine distinctive Welsh issues and concerns arising from the planning application process.

The review aims to ensure that the planning system is fit for purpose and ready to support sustainable economic recovery in Wales. In particular, the Assembly Government wants the planning application system to inspire public and business confidence and to deliver quality sustainable development and places, particularly in the light of challenging economic circumstances.

The research project will be carried out by the Cardiff based planning team of GVA Grimley Ltd. and overseen by an independent Research Steering Group, made up of representatives from the public, private and third sectors. Planning Aid Wales' Chief Executive, Elwyn Thomas, has been appointed a member of this steering group. Drawing on the experience of Planning Aid Wales' clients, he will be able to champion the perspective of lay users of the planning system.

Jane Davidson, the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing, said: "This work will enable us to address the challenges we now face. It will draw upon evidence from across Wales and the rest of the UK, including the recently completed Killian Pretty review in England. It will identify examples of good practice and will propose areas for future improvement."

## National Gypsy Traveller Strategy

[Back to Menu](#)

The *One Wales* document commits the Welsh Assembly Government to produce a national Gypsy Traveller Strategy. The Assembly Government's Gypsy Traveller Team is currently working on a draft of this strategy, which will include guidance on accommodation, health, education and equal access to services.

In the autumn there will be a series of consultation events on the draft strategy, which will include a workshop on Gypsy Traveller accommodation and planning facilitated by Planning Aid Wales.

For details of the events or to obtain a copy of the draft strategy, please contact the Welsh Assembly Government's Gypsy Traveller Team on 01685 729210.

## Case study

[Back to Menu](#)

### ***Rural residents concerned about new housing***

A resident of a small rural village in Powys contacted Planning Aid Wales for advice on a planning issue which was causing concern in the local community. A planning application had been submitted for seven new houses near the village. Local people felt the new houses would be too large, out of keeping with the traditional style of the existing buildings in the village, located in an over-prominent position and would spoil views from existing homes. They wanted advice from Planning Aid Wales as to how they should go about objecting to the application.

We explained that all planning applications were decided on material planning considerations, and unfortunately, there was no right to a view in planning terms. However, the other objections of the group were material considerations, and they were advised to make an informed objection based on planning policies set out by their local development plan. By looking at policies on housing development, design and development in the open countryside, and by structuring their arguments around these policies, they would improve the quality and force of their objections.

They were also advised that if they worked together as a group, they could raise public awareness of their concerns and get people to sign a petition against the scheme. Finally, they were advised that they had the right to lobby local councillors, Assembly Members and Members of Parliament to make sure that their concerns were heard.

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

---

**8th September, Llandrindod**

Focus group meeting on Access Statement guidance booklet, facilitated by Planning Aid Wales.

---

**8th September, Llanelli**

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

---

**10th September, Llandudno**

Presentation to Plaid Cymru Councillors Association by Elwyn Thomas, Chief Executive of Planning Aid Wales. For details of the conference contact Plaid Cymru on 02920 472 272 or [post@plaidcymru.org](mailto:post@plaidcymru.org)

---

**24th September, Llanrwst**

'Planning for community assets'. Training event by Planning Aid Wales through Conwy's Rural Business and Community Assets project. See the article above for details.

---

**1st October, Llanelli**

'Making effective comments on planning applications'. Planning Aid Wales training session for Llanelli Town Council.

---

**10th October 2008, Pontrhydfendigaid**

One Voice Wales Annual Conference. Planning Aid Wales will have a stall with publications and other information. For details about the conference ring One Voice Wales on 01269 595 400.

---

**22nd October, Llanelli**

'Improving communication with your local planning authority'. Planning Aid Wales training session for Llanelli Town Council.

---

## Contacting Planning Aid Wales

**Planning Helpline: 02920 45765**

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

### Head office

Planning Aid Wales, Bay Chambers, West Bute Street, Cardiff CF10 5BB

Tel: 02920 464 225

Email: [info@planningaidwales.org.uk](mailto:info@planningaidwales.org.uk)

### Planning Aid Wales staff

Elwyn Thomas

Chief Executive

Tel: 02920 464 225

Email: [elwyn@planningaidwales.org.uk](mailto:elwyn@planningaidwales.org.uk)

Marika Fusser

North Wales Development Worker

Tel: 01286 882 834

Email: [marika@planningaidwales.org.uk](mailto:marika@planningaidwales.org.uk)

James Davies

Planner and Case Manager

Tel: 02920 464 205

Email: [james@planningaidwales.org.uk](mailto:james@planningaidwales.org.uk)

Kay Sharman

Administrator

Tel: 0290 464 225

Email: [info@planningaidwales.org.uk](mailto:info@planningaidwales.org.uk)

**Planning Aid Wales - Working towards a fairer planning system**