
Cymorth Cynllunio Cymru

Ymgysylltiad y gymuned a chynllunio

Planning Aid Wales

Community engagement in planning



Consultation response to 'Enabling Gypsies, Roma and Travellers'

To: EqualityandProsperityMailbox@gov.wales

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1. About Planning Aid Wales

1.1 Planning Aid Wales is the charity supporting communities and planning authorities to work better together in shaping places. We are core funded by Welsh Government but retain a high degree of freedom to act independently on behalf of communities.

1.2 Planning aid is about giving people the information and support they need to understand and engage positively with planning. We work to help local communities in Wales to understand and engage more effectively with planning. We do this by explaining the planning process from a community perspective and building capacity for constructive community engagement. We also work with local planning authorities and Welsh Government to encourage more effective community involvement in the planning process.

1.3 Planning Aid Wales has been helping Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families engage with the planning process for many years. In the past we have given extensive free advice through to appeal and inquiry level. We have also helped Welsh Government to produce accessible planning guidance for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

1.4 When responding to consultations such as this, our aim is to identify potential barriers which might prevent effective or manageable community involvement in planning.

1.5 We are happy for our response to this consultation to be made public.

1.6 Our responses to specific consultation questions are given in italics below:

2. Consultation response

Consultation Question 1

Do you agree with the actions within 'Enabling Gypsies, Roma and Travellers'?

Yes, we do agree.

Planning Aid Wales welcomes the consultation and actions relating to monitoring and development of policies, but suggests that both should cover private as well as public sites. We also suggest that monitoring should include trigger points to trigger appropriate action.

Consultation Question 3

We want everyone to live in a home that meets their needs and supports a healthy, successful and prosperous life. How can we better achieve this for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers?

Planning Aid Wales has an advisory service that includes providing advice on planning issues for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. We will ensure that those involved in delivering this service are fully aware of these proposals.

Consultation Question 7

The Welsh Government wants to ensure that as many Gypsies, Roma and Travellers as possible are made aware of the proposals within 'Enabling Gypsies, Roma and Travellers' and are able to understand it. In your view, what is the best way to communicate the published document to members of these communities and are different communication methods required for each community?

Planning Aid Wales will help to publicise the proposals to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, but suggests that this would be helped if Welsh Government produced them in the form of a YouTube video that can be distributed via our own network, other advocacy organisations in Wales and social media.

Planning Aid Wales also suggests that, with some additional support, we could help train local authority planners, housing officials and community workers to understand the planning issues involved.