

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru | National Assembly for Wales
Y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig | Climate
Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee
Ymchwiliad Rhandroedd | Allotments Inquiry
All07
Ymateb gan : Cyngor Tref Llandrindod
Evidence from : Llandrindod Wells Town Council

Consultation on Report published in 2010

- 1) This survey included 'stakeholders' such as County Councils and various bodies concerned with allotments but did not include Town and Community Councils or their umbrella body One Voice Wales. As Llandrindod has an Allotment Committee set up in 1985 and is responsible for 2 sets of allotment both of which were instituted more than 100 years ago, I am sure that other T&C Councils have similar set ups.
- 2) The Laws concerning Allotments were passed so long ago that it is time they were rationalised and possibly superceded by modern regulations suitable for the modern world. Even an exercise like the Committee rationalising the Laws on Planning would be better than leaving it as is.
- 3) The regulations concerning Allotment Sites situated on private land such as the National Trust, a private estate or a farmer's field leave the tenants and their organising Committee at risk of sudden cancellation of tenure. Voluntary bodies cannot be expected to always be aware of the small print of leases and may well put themselves in danger - we had an experience of this in Llandrindod where a field had been sold for development where 6 allotments had been cultivated for years. This anomaly should be seen to at once both for the future and including those already set up
- 4) The constant reference to 'peak oil' now is superceded by the phrase 'global warning' which is even more telling - the problem is that the population as a whole cannot realise how it can affect them and the Sustainability Committee should concentrate on how to make Wales self sustaining with farming bodies accepting the need to provide our population with basic foodstuffs instead of importing apples from Africa and cauliflowers from Holland. Growing food on your allotment is good for physical and mental health but it only scratches the surface and cannot supply enough food for people in cities such as Swansea and Cardiff - there is not enough land among the built up environment for every one to have an allotment even if they were willing and capable of doing so.
- 5) As the Government is anxious for new Allotment sites to be made available a kit should be produced incorporating instructions of how to obtain one through the County Council or a private land owner with suggestions of how to convene a suitable Committee for setting up the site and operating it. This should be available online and in hard copy if preferred.
- 6) On the whole the Recommendations published in the 2010 Report are sensible and could have improved the legal background of Allotments if they had been acted upon. When are they going to become part of our legality? I think that a proper consultation with Allotment Committees as well as Stakeholders with the vision and determination of the Wales Government to bring it into LAW should be set up in the next few months.

THERE IS NO POINT IN WASTING TIME AND EFFORT DOING THESE CONSULTATIONS WITHOUT THE CLEAR ACCEPTANCE BY THE WALES GOVERNMENT THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO BE ACTED UPON AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL