

Chair of Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs
Committee
Mike Hedges AM,

27 January 2020

UPDATE FROM THE WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT'S LITTERING AND PLASTIC WASTE COMMITTEE

Dear Mike Hedges AM, Chair of Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

As you will be aware, last year, the Welsh Youth Parliament (WYP) held its first ever sitting in the Senedd Chamber where Welsh Youth Parliament Members (WYPMs) debated eighteen different topics that were identified as important to young people across Wales. The three key issues that the Youth Parliament decided to focus on were:

1. Emotional and Mental Health Support
2. Littering and Plastic Waste
3. Life Skills in the Curriculum

Having chosen the top three priority issues the WYPMs decided that they should break into issue committees. A key part of each committee's work is to consult with other young people, relevant organisations, youth groups and staff to help each committee understand the issues in greater detail, and help inform the WYPs key recommendations.

As the Littering and Plastic Waste Committee, we have already consulted with sector-leading organizations such as Wrap Cymru, Surfers against Sewage and Iechyd Da. Our intention is to run an awareness campaign to increase young people's understanding on this important issue, and in the process consult with young people (through events and an online survey) to find out what steps they think should be taken in the future.

Key dates for the WYP Littering and Plastic Waste Committee for 2020 include:

Month	Activity
January/February	Regional meetings for all WYPMs in the four regions to plan awareness and consultation activity
March 23 and 30	Regional events involving WYPMs and other young people across Wales. We, the WYP's Littering and Plastic Waste Committee will launch our consultation at these events, and use it as an opportunity to have discussions with other young people, including members of school eco-councils to identify good practice and areas for improvement. The wider awareness campaign and consultation will also see our Committee engage with a diverse range of young people across Wales.
March	WYP staff and WYPMs delivering awareness sessions in schools, colleges and youth organisations
July	End consultation and analyse results
September	Share results and publish a report of our findings
November	Final residential weekend (final plenary 13.11.2020)

We would be delighted if you, and/or other members of the Committee would consider joining us at our regional Events in March and for the final Welsh Youth Parliament Plenary on 13 November 2020 in the Siambr, Cardiff (further details below). We will also be writing to the Welsh Government to provide an update on our work, and will extend an invite to the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, and the Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government to attend these events.

As a Committee we would welcome the opportunity to work with the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee on this matter, and would be happy to discuss any ideas and opportunities there may be to work together.

The events will be held on the following dates:

Date and Time	Location
Monday 23 March 10:00 – 14:30	National Botanic Gardens for Wales
Monday 30 March 10:00 – 14:30	Prifysgol Bangor University

If you have any questions about any aspects covered in this letter, do not hesitate to get in touch with hello@youthparliament.wales.

Thank you for your support,

Kind regards,

Welsh Youth Parliament

