



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ90229

Andrew RT Davies  
MS for South Wales Central  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
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CF99 1NA

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26 June 2024

Dear Andrew,

I am writing in response to WQ90229 about what the Welsh Government is doing to promote community development in rural areas. We undertook to write to you with a substantive response and I am sorry for the delay in doing so.

The Welsh Government has supported community development across Wales for decades. In rural areas this has principally, but not exclusively, been through consecutive Rural Development Programmes. Through the 2014-20 Programme we invested over £840m in our rural communities. Since the ending of that Programme and the funding constraints of subsequent settlements we have focused on core commitments and priorities. That said, the significant funding still provided to our farmers, land managers and food businesses – over £200m over three years – continues to support community development in our rural areas.

This specific funding sits alongside Welsh Government initiatives to promote community development across the length and breadth of Wales, and from which our rural communities also benefit. Of the £4.544m committed so far this year, communities in predominately rural areas have benefitted from £2.488m in funding from our longstanding Community Facilities Programme of capital grants to improve facilities useful to, and well used, by people in the community. Through this programme we are increasing opportunity and developing resilient communities where people are engaged and empowered.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The Rural Futures programme, funded by the [National Lottery Community Fund](#) and run by [Severn Wye](#) and the [BRO Partnership](#) has been supporting 14 Welsh rural communities to develop their own ideas to tackle local challenges such as affordable housing, fuel and food poverty, employment, transport and access to services, whilst also making the most of local opportunities – whether that’s the landscape, history of the area, or the skills, knowledge and energy of residents. The 7-year programme started in 2017 and ran in parallel to the National Lottery Community Fund’s wider [Rural Programme](#).

Officials have been part of the advisory group for the Rural Futures Programme, which is keen to embed the programme’s learning in relevant policy departments across Welsh Government. A number of officials from policy areas across WG attended the Senedd launch event on 13 June for the Rural Futures Programme final evaluation report as the 7-year programme draws to a close and will work together to look at how they can embed the valuable lessons in the relevant policy areas.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Huw Irranca-Davies', written in a cursive style.

**Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change & Rural Affairs