

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-683
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/06389/16

Mike Hedges AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

11 October 2016

Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter of 4 October regarding P-04-683 Trees in Towns and the production of guidance.

The Welsh Government will not be publishing further guidance because there is already a large body of research and information which supports the benefits of planting trees in urban areas. With support from the Welsh Government, in 2014 Natural Resources Wales (NRW) undertook a comprehensive survey of canopy cover across the whole of Wales, *Tree Cover in Wales' Towns and Cities*. The survey provides an evidence base and useful information designed to help a range of organisations from community tree interest groups to urban planners and decision-makers in Local Authorities and national government, to plan and manage our urban tree resource in a better way. I enclose an excellent summary of the survey, the full version can be found on NRW's website at:

<https://naturalresources.wales/media/4123/tree-cover-in-wales-towns-and-cities-2014-study.pdf>

Coed Cadw/Woodland Trust Wales may also wish to join the Trees and Design Action Group who are an open collaborative forum facilitating cross-sector and cross-disciplinary dialogue and projects which promote the role of the urban forest throughout the UK. The Group shares the collective vision the location of trees and all the benefits they bring, can be secured for future generations through better collaboration in the planning, design, construction and management of our urban infrastructure and spaces. Its membership, online publications and information are free. This approach enables them to assimilate ideas and knowledge independently of organisational hierarchy, profit or commercial interests.

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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.

They have produced a wide array of guidance about urban tree planting which can be found at the following website link, which Coed Cadw/Woodland Trust Wales may wish to host on their own website or promote further when working with others:

<http://www.tdag.org.uk/guides--resources.html>

On 3rd October I launched NRW's State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) which identifies an opportunity to enhance green infrastructure such as trees in and around urban areas. The report highlighted the multi-benefits of urban green spaces such as accessible places for health and recreation, connecting habitats and supporting opportunities for community cohesion while minimising negative impacts to health caused by poor air quality. The findings of SoNaRR will inform the Welsh Government's National Natural Resource Policy.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

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