

**Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol at y Cyfarfod Llawn
Information Further to Plenary**

Cyhoeddir ymatebion yn yr iaith y'u darparwyd, gyda chyfieithiad Saesneg o ymatebion yn y Gymraeg.

Responses are published in the language in which they are provided, with a translation into English of responses provided in Welsh.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at OAQ(4)0026(ESD) a gyhoeddwyd gan John Griffiths,
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy, ar 8 Hydref 2011
Information further to OAQ(4)0026(ESD) issued by John Griffiths, the Minister for
Environment and Sustainable Development, on 8 October 2011**

At/To Mohammad Asghar:

Following your question regarding the health of honeybees in Plenary on 28th September I agreed to provide you with an update on the situation in Wales.

The Welsh Government is committed to safeguarding the future of the honeybee and, as you mentioned in Plenary, in May 09 the Minister for Rural Affairs announced additional funding for the National Bee Unit (NBU) to enhance the bee health programme in Wales. This enabled the NBU to focus on finding unknown beekeepers, increase advisory and inspection visits and improve their education programme for new and existing beekeepers.

The increased funding has enabled the NBU to undertake a two-year survey to carry out a random, statistically robust analysis of apiary health during 2010 and 2011. The results from the Random Apiary Survey (RAS) are currently being evaluated and will be presented to the England and Wales Healthy Bees Plan Project Board on which both Welsh Government and the Welsh Beekeepers Association (WBKA) are represented. The RAS results will provide the basis for refining statutory inspections and surveillance programmes from 2012 onwards.

The new Assembly will continue to support the Bee Inspectorate and my officials are currently working with the NBU to participate in an EU led pilot surveillance project on honey bee colony losses. This is a pan-European project that will provide a basis for robust EU wide surveillance of honey bee health.

Looking at the wider picture of insect pollinators in Wales the decline in wild bees is less severe in Wales than elsewhere in UK, but is still a cause for concern. Whilst there is no immediate threat to the natural environment in terms of the general availability of wild bees as pollinators, this masks a situation in which some of the rarer species are showing sharp declines.

Wild bee species depend on a range of natural and man-made habitats, and cross between them in the course of their life cycles. The ecosystem approach being developed in the Natural Environment Framework is expected to be of greatest benefit to species like wild bees which live across ecosystems and are involved in human activities like food production. The Planting for Pollinators project is providing pollinator-friendly planting within the WG estate.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at OAQ(4)0021(HRH) a gyhoeddwyd gan Huw Lewis, y
Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth, ar 12 Hydref 2011
Information further to OAQ(4)0021(HRH) issued by Huw Lewis, the Minister for
Housing, Regeneration and Heritage, on 12 October 2011**

At/To Mark Isherwood:

Further to Oral Assembly Questions on 28th September and our discussion around the future of Rural Housing Enabler projects in Wales, including Government funding, I undertook to write to you to set out the current position.

As I explained in my answer to William Powell AM, increasing the supply of affordable housing in rural areas is one of our strategic priorities. We are also looking to develop innovative ways of delivering homes at a time of considerable budget pressure. High house prices and lower incomes in rural areas mean access to affordable housing is a real challenge and this has been exacerbated by the recession. Our current funding support for Rural Housing Enablers reflects the particular challenges faced by rural communities. They provide a dedicated resource that can work closely with communities to promote and deliver affordable housing.

In 2008, the Welsh Government set up a specific fund to create and support a network of ten Rural Housing Enabler projects. This provided support of £15,000 per project per year for three years. This has provided around a third of each project's funding with the remainder coming from local stakeholders such as local authorities, housing associations and National Park authorities. Provisional funding for future years has been identified within my budget but a final decision on the level of support has not yet been made. It is possible that funding could be reduced to £10,000 per project but this is dependent on a number of factors, including the number of projects supported. To inform future decisions, my officials are now assessing the availability of funding from local stakeholder and this process will also consider further the projects' objectives and desired outcomes, taking into account different market conditions.

My officials have recently undertaken a review of the projects. The review highlighted differing rates of progress but recognised that economic conditions had impacted on performance. It also highlighted that the projects bring about other economic and community benefits and this should be applauded. We will also consider other ways in which Rural Housing Enablers could help by, for example, tackling issues such as empty houses and the development of other forms of housing such as co-operative or mutual ownership.

I hope this information clarifies the position.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at OAQ(4)0037(HRH) a gyhoeddwyd gan Huw Lewis, y
Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth, ar 11 Hydref 2011
Information further to OAQ(4)0037(HRH) issued by Huw Lewis, the Minister for
Housing, Regeneration and Heritage, on 11 October 2011**

At Alun Ffred Jones:

Yn ystod y sesiwn cwestiynau llawn ar 28 Medi dywedais y byddwn yn ysgrifennu atoch i roi manylion ynglŷn â chynnydd Menter Treftadaeth Ddiwylliannol Cymru.

Mae'n dda gen i ddweud bod y prosiect uchelgeisiol a gychwynnwyd gennych wedi cyrraedd ei amcanion ac wedi'i gwblhau. Roedd pob un o'r deg safle'n codi heriau unigryw o safbwynt cadwraeth a mynediad ond bu swyddogion Cadw'n gweithio ochr yn ochr â pherchnogion preifat a chymunedau lleol i helpu i ddatrys yr anawsterau. Mae'r gwaith a wnaed yn cynnwys ymchwil, arolygon, cloddio a thrwsio argloddiau, ynghyd ag adfer arteffactau a gwaith celf, mynedfeydd ac arwyddion a gwaith dehongli newydd er mwyn i'r safleoedd gael eu gwerthfawrogi a'u deall yn well.

Yn achos pob un o'r safleoedd, mae Cadw wrthi'n trefnu cytundebau rheoli gyda'r perchnogion perthnasol er mwyn sicrhau bod ganddyn nhw gymorth ariannol am y deng mlynedd nesaf i sicrhau bod mynediad ar gael i'r cyhoedd o hyd.

Fe sonioch am Abaty Cwm-hir. Yn y fan honno mae yna llwybrau mynediad newydd, maes parcio pwrpasol ac arwyddion erbyn hyn. Ar ben hynny, mae un o adeiladau allanol y fferm yn ymyl yr Abaty wedi'i adfer ac wedi'i droi'n ystafell arddangos lle mae paneli'n adrodd hanes yr Abaty ac yn esbonio'i gysylltiadau â Thywysogion Gwynedd. Yn Sycharth, yn ychwanegol at waith cadwraeth helaeth ar yr argloddiau, mae maes parcio newydd a phaneli dehongli newydd wedi'u creu ac mae Cadw wrthi'n trafod gyda'r Cyngor Sir ynghylch trefniadau ar gyfer arwyddion ffyrdd.

Mae'r prosiect wedi bod yn llwyddiant mawr o ran tynnu sylw at hanes Cymru ac at dreftadaeth ddiwylliannol y Tywysogion, yn ogystal â sicrhau darganfyddiadau pwysig newydd. Rwy'n gwybod bod gennych chithau ddiddordeb mawr yn y fenter a bod eich cefnogaeth a'ch brwdfydedd wedi'u gwerthfawrogi. Efallai eich bod yn gwybod bod y prosiect wedi'i gynnig ar gyfer un o wobrau Europa Nostra ac rwy'n deall bod copi o'r cais, sy'n cynnwys llawer o ffotograffau i ddarlunio'r deg safle, ar ei ffordd atoch.

Gobeithio bod hyn o gymorth ichi.

To Alun Ffred Jones:

At the plenary questions session on 28 September I said I would write to you with details of progress on the Welsh Cultural Heritage Initiative.

I am pleased to report that the ambitious project that you started has met its objectives and been completed. Each of the ten sites involved presented unique conservation and access challenges but Cadw's officials worked alongside private owners and local communities to help resolve the issues. The work that was carried out included research, surveys, excavation and earthwork repair, along with the restoration of artefacts and artwork, new access and signage and interpretation so that the sites can be better appreciated and understood.

For all the sites, Cadw is arranging management agreements with the respective owners to ensure that they have financial support for the next ten years to ensure continued public access.

You mentioned Abaty Cwmhir. Here there are now new access paths, a dedicated parking area and signage. In addition, an outbuilding in the farm adjacent to the Abbey has been renovated and converted into an exhibition room where panels tell the history of the Abbey and explain its links with the princes of Gwynedd. At Sycharth, in addition to extensive earthwork conservation, a new parking area has been created with new interpretation panels and Cadw is discussing arrangements for road signage with the County Council.

The project has been a great success in drawing attention to Welsh history and the cultural legacy of the native princes of Wales, as well as making important new discoveries. I am aware that you took a close interest in the initiative and your support and enthusiasm were much appreciated. You may be aware that the project has been put forward for a Europa Nostra award and I understand that a copy of the entry application, which includes many illustrative photographs of the ten sites, is on its way to you.

I hope that this is helpful.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at OAQ(4)0037(HRH) a gyhoeddwyd gan Huw Lewis, y
Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth, ar 31 Hydref 2011**
**Information further to OAQ(4)0037(HRH) issued by Huw Lewis, the Minister for
Housing, Regeneration and Heritage, on 31 October 2011**

At Alun Ffred Jones:

Cawsoch air â mi yn y Senedd ar 19 Hydref ynghylch fy llythyr i atoch ar 11 Hydref ynglŷn â Menter Treftadaeth Ddiwylliannol Cymru ac yn benodol ynglŷn â'r gwaith yn Abaty Cwm-hir a Sycharth.

Mae'n flin iawn gen i am y camgymeriad yn yr wybodaeth am Abaty Cwm-hir. Roedd fy llythyr i ar 11 Hydref yn adlewyrchu sut roedd Cadw'n deall y sefyllfa ar y pryd. Serch hynny, cafodd fy swyddogion wybod wedyn fod y gwaith i osod yr arddangosfa a'r arwyddion ynglŷn â'r fynedfa wedi'i ohirio tan ganol mis Tachwedd, a hynny oherwydd salwch annisgwyl y contractiwr ac anawsterau cynhyrchu. Mae Cadw wedi cael sicrwydd pendant gan y contractiwr y bydd yn cadw at y dyddiad hwn. Bydd yr arddangosfa'n cynnwys gwaith celf newydd sydd wedi'i gomisiynu ac arddangosfa o waith maen gwreiddiol o'r Abaty, ynghyd â phaneli testun sy'n esbonio'r cysylltiad agos rhwng yr Abaty a Thywysogion Gwynedd.

To Alun Ffred Jones:

You spoke to me in the Senedd on 19 October about my letter to you of 11 October about the Welsh Cultural Heritage Initiative and, specifically, works at Cwmhir Abbey and Sycharth.

I very much apologise for the error in the information about Cwmhir Abbey. My letter of 11 October reflected Cadw's understanding of the position at the time. However, my officials learned subsequently that, due to unforeseen contractor illness and production difficulties, the installation of the exhibition and access signage has been delayed to mid November. Cadw has been given firm assurances by the contractor that this deadline will be met. The exhibition will include newly commissioned artwork and a display of original stonework from the Abbey, along with text panels which explain the close links between the Abbey and the princes of Gwynedd.