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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-05-713
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/06135/16

Mike Hedges AM
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September 2016

Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter of 24 August, regarding Petition P-05-713 The Wildlife Warriors.

You refer to a petition from Caerphilly Junior Forum, which works with children aged 7-17 years of age. The Forum believes every primary school in Wales should have an environment club, Wildlife Warriors, to help protect the natural environment and local wildlife.

I would offer my support to Caerphilly Junior Forum as they take forward this initiative as it aligns very nicely with the objectives contained in our Nature Recovery Plan. The plan builds on our ground-breaking new legislative framework. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act challenges us all to look at the long-term impacts of decisions and to work to meet our seven Well-being Goals, including increasing the resilience of our ecosystems, while the Environment (Wales) Act enshrines the principles of the UN's Convention on Biological Diversity in law by adopting an ecosystems approach to how we manage our natural resources in the future.

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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 first objective of the Nature Recovery Plan is to engage and support participation and understanding, to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels. It acknowledges the need for a major effort to improve understanding and raise awareness of the importance and value of our nature and its biodiversity across Wales. We need to make it easier for everyone to act by:

- describing simple actions which will meet our objectives
- education and training through schools, colleges and knowledge transfer initiatives.

I would see the Wildlife Warriors initiative as closely complementing our existing Eco Schools Programme.

Eco-Schools is a voluntary international environmental education programme run in some 70 countries. Welsh Government provides financial support to Keep Wales Tidy to operate the programme in Wales. Some 95% of schools in Wales are part of the programme, one of the highest participation rates in the world. Over 850 schools have achieved the prestigious international Green Flag award by carrying out practical projects on eight topics (energy, transport, water, biodiversity, global citizenship, litter, waste minimisation and healthy living). Pupils derive curriculum benefits from carrying out practical projects in their school and in the wider community. They also gain confidence, skills and knowledge in environmental issues, develop sustainable behaviours and influence their peers, parents and the wider community. The Eco-Schools programme is designed to be a pupil-led scheme that involves the whole school.

Finally, my officials have supported the development of a new initiative by the Action Plan for Pollinators Task Force, Bee Friendly/Caru Gwenyn, designed to encourage more organisations and communities to take action to help pollinators in Wales. This initiative may be of interest to the Caerphilly Junior Forum, and I will write to you and send a web link to the Bee Friendly/Caru Gwenyn documents when they are available in the public domain.

Regards



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