

National Development Framework: Easy Read questionnaire

Part A – the main points of the NDF

Q1. 1. Do you think we are aiming to do the right things with our plan?

No

Comments:

The NDF is wildly urban-centric. One third of the Welsh population lives in the countryside, but their needs in terms of housing, communications, employment, quality of life and culture are sidelined in favour of benefits to urban populations along the M4 corridor. The Welsh Assembly would seemingly prefer it if we could all kindly move to Cardiff or Swansea so they don't have to consider life outside urban South Wales. This draft could only hasten the depopulation of regions which bodies like the Development Board for Rural Wales were set up 30-odd years ago to address. It further seeks to disenfranchise rural voters and impose from Cardiff draconian changes on the country without consultation with local planning experts. It is an affront to local democracy.

Q2. 2. We have 10 aims in the NDF. Should we think about anything else? Tell us anything we've missed out

Yes

The NDF also needs to think about...

Planning for the protection of biodiversity across Wales. Our native birds, bats and wildflowers are just as valuable as the tropical rainforest. Destroying them in sexy-sounding but uneconomic and ill-considered wind and solar farms would be a tragedy. Climate change leading to increased rainfall is a reality and already we are experiencing severe flooding in the Conwy and Severn valleys. The metallised access roads and huge concrete pads across our uplands needed to support wind turbines can only destroy sub-soil, hasten runoff and bring misery for those flooded out.

Q3. 3. Do you think the Plan will help achieve healthy and well-planned places?

No

Comments:

We need proper investment in the Health Service in rural Wales. There are huge swathes of the population with no access to NHS dental care, extremely limited GP services and hospitals only accessible after a lengthy drive across the border into England. Women with complications in labour in Newtown, Powys have to be transferred 50 miles to Telford, Shropshire!

Q4. 4. Do you think the plan will help us take care of our environment?

No

Comments:

The State of Nature Report 2019 found that 666 of the 6500 species found in Wales are threatened with extinction. 73 have been lost already. Management of agricultural land was identified as most significant in driving the decline in biodiversity. Covering our uplands with the concrete and aggregate needed to support windfarms and solar arrays can only increase runoff and flooding in our valleys. These forms of technology destroy grasslands and kill birds and bats.

Part B – different parts of Wales

Q5. 5. Do you agree with our plans for North Wales?

No

Comments:

North Wales needs state-of-the-art hospitals and proper support for its important industries of agriculture and tourism. It doesn't need huge tracts of Denbighshire and the whole interior of Anglesey obliterated by solar and windfarms (visible from Snowden) which can only wipe out tourism and small local businesses and cause people to leave the region in search of work and a decent quality of life.

Q6. 6. Do you agree with our plans for Mid and South West Wales?

No

Comments:

There is no "Mid and South West Wales". Swansea and Llanelli have needs and aspirations absolutely in conflict with those of the great rural heartlands of Powys. How can the two be bundled together? Mid Wales is heavily dependent on farming and tourism. These are in essence all we have to provide local employment. We need to keep our young people and furnish them with quality housing and jobs, not kill their futures by wiping out the tourism which is the lifeblood of our countryside. Why not proceed with the scheme to harness tidal energy in Swansea Bay, rather than concrete over the Welsh uplands, destroying habitats for wildlife and depopulating rural Wales?

Q7. 7. Do you agree with our plans for South East Wales?

No

Comments:

There is an undue emphasis on South East Wales at the expense of the rest of the country. More should be spent on developing fast broadband access across the whole nation to strengthen rural entrepreneurship and employment.

Part C

Q8. 8. Do you have any other comments you would like to make about this plan?

It suggests dispensing with local democracy in vital planning decisions. Welsh devolution was surely intended to place decision making in the hands of its citizens, not just replace Westminster with Cardiff Bay as the location of a remote talking-shop which rides roughshod over voters' rights.

Submit your response

Q9. You are about to submit your response. Please ensure you are satisfied with the answers you have provided before sending.

Name

██████████

Where are you from?

████████████████████

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Q10. If you want to receive a receipt of your response, please provide an email address.
Email address

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Q11. Responses to consultations may be made public. To keep your response anonymous (including email addresses) tick the box.

Keep my response anonymous