

# RUABON NEWS LETTER 492

PRESS RELEASE

Ken Skates MS | Clwyd South



**Senedd Cymru  
Welsh Parliament**

25/09/23

*for immediate publication*

## Residents urged to make their voices heard over 1,500-home development

**Two Members of the Senedd are urging residents to have their say on plans for more than 1,500 homes on the border of both of their constituencies.**

Wrexham Council has received a planning application from Redrow for the development at Lower Berse Farm, which straddles Wrexham and Clwyd South.

Local people are now able to comment on the application via the council's online planning portal, and Lesley Griffiths and Ken Skates say residents need to make their voices heard.

Wrexham MS. Griffiths said: "Several constituents have contacted me in recent months expressing their concerns regarding the proposed housing development at Lower Berse Farm.

"As the Local Planning Authority, Wrexham Council is required to consult with residents as part of the application. The Local Authority's bizarre decision to reject its own Local Development Plan means it is more likely we will have uncontrolled and unplanned developments in Wrexham, so it's vitally important people make their voices heard.

“Although I will not have a vote in the decision-making process, I will, of course, make representations on my constituents’ behalf.”

As Members of the Senedd, neither Ms Griffiths nor Mr Skates will have a vote on the plans, which will be decided by Wrexham Council.

Mr Skates, MS for Clwyd South, said: “I have been contacted by a lot of people about this development over the past few months, and have already raised their concerns with Wrexham Council as the Local Planning Authority.

“Redrow has carried out its own pre-application consultation exercise, which is a requirement for proposed schemes categorised as major developments, and I know many of my constituents will already have registered their views with the company or attended the drop-in event at Tŷ Pawb.

“Now the council has received a planning application from the company, anyone who opposes the development needs to take part in the consultation to make their voice heard. The council has promised that these comments ‘will be considered before formal determination’, so it’s crucial that if you feel strongly about this then you say so.”

He added: “In the meantime, I will continue to make representations to Wrexham Council on behalf of my constituents in Clwyd South.”

**-Ends-**

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Welsh Parliament**

## **Wales' economic prospects being damaged by the UK Government 'hostility'**

**Former Economy Minister Ken Skates has raised his concerns that Wales' prospects are being hampered by a lack of cooperation from a floundering UK Government.**

A recently published report by the Senedd's cross-party Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee said Westminster should stop shunning the Welsh Government and include it in the running of the Shared Prosperity and Levelling Up funds, which were launched as part of the UK Government's now-broken promise that Wales would not be a penny worse off after Brexit.

Mr Skates' successor, Vaughan Gething, said last week that he had been 'met with indifference, and, in some areas, outright hostility' by his Conservative counterparts since taking on the role.

On Wednesday (20<sup>th</sup> September), Clwyd South MS, Mr Skates asked the Minister how the Welsh Government is working with

the UK Government to deliver post-Brexit regional aid programmes.

In response, the Minister said: “Despite these programmes operating in devolved areas, the Welsh Government was denied a meaningful role in their design and implementation by the UK Government. We are working with our stakeholders in Wales to minimise the impact of what is now a fragmented and vastly reduced funding landscape.”

Mr Skates continued: “I’m sure I wasn’t the only one who was extremely concerned to read the recent Senedd committee report that stated that Wales’s future economic success will be jeopardised if the UK Government doesn’t engage with and work with the Welsh Government.

“The UK Government’s so-called levelling-up process has left Wales with less say over crucial funds, and it’s also undermined, as you said, the devolution settlement by centralising decisions in Westminster. We’re now more than £1bn worse off as a result of the UK Government’s failure to meet its promise to replace previous EU funds in full.

“Minister, would you be able to tell the Senedd whether you find the UK Government any more co-operative today than when you became Economy Minister in 2021?”

Mr Gething replied: “The picture is varied. In some areas, we have reached pragmatic conclusions where we’ve been able to strike agreement. However, in others, we’ve been met with indifference, and, in some areas, outright hostility.

“In seeking to have a fight, and not to seek an answer, we will end up with poor value for public money and we will, as the Senedd committee has said, jeopardise the economic future for Wales.

“We have always recognised that there is an area for us to co-operate and take pragmatic choices with the UK Government.

What we won't do, though, is to willingly accept a future determined by the UK Government in areas that are devolved to the Welsh Government, and to this Senedd, and we'll continue to stand up and make the case that Wales should have not been left over £1bn short."

The Minister added: "The Conservative manifesto should not have been breached in the flagrant way it has been. We'll continue to stand up for Wales and argue for a better future that I believe will come if there is a UK Labour Government after the next election."

**-Ends-**

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## **Strike action update on bins and recycling**

**2-13 Hydref**

**Byddwn yn ceisio casglu**

**biniau du**



**October 2-13**

**We'll try to collect**

**black bins**

**(26.9.23)**

Following last week's work where we collected more than three times the usual waste, we were able to arrange further clean up collections on both Saturday and Sunday, and yesterday the final few streets received a black bin collection with the vehicles out until 7 o'clock last night. This week again, as a result of the industrial action, we've had a severely reduced workforce and we are prioritising food waste and recycling collections.

Every effort has been made to pick up as much recycling and food waste as possible, but we haven't been able to collect every planned collection for Monday. If we haven't been able to collect your recycling by the end of the day, please take it back in.

We will be reviewing our stance daily based on the workforce we have available and we will continue to send regular updates.

If you can, please take some of your recycling to our Household Recycling Centres.

**Planned bin collections for the next two weeks (starting from 2<sup>nd</sup> October)**

**Strike impact update**

For the next two weeks (from Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October until Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October):

- If you have a planned black bin collection, put your black bin out on your normal collection day.
- Only put your recycling out too if it was missed this week (25<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> September).
- If you can, please take some of your recycling to our [Household Recycling Centres](#).
- Don't put your green bin out.

From Monday onwards, for the next two weeks, we will again be prioritising black bin waste collection.

If you have a planned black bin collection, please put your black bin out.

Please only put out your recycling if it was missed this week (25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> September) and we'll try to collect this also.

If you're unsure if you're due a black bin collection, please check your collection calendar.

Alternatively you can sign up to receive [automated bin reminders by email](#).

We know this disruption is frustrating, but we're working hard to try and manage services, and would like to thank everyone for their continued patience.

While we've outlined our intentions, we're working through a period of industrial action and we need to assess available resources on a daily basis – as well as balancing demand for other critical services (for example, responding to adverse weather).

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## **Company says 20mph limit making buses late and they will change timetables**

### **Arriva Wales confirmed there will be changes to bus routes and frequencies as a result of the much-debated 20mph policy.**

One of Wales' biggest bus operators says the new 20mph default limit is causing "challenging operational conditions". Arriva Wales revealed routes will be changed due to the controversial Welsh Government policy.

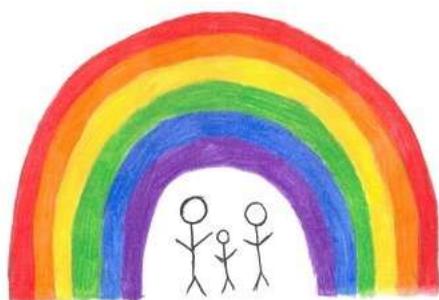
**North Wales Live** asked Arriva Wales if the new limit was affecting bus services. A spokesman for the operator replied: "Arriva has been closely monitoring its timetables since the 20mph speed limit has come into force in Wales and is planning a review of its networks.

So far there has been an impact on punctuality as journey times have lengthened, which has been particularly noticeable on longer journeys or those journeys connecting towns. This is creating challenging operational conditions.

One of Wales' biggest bus operators says the new 20mph default limit is causing "challenging operational conditions". Arriva Wales revealed routes will be changed due to the controversial Welsh Government policy.

More than 400,000 people have signed a **Senedd petition** calling for the new default speed limit to be scrapped. A **Welsh Government** spokesman said: "We have been clear from the outset that we would monitor any impacts of the 20mph on bus services. We are working closely with bus operators, local authorities, and Transport for Wales to tackle the challenges the industry is facing."

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## **Early Years and Childcare Funding Application Pack**

The Early Years and Childcare Small Capital Grant application process is now open.

Please email the childcare team for an application pack

[childcareteam@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:childcareteam@wrexham.gov.uk)

The closing date for applications will be Friday 27th October 2023

Please ensure that your quotes are no more than 3 months old at the time of panel.

Settings may request support from their Childcare Officer to help them to make an appropriate application. For support with your application, please call the Childcare Team on 01978 292094 or email on [childcareteam@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:childcareteam@wrexham.gov.uk) before the closing date. Please read all guidance thoroughly, prior to making an application.



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## **Newyddion Llyfrgelloedd**

### **Library News**

**Newyddion Llyfrgelloedd am yr  
wythnos yn dechrau 1 Hydref**

**Library News for the week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> October**



## Are you restricted to your own home?

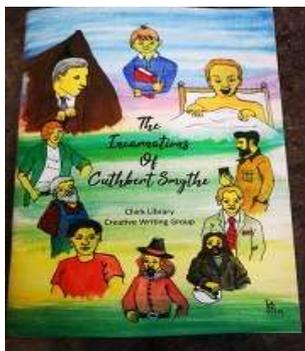


If you are disabled or have difficulty in getting to your local library, then the library could possibly visit you in our own home. The Homelink Library van provides access to the whole range of library and information services - providing a monthly collection of books, including large print books for partially sighted people and audio books. If you or another family member is unable to visit the library, why not contact us to see if you qualify to receive a home visit by the library?

Please phone Wrexham Library on 01978 292090.

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Chirk Library Creative Writing Group was recently set a challenge – to write a book about a character called Cuthbert Smythe. Ten writers challenged themselves to write a maximum of 2000 words with Cuthbert as the central character. The result was an anthology which was printed locally in Chirk and privately funded then copies were sold for charity. To date Chirk Hospital Circle of Friends has received a whopping £510 from the sale of this anthology.



The group meets on the first Friday of the month with a beginners group in the morning and a more advanced group in the afternoon. If you would like to join the beginners group then please contact the library for more details; 01691 772344.

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Are you looking for somewhere to do your homework, somewhere to get away from the stresses of home to catch up with your studies? All of Wrexham's libraries offer places where you can study in peace and quiet. The spaces are all free of charge and have access to charging points, plus there is no need to book. For more details contact your local library.



or

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## Book Review



### **Yellowface by Rebecca F Kuang**

This is the best book I have read this year – I really could not put it down! *Yellowface* is a satirical commentary on racial diversity in the publishing industry, and the role social media now plays in the perception of books and authors. When June Hayward, an unsuccessful author, witnesses the death of publishing star Athena Liu, she seizes the opportunity to steal her recently completed manuscript and publish it herself. With a new name and

purposefully racially ambiguous author photos, June's efforts to present herself as Asian see her experience success, literary chaos and a social media storm. I really enjoyed that it was told from the perspective of June, an unreliable narrator, as this meant that as the story escalated, the lines began to blur between how June was consciously deceiving her readers (and us) and what version of events she actually believed. Absurd, tense and unexpectedly funny – I would definitely recommend.

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## **Wales leads way on a total ban of Snares and Glue Traps.**

**The first total ban on the use of snares and glue traps in the UK will come into force this Autumn in Wales, Rural Affairs Minister Lesley Griffiths has confirmed.**

First published: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 Last updated: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023

From the 17<sup>th</sup> October the use of snares and glue traps will be illegal in Wales, which will help prevent indiscriminate suffering to animals.

This follows the passing of the Agriculture (Wales) Act into law this summer which included the provision.

The ban on the use of snares is a Programme for Government commitment and was supported by a majority of those who took part in the public consultation.

Snares, sometimes referred to as cable restraints, cause a great deal of suffering to animals and are indiscriminate as they can harm species they are not intended for such as otters, dogs and cats. An animal caught in a snare can endure acute pain and suffering.

Similarly glue traps cause suffering to the trapped animal, including the rodent it was intended for and other animals such as cats. If pets such as cats are caught in a glue trap it can tragically lead to the animal being put to sleep as a result of the injuries sustained.

The UK Government has legislated for only a partial ban in England, but a complete ban will be introduced in Wales, another first in the UK.

While rodent control is essential where prevention has failed, more humane and targeted methods are available.

The Minister said: “The use of snares and glue traps are not compatible with the high animal welfare standards we strive for here in Wales. These methods can cause a great deal of suffering and harm to all animals.

The banning of snares is a Programme for Government commitment and we have been working towards this day for a long time with partners and stakeholders. Many animals, including those which were not the intended target of the snare, will be spared suffering as a result of this ban.

Banning snares is about preventing inhumane methods being used and does not prevent predator control using other methods. There are also many more humane ways to control rodents than through the use of glue traps.

I’m pleased Wales is leading the way on this issue, and we will continue to strive for high animal welfare standards.

From 17<sup>th</sup> October the use of snares and glue traps will be illegal in Wales. Anyone found guilty of using a snare could face imprisonment or an unlimited fine - **or both.**

**First published: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023; Last updated: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**



## **Single-use plastic items will be banned across Wales**

There is roughly a month to go before a number of single use plastic items will be banned from being sold across Wales.

In December 2022, Wales made history by becoming the first part of the UK to legislate against a thorough list of single-use plastics when the Senedd approved legislation to ban selling unnecessary, disposable products to consumers.

The new law is a key step in reducing the flow of damaging plastic waste into the Welsh environment and is being introduced following consultation with the public and other stakeholders. It will give local authorities the power to enforce the offence of supplying or offering to supply the commonly littered items – even when they are free.

The clock is ticking away and there will soon be a range of common items that shouldn't be sold in Wales. The ban comes into force just before Halloween.

This will start to come into effect on **Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> October**, when the following items will be banned from being sold across the country:

- Single-use plastic plates
- Single-use plastic cutlery
- Single-use plastic drinks stirrers
- Cups made of expanded or foamed extruded polystyrene.
- Takeaway food containers made of expanded or foamed extruded polystyrene
- Single-use plastic balloon sticks
- Single-use plastic-stemmed Cotton buds
- Single-use plastic drinking straws (\*exemptions for those who need them to eat and drink safely and independently).

Wales is currently ranked as the world's third best domestic recycler and the new law demonstrates how the Welsh Government is continuing to take ambitious steps to tackle the climate and nature emergencies.

Minister for Climate Change, Julie James said, "This is a proud moment for Wales as we make another stride forward in eradicating plastic from our beaches, streets, and landfill.

If we all take a 'Team Wales' approach and look to reuse, recycle and repair more, it'll help create a greener future for generations to come.

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## **Welsh Government commits to promises to Look-after children**

**First Minister Mark Drakeford has today signed the new Corporate Parenting Charter, committing the Welsh Government to nine promises when working with care-experienced children and young people.**

First published: 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023. Last updated: 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

The charter sets out principles that all public bodies and their leaders should follow in the design and delivery of services, such as eradicating stigma, providing a stable home and good health and education.

'Corporate parenting' is defined as promoting the collective responsibility of the whole public sector to safeguard and promote the rights and life chances of care-experienced children and young people.

Any public body, third sector organisation or business can sign up to the charter.

Mark Drakeford said:

"Our Programme for Government sets out our ambitious vision for transforming children's services in Wales.

I'm pleased to sign the charter today, which will support all our public bodies in ensuring that all care-experienced children and young people have the same life chances as every other child or young person.

Julie Morgan, the Deputy Minister for Social Services, who also signed the charter, added:

Last December we held Wales's first Care Experienced Summit, bringing care-experienced young people and Welsh Ministers together to develop a radical, ambitious and shared vision for the future.

A key message from the summit, led by the Young Ambassadors, was that care-experienced children and young people's rights must be respected and their voices heard and listened to equally.

I call on all public bodies, voluntary organisations and businesses in Wales to join us to ensure that all care-experienced children and young

people have the same opportunities and life chances that every young person deserves.

Dr Andrew Goodall, the Welsh Government's Permanent Secretary, said:

Supporting care-experienced children should be the responsibility of all public bodies. We want our public sector to understand and develop their responsibilities towards care-experienced children and young people throughout Wales.

I welcome the launch of the Corporate Parenting Charter and I'd encourage public bodies across Wales to sign up to the charter from today.

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## Your chance to host a Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Sign up

to host a Macmillan Coffee Morning and help us do whatever it takes to help people living with cancer.

Get together with friends, with family, or anyone you fancy, to share bakes, cakes and laughs, and raise money for a great cause.

## Please Help People Living With Cancer



**Early Years Wales**  
Blymyddoedd  
Cymor Cymru

**BOOKINGS NOW OPEN:**  
Foundation Learning Event

Early Years Wales would like to invite you to join us for our Foundation Learning Event:  
**Thursday 19th October 2023**  
09:30 to 15:00  
Village Hotel, St David's Park,  
Eivloe, Deeside CH5 3YH

For meaningful and holistic development to take place, children need an engaging adult and an effective environment. Join us to explore in more detail the three enablers and the Curriculum for funded non-maintained nursery settings.

**BOOK YOUR PLACE:** <https://www.earlyyears.wales/en/event/foundation-learning-event-0>

Cut off dates for Funded Early Education 2024

January intake - Children who have their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday  
on or before - 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

January intake - Online opens 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023  
and closes 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

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April intake - Children who have their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday  
on or before 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

April intake - Online opens 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
and closes 29<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

email: [hello@choirsforgood.com](mailto:hello@choirsforgood.com)  
for more info.



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Tom Hughes Lloyd 9 hrs



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## SCAN TO SIGN UP



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@tom\_kaiba\_hl



## **John Short**

Vaonis Vespera: M16 the Eagle Nebula.  
Added another hour of data from a dark sky site.



## **John Short 2:05 PM-**

The adventures of Mr Brodie  
We're off on another big  
adventure .  
Stopped to have some fun on  
the beach at Spittal, near  
Berwick.

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Thank you all for the information you have sent in  
Sybil (Bremner)

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