

RUMABON NEWS LETTER 519



Drivers across Wales remain divided over the country's default 20mph limits in built-up areas

Wales' new transport secretary has hinted at a major U-turn on the country's 20mph regime. [Ken Skates](#) said the lower speed limit should be targeted at schools, nurseries, hospitals and other "appropriate" areas.

Speaking in the Senedd, he pledged changes to the existing default [20mph speed limit](#), which applies in built-up areas and covers 37% of the road network in Wales. The minister is to make a formal announcement next Tuesday (23rd April) on measures that are planned over the "coming weeks and months".

Mr Skates said "a national listening programme" will be rolled out to find out what councils, businesses, residents want to see from transport in general, and 20mph in particular. This will include listening to the views of children – a crucial voice in the debate, he said.

The minister told the Senedd (Welsh Parliament): "There is a growing consensus in this debate that 20mph is right around schools, hospital and nurseries. I really strongly feel across the chamber there is support for 20mph in those areas where it is appropriate, especially where children and the elderly are at risk.

“In such areas, it all makes sense, it all makes people feel safer but we do need to make sure that 20mph is targeted in those places as we always promised it would be.

Changes will be done with, and for, the communities we all serve, with the voice of citizens at the heart of all we do”.

The new speed limit was introduced in September 2023 with the goal of improving road safety. The measure was controversial and a petition calling for the policy to be scrapped attracted almost half-a-million names.

With public acceptance still low, there has been concern amongst Welsh [Labour](#) MPs that the policy could damage the party in the upcoming UK general election.

Mr Skates, recently appointed transport minister by First Minister Vaughan Gething, pledged to develop new ideas with opposition parties, adding: “I desperately want to help to change the tone and tenor of debate on transport.”



New Transport Minister for Wales, Ken Skates

The Minister made his remarks during a [Welsh Conservatives](#) debate in the Senedd calling for the default 20mph speed limit to be “reversed” and a targeted approach be adopted instead.

The party also demanded more investment in public transport and a re-examination of the [Welsh Government](#) decision to shelve dozens of road-building projects.

Details of Cardiff’s 20mph changes await clarification and there’s a suspicion that local authorities will merely be encouraged to introduce more exemptions. **Nevertheless,**

Tory MS Tom Giffard praised Mr Skates for showing a “much more constructive and conciliatory” approach to transport policy, than his predecessor.

After the motion was defeated,

Tory MS Natasha Asghar added: “It is clear that Welsh Conservative pressure is moving the dial among Labour government ministers, whose rhetoric on 20mph has changed dramatically.”

During the debate Mr Skates, Senedd Member for Clwyd South, also suggested the brake on new road-building will also be eased.

He said that, 14 months since the [third Menai crossing and Deeside “Red Route” were put on ice](#), it was now time for the Welsh Government to “reflect, take stock and take time to listen”.

He said: “We will continue to build new roads, whether that’s to address localised congestion, pinch points and poor air quality, to improve safety, or, for that matter, to adapt our road network to the kind of extreme [weather](#) that we’re now seeing here in Wales with alarming regularity. We will build new roads.

“But, above all, we will build better than before. We will do so in order to meet the obligations that the last government rightly introduced to address the climate crisis. We’ll build better than before by utilising new construction techniques being pioneered internationally that reduce embedded carbon, by reducing the impact on ancient woodland.

Two 20mph protest convoys in North Wales aim to show 'how bad things will get' this summer



Cymru vs Wales name campaigns backed by thousands but with crucial differences.

Two 20mph protest convoys in North Wales aim to show 'how bad things will get' this summer

“And we’ll also do so through designing in bus priority routes for better walking links from the outset of our designs.”

[Sign up for the North Wales Live newsletter](#) sent twice daily to your inbox.

The minister also pledged to lobby the UK Government to fund railway improvements and deliver a “bespoke transport network” for North Wales. He added: “We are completely reliant on the UK Government to provide all of the funding for rail enhancements.”

Find out what's happening on the roads near you.

Newyddion Llyfrgelloedd Library News



Newyddion Llyfrgelloedd am yr wythnos yn dechrau 14 Ebrill

Library News for the week beginning 21st April



Wrexham Carnival of Words

With just over a week to go until we start this year’s Carnival of Words we’re busy putting the final touches to the festival! We have best-selling authors Catherine Isaac [aka Jane Costello], Joanne Harris with her #Stortime Band, Suzan Holder [wife of Noddy Holder of Slade], Tik Tok sensation Evie Meg – This Trippy Hippy and crime writer Vaseem Khan. These are supported by many other wonderful events including authors Mike Parker, Philippa Holloway, Alis Hawkins and Irish poet Elizabeth McGeown. Tickets and event details are available from www.wrexhamcarnivalofwords.com or Wrexham library

Learning Welsh?

An inspirational talk by two fascinating Welsh learners will be held in Wrexham Library

Stephen Rule, otherwise known as 'Doctor Cymraeg' to his 58,000 Instagram followers, will be joining Lingo Newydd columnist, Francesca Sciarriello, for an informal Q&A session on all things Welsh. Both Stephen and Francesca speak more than one language, both are Welsh learners who have become fluent, and both have an interesting story to tell about the impact languages - and the Welsh language in particular - have had on their lives. They are coming to Wrexham for a one-off event, held by Lingo Newydd magazine, to inspire everyone who feels Welsh to start learning the language. 'Why learn the lingo (and fun tips on using your Welsh in the wild!)' The talk will be mostly in English.

Groundworks Training Courses

Groundwork North Wales are offering a new set of free courses at Wrexham Library over the next couple of months. These include Wellbeing, CV support, Interview Support, Confidence Building and Digital Employability. If you would like to know more about these sessions or would like to enrol on them, please contact them directly on training@groundworknorthwales.org.uk or phone 01978 757524.

Magazine of the Week Magazine of the Week is Gardener's World, which you can borrow free of charge from our Libby app. All you need is a valid library card and you can access over 250 magazines free of charge. Titles cover a huge range of topics including photography, keeping fit, craft, current affairs plus many of the popular best-selling magazines such as Radio Times, TV Times, Cosmopolitan, Hello!, New Scientist and Auto Express. To download Libby go to

www.wrexham.gov.uk/libraries and follow the online services link.

Bore Coffi Llyfrgell Gwersyllt

Bydd llyfrgell Gwersyllt yn cynnal Bore Coffi ddydd Iau 2 Mai, 2024, 10.30-12.30pm. Mae hwn yn gyfle gwych i gwrdd â'r staff newydd a gweld beth all y llyfrgell ei wneud i chi. Does dim angen archebu lle a bydd croeso i bawb.

Gwersyllt Library Coffee Morning

Gwersyllt library will be hosting a Coffee Morning on Thursday 2nd May, 2024, 10.30-12.30pm. This is a great opportunity to meet the new staff and see what the library can do for you. There is no need to book and everyone will be welcome.

Quick Reads Discover the joy of reading with Quick Reads. Short books and great stories by bestselling authors! Quick Reads provide a route into reading that prioritises great story telling and adult-focused content while ensuring the books are written in an accessible and easy to read style. The books are written by some of the most popular authors in the UK – including Andy McNab, Jojo

Moyes, Anne Cleeves, Ian Rankin and Benjamin Zephaniah – so they can be a brilliant entry point to new genres, authors as well as the spark to reignite or build up the joy of reading. Each year six new titles in English are added to the list and you can borrow all of the latest titles from your local library. Welsh titles are released slightly later in the year.

Some exciting news from:

FRIENDS OF RUABON

Our Fete this year will be on Saturday 8th June, from 1pm on the recreation ground in Ruabon.

There will be lots of activities for children and families, because we want to make this a fun and memorable event with something for everyone.

The pitch fee for stall holders is £7.50.

Tables, chairs and gazebos need to be provided by the stall holders this year.

We are looking for a various range of stalls so you may wish to consider:

crafts, cakes, plants,
vintage table top sale items
and games

You will be able to unload on the field and then park cars on the carpark near to the ground,

There will be plenty of people to help with your set-up.

Please email: sarahmather13@btinternet.com if you are interested in having a stall or wish to help and support in a different way.



Thanks to children and young people from across Wrexham, a new garden has been opened at Wrexham's Maelor Hospital.

They were all asked to give their views on the environment. The Child and Adolescent Mental Service was based in with a large proportion of them agreeing that an accessible outdoor space would be perfect for relaxation, mindfulness, play and a calming place for appointments.

Using these views the members Senedd yr Ifanc and Wrexham Play Team planned out the area and the Play Team provided a play bin with resources which will be placed in the garden. Coleg Cambria students and staff landscaped the area, making it accessible, built a shelter and put new fencing up around the garden area and the appointment rooms, the Hospital Estates team supported with the management of the ground work.

“This Garden was inspired by Young People from the Senedd yr Ifanc”

The National trust supported by making the space more mindful, helping plant bulbs and flowers. They also crafted some seating out of fallen trees in Chirk Castle and one of their volunteers carved out the words ‘This Garden was inspired by Young People from the Senedd yr Ifanc’ which were then placed for everyone to use under the shelter.

Scarlett Williams, one of the members of the Senedd yr Ifanc involved with the project said, “Following lots of hard work by staff and partners, it is a joy that this garden, designed by and for young people in Wrexham, has been completed. A big thank you to everyone who has helped with this project, which will no doubt help many young people.”

Following the official opening everyone enjoyed hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows and took part in lots of activities including painting positivity rocks, building butterfly and bird boxes, nature weaving and Wrexham Play Team provided a play and den building session.

All the crafts that were made were placed around the garden along with garden ornaments and insects houses for everyone to enjoy into the future.

Cllr Rob Walsh, Lead Member for Children’s Services, said, “This is an excellent example of young people being listened to and partners responding in a way that has resulted in an improved environment for those children and young people who use this important service.

“I would like to thank everyone involved in the completion of this project which will help and support many young people here in Wrexham.”

The garden was officially opened by Marilyn Wells Head of Nursing, East Area for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Neuro-developmental and Learning.

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[Check if your business is eligible to benefit from grants to help reduce running costs](#)

Micro, small and medium-sized businesses in the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors can now check if they are eligible for Welsh Government funding to help them reduce their running costs.

First published 19th April 2024 Last updated: 19th April 2024

Grants of between £5,000 and £10,000 will be available through the Welsh Government's Future Proofing Fund to help businesses to invest in renewable energy technology, carry out improvements to the fabric of business premises, and upgrades to systems or machinery to reduce energy use.

To apply for the funding, the business must:

- be located in Wales and employ people in Wales
- employ between 1 and 249 people
- have been trading since before 5 April 2023
- operate from a property with a rateable value between £6,001 and £51,000
- either own or are leasing the business premises on a minimum 3-year lease that extends beyond 4 April 2026.

The Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language, Jeremy Miles, said:

We are doing all we can to provide support to businesses in the ongoing cost-of-living and cost-of-doing-business crises and to help businesses flourish by adapting for the future and reducing the burden and volatility of energy costs on bills and the environment for good.

I urge anyone running a micro, small or medium-sized business in the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors to check if they are eligible for the funding now, before applications open in May. The Minister for Retail and Tourism, Hannah Blythyn, said:

This is a fantastic opportunity for a wide range of micro, small and medium-sized businesses to get help to make long-term changes to their business, to be more efficient and to keep bills down. Check if you're eligible for this help and the security we hope it can provide to concentrate on developing your business, profits and staff.

See the eligibility checker: [Future proofing fund | Business Wales \(gov.wales\)](#)

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Additional Learning Needs Bulletin

"I am privileged to have been appointed Cabinet Secretary for Education. I know from my time as Chair of the Senedd Children, Young People and Education Committee what a dedicated and hard-working education workforce we have in Wales, and I am really looking forwarding to working with you in my new role."

New Welsh Language ALN Implementation Lead

We are pleased to announce that Trystan Williams has been appointed as the new Welsh Language ALN Implementation Lead.

Trystan joins us as an experienced school senior leader, teacher and ALNCo. Trystan's focus will be on Welsh Language ALN provision across Wales where his expertise and experiences will allow him to better support the sector, identify gaps in current provision and increase delivery and resources for additional learning provision in Welsh.

Trystan started his work in his new role on 15th April.

EVENTS

[Spring 2024 National Network Conversation: Equity and Inclusion](#)

Online Event – Tuesday 23rd April 09:15-12:30.

This online National Network Conversation will focus on supporting practitioners to reflect on how Curriculum for Wales can support equity and inclusion, overcoming barriers that can limit progression of all learners.

It will provide you with the opportunity to discuss and share: what equity and inclusion mean to you, your school/setting and what they mean for your curriculum.

- planning and designing, learning and teaching that support inclusion and equity.
- curriculum approaches to meet the needs of all learners including neurodivergent or disabled learners, and those with ALN.
- additional support that could help improve equity and inclusion in your school/setting.

Practitioners can register for the event

Ceri Reed, Parents Voices in Wales
Advocating For Your Child
 April 25th, 10:00am -12:00pm

Emma Durman, Outside
Supporting Siblings
 May 15th, 10:00am -12:00pm

Autism Wales - Parents & Carers Virtual Advice Sessions

Online information sessions for parents and carers, providing information about a range of topics relating to neurodivergence. Each session consists of a presentation, followed by a Q&A.

Melissa Hutchings, ASD Family Info
Anxiety Management
 June 12th, 10:00am -12:00pm

Behaviour Support Hub
Managing Meltdowns
 July 17th, 10:00am -12:00pm

Catrina Lowri, Neuroteachers
Support For Your ND Child at School
 September 18th, 10:00am -12:00pm

SHARING GOOD PRACTICE

Evaluation of the Education Occupational Therapy service in Neath Port Talbot schools.

Pioneering work to train up teachers in their classrooms has seen a huge reduction in children referred for specialist support.

The award-winning project, the first of its kind in Wales, involves an occupational therapy team working with the education authority to make changes to classroom environments and upskill teaching staff.

It has benefited all schools in Neath, Port Talbot.

Evaluation Report

1 JM Education OT evaluation report June 2023 Evaluation of the Education Occupational Therapy (OT) service in 2022-2023 across Neath Port Talbot schools. Evaluation Report July 2023 Contents 22 2 JM Education OT evaluation report June 2023 Overview:

The World Federation of Occupational Therapy WFOT (2016) stated that Occupational Therapists (OT) should be included in education in order to support and promote full participation and wellbeing of diverse students by supporting their strengths and finding solutions to reduce or remove learning activity limitations and participation restrictions. There is no national arrangement in funding school-based OT services, which results in a model of service delivery that is not consistent across the UK (Rivera and Boyle, 2020).

There is no evidence in Wales around school-based OT. This means we must look to the limited data published in England and consider the additional information on this area in America. It is important to note that Wales has a devolved government which means a different Education and Health service to England. This said, in England, Hutton et al. (2016) identified that there has been less attention to the provision of universal or targeted input, which means many children with functional difficulties are unable to benefit from publicly funded OT services.

Many Education Authorities across the UK and Wales do not have Occupational Therapy (OT) based within their services.

Neath Port Talbot (NPT) Local Education Authority (LEA) has a service level agreement with Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) and has invested in their own OT provision since 2016 to the current day.

Over this time, OT has expanded from 0.2 days to 1.4 days a week of input. To ensure resources are used wisely, the role of OT in schools is to provide universal and targeted input, including advice, support and training across the LEA.

Specialist/individualised input is provided by the Health Board Paediatric OT team. The current OT service in NPT Education Authority provides services to 63 schools (54 Primary's, 7 secondaries and 2 special schools). 3 JM Education OT evaluation report June 2023 OT provides:

- **Weekly OT advice clinics,**

- 9 different training courses (7 online/2 in person) throughout the academic year with some being repeated termly.

- 1 visit every 6 weeks to the authorities ASD (autistic spectrum disorder), SEBD (social emotional behavioural difficulties) provisions and to the 2 special schools.

- OT on occasion can visit additional schools to provide support as required but this is limited due to service capacity. Over the academic year of September 2022- July 2023, OT provided:

- 219 OT advice clinics,

- 30 training sessions delivered to 690 staff (the training topics include Handwriting, sensory processing, Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD), Cerebral Palsy, SMART Moves, Sensory Circuits and Zones of Regulation).

- 73 school visits which include to the provisions and special schools.

Aims of this evaluation report is to:

- Ensure the current service is meeting the needs of NPT teachers and pupils.

- Help evidence the positive impact OT can have within an education authority and if any lessons can be learned or shared.

- Due to limited evidence being available, OT to produce a report so that the findings can be shared and this can help other Local Education Authorities to make a case for this change.

- Help understand what next steps OT needs to make around service development.

PRESS RELEASE
Ken Skates MS | Clwyd South

22/04/24
for immediate publication



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

MS and councillor meet landfill site bosses over odour complaints

Local politicians have met waste management company bosses to discuss residents' concerns over 'rotten egg' smells from Hafod Quarry in Johnstown.

Clwyd South Ken Skates MS and Councillor David A Bithell visited the site last week with operator Enovert's chief executive Mark Silvester and regional manager Ian Craven.

An enforcement notice was issued to the company in December over breaches of its environmental permit, which included odour and landfill gas management requirements.

Enovert has since been working with regulator Natural Resources Wales on an agreed action plan.

Cllr Bithell said: "The meeting was constructive in understanding the works being undertaken to reduce odour complaints. It was open and honest dialogue and we made it clear that we wanted to see improvements to address local people's concerns."

The tip has been the subject of regular complaints from residents, who say foul odours and rotten egg smells are blighting the community.

The enforcement notice, issued to the company on 21st December, ruled that Enovert had failed to manage levels of leachate – contaminated liquids – and both Mr Skates and Cllr Bithell said they would seek further sanctions if the situation didn't improve for residents.

"We are grateful for the chief executive and regional manager's time and to be given the opportunity to speak honestly with them face-to-face," said Mr Skates.

"Enovert told us they are committed to working with NRW to improve things. This will be closely monitored and the company is acutely aware that further action could be taken.

“In turn, we were clear that we will support further sanctions if improvements are not made and that we will continue to raise residents’ concerns.”

Enovert chief executive Mark Silvester said: “Enovert were pleased to meet with both Cllr David A Bithell and Ken Skates MS to hear their concerns regarding the Hafod landfill site, and we take those concerns on board.

“The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss improvement works completed on site since the issue of the NRW notice and to explain our commitment to ensuring the Hafod site operates in compliance with its environmental permit.” -ENDS-

If EVER you need to contact a person who is Extremely Clever at finding out what is wrong with your computer, then I can honestly recommend:

Mr Chris Williams.

(Who is also a very kind and considerate Gentleman).



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The Adventures of Mr Brodie

“If you’re walking your dog on the big beach near the water’s edge, please be very careful.



Mr Brodie became trapped by his neck in the dunes protection wire and would have choked if I had not been close.

The risk is obviously high for young children. I’ve notified the council but please be aware.”

This piece sent in by Janet Cannon and John Short.

It seems to me that we are extremely lucky **now** to have members of the Senedd who are taking notice **and** acting on the worries that are being put forward by members of the community.

Sybil (Bremner).