



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru**
**Natural
Resources
Wales**

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Sport, Outdoor Recreation & Landscape Division
Natural Resources Wales
Rhodfa Padarn
Llanbadarn Fawr
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1 October 2014

Dear Sir,

**Welsh Government Consultation:
Improving the availability of allotments and community gardens**

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) brings together the work of the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales and Forestry Commission Wales, as well as some functions of Welsh Government. Our purpose is to ensure that the environment and natural resources of Wales are sustainably maintained, enhanced and used, now and in the future.

The Natural Resources Body for Wales (Functions) Order 2012 gives NRW duties relating to access and recreation, historic sites and well-being – specifically the health and social well-being of individuals and communities, and the economic well-being of individuals, businesses and communities. Our response to the consultation is made in relation to these specific duties.

NRW welcomes the proposals set out in the consultation which would deliver a wide range of benefits to the people and communities of Wales – health and well-being, community cohesion and pride, education and skills development, social enterprise. Community growing is an activity that people from all backgrounds, ages and abilities can take part in – wherever they live. Our comments are summarised in the attached table.

We are already actively involved in working with community food growers and the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens within our Woodlands and You scheme, through which we manage and promote public access to the Welsh Government Woodland Estate (delivering Welsh Government strategic objectives), whilst ensuring high levels of public safety in working woodlands. The scheme is open to groups, social enterprises and individuals and proposals can be made at any time. Other land-owning public bodies may find that adopting a similar 'access to land' scheme would assist with decision making and risk management. A summary of this work is at Appendix 1 of our response.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proposals.

Yours faithfully,

Rhian Jardine
Head of Sustainable Communities