



FACTSHEET

The Welsh Assembly Government's Sustainability Committee's Report into Allotment Provision in Wales

INTRODUCTION

Following an inquiry into Allotment Provision in Wales and research into community grown food, the Welsh Assembly Government has produced two new reports.

Allotment Provision in Wales from the Sustainability Committee makes 16 recommendations about future provision of allotments including a mapping exercise of allotment provision versus allotment demand, in order to effectively implement and target policies in this area. Meanwhile, the Community Grown Food Action Plan sets out the Welsh Government's aims to promote, support and encourage community grown food in Wales.

THIS IS EXTREMELY GOOD NEWS FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE INVOLVED IN ALLOTMENT GARDEN GROWING in Wales.

Whilst the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 (and its subsequent revisions) is a very powerful act - allowing for members of the public to petition councils to provide land for allotment growing and then placing a statutory legal obligation on those authorities to not only provide the land necessary, but in circumstances where land is genuinely unavailable, the authority has the power under this act to compulsorily purchase land from private sources for the purpose of providing allotment plot gardens.

However, authorities over the years have adopted very efficient means of blocking the process. The main weakness in the original act is that there is no specified timeframe for councils to act. Consequently a ploy that is often used is to drag their feet until those who petition them for the land give up. Not all councils - it should be pointed out - behave in this way; some are enlightened and very supportive of applications for land provision for allotment gardens.

Perhaps there is a lesson for us keen allotmenters here. We should at every opportunity be lobbying our local councillors, AMs and PMs and making sure that

they are fully up to speed regarding these matters. No one can blame the councils if they are genuinely acting in ignorance. It is our duty to engage them and teach them about the benefits to the individuals and the whole community of Allotment Gardening as a healthy and rewarding hobby.

Below is the detailed record of the motion led by Kirsty Williams.

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Gwilym ab Ioan (2010)

Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cynaliadwyedd ar Ddarparu Rhandiroedd yng Nghymru
The Sustainability Committee's Report into Allotment Provision in Wales

Cynnig NDM4562 Kirsty Williams

Motion NDM4562 Kirsty Williams

Mae Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn The National Assembly for Wales

notes:

Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cynaliadwyedd ar The Report of the Sustainability Ddarparu Rhandiroedd yng Nghymru a Committee on Allotment Provision osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 15 July 2010.

15 July 2010.

Kirsty Williams: I move the motion.

To begin with, I thank all those who were involved in the production of this report and all those who gave so freely of their time and expertise to the committee, while it undertook this inquiry. Special thanks go to the clerk, the deputy clerk and the research service, who assisted Members in the compilation of this report, and special mention should be made of the work of Leanne Wood who, as a member of the committee, was fundamental in persuading it to undertake this particular work, and who has a long track record of campaigning in this particular area.

As a committee, we decided to undertake this inquiry to highlight the role of allotments in building a sustainable society and to ensure that their potential towards delivering many of the Government's key priorities is recognised. As Assembly Members, I am sure that many of us receive correspondence from people who want an allotment, but are struggling to get any sort of response from local authorities. While the Government may have set out in 'One Wales: One Planet' that it was aiming for a 'huge' expansion in allotment and community growing, we are yet to see that happen. In fact, we found that some very basic things, such as how many people were waiting for allotments, or whether you could have a shed on your allotment site, needed to be addressed.

To turn to some of the key issues that arose during the inquiry and our recommendations, the committee received a great deal of positive evidence about groups coming together to create community spaces and about people being keen to live more sustainable lifestyles. However, we also heard from individuals who had been struggling to find space to grow their own produce and from people who had been battling to get local authorities to fulfil their obligations. The major message that we heard was that there must be greater clarity around allotments, and that the Government must provide a clear steer to local authorities about what it expects them to deliver on behalf of their citizens.

Greater clarity must be sought on establishing the supply and demand of allotments. It was made clear to the committee that there was no definitive

picture of provision or demand in Wales. As part of this inquiry, we tried to establish how many people were on a waiting list for an allotment, and the average waiting time; however, we found that nobody held this very basic information. We were concerned that waiting lists were not consistently compiled by councils and that they do not always accurately reflect demand in an area. People told us that they are often put off registering for an allotment if the lists seem too long or if there were no suitable allotment sites in their area. We recommended, therefore, that a clear picture of allotment provision across Wales should be established. Without this clarity, it is unclear whether resources are being targeted in the right areas, and we believe that gaining a clear picture is an essential first step in addressing the problems in allotment provision.

We also sought to establish the legal position with regard to allotments and providing space, and again, we found a lack of clarity. While a number of changes had been made to the relevant legislation over the years, we found that this had been done in a piecemeal fashion that made it difficult for lay people—and professionals, in some cases—to interpret. In particular, we were concerned that there is no time limit under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 for local authorities to consider written requests for providing allotment space under Section 23(1). Furthermore, we were concerned that no guidance was given on what a reasonable timeframe for responding to those requests would be; this must be clarified. Although the failure of local authorities to react in a timely manner to requests for allotment space may not be against the law, we feel that it is certainly not in the spirit of the law, and this needs to be rectified. We have made recommendations to review the existing legislation with a view to bringing in a new law that is relevant to Wales today. Recognising that this will take time, we have also asked for guidance to be issued in the meantime to establish what a reasonable timeframe is for local authorities to respond to requests.

As a committee, we wanted to see more land being used for allotment sites, including land that is currently owned by public bodies. However, we also want to see greater support for allotments to be set up on private land, as we recognise that the need for allotment space is so great that there may not be sufficient public land to meet demand.

Turning to the issue of planning constraints, we heard a number of confusing stories about when planning permission is and is not needed on allotment sites, and some worrying examples of multiple fees being requested for a single site; again, clarity needs to be brought to the situation. The committee wants to see a planning system that supports the establishment of growing spaces, not one that adds to the confusion. We certainly do not want to see the continuation of a situation in which people evoke their right to have chickens or rabbits on their allotments simply to ensure they can have a shed; to achieve this, we recommend to the Government that clarification and simplification is sought around planning rules for allotments.

There is also a need for more information and support if we are to make the

aims of encouraging people to use growing space a success. We want to see adequate information and support made available for everyone. Starting an allotment can be difficult and costly, so we would like information to be available to people at the beginning of the process. Through providing clear information, we hope that there would be an increase in the number of people wanting to grow their own and live more sustainable lives.

As stated earlier, the recommendations that we have made are aimed at bringing clarity to this muddled area. We want to make it easier to access, develop and maintain an allotment site. We also made recommendations aimed at making sure that the benefits of allotments are recognised across Government departments. We welcome, therefore, the Minister's broad acceptance of all our recommendations except one. Even in the case of the one recommendation that was rejected, the Minister has undertaken to clarify the position with regard to planning and allotments in a future revision of technical advice note 16, which is very welcome. We hope that this will achieve the desired results.

3.10 p.m.

While we welcome the support that the Minister is offering to those local authorities in need of assistance to find workable solutions to deliver their allotment responsibilities, we hope that this will be done alongside work with all local authorities in order to develop a consistent approach to allotment provision across Wales. Hopefully, with guidance from the Government, greater clarity can be brought to allotment provision and a system can be developed that will be easy for everyone to understand, no matter which local authority area they live in. We hope that the review of legislation for allotments does not delay the much-needed guidance on a reasonable time frame for local authorities' consideration of a request for space. Finally, we hope that, once the review has been completed, new legislation can be brought forward that is relevant to Wales.

The Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing (Jane Davidson): I thank the Sustainability Committee for its work on the inquiry into allotment provision for Wales. You have, through this work, helped to draw attention to the many benefits that the use of allotments, community farms and gardens provide, and have also helped to focus the discussion on the way forward. We did not find your findings or recommendations entirely unexpected, because the Government recently consulted widely with many interests in this subject during the development of our Tidy Towns and local environmental quality improvement project grants, and our community-grown food action plan, which we published in July. As a Government, our priority is to oversee the adequate and timely supply of allotment land, and to assist in its development and management.

I very much agree with the principle of seeking to confer additional powers on Welsh Ministers, or amending the allotments Acts as they apply to Wales. The Wales Rural Observatory research programme will examine the major legislative issues, and the follow-up actions will be subject to its findings. One

opportunity that we have, and one area that I am personally keen to explore, is how Part 4 of Schedule 7 to the Government of Wales Act 2006 would come into force following a 'yes' vote in next year's referendum. Part 1 of Schedule 7 provides that smallholdings and allotments would be a policy area within the legislative competence of the National Assembly, meaning that the National Assembly could legislate in that area to make any provision that could be made by Act of Parliament. That could include, for example, conferring powers on Welsh Ministers, and/or amending the allotment Acts as they apply to Wales.

To drive forward our current approach, and to encourage consensus around allotment provision, we have commissioned the Wales Rural Observatory to work with the Welsh Local Government Association, individual local authorities, and other members of our community-grown food task and finish group to map existing allotment provision, assess levels of demand and explore options for the future management of allotments. The results of this work will be used to identify land in a suitable location and condition for use as an allotment and for growing food.

At this point, I would like to listen to other Members' contributions to the debate.

The Presiding Officer: I am grateful to the Minister. I think that we will start with Leanne Wood.

Leanne Wood: This committee inquiry was agreed after my office carried out some research that showed a growing waiting list for allotments in all parts of Wales. In some counties, people faced five, six or eight years on waiting lists before they had any hope of getting their own allotment. In short, there is not enough allotment space to meet demand, so we wanted to find out what could be done to expand the availability of allotment land.

Our inquiry found that the law relating to allotments is quite strong, and we received evidence that any risk of downgrading the law in relation to allotments would be a retrograde step. Therefore, any changes to the law should involve updating or strengthening, and certainly not reducing, the current provisions.

As the Chair of the committee has said, we also found it difficult to get an accurate picture of the supply or demand of allotments, because different local authorities use different criteria when compiling their lists. They all have different rules regarding overgrown plots and evictions, which means that allotment turnover varies throughout Wales. However, even though it was difficult to get an accurate picture of what was going on, the committee was left in no doubt at all that steps needed to be taken to expand the amount of land available. That is why recommendation 6 is so important.

The land owned by public bodies has the potential to play a huge role if it can be freed up for community-growing or allotment use. Therefore, I am pleased that the Minister has accepted this recommendation, but I am concerned that, under the financial implications section of the Minister's response to the

recommendation, she states that, in acceptance, costs will be covered by existing budgets, mainly the rural development budget. Land is needed in urban as well as in rural areas, therefore I want to know, if possible, how the freeing up of land in non-rural areas will be paid for. That point also relates to the Minister's response to a number of the other recommendations.

The committee's inquiry has enabled us to listen and take evidence from experts, many of whom were keen to impress upon us how food security could become a major problem in future years, as a result of climate change and peak oil. These are global problems, but Wales will not be immune to them. Some of our witnesses stressed the need to be prepared and to build resilience for a time when food could become unaffordable for the many.

I pushed for this inquiry not because I am a keen gardener, even though I am, but because we face this big food security problem. I know that the committee's report will not deliver an easy solution to those future food security problems, but it will do an important job in acknowledging those problems, and it makes recommendations to harness the keenness that many people have to produce their own food. This report is a good start, but its recommendations will need to be implemented, built upon and reviewed regularly in future. In the meantime, we should all do everything that we can to ensure that the enthusiasm that is out there for food growing is supported as much as possible. We will be very grateful for that in future years.

Angela Burns: I am delighted to speak today as a member of the Sustainability Committee that conducted the inquiry into allotment provision. I would like to add my thanks to those of the Chair to the clerks and all the researchers who worked on this inquiry. I also want to pay tribute to Leanne, because when Leanne first started sitting on the Sustainability Committee and said that she wanted to conduct an inquiry into allotments, I thought, 'Why?'. Why should the Assembly spend so much time and effort on looking at what is a very small issue, when there are such big problems for us to consider? However, Leanne, you and the inquiry completely convinced me of the need for us to look at this as an issue. Your passion, and the passion of many of the witnesses who came before us and the people to whom I have spoken in my constituency on this subject, is compelling.

I will not rehearse the arguments that other people have put forward today. I am delighted that the Minister accepted 15 of the 16 recommendations in full or in principle. I also understand her hesitancy over recommendation 16. However, I will ask you one question, Minister. I was pleased to see you refer in your response to 'Appetite for Life', and you mentioned that schools are looking at the Welsh network of healthy school schemes. One of the schools in my constituency, the Blue School in Pembroke Dock, has the healthy schools scheme accreditation, and it is the first primary school in Wales to achieve that. You state in your response that

'These schools are required to develop a whole school approach to a range of health issues, including food and fitness. One of the suggested activities is a gardening club, especially if this involves the development of a vegetable

garden or allotment.'

I particularly wanted to mention that because it is a n interesting idea. My small children do a little bit of digging around in their primary school facility, which has brought home to them what they can do and where food comes from. They love watching various vegetables and flowers grow. However, a great many schools do not have that facility on site, and therefore they need to be able to go elsewhere. Minister, I now ask you to try to circle a square on this issue, because I have heard of instances where schools have said to interested parties, 'Yes, we would like to use part of your garden centre, nursery or field as allotments', but they have been unable to get the planning permission to change them into allotments, even though, looking at the wording, that would fit neatly and nicely into the concept of low-impact development. Minister, could you have a look at that area to see whether there is any way in which we can facilitate that, so that those who wish to participate can do so?

3.20 p.m.

There are many other benefits as well, not just for children but for their parents, because the children will drag them out to show them the things that they are growing. It will also help those enterprises to offer an alternative to what they already do. I would be happy to share with you at another time and in another place, if you so wish, the comments that I have received from people who have come to me to say that they want to do it, that they have had the go-ahead from everyone and that everyone thinks that it is a good idea. For example, 10 schools have bought into it, but they simply cannot get the change of use through even if it is classed as a low-impact development; they cannot, for example, change a little part of a nursery into such a facility. Therefore, Minister, I would be most grateful if you could look at that.

As I said earlier, Leanne, you have completely convinced me on this matter, but we now have to turn the report into action and make it happen. That is just one example of the kinds of hold-ups that it may well come across.

Joyce Watson: I am grateful for the opportunity to speak in the debate on the provision of allotments in Wales. Allotments can provide part of the solution to a number of issues that we discuss regularly in the Chamber, such as active lifestyles, community cohesion and sustainable development. The potential for community gardening is by no means exhausted in Wales, and development in this area could bring with it a number of benefits. As a member of the committee that worked on the report, I took a great interest in the good practice that already exists in this area, and I hope that the report goes some way towards building on that.

I would like to focus my contribution on recommendations 13, 14 and 15 of the report, which relate to the benefits of allotments to the community. As a committee, we took evidence from a number of witnesses who gave examples of how allotments can contribute to the surrounding area. The Soil Association told us that allotments can bring people together, as people talk

to each other and learn from each other. Allotments can simultaneously be a private interest, resulting in personal satisfaction and benefit, as well as a social activity, engaging with others and discussing common interests.

I would like to highlight one scheme in my constituency, that is, Cymdeithas y Dalar in Llandeilo. The organisation uses community allotments as a means of creating links between local establishments, such as schools, and one school gardening club has over 100 members. If you visit Cymdeithas y Dalar's website, you will see that it aims to foster mutual respect and co-operation in all sectors of the community through the experience of working together and sharing skills and knowledge. I think that we would all agree that those are attributes that all schools should strive to achieve. Any organisation that offers something that is a little different and that might capture pupils' imagination and creative flair, as has happened in this case, is surely to be welcomed.

I note from the Minister's response that work is already going on in this area, including work on the community grown food action plan and the support for the garden exchange scheme in Ceredigion. The latter is a good example of the aesthetic benefits of allotments for a community, as underutilised gardens are used for vegetable growing. Doing so transforms unkept areas of land into a looked-after and productive space, which in turn can lead to people taking pride in their area.

Recommendation 14 concerns the establishment of community growing projects that are based on the National Trust's model of encouraging people to give it a go. I wholeheartedly agree with that recommendation. I am a keen gardener and I can vouch for the satisfaction that comes from growing something successfully. The benefits for people who give it a go and produce their own food include having to spend less time at the supermarket, and if that were amplified and became a nation-wide activity, there would be greater food security, which has already been mentioned today. According to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' Food Statistics Pocketbook 2010, just 23 per cent of all fruit and vegetables that were consumed in the UK in 2008 were grown in the UK, which means that over three quarters of our fruit and vegetables were imported. I recognise that that is partly due to our taste for exotic produce that cannot be grown here, but for a country that has such a prominent farming history, I find that to be a remarkably low figure. If we can inspire people to grow their own food, we can reduce our dependency on imports and spend less on our groceries.

I conclude by thanking the witnesses who gave evidence to the committee. We gained a fascinating insight into the good practice that is already taking place. It is evident from the Minister's response that the Government is also attempting to capitalise on the benefits of allotments. In my opinion, that is to be welcomed.

William Graham: Members have already outlined the cross-party acknowledgement of the wide-ranging benefits derived from cultivating an allotment. Not only does growing fresh, often organic produce, offer children

an opportunity to gain a wider understanding of their food and how it is produced, it also generates savings for the family food budget. Working an allotment leads to a healthier lifestyle by promoting healthy eating and enhancing physical and mental health.

Traditionally a recreational hobby, allotments create opportunities for socialising and interaction between people of all ages and from all walks of life within a community. They also make a significant contribution to sustaining the biodiversity of the neighbourhood, particularly if located in an urban area. It is clear that there is a growing interest in and demand for allotments throughout Wales, and we must ensure that we support this demand and the opportunity to enhance all aspects of lifestyle that arise from cultivating an allotment.

The Minister has already indicated that she wishes to promote the requirements of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908. This is legislation that is still being enforced and it places a legal duty on councils to provide a sufficient number of plots to meet local demand—you should not have to wait more than a reasonable period for one to become available. In fact, six people who are registered on the electoral roll may petition their council to meet its legal duty to provide allotments. Members will be aware of the significance of the Rhiwderin allotments in Newport, a site used for over a century and tended by successive generations. In response to a question concerning these allotments, the Minister stated that she was sure that every Assembly Member would like to see more statutory allotments. I trust that she will hope to bring this forward.

Minister, I ask you for an option for the wider establishment of statutory allotments to provide security for established allotment tenders. Such security would allow allotment holders to plan the development of their holdings, to build greenhouses, and to gain experience from cultivating crops and perhaps some livestock to enhance their diets and lifestyles and to meet the recommendations of the Sustainability Committee's report on allotment provision in Wales.

Irene James: I am grateful for the opportunity to speak on this report. The committee has produced an excellent report that makes for interesting reading. It has, of course, been produced at the time of increasing interest in allotments. People of all ages are seeing the attractions of growing and eating their own fruit and vegetables. Not only do they provide an excellent source of vitamins, the very act of growing and tending them, as I can testify, is a great way of getting exercise, and it gives a great deal of satisfaction. As I think we all know, fresh fruit and vegetables taste really good. It is one way, as Angela has already said, of encouraging children because, all too often, they are not prepared to try vegetables. However, there is a different meaning altogether when they have grown the vegetables themselves.

I have no doubt that the demand for allotments will increase. I was therefore pleased that the committee undertook as one of the criteria for its inquiry to look at more innovative approaches to the use of land for allotments. Many of

the organisations that gave evidence indicated ways in which alternative supplies of private and public land could be used. I know that the Minister has indicated in her response to the report that a land bank of public and private land is being considered. I would be interested to learn how near we are to actually achieving it.

The need for local authorities to be less rigid in their thinking over matters such as plot sizes is long overdue. I do not want to see a reduction in the size of plots that people already have or see people being prevented from accessing larger plots; I simply want councils to allow individuals who would rather have a smaller, less time-intensive allotment have access to one. This would allow full inclusion for anyone who wanted a plot and, of course, it is another way of alleviating some of the problems of waiting lists.

As I stated at the beginning, I am a keen grower of flowers, fruit and vegetables. I would like to see more people have the opportunity to share my joy in growing produce. I see increasing the provision of allotments as one of the best ways of achieving this. I would therefore join with other Members in congratulating all committee members and staff on this report, and thank everyone who came to give evidence. Let us ensure a bright future for allotments in Wales.

3.30 p.m.

Jane Davidson: I thank committee members, and other Members, for their contributions to this debate. It is worth pointing out that, although major opportunities would flow from a 'yes' vote in a referendum, as Leanne said, the law in relation to allotments is much stronger than that in relation to many other local authority functions. Many are expressed as general or specific discretionary powers, so it is hard for a complainant to show that an authority has acted wholly unreasonably. Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 is specific in stating that an authority 'shall provide' a sufficient number of allotments. Therefore, we need to ensure that, whatever action is taken, the strength of that legislation is maintained.

Several Members focused on the land bank issue. It is important to create a land bank of public and private sector land. This is not just in the context of work that is done in rural areas; you will notice that the examples in our response to recommendation 6 are urban examples. One example is Ely Growing Together and another is in Ystradgynlais. There is another in Miskin, in Rhondda Cynon Taf, where £15,000 was given via our local environmental quality improvement projects grant scheme, to develop an area of wasteland to the rear of the school, which is currently subject to vandalism, fly-tipping and related fires. Two new allotments have been established there: one for the community, and one for the school. That kind of approach is particularly important. Over the past year, we have had over 400 allotment-related projects from my Tidy Towns initiative, and some 59 allotment garden areas are being adopted by local groups. Therefore, we have seen a huge expansion of opportunities.

It is important to point out that we need to use the word 'planning' technically in the context of allotments. Planning permission for allotments is not required, as it does not constitute development under town and country planning legislation. The current development control system already provides a means whereby allotment holders can find out whether any structures that they consider necessary for the working of allotments would require planning permission. That remains the responsibility of the local planning authority. In the context of 'Appetite for Life' and the foundation phase, we want primary and infant schools to work with others to encourage young people to be much closer to the growing process. Examples such as the one that Joyce mentioned in her constituency are good examples of ways in which people of all ages can come together on this important initiative.

Therefore, there is a major opportunity for us with a referendum. If that is not taken, any future Assembly could seek a further transfer of powers from the UK Government in this context. Unfortunately, we cannot provide authoritative guidance on time frames in an area for which we do not have legislative competence. That is why I believe that a strong message, in the context of a referendum, about community growing and food security is the way forward.

Kirsty Williams: I thank all colleagues from across the Chamber for their contributions to this afternoon's debate. It is good to see that there are enthusiastic gardeners among Assembly Members and an enthusiasm for Government to pursue the recommendations that are outlined in our report.

I wish to stress the important part that you played, Leanne, in bringing this issue to the National Assembly's attention—in the Chamber and in committee. As I said during the debate on canoeing, this is another good reason why we should have a 'yes' vote next March, so that we can pursue this agenda, as we hope to pursue the canoeing agenda. You are right to point out that this issue affects all Welsh communities, whether urban or rural. There is a real demand out there. The challenges in providing those spaces in rural and urban areas are sometimes different, but there is a desire from people throughout Wales and we have a responsibility, as do local authorities, to respond to that desire, regardless of location.

Angela, I think that your emphasis on children is right, and I am grateful that the Minister agrees with you that there is much scope for children's activities in this area.

Joyce, I think that your point on the wider social impact that allotments can have is relevant. In my constituency, the newly created allotments in the village of Llangattock on land owned by the community council represent more than just allotments; they are bringing people together, including those who have great skills in this respect, who are predominantly older people. They are mixing with their younger neighbours and passing those skills down through the generations. Allotments are also responsible for the rebirth of the village agricultural show, because why have an allotment unless you can have a competition at the end of the year to see who has grown the best carrots

and leeks? In Llan gattock, after an absence of 20 years, the village show is back, and allotments were the spark for that. The community now comes together again at the end of the growing season for some friendly competition about the produce, and a barbecue.

William, I am also grateful for your support in this afternoon's debate. As you said, local authorities have a responsibility, which they need to get to grips with.

Irene, I am not completely convinced that children growing their own will make them eat their vegetables; it certainly has not worked in my family, but maybe I could give it another go.

Irene James: I did not say that it would.

Kirsty Williams: You said that it might encourage that. However, you are right that it is vital, given the wider health benefits of eating fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as the exercise involved in doing the gardening, and the huge improvements that gardening can make to mental health issues. Growing fruit and vegetables and tending to gardens can have a massive therapeutic effect, and linking some of these projects with hospitals and GP services could have a big impact on individuals' lives, perhaps as an alternative to medication. If we could get people out doing some physical activity, they would see the therapeutic effects that gardening can have.

In conclusion, I thank the Minister for her acceptance of the majority of the recommendations and for her commitment to take this work forward. In doing so, I press upon her the necessity to stress to the Wales Rural Observatory, which has been tasked by the Minister to take this agenda forward, that it should do so in a timely fashion so that we do not lose momentum on what is, as we have seen today, an issue, for once, that unites us.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you to the Chair of the committee.

The proposal is that the Assembly notes the Rural Development Subcommittee's report. Is there any objection? I see that there is not. In accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35, therefore, the motion is agreed.

Y cwestiwn yw a yw'r Cynulliad yn nodi adroddiad yr Is-bwyllgor D atblygu Gwledig. A oes gwrthwynebiad? Gwelaf nad oes. Yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35, felly, caiff y cynnig ei dderbyn.

Derbyniwyd y cynnig
Motion agreed