

DRAGON SPEECH

THE NEWSLETTER OF NPC WALES

Issue 8 SUMMER 2023

Events

Swansea Beach Festival
NPC Wales will be there!



This is a FREE event.
When? Saturday 12th August, Time? 11am - 5pm

Where? The Beach by Secret Beach Bar & Kitchen



Transport for Wales
ASSISTED
Travel Support.

Welsh Government website
lots of information on
ACCESSIBLE Holidays
and events in Wales.

<https://tfw.wales/info-for/passengers/accessible->



We want support for older people who want to use digital technologies. We campaign to get Government, Health, Local Government, Banks, Buses, Trains, and other services to ensure that those who do not wish to do so or cannot do so are not disadvantaged or discriminated against.

The Older People's Commissioner for Wales says that Digital exclusion is creating new barriers for older people.

Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Heléna Herklots CBE issued statutory guidance in 2021 which set out the kinds of action local authorities and health boards should be taking to ensure that people's rights to access information and services via non-digital means are upheld.

The Commissioner has said:

"To better understand the particular issues people are facing, and the impact these are having on people's lives, I'm keen for older people who are not online or who struggle using digital technology to contact my office to highlight any difficulties and barriers they have faced."

Digital Exclusion - Older People's Commissioner for Wales

NPC Wales wants our members to let the Commissioner know of their experiences.

Older people (or their family and friends) can contact the Commissioner's office to share their experiences **until 1 September**

By telephone on 03422 640 670, email ask@olderpeople.wales or write to:
Older People's Commissioner for Wales
Cambrian Buildings
Mount Stuart Square
Cardiff, CF10 5FL



Public Transport Railway Ticket Offices
NPC Wales is supporting the RMT campaign against the proposed closure of the majority of ticket offices (1,000 of them) in England.

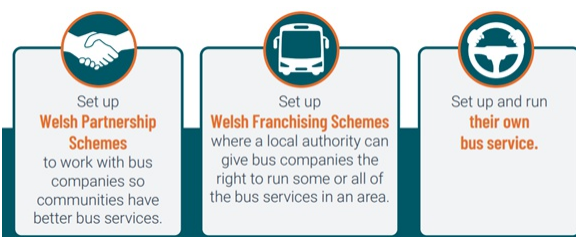
NPC Wales wrote to Lee Waters MS the Deputy Minister for Climate change whose responsibilities include Public Transport. Trafnidiaeth Cymru/Transport for Wales manages all 223 Railway stations in Wales.

- We hope that there are no plans to close our ticket offices in Wales.

We got a positive reply:

"I understand your concerns and frustration regarding the closure of ticket offices in England. Transport for Wales (TfW) are not part of this announcement, and they have **no plans to close ticket offices at their stations in Wales or those they operate in England.**"

Buses in Wales



In May Lee Waters MS Deputy Minister for Climate Change made an oral statement, in the Senedd, confirming that funding had been found to keep most bus services running in Wales for this financial year.

In June the First Minister, Mark Drakeford announced Welsh Government's legislative programme for the next year. It includes:
One network, one timetable, one ticket: planning buses as a public service for Wales

The Bus Bill is meant to reform and improve bus services, putting people before profit, to match what our communities need.
This new law will give local authorities better tools to plan and deliver bus services.
NPC Wales will be watching with interest!

The NHS and Care Service in Wales



The First Minister said there would be Legislation to introduce direct payments for continuing health care.

But what is missing is the November 2022 Expert Group Report: Establishing a national care and support service for Wales. NPC Wales will be asking the question – what is happening about that report ?



Your Shout:

If you have a story you would like to share or have any comments on our newsletter please contact us:

[E mail Rachel.dawson@agecymru.org.uk](mailto:Rachel.dawson@agecymru.org.uk)

By Post: NPC Wales
c/o Age Cymru
Ground Floor, Mariners House
Trident Court
East Moors Road
Cardiff, CF24 5TD

Why not Join National Pensioners Convention Wales/ Confensiwn Pensiynwyr Cenedlaethol Cymru known as NPC Wales?

We are a voluntary organisation. We are a non-party political campaigning organisation that seeks to improve the living standards and welfare of all pensioners and future pensioners in Wales.

Our Full Council meets, normally, 4 times a year.

Our elected volunteer Officers and Committee Members meet regularly with Welsh Government and the Older People's Commissioner for Wales.

Our current key campaigns are for:

- **The recovery of the NHS in Wales**
and the development of a fully integrated Social Care service, free at the point of need, as its first priority.
- **The Cost-of-Living Crisis.**
- **Energy For All - Say NO to Heat or Eat**
- **Cold Homes Kill - Insulate our homes NOW!**
- **Digital Connections for All**

We also believe that traditional forms of communication and services such as face to face, over the telephone, via post and using cash must remain in place.

- **Public Transport**

Buses and the Welsh Bus Bill ? Bus services are in deep crisis. Routes are at-risk all-over Wales.

- **Housing Care and Repair** There are 13 Care & Repair Agencies in Wales, each covering a different region. We want far more adaptations to be carried out.



**If you are a member of an organisation
your organisation can affiliate to NPC
Wales please contact:**

E-Mail: rachel.dawson@agecymru.org.uk

Or by post to:
NPC Wales
c/o Age Cymru
Mariners House
Trident Court
East Moors Road
Cardiff
CF24 5TD

You can join NPC Wales as an individual member.

If you do you can attend our meetings, vote and receive our newsletters.

I wish to join NPC Wales as an individual member

E-Mail: rachel.dawson@agecymru.org.uk **or send by post** to the address below.

Your Full Name

Address

Post Code

Home Telephone

Mobile Number

E mail address

Payment of affiliation fees: £10:00 per year

To Pay by BACS : Please pay to:

Lloyds Bank, NPC Wales No.2 Account

Sort Code 309995 Account Number 01236708

If paying via BACS please ensure that you include a reference identifying your name.

Or pay by cheque payable to NPC Wales and return to:

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