



# Growing Mid Wales January Newsletter

We've nearly made it through the first month of 2026 — and it's already been a busy and positive start to the year across Mid Wales.

In this edition, we share an update on the encouraging response to our refreshed call for capital project expressions of interest — and there's still time to submit your interest if you're developing a project that could help drive productivity, jobs or innovation in the region.

Alongside this, you'll find highlights from the Regional Skills Partnership's work supporting vocational pathways and future skills, a reflection on how Mid Wales was represented at the Wales Investment Summit 2025, and insights from our latest guest column with Business News Wales.

You'll also find a round-up of funding, placemaking and environmental projects helping to strengthen communities and local economies across Mid Wales, as well as updates and opportunities shared by partner organisations.

Looking ahead to next month, we'll be sharing our latest podcast featuring WSRID projects, updates from the Careers Connections pilot, and digital developments — so do keep an eye out.

As always, thank you for staying connected and for the role you play in supporting growth, opportunity and collaboration across Mid Wales.

## The Growing Mid Wales Team

[Cover: Scene from the GMW film featured at the Wales investment summit 2025  
<https://youtu.be/uPaefkjnKB8?si=xK8U0QBCfY4fpHfV> ]

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## **Reminder - expressions of interest for capital projects**

The response so far has been really encouraging, with strong expressions of interest already coming in from across Mid Wales as we refresh the Growing Mid Wales investment pipeline. If you're developing a capital project that could boost productivity, create jobs or unlock innovation, there's still time to get involved.

Eligible organisations include private businesses, local authorities, public bodies and registered charities.

**31 January** is the deadline for expressions of interest to be considered at the first stage. This deadline helps shape the conversation, while further expressions of interest will be welcomed in due course.

Full details on [our website](#).

## £2.95m Innovate UK funding awarded to nine agri-tech and food-tech projects

Nine innovative projects across Mid and North Wales have secured a combined £2.95 million in Collaborative Research & Development (CR&D) funding from Innovate UK, strengthening the regions' agri-tech and food-tech innovation ecosystem.

Find out more about all the projects on [our news page](#).

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## Supporting vocational pathways in Mid Wales



Our Regional Skills Partnership (RSP) team were delighted to attend the recent engagement event in Lampeter showcasing the exciting new vocational skills opportunities taking shape in our region.

This event brought together local stakeholders, young people, businesses, and education partners to explore the plans for Llettytwppa Farm as a hub for practical, hands-on learning in agriculture and related trades — from livestock care and crop production to traditional and modern skills that matter to Mid Wales employers.

This event highlighted just how important local vocational provision is to both young people and lifelong learners — giving them the practical experience and career pathways that help retain talent in our communities. The hands-on taster sessions and insight into agricultural apprenticeships are exactly the kind of opportunities we want to see flourish across the region.

The RSP's mission is to connect the needs of employers, learners, and training providers across Ceredigion and Powys to help build a skilled, resilient and future-ready workforce.

RSP team, "We look forward to continuing our work with education providers, employers, and communities to support the growth of high-quality training pathways that meet the needs of Mid Wales' economy now and into the future."

For more information visit Ceredigion County Council's [website](#).





## Wales investment summit 2025

Growing Mid Wales was proud to play a part in the Wales Investment Summit 2025 on 01 December 2025 which brought together international investors, businesses and partners to showcase Wales as a place to invest, innovate and grow.

As part of the Summit programme, a Growing Mid Wales film highlighting the region's strengths, opportunities and ambitions was shown in the main auditorium, ensuring Mid Wales was firmly represented alongside other key investment regions in Wales.

In addition, artwork from the Regional Strengths section of the Wales Investment Prospectus — featuring Mid Wales — was distributed to every delegate, helping to reinforce the region's profile and investment offer throughout the event.

Together, these contributions helped position Mid Wales as a connected, forward-looking region with clear opportunities across innovation, clean growth, skills and place-based development.

Read more about how the Summit went on the Welsh Government [website](#).



1 - Watch the Growing Mid Wales film: <https://youtu.be/uPaefkjnKB8?si=xK8U0QBCfY4fpHfV>



## Breaking down the myths holding construction back



2 - Doug Hughes

In our latest guest column with Business News Wales, Doug Hughes explores the myths that are holding construction back and shares how the Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership is bringing industry, educators and employers together to make construction careers more visible and accessible in our region. Read the full article on the [Business News Wales website](#).

## Minister sees growth potential of new Green Futures Innovation Park

Recently (22.01.26) Anna McMorrin MP toured AberInnovation, an integrated pilot-scale development facility to accelerate innovation in the areas of food and drink, the circular

economy and agricultural technology, as well as the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS).

The Green Futures Innovation Park, an initiative proposed for the University's Gogerddan campus, is one of several strategic projects being developed for potential support through the Mid Wales Growth Deal

Read more about the visit on our [website](#).



3 - Anna McMorris MP at Aberinnovation

## UK Shared Prosperity News from the region

### **£1.22m investment in Powys economy after 18 business grants awarded**

A total of £1.22 million is being invested in the Powys economy - by businesses and the county council - after 18 capital grants were awarded.

The companies are investing nearly £1 million in their own futures, while the council has added £243,000 to the pot from the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund.

More information on the full article and on the 18 businesses that were successful, visit the News section on the [Powys County Council website](#).



4 - Kindle House, Ystradgynlais - £8,285 towards improvements to the yard seating area at The Stables riverside bar and kitchen.

## Ceredigion Tidy Towns Scheme

A recent call has opened under the Ceredigion Tidy Towns Scheme, providing financial support to help improve the appearance and vitality of town centres across the county. Supported through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), the scheme focuses on practical environmental improvements such as planting, painting, fencing and other small-scale enhancements that help create cleaner, more welcoming town spaces. While the scheme is targeted specifically at towns, it forms part of wider place-based investment aimed at strengthening communities and local economies across Ceredigion.

The scheme is open only to town councils and is delivered through Cynnal y Cardi, with grants of up to £10,000 available to support eligible revenue costs. To request application forms or find out more, eligible councils should contact the team at [ce.cynnalycardi@ceredigion.gov.uk](mailto:ce.cynnalycardi@ceredigion.gov.uk)



## Transforming Towns Placemaking Grant 2025-2027

Welsh Government Placemaking Grant for the Mid-Wales region will provide a capital investment of £4 million over the next two years to support and regenerate towns centres across Ceredigion and Powys.

This fund is open for application on a first come first serve basis.

For Ceredigion towns, more information can be found on [Ceredigion County Council's website.](#)

For Powys towns, more information can be found on [Powys County Council website.](#)

## New wetland habitat created to boost rare plants on the Montgomery Canal

It's great to see continued progress on the Montgomery Canal, with new wetland habitat created to support rare and protected plant species.

The canal forms part of a wider programme of regeneration proposals being developed across Mid Wales, with a strong emphasis on nature-first approaches, heritage, and place-based economic opportunity.

As Growing Mid Wales, we're working with partners to explore how projects like this could contribute to long-term, sustainable growth for the region, alongside environmental enhancement and community benefit. More information on the News page on [Powys County Council](#).

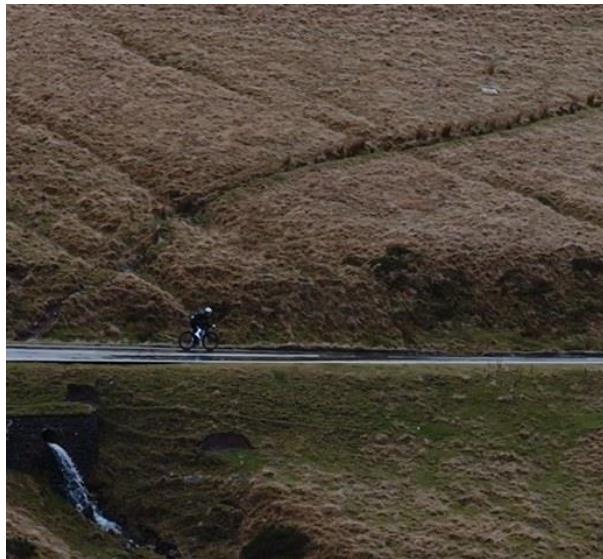


## Tour de France is coming to Powys in July 2027

We welcome the news that the Tour de France is coming to Powys in July 2027 — a huge moment for Mid Wales. Hosting the Grand Départ will bring international exposure, increased visitor spend and lasting benefits for local businesses, tourism and communities, helping showcase Mid Wales on a truly global stage.

View a reel from Powys County Council here:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/yJgsjsUXcgw?si=wnyKDOubCHyUfDNA>

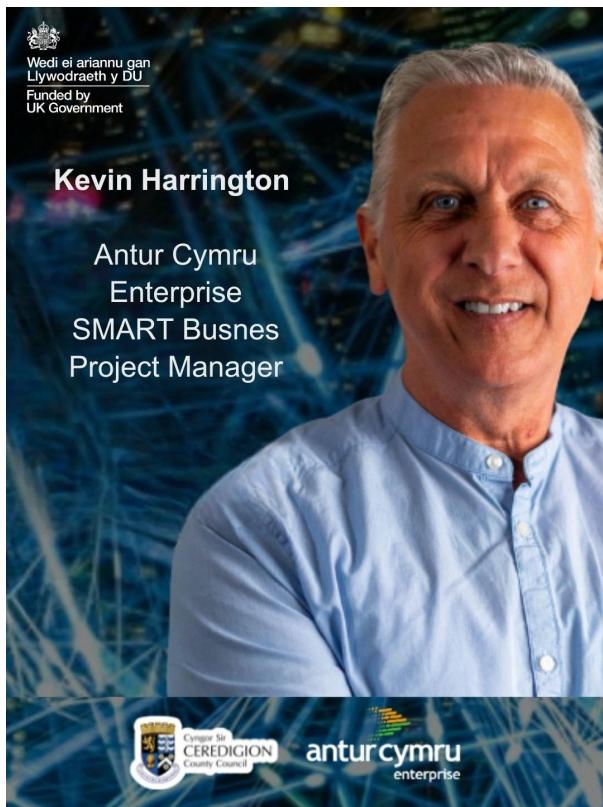


## Other news - updates and opportunities shared from partner organisations

### Helping rural businesses stay competitive with new AI toolkit

Antur Cymru Enterprise has launched a new AI toolkit to help rural Welsh businesses improve their online visibility and stay competitive as AI-driven search grows. For more information, businesses can contact [kharrington@anturcymru.org.uk](mailto:kharrington@anturcymru.org.uk)

Full story on [Antur Cymru's website](#).



## Stay connected with Powys economy and climate updates

Powys County Council has launched a new bi-monthly Economy and Climate newsletter with the latest news, insights and support for businesses across the county.

It's a great way to stay informed about local economic trends, funding opportunities and climate-focused initiatives that could benefit your organisation.

Businesses can sign up to receive this newsletter straight to your inbox, complete the Powys Business Enquiry Form and tick the box to receive updates:

👉 <https://formbuilder.evolutive.co.uk/formsite/form/ac7261a8-61d3-469e-9a67-3e21d5312e2b>

You can view the current edition here:

👉 <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/rESg9iRG2ax0WldD?ref=email>



## How can exporting support your business growth?

Exporting can transform almost every aspect of your business, which is why each year [Welsh Government's Trade Team](#) supports hundreds of small and medium sized enterprises across Wales on their export journey.

The International Trade Advisors have a track record of working with businesses, whether they're new to international trade or established exporters looking to further expand their reach. They can help you consider if exporting is right for you, explore new markets, identify new opportunities and overcome logistical and regulatory obstacles.

As part of the trade team, Jane Christie and Mike Krawec work directly with businesses in Ceredigion & Powys to help them develop export sales. Both are available to meet directly with businesses who have export ambitions.

Their contact details are as follows:

- Jane Christie, [jane.christie@gov.wales](mailto:jane.christie@gov.wales)
- Mike Krawec, [Michael.Krawec@gov.wales](mailto:Michael.Krawec@gov.wales)

Export enquiries can also be made via the International Trade Team mailbox:

[InternationalTrade@gov.wales](mailto:InternationalTrade@gov.wales)

Information on the full range of support available to eligible businesses can be found in the [export brochure](#).



5 - Jane Christie [jane.christie@gov.wales](mailto:jane.christie@gov.wales)

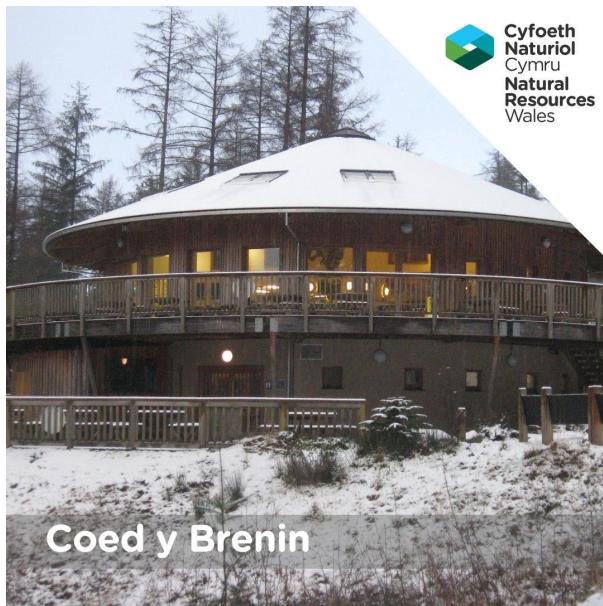


6 - Mike Krawec [Michael.Krawec@gov.wales](mailto:Michael.Krawec@gov.wales)

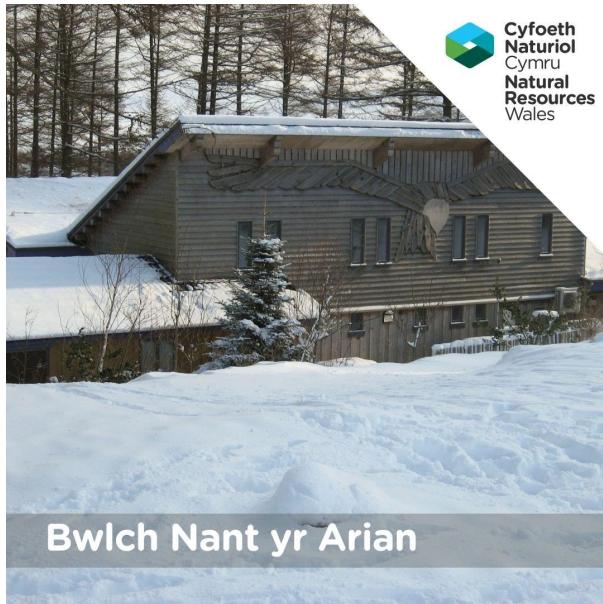
### **Call for partners to enhance Wales' outdoor visitor destinations**

Would your community organisation, start-up or business be interested in enhancing the visitor experience at two of Wales' most unique outdoor destinations?

Natural Resources Wales has launched an exercise to identify community groups, social enterprises and businesses to help enhance the visitor experience at Bwlch Nant yr Arian and Coed y Brenin — interested organisations are encouraged to find out more and get involved [via NRW's website](#).



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## Keep up to Date

Need to catch up on what's been discussed in our meetings? Here's a reminder of where you can find the minutes for the following meetings:

- All minutes relating to the Growing Mid Wales Board are hosted on Powys County Council [website](#).
- Papers relating to the Growing Mid Wales Partnership can be found on our [website](#).

Keep up to date with Growing Mid Wales news, developments on activity and organisations we support by following our Instagram and LinkedIn pages, and YouTube channel:

[www.instagram.com/growingmidwales/](http://www.instagram.com/growingmidwales/)

[www.linkedin.com/company/growing-mid-wales](https://www.linkedin.com/company/growing-mid-wales)

<https://www.youtube.com/@TCC-GMW>

We're eager to reach out to as many organisations and businesses across Mid Wales as possible. You can make this possible by following, liking and sharing our pages.

Disclaimer: As a Growing Mid Wales Stakeholder you receive these emails so that we can share news and information with you on a regular basis. You can inform us if you no longer wish to receive these emails by emailing [growingmidwales@ceredigion.gov.uk](mailto:growingmidwales@ceredigion.gov.uk).

