

INSTITUTE OF HISTORIC BUILDING CONSERVATION

Consultation response from on-line form

Consultation: Protecting Community Assets (Wales)

Response date: 11 September 2015

Question 1 – Do you feel the definition of Assets of Community Value contained in the Localism Act 2011 is appropriate for use in relation to protecting assets in Wales? **No**

Please say why you have answered this way.

We agree with the Consultation that there may be a case for a tailored Welsh definition.

Question 2 – Please give your views on the following three questions

1 - Should Community Assets registers be administered at a National level or by Local Authorities? **National**

2 - Should communities have power to initiate asset transfer from Public Sector Bodies? **Yes**

3 - Should communities have greater opportunity than in England to bid and purchase privately owned community assets when they are put up for sale ("first refusal")? **Yes**

Question 3 – Which is your preferred option for the development of an Assets of Community Value Model in Wales? **C**

In relation to your responses for Questions 2 and 3 please say why you have answered this way.

We think there is a case for a National register of assets. This would provide a standard approach and a one-stop-shop, avoiding in particular a variable standard of service delivery because of local financial constraints. We think that the scheme in England can be viewed as having insufficient scope and robustness. A Welsh dimension would be desirable. The option to be avoided is 3A which would not deliver the requirements of the Act.

Question 4 – What issues related to resources (including costs and community support) do you feel are most important in protecting community assets?

The requirements for registration should not be so open as to allow wildly speculative proposals. There should be a requirement for applications to set out how it is envisaged that the community asset would be protected in practice were the opportunity to arise.

Question 5 – Do you have any further comments or queries related to this consultation? If so, please use this space to report them. **No**

JC
11/09/15