



Future Funding Scoping Study

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Written by Coed Lleol on behalf of Llais y Goedwig and funded by the Forestry Commission Wales



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Executive Summary

1. This report has been produced by Coed Lleol in response to a brief from the Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) and Llais y Goedwig, to assess the current status of funding opportunities and the viability of pursuing a collaborative bid.
2. The aim of this study is to understand the current funding requirements and to investigate opportunities for funding, both for individual community woodland groups (CWGs) and for the potential of larger collaborative bids.
3. The report will include:
 - Scoping of community woodland group needs and priorities for funding
 - Initial investigation of funding streams available (CAN, Convergence, ESF, etc) and which may be appropriate
 - Scoping of potential for joint collaborative bid led by Llais y Goedwig / Coed Lleol
 - Scoping for potential partners
4. The study has been undertaken through a literature and web based search of funding opportunities, questionnaires to community woodland groups (current members of Llais y Goedwig and recipients of the former Cydcoed grant fund) and telephone surveys to selected funders to obtain more detailed information.
5. The results show that the Llais y Goedwig members value the provision of information and guidance from Llais y Goedwig; it was felt that this is where LLYG should focus its energy at this time. The lack of suitable funding opportunities and the CWGs knowledge of where and how to access them was also apparent.
6. The types of grants required by groups are varied, but the greatest demand appeared to be for relatively small amounts of funding.
7. At this moment in time, it is not feasible for Llais y Goedwig to explore the possibility of a collaborative bid. Prior to Llais y Goedwig leading on such a bid, any proposal would need to be explored through the membership; the formation of a Steering Group made up of potential participants would ensure community support from the outset. The opportunity to gather such evidence of need and support will hopefully arise through the series of Llais y Goedwig road shows scheduled for summer 2010. Any collaboration intending to apply to certain EU funded schemes would have to be placed within the strategically supported regions.
8. The study shows that there is the potential for CWG's to add value to their current assets through up skilling, developing, building confidence and training their members. However, to reach this stage they will require help and assistance from a suitable development

officer. This will hopefully lead to opportunities to increase income/employment generation for their groups, so reducing the need to rely on continued funding.

9. This study therefore recommends that on behalf of CWGs, LlyG seeks to influence key funders to ensure that the needs of CWG are reflected through their grant schemes and to explore, where possible, the ring fencing of funds specifically for CWGs.
10. At a later stage, and dependant on CWG support, Llais y Goedwig should investigate the potential to develop a pilot scheme to explore the development of an 'in house' training and related 'social enterprise programme'. It will be necessary to obtain funding to employ a development officer to take this work forward.

1. Acknowledgements

The authors would like to acknowledge and thank all those who took the time to answer our questions (listed in Appendix 2). In particular, the members of 'Llais y Goedwig' (LLyG), the recently established community woodland association in Wales; Zena Wilmot and Katy Harris of Coed Lleol; Phil Tidey and Judy Walker of Small Woods; Diane Campbell of CWA (Scotland); Barbara Anglezarke and the Forestry Commission Wales for funding the study. Thanks are also given to the specific funders for their time and interest in the study. The information and opinions contained here are presented by the authors and are not the responsibility of the Forestry Commission or Llais y Goedwig.

2. Aim & Scope of the study

This report was written by Coed Lleol on behalf of, and in collaboration with, Llais y Goedwig and is the result of work undertaken to investigate funding opportunities. It was funded by the Forestry Commission Wales in response to requests demonstrated by Community Woodland Groups (CWG) at a series of public events hosted by Llais y Goedwig in 2009. This report investigates the current funding needs of community woodland groups, in particular those groups who are members of Llais y Goedwig, and potential funding sources currently available in Wales.

The aim of this study is to understand the current funding requirements and to investigate opportunities for funding, both for individual CWGs and for the potential of larger collaborative bids. It was also the intention to ascertain the level of support and assistance Llais y Goedwig could offer to individual community woodland groups.

This study will cover a range of grant funding opportunities including EU, UK, Wales, public and third sector funding opportunities.

The report will include:

- Scoping of community woodland group needs and priorities for funding
- Initial investigation of funding streams available (CAN, Convergence, ESF etc) and which may be appropriate
- Scoping of potential for joint collaborative bid led by Coed Lleol / Llais y Goedwig
- Scoping of potential project partners

3. Introduction

The recent Community Woodland Baseline Report Wales, (Wilmot & Harris 2009) stated that many Community Woodland Groups (CWG) are run by volunteers and that these community enterprises are often supported through public or charitable funding. The report outlined that

most of the CWGs contacted had received varying amounts of grant funding, ranging from relatively small amounts to the 100% Cydcoed funding. Whilst some groups had chosen to remain small with low overheads, they were dependent on volunteer input to deliver any activity. Others raised funds through charging annual membership fees or by utilising their woodlands to provide a sustainable income through harvesting, offering training or social forestry activities. Whatever the size or aspirations of individual CWG, all will require some form of financial support, whether for relatively small amounts sufficient to cover volunteer expenses and essential insurances to the more considerable amounts to cover salaries, harvesting or project costs with the ultimate aim of enabling groups to find ways of sustaining themselves from their woodlands and activities and to reduce reliance on short-term grant funding.

Llais y Goedwig (LLyG) is the new grass roots association representing and supporting Third Sector Community Woodland Groups (CWGs) in Wales (currently comprising of 24 full member groups (representing over 1000 individuals and at least 800 ha of woodland in Wales) and 19 associate members. The third sector encompasses voluntary organisations, community groups, self-help groups, community co-operatives and enterprises and other not-for-profit organisations. It also has the support of the principal woodland agencies in Wales including the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG), Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) and the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW). LLyG wishes to promote and represent community-led woodland groups in Wales and to provide assistance and support to groups and initiatives which aim to encourage local engagement in woodlands for conservation, amenity, economic development and enjoyment. LLyG has an elected Board of Directors drawn from a wide range of third sector community woodland interests.

Coed Lleol, is a unique partnership organisation, hosted by the Small Woods, that brings together representatives of woodland organisations across Wales. Coed Lleol has provided the secretariat to LLyG during its establishment.

LLyG is currently in discussion with the Welsh Assembly Government and Forestry Commission Wales and believes it has a genuine opportunity to influence future policy.

This report will provide the essential research needed to inform decisions about the development and future funding of the community woodland sector in Wales’.

4 Policy Context

Support for Third Sector Community Woodland groups

In ‘Woodlands for Wales’¹, the Welsh Assembly Government’s strategy for Woodlands and Trees, the importance of woodlands for people is recognised. It identifies four key outcomes to increase the use of Welsh woodlands by working to ensure that :

- more communities benefit from woodlands and trees
- more people enjoy life-long learning benefits of woodlands and their products

¹ Woodlands for Wales WAG 2009)

- more people live healthier lives as a result of their use and enjoyment of woodlands
- more people benefit from woodland related enterprises

To do this it will encourage greater dialogue with community groups to:

- increase involvement in planning and managing woodlands
- assist community groups to access funding to support local initiatives
- to improve the variety and level of community involvement in woodlands
- to encourage joint working to enable woodlands to contribute towards community development

Legislative framework/Political will to support the Third Sector:

4.1 “*One Voice, One Wales*” is the Welsh Assembly Government’s Sustainable Development Scheme, made under section 79 of the Government of Wales Act 2006. It sets out how the Welsh Assembly Government intends to promote sustainable development within the third sector.

4.2 In the “*Code of Practice for funding the Voluntary Sector*” (WAG ’09) the support for the Third sector is outlined below:

- *To support the further growth and development of the sector’s capacity to strengthen communities of place and interest.*
- *To harness the knowledge and expertise of the sector to help design better public policies and services.*
- *To encourage and help the sector to contribute to the personalisation and greater accessibility of quality, citizen-centred public services.*

Llais y Goedwig, as the representative of grass roots community woodland groups is in a prime position to support the third sector and help in the understanding and delivery of sustainable development.

5. Methodology

This report combines quantitative (questionnaire based) and qualitative (interview based) research along with a web based search to identify suitable funding opportunities. Relevant organisations were contacted via e.mail and then telephoned to discuss in greater detail. Two reminders were sent out requesting a response and phone calls were undertaken. A total of 14 community woodland groups responded to the questionnaire. A list of responding groups is given in appendix 2.

A copy of the questionnaire is given in appendix 1. The questionnaire was also available in Welsh.

5.1 Stakeholder consultation

Coed Lleol worked with LlyG to identify key stakeholders. The stakeholders included the members of Llais y Goedwig, Coed Lleol contacts and former Cydcoed project recipients. The questionnaire was emailed to over 200 CWG contacts.

Funders contacted directly included: Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), Big Lottery ; Communities 2.0, Wales Rural network, WCVA 3 SETS, Forestry Commission Wales; Sell2Wales focus group.

5.2 Limitations of the study

The relatively low response rate is an issue and it highlights the problems associated with relying on questionnaire-only studies. It transpired that many of the details on the Cydcoed contact list were out of date, and so resulted in a poor response from this group. However, the responses received do represent over 50% of the current membership of LlyG. The stakeholders were either emailed or sent hard copies of the questionnaire.

6 Results of the Questionnaire survey

Questions of relevance to specific funding needs are outlined below, for full questionnaire please see Appendix 1. Associated responses not directly relating to the study can be found in appendix 3.

Q.2 Role of Llais y Goedwig

“Here is a list of things it has been suggested Llais y Goedwig could do for its members-please number these in order of how much each activity would benefit your group (1=most important). Please let us know if there are other things you think Llais y Goedwig could do to support your group.”

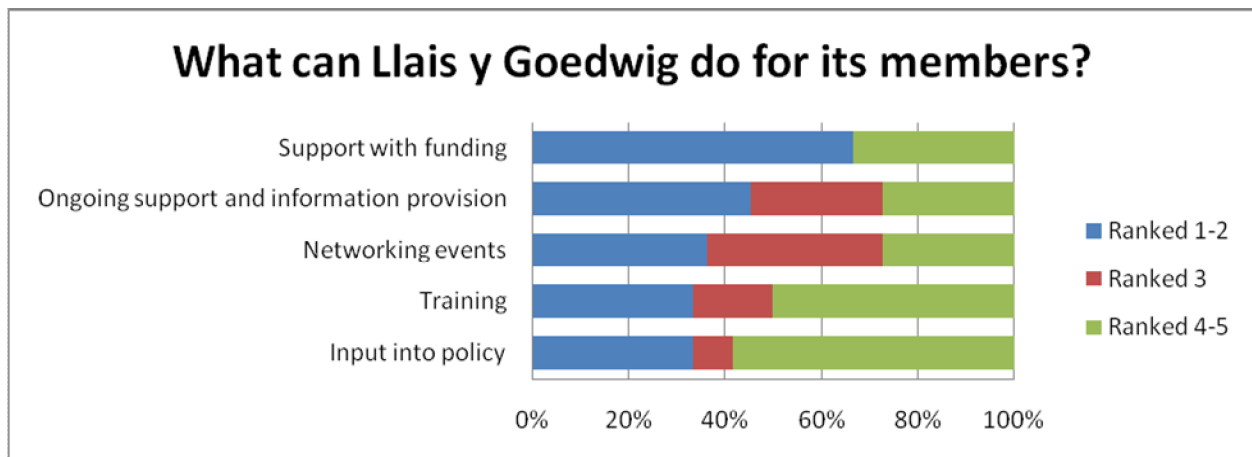


Fig. 1: From a list of five options they were asked to number from one (most important) to five (least important). N=14.

Responses indicated that the highest current need is for 'support for funding', followed by ongoing support and information provision, then 'networking events'.

Other suggestions included:

"Visits to other projects"

"Support and information is the most important by a long way"

"We are mostly hands on people so policy has little impact on us"

"Promotion of coppicing / sustainable woodland management - We believe that the encouragement of sustainable woodland management should form the basis of Llais y Goedwig's policy towards member groups. We hope that Llais y Goedwig will carry this forward to WAG."

"Business development support"

"Help with keeping woodland project viable financially so that it can continue to maintain its community function"

"Ideas for sustainable activities in woods which would increase usage and might generate income"

"We are looking to make the woods more user friendly without much capital cost. We are hoping to build a round house/shelter in the spring and other similar projects and would welcome opportunities to make these events into training sessions."

"Publicity"

"Face to face contact is the best way of gleaning ideas and experience. Influencing policy needs numbers to add weight – vital for community groups to have a voice which will be listened to and (hopefully) acted on"

The results indicate that the majority of groups want LlyG to help in sourcing funding –this was ranked higher than any other support activity. However the vital role that Llais y Goedwig could offer in support, provision of information and networking events is also identified. Other comments reveal opportunities to offer advice on practical and financial sustainability. Also that LlyG has a role to play in influencing policy on behalf of CWGs.

Llais y Goedwig is an independent voluntary association and depends on the active participation of member groups. The groups were asked what support they felt able to offer to Llais y Goedwig (see CWG questionnaire, appendix 1). As this question is not directly relevant to the study the results are contained within Appendix 3.

Q.4 Funding needs

“One idea the working group is considering is that Llais y Goedwig could help groups with funding. To help the working group understand issues it would be helpful if you could give us a few insights into your current funding situation.”

Twelve groups gave information on their current budget.

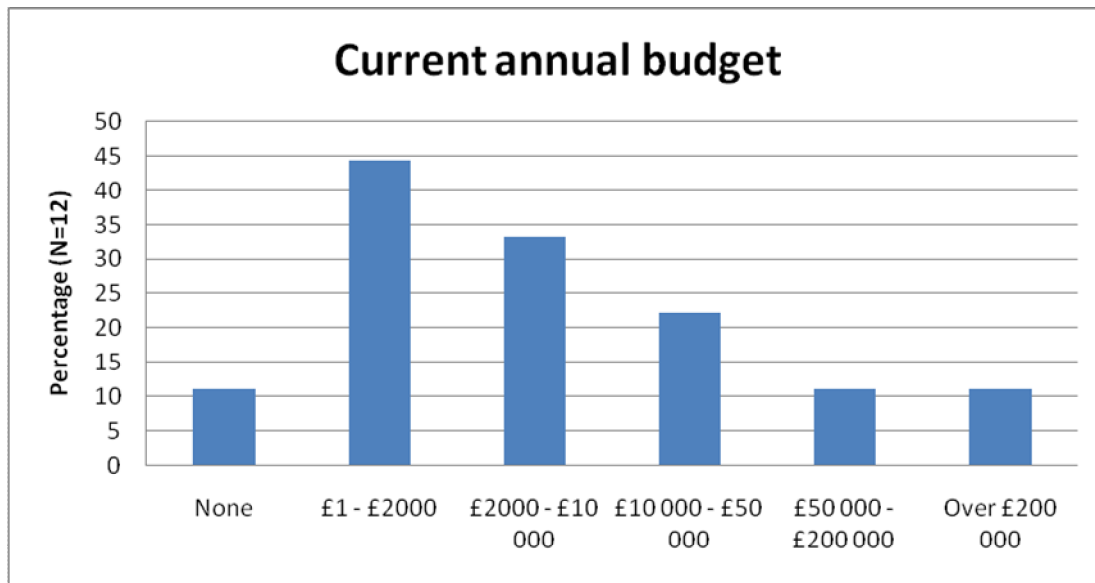


Fig. 2: current annual budget of community woodland groups participating in the survey (N=12)

It is evident that there is a wide range of scale of funding requirements amongst CWGs. Fig 2 shows almost 45% of groups run on an annual budget of under £2,000. Whilst at the other range of the scale there are groups running on a budget of over £200,000. This gives an indication the wide range of budget requirements involving CWGs.

The majority of groups do not have paid staff and (70%) rely on volunteers to undertake their work, indicating that requirements for grant funding are mainly for relatively small amounts, or for capital investments (e.g. new footpaths or buildings).

Q.6 Funding Sources

“Please describe the funding sources your group has successfully used in the past-are there any which were easier or which you would recommend to other groups? Any which were particularly difficult to access or restrictive?”

Funding source	Issues raised
Aggregates Levy	<i>"A lot of work for no reward"</i>

Arson Grant	<i>"Easy"</i>
Awards for All	
Better Woodlands for Wales (BWW)	<i>"For replacing an area of conifers with broadleaf - also very helpful"</i>
Biffawards	<i>"Have their drawbacks! - mostly in the varying methods of drawing down money once agreed"</i>
Big Lottery	<i>"Difficult to access"</i>
British Wildflower Society	
Carmarthenshire schemes	<i>"Both through the Council and CVC"</i>
CCW	<i>"Have their drawbacks! - mostly in the varying methods of drawing down money once agreed"</i>
Coal Field Regeneration	<i>"A lot of work for no reward"</i>
Communities Trust Fund	
Cwmbran Community Council Community Chest	<i>"Excellent for small amounts"</i>
Cydcoed	<i>"excellent mainly due to Barbara Anglezarke"</i> <i>"Very good at helping with application"</i>
Environment Wales	<i>"Once registered it is easy as they assign you an officer"</i> <i>"Very fussy about level of information for relatively small grants"</i>
Forestry Commission	<i>"Have their drawbacks! - mostly in the varying methods of drawing down money once agreed"</i>
Heritage Lottery	<i>"Have their drawbacks! - mostly in the varying methods of drawing down money once agreed"</i>
Local charities	
Local Voluntary Council	
PAVS	<i>"Very fussy about level of information for relatively small grants"</i>
Rural Development Fund	
Tidy Towns	<i>"Helped us clear dumped tyres"</i>
Tir Gofal	
Ty Coed	
Welsh churches fund	<i>"Done through Torfaen Borough Council – good for general funds"</i>
Windfarm Trusts	

The groups described a range of funding sources they had applied to for funding from in the past, they were asked whether they would recommend them and to comment on whether the application process was found to be difficult or restrictive. The comments provide useful information for other CWGs seeking funding, giving an indication of time spent on funds with complex, time consuming application forms.

The lack of suitable funding streams for specific activities was also identified. The results also highlighted the value of dedicated grant scheme officers to assist and advise applicants, for example on the Cydcoed and BWW grants.

Note: Several of the respondents to the questionnaire listed several grant sources and made just one comment, the comment appears in the table with each of these grant sources.

Q.8 Barriers

“Are you currently having problems raising the money you need? If yes, what are the barriers?”

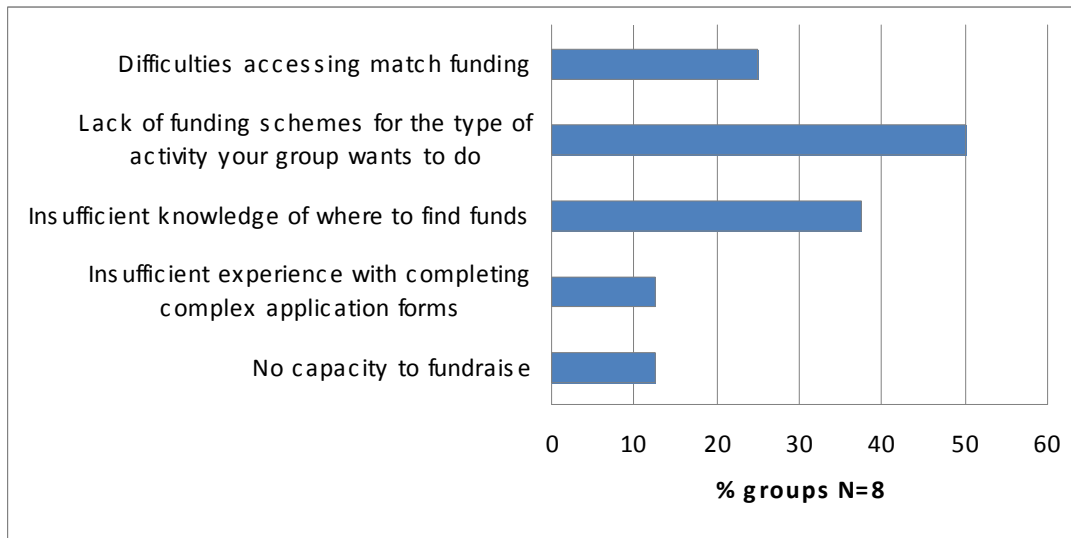


Fig. 3: Barriers reported to raising the money participating groups need through fundraising (N=8).

Fifty percent of the surveyed groups are currently looking for funding and 57% report that they are currently having problems raising the money the group needs.

Associated comments:

“Caerphilly Council have no money available to provide gates and to obtain funding may be difficult because the park is on Council property”

“Would like to see FCW funding for the interests identified by Llais y Goedwig in the near future”

“Most funders want innovative or novel projects and will not support our activities or costs such as insurance, accreditation”

“Difficulty finding funding was our main problem for our earlier activities”

“Competition with windfarms and County Councils, NGO's, etc.”

“Amount of information required to support some forms, some of which depends on either having a local volunteer with the right qualifications/skills –or having to pay someone”

“Match-funding”

Evidence indicates that there are several obstacles to delivering their objectives, see Fig.3. Issues highlighted were: identifying and accessing match funding, lack of expertise in applying for funds.

Again the lack of suitable grants available (for specific activities) was noted and the competition for funding sources including bidding against large applications from Local Authorities and NGOs.

Q.9 Collaborative funding

“Llais y Goedwig is considering helping smaller community woodland groups by coordinating and applying for collaborative funding bids or managing a small grants scheme. Is this a role that Llais y Goedwig could and should take? If so, what type and scale of funding would be of use to your group and do you have any suggestions for such collaboration?”

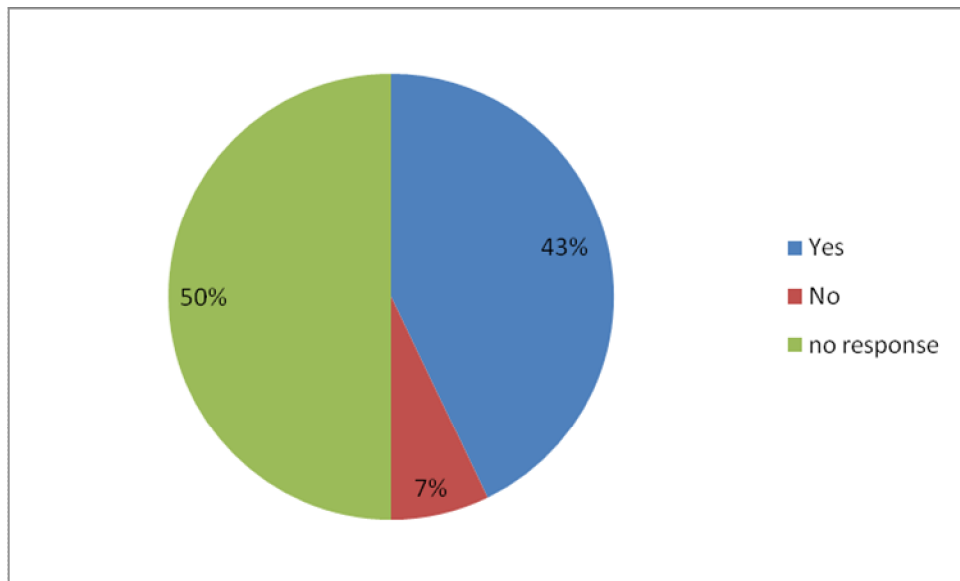


Figure 4: Should Llais y Goedwig be considering helping smaller community woodland groups by coordinating and applying for collaborative funding bids or managing a small grants scheme? N=14

Associated comments:

“Would like to know the opinion of groups that are not so directly involved (in partnership) with FCW”

“Small scale funding to start with”

“We do not consider that funding should be the primary function of Llais y Goedwig. Llais y Goedwig should empower and support the groups to be more financially independent”

“Would be useful. Scale depends on what each group needs - bound to vary, so would have to cover all eventualities”

“We would like to set up a small enterprise, a forest school or training sessions in the woods which might need some money initially - £500-1000 sort of amount”

“This could be particularly useful for a very quick turnaround for small amounts – say, under £1,000 – and would ideally need to be a mix of capital and revenue”

Of those that responded, 43% felt that LLYG should investigate a collaborative bid, 7% said that they shouldn't and 50% did not respond (see Fig.4). Accompanying remarks indicate that relatively low levels of funding would be required – up to £1,000 per group at this stage. However, there was also a feeling that fundraising should not be LLYG's main remit and that it was important for LLYG to empower and support groups to become financially sustainable.

7 Discussion of issues raised

From the evidence gathered it would appear that LLYG has a valuable role in signposting and, where capacity allows, assisting CWGs to make their own applications.

It would need to be explored further whether this role should be through direct involvement in accessing funds, leading (or encouraging others to lead) on collaborative bids. However, it will be necessary to identify a suitable proposal before approaching potential partners in a bid. It is envisaged that ideas will come to the fore from the membership. (it is indicated later in the report which funding streams would be suitable for individual CWGs to apply for directly/or to take on a more strategic collaborative focus). Following discussions with the CWA (Scotland) this point was re-iterated. From their experience of supporting community woodland groups, it was seen as vital that the groups have ownership of any project. Focus groups were held initially to 'tease' out the areas of interest and were then explored and developed into proposals by the CWA. A steering group of CWG representatives was formed, so enabling grass roots involvement and inclusion from the outset. The CWA then acted as the representative on behalf of the collaboration. This was welcomed by the funders as they were only dealing with one body rather than numerous groups and it also ensured that the project already had all the evidence of need and grass roots support required. It was seen as important to start with a pilot study concentrating on one area initially, to do this well and to prove to funders the benefits of the project. This would then be used as a catalyst for obtaining future funding and rolling the scheme out nationally. The need to employ a development officer was vital, as was the focus on training and up skilling the group members. This would then enable the group to survive following the ending of the funded period. It is important to avoid the complete reliance on grant aid and to ensure that the group members are equipped with the necessary skills, confidence and training to continue and develop their projects after the cessation of funding.

The boosting of confidence, following the up skilling of their members will enable some groups to be able to charge for services such as training and education. This will continue to, not only boost their own confidence and belief, but gradually increase their ability to become economically more independent and sustainable in the long term. The majority of Welsh CWG do not have paid staff and (70%) rely on volunteers to undertake practical works within their woodlands. The study has confirmed that requirements for funding are mainly for relatively small amounts, or for capital investments (e.g. new footpaths or buildings).

LLYG has the potential to play a pivotal role in providing specific woodland specific information and advice on funding. There are already many organisations with the specific remit to support

community groups in general, such as EW, WCVA, Wales Co-Op Centre and therefore a large part of this role would be signposting to these other support services.

There are currently several organisations offering their own monthly grant information sheets, such as WVCA's Sustainable Funding Cymru, county CVC's, CCW, Wales Co-Operative Centre, - these could be signposted on the LLYG website. The funding experiences of LLYG member groups would provide valuable information on pros/cons and whether specific grants are worth applying for, information required etc, as well as ideas for how specific funding sources can be used in the context of a community woodland group (through idea sharing between groups to see how other groups have used such funding in the past).

It is recommended that LLYG should focus on signposting to these organisations, whilst also highlighting specific grant opportunities suitable for specific woodland activities. The Llais y Goedwig e-bulletin/members updates are probably the most valuable support for the majority of groups whose funding requirements are small.

Collaborative bids: There may be the potential for a collaborative bid to be led by LLYG in the future, or if evidence of track record/experience is required by funders, then perhaps a bid led by CLL in partnership with LLYG? It is evident that funding would need to be raised to employ an officer with the time and expertise to research and submit, what is likely to be, a very complicated bid.

LLYG is in a position to collate a dossier of evidence relating to funding problems/opportunities to present to policy makers. It would appear that small community led groups are finding it difficult to access even relatively small amounts of funding. Funding streams appear to be increasingly focussing on projects able to give evidence of economic viability and offer employment opportunities. CWGs are facing competition from larger collaborative applications and the report would suggest that LLYG is in an important position to campaign for the ring-fencing of future funds specifically for CWGs .

As access to most EU funding will be through a tendering procedure, it will become essential to have a suitably trained Board member/staff able to write and submit tenders. This experience could be contracted out and so offer a form of income generation for the group.

The two most frequently cited barriers are related; the lack of appropriate funding opportunities and lack of knowledge of funding sources. This indicates two potential roles for LLYG; input to potential funders to ensure appropriate funding schemes are available, and signposting to available grants.

The data shows that there was little enthusiasm at this stage, or opportunity, for LLYG to seek to become a grant provider to CWG, or to apply for sizeable funding to support projects across the sector. CWGs seemed to want to be supported to become financially independent.

8 Funding opportunities

Exploring the possibility of individual or collaborative bids on behalf of Community Woodland

Groups: There are many sources of funding available, but to avoid wasting valuable time and effort it is vital to have knowledge of, and be able to target those funds that are best suited to the groups needs. It is important to select the right fund for the right purpose in terms of scale of funding required, time scales, level of monitoring, delivery methods and capacity to research, write and submit the bid. There are many different levels of funding available, but the ones investigated below were deemed to be the most suited to the brief, that is to investigate whether they would be suitable for CWGs and/or be suitable to apply for as a collaborative bid.

For a selected list of current relevant funding sources see Appendix 4.

8.1 European funding

For the programming period 2007–2013, Wales qualifies for European Structural Funds support under the following programmes:

A. Convergence funding: Covers the West Wales and the Valleys region for the Structural Funds programming round 2007–2013, it is the successor to the Objective 1 programme 2000–2006, and covers 15 local authority areas in the West Wales and the Valleys region.

The Convergence programmes for West Wales and the Valleys draws down funding from European Structural Funds: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF). **Convergence areas** :Anglesey; Conwy; Denbighshire; Gwynedd; Ceredigion; Bridgend; South West Wales (outside of the Valleys Regional Park).

B. The Regional Competitiveness and Employment programmes cover the East Wales region, comprise of £110 million for the Structural Funds programme 2007–2013. The programmes are the successor to the Objective 2 and Objective 3 programmes and will cover seven local authority areas in the East Wales region. Funding comes from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF). **The Regional Competitiveness and Employment area** contains the 7 local authorities of Flintshire, Powys, Monmouthshire, Vale of Glamorgan, Wrexham, Cardiff and Newport.

C. Territorial Co-operation, including the Ireland-Wales Cross-border programme The areas covered are Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire and South West Wales with the regions of Dublin, Mid East and South East in Ireland and the adjacent areas of Swansea and Flintshire and Wrexham in Wales and the South West Regional Authority in Ireland

8.2 European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

The Rural Development Plan (RDP) is a 7 year funding programme that will support activities which support the countryside and rural communities.

The RDP has four axes and associated funding streams:

Axis	Promotes:
Axis 1: increasing competitiveness in the rural economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farming & forestry and food processing (Supply Chain & Efficiency scheme, Processing & Marketing Grant scheme)
Axis 2: Improving the environment and countryside, via farmers and landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better Woods for Wales
Axis 3 helps to develop local infrastructure and human capital in rural areas to improve the conditions for growth and job creation in all sectors and the diversification of economic activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing or providing additional mainstream services for the rural economy; Providing openings for future economic development, including tourism and craft activities; Improving the physical environment of villages and conserving the rural heritage; Addressing social exclusion by providing better links between urban and rural areas
Axis 4 will focus on delivering the Leader project promoting innovative locally based bottom-up approaches to rural development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area identity and new product development; The natural environment; Sustainable rural services; Outdoor activities, tourism development and well-being

Programmes relevant to woodlands:	
Axis 1	The Supply Chain Efficiencies scheme provides financial support for co-operation projects that will develop new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture, food

	<p>and forestry sectors. The key aim of the scheme is to assist farmers, growers and foresters in developing collaborative and supply chain-focused initiatives.</p> <p>These initiatives will provide the capacity building support that is not available through any other mechanisms and result in: Increased capacity of producers to take costs out of the supply chain; Improvements of the producers marketing capability; Ensuring future sustainability of producers. Available to any individual or organisations involved in co-operation projects that will develop new products, processes and technologies in the agricultural, forestry and food sectors</p> <p>Processing & Marketing grant Scheme for agricultural and forestry products enables primary producers of agricultural and forestry products in Wales to add value to their outputs. It aims to achieve the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the performance and competitiveness of their businesses; • Respond to consumer demand; • Encourage diversification of traditional businesses; <p>Identify, exploit and service new emerging and existing markets micro enterprises can apply.</p>
<p>Axis 2</p>	<p>The Wales Woodland Strategy- Better Woodlands for Wales (BWW) is delivered by the Forestry Commission Wales(FCW). The BWW Smallwoods grant scheme was introduced in May 2009, specifically for owners of areas of less than 20 hectares of woodland and can include both new woodland planting and management of existing woodland. Woodlands that have already received the Forestry Commission's Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) can also enter BWW Smallwoods. All existing Woodlands BWW grants are available under BWW Smallwoods.</p> <p>Support available under Better Woods for Wales:: Woodland Management Planners are available to assist and advise applicants <i>for further details see:</i> http://forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-7GDE7A <i>Tel: 0845 604 0845</i></p>
<p>Axes 3 & 4</p>	<p>The revised Local development Strategies showing the Local Partnerships and Local Action Groups were submitted to WAG by 16.10.09</p> <p>Business Plan 1: projects already approved are being implemented up until February 2011.</p> <p>Business Plan 2, for implementation of projects between</p>

	01.03.11 until the end of 2013, was opened for Expressions of Interest on 01.09.09. Revised Business Plan Guidance was issued in October '09 and the deadline for submission is 01.03.10.
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Support available in the delivery of the Rural Development Plan

The Wales Rural Network (WRN) is the organisation set up to promote co-operation and share good practice amongst rural organisations in Wales. It will provide support and development opportunities to Partnerships and Local Action Groups under Axis 3 & 4 of the RDP.

To date thematic Working Groups have been set up focussing on Tourism, Agri-food and Energy.

Email: rdp@wales.gsi.gov.uk

8.3 Communities & Nature (CAN) - Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)

General description of the fund: Communities and Nature (CAN) is a strategic project under the Environment for Growth (E4G) theme of the Convergence programme. It is being delivered by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) under a Tendering process. The total project value is £16million.

Area covered	Convergence areas only: Anglesey; Conwy; Denbighshire; Gwynedd; Ceredigion; Bridgend; South West Wales (outside of the Valleys Regional Park).
Comprises of four projects	Lot 1: Footpaths, cycle paths and access Lot 2: Visitor facilities Lot 3: Wildlife attractions / Tourism Lot 4: Small scale activities (to the value of £250,000 over the length of the period)
Aims	A. To maximise the environmentally-sustainable economic value of natural capital through increasing the volume, length and value of visits to the countryside. B. To ensure that the benefits of project activities are shared with disadvantaged groups through employment, training and volunteering opportunities. C. To enhance sustainable development in Wales by providing high quality local leisure opportunities and improving the attractiveness of each spatial plan.
Application procedure	Applications to the fund are through a Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) containing a Small Value Activities section.

	<p>If the application is successful at this stage, it will then be invited to develop the project ideas to submit as a tender bid.</p> <p>To be eligible for CAN funding the project must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take place within the Convergence areas • be less than £250,000 • provide new infrastructure or renovation of existing, or involve the creation of or improvement of footpaths, bridleways or cycle ways • project must end before 30th September 2013 • <p>Access to ERDF funding under the CAN project will be via a procurement procedure (Tendering) to ensure value for money and fairness. All CAN procurement will be advertised on the Sell2Wales website which will allow access to all potential delivery agents.” CCW CAN Guidance Notes</p> <p>Calls will be made probably on an annual basis.</p>
Match funding	<p>The fund contribution to your project can be no more than 45%, the other 55% needs to be match funded with non-European sourced funding.</p>
Further information	<p>http://ccw.gov.uk/enjoying-the-countryside/communities-and-nature.aspx.</p>

Submitting a collaborative bid:

Following discussions with the CAN project manager, it was ascertained that a collaborative bid could be submitted on behalf of CWGs. However, all the partner groups would have to be working within the Convergence area. Funding could be given to the lead body, the proposal would entail agreeing a programme of work with the groups in the partnership, with the lead body managing targets and finances. The structure for this would entail a group of CWGs getting together, each agreeing in advance to be a partner and agreeing their role in the project, with a central applicant (e.g. Coed Lleol / LlyG) managing the project.. It would not be possible to apply for a ‘small grants programme’ that didn’t specify at the application stage which community woodland groups would be involved. Therefore considerable time and effort would be required at the bidding stage, to put together such an application and before any money was awarded, the ‘coordinating’ applicant would need to work out which community groups would be involved. A selection process could be undertaken to ensure that any community group partners were capable of delivering the agreed outcomes. It would entail working with the groups closely to devise a project which meets everyone’s need. As all this work would need to be done at the bidding stage and therefore couldn’t be worked into the proposal , further funding (e.g. from FCW) would be needed to pay an officer to develop and put together a bid, as it would entail a lot of work to research, organise and submit.

The lead partner would have to be able to demonstrate the capacity to deliver such a programme with evidence of previous project delivery, with partners able to show evidence of practical 'on the ground' delivery. It would be a challenging project, with expertise required to manage delivery across a number of separately owned/managed woodland sites. (it would be important that at the application stage some kind of review of which groups would be involved in the bid took place – perhaps a selection procedure – otherwise the lead applicant (CLL / LLYG) could run the risk of becoming responsible for a large amount of money to be divided out among many small groups, some that may not have adequate project delivery experience or capacity.)

The most suitable round to apply for would be under the Small Value Activities lot (see above for full details)

For successful applications at the stage where the project is ready to be implemented, a new '**community engagement**' grant of up to £10,000 will soon become available (Feb 2010) to ensure adequate community communication is undertaken.

All calls for applications to CAN and the Community Engagement grant are/will be, advertised through the Sell2Wales website.

Timescales

The Small Scale Activities lot (likely to open again in autumn 2010) is for any project below £250k. There is no minimum 'size' as such. However, all projects would have to contribute to the WEFO targets of increasing visitor numbers and spend in local economies and to demonstrate how they can do this. Very small projects might not be optimal in this respect. And therefore it may be assumed that a larger collaborative bid may be more likely to succeed.

Match Funding: CAN will fund up to 45% of the project costs, CCW are currently applying for a targeted 'Match Funding' grant to assist groups experiencing difficulties in obtaining match funding, the outcome will become known in April 2010. It was suggested that groups apply to other funds such as the Heritage Lottery Fund. Volunteer time can also be used as match funding. Investigation of other sources of funding for volunteers such as Gwir Vol, Millennium Volunteers or Keep Wales Tidy would be advised..

Following discussion with FCW staff, it was confirmed that is **not** possible to match fund this with other EU sourced funds (eg. against the FCW – Better Woods for Wales)

Support available: CCW CAN project officers can offer specific support to applicants following successful progression through the application stages. They are also available to discuss unsuccessful bids. The Wales European Funding Office (WEFO) and WCVA have set up the 3 SETS (Third Sector European Team) support agency to assist 3rd sector organisations identifying appropriate EU funding opportunities.

Relevance to the study: Several LLyG members have applied to this fund and report that whilst the project officers are very helpful, the complex and time consuming application procedure was off-putting and would be likely to deter smaller groups. The way that applications were scored and evaluated once past the PQQ stage was queried. First impressions were that it was inaccessible to voluntary, community led groups who were expected to provide evidence for economic multipliers arising from small scale works. It would be possible to formulate a collaborative bid but the chosen groups would have to be within the specified area of support.

8.4 WCVA led ILM & Gateway projects

Intermediate Labour Market (ILM)

Area covered	Convergence areas of North Wales and the Regional Competitiveness and Employment areas of East Wales (Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbigshire, Flintshire, Wrexham, Powys, Newport, Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan).
Aims	To reduce economic inactivity in north and east Wales by investing in organisations to provide work experience and training for people facing barriers to employment
Time scale	It is a scheme that will offer contracts for up to 12 months through a tendering process
Outcomes	Organisations will be required to deliver personal development outcomes that result in participants gaining employment and/or nationally recognised qualifications

Gateway

Area covered	This operates across Wales (Convergence and Regional Competitive & Employment areas) and makes available tender opportunities for projects to be delivered at three levels of funding. : >£25k, >£75k, >£150k
Application	Apply through WCVA's Tendering process to deliver services. Interested groups would need to complete a pre-qualification questionnaire

	(PQQ). If this passes their scoring criteria, the group becomes an 'approved supplier', eligible to tender for pieces of work based on specific geographic areas, target groups and levels of funding.
Timescales	PQQ rounds will re-open every six months, WCVA's web site will have information, CLL has been added to their monthly mailing list.
Match funding	Contracts will be up to a maximum of £150,000 (Gateway) and £300,000 (ILM) a percentage of match funding will be required. Match funding can take the form of financial, in-kind donations or volunteer time.
Support available	WCVA's Third Sector European Team (3-SET)
Further information:	www.wcva.org.uk

Relevance to study: For CWGs with the capacity to offer training and have sufficient monitoring procedures in place there could be an opportunity to either submit an application independently or as a cluster working within the specified area.

Submission of a collaborative bid: 3-SET team would need to have further information on type of work, scale of organisation, partners etc before giving a specific answer. But suggests that the most appropriate route into the Convergence programme would be to tender to deliver projects on behalf of other organisations, such as through the Gateway or ILM. This fund may not be suitable for a collaborative bid; as each project should be specific to a certain location, and a large collaborative bid could potentially be spread all over Wales, depending on where the CWG's were based. It may be more suitable to encourage groups to register individually or as a cluster, to be local service providers within the relevant supported areas. It would be more suited to the larger organisations with existing paid staff, as there is a strong element of monitoring, and tracking of progress required.

8.5 FCW: Wood Energy Business Scheme WEBS 2

WEBS2 is an EU Structural Fund (ERDF) £17million capital grant scheme, delivered through the Welsh European Funding Office, which will run until 2013.

Area covered	Convergence areas of North Wales and the Regional Competitiveness and Employment areas of East Wales. (Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbigshire, Flintshire, Wrexham, Powys, Newport, Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan.
Comprises of	Three types of project are eligible for grant support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wood fuel heating schemes ▪ Small scale electricity generation using wood (Combined Heat & Power (CHP)) ▪ Wood fuel supply businesses
Aims	Its prime aim is to provide capital grant support to micro-businesses, SME's and social enterprises to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To increase the use of wood as a renewable energy resource, ▪ stimulate economic activity and job creation ▪ encourage the sustainable management of Welsh woodlands ▪ The scheme will also support the provision of training and product and service innovation.
Application procedure:	<p>1st Round Is through an Expression of Interest (EOI) If successful in this round you will invited to submit a detailed application - WEBS staff will be available to assist</p> <p>2nd Round Assessment of application for eligibility, technical, social and environmental criteria (If you fail at either stage above, you will be given the reasons why and you will be eligible to reapply) Region: The project will be delivered across Convergence and Competitiveness areas of Wales www.</p>
Rate of grant available	<p>Maximum grant rates: Convergence areas: 41% Competitiveness Areas: 31%</p>

Eligible	Micro-enterprises (less than 9 employees) SME-fewer than 250 employees Social enterprises: where the primary purpose of the investment is economic.
Ineligible	Farm & forestry businesses (as these are eligible for support under the Rural Development Plan (RDP))
Further information	www.woodenergybusiness.co.uk

Relevance to study: As this scheme will potentially support micro-businesses (under 9 employees) it would appear to be of interest to CWGs especially in the provision of woodfuel and associated training opportunities.

8.6 Ireland/Wales Cross Border Programme

Interreg 4 draws down funding through the European Regional Development Fund

Links the west coast of Wales and the south east coast of Ireland

The regions that will benefit from the scheme include Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire and South West Wales with the regions of Dublin, Mid East and South East in Ireland and the adjacent areas of Swansea and Flintshire and Wrexham in Wales and the South West Regional Authority in Ireland. The maximum ERDF intervention rate is 75% of eligible costs on both sides of the water.

.Funds are available for organisations looking to develop innovative projects. The programme is keen to accept smaller scale pioneering pilot projects from organisations that are active in the community development and community regeneration field.

All details of the current call for proposals can be found on www.irelandwales.ie

The closing date for applications is as follows:

- Priority 1: 30 April 2010 at 17:00
- Priority 2: 11 June 2010 at 17:00

All potential applicants have to register project ideas with the Programme Secretariat through an Expression of Interest (Eoi) form. Information can be found on the www.irelandwales.ie, all applications need to be discussed and submitted via the Development Officer. Travel and subsistence funding may be available to help applicants form partnerships prior to submission of applications.

9 Non EU Funding opportunities

Big Lottery

Community Asset Transfer Programme (CAT) - The Big Lottery Fund and Welsh Assembly Government *“The partnership will invest up to £13million in the transfer of assets from public sector organisations to communities across Wales”*

Capital and revenue funding is available. The asset will be ‘transferred’ to a third sector organisation, freehold or with at least a minimum of 20 year leasehold.

Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build the capacity of enterprising communities; • contribute towards the regeneration and economic sustainability of communities; • promote and strengthen the independence of third sector organisations by enabling social enterprise; • improve partnership working between the public sector, the third sector and others.
Application	<p>Round 1 by the 4th December 2009</p> <p>Rounds 2 & 3 spring 2010</p>
Match funding	<p>BIG is providing the revenue funding, WAG supplying the capital element (from the dept. for Social Justice and Local Government), therefore the application can be matched with WEFO/EU money. Whilst BIG will consider funding 100% of a project in exceptional cases, an element of match funding would be encouraged.</p>
Support available	<p>once past the initial application stage, assistance in signposting to relevant advisors will be available.</p>
Time scales	<p>Round 1 (fast track) was closed in early December '09.</p> <p>Round 2 will be launched at the end of March - June '10, when applicants will be invited to submit a 1st stage application, if successful they will be invited to submit a Stage 2 application.</p> <p>Round 3 – no details as yet.</p>
Further information	<p>The Big Lottery Fund on 029 2067 8200 or e.mail:</p>

In conversations with the CAT Policy & Development Officer the following issues were discussed:

Submitting a collaborative bid: Whilst it was difficult for the officer to comment specifically without seeing an actual bid the following points were raised: Applications to CAT *‘must be from one lead Third Sector organisation (who must be responsible for, and the recipient of the grant) Each application must be underpinned by a partnership. It is up to the applicant who is in this partnership but it must, as a minimum, contain the lead 3rd sector organisation who applied and the body donating the asset. Private sector organisations may be part of this partnership if they bring skills to it.’* It is necessary for the lead organisation to have a proven track record in project management/delivery. The minimum a consortium could apply for is £300,000, so would entail a great deal of project planning prior to submission. The fund will support the purchase of land as well as buildings, as long as the proposal is financially sustainable.

Other funding available from BIG: smaller grants such as the People & Places and Awards for All programmes, the CAT programme is strategic and is designed not to duplicate existing funding streams.

Also required: The project needs to be able to demonstrate that it will be financially viable. It is vital that the 3 strands of sustainability are core to the project, especially economic activity/income generation over a long period of time. (over 20-30 years)

Relevance to study: It is doubtful whether CLL or LLyG would have the capacity or will to lead a collaborative bid to the CAT fund. The main remit of this fund, is to transfer ownership or lease of a building or land to community ownership. Resulting in the lead applicant owning and managing buildings and land; not appropriate or desirable for LLyG or CLL to do this on behalf of groups. Their role could be to support groups in building their capacity to apply individually, and perhaps helping them find partners and match funding.

10 Initiatives to assist training/funding/tendering opportunities

10.1 Business advice and tendering

Flexible Support for Business (formerly Business Eye): This is an information service provided by the Welsh Assembly Government. It contains details of support around finance, premises, training, tendering and free business workshops, along with information resources, link directories, business news and events

Tel: 0300 060 3000, Web site: <http://business-support-wales.gov.uk>

Sell2Wales: Sell2Wales, is an initiative from the Welsh Assembly Government helping SMEs to work with public sector clients. Sell2Wales has advertised over £5 billion of notices and with a growing number of public sector bodies advertising through it, tenders will hopefully become more accessible to SME's. Once registered, the site will enable organisations to bid for tenders, contact registered public sector organisations, seek advice etc.

Coed Lleol has been invited to attend a series of seminars examining the use of the existing site by SME's, to collate evidence of whether the site is 'fit for purpose' and if not, how to improve its accessibility.

Web site: www.sell2wales.co.uk

3to3: WCVA is developing a website called 3to3, an online market place for third sector organisations to sell their products and services to the sector. Email: amuppane@wcva.org.uk with your organisations name, contact details and details of the products or services that you offer.

Relevance to the study: With more and more funds becoming accessible only by tendering, it will become increasingly important for CWGs to become familiar and registered with sites such as sell2wales.

Whilst the site is generally seen as beneficial, concerns have been raised about the scale of tenders advertised on the site, the time it takes to search the site, confusion over coding and non-relevant 'calls' being received.

Concern has been voiced regarding the lack of notices appearing for work in Wales. Due to the large scale of bidding opportunities appearing, it was suggested that the site could provide a list of organisations willing to enter into discussions on shared bids/tenders. This would then offer the opportunity for county or regionally based organisations to form partnerships/co-operatives to compete for large scale tenders. This would give the opportunity for smaller organisations capable of local delivery, to team up with a larger company (with their associated capacity to write the bid) to deliver nationally.

To make the site easier to use, it was suggested that a search engine similar to Google would make the site far more accessible, with the site divided into low and high value tender opportunities.

Assistance available: A wide range of assistance in writing tender documents, Pre Qualification Questionnaires (PQQ), Meet the Buyer and networking events is available from a range of organisations, including FCW and Menter a busnes (<http://www.menterabusnes.co.uk>) in Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbigh, Powys and Ceredigion. Wrexham County Council Economic Development Unit delivers the service in Wrexham and Flintshire.

Also visit the FCW at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-7nrkww> for details of advisors

10.2 Communities 2.0

Area covered	Convergence areas of Wales (within the top 30% of the areas of highest need),
Aimed at	Assisting community groups, voluntary organisations and social enterprises to benefit from technology..
Remit	The aims are to break down the barriers to using technology, to inspire people, build confidence and create opportunities
Delivered by	It's delivered by five partner organisations – the Wales Co-operative Centre, the Novas Scarman Group, Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services, Carmarthenshire County Council and the George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling at the University of Glamorgan

Support available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of existing facilities available for use by others • Loan of equipment • Signposting to potential funders • Putting groups in touch with others who have similar ideas and introducing to potential partners • Training and mentoring to learn essential skills • Practical support to solve technical problems • Help finding additional support from other agencies • Financial support
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Relevance to the study: LLYG has already approached the organisation to discuss how the group can be assisted in setting up a ‘virtual’ office.

The project, which is not a funding scheme, can give advice in the use of technology, things such setting up a website, buying a computer and training can be offered through free, face-to-face meetings or via their telephone helpline. Also available is a package of support suitable for groups looking to develop initiatives to improve digital inclusion; A collaborative initiative could be made, involving a partnership approach from a number of organisations. Again, the groups would have to be working within the supported areas. Each partner would have to be able to bring something to the project, such as management/volunteer time, equipment etc and Communities 2.0 could bring an element of finance.

Assistance available: Discussions were held with the Regional Community Broker for Communities 2.0 in South Wales, there are currently 3 brokers in south Wales, 2 in the North and 1 in West Wales, available to give advice to groups. Free training is provided to groups, with the aim to upskill group members, who will then be able to go on train others within their own organisation, so building their own capacity.

For more information, visit www.clickconnectdiscover.org phone 029 2055 6954 or email clickconnectdiscover@walescoop.com.

For further selected funding opportunities see Appendix 4.

11 Conclusions & recommendations for further study

It is evident that many the majority of the EU funded grant schemes are linked to specific geographical areas, such as the Communities First Trust or the Convergence area funding streams. Most of these grants are also accessible for specific social/community, environmental, economic-based project outcomes, or may be industry related i.e. timber production.

CWGs outside the areas covered under EU funding are at a great disadvantage and struggle to find suitable funding; the scale is also seen as being too high for the majority of CWGs

Tendering is becoming an increasingly common form of bidding for grant aid, it is a complex and time consuming activity All the new EU funding in Wales will be delivered through tenders rather than grants, making it a different kind of funding to earlier EU opportunities. It will be necessary for CWGs to gain skills in how to tender for services. It will become increasingly important to CWGs looking for larger grants from the EU. This makes it more difficult for organisations such as LLyG to apply for and run a small grants programme using EU money – the group would not be allowed to run it as a small grants programme, all money given to CWGs would need to be tendered to them directly, or they would need to be part of collaborative grant application and partners on the grant from the application stage.

LLyG has a role to play in lobbying for small scale funding to be ring fenced for CWGs It is suggested that LLyG could enter discussions with FCW to investigate the possibility of identifying a section of BWW to fund CWG, to provide funding for training, revenue costs etc.

At this stage in its development, it was felt that it was not feasible for LLyG to undertake scoping for a collaborative bid. Board members are currently working at full capacity formulating the business and action plans. It was agreed that it would be necessary for any idea for a collaborative project to evolve over time prior to approaching potential groups.

Recommendations

This report will form the baseline for future research, based on Llais y Goedwig members funding experiences.

- It is recommended that any future study should not rely on questionnaire type research but involve either face to face/ focus group discussion or telephone interviews.
- Following the adoption of the LLyG Management Plan the group will be able to take a strategic overview of future funding , (Draft Plan currently with FCW) to be used as evidence to influence policy makers/funding bodies in promoting access to small scale funding for CWG's.
- It is recommended that LLyG should register with Sell2Wales to enable it to bid for Tenders

- It is suggested that LLyG could compile a database of potential partners interested in pursuing a collaborative bid.
- There is a vast amount of experience/advice that could potentially be obtained from former Cydcoed grant recipients.
- It is recommended that LLyG act as an advisory/consultative body for FCW & CCW to ensure that the needs of CWGs are reflected in their funding through their grant schemes
- Whilst a collaborative bid would be useful to CWG's, currently very few suitable funding bodies have been identified to whom such a bid could be submitted
- Results of the study would suggest that the CCW CAN fund could possibly be the only one suitable for a collaborative bid (working within the specifically designated area). However, to prepare a collaborative bid for any scheme would be a huge task and would require further 'development' funding to provide staff time to research, write and submit a bid. . One positive outcome of the study is the evidence for LLyG to act as an organisation to provide support and signpost groups to suitable funding streams rather than trying to lead bids at this stage.
- It is suggested that LLyG utilises its grass roots knowledge and experience of facilitation and set up a steering group to scope the potential for a collaborative bid, it would also be prudent to identify the skills and opportunities of existing and potential members and to build on these,
- Beyond grant assistance lies the world of loans, equity investments, commercial loans, social enterprise and earned income eg. Through providing training services or selling wood products or firewood. Further research into an 'in-house training programme' could be a way forward to enable groups to use their assets to greater effect and eventually become independent of grant aid. This is an important part of CWG funding and investigating how LLyG and CLL could support CWGs in this matter would be something worthy of future investigation.

8. Are you currently having problems raising the money you need? If yes, what are the barriers?

- No capacity to fundraise
- Insufficient experience with completing complex application forms
- Insufficient knowledge of where to find funds
- Lack of funding schemes for the type of activity your group wants to do
- Difficulties accessing match funding

Please explain further what you see as the main barriers to funding for your group:

9. Llais y Goedwig is considering helping smaller community woodland groups by coordinating and applying for collaborative funding bids or managing a small grants scheme. Is this a role that Llais y Goedwig could and should take? If so, what type and scale of funding would be of use to your group and do you have any suggestions for such collaboration?

Please return this questionnaire to the Coed Lleol office, Tŷ Bro Ddyfi, 52 Heol Maengwyn, Machynlleth, SY20 8DT, coedlleol@smallwoods.org.uk

Appendix 2: Participating Community Woodland Groups and acknowledgements

Groups taking part in the preliminary report:

1. Wern Park "Friends of Wern Park Group"
2. Coed y Bobl
3. Creation Development Trust
4. Fedw Wood -Cwmdu Sustainable Energy Group
5. Blaen Bran Community Woodland
6. Coppicewood College
7. Coed Marros
8. Ruperra Conservation Trust
9. Troserch Woodlands
10. Moelyci Environment Centre
11. Westend Residents Group
12. Coetir Mynydd
13. Pobl y Fforest
14. Ymddiriedolaeth Penllergare Trust

Thanks to:

Zena Wilmot & Katy Harris, Coed Lleol

Phil Tidey & Judy Walker, Small Woods

Llais y Goedwig

Emyr Thomas, CCW Communities & Nature Project Manager

Deane Clements, Big Lottery CAT Policy & Development Officer

Judith Stone, WCVA ILM Manager

Morgan Armstrong, WCVA ILM Development & Support Manager

Richard Siddons, FCW Head of Grants & Regulations Wales

Diane Campbell, CWA Scotland

Stephanie Davies, Wales Co-operative Centre, Communities 2.0, Regional Community Broker

Appendix 3: Participation of Community Woodland Groups in Llais y Goedwig

Llais y Goedwig is an independent voluntary association and depends on the active participation of member groups. The groups were asked what support they felt able to offer to Llais y Goedwig.

The following groups were willing to act as local contact point for their area:

Coed y Bobl

Blaen Bran Community Woodland

Coppicewood College

Coed Marros

Ruperra Conservation Trust

Trosersch Woodlands

Moelyci Environment Centre

Pobl y Fforest

Two groups were interested in joining the working group (to help develop strategy and business plans):

Blaen Bran Community Woodland

Coed Marros

Pobl y Fforest

Two groups were interest to stand for Board or executive positions at the AGM

Blaen Bran Community Woodland

Coed Marros

Pobl y Fforest

Coetir Mynydd

Five groups could offer support for specific issues and working groups:

Coed y Bobl – *woodland management, woodland education, sustainable tourism, nature conservation, training volunteers workshops*

Blaen Bran Community Woodland – *“We would happily input into most but membership scheme would probably be easiest”*

Coppicewood College – *woodland management, education (not Forest School)*

Coed Marros – *woodland management, woodland education*

Moelyci Environment Centre – *woodland products / enterprise, training*

Pobl y Fforest - *Depending on who is available, we can provide some level of support for business planning/woodland management/woodland education/woodland products & enterprise/fundraising/other.*

Ymddiriedolaeth Penllergare Trust - *Adding value to woodland products*

Two groups were interested in running a LlyG event in their locality:

Blaen Bran Community Woodland

Trosersch Woodlands – *could be possible*

Pobl y Fforest

Three groups currently have no capacity to be involved and participate actively but are interested to receive information on current activities and events:

Wern Park "Friends of Wern Park Group"

Creation Development Trust

Fedw Wood -Cwmdu Sustainable Energy Group

Appendix 4: Review of funding programmes

This is a selection of potential funding streams that may be relevant for community woodland projects. This list is not intended to be exhaustive but to give a snapshot of the current opportunities. Coed Lleol regularly sends out funding opportunities through regular e-bulletin updates and on the Coed Lleol website. Llais y Goedwig also highlight opportunities to their members through the Llais y Goedwig Update that goes out to member every two months. Other information about funding opportunities can be found in the following newsletters that come out regularly:

Countryside Council for Wales

<http://www.ccw.gov.uk>

WCVA

<http://www.wcva.org.uk/grants>

WCVA Funding portal

<http://www.sustainablefundingcymru.org.uk>

Wales Co-operative Centre

<http://www.walescoop.com/>

Local County Voluntary Councils

Funder	Programme	Time scales/ Closing dates	Amount available	Outcomes expected
Big Lottery Fund/WAG www.biglotteryfund.org.uk tel: 029 2067 8200	Community Asset Transfer (CAT)	Round 1 (fast track closed 4.12.09) Rounds 2 & 3 (submit by 12 th March 2010)	Revenue £50,000 - £300,000 Capital £250,000 - £500,000 Total £800,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To build community capacity ▪ Community regeneration & sustainability ▪ Strengthen the 3rd sector ▪ Partnership working
Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) (in partnership with Environment Agency Wales) ERDF	Communities & Nature (CAN) Lot 1 Footpaths, cycle paths & access Lot 2: Visitor facilities Lot 3: Wildlife attractions Lot 4: Small scale activities		Up to total value of £250,000 Will fund up to 45% of total project costs	To generate increased economic growth and sustainable jobs by capitalising on Wales' environmental qualities-landscape & wildlife. In convergence areas only: Anglesey, Conwy, Denbs, Gwynedd, Ceredigion, Bridgend, S.W.Wales
Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)	Skills for the Future	19 th March 2010	Between £100,000-£1million	to deliver traditional conservation training

http://www.hlf.org.uk skills@hlf.org.uk				
Big Lottery Tel: 01686 611700 enquiries.wales@biglotteryfund.org.uk www.biglotteryfund.org.uk	People & Places	Open until mid -2011 For capital, revenue and overhead costs	Between £5,001 & £1million (can be 100% funding but would advise an element of match funding)	To revitalise communities Improve community relations Enhance local environments
Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development) rdp@wales.gsi.gov.uk www.wales.gov.uk/ruraldevelopment	Rural Development Plan (RDP)	Axis 1: making rural Wales more competitive	Primarily increasing competitiveness in the rural economy. Esp. farming & forestry. Budget: £89million	Processing & Marketing Grant Scheme (PMG) Supply Chain Efficiencies (SCE)
		Axis 2: Protecting our countryside	Conserving our landscape & environment. Budget: £594million	Tir Gofal/Tir Cynnal/Tir Mynydd- (integrated to become Glastir from 01.01.12) Organic Farming Scheme Woodlands for Wales (See above)
		Axis 3: improving people's lives	To improve everyday life and diversify the rural economy. Budget: £75million	Supports local training
		Axis 4: Supporting local projects & initiatives	Helping local people to develop their own communities. LEADER Budget: £32million	To build on existing community skills & experience, led by local action groups,
Wales Co-operative	Communities 2.0		Help and assistance in promoting the use of	To tackle digital exclusion in

Centre			technology	Convergence areas only To provide support to community groups & voluntary sector orgs. to engage with technology
Environment Wales Info@environment-wales.org Tel: 02920431769	Start up grant Pre-Project grants Project grants Training grants Management Grants Development Grants	£1,000 £4,000 £10,000 £400 £1-12,000	As well as providing advice and support, Development Officers also guide groups through the Environment Wales registration process, which allows them, once registered, to apply for Environment Wales grants. For projects in their infancy, that may not yet be ready for registration, Start-up support is available.	
Aggregates Levy Russell Dobbins Tel: (02920) 823261 E-mail: Planning.Division@Wales.GSI.gov.UK Neil Selwood Tel: (02920) 801492 E-mail: Planning.Division@Wales.GSI.gov.UK			In Wales, the Fund will be used to address issues specific to Wales: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• legacy of old minerals permissions;• promoting the use of alternative materials to aggregates;• reducing the impact of aggregate extraction;• environmental and amenity benefits to communities affected by aggregate extraction;• conserving sites of special interest; and• education projects linked to quarrying.	
WAG	Arson Small Grants Programme 2009-10 and 2010-2011	Applications are invited for projects that will commence from 1 April 2009 and will be physically and financially complete by 25 February 2011 at the latest.	A total of £300,000 is available for each financial year 2009-10 and 2010-11	The Arson Small Grant programme aims to provide support for small local area projects, seeking up to a maximum of £10,000 to fund arson reduction projects on a competitive bidding basis which will address aims of the "Wales Arson Reduction Strategy".
The Big Lottery Phone: 0845 4	Awards for All		Awards for All Wales is a simple small grants scheme making awards of	The Awards for All Programme aims to help improve local communities and

10 20 30 Email: enquiries.wales@biglotteryfund.org.uk			between £500 and £5,000.	the lives of people most in need.
Biffawards 01636 670000 email at biffaward@rswt.org	Small Grants	No deadline	between £250 and £5,000. Your project must not cost more than £10,000 in total	To enhance communities and biodiversity.
Coal Field Regeneration Trust Phone: 01443 404 455	Main grants Programme	The new funding programme runs from 1st April 2008 and will close on the 31st March 2011.	£10,001 to £100,000 in Wales, to voluntary, community and statutory organisations (NB. Statutory organisations can only apply for grants over £30,000).	Working closely with partners, the Trust is a key agency promoting and achieving social and economic regeneration in the coalfields of England, Scotland and Wales.”
WAG	Communities Trust Fund		Up to £5,000	The Communities First Trust Fund provides small grants for small community and voluntary organisations in Communities First areas
Millennium Volunteers Contact: Leah Doherty – WCVA Tel: (02920) 431763 Email: ldoherty@wcva.org.uk	Millennium Volunteers is a UK wide volunteering programme for 16-24 year olds,	There are four rounds a year. Closing dates are available on the website. www.wcva.org.uk/volunteering	Funding of £50-£8,000 is available to cover Applications forms can be obtained from: WCVA’s Helpdesk (0800) 2888 329 or e-mail help@wcva.org.uk direct volunteer costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make a positive impact within local communities; • offer challenging and interesting volunteering opportunities for all young people; • enable young people to acquire new skills and knowledge and develop personally; • increase recognition of volunteering by young people in the community; • set a standard for volunteering opportunities in Wales; and • encourage ownership of the programme by young people.

Other sources of income and support worth investigating:

- Corporate donations from local businesses/corporate social responsibility projects - often involve volunteering
- Health Agencies
- Primary Care Trusts
- Individuals
- Donations
- Legacies
- Landfill Tax - project needs to be near a landfill site.
- Local Authorities
- Local Charities
- Local County Voluntary Councils