





Nature and Us Citizens' Assembly Feedback on vision statements and staying involved

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1. Introduction

The Nature and Us Citizens' Assembly brought together 40 people from across Wales to support the development of a vision for the future of the natural environment in Wales. The Assembly was run by the Centre for Deliberative Research (CDR) at the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), and commissioned by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

Following the completion of the Citizens' Assembly, NatCen drafted six vision statements based on analysis of future priorities participants had identified during the Assembly discussions. NRW then commissioned NatCen to run a series of follow-up online discussions with Assembly members, so that they had an opportunity to review and agree these statements. These online discussions had three objectives:

- 1) Finalise vision statements following feedback from Assembly members to ensure the statements reflect the main themes of the Citizens' Assembly.
- 2) Understand Assembly members' views on taking action to protect and restore nature. In particular, identifying barriers and possible support needed to take action.
- 3) Develop communication materials based on the characters from the first Citizens' Assembly process to communicate the vision to a wider audience.

This report outlines key themes from participants discussions on the statements and taking action. The communication materials were presented separately in the form of graphic illustrations prepared by a visual note-taker who observed this section of the discussion.

1.1 Method

All 40 original participants were invited to one of the group discussions (various times of the day were offered over a period of 14 days). Several reminders were sent out to ensure that everyone had seen the opportunity. In total, 19 Assembly members attended four different sessions, with between four and five attending each. Participants received £40 shopping vouchers as a 'thank you' for taking part in the group discussions.

The final sample reflected the key demographics represented in the original Assembly and a full breakdown is provided in Appendix 1. There was a spread of age, an even split of gender and a mix of urban and rural participants. Four participants self-identified as having a disability, and three participants as being from minority ethnic backgrounds.

The six draft vision statements (below) were shared with participants prior to the group discussion as part of an online survey (the full survey is available in Appendix 2). These statements were developed by NatCen following an analysis of priorities that participants had identified for the future of nature in Wales during the Citizens' Assembly (full report available at www.natureandus.wales). The findings report details NatCen's analysis process for drafting these statements, which involved a thematic analysis of data



generated from participants' discussions in the Assembly. Through this analysis, NatCen identified six overarching themes that reflected participants' priorities for a vision for the future of the natural environment in Wales. These themes were: protecting and restoring nature, policy and decision-making, information and action, health, systems and infrastructure, and land management.

Once these themes had been identified, NatCen drafted the six vision statements below (one for each of the themes). These statements drew upon participants' responses to the core Assembly questions of what participants wanted to see changed, what they understood as the benefits of this change, and the next steps for achieving this change.

In 2050, when society and nature thrive together...

1. People and Government have a shared commitment to protecting the natural environment.

To make this happen, the government needs to communicate their plan to protect and restore the natural environment. This will explain how people and government can help protect endangered animals and plants, and restore where they live.

2. Clear leadership from the Welsh Government helps the public to be more involved in decisions about nature.

To make this happen, all levels of government need to involve people and make decisions based on clear information and evidence rather than party political interests. This will give the public more power and make sure government takes the best approach to nature.

3. Sharing knowledge helps people understand how nature impacts their lives, and the actions they can take to help protect and restore the natural environment.

To make this happen, clear and accessible information will highlight the different ways citizens can act. This will help citizens know what steps they can take to help nature and society thrive.

4. Widespread access to nature helps people across Wales live happy and healthy lives.

To make this happen, Welsh society needs to be more equal and to make its environment less polluted so that everyone is able to benefit from nature. This will improve the mental and physical health of people in Wales.

5. Greener transport and energy options enable more people to make environmentally friendly choices in their day-to-day lives.



To make this happen, all levels of government need to invest in public transport, renewable energy technologies and waste management as well as reducing the impact of inequalities between people and their communities. This will give more equal access to greener lifestyle choices to people across Wales.

6. Sustainable land management helps communities buy local food and feel connected to the Welsh land.

To make this happen, all levels of government need to help make farming more sustainable and local food cheaper. This will help people buy more local, sustainable food, and restore nature.

The survey asked the extent to which participants agreed that these statements captured the priorities discussed during the Assembly. The survey also asked participants about their willingness to take action to protect nature, and any barriers they face to taking action. Then in the group discussions, participants were given the opportunity to discuss their survey responses in more detail. This involved understanding why participants agreed or disagreed with the statements, and where necessary, suggesting amendments to wording. Participants were also given more time to discuss their appetite for taking action to protect and restore nature, as well as the barriers they may face.

This report presents the findings from the survey and discussion groups. Chapter two provides participants' reflections on the vision statements, and notes the minor changes that resulted from their suggestions. Chapter three provides an analysis of the actions that participants plan to take to protect and restore nature, and the main barriers they face in taking action.

1.2 Key findings

Participants agreed that all six vision statements captured the discussions from the Citizens' Assembly. However, participant feedback did highlight a few areas where wording of statements could be made clearer. NatCen reviewed this feedback with NRW, and agreed to make the following three minor amends to the statements to ensure the meaning of the statements is clearly communicated to a wider audience:

- 'Other vested interests' was added to vision statement two, to capture Assembly
 members' concerns that decision-making on nature is not driven by all types of
 political or financial interest. The draft statement focussed only on political interests.
- In vision statement four, 'Welsh society needs to be more equal' was amended to 'Welsh society needs more equal access to nature' to better communicate the importance of reducing the impact of health inequalities, and avoid any confusion of what 'equal' means in the statement.



• In vision statement six, 'cheaper' was replaced with 'affordable' to avoid any potential connotations with intensive farming that comes with cheaper food.

When discussing taking action, feedback from participants suggests that participating in the Citizens Assembly left them better informed about the challenges facing nature, and motivated to take action to protect and restore the natural environment in Wales.

Most participants felt able to take a number of different steps to help protect and restore nature over the next few months, ranging from spending more time in nature, to raising awareness with friends and family, to volunteering.

The main barriers to taking steps were financial or not enough time. Awareness of opportunities was also a barrier. Therefore, throughout the discussions, participants emphasised the importance of awareness raising campaigns with the Welsh population to encourage more citizens to take action.



2. Final vision statements

The pre-discussion survey asked the extent to which participants agreed or disagreed that the draft statements captured the priorities identified by Assembly members in the initial Citizens' Assembly. Then during the online group, participants were given the opportunity to review the statements in more detail and suggest any amendments. This chapter reports findings from the survey and discussion groups.

2.1 Survey results show overall agreement

As figure 1 below illustrates, all but one participant agreed to some extent that the vision statements captured the priorities that participants identified during the Assembly; with a majority of 14 agreeing strongly. One participant selected 'neither agree nor disagree' but did not provide a clear reason in the free text box as to why they responded this way.

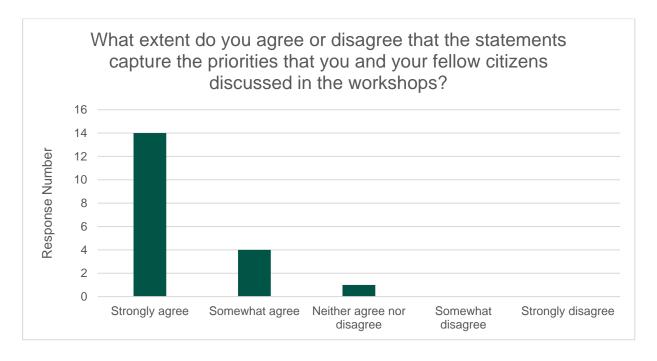


Figure 1: Extent of agreement with vision statements.

2.2 General feedback about the vision statements

The following three overarching themes emerged from the groups discussions about the statements.



Participants agreed that the vision statements reflected the key priorities from the Assembly discussions.

The vision statements were seen to capture the key priority areas identified by the Assembly. As one participant put it, they "offered a compromise between succinctness and detail".

The first two vision statements tended to be seen as two sides of the same coin. One suggestion was that it might be useful to switch them around to signal more clearly that the Welsh Government should take the lead in making the vision a reality, before people and Government establish a shared commitment to protecting nature.

The vision statements were seen as a good foundation to consider the steps needed for implementation.

With broad agreement on the statements themselves, a lot of group discussion explored how the component parts of the vision could be made a reality. As expressed by one person, the groups tended to think that the statements themselves "may not be the right place to say exactly what is going to change, but what's needed too". To conclude, the vision statements provide a firm foundation on which to consider practical action to protect nature.

To communicate the vision statements to a wider public they should be linked to tangible next steps.

There was wide agreement in all four group discussions that for the Citizens' Assembly to make a difference, the results would need to be communicated well to the general public. Therefore, the vision statements would need to be presented in a tangible way to people who had not attended the Assembly. Several participants stressed that it would be important to ensure that activity around the vision statements covered all of Wales, not just the urban centres.

Overall, the feedback suggests that statements one to three (relating to a shared commitment between people and government, clear Welsh Government leadership and sharing knowledge), were less specific than statements four to six (relating to health, systems and infrastructure and land management), and some participants struggled to see what they might mean in practical next steps. Therefore, consideration needs to be given to how best to communicate these three statements to a wider audience to ensure they are clearly linked to related tangible action.

2.3 Feedback relating to individual vision statements

This section summarises feedback in relation to each of the six vision statements. In three of the statements, minor edits were made to the wording following participant feedback to



ensure clarity of messages. These amendments do not indicate disagreement with the initial draft. They have been highlighted in yellow.

Vision statement 1: People and Government have a shared commitment to protecting the natural environment.

To make this happen, the government needs to communicate their plan to protect and restore the natural environment. This will explain how people and government can help protect endangered animals and plants, and restore where they live.

All groups agreed with this statement with no suggested amendments.

Across all groups, participants agreed that the Citizens' Assembly had identified a role for government and people in protecting and restoring the natural environment. Discussions in these follow-up groups focussed on how a plan should be developed and trade-offs negotiated. For example, one group illustrated an example of possible trade-offs by querying how protecting endangered animals, which would include predators and species that are often seen as pests such as snakes, rats or mice, would affect human safety and how this would be resolved.

Vision statement 2: Clear leadership from the Welsh Government helps the public to be more involved in decisions about nature.

To make this happen, all levels of government need to involve people and make decisions based on clear information and evidence, rather than party political and other vested interests. This will give the public more power, and make sure government takes the best approach to nature.

All groups agreed with this statement, but one group suggested adding 'other vested interests' and this suggestion was accepted by NatCen and NRW.

Some participants suggested the statement should be broadened to include "vociferous vested interests". During the initial Assembly discussions, participants didn't just focus on the impact of political parties, but also wider challenges of current democratic decision-making such as business or Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) lobbying. NatCen discussed this suggestion with NRW, and it was agreed that adding 'other vested interests' does communicate the broader challenges to democratic decision-making, highlighted in the findings report¹. Therefore the statement was amended.

Participants saw the combined focus on the importance of evidence and moving beyond party political interests as accurate and an essential element of this vision statement. Involving people was seen to depend on reliable and credible information being shared,

¹ See Assembly findings report – page 19



and decisions opened up to people down to the local level. Some participants thought that Welsh Government leadership would also need to be strong so that decisions can actually deliver results for nature. One participant used the term "some bite" to describe that the Welsh Government needs to make sure its decisions are enacted.

Vision statement 3: Sharing knowledge helps people understand how nature impacts their lives, and the actions they can take to help protect and restore the natural environment.

To make this happen, clear and accessible information will highlight the different ways citizens can act. This will help citizens know what steps they can take to help nature and society thrive.

All groups agreed with this statement with no suggested amendments.

Participants across all four groups confirmed that clear actionable information was key in enabling people to play their part in protecting and restoring nature. The important role of evidence was highlighted again, and the NHS was used as an example of where people thought relevant evidence was routinely included in communicating decisions and advice.

Suggesting that "some people may not actively seek out the information", participants called for effective use of different communication channels (e.g. social media was seen as not being used enough) and to "get the balance right, including sharing positive messages about what's working" as well as messages to highlight the challenge.

Vision statement 4: Widespread access to nature helps people across Wales live happy and healthy lives.

To make this happen, Welsh society needs more equal access to nature and to make its environment less polluted, so that everyone is able to benefit from nature. This will improve the mental and physical health of people in Wales.

All groups agreed with this statement but some participants were unsure what was meant by 'equal'. To communicate the relationship between health inequalities, access to nature and the impact of pollution, NatCen and NRW therefore agreed to amend the statement to 'more equal access to nature' to ensure the idea of equality of access to nature is clearly communicated.

Described by one participant as "bang on", there was wide agreement across all groups that the role of access to nature in supporting mental and physical health had emerged as a key theme from the Assembly discussions.



Vision statement 5: Greener transport and energy options enable more people to make environmentally friendly choices in their day-to-day lives.

To make this happen, the Welsh Government needs to invest in public transport, renewable energy technologies, and waste management; as well as reducing the impact of inequalities between people and their communities. This will give more equal access to greener lifestyle choices to people across Wales.

All groups agreed with this statement with no suggested amendments.

This statement was widely seen as clear, tangible and suitably reflecting Assembly discussions. Comments focused on the difficulties involved in choosing appropriate technologies, both at government and individual level, and the importance of considering a range of solutions. For example, one participant expressed concern that adopting electric vehicles could curtail further research, for instance, around green hydrogen, and so they highlighted the importance of the Welsh Government making the right choices at different points in time.

Vision statement 6: Sustainable land management helps communities buy local food and feel connected to the Welsh land.

To make this happen, all levels of government need to help make farming more sustainable and local food affordable. This will help people buy more local, sustainable food, and restore nature.

All groups agreed with this statement, however one group challenged the use of the term 'cheaper food'. Therefore, following discussion with NRW, the word 'cheaper' was replaced with 'affordable' to more accurately capture how local food can be made financially sustainable.

Overall this statement attracted less discussion than other statements. However, one group strongly criticised the reference to making 'local food cheaper'. They challenged whether this was possible to do whilst still protecting and restoring nature. Participants suggested that "if it was possible to make local food cheaper, farmers would be doing it", and that "the only way to achieve this is more intensive farming which is less eco-friendly". After reviewing this comment with NRW, it was decided that 'affordable' better captured the idea of widening access to local produce to restore nature, and avoided potentially misleading associations with intensive farming that the word 'cheaper' may communicate.



3. Taking action

Building on pre-session survey responses, the second part of the group discussions explored participants' thoughts about taking action to protect and retore nature. This chapter outlines the impact participants involvement in the Citizens' Assembly had on them, and the steps they have or plan to take to help protect and restore nature following the Assembly.

3.1 Citizens' Assembly experience and impact

Survey responses suggest that the Citizens' Assembly was a positive experience for almost all participants who took part in these additional workshops, most of whom found it very or quite enjoyable (See figure 2).

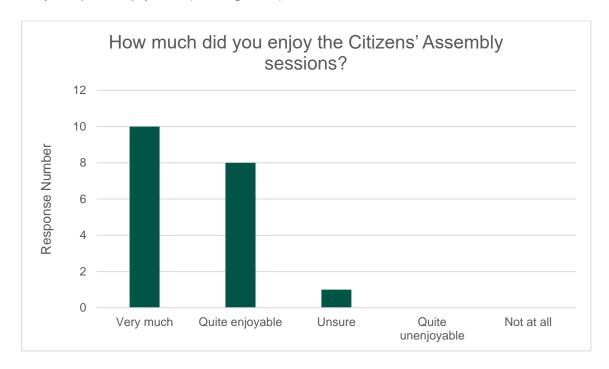


Figure 2: Enjoyment of the Citizens' Assembly.

When asked in the survey what the most valuable outcome of the Assembly was, many participants reported that they had been inspired to take action. Seeing at first-hand how many people cared about nature and what practical steps, large and small, different people were taking or planning to take, prompted participants to do something themselves. Examples of action included taking an interest in issues related to nature, recycling more, or creating a space for different species of birds in the garden. One person reported that having their voice heard in an official setting had changed their perspective on the issue, countering a sense of "coming up against a brick wall trying to live in a greener way".



As well as being inspired to act, the majority also gained knowledge through the Assembly with all but one participant feeling well or quite informed about the state of nature in Wales afterwards (see figure 3). A very similar trend was observed when Assembly members were asked the same question after the very first Assembly session in February 2023. On that occasion, 21 participants responded and an almost identical proportion reported feeling very well or quite informed.

Open text survey responses show that people felt more informed through factual information about the severity of the issues, as well as learning about Welsh Government plans, "the big picture of what the Welsh Government are doing".

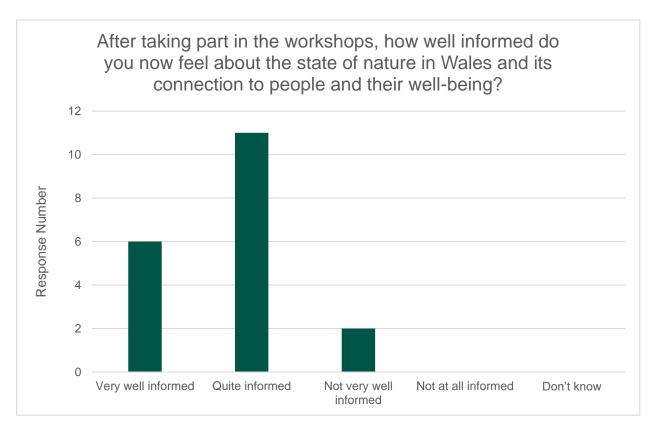


Figure 3: How well informed participants felt after the Citizens' Assembly workshops.

The value of the Citizens' Assembly in helping participants understand other people's perspectives was also mentioned repeatedly in open text responses. A "frank exchange of ideas from varied backgrounds" without any "politicising" was seen as a welcome antidote to "often very biased media".

Some comments suggested that the additional knowledge gained made them feel more empowered, with one respondent, for instance, suggesting that "I feel more empowered to challenge now, e.g. the local MP regarding what's gone on, I have more background knowledge to challenge and bring up things that aren't right" and another reporting feeling "more confident in expressing my opinion to others on the changes needed".



During the follow-on discussions, several participants expressed a wish to stay involved in NRW's work to protect and restore nature. When asked what support people needed to stay involved, knowledge and information, (discussed in more detail in section 3.3 below) emerged as a key need. Connecting with other Assembly members (particularly those living nearby), and other people wishing to advocate for nature in Wales was another source of support mentioned in discussion groups, as through these connections, people may feel more motivated and able to take action. Finally, examples of the positive steps taken by other Welsh citizens to protect and restore nature, was mentioned as helpful by giving people inspiration on how to take action. See Appendix 3 for full list of support needs identified.

Even though some participants' noted the "frank exchanges" between people from different backgrounds at the Citizens' Assembly, in two of the follow-on discussion groups, participants queried whether the Citizens' Assembly format itself was capable of bringing together a suitably broad mix of people from different backgrounds and perspectives. One person was "a little sceptical about the process" suggesting that "the group is self-selecting: You ask people to get together to talk about the environment and you end up with people saying we want more green spaces - that's not too surprising". Of course, the recruitment process conducted by the Sortition Foundation is designed to produce a random, rather than self-selecting sample, so whilst this view doesn't reflect those facts, it is interesting to note what some people assumed from the process.

3.2 Taking action to protect and restore the natural environment

Almost all participants reported being willing to make changes to their lifestyle to help create a future where society and nature can thrive (figure 4). When discussing examples of lifestyle changes, recycling and reducing energy use, (e.g. by not charging devices overnight, driving more slowly, or using the car less) were prominent in the open text survey responses and the discussion groups. Making more informed choices when it comes to buying things also featured strongly. For instance, avoiding plastic and artificial grass "because I now realise how much contamination it causes", "little bits of shopping more locally" or "using local zero waste shops". Small steps to create space for nature to thrive were also mentioned repeatedly, this included examples like "sowing more wildflower seeds" or joining a local gardening group.



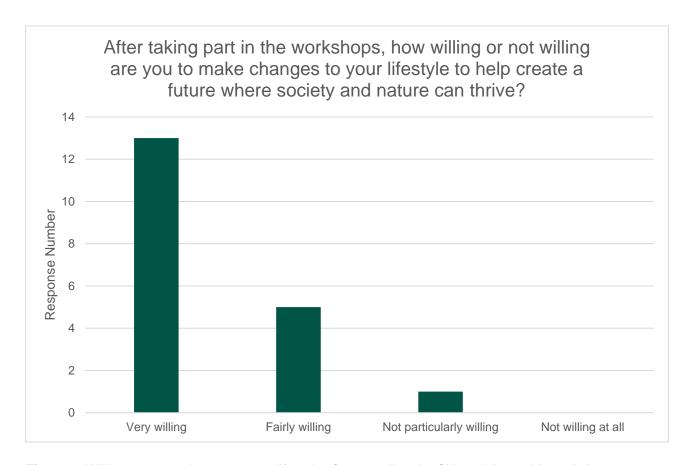


Figure 4: Willingness to make changes to lifestyle after attending the Citizens' Assembly workshops.

When asked about the steps participants thought they could take in the next few months to make environmentally friendly changes to their lifestyles, time spent in nature, attending workshops like a Citizens' Assembly, and increasing their knowledge, all featured strongly (figure 5). This suggests that participants felt able to take a range of different actions.

In the group discussions, many mentioned raising awareness amongst their own family and friends as an additional step they had taken. After having taken part in the Assembly, they felt they'd had "more informed conversations with others", family, friends and work colleagues about the state of nature.

Volunteering was also explored in more detail in discussion groups. They saw this as a key way "to understand more about nature and positive actions that [they] can take". Depending on people's circumstances, this ranged from joining organisations looking after nature, and participating in litter picks, to regularly looking after local green spaces, or learning outdoor skills in a supportive group setting. Some reported active campaigning and outreach work, such as tree and flower planting with children in schools, monitoring bird populations as part of a wildlife group, or actively contributing to thermal surveys undertaken by Friends of the Earth.



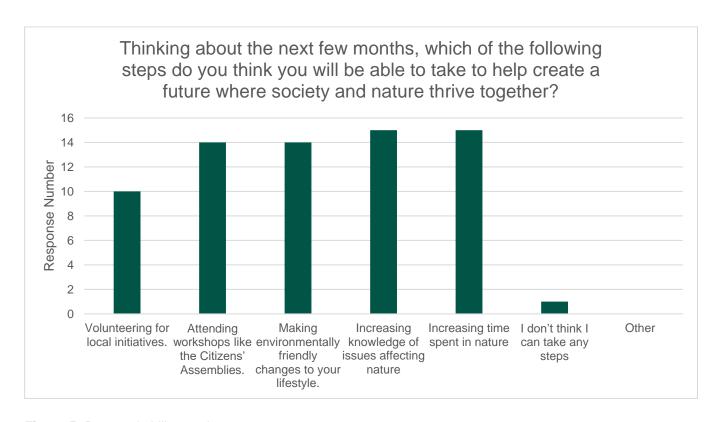


Figure 5: Reported ability to take steps.

However, there were barriers to taking action for many participants. Survey responses suggest that financial reasons and not enough time (figure 6) were the primary barriers to lifestyle changes, followed by a lack of information. Limited accessibility and not wanting to take steps on one's own were barriers for some.



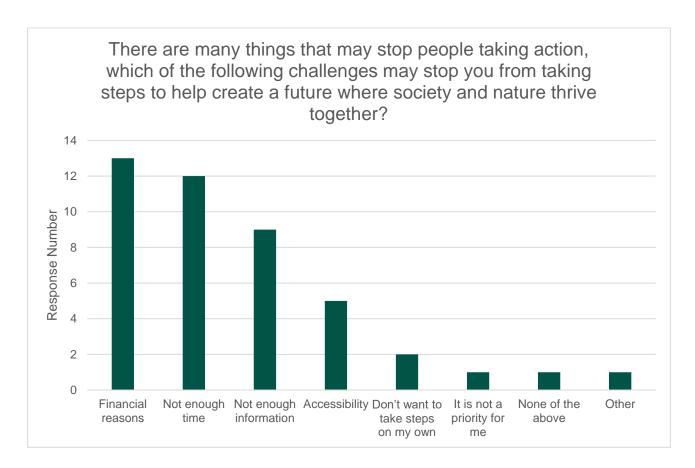


Figure 6: Barriers to taking steps to help create a future where society and nature thrive together.

When barriers were explored further in discussion groups, participants talked about financial challenges in more detail by highlighting that it is often, for example, more expensive to take public transport such as trains than driving.

When discussing energy choices, participants in one group were unsure of the cost and feasibility of different domestic green energy options such as installing heat pumps, or installing renewable energy sources like solar panels.

Some thought that the current recycling options also presented a barrier. Participants thought that more would need to be demanded from businesses so that packaging could be reduced in the first place and recycling supported, (e.g. through take-back schemes).

When discussing spending more time in nature, awareness of where to go and how to get there was another barrier highlighted by participants. Whilst some felt "inspired and informed to go to more places" and wanted "to get more immersed in nature", some were unsure of where to go and felt that there was a lack of public transport options to get there.

Awareness of local volunteering opportunities, a lack of time or inconvenient timing of activities, a lack of inclusive and accessible opportunities, and a lack of funding emerged as the key obstacles for people to volunteer regularly. Making information more readily



available, and supporting community action were seen as part of the solution. A specific suggestion was for more employers in Wales to promote and support volunteering.

3.3 Key need for knowledge and information

As reported in section 3.1, feeling well informed was one of the main benefits participants experienced from taking part in the Assembly. In the group discussions, participants emphasised that lack of information might stop other people in Wales from 'taking steps to help create a future where society and nature thrive together'.

Participants broadly agreed that knowledge and an awareness that "what I'm doing is important" held the key to creating a sense of responsibility. A range of different types of knowledge and information were mentioned as being required to enable people to play their part in helping nature thrive in Wales. This included:

- Regular **updates about steps taken by government** and information that would allow people to understand how the measures taken make a difference.
- Factual information that raises awareness of the important challenges to the state of nature. For example, issues around sewage in rivers and the ocean, or pressing ecological issues (e.g. endangered species), including associated trade-offs between nature and other economic and social policy objectives.
- Practical information about steps people can take, including both specific and simple steps such as reducing contamination with microplastics or recycling, and more complex choices, such as how green technologies can be adopted in different circumstances (e.g. new heating systems in old properties).
- Local information about how to get involved in taking action in their local area, for example, "how to start community projects", and advertising of opportunities to get involved.

Participants thought it would be important to get this knowledge and information to all, even to those who are not actively looking for it.



4. Conclusion

During these discussion groups, 19 members of the Citizens' Assembly confirmed that the six vision statements drafted by NatCen accurately reflected the priorities identified by participants in the original Citizens' Assembly.

Three minor changes were made by NatCen to the wording of the statements following feedback during the discussion groups. These changes have been highlighted in the report, and were made to ensure the meaning of the statements is clearly communicated to a wider public. The amends did not reflect disagreement with the statements.

The discussion groups confirmed that communicating the results of the Assembly widely and well, will be crucial in helping the vision to be implemented. Providing sufficient practical detail and giving people in Wales a sense of what might be required to implement the vision statements, will be important.

Almost all those who took part in the follow-up discussions highlighted the positive impact that participating in the Citizens' Assembly had on them, particularly in terms of increased knowledge of the challenges facing nature and willingness to take action to protect and restore nature. However, time and money were identified as key barriers to actually taking action in the future.

Access to knowledge and information was a common theme throughout the discussion. Our analysis of participants' discussions identified four different types of information (updates from government, facts on the state of nature, practical steps people can take, and local opportunities to get involved) that can help raise awareness of taking action to protect and restore nature in Wales.



Appendix 1: Achieved sample

The table below shows a breakdown of the demographics of the 19 participants who took part in the online discussion groups compared to the original Assembly target sample, and those who attended the first Assembly session.

	Population %		Original target	Invited	Session 1	Online discussion
Gender						
Male	49.30%	26	50.00%	25	23	11
Female	50.70%	26	50.00%	27	22	8
Ethnicity						
White, White Welsh or White British	93.70%	45	86.50%	44	40	16
Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British	2.90%	3	5.80%	3	2	2
Black, Black Welsh, Black British, Caribbean or African	0.90%	1	1.90%	2	1	0
Mixed or multiple ethnic group	1.60%	2	3.80%	2	1	1
Other ethnic group	0.90%	1	1.90%	1	1	0
Age						
16-24	13.07%	7	13.10%	6	4	1
25-34	15.30%	8	15.30%	8	7	3
35-44	15.00%	8	15.00%	8	8	4
45-64	31.35%	16	31.40%	16	15	7
65+	25.28%	13	25.30%	14	11	4
Disability						
Yes	22.70%	12	22.70%	11	8	4
No	77.30%	40	77.30%	41	37	15
Geography						
Rural	38.00%	20	38.00%	19	16	8
Urban	62.00%	32	62.00%	33	28	11
Occupation						
Not in the labour force (other)	17.00%	9	17.00%	9	6	5
Manager/ director/ professional	26.00%	14	26.00%	14	13	6
Caring/ leisure/ service/ sales	9.60%	5	9.60%	9	8	3
Not in the labour force (retired)	25.90%	13	25.90%	13	10	4
Administrative/ secretarial/ skilled trade	11.70%	6	11.70%	6	7	1
Plant or machine operative/ elementary	9.80%	5	9.80%	1	1	0
Geography						
LL/CH	34%	18	34.0%	17	15	6
SY	6%	3	6.0%	4	4	3



LD/HR	6%	3	6.0%	3	3	1
SA	18%	9	18.0%	8	8	1
CF	24%	12	24.0%	13	11	6
NP/GL	12%	6	12.0%	7	4	2



Appendix 2: Survey

The following survey was completed by participants prior to attending the group discussions.

The following questions will help us understand a bit about how taking part in the Assembly affected your attitude towards nature and the steps you might take to help create a future where society and nature can thrive together.

Question 1: Overall, what was the most valuable thing that came out of the workshops for you?
Tab title: Question2
Question 2: How much did you enjoy the Citizens' Assembly sessions?
□ Very much
□ Quite enjoyable
☐ In the middle
□ Quite unenjoyable
□ Not at all
Tab title: Question3a
Question 3a: After taking part in the workshops, how well informed do you now feel about the state of nature in Wales and its connection to people and their well-being?
□ Very well informed
☐ Quite informed



□ Not very well informed
□ Not at all informed
□ Don't know
Tab title: Question3b
Question 3b: What additional information would you like to have to help you develop your views on the links between nature and people in Wales.
Tab title: Question4
Question 4: Since completing the workshops, what (if anything) do you feel has changed about your thoughts on the state of nature in Wales and its connection to people and their well-being?
Tab title: Question5
Question 5a: After taking part in the workshop, how willing or not willing are you to make changes to your lifestyle to help create a future where society and nature can thrive?
□ Very willing
□ Fairly willing
□ Not particularly willing



□ Not willing at all
Tab title: Question6b
Question 5b: What would support you to make changes in your life?
Tab title: Question6
Question 6: After taking part in the workshop, have you taken any steps to help create a future where society and nature can thrive together?
Tab title: Question7
Question 7a: Thinking about the next few months, which of the following steps do you think you will be able to take to help create a future where society and nature thrive together?
(select as many as apply)
□ Volunteering for local initiatives.
☐ Attending workshops like the Citizens' Assemblies.
☐ Making environmentally friendly changes to your lifestyle.
□ Increasing knowledge of issues affecting nature



☐ Increasing time spent in nature
☐ I don't think I can take any steps
□ Other
Tab title: Question7b
Question 7b: Please tell us more detail on the steps you plan to take
Tab title: Question7c
Question 7c: If you indicated 'Other', please specify your preference below.
If you had not selected 'Other', please go onto the next page.

Tab title: Question8a

The following questions will help us understand the challenges that you may face in taking the steps necessary to help create a future where society and nature can thrive.

Question 8a: There are many things that may stop people taking action, which of the following challenges may stop you from taking steps to help create a future where society and nature thrive together?

(Select as many as apply)



☐ Financial reasons
□ Not enough time
□ Not enough information
□ Accessibility
☐ Don't want to take steps on my own
☐ It is not a priority for me
□ None of the above
□ Other
Tab title: Question8b
Question 8b: And, which of these do you think is the biggest challenge for you personally?
Question 8b: And, which of these do you think is the biggest challenge for you personally? □ Financial reasons
□ Financial reasons
□ Financial reasons □ Not enough time
 □ Financial reasons □ Not enough time □ Not enough information
 □ Financial reasons □ Not enough time □ Not enough information □ Accessibility
☐ Financial reasons ☐ Not enough time ☐ Not enough information ☐ Accessibility ☐ Don't want to take steps on my own
 □ Financial reasons □ Not enough time □ Not enough information □ Accessibility □ Don't want to take steps on my own □ It is not a priority for me

Tab title: Question8c

Question 8c: In the textbox below, please tell us why



Or if you selected 'Other', please explain below.
Tab titla. Ovastian0d
Tab title: Question8d
Question 8d: If you have further thoughts or reflections on the challenges to you taking steps to help protect and improve the state of nature in Wales, please insert this in the textbox below.
If you do not have further comment, please move on to the next question.

Tab title: Question9a

After the Assembly workshops the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), reviewed participants' discussions and drafted six vision statements. These visions statements are meant to summarise participants' priorities for a future Wales where people and nature thrive together.

In the next section of the survey we'd like you to look at these statements and tell us if you think they capture what you heard in the Citizens' Assembly workshops. It is important that you read these statements as you'll discuss them further in the group discussions.

Click next to read the vision statements

1. People and Government have a shared commitment to protecting the natural environment.

To make this happen the government needs to communicate their plan to protect and restore the natural environment. This will explain how people and government can help protect endangered animals and plants, and restore where they live.



2. Clear leadership from the Welsh Government helps the public to be more involved in decisions about nature.

To make this happen, all levels of government need to involve people and make decisions based on clear information and evidence rather than party political interests. This will give the public more power and make sure government takes the best approach to nature.

3. Sharing knowledge helps people understand how nature impacts their lives, and the actions they can take to help protect and restore the natural environment.

To make this happen, clear and accessible information will highlight the different ways citizens can act. This will help citizens know what steps they can take to help nature and society thrive.

4. Widespread access to nature helps people across Wales live happy and healthy lives.

To make this happen, Welsh society needs to be more equal and to make its environment less polluted so that everyone is able to benefit from nature. This will improve the mental and physical health of people in Wales.

5. Greener transport and energy options enable more people to make environmentally friendly choices in their day to day lives.

To make this happen, all levels of government need to invest in public transport, renewable energy technologies and waste management as well as reducing the impact of inequalities between people and their communities. This will give more equal access to greener lifestyle choices to people across Wales.

6. Sustainable land management helps communities buy local food and feel connected to the Welsh land.

To make this happen, all levels of government need to help make farming more sustainable and local food cheaper. This will help people buy more local, sustainable food and restore nature.

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Tab title: Question9a



Question 9a: Now that you have read all six statements, to what extent you agree or disagree that the statements capture the priorities that you and your fellow citizens discussed in the workshops.
□ Strongly agree
□ Somewhat agree
□ Neither agree nor disagree
□ Somewhat disagree
□ Strongly disagree
Tab title: Question9b
(If they select anything other than 'Strongly Agree' for any or all of the vision statements they are routed to this question 9c.)
Question 9b: What, if anything, did you feel was missing or needs changing about these vision statements?
Tab title: Question9c
Question 9c: If you have further thoughts and comments about the vision statements please detail them below in the textbox.
If not, please move on to the next question.



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End page

Thank you for completing the survey, we look forward to seeing at the workshop. If you have any questions or queries, please contact, natureandus@natcen.ac.uk.



Appendix 3: Support needs identified by participants

The following is a list of support needs identified by participants in the group discussions and free text responses to the survey. They have been grouped into four categories by the researcher that facilitated the discussion.

• Connecting people:

- being able to stay connected with other Assembly members (particularly those living nearby),
- o linking up with others locally to support each other in finding information (e.g. through "area forums"),
- o connecting with other people wishing to advocate for nature in Wales,

• Practical information:

- o information about local projects and volunteering opportunities,
- o information about how to start community projects,
- more information about the practical steps individuals can take (e.g. how to help reduce water contamination with micro plastics) and on what would have the greatest impact,
- more information on relevant contacts "to discuss ideas regarding nature and the environment",

Background knowledge and understanding:

- more information being provided on issues (e.g. on sewage issue, endangered species)
- an educational offer (in schools and for a wider public, including online resources) to continue learning about nature
- o more information on relevant policy developments

Information about the difference made:

- examples of the positive steps taken by other Welsh citizens to protect and restore nature.
- information about "how things are progressing" (e.g. a dedicated website with updates on the progress of initiatives put in place) and "positive environmental stories"
- information about the wider implications of different choices (e.g. economic impact of different measures).