

Dear [XXX],

I hope this finds you well.

[Outline in a sentence the reason why you're writing]

For example: As a Senedd candidate for [your constituency], I'm writing to ask you to recognise and support the key role communities and the local organisations they run play in building healthier, happier and more resilient people and places.

[Say why this is important to you, your community and your organisation]

For example: Throughout the pandemic [your local community/ organisation] has provided food, friendship and support with a knowledge and care that only we could do. But even before this crisis struck we were working hard to improve the wellbeing and opportunities of people in [your local area]. If anything Covid has amplified this work and the importance of having strong community-led organisations with the knowledge and trust to work with local people.

[Talk about the problems/challenges facing communities and their organisations]

For example: However, we face many challenges in the coming years and feel Welsh Government has too often neglected the key role community organisations like ours play. This is frustrating considering research shows that areas with strong communities and community run organisations have better health and wellbeing outcomes, higher rates of employment and lower levels of child poverty.

[Tell them what you want them to do]

For example: With this in mind we are asking you to support the following key steps we believe a future Welsh Government should take in order to recognise and build upon the incredible work communities and organisations like ours do:

- **Recognise the value of community-based work in Wales** by making a Minister responsible for communities and developing a national strategy
- **Invest in our communities' strengths** and create a Community Wealth Fund for Wales that provides long-term, flexible support for communities and their organisations to plan and deliver projects they want and need in their local area
- **Improve understanding and collaboration between communities and public bodies** by enhancing the role & rights of community-led organisations

The attached manifesto for Strong Welsh Communities developed by the Building Communities Trust provides more detail on these proposal and was developed in partnership with us and other local community organisations across Wales.

We hope you can endorse these proposals that we believe are key to building more prosperous, resilient and sustainable local communities.

Yours sincerely,

<Name> <Address>