



Vale School Governors' Association Cymdeithas Llywodraethwyr Ysgolion y Fro and Governor Support Unit **Newsletter**

Note from the Chair

Today my eldest daughter and her husband move into their newly bought house. As a consequence, I am writing this surrounded by the assorted contents of their rented flat. It was moved from Cardiff yesterday and will be transferred shortly to the new house just down the road later on.

And in Vale schools we also have had a new start with mandatory training for all Chairs of Governors taking place this term. John Sparks from the Governor Support Unit, Jill Davies, Chair of Llancarfan Primary School and I have been delivering the training required by the Welsh Government. Our three sessions been highly interactive - getting Chairs to discuss issues in small groups and then in full session. Feedback has been very good and may I thank everyone for being so open and willing to share their experiences. We felt in planning the events that that this would be a better method than subjecting everybody to death by PowerPoint.

Mandatory Induction and Data training for new Governors is also going well. John Sparks has developed

an innovative elearning on-line option for those who cannot attend the Induction sessions to ensure that the mandatory requirements can be met. This is great for busy people and is being looked at for adoption by other local authorities.

Good training for Governors is vital if we are to ensure that the students in our care get the education they need to prepare them for their future lives. This is crucial for the future of the Vale, Wales and the wider world that they will be living in, working and contributing to.

And my daughter? The new house is back in the Vale after her years in Cardiff and she has just taken up duties as School Governor in a Vale Primary School. You may well meet her at Governor training sessions in the future.

Martin Price

Chair of VSGA and Vice-Chair of Governors, St Richard Gwyn Roman Catholic High School, Barry

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Special points of interest:

- AVAGO was formed in 1996 and re-launched in 2006 as Vale School Governors' Association (VSGA)
- The Management Committee is made up of 15 elected governors together with 2 elected parent governor representatives

VSGA was set up to:

- Promote best practice in governance in schools within the Vale of Glamorgan LEA
- To promote partnership amongst schools and between schools and the LEA
- To work with stakeholders to ensure adequate resources for schools within the LEA
- To represent the Association's views on issues relating to school governance and the management and resourcing of schools to relevant authorities and organisations

In association with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Governor Support Unit

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VSGA has an email address that you may contact us on.
It's VSGA@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

alternatively you can contact VSGA by post at:

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Vale of Glamorgan Council
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Introduction to Governors - Mark Biernacki - Carbon Management Assistant

My name is Mark Biernacki and I am the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Carbon Management Assistant, working for the Energy Manager David Powell in the Civic Office. I handle a cash fund that uses the savings made by installing energy-efficiency measures to pay for those very measures. These include insulation works, heating control and system modifications and upgrades, and high-efficiency upgrades including LED lighting and controls. Schools throughout the Vale have been making great use of this fund and there is money available for further improvements.

The council has been using this fund since 2009 to install around 80 building improvements, over 30 within schools, and safeguard an expected £4Million in savings over their lifetime. The fund is only available to local authorities, by which council money earmarked for energy efficiency has been match-funded by the Welsh government. This is an incentive to ensure the council reaches the carbon reduction targets it has been set; and in essence doubles the money available for such work.

The project work is paid in instalments entirely from the energy savings that the project makes, so the school will actually see less money being spent on energy each year even after paying energy bills plus making repayments. After the final repayment all the savings are retained by the school and there is no council reduction to the energy portion of the school budget. In effect, you will be spending less money from the moment the measures are in place.

The fund is called Salix and attached are two local case-studies of schools that have participated with the council in installing energy saving measures and making significant savings and improvements.

As an example:

- **Barry Comprehensive had their loft space insulated and as a result dramatically reduced their heating bills.**
- **Some of this yearly saving is used to repay the undertaken work, interest-free: the rest is in effect a profit to the school.**
- **The savings are such that they pay for the work within two years.**
- **After the final repayment the school retains all the yearly savings, valued £8860.**
- **There is no repayment for the first year. You see the savings from day one.**

Please drop me an email or a call to find out what energy improvements your school may be able to benefit from. You can save money, save energy and become a greener school in the same instant.

Thank you.

Mark Biernacki

**Carbon Management Assistant
Financial Services**

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Barry Comprehensive School in the Vale of Glamorgan was built in the 1960s and has 1,300 students. They used their Salix 100% interest-free loan of £15,170 to reduce their energy costs per pupil by over £6 per annum by improving their heating efficiency. This is how they did it.



Project overview

Barry Comprehensive School used a Salix loan to insulate the school building. They wanted to create a more comfortable learning environment and save energy and costs. The school decided to utilise Salix funding to ensure they could improve insulation throughout areas of the school. The new insulation will help to deliver estimated savings of almost 20% on their heating costs. The project will be repaid from the savings in less than 2 years.



Salix will help you:

Learn how you can benefit from Salix energy-efficiency knowledge

Use our range of case studies to help you write a strong business case

Find out about how to significantly reduce annual energy costs

Start to use our straightforward loan application process

Barry Comprehensive School's Business Case

Barry Comprehensive School was looking for an effective way to drive down energy consumption. The energy efficient lighting achieved this by lowering the cost per pupil by over £6 per annum. The establishment of the Salix Loans Programme, funded by the Welsh Government, has made these changes possible. The Salix Loans Programme is available to all schools within Wales and there is no maximum application limit that each school can apply for.

Six Salix indicators

Total loan value

£15,170

Annual £ savings

£8,860

Annual savings tonnes of CO₂

38

Lifetime £ savings

£265,798

Lifetime savings tonnes of CO₂

1,143

Project payback

1.7 years

Funded by



Working with Salix

Why Salix?

A Salix 100% interest-free £15,170 capital finance loan and client support offered Barry Comprehensive School a cost and resource effective solution. The Salix project compliance tool showed financial savings from implementing new heating insulation within the school and allowed Barry Comprehensive School to achieve a payback of less than 2 years. Once the project has paid back, Barry Comprehensive School will go on to benefit from over £8,800 in annual energy cost savings.

The Salix solution

The Salix solution allowed Barry Comprehensive School to improve their heating efficiency in areas of the school site. They hope the new insulation building fabric will provide a more comfortable learning environment which will encourage students in the classroom. The students actively recycle used paper, monitor food waste in the canteen and ensure lights are turned off in the classrooms.

Salix and the school

The Salix Loans Scheme Programme worked very well for Barry Comprehensive School, allowing them to implement new insulation building fabric. The school is now more energy-aware and the environmental group of their student council are in the process of developing an eco-committee. The eco-committee has three main aims, which are to progress the litter picking facility within the school, to establish their global citizenship team and to increase energy efficiency throughout the school. The committee have designed stickers for distribution throughout the school, to ensure lights are turned off.

To access more information visit:
www.salixfinance.co.uk/loans/welsh-loans

All Salix case studies are available as a downloadable PDF
at www.salixfinance.co.uk/knowledge-share/case-studies



“The Salix project enabled us to make a contribution to a greener environment and an opportunity to re-invest the savings towards learning”

Gerard McNamara, head teacher, Barry Comprehensive School

“We have limited resources available for generating energy. Our partner school in Rwanda have helped us to see how much we take energy for granted. This project will improve our energy efficiency and help us to understand why it is so important.”

Lauren, Year 13, Barry Comprehensive School

Funded by



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

St Brides Major Church Primary School

in the Vale of Glamorgan was built in 1969 and has 184 students. They used their Salix 100% interest-free loan of £10,125 to reduce their energy costs per pupil by over £12 per annum by upgrading their lighting. This is how they did it.



Project overview

St Brides Major Church Primary School used a Salix loan to upgrade their lighting. The school wanted to create a brighter learning environment and save energy and costs. The school decided to utilise Salix funding to ensure they could improve lighting throughout the entire school. This new technology is estimated to use 74% less energy to light classrooms and corridors. The project will be repaid from the savings in less than 4 years.



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St Brides Major Church Primary School's Business Case

St Brides Major Church Primary School was looking for an effective way to drive down energy consumption. The energy efficient LED lighting achieved this by lowering the cost per pupil by over £12 per annum. The Salix Loans Programme, funded by the Welsh Government, has made these changes possible. The Salix Loans Programme is available to all schools within Wales and there is no maximum application limit that each school can apply for.

Six Salix indicators

Total loan value
£10,125

Annual £ savings
£2,218

Annual savings tonnes of CO₂
11

Lifetime £ savings
£28,840

Lifetime savings tonnes of CO₂
150

Project payback
4.5 years

Funded by



SOLVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY FINANCE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Working with Salix

Why Salix?

A Salix 100% interest-free £10,125 capital finance loan and client support offered St Brides Major Church Primary School a cost and resource effective solution. The Salix project compliance tool showed financial savings from implementing new LED lighting within the school, and allowed St Brides Major to achieve a project payback of less than 5 years. Once the project has paid back, St Brides Major Church Primary School will go on to benefit from over £2,218 in annual energy cost savings.

The Salix solution

The Salix solution allowed St Brides Major Church Primary School to improve their heating and lighting across the entire school. They hope the new lighting will provide a more stimulating learning environment which will motivate students in the classroom and create a more comfortable working environment for teachers.

Salix and the school

The Salix Loans Programme worked very well for St Brides Major Church Primary School, allowing them to implement new lighting. The school are a platinum flag eco-school and are very energy aware; there is an active eco-club who meet weekly to discuss activities to help the school develop new ways of being energy-efficient and green.

To access more information visit:
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“Changing to LED lighting was the right way for us to move forward. The work to change the lights was completed without any disturbance or inconvenience to the school – it was all done over a weekend. The lights are great, efficient, energy-saving and cost effective too. I would highly recommend other schools to consider making the transition to LED lighting.”

Clare Matthews, Head Teacher, St Brides Major Church Primary School

“It’s great when the lights turn off when there’s no-one in the classroom. The new lights are fantastic!”

Amelie Clode, Year 6, St Brides Major Church Primary School

Funded by



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Youth Cabinet Elected

It was in the Autumn Term newsletter that we first heard of the partnership working between the Vale of Glamorgan Youth Service and the Vale Youth Forum (VYF) and their plans to recruit young people aged 11-25 from across the Vale onto the VYF. The VYF is a registered charity that brings together young people from their represented schools and youth organisations and helps young people have a voice on issues that affect them and their communities.

Since then, over 40 young people have been recruited onto the forum representing a variety of secondary schools, youth clubs and youth organisations both statutory and non-statutory from across the Vale. All VYF members have undergone a series of training sessions which will help them in their representative role. The training ranged from Disability Awareness training provided by Vale People First and Penarth Youth Project, Everyone's Future training provided by Vibe Experience to tackle age discrimination and stereotyping and Representation training provided by Funky Dragon, the children and young people's assembly for Wales. VYF members also completed a Vale Youth Forum induction programme.

During this process, VYF members have also been working towards the election of the first ever Vale of Glamorgan Youth Cabinet. In the lead up to this, VYF members met the Vale of Glamorgan Cabinet who participated in a question and answer session with VYF members and shared their experience and expertise in standing for elections and being a Cabinet member. All VYF members received help in preparing their manifestos and all had the opportunity to stand as a Youth Cabinet candidate, seventeen young people did so at an event held on 24/03/14.

The Youth Cabinet was announced in an official inauguration ceremony held on 31/03/14 by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Neil Moore. The successful candidates voted for by their VYF peers are Tom Chandler, Emily Peters, Jessica Peters, Ellis Rosser, Candy Srinivas, Emme Srinivas and Niclas Want. During that evening, VYF members were also presented with certificates for their commitment and hard work by Cllr Chris Elmore. The Vale of Glamorgan Youth Cabinet will be a voice for young people

across the Vale and by working in partnership with the VYF will represent the views of young people to the decision makers at Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Bethan Watkins
Youth Participation Trainee



Fischer Family Trust

A new tool has been developed by FFT for governors. The FFT Governor Dashboard was developed in partnership with the National Governors' Association and the Wellcome Trust.

This Dashboard provides a range of information to help school governors support and challenge the school leadership team. It is designed to clearly display information about results and pupil progress, subject performance, progress of pupil groups, school context, attendance and highlight some of the strengths and weaknesses of the school.

All schools subscribing to FFT through the Vale of Glamorgan's ICT & Data SLA can download the FFT Governor Dashboard from FFTLive (www.fftlive.org) and share it easily with governors.

Governor Dashboard eLearning modules are available to help you get the most out of your Governor Dashboard. Register here (elearning.fft.org.uk) and learn how to interpret your data and support the raising of standards in your school.

Chris Habberley
ICT and Data Manager

Management Committee Membership 2012-14

The Management Committee is comprised of 15 elected governors plus the two Parent Governor Representatives (one each from the Primary and Secondary sectors).

No.	Title	Initial	Surname	School
1	Mr	N	Craggs	Gwenfo C/W Primary
2	Cllr Mr	C	Elmore	Barry Comp & Holton Primary
3	Mrs	M	Gibbs	Llantwit Major Comp & Romilly Primary
4	Mrs	S	Hodges	Ysgol Gwaun y Nant & Ysgol Sant Baruc
5	Mr	P	Lewis	Cowbridge Comp
5	Mrs	A	Males	Cogan Primary & St Cyres Comp
7	Mr	M	Mason	Llanilltud Fawr Prim & Ysgol Dewi Sant
8	Dr	M	Price	St Richard Gwyn R/C High
9	Mrs	C	Roach	Llangan Primary
10	Mr	P	Sampson	Cadoxton Primary
11	Mr	D	Treharne	Llansannor C/W Prim & Ysgol Gwaun y Nant
12	Mr	S	Williams	Rhws Primary
13	Mrs	P	Hardy	All Saints C/W Primary
14	Mrs	S	Williams	All Saints C/W Primary
15	Mrs	K	Kemp	Llancarfan Primary
PGR - Prim	Mr	L	Kellaway	Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg/Ysgol Nant Talwg
PGR - Sec	Dr	C	Brown	Llantwit Major Comprehensive

Any governors interested in becoming a member of the VSGA Management Committee should contact John Sparks by email at JSparks@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

