

Flintshire creates strongest Olympics legacy in Wales

Great Britain is yet to win gold in the 2012 Olympics, but when it comes to grassroots legacy in Wales, Flintshire romps home with the top medal. Flintshire County Council has engaged with the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge, run by Fields in Trust, which safeguards outdoor recreational spaces in perpetuity to ensure that communities will always have places for sport and play to mark the great events of 2012.

Flintshire have so far protected 17 sites in the county, in stark contrast to Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath Port Talbot and Torfaen who have not engaged with the creation of a sporting legacy through the Challenge at all to date, nominating no sites so far. Caerphilly has protected the largest acreage in Wales, with an average size per site of 103 acres. Cardiff, home to Olympics football, is off the starting blocks with two sites so far, totalling 12 acres of protected legacy.

The Duke of Cambridge is Patron of the Challenge and is committed to the importance of outdoor spaces: *'We take it for granted that children like to run and to play games and most people agree that leaving children to be cooped up inside all day is bad for them. If we are serious about that, then we must be serious about preserving the fields and parks on which children can play. If parks and fields continue to disappear at the rate at which they have done for the past few decades, many communities will have nowhere for their young people to enjoy. Some of my happiest memories as a child were those times I spent outside playing games, and I think that is true for most people.'*

Alison Moore-Gwyn, Chief Executive of Fields in Trust said *'I'm delighted by the range of sites across Wales that have been put forward for protection. Parks and playing fields are often the place where our elite sports people first identify their talent. Without access to local facilities we face the possibility of a decline in the diversity of home grown athletes and sports people.'*

This is echoed by The Duke of Cambridge who is also an Ambassador to the London 2012 Games: *'As we cheer on athletes at the Olympic Games, we should remember how so many of them started their career on local green spaces.'*

Delivery of this wide ranging legacy programme was made possible by the support of Asda and the Asda Foundation. Paul Kelly, External Affairs Director at Asda said *'Asda shares Fields in Trust's commitment to ensuring 2012 brings lasting benefit to communities across the UK and so we are proud to have worked in partnership to deliver a programme that will give opportunities for participation in sports and activities well beyond the Olympic Games.'*

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	Numbers	Acreage	Average acreage
Blaenau Gwent	4	47.74	11.935
Caerphilly	11	1139.01	103.546
Cardiff	2	12	6
Carmarthenshire	8	72.01	9.001
Ceredigion	1	4	4
Conwy	1	2	2
Denbighshire	2	4	2
Flintshire	17	93.07	5.475
Gwynedd	1	1	1
Isle of Anglesey	3	4	1.333
Monmouthshire	13	53.4	4.1
Newport	4	97.9	24.475
Pembrokeshire	1	14.21	14.21
Powys	7	61.25	8.75
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1	1.9	1.9
Swansea	3	23	7.667
Vale of Glamorgan	8	127.93	15.991
Wrexham	1	0.5	0.5

- The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge aims to protect 2,012 outdoor recreational spaces by the end of 2012 to build a legacy from the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games.
- The Duke of Cambridge is Patron of the Challenge. Queen Elizabeth II Field status protects green sites for perpetuity, ensuring communities and future generations will always have access to them. The Challenge builds on the work that Fields in Trust has done so far. Established in 1925 as the National Playing Fields Association, Fields in Trust works to improve the protection, provision and quality of outdoor recreational spaces for all communities in the UK. They currently protect 1362 fields totalling 8586 acres.



- Further details on The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge can be found at www.qe2fields.com. The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge's principal partner is Asda and the Asda Foundation. SITA Trust UK are also supporting the Challenge, creating an exclusive £1 million fund available for designated QEII sites in England and Wales to apply to. The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge is also kindly supported by LV= who have been enthusiastic about the Challenge.

