
The CAWES Forum experience

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CAWES & the Third Sector

- One of the big themes of the CAWES project is partnership working
- The Third Sector partners chosen were the members of the AWWN
- The ways in which we work in partnership were established through dialogue with the AWWN,
- A Memorandum of Understanding was developed

The CAWES Fora

- Requirement for LAs to arrange these as part of the WAG funded CAWES work
- 4 CAWES fora areas covering all of Wales
- Range of members, including from the Animal Welfare Network Wales
- Range of work being carried out, such as education mapping and the development of the regional education plans

Benefits of the CAWES Fora

- Communications with other welfare societies etc
- Networking between organisations, and the chance to meet other representatives
- Dissemination of information and the sharing of knowledge
- Co-operation and partnership opportunities, including the scope to share resources
- Ability to discuss wider issues such as education provision.

Downsides of the CAWES fora

- Few disadvantages identified, but...
- Forums may be too “formal” for some organisations,
- Meetings needed to be planned ahead.

- Conflict can and does occur – a clear issue given the range of interests represented!



Partnership working

- Joint Special Project with AW charities looking at neutering/welfare of dogs & cats
- Training and expertise
- Joint enforcement protocols and arrangements

Joint enforcement issues

- Assistance from charities can be very valuable – especially equine charities
- AW charities may not understand the law, or may prioritise the protection of animals
- LA's don't always let charities know what to expect or keep them informed, or recognise the costs involved
- Training planned!

Partnership working – bigger picture

- Excellent partnership networks in Wales between national and local government etc
- Good working relationships with some AW charities – particularly larger ones
- Smaller AW charities may have a different focus – such as surviving!
- AW charities are competing for funds, which can inhibit the way they work together

CAWES FORA - conclusion

- CAWES has proven popular with LA's and with AW charities and the third sector, and has helped develop excellent partnership working to resolve some serious animal welfare issues.
- "It's a good news story...but"