



Growing Mid Wales September 2025

Welcome to the September edition of the Growing Mid Wales Newsletter!

As summer draws to a close, we're looking ahead to an exciting season of progress and opportunities across Mid Wales. In this issue, you'll find updates on funding programmes, digital connectivity milestones, skills initiatives, and events that are helping put our region firmly on the map.

From pioneering projects in agri-tech and food technology, to community-led broadband successes, and new capital investment opportunities, there's plenty happening across Ceredigion and Powys that demonstrates the strength of collaboration and innovation in our region.

We hope you enjoy catching up on the latest developments and feel inspired by the work being done to shape a vibrant future for Mid Wales. Don't forget there's some key dates on grants, events and jobs in this edition that are happening soon so make sure you don't miss out!

[The Growing Mid Wales Team](#)

[**Cover:** Rali Ceredigion event that took part 5-7 September across Powys and Ceredigion and was partially funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.]

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Agri-tech and Food Technology Cluster for Mid and North Wales Case Study

Innovative dairy farm leads the way in ethical farming and skills sharing across Mid Wales



Dyfi Dairies is blazing a trail for the future of dairy farming in Mid Wales. As the first cow-with-calf dairy in Wales, founder Sophia has pioneered a model that places animal welfare, mental health, and long-term sustainability at its heart.

Part of the [Agri-tech and Food Technology Clusters](#) for Mid and North Wales and supported by New Innovators funding through Innovate UK and additional LEAP* funding via

AberInnovation, [Dyfi Dairies](#) has grown from a bold idea into a practical, thriving system that others are now keen to follow.

While their farmland is located in Powys, their processing facility lies just over the county border in Ceredigion - a fitting representation of their cross-regional impact. The farm recently secured a lifetime tenancy agreement, offering stability to continue developing and expanding their unique approach.

Read more on our [website](#).

Businesses interested in joining either the Agri-Tech or Food Technology clusters and staying informed about future funding opportunities can find more information on the Growing Mid Wales website: www.growingmid.wales/AgriTechFoodTech.



COMING SOON – Careers in 360 portal

We're excited to share that the [Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership](#) Careers in 360 portal is about to launch across schools in Ceredigion and Powys. This innovative digital resource will transform how young people explore career pathways, giving them immersive, 360° insights into a wide range of industries right here in Mid Wales.

The rollout is set to begin in the coming weeks, bringing the world of work closer to classrooms and inspiring the next generation to think big about their futures.

👉 Watch this space – we'll be celebrating the full launch in our next newsletter with more details on how students, schools, and employers are getting involved.



SPF in Focus: Capital Investment and Project Highlights

Capital grants for business available, worth up to £25k

Powys businesses, and those moving to the county, can apply for a new round of capital grants worth between £5,000 and £25,000.

They are being offered by Powys County Council and funded by the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund.

The Powys Business Capital Grants can be used to:

- support the purchase of equipment that boosts productivity or enables the creation of new products or services, or
- support investment in greener technologies, such as replacing existing lighting or heating systems with more sustainable alternatives.

Expressions of interest must be submitted by Monday 15 September, with successful businesses then expected to submit their full applications before the end of Friday 3 October.

View more information on the Powys County Council [website](#)



1 - PICTURE: CastAlum, in Welshpool, received a Business Growth Grant through Powys County Council last year worth £25,000, which it put towards the cost of updating two of its die-cast machines. With one of the machines they are bringing back into use are (from left): Karl Meredith, Managing Director; Simon Grimwade, Plant Manager; and Neil Simmonds, Maintenance Manager

Rali Ceredigion 2025: Showcasing Mid Wales on the Map

The 2025 JDS Machinery Rali Ceredigion once again brought excitement and international attention to Mid Wales. Congratulations to the winners, all the competing crews, and a big thank you to the organisers, volunteers, spectators and visitors who made it such a memorable weekend.

This year's rally was truly regional, with stages running through both Ceredigion and Powys – including brand new sections at Cwm Elan and a revised Y Diafol stage. The event highlighted the spectacular landscape and warm welcome Mid Wales has to offer, while attracting thousands of visitors.

The rally is supported by Ceredigion County Council and partially funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) from the UK Government. Through this support, Rali Ceredigion not only delivered a thrilling sporting event, but also helped boost the local economy, tourism and community pride.

Events like this play an important role in putting Mid Wales firmly on the map. 🌍



Graduate Trainees are welcomed as part of SPF funding

With thanks to joint funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund and Ceredigion Council, a pilot Graduate Scheme has been developed in Ceredigion by the Council's Learning & Development Team which aims to support service areas in succession planning for hard to fill roles.

Five successful graduates started in post on 1st September. We wish them every success as they begin their careers with Ceredigion Council.



Caru Ceredigion Awards 2025: Caru'ch Cymuned Category – Entries Closed!

The entry phase for the new Ceredigion County Council Caru'ch Cymuned category in the Caru Ceredigion Awards 2025 has now closed, and applications are currently under consideration. This exciting category was introduced to honour the efforts of towns and villages across Ceredigion that go above and beyond in enhancing their local communities—whether through keeping public spaces tidy, hosting community events, or providing essential services.

Stay tuned—finalists will soon be announced along with nominations for the other award categories for the Caru Ceredigion Awards 2025, taking place on 11 December. Watch this space!



Mid Wales Commercial Property Investment Fund – Update



Mid Wales Commercial Property Investment Fund



The first stage of the Fund has now been completed, with all bids carefully reviewed and decisions made on which projects will move forward.

Applicants have received feedback, and we'll be continuing conversations with the successful companies during September as they prepare for the Development Stage.

A further update on the Fund will follow in our October newsletter.

Growth Deal News

Council Leaders Visit CAT for Update on Cynefin Development

Recently, the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) was delighted to welcome Cllr Bryan Davies and Cllr Jake Berriman, leaders of Ceredigion and Powys County Councils, for a site visit and progress update on the flagship capital development project, Cynefin: Green Heart of Wales.

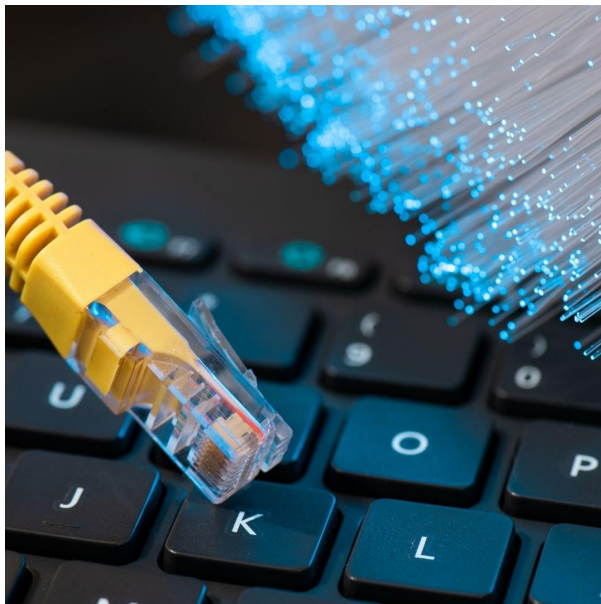
During their visit, the council leaders met with CAT Co-CEO Eileen Kinsman to hear about recent milestones in the Cynefin project and discuss its future impact. The visit included a guided tour of the site and a presentation outlining the project's achievements to date and the exciting next steps.

Read more on the CAT [website](#).



2 - (L-R) Cllr Bryan Davies, Leader of Ceredigion County Council and CAT Co-CEO Eileen Kinsman Cllr Jake Berriman, Leader of Powys County Council

Rhydlewis Exchange hits 100% target for community fibre project



Rhydlewis Exchange hits 100% target for community fibre project

On 08 September, Openreach confirmed that the Rhydlewis Exchange project has now reached 100% of its revised community funding target – a huge milestone for one of the most rural and dispersed areas of Ceredigion.

The exchange, which serves 1,058 premises across 127 postcodes, had some of the lowest fibre coverage in the county, with just 30% of homes and businesses able to access Full Fibre (FTTP). Despite geographical challenges and setbacks caused by storm damage earlier this year, local residents have worked together to raise £1.4 million in pledges to ensure fibre rollout will reach every eligible property.

So far, 154 premises are already “Ready for Service,” with work continuing across the catchment. The build is due to complete later this year, bringing transformational connectivity to homes and businesses in Rhydlewis.

Rhydlewis was first highlighted in our article on the opportunities for a [digital revolution in Mid Wales](#) last year. This latest milestone shows what's possible when rural communities come together to secure investment in their digital future – and offers encouragement to others still working towards their own targets in Velindre, Maesycrugiau, and Llandysul.

✅ See if you're in a Voucher Priority Area - Some areas in Mid Wales, including Llandysul, Maesycrugiau, and Newcastle Emlyn, qualify for government-funded broadband vouchers. In Powys, Community Fibre Partnerships are expanding coverage.

If you're in an eligible area, signing up could help influence broadband expansion plans and secure funding for better connectivity at no personal cost. You can check your eligibility and register your interest at: [Connect My Community](#)

Jobs alert

Portfolio Analyst x 2



APPLY NOW

WE ARE HIRING

PORTFOLIO ANALYST

➤ Full time ➤ £35,412 - 37,280 per annum

We are looking for two proactive, detail-oriented, and collaborative individuals to support the delivery of the Mid Wales Growth Deal – a transformative £110m investment from the UK and Welsh Governments, driving forward a £300m+ portfolio of strategic projects to grow the regional economy.

We offer a range of benefits: flexible working (including location), opportunities for training, an attractive pension scheme, as well as the opportunity to work in a fantastic rural location.

 Tyfu
Canolbarth Cymru
Growing
Mid Wales

🚀 Exciting opportunity to be part of the team delivering the Mid Wales Growth Deal and shaping the future of our region. We're looking for two Portfolio Analysts to bring their skills and ideas.

Find out more and apply here ➡ <https://careers.ceredigion.gov.uk/jobs/req106234/>

⚡ Apply by: 25/09/25 ⚡


Strategic Project Development Manager



Job opportunity: Strategic Project Development Manager

An exciting opportunity to lead the development of major capital projects supporting economic growth in Mid Wales.

Find out more and apply here  <https://careers.ceredigion.gov.uk/jobs/req106233/>

 Applications close: 18 September 2025

Other news

Calling all Welsh Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders around the world

Join Global Welsh online on 18th September for a first-of-a-kind event to kick-start the conversation and explore what Wales has to offer your business.

Connect to Cymru will bring together entrepreneurs, business leaders and key stakeholders from across Wales and the world to help make these ambitions a reality and answer some of the pressing questions:

- What does it take to start or scale my business in Wales?
- Who are the right people to connect with?
- What support is available for my business?
- Who has successfully done it before?
- What are the regional differences and what local initiatives are in place?

For more information and to register head to the event page

>> <https://connect.globalwelsh.com/networks/events/185422>



Final call for applications to join the Business Wales Start-Up Accelerator

Applications are open for the next Business Wales Start-Up Accelerator, a fully online, ten-week programme that runs from Tuesday 30th September 2025 to Friday 12th December 2025. The application deadline is Monday 15th September 2025.

The accelerator is designed exclusively for Wales-based entrepreneurs with high-growth business ideas, supporting their journey from securing a first customer to preparing for investment. Participants will benefit from personalised support from experienced coaches, with a strong focus on building a sustainable business model and revenue generation.

For more information visit the Business Wales [website](#).



Keep up to Date

Need to catch up on what's been discussed in our meetings? Here's a reminder of where you can find the minutes for the following meetings:

- All minutes relating to the Growing Mid Wales Board are hosted on Powys County Council [website](#).
- Papers relating to the Growing Mid Wales Partnership can be found on our [website](#).

Keep up to date with Growing Mid Wales news, developments on activity and organisations we support by following our X, LinkedIn pages, and YouTube channel:

<https://twitter.com/growingmidwales>

www.linkedin.com/company/growing-mid-wales

<https://www.youtube.com/@TCC-GMW>

We're eager to reach out to as many organisations and businesses across Mid Wales as possible. You can make this possible by following, liking and sharing our pages.

Disclaimer: As a Growing Mid Wales Stakeholder you receive these emails so that we can share news and information with you on a regular basis. You can inform us if you no longer wish to receive these emails by emailing growingmidwales@ceredigion.gov.uk.

