

10th September 2025



Dear Deputy First Minister,

On 1st October there will be a debate in the Senedd regarding the potential to legislate for swift brick installation in all new buildings in Wales. We are writing to you as a group of passionate, young environmentalists from across Wales, to ask you to please do everything you can to support this proposal.

Many of us had the pleasure of meeting you at the launch of our 'Youth Manifesto for COP 16' at the Senedd last October. At that event you delivered an inspiring and impassioned speech about the importance of restoring biodiversity; not just for the sake of the environment but also for the health and wellbeing of future generations. As young people who frequently feel disappointed and let-down by the tone of modern political discourse in the media, it was incredibly reassuring to hear you speak with such genuine, heartfelt understanding about these issues which matter so much to us.

We often talk about the need to ensure a 'wilder future', but we rarely stop to consider what that actually means or what it might *feel* like. For us, a wilder future is about having the opportunity to dip our toes into the sea or a local river without having to fight our way through a jungle of Himalayan balsam or worrying about where the latest sewage dump has been. It's about going on a walk in a local woodland that isn't under threat from development and seeing the diversity in the ages of the trees, as ancient woodland mixes with new growth. It's about stepping outside on a spring day and listening to the sounds of swifts up in the eaves of our houses and feeling connected to the wider world.

One of the 'Asks for Wales' in our manifesto is that "*all new Welsh developments must have a positive impact on nature*". We promoted the swift brick campaign as part of our manifesto launch at the Senedd a year ago, as we feel strongly that it's a cheap, easy way to ensure vital nesting spaces for our country's fastest declining bird species. Research is still being undertaken to try and better understand the specific factors driving their decline, but we do know that they are dependent on cavities in our buildings and homes in order to breed. One thing is certain; if there are no more spaces available for them in our buildings, then one day they will simply never return.

We understand that the overall vision of a 'wilder Wales' is complex. It requires the mobilisation of significant numbers of people, campaigns to alter public perception, and a considerable revaluation of our national spend. However, if even a fraction of this vision could be achieved we would consider it a great success for Wales that would improve the way of life for its people and wildlife. It would build trust that our Government is working to fulfil existing policies and enforce environmental



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laws, and that the Government understands the problems that everyday people face when attempting to engage with our wilder world. Legislating for mandatory swift bricks in all new developments in Wales would represent a significant step towards achieving this. It would serve to help distinguish Wales as a nature-positive country which sees the natural world, not as something which has to be mitigated for and worked around, but as something which can actually benefit from our developments and be brought closer to people in their day to day lives.

We sincerely hope that we can rely on your support.

Yours Faithfully,



Môn Gwyrdd Youth Forum, on behalf of the Wildlife Trust Youth Forums in Wales



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