



DESIGN  
COMMISSION  
FOR WALES  
COMISIWN  
DYLUNIO  
CYMRU

12 February 2026

[engageatag@tfw.wales](mailto:engageatag@tfw.wales)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Active Travel Act Guidance

The Design Commission for Wales welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the revision of the Active Travel Act Guidance.

We particularly welcome the inclusion of a new chapter on placemaking and the explicit links to the Placemaking Wales Charter. Placemaking is fundamental to the delivery of high-quality, inclusive active travel schemes and we consider this to be a significant and positive addition to the guidance.

We strongly emphasise that placemaking should not be treated as a standalone topic but embedded throughout the guidance and used to inform all decisions, from strategic planning through to detailed design and delivery. Active travel infrastructure has a powerful role in shaping places, and the guidance should consistently support outcomes that enhance distinctive and vibrant places for the benefit of the local communities.

While we welcome the placemaking elements identified in the guidance, we note that these represent only part of what constitutes placemaking. Greater clarity that these are key considerations in relation to active travel would be helpful, alongside the inclusion of character as an explicit placemaking element.

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More broadly, we support the overall direction of the draft guidance, including its strengthened focus on accessibility and inclusion.

As the national advisory body for the promotion of design excellence across the built environment in Wales, the Design Commission for Wales would welcome clearer reference within the guidance to how we can support placemaking and good design through our Client Support and Design Review services.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Hampton'.

Max Hampton

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