<u>Minister praises work of Wales'</u> <u>environmental groups</u>

The Minister was speaking before Keep Wales Tidy's annual Tidy Wales Awards, in Cardiff Bay's Pierhead Building, where she will present awards and thank volunteers for the work they carry out to improve the quality of their local environment.

Welsh Government funding has enabled Keep Wales Tidy to work collaboratively with Local Authorities, community groups and the public to engage in a wide range of projects to improve the local environment.

Hannah Blythyn said:

"I am extremely honoured to have been given the opportunity by the First Minister to lead work that affects every corner of Wales, from improving the quality of the air we breathe, to enhancing access and recreation opportunities.

"I am grateful to Keep Wales Tidy for inviting me to this event today — my first as Minister. They are a great example of an organisation that is carrying out important work to improve local environment quality in communities across Wales. Their activities help keep our public spaces free from litter and fly-tipping so people can take pride in and make good use of the places where they live.

"I look forward to working closely with Keep Wales Tidy and the many other organisations represented by my portfolio. Together, we can help achieve a cleaner, greener Wales that benefits communities and future generations in Wales and beyond."