

RESEARCH PROPOSAL – WORK BASED PROJECT

Is the introduction of 'Living Walls' in Swansea City counterproductive?

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Research Topic

Is the introduction of 'Living Walls' in Swansea City counterproductive?

Abstract

The report will conduct research into both the positives and negatives of the introduction of 'Living Walls' within Swansea city, it aims to conclude on whether or not this method of construction is viable in a coastal town. The research will be analysed and collated into a report that sets out to establish an overall answer the research topic. The goal is to understand how beneficial 'Living Walls' can be to a coastal city such as Swansea and whether its residents agree.

Introduction

Following an estimated budget of £93m allocated for regeneration across Wales (BBC News, 2021), the introduction of 'Living Walls' or 'Green Walls' to some existing buildings around Swansea is one of the many ways the council has decided to achieve a more sustainable form of construction. This research will discuss both economic and sustainable views in addition to the ethical and residential views of the installation of these walls.

Methodology

To gain a greater understanding of Swansea resident's opinions towards this alternative construction method and regeneration work, the research will include a questionnaire and interviews with a variety of people from the local area. Both methods will target a range of residents and local professionals working within the construction industry. The data collected will assist in verifying both professional and community insight towards this modern construction method. The questionnaire and interview will include mostly closed questions to allow for an accurate analysis. The questions will be purposely simple and will not have an immediate connection to the research theory. This will allow the participants to answer more truthfully. Studies have shown people can be concerned about how they will be perceived and might exaggerate their answers (McLoed, 2018). The interviews will be conducted on this exact same premise, in that questions will be set to have a selected number of answers to choose from. This will eliminate the potential of miscommunicated answers,

resulting in a more accurate outcome to analyse. The questionnaire will be sent out to an estimated 50-80 people with all results remaining anonymous. The interviews will be conducted with less participants in mind as they require extra time to complete and organise. For the purpose of this research, the aim is to collate a total of 100 results to be assessed and compiled to form a combined outcome. Most results will be from the questionnaire because it is recognised as a faster way of gaining large amounts of information from a population. This speeds up the process for data analysis and can allow for a greater amount of data to be assessed for the proposed research (Dudovskiy, 2021).

Questions to be considered throughout the proposed research are:

- Who is pushing the drive for a more sustainable city?
- Are residents on board with this step forward in construction?
- Is Swansea's city ecology suited to 'Living Walls'?
- What impact will the walls have on Swansea in 5 to 10 years?
- Will these impacts be positive or negative to both the existing dwellings and residents?
- Who directly benefits from the introduction of 'Living Walls'?
- Is the climate in Swansea suitable for greener infrastructures?

Aims and Objectives

The research aims to achieve a formed decision on the proposed topic, by conducting in-depth research into the history of 'living walls', their purpose whilst additionally comparing the advantages and disadvantages of installation across the UK. The research intends to confirm if this modern method of construction is both suitable and productive in cities with altering climates during the current wave of effects from global warming. Objectives to be debated are:

Introduction to Theory

Origin of 'Living Walls'

Coastal Climate

Questionnaire

Governments 'Greener' Goal

The Future for Swansea

Conclusion

Primary Research

To complete a fair and unbiased report, literature will be used alongside external research. In addition to quantitative and qualitative questionnaires and numerous interviews, literature such as journals, reports and articles written by both private and government officials will be considered and discussed throughout the report.

Data Analysis

Data collected from independent research, questionnaires and interviews will be assessed accordingly and fairly to conclude on an overall opinion towards the research topic. By comparing the results of each of the research avenues mentioned above, it will be possible to culminate on both public opinion in addition to professional opinion to form a rounded outcome. All collated data will be accurately presented in the report using appropriate scale and referencing. For the questionnaire in particular, a scale of 1 to 10 will be suggested for participants to answer based on 1 being the lowest and 10 the highest level of agreement. These results will offer a more precise and reliable result to assess and can be conveyed error-free in the final report.

Considerations Upon Research

The research will need to address several considerations upon evaluating the research. Such considerations might include ethical, environmental and any other external factors that might impact on the discussion. The above considerations will be assessed based on their affiliation to the topic and whether or not they directly impose on the argument of the proposed research subject.

Reflection

Throughout the research proposal reflective work will be explored and studied. Detailing how the sourced information along with results from the questionnaire and

interviews can be exercised in future roles and reports. Reflective work will allow the researcher to assess which forms and methods of investigative work might be more successful than others. Reflective work will additionally assist in determining which forms of the report can be seen as advantageous and a practical skill for future roles.

References

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