



Ponterwyd PARRC Report

August 2016



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council



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Cymdeithas Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Ceredigion
Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations

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Introduction & Background

This is one of a series of reports documenting the results of consultations held to identify the importance of recreational areas to communities throughout Ceredigion and any necessary improvements, funded through the Rural Development Programme. The report concludes with a number of key findings and possible actions to take forward the ideas suggested by consultation participants. With the support of the community, the Community Council, Ceredigion County Council, CAVO and Cynnal y Cardi the content of this report will be used to support funding applications to realize the communities' vision for their recreational area.

Methodology

A village party was held during the afternoon of Saturday 20th August at the play area in the village. A play session and a free hog roast and refreshments were offered. Although the weather was particularly unpleasant on the day a number of children attended along with their parents, relatives and other residents and local community leaders.

The consultation event and material was 'young person friendly' in order to engage with our key stakeholders effectively. The consultations were visual, interactive and bilingual using:

- 2D visualisation – with photos and drawing of plans
- Short, structured discussion sessions
- Image based questionnaires

Promotion/Marketing

The event was advertised by poster, word of mouth and via social media. Local representatives distributed hard copies of the invitation and circulated an electronic version to encourage community participation.

Survey Questions

The content of the consultation survey was intentionally kept short and simple and focused on three key areas what participants use to stay active in their community, why these places and spaces are important and what would people change in their community to encourage people to stay active. We also asked participants to rate their level of activity from 1 to 10. A second survey was developed as a guide to conduct more detailed conversations with key community stakeholders.

Description of Area

Ponterwyd is a small village in the Cambrian Mountains 12 miles east of Aberystwyth on the A44. Pont Erwyd (Erwyd Bridge) carries the A44 across the river Rheidol in the village; the old bridge across the Rheidol is a single arch stone bridge and is known as the Hen Bont.

The village is surrounded by tourist attractions. The George Borrow Hotel is named after the writer who travelled to Wales and stayed here in 1852. The village is at the foot of the Plynlimon mountain range – the five highest peaks in the Cambrian Mountains and Bwlch Nant yr Arian is one mile up the road. Nant yr Arian has excellent walking and cycling facilities and many people come to see the red kites being fed each day.

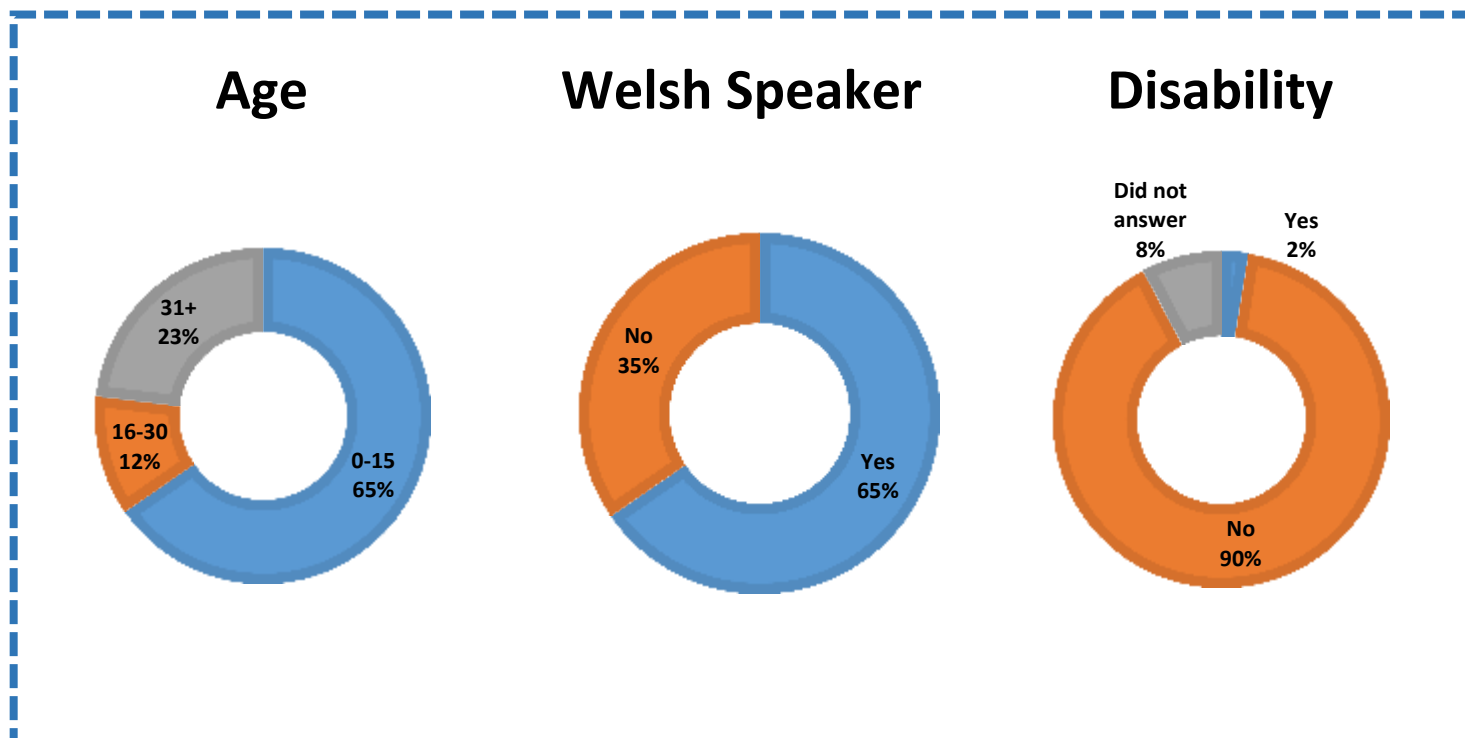
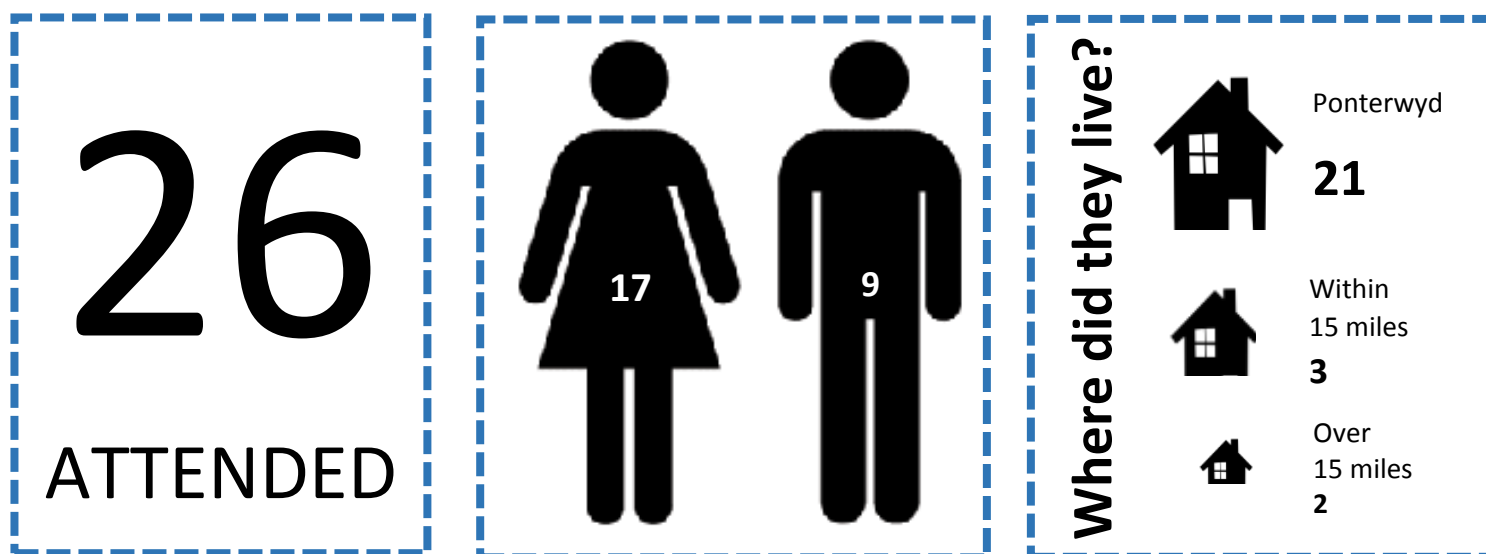
The village hall is at the school and offers classes and activities including an Art Club, Gardening Club and a Youth Club. There are very few facilities in Ponterwyd apart from the George Borrow Hotel and a Petrol Station and shop. Despite the visitor's attractions, residents feel that public transport is unaffordable to access facilities in Aberystwyth. There is a play area and small football playing space adjacent to a Social Housing estate.



Results of Consultation

Who Attended?

26 individuals attended the consultation session, with the majority living in or near Ponterwyd. The consultation session was held during a play session and advertised as a village party. 65% of those who attended were under 15 years of age. 17 out of the 26 were female. 65% were Welsh speakers and 90% stated that they did not class themselves as having a disability.



What They Said?

When asked what do people do and use in Ponterwyd to keep active, the playground and the playing field were the only options most attendees felt were open to them.

Some mentioned that children and young people often play on the road in the housing estate, which is potentially dangerous. People felt that the space was still important to the community as it's free, a place for people to meet, a neutral ground for all in the community and gave the option for people to participate if they wanted to.

Recommendations for change were focused on the need to upgrade playground equipment and change the space so that it can be used to introduce activities for all ages in the community and encourage residents to participate in activities together.

There were concerns about growing incidents of anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the community and it's felt that an increase in activities for children, young people and the wider community could help create a sense of pride in the community.

Top 3 things people use or do in Ponterwyd to keep active

1. Improve the Playground
- 2= RAY Ceredigion Play sessions
- 3= Football area

Why are play/open spaces important to the people of Ponterwyd?

busy active
socialise
happy doorstep
keep-fit
friends

Things to change in Ponterwyd to help people stay active

1. Upgrade of playground area
2. Something for older children – zip wire or skate park
3. Shelter for an area of the playground

Key Findings

From discussions it seems that the playground in Ponterwyd isn't currently well supported by the local community with many parents saying that they don't allow their children to play unsupervised (there is some anti-social behaviour which is being addressed by the PCSO/police). However, many attendees did express the wish to see the space used to positively build relationships within the community and to combat anti-social behaviour.

The following key improvements were highlighted during discussions with attendees at the event;

- The playground area needs to be upgraded and a number of pieces of play equipment replaced including the rolling log and the little slide;
- Suggested new equipment included a zip wire;
- The shelter is used but needs to be replaced;
- The football area desperately needs levelling.
-

Many of the residents we engaged with were concerned that any new equipment would need to be resilient and sturdy because of local cases of vandalism, the bus stop was used as an example.

Future Actions

- Support the community of Ponterwyd to look for funding to implement some of the suggestions from the consultation, include the school and Community Council as key partners.
- Identify costs of upgrading and replacing play equipment work and ground levelling work.
- Any future development and changes need to involve local residents and young people to try and stimulate pride and respect for the space and any equipment provided.

Appendices

Action Plan Template

Basic Planning Tool

Objective:						
Intended Outcomes:						
What needs to be done?	How are you going to do this?	By when?	Who will be responsible?	What will we need?	What needs to be done?	How will we know if we have been successful?
Tasks	Strategy	Time frame	Structure / Partners		Resources	Monitor /Evaluate

Postcard Survey

PARRC – Village Party Survey

Location: _____

What 3 things do people use and do to stay active in your community?

1.
2.
3.

Why do you think these spaces / places are important?

.....

.....

.....

What 3 things would you change in your community to help people stay active?

1.
2.
3.

On a scale of 1 to 10 how active are you?



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



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Key Community Statistics

Ponterwyd is located within Melindwr Lower Super Output Area (LSOA). LSOA all have a population of around 1,600 people for easy comparison. Melindwr is classified as **Rural Village and dispersed in a sparse setting**.

Population

In 2015 the estimated resident population for Melindwr was 1,973. The population density was 10 people per km², compared to 42 people per km² for Ceredigion and 149 people per km² for Wales. In the last five years, the population of Melindwr has seen a decrease of 2% (40 people). (*InfoBase Cymru website*).



Population by age band						
All Ages	0-15 year olds		16-30 year olds		People aged 31+	
1,973	341	17%	256	13%	1,376	70%

55% of people living in Melindwr were born in Wales, 42% were born in the UK, outside of Wales and 3% were born outside of the UK. 49% of people aged 3 and above reported that they could speak Welsh (*2011 census*).

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2014

The WIMD is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. It is designed to identify those small areas where there are the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation.

In 2014 Melindwr ranked 1,001 out of 1,909 in Wales on the WIMD (where 1 is most deprived). It is in the 50% least deprived areas in Wales. It is amongst the least deprived with regard Community Safety and Health but amongst the most deprived with regard Access to Services and Housing. (*Local Government Data Unit – Wales*)

16% of the children in Melindwr live in low income families (families in receipt of Child Tax Credits whose reported income is less than 60 per cent of the median income or in receipt of Income Support or Income-Based JSA, divided by the total number of children in the area) (*InfoBase Cymru website*).

Community Conversations

- Interest in park is down
- Adults and children get together for BBQ at the park
- Glass bottles are often smashed on the grass
- Dog fouling is an issue
- Cars have been scratched
- Some kids can be rowdy and there is vandalism
- It's difficult to keep everyone happy
- More needs to happen in the park so children are safe away from road and speeding cars
- Community needs to learn to respect equipment (older children)
- Lots of the kids like the football here – they come up all the time.
- The bus shelter is used (as a shelter) but it's been vandalised.
- The maintenance man doesn't collect the grass, or blow it off the rubber surfacing when he's done. (Community councillor noted this).
- I like the two roundabouts.
- The shelter is good but is rotten now. A new shelter would be good.
- The rolling log, the hut and the little slide could go. The rolling log is dangerous.
- I don't use the play area really – I live a bit out of the village. If I drive my children down to this play area I may as well drive them to Nant yr Arian or somewhere.
- Metal is better than wood – wood will get burnt.
- 5 a side goals are smaller – we need goals the same size as what we have now but a bit wider. We could build them ourselves but they'd need concreting in.
- A taller boundary fence for the football area would be good – the ball's always going over the fence. The council land on the other side is very boggy.
- Yeah – I like the zip wire. It's true the kids here are rough – we need a metal one.
- Could we level the football pitch?
- We only come when RAY Ceredigion are here.
- Norman really pushed the zip wire and I'm really keen on it – a very good idea.
- My little ones come here all the time
- My favourite bit is the football pitch but it needs levelling, it's too bumpy.
- Somewhere to skate and bike would be good – could we put some tarmac on the bit of land behind where the football goal is?
- Remove the log, the baby roundabout, the shelter and the little slide and have a big massive hut with seats in and lights in the night instead.
- Any chance of a skate park or a couple of ramps? The bit of land from the sewerage treatment down to the river is council owned.
- I'd like to have wheelchairs in the play area all the time so we can push each other round.
- Football pitch – flatten the ground – there are moles too.
- There's not much here for older children so they get bored and break things – the spinning log isn't really used by the older kids