

Stage 1 Results: The responses of Community/Town Councils, groups and organisations in the Porthmadog and Penrhyndeudraeth Area



Summary (January 2022)

1. Introduction

- 1.1** The purpose of the 'Our Area 2035' project is to conduct a conversation and discussion with local communities to identify what matters to residents and how they would like to see the area develop in the next 10-15 years.
- 1.2** We intend to collaborate and jointly develop solutions with organisations, groups and individuals. At the end of the project there will be 13 specific regeneration frameworks that reflect the aspirations of local communities.
- 1.3** The first stage of the project was to conduct initial talks with Councillors, Community and Town Councils and local regeneration groups in order to establish:
 - What is good about the area?
 - What is not so good about the area?
 - What changes would you like to see happen in your area in the next 15 years, that would make your area a better place to live?
- 1.4** An invitation, together with area statements (namely booklets that summarised the main economic, social, cultural and environmental data) were sent to all Councillors, Community Councils and the main local groups.
- 1.5** Between September and November 2021 a discussion took place with 7 Community/Town Councils, organisations, groups and Local Members in the Porthmadog and Penrhyndeudraeth area.

2. What's good about your area?

These are the main matters the Community/Town Councils, groups and organisations in the **Porthmadog and Penrhyndeudraeth** area noted that were **good** about their area:

Theme	Number who noted this in their response
Amenities and facilities such as shops, cafes, restaurants	5
Environment and proximity to natural attractions e.g. mountains, the seaside and the countryside	4
The Welsh Language / culture	3
Footpaths, cycle paths and coastal path	2
The Railway	2
A good Primary school	2
A safe and secure area	1
Heritage and history of the area	1
Hafod y Gest for older people	1
Opportunities and benefits of attracting tourism / visitors	1
A wide High Street	1
Harbour	1
Local businesses and business park opportunities	1
Green site at the disused Cooke's works (Y Dref Werdd – Deudraeth Hub)	1
The Football Club	1
The Community Hall that is suitable for the needs of the area	1
The community	1
Young people returning to live in the area	1
Potential for green transport	1

3. What is not so good about your area?

These are the main matters the Community/Town Councils, groups and organisations in the **Porthmadog and Penrhyndeudraeth** area noted that were **not as good** about their area:

Theme	Number who noted this in their response
Lack of affordable housing for local people	4
A number of second homes and holiday homes in the area	4
Public transport and insufficient bus network	4
Concerns about the conditions of roads and traffic	4
A lack of high salary / full-time jobs	2
Problems and impact of over-tourism	2
The Welsh language losing ground	2
Concerns about health and care provision	2
Lack of provision for young people	2
Lack of quality/safe footpaths	2
Floods and wetlands	2
Lack of public toilets	2
The standard of local authority support services	1
Lack of a co-operative company to drive changes e.g. Cwmni Bro Stiniog	1
No community centre	1
The effect of on-line shops on local businesses	1
Higher education provision	1
Parking problems	1
Not enough being done about sustainable energy	1
Lack of public toilets	1
Concerns about Trawsfynydd power station	1
Gwynedd Council not tackling empty housing problem	1
Poverty remains a problem	1

4. What changes would you like to see happen in your area in the next 15 years, that would make your area a better place to live? (identify up to 3 changes)

These are the main matters the Community/Town Councils, groups and organisations in the **Porthmadog and Penrhyndeudraeth** area wanted to see happen in the next 15 years:

Theme	Number who noted this in their response
Schemes to ensure suitable housing for the needs of local people	5
Public transport - accessible, integrated and suitable for local needs	4
More health, well-being and care resources	4
A greener area - renewable energy, plastic free, charging points	3
Create high value work and jobs	2
Management of traffic problems	2
Provide more facilities and skills for young people	1
Complete Cob Crwn and Cob Mawr improvements	1
Projects to bring in money locally	1
Produce quality food that is sustainable and locally sourced	1
Need to deal with the effect of the population getting older	1
Hold a dialogue between Community Councils leading to positive developments e.g. cycle path between Llanfrothen and Penrhyndeudraeth	1
A Primary school that is still viable	1
Opportunities for visitors and incomers to learn Welsh	1

5. Additional questions

5.1 Who are the main organisations and groups that could come together to fulfil the required change?

This is a list of all the organisations and groups noted in response to this question in the **Porthmadog and Penrhyndeudraeth area:**

- Gwynedd Council
- Health Board
- Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig/Menter Môn
- Age Cymru Gwynedd and Môn
- Young Farmers
- Merched y Wawr
- Womens Institute
- Friends of the Nature Garden
- Deudraeth Cyf
- Y Dref Werdd – Deudraeth Hub
- Education establishments
- Community/Town Councils
- Welsh Government
- Adra (Tai)
- Grŵp Cynefin
- Criccieth Business Forum
- U3A
- Churches and Chapels
- Criccieth in Bloom
- Caru Port
- Natural Resources Wales
- Snowdonia National Park

5.2 Are you aware of any local consultation work that has been undertaken in the last year?

This is a list of the consultation work noted in response to this question in the Porthmadog and Penrhyndeudraeth area:

- Criccieth Town Council has a Community Plan that has been approved since March 2019 following comprehensive consultation and workshops with the community in 2018.

5.3 Other issues relating to the 'Our Area 2035' work that arose in the Porthmadog and Penrhyndeudraeth area:

- We are very disappointed that Gwynedd Council has not included Criccieth, which is one of the oldest towns in Wales with a castle built by the first Prince of Wales - Llywelyn, in the regional title for this consultation.
- I do not understand the 'Score for proximity to an Accessible Natural Green Space (%)'. Given our environment and atmosphere near the coast and proximity to the mountains of Snowdonia, our area would be expected to score high in this measure, but I may not have interpreted the information correctly.
- No comment was made in the presentation regarding the impact of climate change in the coming decades. What effects can be expected on our community? e.g. floods, storms, droughts, over-tourism, strain on mental health.

- Cyfeillion Croesor pointed out that because of their location, they found themselves identifying more with the Blaenau Ffestiniog area. This point has been made previously and is one that should be considered when drawing up the Porthmadog and Penrhyndeudraeth area plans. The boundaries of the 'Our Area 2035' consultation do not naturally tie in with how they see their work developing in Croesor into the future.