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# Results of Consultation on Regenerating the Pentrefoelas area

July 2024



## Cyngor Cymuned Pentrefoelas Community Council

# Results of Consultation on Regenerating the Pentrefoelas Area

**Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg**

### A word from Gari B Jones, Chair of Pentrefoelas Community Council

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation. The purpose of the consultation was to find out what the local community thought would be advantageous for the village. There was a wide range of ideas and many very positive comments – it was very pleasing to see that. With this report now having been completed – I trust that all local organisations, clubs or associations can use the report to their advantage, should they wish to try for grants available from different sources to bring their ideas / projects to fruition.

I would like to thank everyone who gave their time to hand out the questionnaires in the beginning, and to the Bocs Bwyd and the School for their willingness to be collection points for the questionnaires after they have been completed.

Finally, I would like to thank Gwion Jones from Amgen Consultants Limited for all the work from developing the questionnaire at the beginning, to going through them all and analysing them in detail in order to get the final report at the end.

### A word from Gwennol Ellis, the Elected Member for the Area

I am extremely proud that Pentrefoelas Community Council successfully applied for funding from the Community Key Fund to conduct a consultation on the needs of residents and other users of the community's resources. I also congratulate them on securing this funding. We must thank Mr. Gwion Jones, who was appointed to carry out this work, for his thorough and diligent work. The response to the questionnaires has been overwhelmingly positive, with many participants offering creative ideas on how they envision the future development of the village and surrounding area. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who responded, to the Community Councillors for distributing the questionnaires, and to the School and Bocs Bwyd for their willingness to collect the completed forms.

It is encouraging to see that many respondents have highlighted several strengths of the area, particularly the School and the strong sense of community. Planning for the future is essential, and many excellent ideas have been proposed to achieve this goal.

The next step will be for local societies and groups to use the report as evidence of need when applying for grants to develop some of these proposed ideas. Thank you again for your participation and support.



# Results of Consultation on Regenerating the Pentrefoelas Area

## 1. Background

- 1.1 An application was submitted to the UKSPF Conwy Community Regeneration Key Fund at the end of September 2024 to carry out a feasibility study in the Pentrefoelas area regarding the regeneration of the area, and it was confirmed that that application had been successful on 21.12.2023.
- 1.2 Amgen Consultants Limited had submitted a quotation for relevant work before the application went in, and the company was appointed to assist with the feasibility study.
- 1.3 Gwion Jones from Amgen Consultants Limited attended meetings of the Pentrefoelas Community Council in January, February and March 2024 to discuss the work, make relevant plans, and develop the necessary documents for consultation regarding the regeneration of the Pentrefoelas area.
- 1.4 The purpose of the consultation was to get the opinion of people who live in the Pentrefoelas area, work there, or use facilities in the area about what the priorities should be in terms of regenerating the area.
- 1.5 A questionnaire was developed for this consultation between January and March 2024 with input from Pentrefoelas Community Council and the Elected Member for the area. The final version included ideas for regeneration projects that had come from relevant organisations and associations, as well as some that came from the Community Council.
- 1.6 Welsh, English and bilingual versions of the questionnaire were produced, with the hard copies distributed being mainly bilingually.
- 1.7 The consultation period began on 07.03.2024 and a time limit was given of Friday 26.04.2024 for the return of completed questionnaires. The Community Council was willing to receive questionnaires after that date as well, especially from members of organisations or associations that would not have met before then.
- 1.8 Questionnaires were distributed in hard copy and via e-mail by Pentrefoelas Community Council Members, Gwennol Ellis the Elected Member for the area, and through Pentrefoelas School. The intention was to ensure that every household in the parish of Pentrefoelas received a copy of the questionnaire, and door to door calls were made to try to ensure that. Some blank questionnaires were also left in the Bocs Bwyd, where respondents were asked to leave completed questionnaires.



## 2. The Respondents

- 2.1 A total of 47 completed questionnaires were received containing responses from 53 people. Three questionnaires gave the names of 2 people in the relevant box and one questionnaire gave the names of a family of 4. In the cases where more than one person had contributed to the questionnaire, the number of contributors was given for the purpose of counting the number of responses of different types in this report.
- 2.2 The respondent's name was requested as part of the questionnaire to try to guard against the possibility of people filling in more than one questionnaire. As can be seen in table 1, only 4 completed questionnaires did not include a name.

**Table 1**

|                |          |                    |        |
|----------------|----------|--------------------|--------|
| Name included: | 49 (97%) | Name not included: | 4 (3%) |
|----------------|----------|--------------------|--------|

- 2.3 As might be expected, the majority (60%) of the respondents gave Pentrefoelas as their village, town or area, with 13% giving Rhydlydan, which is in the parish of Pentrefoelas.
- 2.4 There were a total of 12 people who gave another place, and one respondent who did not give an answer to this question. Of those who did not give Pentrefoelas or Rhydlydan as their village, town or area, it seems that the majority of them; if not all; are people who work in the area or use facilities there.

**Table 2**

| Village, town or area of the respondents | Pentrefoelas | Rhydlydan | Ysgol Pentrefoelas | Betws-y-Coed | Bylchau  |
|--|--------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------|----------|
|  | 32 (60%)     | 7 (13%)   | 3 (6%)             | 4 (8%)       | 1 (2%)   |
|  | Dinbych      | Nebo      | Padog              | Ysbyty Ifan  | No reply |
|  | 1 (2%)       | 1 (2%)    | 1 (2%)             | 1 (2%)       | 1 (2%)   |

- 2.5 In terms of age ranges, 34% who gave their age range put between 25 and 49, and 42% put between 50 and 67. The total number of responses from those under 25 was lower than what might have been expected.

**Table 3**

| Age range of respondents  | < 16 | 16 - 24 | 25 - 49 | 50 - 67 | 68+ | No reply |
|---------------------------|------|---------|---------|---------|-----|----------|
|                           | 4    | 1       | 18      | 22      | 7   | 1        |
| Percentage of respondents | 8%   | 2%      | 34%     | 42%     | 13% | 2%       |



2.6 In terms of language choice, a significant majority of the responses were in Welsh (87%), but there were also quite a few in English (21%). The totals include responses from 4 of the contributors made both in Welsh and in English and the percentages therefore come to more than 100%.

**Table 4**

|       |           |         |           |
|-------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Welsh | 46 (87%*) | English | 11 (21%*) |
|-------|-----------|---------|-----------|

\*Note: The total percentages do not add up to 100% because some responded in both languages.

### 3. Answers to the questions

#### 3.1 Strengths of the Pentrefoelas area at the moment

This was an open question and there was a wide range of different answers to it. Every response gave at least one strength, many gave three or four, and the most given was seven.

Similar answers were given under the same heading for the purpose of analysis, and the answers given by three or more respondents are included in table 5.

**Table 5**

| 1  | What are the greatest strengths of the Pentrefoelas area at the moment? |                                  |   |
|--|---|----------------------------------|---|
| The school                                   | 32  | Social evenings                  | 6 |
| A close-knit community                       | 30  | A beautiful rural area           | 5 |
| The 'Bocs Bwyd' / Café                       | 16  | Community Centre                 | 5 |
| Welshness                                    | 14  | Facilities / public conveniences | 4 |
| The Godre Hiraethog Society                  | 7   | Twt Lol Nursery                  | 4 |
| The Foelas pub                               | 7   | Public transport                 | 4 |
| Local businesses / area for small businesses | 6   | The playing field                | 3 |
| Football club / Football field               | 6   |                                  |   |

It was the School and the local community that respondents identified as the area's greatest strengths at the moment, with both getting around twice as many people mentioning them as any of the other answers.

#### 3.2 What most needs attention

This was also an open question, and once again similar answers were given under the same heading for the purpose of analysis. The answers given by three or more respondents are included in table 6.



**Table 6**

| 2 What most needs attention in terms of improving the Pentrefoelas area? |    |  |   |
|--|----|--|---|
| Reopening the shop   | 17 | Improving the park                           | 5 |
| Fitness resources / opportunities / games                                | 15 | Improving the playing field / football field | 5 |
| Houses for local people  | 11 | Things to attract visitors                   | 4 |
| An all-weather / multi use field   | 8  | Beautify the area e.g. flowers etc           | 4 |
| Facilities for children and young people                                 | 8  | Better public transport                      | 4 |
| Tidying up / clearing rubbish  | 6  | More young members on the Community Council  | 4 |
| Improving the children's play park                                       | 6  | Improving the roads in rural areas           | 3 |

A few of the things identified in the responses are ones that do not appear easy to tackle at a local level, but the question invited wider answers than that, and the next questions focused on things that it might be feasible to do locally.

### 3.3 Prioritising ideas

**Table 7**

| 3  | In terms of regenerating the Pentrefoelas area, what priority should be given to the following:             | No need | Low | Medium | High  |
|----|---|---------|-----|--------|-------|
| a) | A Multi-use Gaming Area for residents of all ages on the School / Community Centre site                     | -       | 3   | 8.5*   | 41.5* |
| b) | A dedicated running track around the School / Community Center field  | 8       | 9   | 16     | 20    |
| c) | Improve the play park and ensure that there is inclusive equipment for the disabled                         | -       | 4   | 7      | 42    |
| d) | Recreate an adventure playground for children and young people  | -       | 4   | 12     | 37    |
| e) | Improve and create facilities for visitors including picnic facilities                                      | 3       | 9   | 15     | 26    |
| f) | A local heritage and history project to include additional interpretation boards and intergenerational work | -       | 9   | 24.5*  | 19.5* |
| g) | Establish public charging points for electric vehicles in a suitable place in the village                   | 4       | 9   | 18     | 21    |

\*A respondent put a tick in two boxes and therefore 0.5 was given for each.



There was very strong support among the respondents for a), c) and d) with between 70% and 79% giving them a high priority, between 13% and 23% giving them a medium priority, between 6% and 8% giving them a low priority and no one saying they were not needed.

There was also good support for b), e) f), and g), with between 37% and 49% giving them a high priority and between 28% and 46% giving them a medium priority. Of these four, e) and f) had the most support with everyone who responded in support of f), and only 3 saying that e) was not needed. The support was slightly less for g) with less giving it a high or a medium priority and 4 saying it was not needed.

It was b); the dedicated running track around the school field; for which there was least support from the ideas included in the table. However, 36 respondents (68%) gave the idea a high or medium priority, and only 8 (15%) said it was not needed.

### 3.4 Offering other ideas

**Table 8**

| 4  | Other ideas for regenerating the Pentrefoelas area:  | No need | Low | Medium | High | None given |
|----|--|---------|-----|--------|------|------------|
| 1) | Improving / renewing the Community Centre facilities e.g. Cinema equipment, stage facilities   | -       | -   | -      | 4    | 1          |
| 2) | Need a Community Shop  | -       | -   | -      | 3    | 2          |
| 3) | Reopening the Shop / Need a Shop   | -       | -   | -      | 2    | 3          |
| 4) | Stopovers for campervans   | -       | -   | -      | 4    | -          |
| 5) | Senior Farmers Club  | -       | -   | -      | 4    | -          |
| 6) | Improve the facilities on the playing field / goals and a proper net for the football field, possibly astro-turf / multi-purpose playing field - 3g field with floodlights | -       | -   | -      | 3    | 1          |
| 7) | Keep the toilets open  | -       | -   | -      | -    | 3          |
| 8) | Tidying up around the village  | -       | -   | -      | 2    | 1          |
| 9) | Improving public toilet facilities / providing changing facilities in the toilets for football, rugby games etc  | -       | -   | -      | -    | 3          |



| 4   | Other ideas for regenerating the Pentrefoelas area:   | No need | Low | Medium | High | None given |
|-----|---|---------|-----|--------|------|------------|
| 10) | Signposted walks / leaflets to promote walks and historic places / help with local walking routes | -       | -   | 2      | -    | 1          |
| 11) | Play area for children of all ages  | -       | -   | -      | 2    | -          |
| 12) | Welsh signs around the village e.g. names of rivers   | -       | -   | -      | 2    | -          |
| 13) | Improving public transport / Ensuring that bus services e.g. T.10 continues                       | -       | -   | -      | 1    | 1          |
| 14) | Local houses for local people and families / Local affordable houses to buy                       | -       | -   | -      | 1    | 1          |
| 15) | Tennis court  | -       | -   | -      | 1    | -          |
| 16) | Bring all empty properties back into use  | -       | -   | -      | 1    | -          |
| 17) | Activities to bring people together   | -       | -   | -      | 1    | -          |
| 18) | Making the village a more attractive place for visitors to stop                                   | -       | -   | -      | 1    | -          |
| 19) | Changing the gate to the playground to facilitate access for children's chairs and wheelchairs    | -       | -   | -      | 1    | -          |
| 20) | Create images in the area   | -       | -   | 1      | -    | -          |
| 21) | Computer resources and courses  | -       | -   | -      | -    | 1          |
| 22) | Putting a few additional benches for people to sit on   | -       | -   | -      | -    | 1          |
| 23) | A survey of businesses in the area to identify their needs  | -       | -   | -      | -    | 1          |
| 24) | Keeping the skip twice a year   | -       | -   | -      | -    | 1          |
| 25) | Opportunities to learn Welsh  | -       | -   | -      | -    | 1          |
| 26) | Community garden  | -       | -   | -      | -    | 1          |
| 27) | Improve the appearance of the pub and shop  | -       | -   | -      | -    | 1          |





A total of 38 respondents (72%) had included at least one idea in their response to this question, with a number having included more than one.

As can be seen in table 8, there were a large number of different ideas and some of them reflect things given in response to question 2, what most needs attention in the area at the moment. Others reflect desires for additional facilities or to retain what is currently available.

While all the respondents gave a priority level for the ideas included on the questionnaire in response to question 3, a significant number did not do so for the ideas that they had added themselves.

### 3.5 The importance of trying to regenerate the Pentrefoelas area

**Table 9**

| 5 | How important is it to try to regenerate the Pentrefoelas area? | Not important ←————→ Very important |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
|   |   | 1                                   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|   |   | -                                   | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 3 | 4 | 44 |

Note: There was one respondent who did not answer this question.

It is worth noting that so many of the respondents (83%) gave 10/10 for the importance of trying to regenerate the Pentrefoelas area, and that only one respondent gave a score of less than 8/10.

### 3.6 Anything else respondents wanted to add

**Table 10**

| 6               | Is there anything else you would like to add? |                             |          |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|----------|
| Answer provided | 15 (28%)                                      | No answer for this question | 38 (72%) |

Just over a quarter (28%) of the respondents gave an answer to this question. As might be expected, the answers varied greatly in their content, with some people taking the opportunity to emphasise a point or points they had made earlier and others giving some kind of summary of their input.

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