

Stage 1 Results: The responses of Community/Town Councils, groups and organisations in the Bangor 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 **12** Community / Town Councils, organisations, groups and local Members in the Bangor Area

2. What's good about your area?

These are the principal matters the responders from the Bangor Area noted that were **good** about their area:

Theme	Number who noted this in their response
The community and the people	5
Amenities and facilities such as shops, cafes, restaurants	5
Cultural and diverse city	4
The University	4
The Welsh language / culture	3
Organisations, charities, enterprises and operational groups	3
Heritage and history of the area	2
Health Provision – Health centre and Hospital	2
Arts events	2
Footpaths, cycle paths and coastal path	1
Vibrant night-time economy	1
Good public transport	1
Improvements taking place through the BID	1
A safe and secure area	1
Defibrillators secured	1
Opportunities and activities for young people	1

3. What is not so good about your area?

These are the principal matters the responders from the Bangor Area noted that were **not so good** about their area:

Theme	Number who noted this in their response
Decline of the High Street	5
Lack of suitable and affordable housing for local people	4
Effects of student housing on residential areas	4
Lack of communication and collaboration between organisations and groups	4
Local economy and nothing to attract people to the area	3
Negative attitudes	3
Links between the University and local communities	3
Bangor has lost its identify and vitality	3
Groups need financial support	2
Need support / funding to hold events / community vigour	1
Not enough being done to maximise the potential in relation to Storiell	1
Too many litter bins	1
Nothing is being done as part of the BID	1
A need for a community hospital to address the needs of older people	1
Insufficient use of Parc Menai and Parc Bryn Cegin	1
Gwynedd Council does not support Ysbyty Gwynedd	1
Problems relating to roads and traffic	1
Lack of safe footpaths	1
Lack of resources in Maesgeirchen	1
Closing youth clubs - a big mistake	1
Delays in project delivery	1
Not enough entertainment	1
Lack of high-quality jobs	1
The standard of work in the area as a result of the Council sub-contracting	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 principal changes the Community/Town Councils, groups and organisations in the Bangor Area wanted to see happen in the next 15 years:

Theme	Number who noted this in their response
Develop the High Street	4
No negative attitudes, and foster pride in the area	3
Make the most of the local footpaths and cycle paths	3
A greener area - renewable energy, plastic free, charging points	3
The university to forge stronger links with the community	3
Collaboration between Gwynedd Council, Community Councils and local groups	3
Strict planning rules in relation to the development of buildings	2
Flood prevention work in Hirael	2
Develop ways of sharing information	2
Re-open the youth clubs and similar services	2
Support from Council Officers to undertake regeneration projects	1
More events e.g. fairs	1
Make the most of the areas beyond the centre of Bangor	1
Gwynedd Council Offices located in Bangor	1
Keep communities clean and tidy	1
Strengthen Bangor City Council	1
Local heritage projects	1
Area that meets the needs of young people	1
More opportunities to learn Welsh	1
Develop the City Park	1
Park and ride in the vicinity of the Hospital	1
A central space to celebrate the area's communities in a visual way	1

5. Additional questions

5.1 This is a list of all the organisations and groups noted in response to this question in the Bangor area:

- Gwynedd Council
- The University
- Storiell
- Penrhyn Castle
- Bangor Language Initiative
- Cwmni'r Frân Wen
- Ysbyty Gwynedd
- Health Board
- Bangor Partnership
- Local Groups and Businesses
- Maes Ni
- Schools in the area
- City Council
- Community Councils
- Pontio
- Housing Associations e.g. ADRA
- Maestryfan Group
- Bangor BID Partnership
- Welsh Government
- Coleg Menai
- Bangor First
- Wild Elements
- The Cathedral
- The city's supermarkets

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

- Bangor City Masterplan published August 2020

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

- There are exciting plans in the pipeline and extensive discussions e.g. City of learning, but people feel frustrated and there is a need to see the small things delivered that are so important to community pride.