

# Our Area 2035

## Results of the Public Engagement Exercise

(February – June 2022)

Bro Ffestiniog.



# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The aim of the Our Area 2035 Project is to hold a discussion with local communities in order to identify what is important to residents and how they would like to see their area develop over the next 10 – 15 years.
- 1.2 Our aim is to work together and develop solutions with organisations, groups and individuals. At the end of the project 13 specialised regeneration plans will be created to reflect the priorities and aspirations of local communities.
- 1.3 The first step to the project involved holding conversations 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 the area in the next 15 years, that would make the area a better place to live?
- 1.4 **10** Community/Town Councils, organisations, groups and local Members in Bro Ffestiniog presented their ideas regarding what should be the local priorities for the area in the period up to 2035. These responses were used as a basis for the second stage of wider public engagement.
- 1.5 In February 2022 a public engagement exercise was launched for each of the 13 areas, with local people being invited to contribute to the shaping of the Our Area 2035 project by filling in a simple survey online or on paper.
- 1.6 In order to encourage as many people as possible to participate, a comprehensive engagement campaign was organised, which included:
  - Press releases and a radio item;
  - Advertisements in the local papers;
  - Information leaflets;
  - Messages and videos through social media;
  - Prominent messages on the Cyngor Gwynedd website home page;
  - Attending the North Wales Pride event in Bangor.

1.7 In addition, a series of visits and face to face meetings were organised to hear the voices of groups and individuals that are seldom heard. These included:

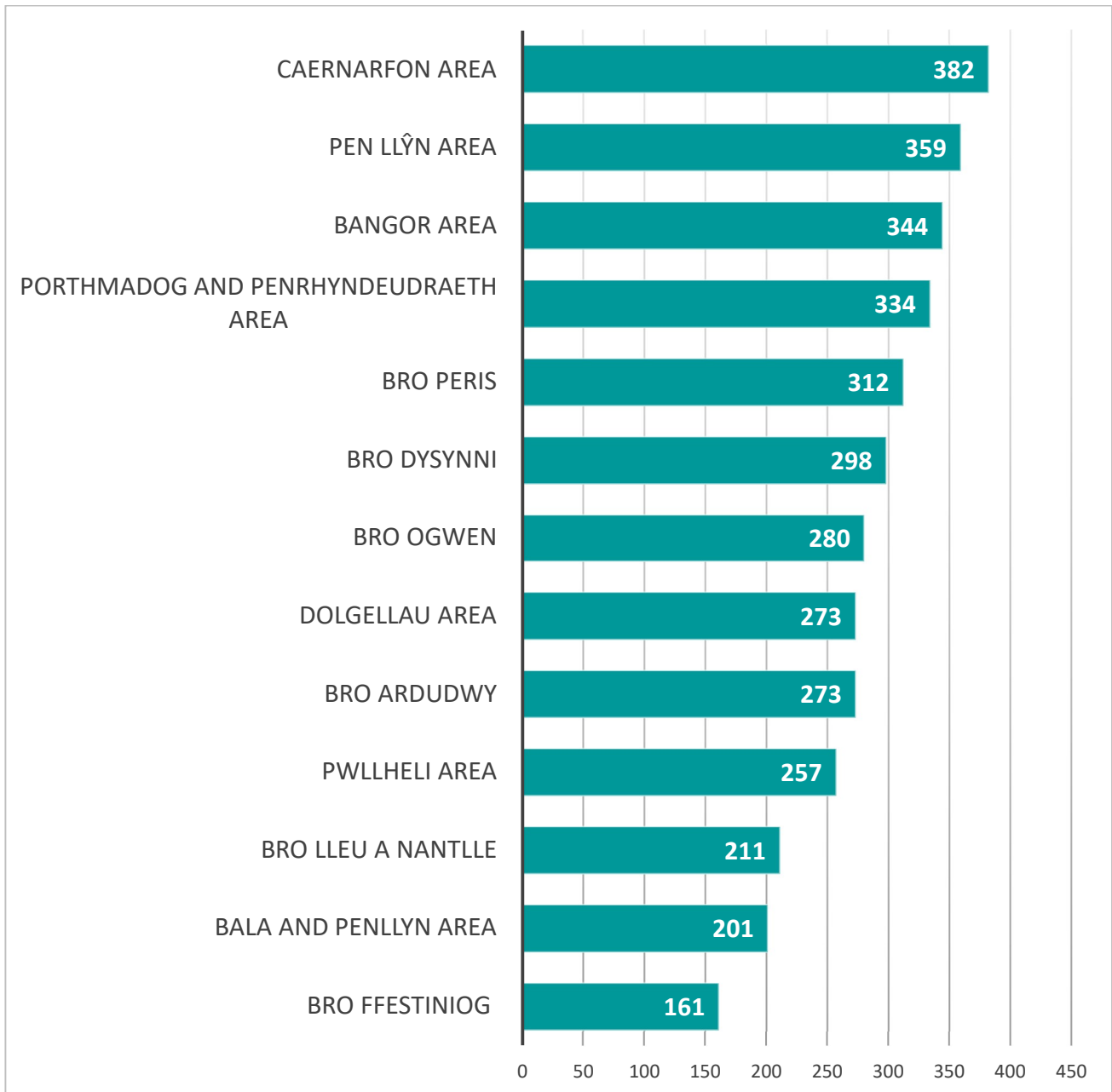
- GISDA Blaenau Ffestiniog – A discussion session with members of the Young People Board and a session with members of the GISDA LGBT+ Club.
- GISDA Caernarfon – A discussion session with members of the GISDA LGBT+ Club.
- GISDA Pwllheli - A discussion session with members of the GISDA LGBT+ Club.
- Dementia Actif Gwynedd, Barmouth - A discussion session after the physical exercises.
- Dementia Actif Gwynedd, Dolgellau - A discussion session after the physical exercises.
- Dementia Actif, Nefyn - A discussion session after playing Boccia at Tafarn yr Heliwr.
- Dementia Actif, Caernarfon - A discussion session after the physical exercises.

# 2 County Overview

**3,776** individuals across Gwynedd took the opportunity to have their say:

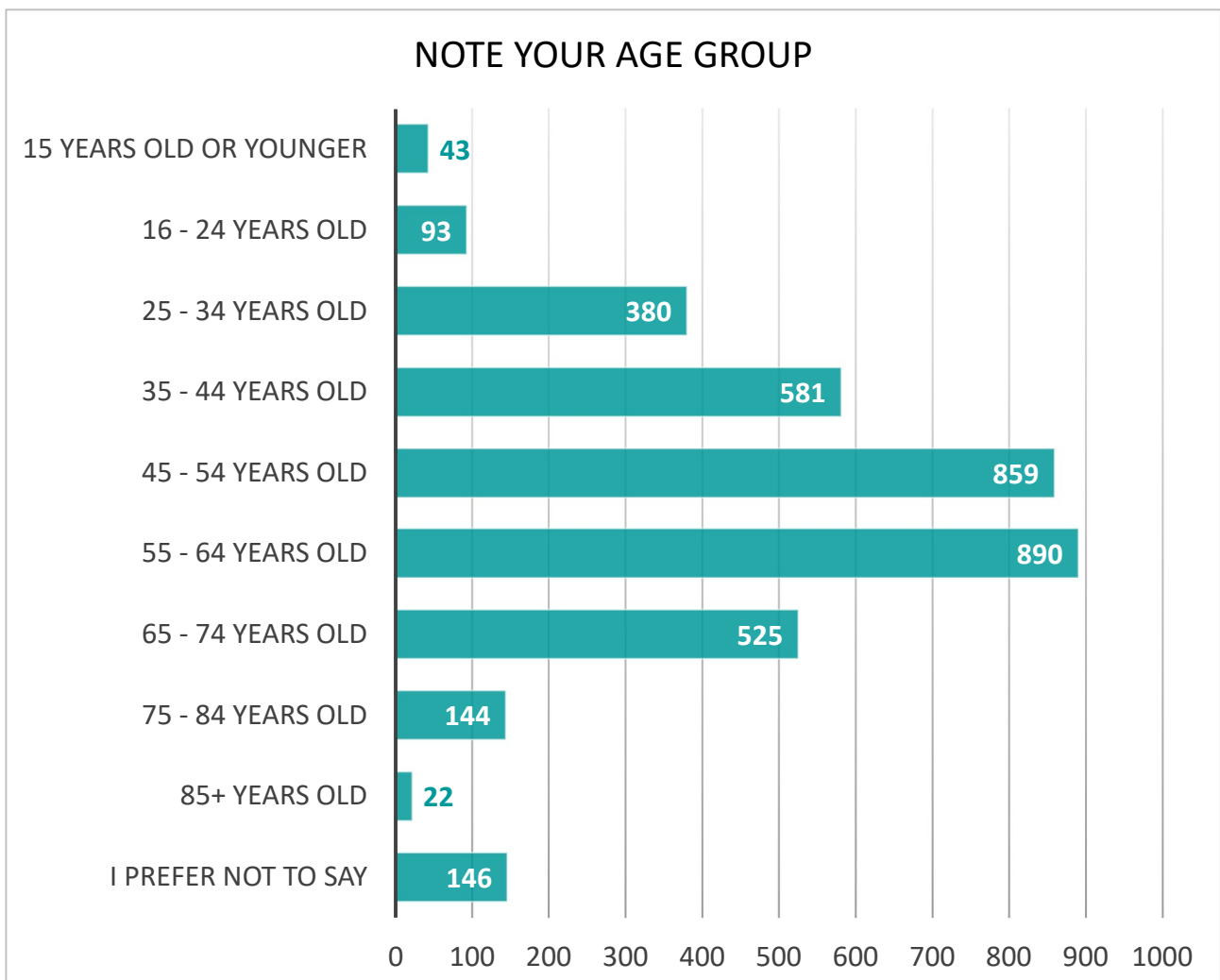
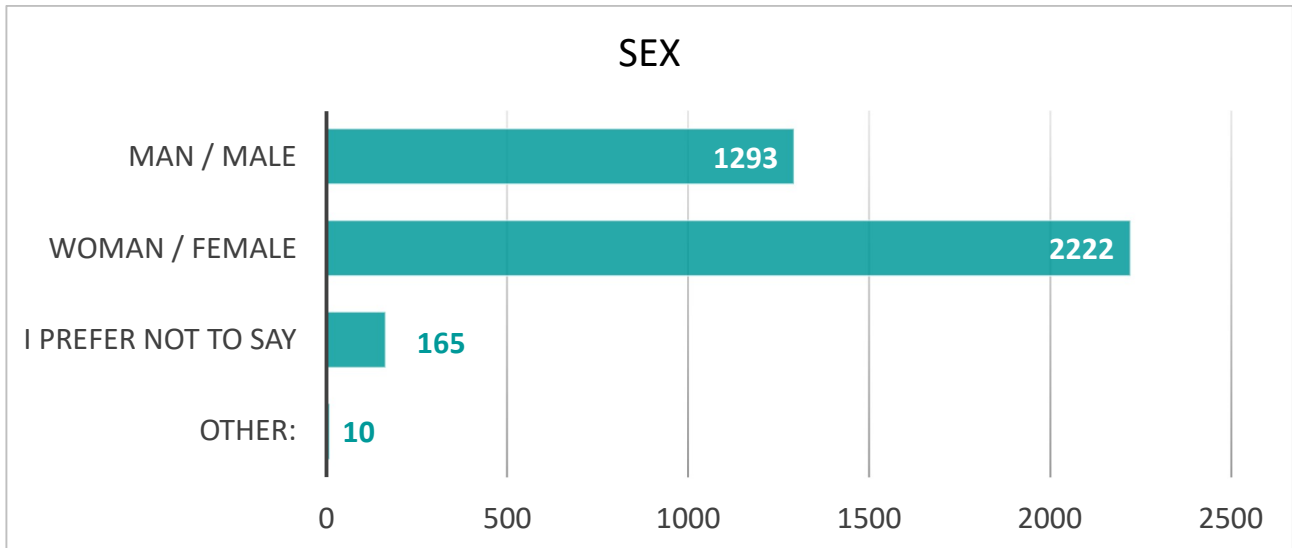
- **3,675** of these completed the online survey.
- **10** completed the paper survey that was available in libraries, 'Siop Gwynedd' or by phone request.
- **6** completed the 'Easy read' version of the survey.
- **85** people attended face to face sessions for **young people, young people in the LGBT+ community, older people and people living with dementia.**

## 2.1 Number of respondents per area\*

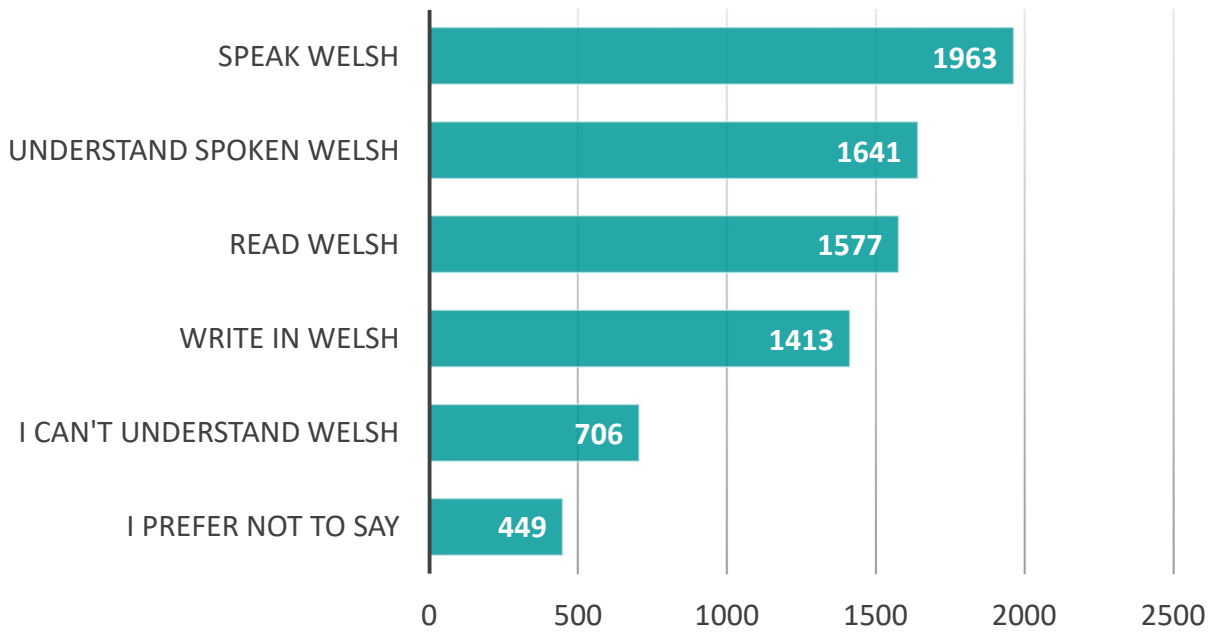


\*For the online and paper survey.

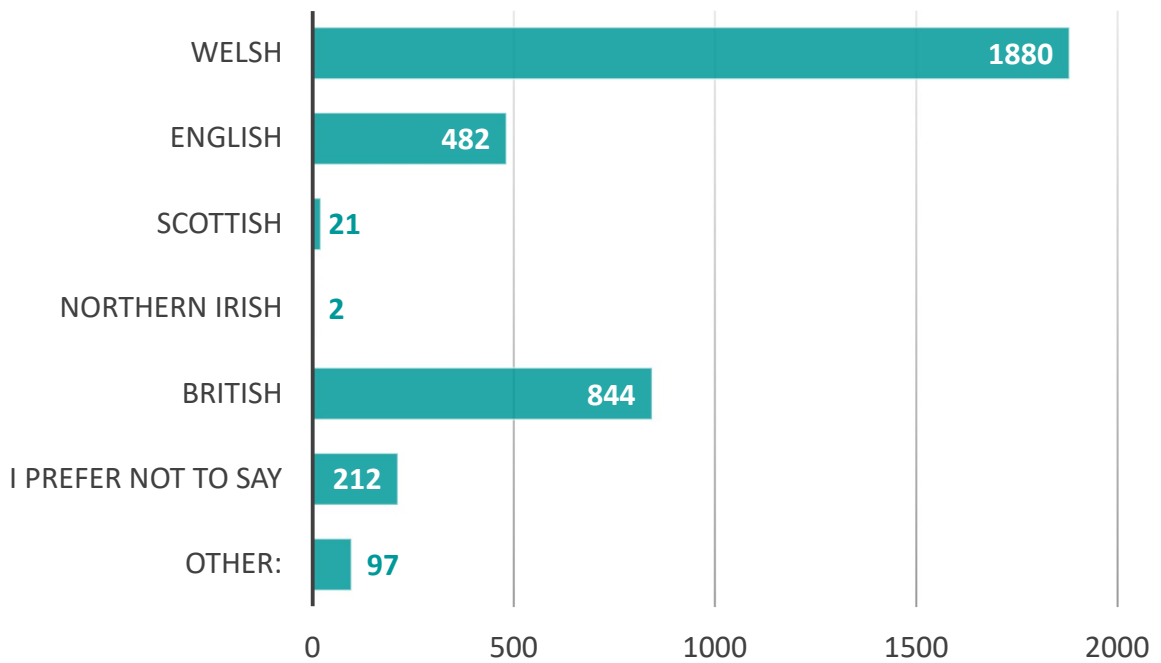
## 2.2 Overview of the Respondents to the Public Survey for Gwynedd



## CAN YOU UNDERSTAND, SPEAK, READ AND/OR WRITE IN WELSH?

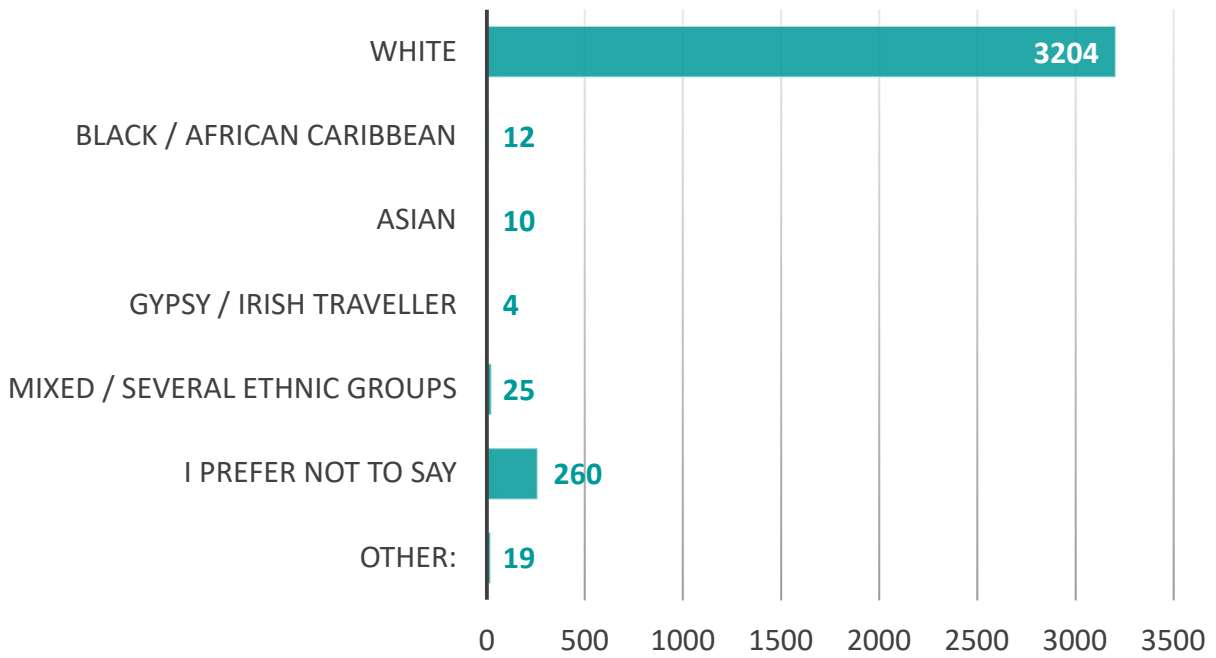


## NATIONALITY OR NATIONAL IDENTITY?

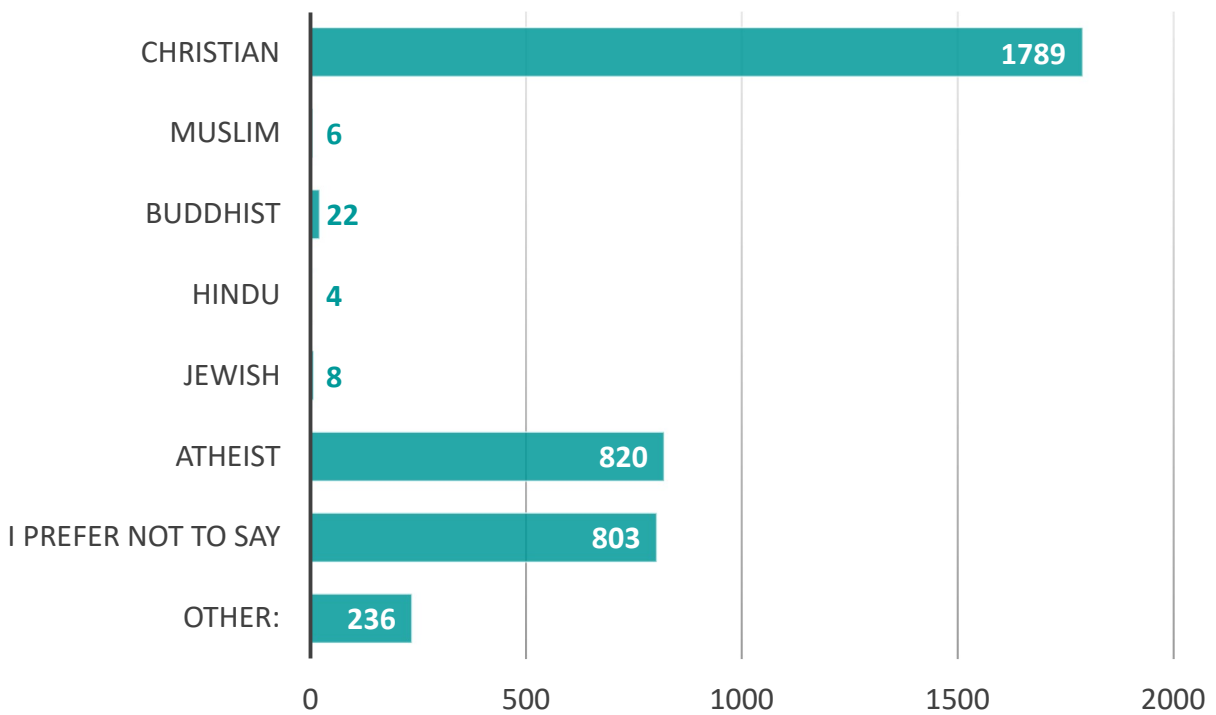




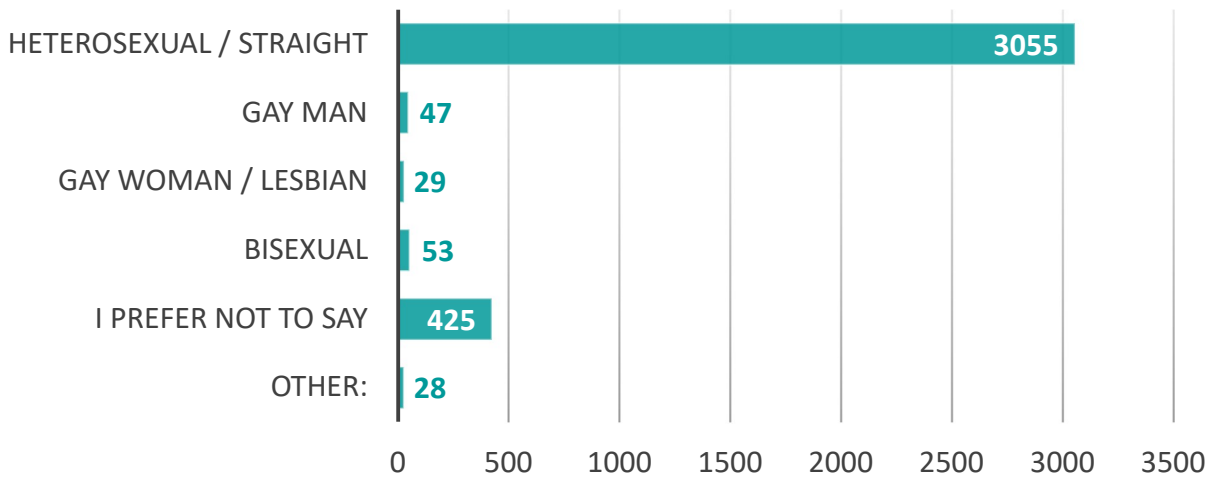
### WHAT IS YOUR RACE?



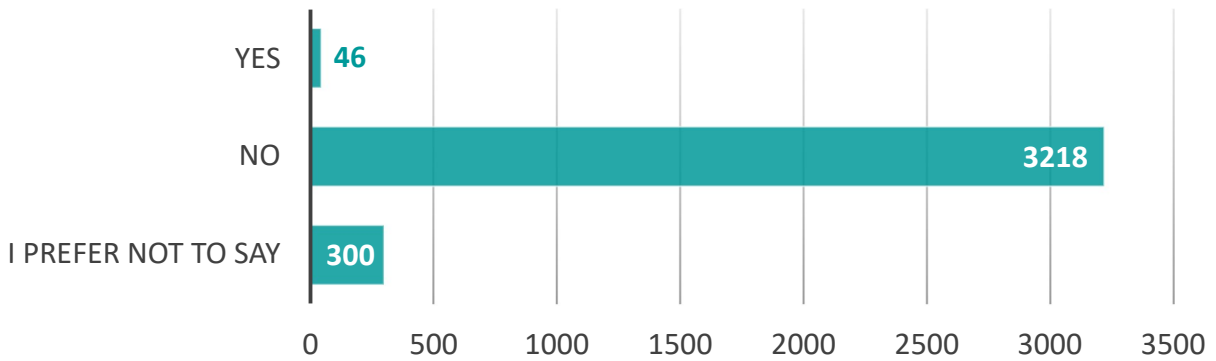
### WHAT IS YOUR RELIGION?



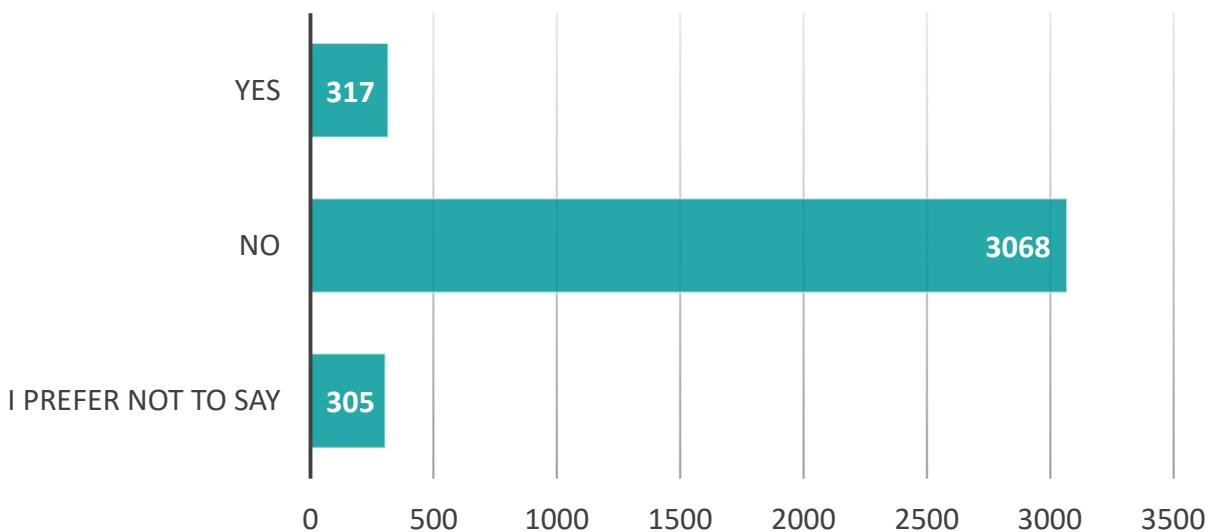
### WHICH OF THESE BEST DESCRIBES YOU?



### HAS YOUR GENDER IDENTIFICATION CHANGED FROM WHEN YOU WERE BORN?



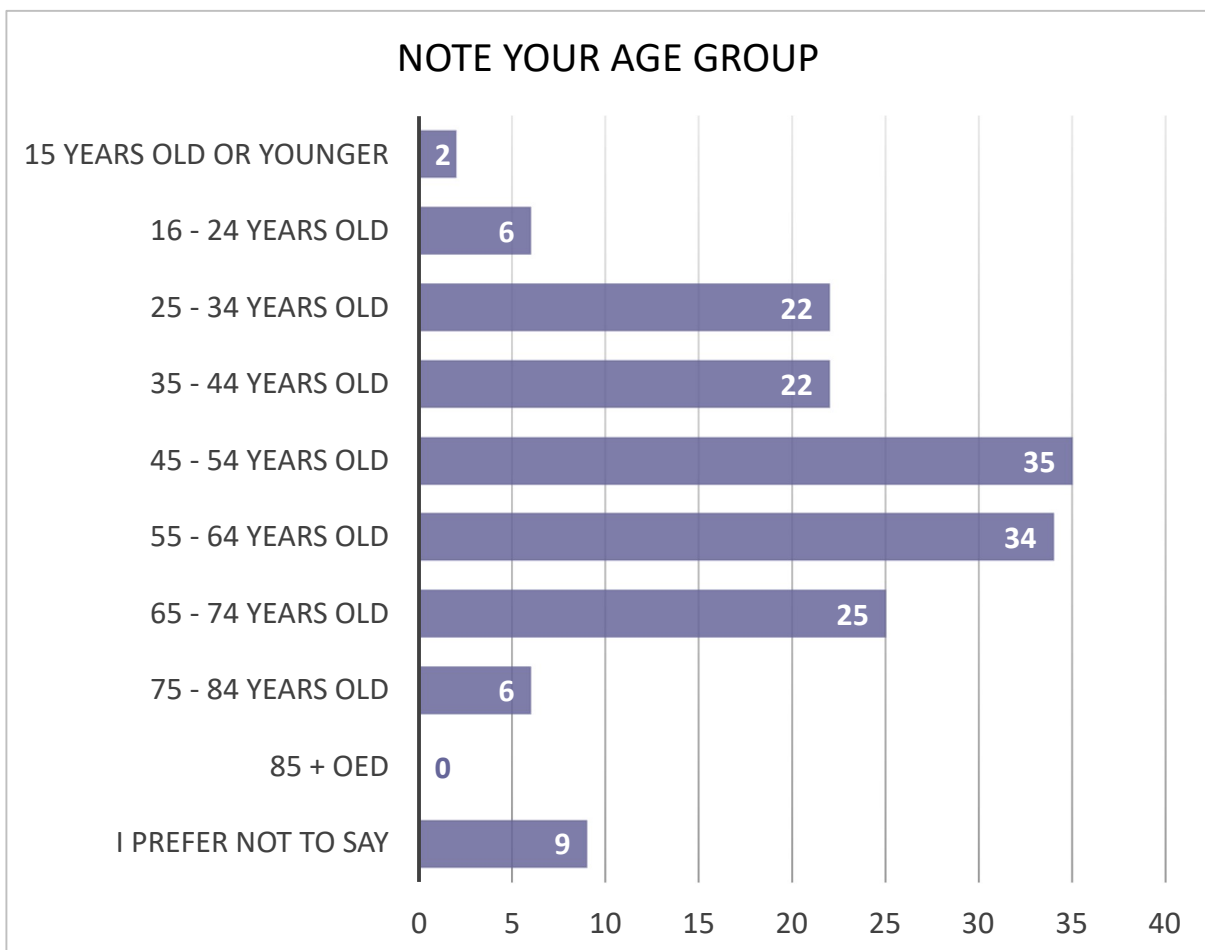
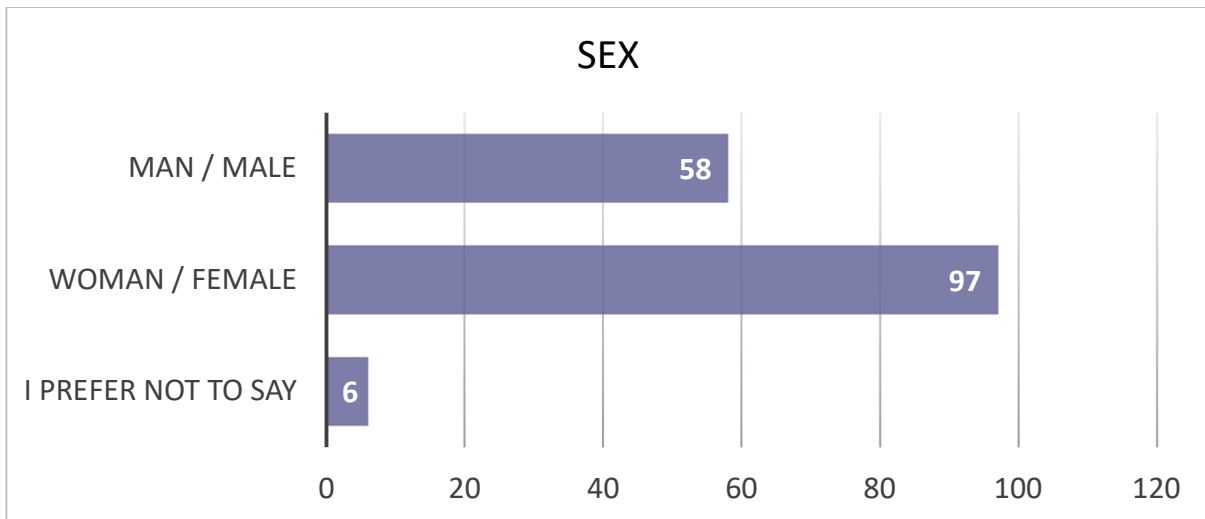
### DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A DISABLED PERSON?



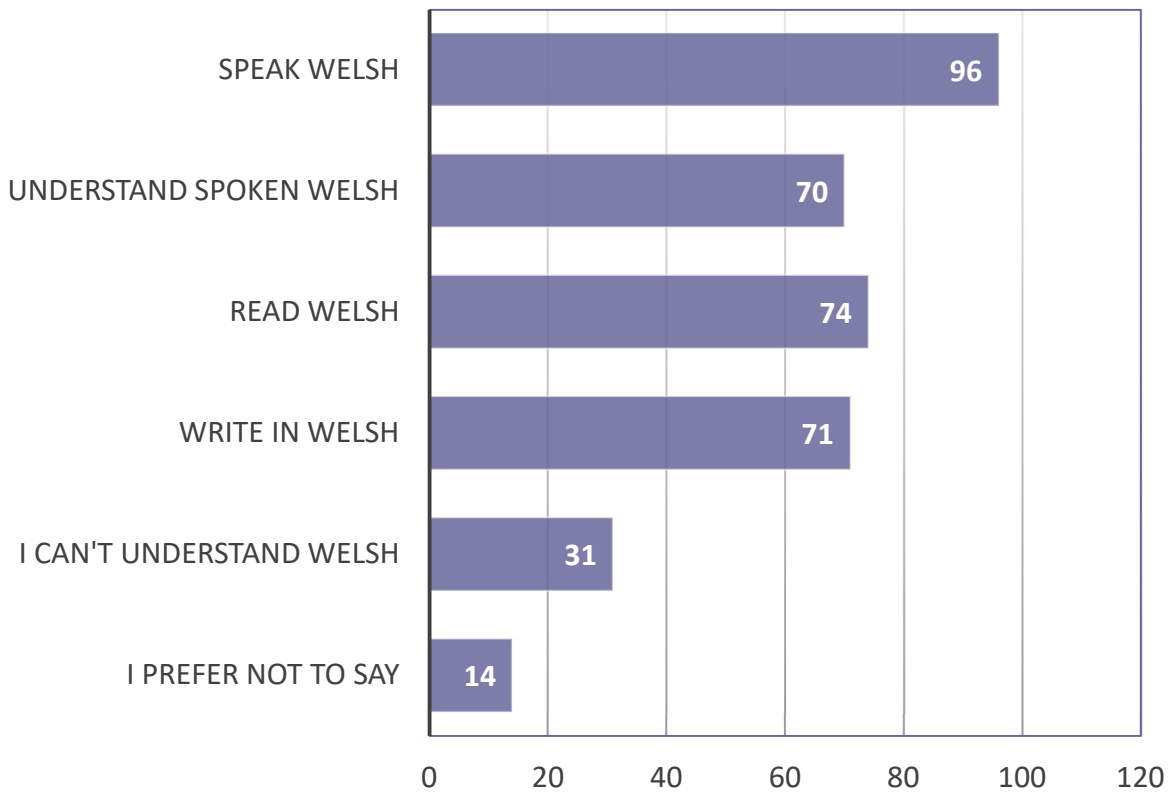
# 3 Bro Ffestiniog Results

### 3.1 Overview of the Respondents to the Public Survey for Bro Ffestiniog

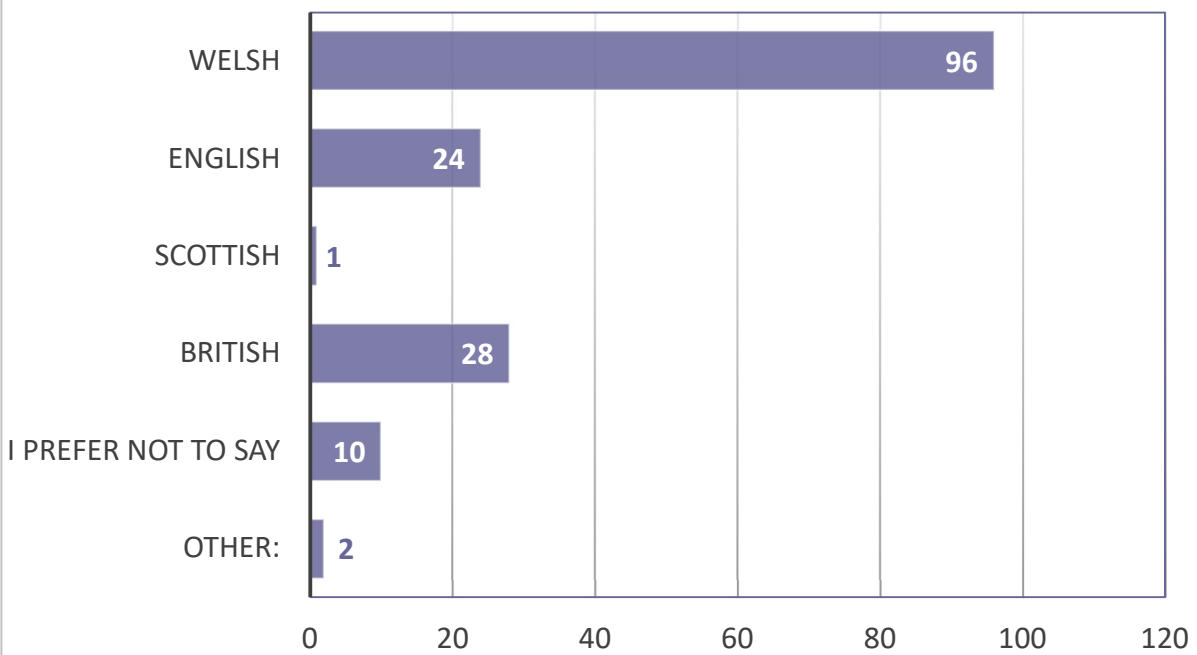
3.2 The Our Area 2035 survey for Bro Ffestiniog received **161** responses.



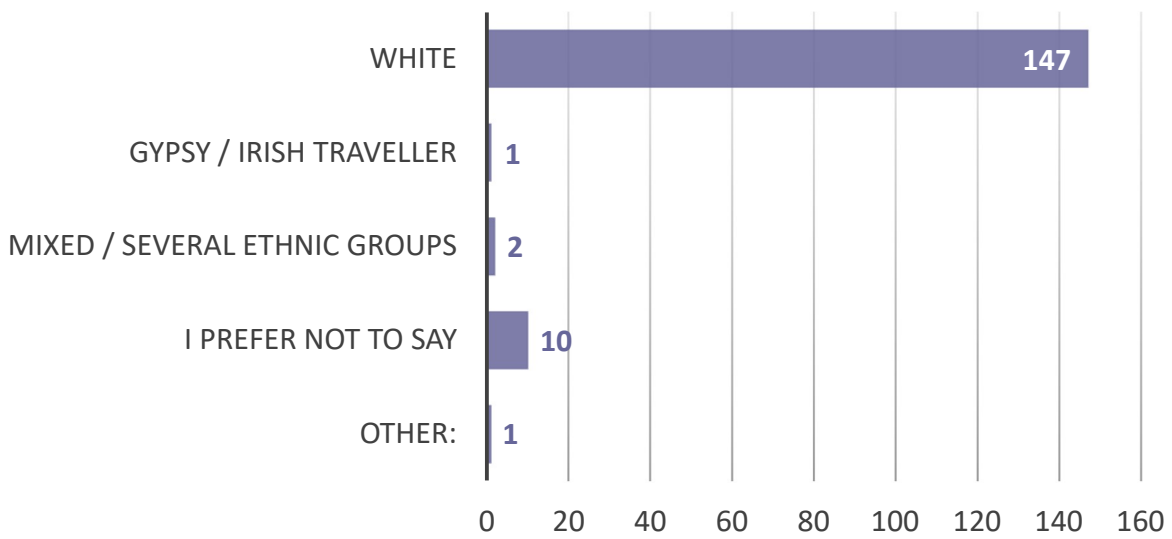
### CAN YOU UNDERSTAND, SPEAK, READ AND/OR WRITE IN WELSH?



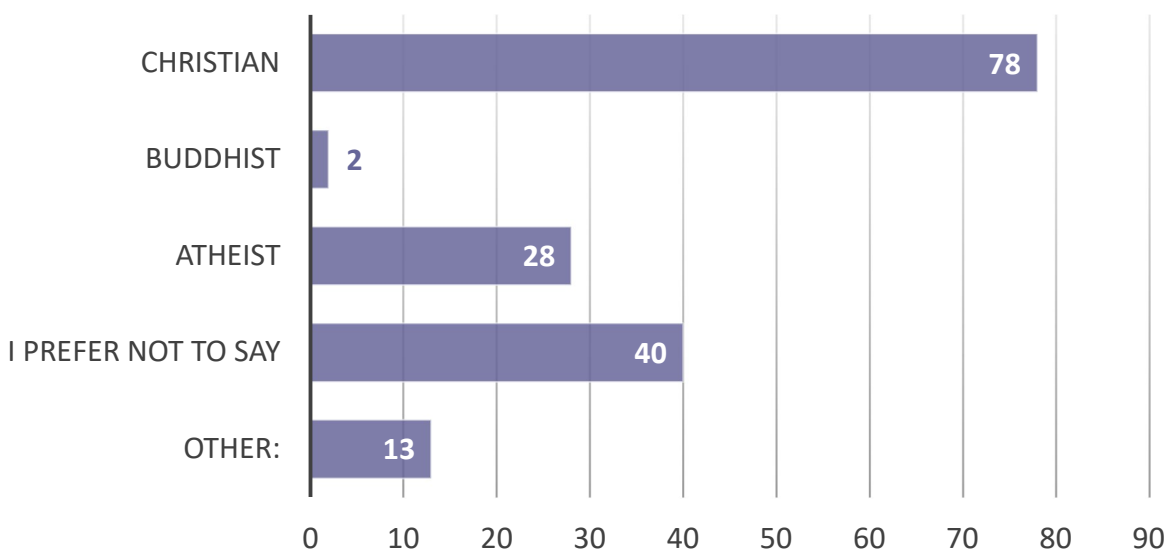
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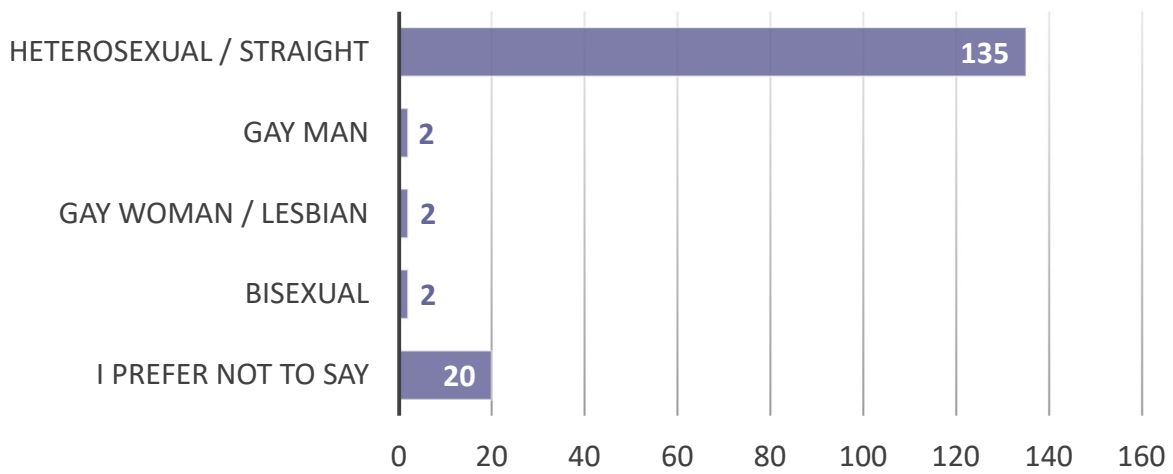
### WHAT IS YOUR RACE?



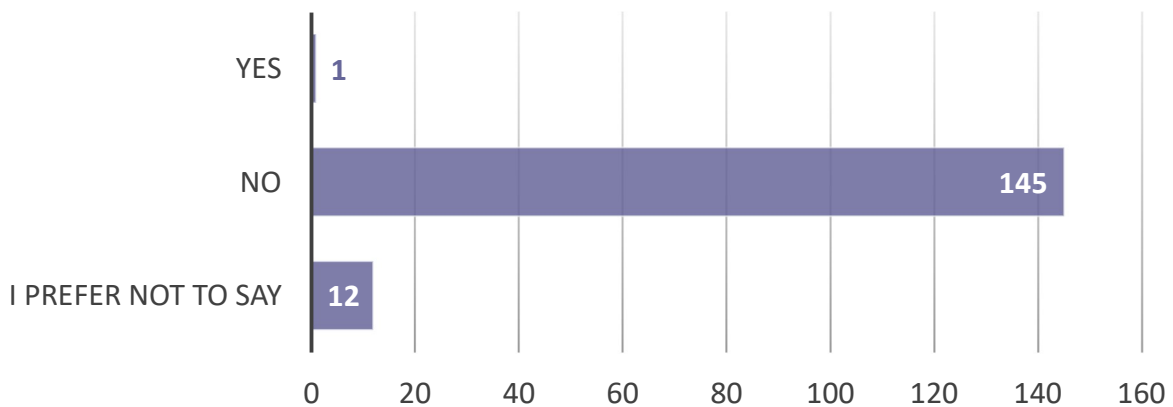
### WHAT IS YOUR RELIGION?



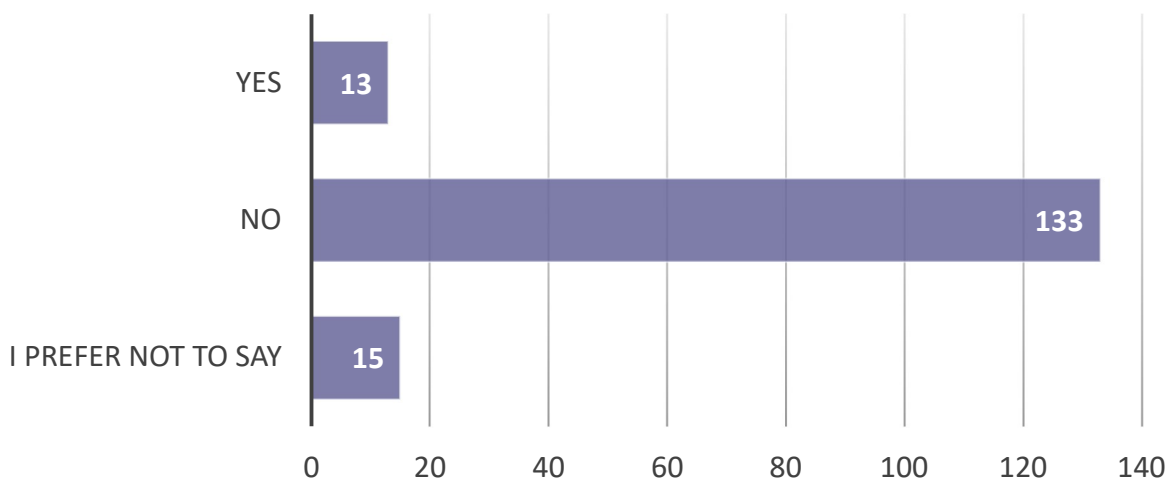
### WHICH OF THESE BEST DESCRIBES YOU?



### HAS YOUR GENDER IDENTIFICATION CHANGED FROM WHEN YOU WERE BORN?



### DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A DISABLED PERSON?



## 4 Number of respondents per town or village in Bro Ffestiniog.

4.1 The table below shows the number of respondents per town or village in Bro Ffestiniog,

<b>Town/village</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>
• Blaenau Ffestiniog	<b>71</b>
• Llan Ffestiniog	<b>19</b>
• Trawsfynydd	<b>19</b>
• Manod	<b>18</b>
• Gellilydan	<b>11</b>
• Maentwrog	<b>10</b>
• Tanygrisiau	<b>8</b>
• Other:	<b>3</b>
• Bethania	<b>2</b>



## 5 What is good about Bro Ffestiniog?

- 5.1 The table below lists the themes prioritised by Community/ Town Councils, organisations, groups and local Members of Bro Ffestiniog. As part of the public engagement consultation, the residents of Bro Ffestiniog were invited to choose up to 5 themes that they agreed with the most.

<b>What <u>is good</u> about Bro Ffestiniog?</b>	<b>Number of times the theme was prioritised</b>
• The heritage and history of the area	<b>134</b>
• The natural environment and proximity to mountains and countryside	<b>125</b>
• The Welsh language and culture	<b>99</b>
• Community spirit and friendliness	<b>91</b>
• It's a safe area	<b>72</b>
• Education provision and good schools	<b>42</b>
• The area's ability to attract tourism for economic benefit	<b>39</b>
• Hardworking organisations, charities, enterprises and voluntary groups in the area	<b>33</b>
• Good road links	<b>27</b>
• Good local health service and provision	<b>23</b>
• The area's local produce and businesses	<b>13</b>

- 5.2 In response to the question '**Note anything else that is good about the Bro Ffestiniog area that isn't mentioned above**', 29 additional comments were received from the residents of Bro Ffestiniog. A number of the additional responses offered further comments about the above themes e.g. The natural environment (n=6), community spirit and friendliness (n=6) and local produce and businesses in the area (n=2).

Of the comments that noted something else that is good about the area, the most popular themes were:

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Number of respondents who noted this</b>
• Public Transport links e.g. rail and bus links	<b>3</b>
• A number of activities e.g. cycling and climbing	<b>2</b>

- 5.3 In addition to the above, face-to-face sessions were organised with young people and young people from the LGBT+ community in conjunction with the charity GISDA. These comments can be seen in Appendix A.
- 5.4 All additional comments received will be considered as part of the work to develop plans for the area.

## 6 What is not so good about Bro Ffestiniog?

6.1 The table below lists the themes prioritised by Community/ Town Councils, organisations, groups and local Members of Bro Ffestiniog. As part of the public engagement consultation, the residents of Bro Ffestiniog were invited to choose up to 5 themes that they agreed with the most.

<b>What is <u>not so good</u> about Bro Ffestiniog?</b>	<b>Number of times the theme was prioritised</b>
• The lack of high salary and full-time jobs	<b>82</b>
• No opportunities to keep young people in the area	<b>82</b>
• The local economy is fragile, there is not enough support for businesses and shops are closing	<b>79</b>
• The appearance of the High Street and litter is a problem	<b>67</b>
• The high number of second homes and holiday homes in the area	<b>65</b>
• The lack of suitable and affordable housing for local people to buy or rent	<b>63</b>
• Poverty and high living costs are a problem in the area	<b>61</b>
• Area not considered a priority – Gwynedd Council has forgotten about the area or not aware of local needs	<b>54</b>
• The lack of provision and activities for young people	<b>48</b>
• The public transport network in the area is inadequate	<b>45</b>
• Concern about the area’s health, well-being and care provision	<b>33</b>
• The Welsh Language and culture is losing ground and there is a lack of opportunities for Welsh learners	<b>16</b>
• Community mindset about the area	<b>14</b>
• No youth and early years service	<b>12</b>
• Education provision	<b>6</b>

6.2 In response to the question ‘**Note anything else that is not so good about the Bro Ffestiniog area that isn’t mentioned above**’, 57 additional comments were received from the residents of Bro Ffestiniog. A number of these additional responses offered further comments about the themes above e.g. The high number of second homes and holiday homes in the area (n=6); The lack of provision and activities for young people / No youth and early years service (n=6); The local economy is fragile, there is not enough support for businesses and shops are closing (n=6); The appearance of the High Street and litter is a problem (n=4).

Of the comments that noted something else that is not so good about the area, the most popular themes were:

Theme	Number of respondents who noted this
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substance misuse and anti-social behaviour in the area.</li> </ul>	<b>5</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of walking and cycling routes that connect the villages in the area</li> </ul>	<b>4</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of after school childcare and mother and baby groups</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Service concerns e.g. lack of dentist in the area</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>

6.3 In addition to the above, face-to-face sessions were organised with young people and young people from the LGBT+ community in conjunction with the charity GISDA. These comments can be seen in Appendix A.

6.4 All additional comments received will be considered as part of the work to develop plans for the area.

## 7 What changes would you like to see happen in Bro Ffestiniog in the next 15 years, that would make the area a better place to live?

7.1 The table below lists the themes prioritised by Community/ Town Councils, organisations, groups and local Members of Bro Ffestiniog. As part of the public engagement consultation, the residents of Bro Ffestiniog were invited to choose up to 5 themes that they agreed with the most.

What changes would you like to see happen in the area in the next 15 years, that would make the area a better place to live?	Number of times the theme was prioritised
• Schemes to secure high value work and jobs	94
• Plans to support local businesses and enterprises and plans to transform the image of the High Street	82
• Schemes to ensure suitable housing for the needs of local people	68
• Plans to develop a public transport network that is accessible, integrated and suitable for the local needs of the area	59
• Plans to tackle poverty	56
• A greener area – more renewable energy schemes, reducing plastic use, setting up car charging points, tree planting schemes etc	52
• More plans for providing activities and support for young people	49
• An effective Sustainable Tourism Scheme to better control tourism and maximise the economic potential for local people	50
• Plans to strengthen local health and care resources	48
• Plans to develop the Centre in town	38
• Plans and support for activities that promote the Welsh language and culture and support for Welsh learners	36
• Plans to establish and develop more companies and co-operatives	24
• Support to host events in the area	21
• Improvements in education provision	18
• Plans to develop an affordable childcare policy	17

- 7.2 In response to the question **‘Note anything else that you think isn’t mentioned above’**, **34** additional comments were received from Bro Ffestiniog residents. A number of the additional responses offered further comments about the above themes e.g. Plans to support local businesses and enterprises and plans to transform the image of the High Street (n=5); Schemes to ensure suitable housing for the needs of local people (n=5); Schemes to secure high value work and jobs (n=3).

Of the comments that noted something else, the most popular were:

Theme	Number of respondents who noted this
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop safe cycling and walking routes</li> </ul>	<b>2</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road safety and parking issues</li> </ul>	<b>2</b>

- 7.3 In addition to the above, face-to-face sessions were organised with young people and young people from the LGBT+ community in conjunction with the charity GISDA. These comments can be seen in Appendix A.
- 7.4 All additional comments received will be considered as part of the work to develop plans for the area.

## 8 Next steps

- 8.1 During the autumn, all the feedback we have received from the residents and organisations of Bro Ffestiniog will be considered during workshops with local organisation as part of work to develop Local Action Plans.
- 8.2 The Action Plan will seek to incorporate the projects and activities of a wider range of organisations that contribute to the improvement and regeneration of the Bro Ffestiniog area.
- 8.3 As part of the Regeneration Framework, arrangements will be set in place to monitor and co-ordinate the implementation of the Action Plan, taking into account existing working arrangements and partnerships.
- 8.4 The timetable for the next steps are:
- Workshops with Local organisations : October / November 2022
  - Draft Action Plans prepared : March 2023
  - Comments and additions received to the draft document : April 2023
  - Revised Action Plans prepared : April / May 2023
  - Monitoring and co-ordination arrangements in place : May 2023
- 8.5 Details of the Local Action Plans will be available on Cyngor Gwynedd’s website ([www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru](http://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru))
- 8.6 We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who have taken the time to give their opinion and to contribute to the work of improving and strengthening our communities.

# Appendix A

## **LGBT+ club at GISDA - Blaenau Ffestiniog (22/6/2).**

### **What is good about the Bro Ffestiniog area?**

- Plenty of places to walk
- GISDA – groups for young people and LGBT+ community
- Kebab shop

### **What is not so good about the Bro Ffestiniog area?**

- A feeling that nothing is being done about the drug use in the area
- Matters relating to education
- Don't feel safe at night
- Perception of a lack of police presence on the streets
- Bus Transport is poor, the timetables don't get updated regularly enough
- Prejudice
- Vandalism in the skate park
- Rubbish everywhere
- Bins get broken when collected
- No bike riding or safety lessons provided.
- Perception of prejudice against people who don't speak Welsh in the area and visitors.
- Not enough bilingual information
- The community feel like they've been left behind
- Nothing for young people to do in the area
- No jobs in the area – the Transport isn't adequate enough to get jobs outside of the area.

### **What changes would you like to see happen in the area in the next 15 years, that would make the area a better place to live?**

- Look at different matters within the education sector
- Better transport
- More affordable shopping – Lidl/Aldi
- More activities in the area
- More creative opportunities in the area
- Create more jobs in the area



## Young people board GISDA - Blaenau Ffestiniog - 7/6/22

### What is good about the Bro Ffestiniog area?

- Scenery, Transport, nice places to walk around the area
- Kebab shop
- The people and the community
- The swimming pool
- GISDA – the give free tokens for the gym or to go swimming
- The gym
- Cell B – Clwb clink
- Youth Shedz
- Dref werdd – arrange litter picking sessions
- The Council's homeless Service
- Welsh is strongly used in Ysgol y Moelwyn.

### What is not so good about Bro Ffestiniog area?

- Some young people do not respect the area e.g. littering, vandalism (Youth shedz, skate park), arson, anti-social behaviour (the benches by the train station were taken away because of this.)
- Drugs are a big problem in the area, much worst after coronavirus
- No job opportunities in the area – low wages
- The high Street is poor, lot of businesses have closed after Coronavirus.
- Transport connections are poor, not reliable. Local people depend on them to have jobs outside of the area, but they are often unpredictable. Time-tables not updating is a problem. Only one bus goes to Dolgellau in a day and it's the college bus.
- The housing situation is difficult – costs, availability, housing support is poor, only offered support when it's too late.
- Feeling that social services support is poor.
- No job centres here (closest is Porthmadog), because transport is poor it's difficult to attend appointments, you have to wait for an evening bus to get transport back to Blaenau Ffestiniog.
- Health care – lack of mental health support, support is offered when it's too late, no sexual health clinics, very long waiting times for ambulance.
- Perception of a lack of police presence in the area, we need police officer that can speak Welsh.
- Road safety is a concern for the community – Cars speed through the village and some riding dangerously.

- Cuts to grants which were available to young people – you used to be able to get money for clothes.
- The leisure centre – The gym is available to the public but the times are inconsistent. It's also expensive for local people.
- The community is isolated – no feeling of community, especially between young people and older people, there isn't an opportunity for them to communicate with each other.
- Children are bored, nothing to keep them entertained, this often leads them to trouble.
- Cost of living is getting worse, we are already at breaking point.
- No cheap food shops like Aldi and Lidl, we have to shop in Co-op or Londis where prices are much higher.
- Skate-park is very poor, it's often vandalised and is a popular area for drugs users, needles, spoons and glass is often found on the floor. Cell B 'Clink' is trying to get funding to improve the park, or buy equipment for their own indoor skate park.
- There are often problems with bin collection, they often get stolen or broken.
- Driving – more support for young people to afford lessons, licence and a test.
- The hostel is in a poor state (this contributes towards mental health problems)
- No bank in the area, a big problem for the elderly
- No CCTV
- No youth clubs – they do have 'Youth Shedz' as a substitute.

### **What changes would you like to see happen in Bro Ffestiniog in the next 15 years, that would make the area a better place to live?**

- Have the police go to the school to talk with children, better feel of community and support.
- Have 'Cuppa with a copper' sessions where the community can have a discussion. It would be good to introduce this to children at school so they can get comfortable talking with the team.
- McDonalds
- More greenery in the village – plant flowers
- Free transport passes for Young people under 25 or on low income.
- More free opportunities, income is very low, most can't afford to take part in activities.
- Establish community support – picking up litter in places such as the skate park could be part of this.
- More support for the school to show opportunities in the area.
- Improve the hostel though engaging with the residents to make it homely – something similar to what they have done in Caernarfon with Co-production Network for Wales.
- Free period Products
- More activities and local events

- More grants available to cost community events
- More volunteering opportunities
- Want to start a youth board with the Council
- The school to teach more life lessons 'cooking, finance, sexual health, government, voting'
- Get Cyngor Gwynedd to help and give support to 'Welsh youth parliament'



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