

Our Area 2035

Results of the Public Engagement Exercise

(February – June 2022)

Dolgellau Area.



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 **9** Community/Town Councils, organisations, groups and local Members in the Dolgellau area 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:

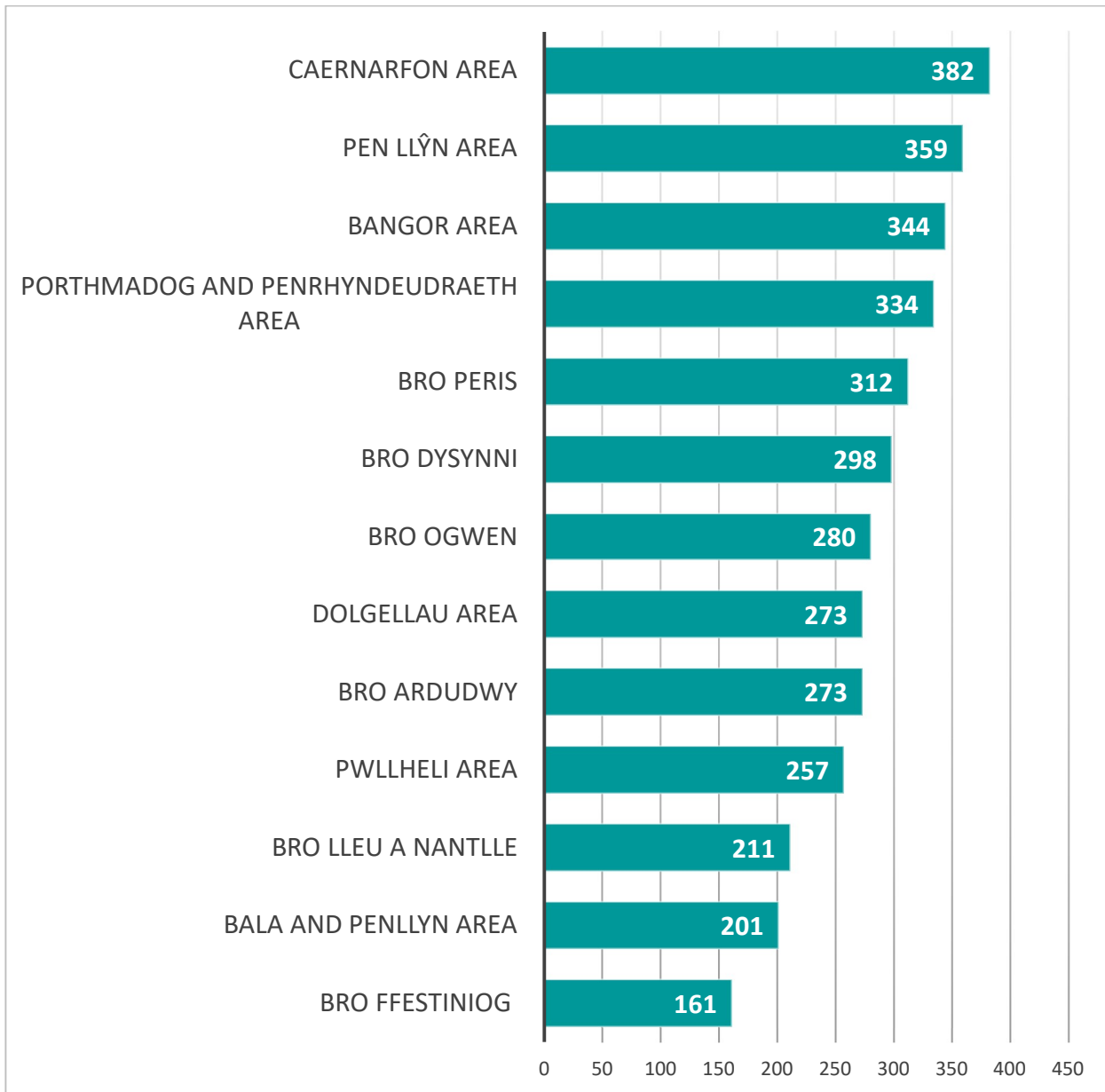
- GISDA Blaenau Ffestiniog – A discussion session with members of the Young People Board and a session with members of the GISDA LGBT+ Club.
- GISDA Caernarfon – A discussion session with members of the GISDA LGBT+ Club.
- GISDA Pwllheli - A discussion session with members of the GISDA LGBT+ Club.
- 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:

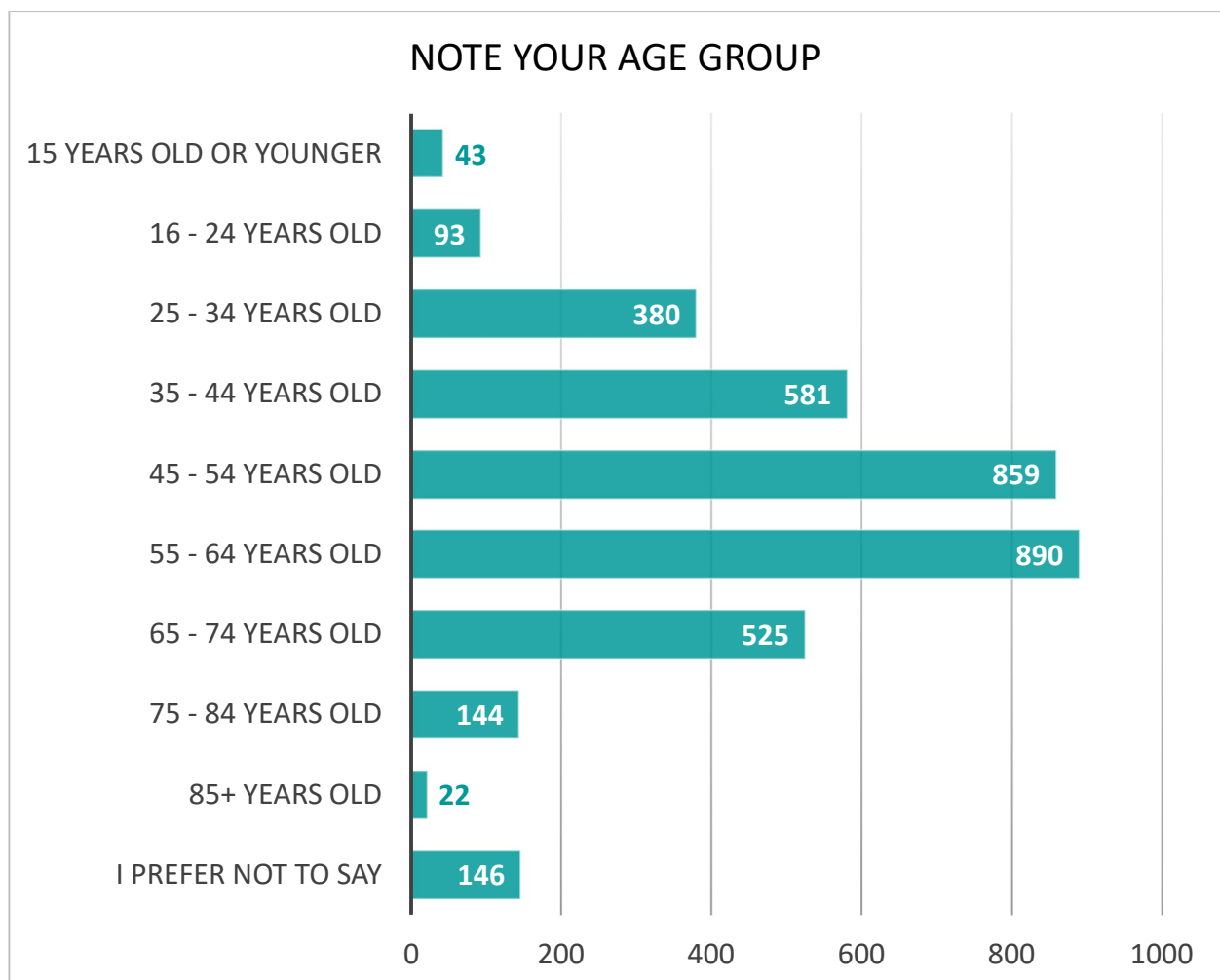
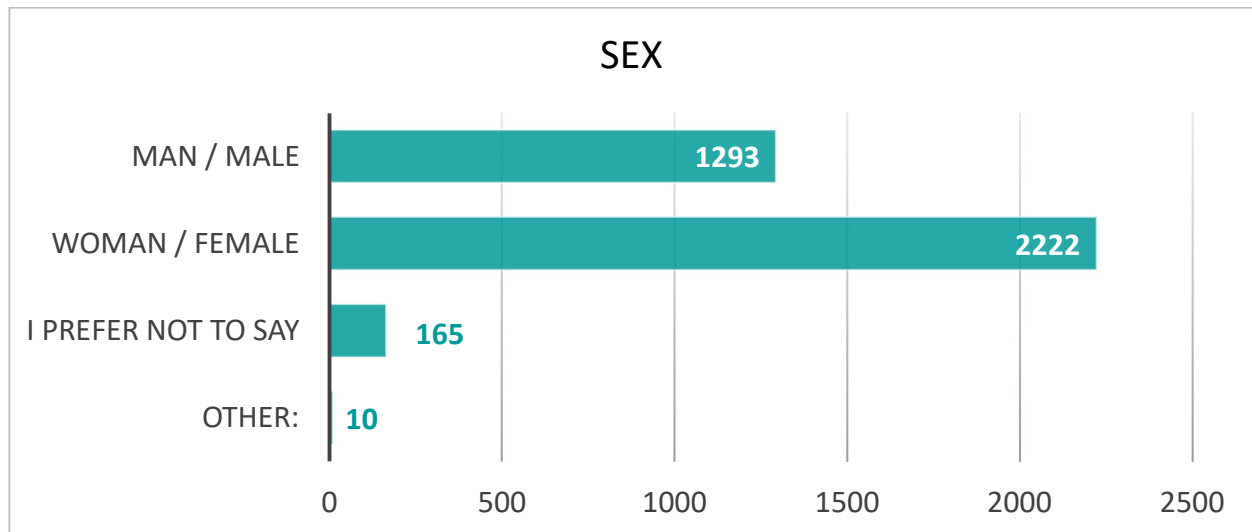
- **3,675** of these completed the online survey.
- **10** completed the paper survey that was available in libraries, 'Siop Gwynedd' or by phone request.
- **6** completed the 'Easy read' version of the survey.
- **85** people attended face to face sessions for **young people, young people in the LGBT+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

2.1 Number of respondents per area*

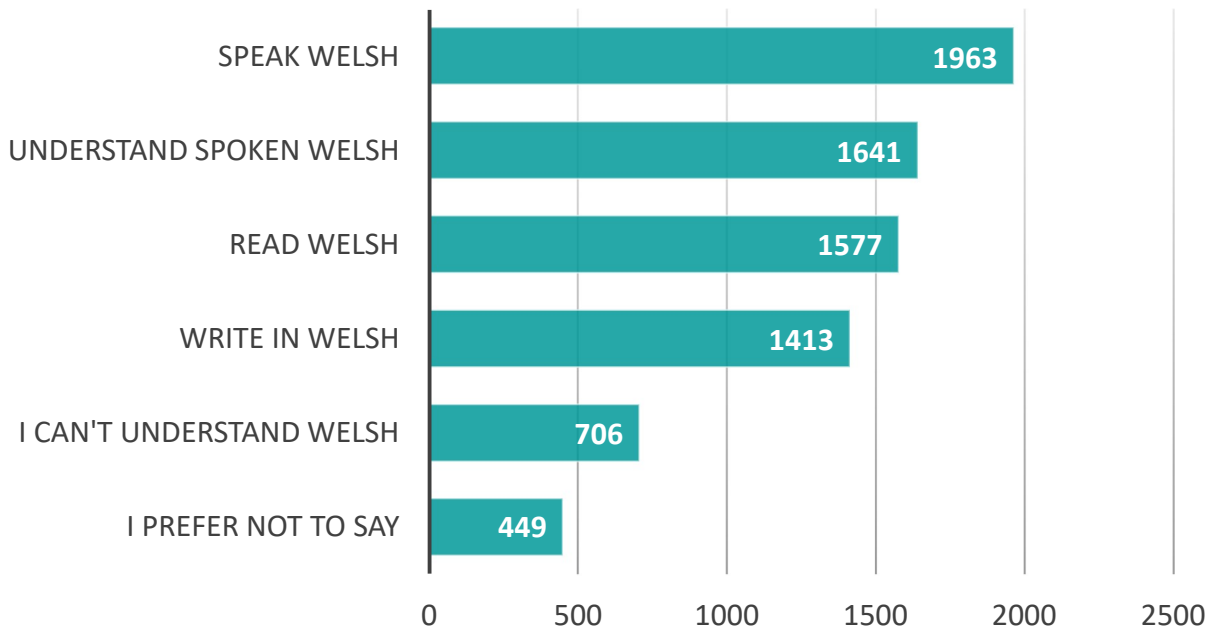


*For the online and paper survey.

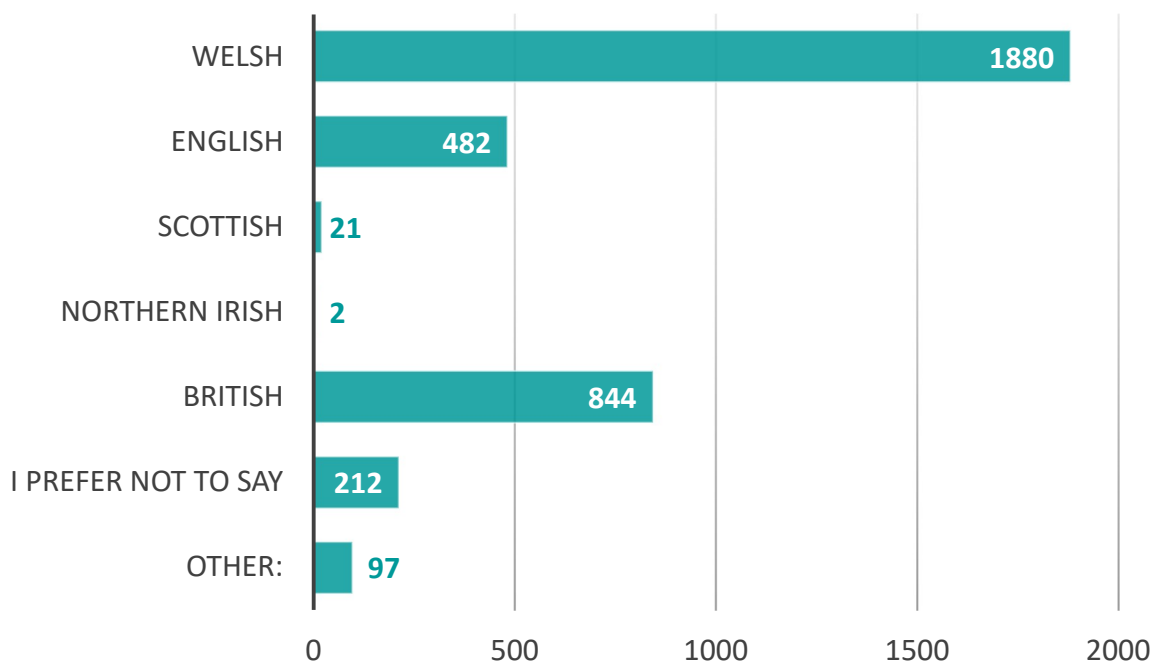
2.2 Overview of the Respondents to the Public Survey for Gwynedd



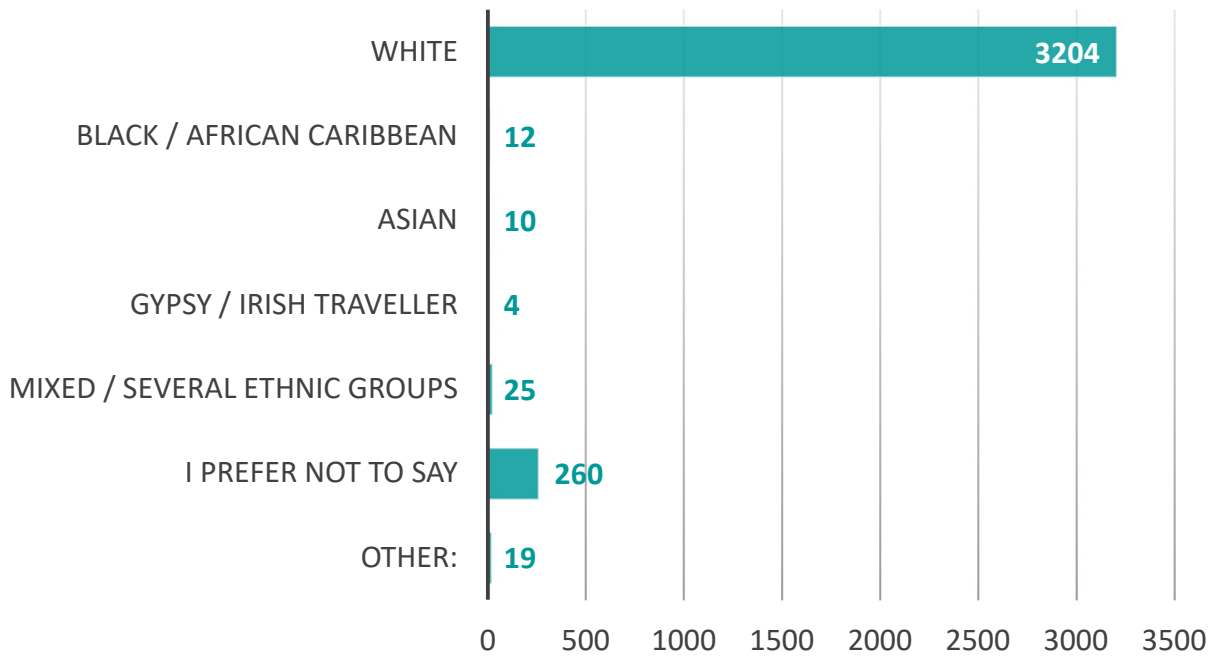
CAN YOU UNDERSTAND, SPEAK, READ AND/OR WRITE IN WELSH?



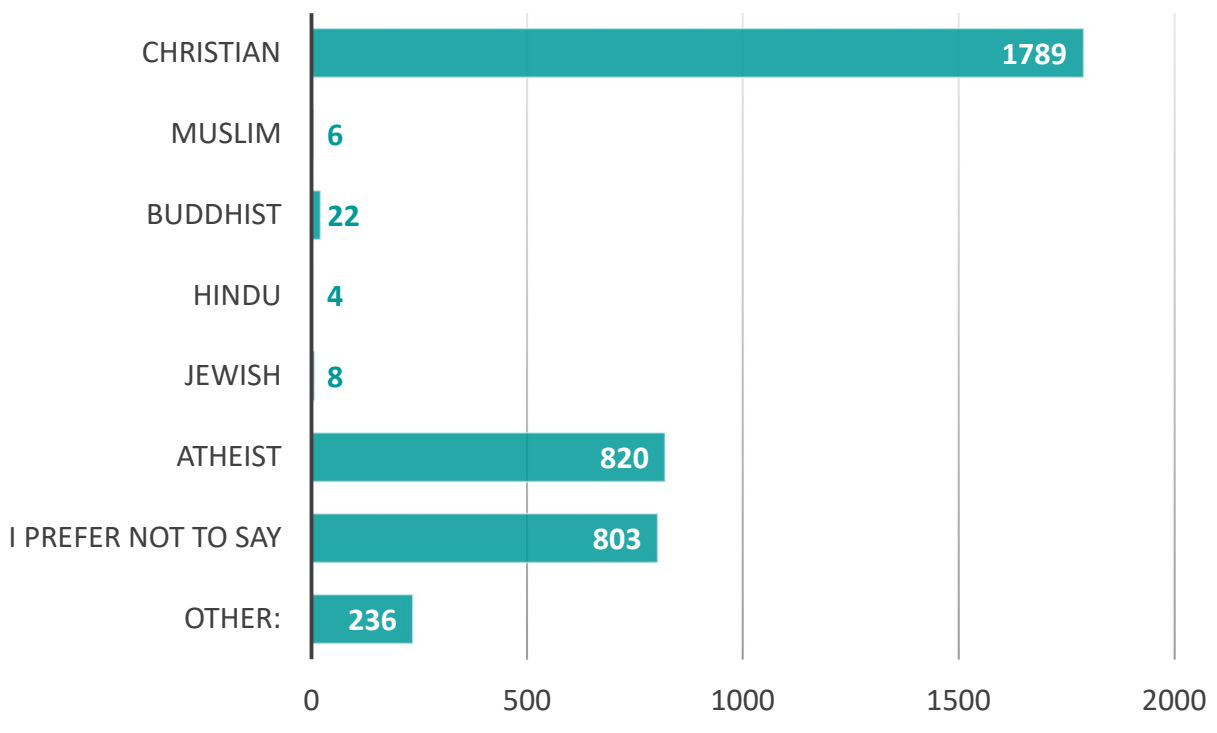
NATIONALITY OR NATIONAL IDENTITY?



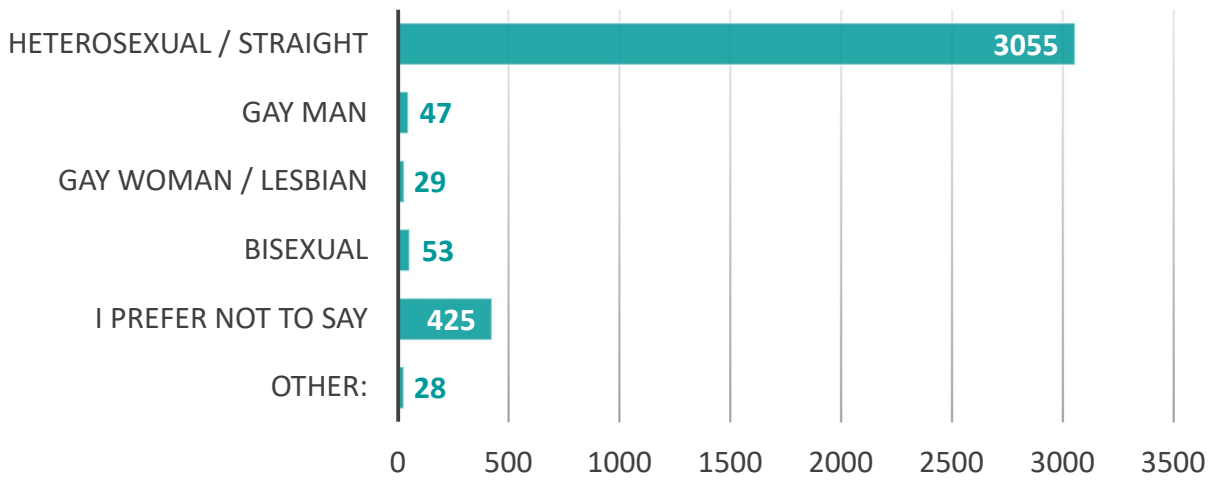
WHAT IS YOUR RACE?



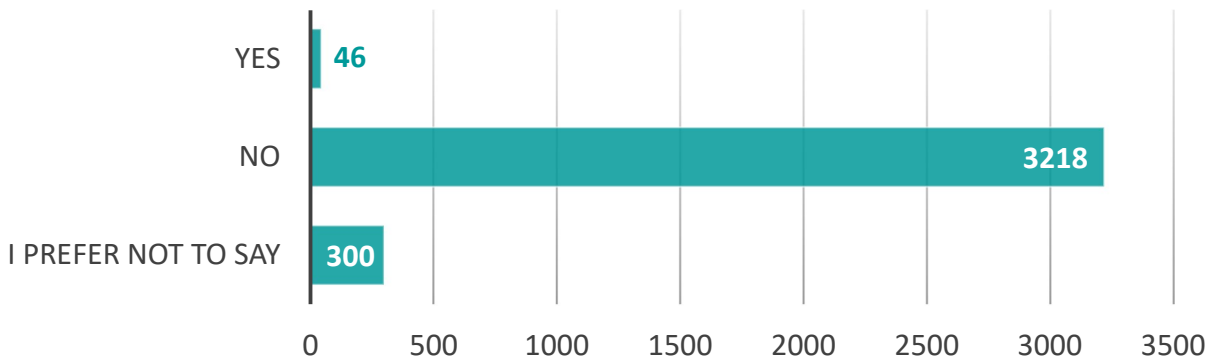
WHAT IS YOUR RELIGION?



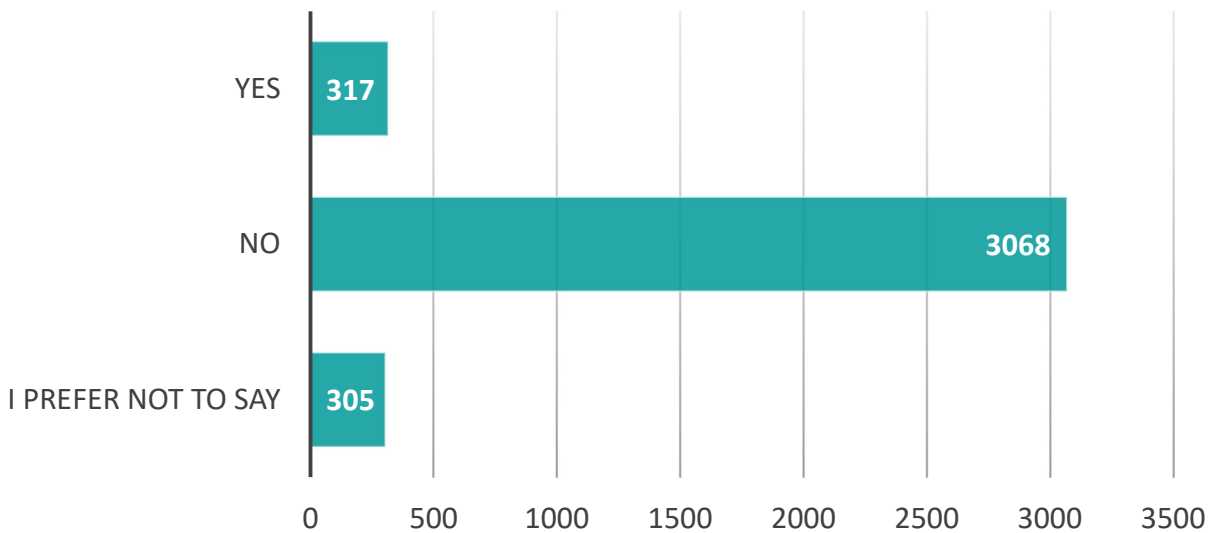
WHICH OF THESE BEST DESCRIBES YOU?



HAS YOUR GENDER IDENTIFICATION CHANGED FROM WHEN YOU WERE BORN?



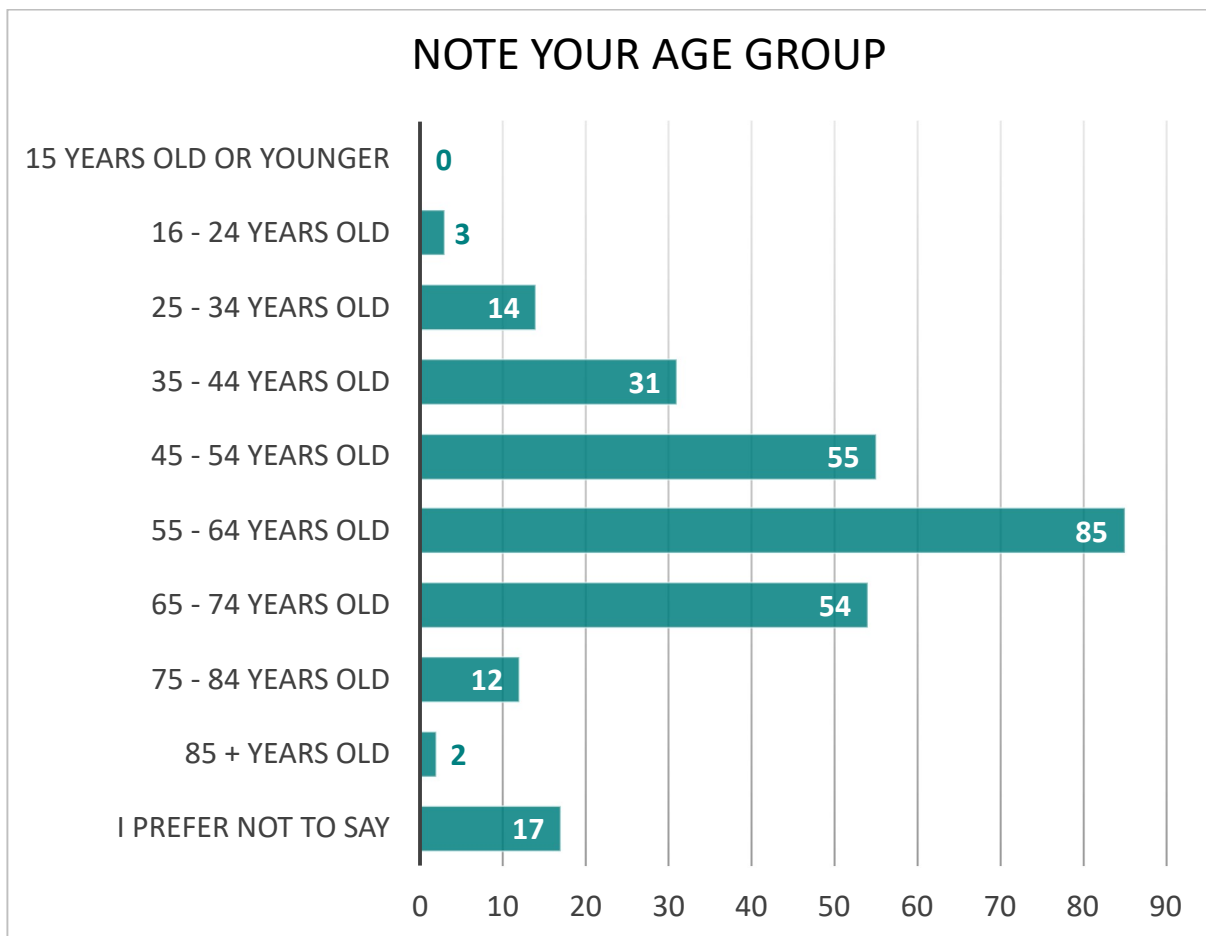
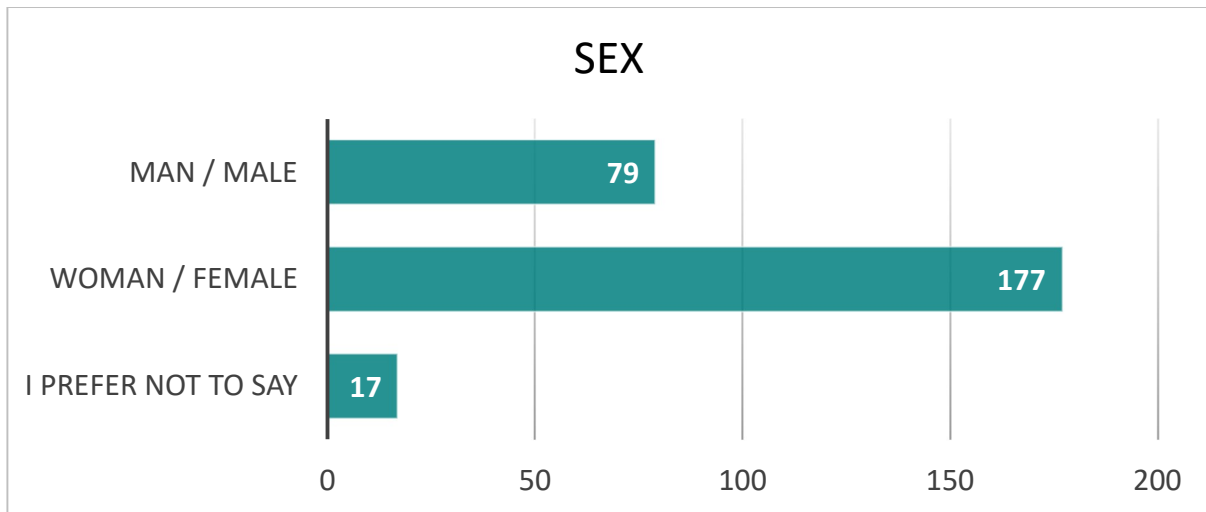
DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A DISABLED PERSON?



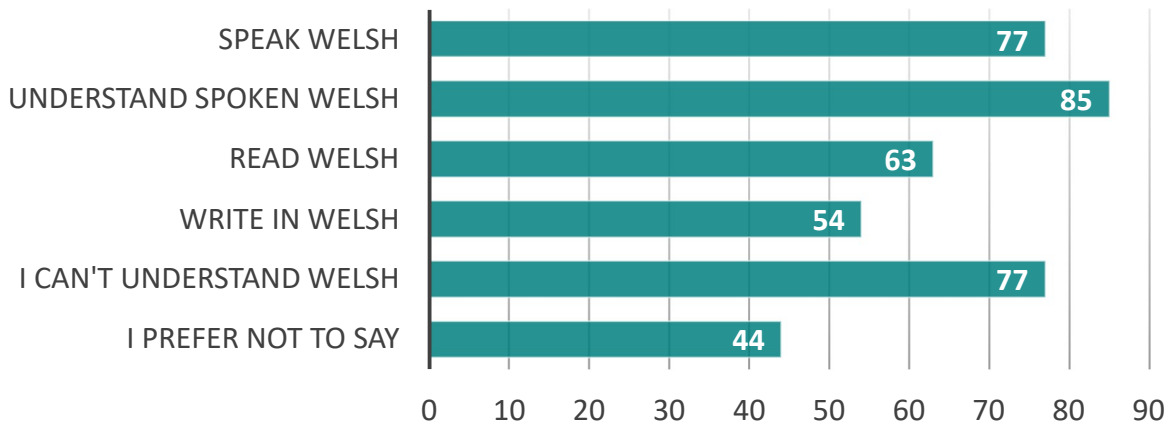
3 Dolgellau Area Results

3.1 Overview of the Respondents to the Public Survey for Dolgellau Area

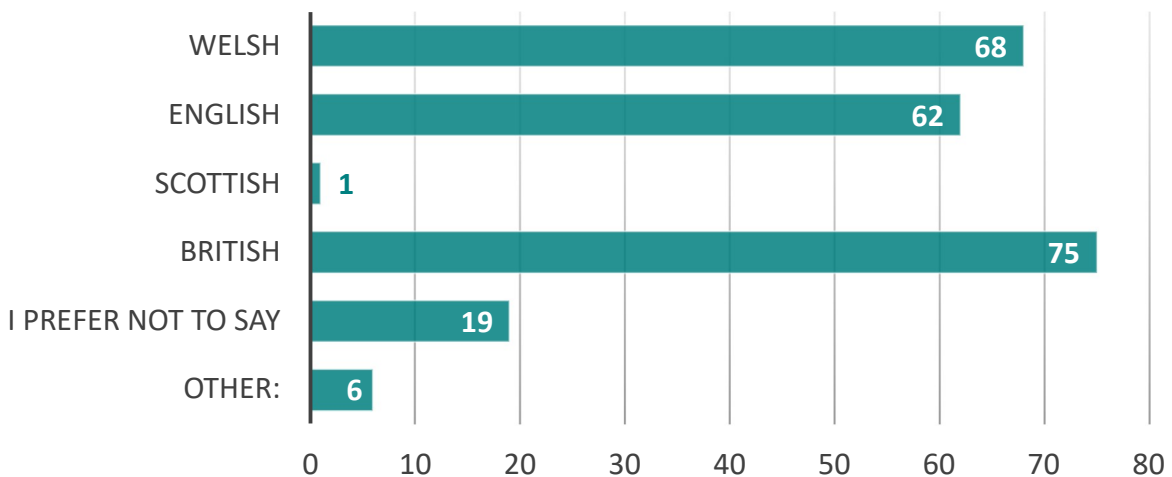
3.2 The Our Area 2035 survey for the Dolgellau area received **273** responses



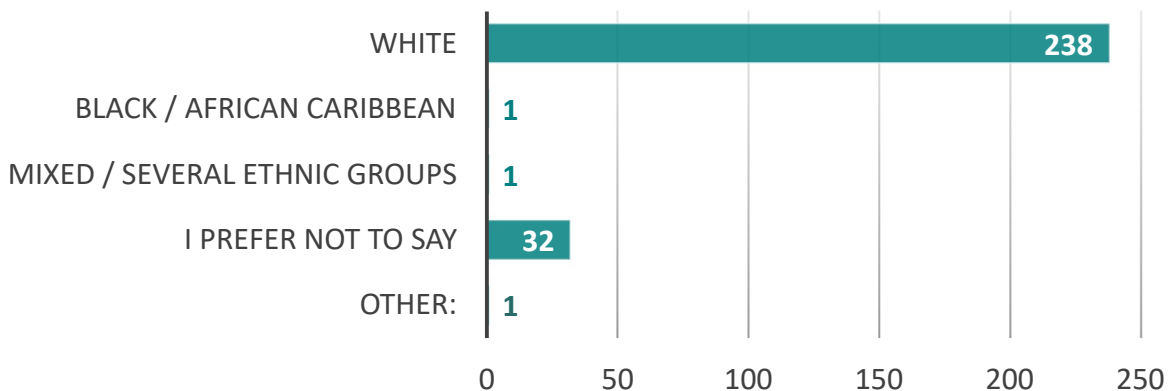
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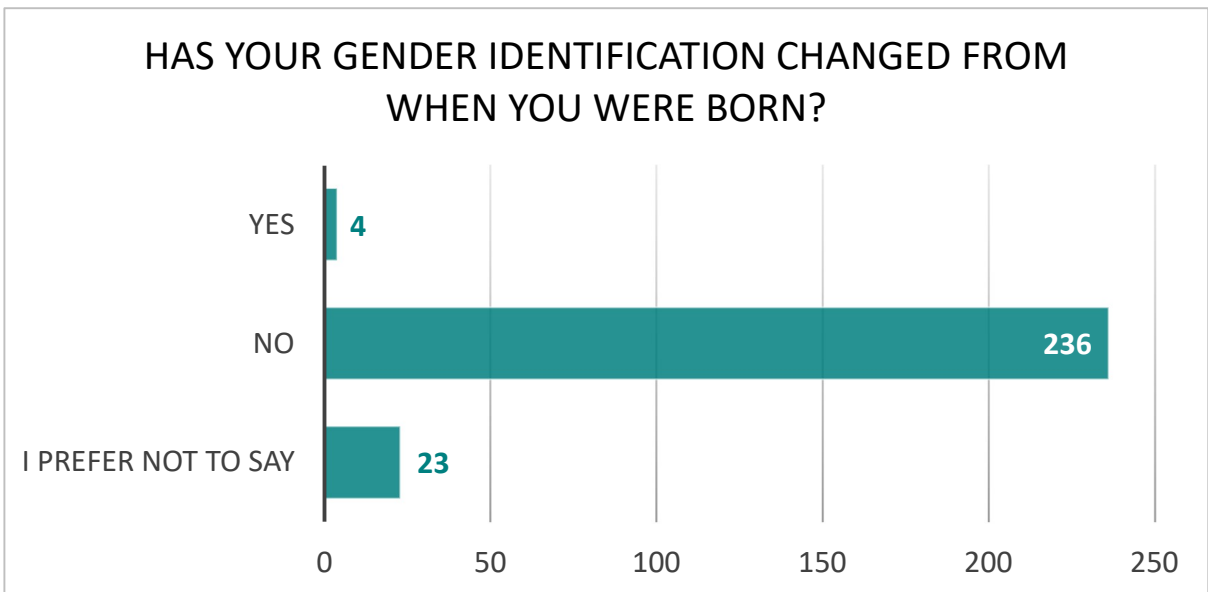
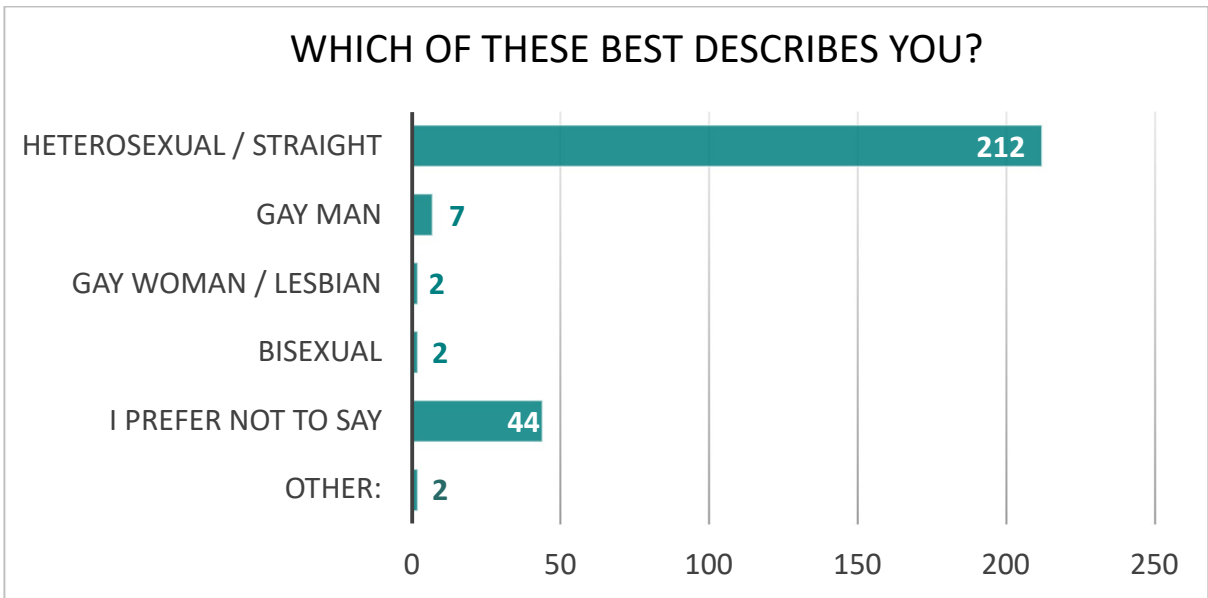
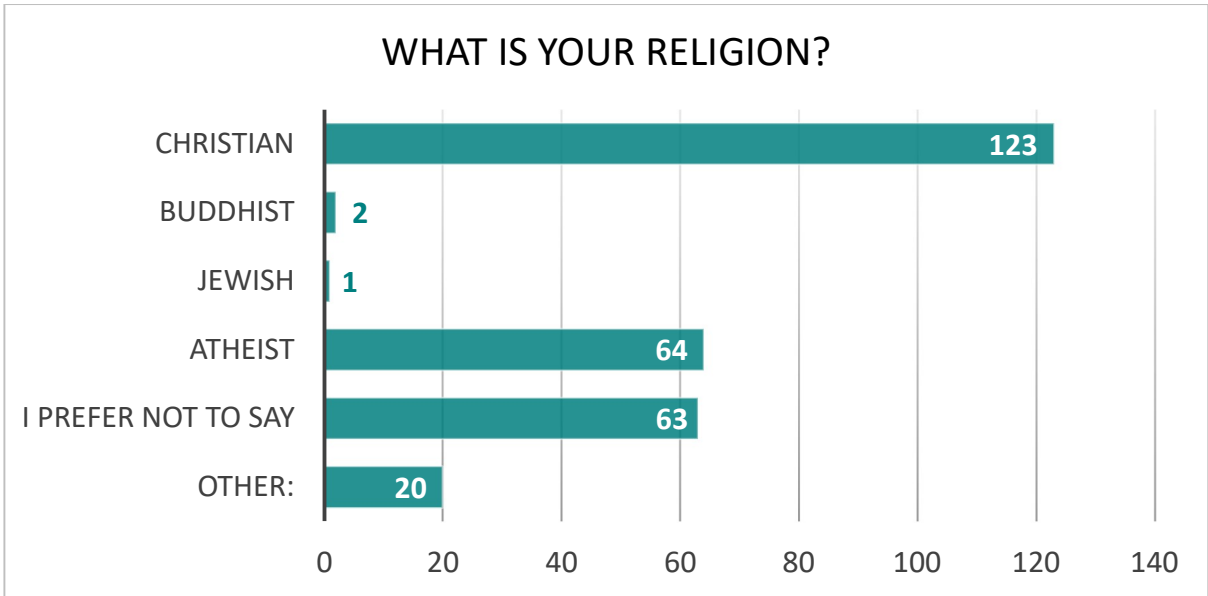


NATIONALITY OR NATIONAL IDENTITY?

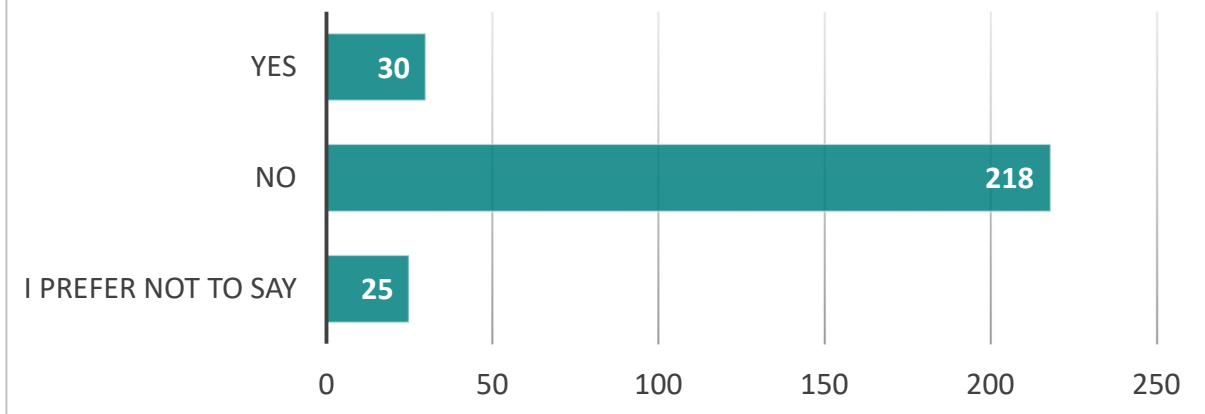


WHAT IS YOUR RACE?





DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A DISABLED PERSON?



4 Number of respondents per town or village in Dolgellau Area

4.1 The table below shows the number of respondents per town or village in the Dolgellau area.

Tref/Pentref	Nifer o ymatebwyr
• Dolgellau	93
• Fairbourne	35
• Corris	23
• Dinas Mawddwy	20
• Arthog	19
• Brithdir	15
• Llanelltyd	12
• Rhydymain	9
• Llanfachreth	8
• Other:	8
• Aberangell	7
• Mallwyd	7
• Ganllwyd	6
• Bont Ddu	5
• Friog	4
• Llanymawddwy	1
• Penmaenpool	1

5 What is good about the Dolgellau Area?

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

What is good about the Dolgellau Area?	Number of times the theme was prioritised
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The natural environment and proximity to mountains, the seaside and the countryside 	236
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's a safe area 	181
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area's history and heritage 	141
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area's community spirit and friendliness 	136
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good standard footpaths and cycling paths and Coastal Path 	104
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Welsh language and culture 	92
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A good place to raise a family 	90
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local amenities such as shops, cafes and restaurants 	88
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hardworking organisations, charities, enterprises and voluntary groups in the area 	39
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good education and school provision 	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social activities and community facilities 	22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good public transport 	21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobs and self-employment opportunities that exist locally 	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A wide range of activities and opportunities are available to young people locally 	4

5.2 In response to the question '**Note anything else that is good about the Dolgellau Area that isn't mentioned above**', 60 additional comments were received from the residents of the Dolgellau area. A number of the additional responses offered further comments about the above themes e.g. The natural environment and proximity to mountains, the seaside and the countryside (n=16); The area's community spirit and friendliness (n=13); It's a safe area (n=5).

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

Theme	Number of respondents who noted this
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proximity to various other places e.g. Abermaw (Barmouth), Porthmadog, 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area's ability to benefit from tourism for the benefit of the local community. 	4

- 5.3 In addition to the above, a face-to-face session was organised with the Dementia Actif Gwynedd group in Dolgellau. These comments can be seen in Appendix A.
- 5.4 In addition to the above, comments received in the Easy Read Questionnaire can be seen in Appendix B.
- 5.5 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 the Dolgellau Area?

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

What is <u>not so good</u> about the Dolgellau Area?	Number of times the theme was prioritised
• Lack of suitable and affordable housing for local people to buy or rent	129
• No opportunities to keep young people in the area	126
• Concern about the area's health, well-being and care provision	123
• The lack of high salary and full-time jobs	110
• High number of second and holiday homes in the area	109
• The public transport network in the area is inadequate	101
• There is concern about roads and parking in a number of locations	72
• Broadband infrastructure	71
• Perception that the police are not visible enough in the area	62
• Access / accessibility issues in Fairbourne to the beach	54
• Not enough electric car charging points	52
• Litter, untidiness and general look of the area	51
• Geographical distance from everywhere	49
• Community buildings in poor condition	29
• Changes within local education provision	24
• Lack of sustainable tourism in the area	20

6.2 In response to the question ‘**Note anything else that is not so good about the Dolgellau Area that isn’t mentioned above**’, **118** additional comments were received from the residents of the Dolgellau area. A number of these additional responses offered further comments about the themes above e.g. Concern about the area’s health, well-being and care provision (n=11); There is concern about roads and parking in a number of locations (n=10); Litter, untidiness and general look of the area with emphasis on dog mess (n=8); No opportunities to keep young people in the area (n=8); Access / accessibility issues in Fairbourne to the beach (n=5); The public transport network in the area is inadequate (n=3).

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

Theme	Number of respondents who noted this
• Perception of a lack of cohesion in some communities.	6
• Concerns about second homes and holiday homes.	6
• Lack of affordable supermarket e.g. Aldi, Lidl etc	5
• Lack of suitable cycling and walking trails in some areas.	5
• Concerns about vacant properties and lack of building maintenance.	4
• Concerns about anti-social behaviour.	3
• No close swimming pools.	3
• Concerns about a lack of information about Fairbourne's future.	3

6.3 In addition to the above, a face-to-face session was organised with the Dementia Actif Gwynedd group in Dolgellau. These comments can be seen in Appendix A.

6.4 In addition to the above, comments received in the Easy Read Questionnaire can be seen in Appendix B.

6.5 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 the Dolgellau Area 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 the Dolgellau Area. As part of the public engagement consultation, the residents of the Dolgellau Area were invited to choose up to 5 themes that they agreed with the most.

What changes would you like to see happen in the Dolgellau Area in the next 15 years, that would make the area a better place to live?	Number of times the theme was prioritised
• Plans to strengthen local health and care resources	137
• Plans to secure housing suitable for the needs of local people	104
• Plans to create high value work and jobs	102
• Plans to support local businesses to set up and thrive	94
• A greener area – more renewable energy schemes, reducing plastic use, setting up car charging points, tree planting schemes etc	90
• Plans to respect and enjoy the environment of the area	81
• Upgrade broadband infrastructure	75
• Plans to develop the local food production sector	58
• Plans to make better use of public buildings and Penarlag Offices in Dolgellau	55
• Plans to tackle poverty	54
• Need green public transport provision e.g. Electric buses	52
• Plans and support for activities that promote the Welsh language and culture and support Welsh learners	48
• An effective Sustainable Tourism Plan to better control tourism	37
• Plans to develop a nuclear power station at Trawsfynydd / Trawsfynydd nuclear power station site	35

- 7.2 In response to the question **‘Note anything else you think that isn’t mentioned above’**, **89** additional comments were received from the Dolgellau area residents. A number of the additional responses offered further comments about the above themes e.g. Plans to strengthen local health and care resources (n=7); An effective Sustainable Tourism Plan to better control tourism (n=3).

Of the comments that indicated something else about the area, the most popular themes were:

Theme	Number of respondents who noted this
• Plans to improve the public transport network in the area.	6
• Improve provision for tourists e.g. Information Centres.	6
• Fairbourne - Improved access to the beach as well as greater certainty for the future of the village.	6
• Plans to develop more activities and opportunities for young people.	5
• Develop suitable walking and cycling routes e.g. the old line between Dolgellau and Bala.	5
• Looking at the parking arrangements and road system in a few areas e.g. Dolgellau town centre.	4
• Trying to attract affordable supermarkets to the area.	4
• Comments regarding the planning system	4
• Address the issue of vacant properties.	3

- 7.3 In addition to the above, a face-to-face session was organised with the Dementia Actif Gwynedd group in Dolgellau. These comments can be seen in Appendix A.
- 7.4 In addition to the above, comments received in the Easy Read Questionnaire can be seen in Appendix B.
- 7.5 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 the Dolgellau Catchment 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 Dolgellau catchment 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)
- 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

Face-to-face sessions with Dementia Active Gwynedd – Dolgellau (15/6/22)

What is good about the Dolgellau area?

- Places to go for a walk and good foot paths e.g. Mawddach trail and the Marian
- Opportunities to socialise e.g. Women Institute, Chapel and Church, keep fit sessions
- Clean and tidy area
- Good shops e.g. pharmacy and butchers
- Market every Thursday
- Good restaurants
- Football, Rugby and cricket clubs
- Good college and schools
- Banks are still open – HSBS
- Petrol and car garage
- Post Office
- Starbucks
- Ambulance and fire station
- Library
- Estate agents
- Vets
- Surgery and hospital are good
- Buses going to Wrexham and Aberystwyth.

What is not so good about the Dolgellau area?

- A+E is closed since COVID – Alltwen is far away
- Food shops are expensive – would be good to have a Lidl or Aldi here.
- Buses don't go to Porthmadog often enough to do a food shop.
- No buses to Llandudno anymore, we have to drive to Blaenau Ffestiniog to catch a bus or train.
- Open the bowling green – need to cut the grass
- A swimming pool would be nice in the area.
- Bins collection is often missed if they are in rural areas.
- Difficult to get dentist appointment
- Perception of a lack of police presence in the area.

Appendix B

Comments received in the Easy Read Questionnaire for the Dolgellau Area.

What do you like about your area?

- The natural environment.

What do you not like about your area?

- A feeling of over-tourism in the area.
- Not enough paths or pavements (Bontddu.)

What would you like to see happen in your area to make it a great place to live?

- More public toilets.
- More places to park.



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