

# Stage 1 Results: The responses of Community/Town Councils, groups and organisations in the Bala and Penllyn Catchment 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 Bala and Penllyn Catchment Area.

## 2. What's good about your area?

These are the principal matters the Community/Town Councils, groups and organisations in the Bala and Penllyn Catchment Area noted that were **good** about their area:

Theme	Number who noted this in their response
Community spirit and friendliness	7
Environment and proximity to natural attractions e.g. mountains, the seaside and the countryside	4
Social activities e.g. sports clubs, choirs	3
Health and care resources	3
Clean air / no pollution	2
The Welsh Language / culture	2
Provision for older persons	2
Amenities and facilities such as shops, cafes, theatre	2
A good place to bring up a family	2
Education provision and good schools	2
Local produce and businesses	1
Opportunities and benefits of attracting tourism / visitors	1
Job opportunities and self-employment	1
Volunteers	1
Good Broadband	1
Good Recycling Centre	1
No empty shops	1

### 3. What is not so good about your area?

These are the principal matters the Community/Town Councils, groups and organisations in the Bala and Penllyn Catchment Area noted that were **not so good** about their area:

Theme	Number who noted this in their response
Public transport and insufficient bus network	5
A lack of high salary / full-time jobs	5
A number of second homes and holiday homes in the area	4
The housing stock unsuitable for the demand and Planning issues	3
Geographical distance from facilities and services	3
The Welsh Language / culture losing ground	2
Problems concerning parking	2
Health, wellbeing and care provision	2
Tourists not respecting the area	1
Lack of affordable housing for local people	1
Poor Broadband / web connection	1
No passion / leadership locally for change	1
Drugs and alcohol misuse	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 matters the Community/Town Councils, groups and organisations in the Bala and Penllyn Catchment 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	4
Sustainable tourism and develop visitor resources	4
Support to community Hall/Centre for the benefit of local residents	4
Maintain and develop cycling and walking paths and green areas	4
Protect the play field as a community resource	2
Public transport - accessible, integrated and suitable for local needs	2
More encouragement for the Welsh language / culture to thrive and assist learners	2
Local businesses continuing to flourish	2
Create high value work and jobs	2
Protect the agricultural industry in the area	1
Maintain health provision standards	1
Better parking management for residents	1
Create a broadband infrastructure	1
A greener area and schemes to prevent climate emergency	1
Community hospital open for 24 hours	1
Devolving services to more rural areas	1
Need to invest in our young people	1
More opportunities to grow food locally	1
No barriers by Gwynedd Council when transferring community assets	1

## 5. Additional questions

**5.1** This is a list of all the organisations and groups noted in response to this question in the Bala and Penllyn Catchment Area

- Gwynedd Council
- Cwmni Pum Plwy Penllyn
- Bala and Penllyn Community Society
- Penllyn Partnership
- Local community groups
- Welsh Government
- Natural Resources Wales
- The National Park
- Community/Town Councils
- Rugby club
- Business Group
- Family Centre
- Members of the Senedd
- Bala Lake Railway
- Health Board
- Housing Associations

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

- Llanuwchllyn Community Council have written a plan over the last few months to identify the main theme that affects the area and what is the role of the different bodies in response. Appreciate our help to incorporate those into the area plans to get support to try and respond to what has arisen, and to move their wishes forward.

**5.3** Other matters concerning the work of 'Our Area 2035' that arose in the Bala and Penllyn Area:

- Llanuwchllyn Community Council has prepared an area plan and are keen to have a discussion with the other Councils in the area via Partneriaeth Penllyn to incorporate this plan in the wider Bala and Penllyn plan.
- The loss of 'Y Cyfnod' newspaper has been a blow to the area.

