

Stage 1 Results: The responses of Community/Town Councils, groups and organisations in Bro Ffestiniog



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 **10** Community / Town Councils, organisations, groups and local Members in Bro Ffestiniog.
- 1.6** Initial discussions have been held with young people in the area via the youth service. In Bro Ffestiniog the response and feelings about the area were negative, for example, "Nothing's good" "There's just nothing here" "no way would I choose to live here." Only a small group was questioned and it may also be possible that local events may have impacted feelings at the time.

2. What's good about your area?

These are the principal matters the responders of Bro Ffestiniog noted that were **good** about their area:

Theme	Number who noted this in their response
Community spirit and friendliness	8
Environment and proximity to natural attractions e.g. mountains, the seaside and the countryside	7
The Welsh language / culture	6
Hard-working groups and enterprises in the area	2
History and culture	2
Amenities - shops, garage and local businesses	1
Tourist facilities e.g. Hostel	1
Large community hall	1
Good road links	1
Sport Clubs	1
Innovative community projects	1
A safe area	1
Health centre	1
Traditional agriculture continuing	1
Schools	1
Everything	1

3. What is not so good about your area?

These are the principal matters the responders of Bro Ffestiniog noted that were not so good about their area:

Theme	Number who noted this in their response
Number of holiday homes in the area and a lack of housing stock for local people	7
A lack of high salary / full-time jobs	7
Public transport and insufficient bus network	6
Deprived area and fuel poverty	6
Nothing to keep the young in the area	4
Concerns about health provision, welfare and care	3
Local economy - lack of resources and shops	3
Lack of affordable housing for local people	2
The appearance of the High Street	2
Gwynedd Council have forgotten about the area / no awareness of local needs	1
The Council has forgotten about the Blaenau Ffestiniog area	1
Threats to the Welsh Language	1
Problems with the roads	1
The community's mindset	1
Standard of education	1
No youth service and early years	1
Lack of cultural resources	1
Litter in the area	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 Bro Ffestiniog wanted to see happen in the next 15 years:

Theme	Number who noted this in their response
More high salary / full-time jobs	7
A greener area - renewable energy, carbon footprint reduction	5
More shops and local amenities	5
Tackling the housing situation	4
Better public transport and bus network	3
Language and culture still thriving	3
Tackling fuel poverty	3
More opportunities and facilities for children and young people	3
Concerns about health provision, welfare and care	2
Sustainable tourism for the benefit of the local community	2
Education and schools	2
High Street image	2
Help for businesses to establish and thrive	2
Develop the Centre in the town	1
More companies and social enterprises	1
Political - Independent Wales	1
Promote the world of nature for physical and mental welfare	1
A self-sufficient area e.g. food chain	1
Assistance to hold events	1
Affordable childcare	1
Sports centre in the area	1

5. Additional questions

5.1 Who are the main organisations and groups that could come together to fulfil the required change?

This is a list of all the organisations and groups noted in response to this question in Bro Ffestiniog:

- Gwynedd Council
- Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog
- Dref Werdd
- The National Park
- CADW
- The theatre
- Power Station Stakeholders
- Antur Stiniog
- Public Health Board
- Colleges / Universities
- Community/Town Councils
- The Welsh Government
- Y Ganolfan
- Housing Associations
- Coleg Harlech
- Cwmni Trawsnewid
- Local organisations and social enterprises
- Local Business Forum
- Social Services

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

This is a list of the consultation work noted in response to this question in Bro Ffestiniog:

- Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog have recently consulted the community about their plans. Generally, the area's positive attributes focused more on the area and the community, family, heritage, history, nature etc,. The negative attributes focused more on the economy, opportunities, resources, housing, etc,. The Company have shared the initial responses to the work with us.
- A few consultations mainly online undertaken by Gwynedd Council, such as community electric buses and about areas within Gwynedd.