

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



**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 is important 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 the Bro Ogwen area.
- 1.6** Initial discussions have been held with young people in the area via the youth service.

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

These are the principal matters the Community/Town Councils, groups and organisations in Bro Ogwen noted that were **good** about their area:

Theme	Number who noted this in their response
Environment and proximity to natural attractions e.g. mountains, the seaside and the countryside	5
Organisations, charities, enterprises and operational groups	5
Community spirit and friendliness	4
Potential renewable energy and environmental projects	4
The Welsh Language / culture	3
Social activities e.g. clubs and sports teams	3
World Heritage Site Designation	3
Education provision and good schools	2
Fund raising to get several defibrillators	2
Good land with economical possibilities	1
A safe and secure area	1
Good public transport	1
Tourism brings an economic benefit to the area	1
Cadwyn Ogwen - project created a hub in the area	1
Resources and amenities within a convenient travelling distance	1
Purchase of Cae'r Felin - a central site within the Village	1

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

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

Theme	Number who noted this in their response
Local economy - lack of resources and shops closing	4
Concerns about unsustainable tourism	4
Problems concerning parking	4
Concerns about the conditions of roads and traffic	3
Problems concerning Planning applications	2
Drugs and alcohol misuse	2
Antisocial behaviour	2
Too many rental flats in the area	2
Public transport and insufficient bus network	2
Litter, untidiness and general appearance of the area	2
Lack of work and high value jobs	2
Not enough attention to the area from the Council and organisations	2
House prices rising as a result of the World Heritage Site designation	1
Poor Broadband / internet connection	1
Poverty in the area	1
Bureaucracy makes it hard to get grants for local funds	1
Attractions do not bring any benefit to the village	1
Lack of Police presence	1
New Tennis court in the school does not bring any benefit to the community	1
Care needs and an ageing population	1
Flooding	1
Barriers in terms of selling hydro electricity	1
Second homes / holiday homes	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 Ogen wanted to see happen in the next 15 years:

Theme	Number who noted this in their response
Solve poor road and traffic problems	4
A greener area - renewable energy, plastic free, charging points	4
Sustainable tourism in order to get the best benefits for communities e.g. make the most of the World Heritage Site	3
Provide more facilities for young people	2
Central space for socialising	2
Better parking management for visitors and local people	2
Monitoring and flood prevention arrangements in place	2
Improve the provision of shops / retail units	2
More collaboration to resolve problems	2
Make it easy for local groups to get grant support	1
Better public transport provision	1
Solve drug problems	1
Additional CCTV cameras	1
Local play park	1
Improve communication between the Community Councils and the Council	1
School buildings need attention	1
Need to consider housing developments and plan carefully by listening to the community	1
Collaborate with Natural Resources Wales to benefit from the forestry of the area	1
Office spaces to rent for individuals working from home	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 Ogwen:

- Gwynedd Council
- Partneriaeth Ogwen
- Ynni Ogwen
- Tregarth Community Centre
- Police
- Schools
- Merched y Wawr
- National Park
- Abergwyngregyn Regeneration company (ARC).
- Housing Associations
- Cricket and Bowling Club
- Community/Town Councils
- Welsh Government
- Neuadd Ogwen
- Sport Clubs
- Urdd Gobaith Cymru
- Councillors
- Gwynedd Business Forum
- Ynni Anafon
- Natural Resources Wales
- Bangor University
- Bethesda Rugby Club

### 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 Ogwen:

- Thorough consultation work by Partneriaeth Ogwen in 2020 that asked very similar questions to that being asked as a part of Our Area 2035. The purpose of this consultation was to set a clear direction - in the form of Theory of Change - to the Partnerships work programme and not as a template for a more general regeneration work programme in the area (as the purpose of Ardal Ni). The Partnership's Chief Officer has shared the results of this consultation (which is "Dyffryn Ogwen Community Research Report 2020"), but it is very important we do not use any of it without full recognition of this report and remembering its main purpose.

### 5.3 Other matters concerning the work of 'Our Area 2035' that arose in the Bro Ogwen Area:

- A discussion was held in Bethesda with several groups jointly - Partneriaeth Ogwen; Bethesda Rugby Club; Bethesda Cricket Club; Neuadd Ogwen. The format of the discussion did not follow the exact same pattern as the other consultation discussions due to the status of Partneriaeth Ogwen's (P.O) work in Bethesda. The area of Abergwyngregyn did not fall under the consultation area of P.O but this area is included under the "Ogwen" area, Our Area 2035.
- The discussion focused more on setting priorities in Dyffryn Ogwen for the future rather than "Good things" and "Not so good". Some of the important (more specific) matters to note from the discussion were: -
  1. The need to create a green economy through developing the green transport work which is already in place in the area.
  2. Focus should be on developing the area for the future on the grounds of "localism" and "foundational economy" through local social enterprises, rather than waiting for big companies to locate themselves in the area to boost the local economy. This aspect is one that already exists in the Welsh Government's current strategies and is also one that reflects the wishes of the residents of the area. (87% of the respondents of P.O's questionnaire believed this)
  3. There should be a better response to opportunities in the tourism field, in a way that takes ownership of tourism in the area. To this end, a more attractive offer should be created in the form of better walking paths through the area....in the sense that they are branded more effectively. (Heritage paths and so forth) and better connected. Also, there is an opportunity to create sites for campervans and camping. By responding in this way, it ensures that the profit from tourism stays in the area. (\*It was noted that P.O will appoint a Tourism Marketing Officer during 2022 and this role will strive to address such matters).
  4. It is a good opportunity to create hubs for people to work locally instead of having to use cars to travel outside of the area to work. This is a natural development from the changing of attitudes towards workplaces that have appeared due to covid. Neuadd Ogwen, Cenfaes and the Rugby Club are quite obvious places where this could happen.
  5. Heavy emphasis was placed on the importance of close collaboration between the main groups in the area for the future. Therefore, everyone is heading in the same direction. To this end, reference was made to the arrangements currently in place in Blaenau Ffestiniog where the area company is used as a forum for 15 local social enterprises to discuss and share experiences. It was suggested that creating a similar forum in Dyffryn Ogwen would be very useful.
- These comments have been noted in the analysis but more details regarding these points are above.

