

## **Trefriw Community Council Community Engagement Event - Autumn/Winter 2022/23**

### **Purpose:**

This paper summarises the outcome of the community engagement event run by Trefriw Community Council (TCC) between 5 November 2022 and 17 February 2023. TCC consulted local residents about their future hopes and visions for our community and how we might work together to achieve them.

### **Methodology:**

The engagement event was multi faceted in order to encourage as much participation as possible and comprised:

1. a drop in event in the village hall with Councillors on 5 November 2022
2. an online survey (link circulated via TCC and village Facebook pages) open 6 November to 17 February 2023
3. a paper version of the survey (blank forms held a local businesses for return to Council) open as per online questionnaire
4. seeking input from residents attending TCC Councillor surgeries and community coffee mornings held between November 2022 and February 2023.

This community engagement sought responses and feedback from residents to several open questions:

1. What do we want Trefriw to look like in the future?
2. What do we love about our community and how can we have/do more of this?
3. What are the challenges and opportunities and how might we face these?
4. What does our community need?
5. How can we strengthen our community?

We also asked two additional specific questions about funding for the village hall and introduction of 20mph speed limit on the B5106 through the village. These questions are replicated in full in the results section below.

### **Next steps:**

After the community engagement event, all comments and feedback have been collated and grouped into themes around the open questions cited above.

TCC will publicise these themes in spring 2023 and build them into our annual action plan for 2023/24.

TCC will seek community help and involvement in achieving the action plan.

Cllr Jasmine Kelly  
Vice Chair, TCC  
7 March 2023

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT - RESULTS

Trefriw Community Council (TCC) received 12 responses to the online survey and one paper version. Around 10 residents attended the engagement event in the village hall on 5 November 2022 and further opportunities to contribute were available at the monthly community coffee mornings between November and February 2023. The collated responses from all these interactions are below. The overarching themes from questions 1 to 5 are:

**Community:** Trefriw is friendly and welcoming and people want that to continue. There is an appreciation of Welsh language and culture and a strong appetite for more community events.

**Environment:** We should look after our environment and improve it where we can.

**Economy:** Tourism is recognised as a key part of our economy but must be sustainable. Local shops/pubs/businesses are important for residents and visitors and worthy of support.

**Infrastructure:** housing for local people and good public transport are essential.

### 1. What do you want Trefriw to look like in the future?

**Environment:** well maintained, natural habitats for wildlife, benchmark sustainable community, development enhances the village and its environment. Council to sort out parking. Fewer cars, more walkers going to Crafnant. Much the same but with more greenery and a few more dog bins as you head to the lake. We have a role to play in keeping this village inviting and beautiful where everyone feels excepted and safe which I think Trefriw does so well.

**Amenities:** has essential services, i.e. a shop, at least one pub and one restaurant

**Community:** forward thinking, vibrant, community events, thriving, celebrates heritage and culture, welcomes visitors and protects local needs, a community that comes together

**Infrastructure:** retirement homes on the flat, build hydro power station and visitor centre. Path to rugby club. Fewer Airbnbs. Investment in local businesses

### 2. What do you love about our community, and how can we have/do more of this?

**Environment:** quiet roads, access to nature, walking/cycling distance to amenities in Llanrwst, calm feeling in the village

**Amenities:** free public toilets are an essential asset, good facilities

**Community:** friendliness, welcoming, kind people, supportive social media channels / online community, more events to bring people together (Christmas 2022 mentioned as an example, annual meeting or festival suggested), local action e.g. Jay Butters' working party (mentioned three times), Welsh language. It would be good to have more fun evening activities in the pubs and village hall.

### 3. What are the challenges and opportunities, and how might we face these?

**Environment:** need to ensure that any future development takes into account Welsh Gov's 'biodiversity net gain' approach. Climate change is already having an effect on us and what ever we can do to deal with it and help to reduce the impact will be important. We live in paradise as you know so we need to keep it that way. We have an opportunity to encourage wildlife and biodiversity. What can we do?!

**Amenities:** risk of shop / business closure, but a great opportunity for local produce to be sold

**Community:** English people want more community events, but that's not necessarily what the Welsh villagers want. Need a champion to try encourage more opportunities for the community to get involved together. Opportunity to be a centre of wellbeing in Wales, given the village's name and its heritage links to health

**Infrastructure:** second homes and holiday lets pricing locals out of the housing market. How to ensure balance of villagers and holiday accommodation. Cap on Airbnbs - no planning permission given unless to build homes for locals. Road maintenance. Sort bus service out - or a designated mini bus for driver with volunteer drivers on rota

**Economy:** economic vs environmental challenges which can be managed effectively with careful planning and stewardship. Concerns around unsustainable tourism / development e.g. environmental issues / traffic due to overcrowding e.g. Geirionydd lake, Crafnant Road.

Tourism is a key economic driver and can be done well - opportunity for Trefriw to be a benchmark for others to aspire to. There are many opportunities relating to location not all of which are negative and should be investigated with open mindedness. Costs making activities inaccessible and facilities such as local shops less well supported. Create jobs by building visitor centre. The shop and the pubs / restaurants benefit for the locals and the visitors in the caravan park so we must make sure that Trefriw is promoted as a holiday destination as much as possible. It will help the local B&Bs too.

#### 4. What does our community need?

**Environment:** Encourage nature and biodiversity, e.g. more wildflower verges, a simple 'incredible edible' type scheme where instead of shrubs and flowers we plant for pollinators and even for consumption. It could be as simple as planting herbs that the village can use. We can also encourage villagers to do the same in their gardens. A seed and plant swap if it's not already done here?  
Continued reflection of its Welsh heritage, Welsh language awareness.

**Community:** Increased level of engagement between different people in Trefriw will broaden the community "bandwidth"; need to bring the community together more. More opportunities to meet people and get involved. A drama group and / or choir. Actively involve residents who are willing to contribute in a small way to maintain and support the community (in its widest sense). Someone to encourage more locals to get involved.

**Infrastructure:** Better public transport. Reduce speed of cars through village.

**Economy:** fewer Airbnbs - investment in business - a better run county council

## 5. How can we strengthen our community?

**Community:** community fund raisers - events that are age appropriate for all villagers. Courses in hall. Keep fit back in the village. Try to get more people involved! More events in the community / more people involved in organising them / co-operative sharing (food co-op / tool store / car-sharing). I think more could be done to thank the people that spend their value time to help the village and its community. What about honouring an individual(s) every year for their services? A picture and description in village hall for example plus a small ceremony. They deserve to be thanked and shouted about. This might encourage others to step up as well.

Increased engagement can be at local focal points such as the village hall, the pubs, restaurants and shop where we can meet and develop friendships. More quiz nights possibly, or "community parties" where we bring a bottle and a cake and share with others. It needs a group to organise these events, which could be the TCC or a new Trefriw group. The community council to steer objectively, corralling fact finding on matters within the community. Communication methods other than Facebook which many people do not use. More going on in village hall. Hard to say as villagers need to support more perhaps e.g Carneddau event poorly attended yet excellent. It may be worthwhile having some meetings at a more accessible time for those who work 9-5 weekdays. Perhaps a weekend meeting monthly?

**Infrastructure:** lose less homes to the holiday homes market

## 6. Specific question about the village hall:

The village hall is owned by Trefriw Community Council who maintain it and manage bookings to use the space.

In 2021/22 the hall cost £1,418 to run.

This includes insurance, heat/lights, maintenance, licenses, fire/electrical/safety equipment and checks, etc.

In 2021/22 these costs were funded by:

£1,073 from precept and £345 from bookings.

Are you happy for TCC to continue with these funding, maintenance and management arrangements?

Do you have any other ideas about how the hall could be funded, maintained and managed?

### **Responses:**

Broad support for present funding model. Other suggestions for raising revenue and increasing usage:

- bring back Conwy Ffit Fitness classes / rural wellbeing more classes and events e.g. dancing / keep fit

- increase the [hire] cost a bit. Also, make the hall easy to book - it needs to be a really simple process ideally on line that is straight forward
- improved advertising and marketing
- include heating in rental: heating costs too high for a yoga teacher I spoke with

The hall would benefit from some expenditure on the building itself and the windows & insulation. This may involve creating a new charitable body to drive this forward.

## **7. Specific question about community speed watch in Trefriw:**

In July 2022 the Welsh Senedd approved legislation that will introduce a 20mph default speed limit on residential roads across Wales from September 2023.

We know that many people in Trefriw and Llanrhychwyn would welcome a new 20mph speed limit for the B5106 through the village - which is a residential street - to improve safety and reduce air and noise pollution. However, anecdotally, we observe that a significant proportion of drivers do not stick to the existing 30mph speed limit on that road.

TCC intend to collect evidence of current driving speeds along the B5106 as part of our request to become an 'early adopter' of the new 20mph limit from autumn 2023. We will collect this data through a series of community speed watches starting in spring 2023. We will need residents to help us with this so if you would like more information please tell us your name and contact details below!

### **Responses:**

Respondents split on whether a reduced speed limit is needed or indeed enforceable. Top Road also mentioned.