

Report on the Local Development Plan Consultation Day Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup>  
July 2019, Llangynidr Village Hall, Llangynidr.

Held by Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and Llangynidr Community Council.

Authors:

Sue Dale (Clerk) and Community Councillor Elizabeth Gibbs

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Annex 1- Responses

## **Introduction**

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA) advised community councils in the area of the need to consult with residents about the new Local Development Plan (LDP2) (reference email from BBNPA to Town and Community Councils about participation in the LDP process on 18/7/2019). Llangynidr Community Council, having resolved to undertake a Place Plan (30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 item 17) and to comply with the BBNPA, set up a consultation day for the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

The consultation day was modelled on that detailed in a guide recommended by BBNPA (reference). The exercises used were; *living in...*, *acceptable development* and *local issues*. In addition to these the BBNPA brought 2 A0 maps of the village for residents to comment on.

The 444 dwellings of the village were leafleted and notices were posted on the noticeboard, website and the “Contact” newsletter facebook page (thanks to H Phillips)

Residents were asked to sign in to the consultation day, leaving the Community Council with a record of how many residents participated. Some residents attended more than once in the day but did not sign in again. Some residents were unable to attend and sent in their comments by email or phone – these residents are indicated on the record of attendance.

The consultation day was open from 10am to 8pm, BBNPA officers were available from 10pm to 6pm to explain the process of the LDP2. Community Councillors and/or the Clerk were present for the day. Tea, coffee or squash were available to residents.

The main body of this document describes the methodology, the results, conclusions and recommendations. The annex lists all responses.

The aim was to report findings for the meeting of Llangynidr Community Council on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

## Methodology

Care was taken to give the Consultation Day a relaxed and informal “feel”. Residents were welcomed with an invitation to write their names on the register and then left to find their own way. BBNPA officer(s) were free to talk to residents about the process of LDP2. The 4 methods used to participate with residents on the consultation day were:

**Living in.....** Two shapes were drawn on A4 pieces of paper, one a t shirt shape and the other in the shape of a pair of pants. The “top” shape represents something positive the resident would like to have noted in response to the phrase “The thing I like most about living in Llangynidr is ...”. The “pants” shape represents something negative the resident would like to have noted in response to the phrase “the thing I like least about living in Llangynidr is ...”. A “washing line” was tied between two badminton stands and pegs used to fix the “tops” and “pants” to it.

**Acceptable development.** A horizontal line was drawn across a large piece of paper. The word “none” was written above the left end and the word “substantial” was written above the right end. Residents were invited to place their mark on the line where they accepted affordable housing for local people in need should go. Another horizontal line was drawn across a large piece of paper. The word “none” was written above the left end and the word “substantial” was written above the right end. Residents were invited to place their mark on the line where they accepted open market housing should go.

**Local issues.** Local and general issues were each written on a piece of flip chart paper and presented around the walls of the hall. Residents were invited to make their comments directly on the paper.

**Map.** Two identical A0 maps of the village were presented to residents, they were invited to make comments on post-it notes and stick them on to the maps. Officers of BBNPA were available for most of the day (8 of the 10 hours).

The material gathered during the day was read and evaluated for analysis. It was decided to treat all comments as equal no matter how they had been gathered. That is to say whether in response to a heading or the maps. Each comment was read and evaluated for content and then ascribed to a category. This process led to 36 categories being identified, (see Table 1). This is a subjective process.

“Living in Llangynidr” was analysed and reported separately (see results section).

Some participants were given 6 coloured dots the colour corresponding to the participants age group. However some participants received the dots and some did not, some acquired their own dots. This lack of control has undermined the interpretation of the age information.

Participants expressed their opinions in several ways on the day. They wrote a comment or not and they ticked comments that they agreed with. Sometimes, in agreeing with a comment or especially a part of a comment, ticks were placed close to the word to be agreed with. A few people felt strongly enough to actively disagree with a comment, in these cases they put a cross next to the comment, or a no, or even a “rubbish”. These were not often.

## Results

162 residents from 444 homes, 845 electors (2005) and 1036 population (census 2011) took part in the consultation day. They produced 1718 comments, which were assumed to be at most, a single comment per resident per subject. The results of “Living in Llangynidr” were compared with the results of the comments analysis. The question about representativeness “is the information gathered representative of the people of Llangynidr as a whole?” Can only be answered by inspecting the results-would more information from more people have added to the results?

### **Living in Llangynidr - reported by Community Councillor Elizabeth Gibbs**

People were asked to express the things they most liked about living in their area or community and conversely people were asked to express the things they least liked about living in their area or community. This gives an idea of what they would least like and most like to see changed.

The thing I like **least** about living in Llangynidr is.....

Complaints about traffic formed the largest category, with 38 comments. Fifteen of the comments were about the amount and speed of traffic through the village, with a particular mention of the speed on Forge Road. Two people specifically mentioned a concern for the safety of children. Eight comments concerned the difficulties with the bridge and the problems caused by the aggression and ill manners of some drivers. The new warning lights were mentioned as being ineffective by four people. Three people pointed out that the village had become a rat run and three commented that the increased traffic was causing a loss of peace and tranquillity. Two people commented on the heavy traffic on the back road to Crickhowell with large lorries and camper vans in the middle of the road. Another aspect of transport in the village was the inadequacy of the Bus service which was deemed expensive and unreliable (two comments) and one person pointed out that the need to travel to access work and services made life in the village more expensive. There were two complaints about the parking around the village school and the feeling was expressed that parents should use the car park and walk from there.

Concern about overdevelopment of the village was the second largest category with twenty-one comments. ( Some of the increase in traffic can of course be attributed to overdevelopment). Six people complained that poor planning decisions had allowed the building of 3-storey town houses not in keeping with the local vernacular and at too great a density. The loss of green areas in the village was regretted by one person and another mentioned the removal of hedges and replacement with fences. One person commented that the village had become urbanised so that people didn't know each other. A concern was expressed about the difficulty local young people had in finding housing to stay in the village and maintain its vitality: the price of the new market housing being far too high (one person) and there being too many holiday homes in the village (one person). A similar comment from one person regretted the lack of local employment for young people.

Nine comments concerned the facilities in the village. One person regretted the lack of a doctor's surgery. One person thought there should be more safe, fun areas and activities for young people, and two people commented on the underuse of the village hall, regretting that there weren't more activities provided and in particular the need for activities that would promote the sense of community, bringing together old and new residents and different age-groups.

One person complained that some people did not clear up dog waste and another thought there should be more dog waste and litter bins provided. Two people regretted the loss of the green waste facility in the car park. Two people disliked the prejudices of some residents of the village and one person felt that newcomers were too uppity. Finally, one person felt that there were threats (unnamed) that life in the area would become less pleasant.

The thing I like **most** about living in Llangynidr is.....

The sense of community and the beauty of the surroundings got almost equal mention in response to this question. The sense of community was the feature of life in the village that was mentioned most often (twenty responses) together with six people mentioning the friendliness, two the kindness of people, and one the energy and commitment that people gave to community projects. Two people mentioned that they appreciated that the village was clean and tidy thanks to people caring for it. Two people felt that Llangynidr was a small village where everyone knew each other and one expressed appreciation that it was quite a mixed community.

Fourteen people cited the beauty of the landscape and eight people mentioned the sense of peace, quiet and tranquillity. One person thought that Llangynidr was a pretty village, not overdeveloped and two particularly liked the open spaces in the village. Three people liked living in the country, the three mentioned the pleasures of walking the canal and river and three the access to the open mountains and the Beacons.

Seven people said they appreciated the facilities the village had to offer: the village shop, post office and cafe, the two pubs, the garage, the school and the hall and playing fields. Three people valued that it was a safe area for children with a low level of crime. One person enjoyed meeting tourists and one valued the local history.

### **Acceptable Development?**

About a quarter of residents participating on the day, took part. The two scales (affordable housing for local people in need and land for open market housing) were placed side by side on a wall and residents were invited to make their mark on both scales. At one end of each of the two scales was the word "none" and at the other was "substantial". The distance in centimetres from "none" was measured for each mark. 45 observations were recorded for the affordable housing for local people in need scale with an average of 26.9cm away from the "None" point. 41 observations were recorded for the land for open market housing scale with an average of 8cm from the "None" point. Comparing the two scale results, more participants would prefer more affordable housing for local people in need and less land for open market housing. The scales were approximately the same length, 44cm.

One resident felt that she could not ascribe a mark to the affordable homes scale without a numerical value. An 18cm long scale was produced with 3, 5 and 10 along the scale. Four residents chose this scale in preference to the others. Two responded to 5 homes and the others to 10 homes. These were excluded from the main results owing to the difficulty of integrating them.

### **Local Issues.**

Comments were collected in response to the following 18 headings; community waste facilities; better broadband; exercise facilities for all; conservation area Mardy Lane; more facilities for youngsters; traffic calming (outside the hall, outside the shop and near to school); allotments/ community farm; better sewers; cultural heritage; employment opportunities; sustainable tourism; local food production; local energy production; pavements (esp. Forge Road and Cwm Crawnon Road); doctor's surgery; other suggestions and the maps.

There were 1573 comments (written or marked by a tick or a coloured dot) across 18 different headings and the 2 maps, this represents an average of 9.7 comments per participating resident. The 1573 comments were typed into a spread sheet and coded so that they could be sorted by category. 36 categories emerged these are displayed, with their frequencies and the percentage of residents making them in the Table 1 on the next page.

Comment Category	Frequency	Percentage
Green waste containers	143	88.00%
Transport (including public transport)	141	87.00%
Traffic	123	76.00%
Broadband	99	61.00%
Facilities	84	52.00%
Exercise facilities	83	51.00%
Pavement	80	49.00%
Wildlife	77	48.00%
Affordable/social housing	74	46.00%
More development	62	38.00%
To do with the Village Hall Committee	60	37.00%
Llangynidr Bridge	55	34.00%
Local Energy Production	52	32.00%
Other suggestions/comments	50	31.00%
Allotment Community Farm	42	26.00%
No more houses	44	27.00%
Doctor's Surgery	43	26.50%
Cultural Heritage	32	20.00%
Sewers	28	17.00%
Sustainable Tourism	28	17.00%
Conservation	27	17.00%
Conservation Area around Mardy Lane	23	14.00%
Dog waste bins more needed	22	14.00%
Recycling	18	11.00%
Waste Facilities	15	9.00%
Local Employment Facilities	13	8.00%
Local Food Production	10	6.00%
To do with the Community Council	9	5.00%
In fill okay	9	5.00%
To do with BBNPA	7	4.00%
Litter picking approved	5	3.00%
To do with LASS (Llangynidr Show)	4	2.00%
New homes if infrastructure okay	3	2.00%
To do with Powys County Council	3	2.00%
Volume of traffic too much	3	2.00%
No more holiday homes	2	1.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1573</b>	

Those categories with comments from 50% or more participating residents are examined in more

detail below Table 2.

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Green waste containers	143	88.00%
Transport (including public transport)	141	87.00%
Traffic	123	76.00%
Broadband	99	61.00%
Facilities	84	52.00%
Exercise facilities	83	51.00%

**Green waste containers** A recycling service, run by PCC, removing green waste from 3 large green bins in the village car park was withdrawn and another recycling scheme introduced. There were 143 comments made, almost all were positively for the previous green waste bins service,(140) with the remaining 3 neutral. Of these: 26 asked for the return of these large bins; 23 asked for the return of the previous green waste facilities, suggesting that the current arrangement is just the start of stealth taxes; 22 agreed with a comment concerning the lack of service in the new scheme and the environmental issue of the extra road use also the additional dangers to children and livestock of the green waste lorries travelling to the more distant parts of Llangynidr; 21 comments were made about putting the green waste facility back in the car park. 4 commented concerning the inefficiency of many people driving to Brecon vs one lorry driving to Brecon: 29 on the need for a year round service;5 wanted both the old and the new services; 3 concerns about more bonfires; and 7 expecting more fly-tipping. Finally the 3 neutral comments were non-specifically about garden recycling.

**Transport** There were 141 comments made by 87% of the participants. 20 agreed with more smaller buses more often, better for crossing the bridge, 19 wanted more buses more often, 16+9 people wanted to see bus services improve; 38 wanted more/better/later bus service (12+9+7+5+2+2+1) and 15 wanted a bus service to Ebbw Vale that would enable commuting access to more employment- a further 7 endorsed the idea and a further 3 supported the idea of integrating transport, or better transport to employment. Another idea was for a car share scheme (3+1). Better public transport would help reduce commuters reliance on their cars (8). Bikes, both push and electric was endorsed by 2 participants. Overall participants want to see a better bus service that can incorporate links to rail and possibly car sharing.

**Traffic** There were 123 comments made by about three quarters of participants - a great deal of concern for traffic safety in various parts of the village. 14 referred to parents not parking in the village car park and walking their children the rest of the way to school. A single response to this was “parents often under pressure to get to work on time too and travelling some distance” to which a further response was made “Parents need to arrive earlier”(1). Forge Road traffic speed was mentioned by 22 participants. One of those suggested coloured tarmac strips either side of the road to indicate the space needed by pedestrians. Speed of traffic between the hall and the car park concerned 11 participants. Traffic calming was requested by 27 residents. There was short dialogue about the entry to Dyffryn Road needs widening (6) then 4 disagreeing as it would encourage cars to go faster. Castle Road/Clos Castell parking was mentioned as a danger to pedestrians and traffic or as a difficulty for farm vehicles (3). Traffic along Dyffryn Road, particularly around the entrance to the pre-school, was highlighted by 21 participants. 7 people wanted to be able to veto any planning likely to make the traffic worse. Other comments concerned the bridge “lights” (4) or the speed of traffic through the village (including Beaufort Road or the back road to Llangatock) for which a new bridge/by-pass was needed to ameliorate (2).

**Broadband.** There were 99 comments made by 61% - nearly two thirds of the participants – concerning broad band 45 of which expressed a “desperate need”. Further comments involved the quality of broadband – it's consistency or radio/phone signal (49). Five remaining comments detailed advice for other participants (“We already have optic fibre to premises in Llangynidr!!!- but it costs a bit more to have it connected (1)”, “You can get a mobile phone boost box from O2 to solve the no signal problem”(1) and “EE offer WiFi calling as long as you are in range of your wifi router”(1).

**Facilities** There were 84 comments in this category, about half of the participants recording a comment. 25 of these endorsed the observation that “the Cafe has been a big success I think”. Talybont was cited as a good example for community facilities (29). Other comments (30) concerned a better Skate/BMX park /a running track, more resources for teenagers and an ageing population/ apply for grants/ keep footpaths in good order as they offer free exercise.

**Exercise facilities** About half of the 162 participants recorded a comment in the category. Most of which concerned the village hall (50, 35+15) and improvements (such as wifi, acoustics, projection etc). Outdoor exercise facilities for all age groups (25) were suggested as was walking (2) and maintaining what is there (4). One participant felt that outdoor gym equipment might not be as useful in our climate as abroad (2).

**Other highlights - from categories with less than 50% of participants.**

The following categories were selected as being either timely or most relevant to LDP2. They are “affordable/social homes” “no more houses”, “new homes if infrastructure is okay”, “infill okay”, “better sewers” and “Llangynidr Bridge”.

Affordable/social homes (74 comments, 46% of participants) was dominated by the want for more affordable/social houses 67 comments. Other comments (7 in total) included “no more social houses in our lovely village”(5), “there has been considerable development in the village in the last 15 years why has this not provided sufficient affordable housing”(1) and “only if balances out village facilities”(1).

No more houses category (44) comments all of which appealed for no more homes.

In-fill development should be allowed was supported by 9 participants.

New homes if infrastructure okay was a small category (3 comments) but could not rightly be put anywhere else.

More development 62 comments (38% of participants), almost all of these reported that if there was no development there might not be a school or a pub or a shop.

Better sewers was supported by 28 participants (17%), a further participant questioned what sewers had to do with the LDP.

Llangynidr bridge (55 comment , 34% of participants) was dominated by the wish for a review of the new “lights” as residents feel that they are not working well (49). Other comments concerned traffic growth(6).

**Map.** 2 identical maps were presented to the participants for their comment. The collected comments (145) were added to those of Local Issues as there was much overlap.

**Comparison of the living in Llangynidr results and the comments** Whilst concerns about overdevelopment forms the second largest category in “living in Llangynidr” they formed only the fourteenth largest category (no more houses) in the rest of the comments. That said similar themes emerged from both sets of information. For example; concerns about young people and their need to be accommodated in the same village as their families. Also traffic and transport issues dominated both sets of information. This information supports the representativeness of sample.

## **Conclusions**

- ! 1718 comments was gathered from 162 participants in the course of the LDP consultation day held by the Community Council in Llangynidr on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019. These offer a rich and varied snapshot of the village on that date which is summarized below:
- ! The previous green waste containers (in the car park) were requested by nearly 90% of participants.
- ! Traffic, there being too much and travelling too fast was of concern to some 75% of participants.
- ! Public transport, particularly more buses, and specifically buses to link in with the trains at Ebbw Vale and possible car-sharing by nearly 90%.
- ! The need for affordable/Social housing was recognised by residents who participated. Additionally supported by participants who wanted to see more development to keep the facilities going in the village.
- ! Broadband provision in the village is still a matter of concern, as is wifi and phone signal.
- ! More facilities for exercise were wanted, the needs of young people were cited in particular.
- ! Sewers are known, by some, to be a problem in the village.
- ! Llangynidr bridge's new traffic control system was felt in need of review to be not working well by 49 of the participants.
- ! That a greater degree of control be exercised next time over the reception of the participants to improve the information about age.
- ! That greater efforts be made to advertise the event.

## **Recommendations**

That this report be approved by Llangynidr Community Council and sent to County Councillor Harris, the BBNPA, Powys County Council, the Llangynidr Village Hall Committee, the Llangynidr Agricultural Society Show Committee.

That the Community Council review the performance of the the new bridge lights on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and feed back this information to PCC.

That Llangynidr Community Council use this report to support the development of a place plan for Llangynidr.

## **References**

- ! Community Participation Toolkit: A guide to involving communities in preparing Local Development Plans by Planning Aid Wales and BBNPA. March 2008.
- ! Email: 18/7/2019 from BBNPA concerning participation in the LDP2 process.