



Wellbeing of Future Generations Workshop: The Caerphilly YOU want!

Mid Valleys West

25th August 2016 Siloh Centre, Ystrad Mynach

Workshop Report

Background and purpose of the meeting

This event was one of 5 local workshops, held across the county borough, to give residents, organisations and groups a chance to say what makes the biggest difference to their Wellbeing and what is good and bad about their area. This workshop focused on Mid Valleys West, which includes the main settlements of Ystrad Mynach, Nelson, Hengoed and Maesycwmmmer.

The group also looked at what issues in particular the Caerphilly Public Services Board should concentrate on moving forward.

Method

At this specially convened event, held on the 25th August 2016, 19 individuals undertook a workshop, facilitated by the Corporate Policy Unit. Two of the individuals present were CCBC elected members, one a community council elected member, and one represented the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Others were residents and representatives of local organisations including Ystrad Mynach OAP Association, British Red Cross, Caerphilly People First, Caerphilly Borough Mind, The Parent Network, St. Gwladys Church, Canolfan Gristnogol Cymunedol Siloh and Menter Caerfili who also facilitated a Welsh language discussion group. The workshops were facilitated by Superintendent Nick Mclain (Gwent Police) and Mandy Keenan (Policy Officer).

The discussion was broken down into sections. These looked at:

- The best and worst things about the Mid Valleys West area
- Current statistics
- What do we want this area to look like 25 years in the future
- What are the key issues for action

Summary of Key Discussion Findings

A number of key themes ran through the discussions:

Transport:

- Better connected transport system across the borough (very strong need for cross valley links) including roads rail and bus and outlying communities
- Responsive to needs of community for access to work, shopping, recreation and for older people
- More affordable transport
- Staffing at stations to improve security

Environment:

- Better use of the excellent facilities available and better promotion. A regular presence from countryside wardens.
- Need to promote pride in the area to reduce litter, fly tipping etc. Better maintenance of green environment.
- More local generation of energy to sustain communities and create jobs, including water resources
- Better access to recycling services including food waste – include community buildings and businesses in service

Housing:

- Build sustainable, energy efficient homes that are fit for purpose
- More affordable and flexible housing to reflect the needs of the population, young people older residents
- Make use of existing buildings/sites, convert buildings to homes

Community:

- More activities in communities for young and old alike – to address issues of asb with young people and more older retired people isolated in community
- Encourage social responsibility
- Need vibrant community centres
- Address community safety – alcohol/drugs/begging and vandalism in town centres
- Encourage and support volunteering
- Need to maintain play services to enable children to benefit from supported play
- More activities should be available through the medium of Welsh and Welsh nursery and school places increased to meet demand

Town Centres:

- Although reasonable range of shops these were decreasing and loss of banks, post offices and pubs a concern
- Supermarkets should reduce price of healthier food for low income families
- Too many takeaways

Social Care & Health:

- Better access to social care in communities for vulnerable people

- Remove gaps in social care services for different age groups i.e. 12-16 and older people
- More joined up health services
- Hospital services need to be upgraded to full consultant led A&E
- Improve mental health services

Income skills and jobs:

- Better education needed although good opportunities for further education in area
- Need for better employment opportunities and raise the aspirations of young people
- More value should be placed on vocational skills and education system needs to reflect this and teach adaptability.
- Traditional and practical skills need to be preserved, older people sharing skills with younger people

What do YOU want your communities to look like in 2040?

What& Why
<p>Energy and Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable homes and buildings that reduce the dependency on gas/electricity/water supply and encourage the development of localised community energy schemes using wind and solar. • Maintained greener environment, increased allotments, green jobs • Make recycling/upcycling more natural <p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People will need an income and be encouraged to work not the current benefits culture • More employment opportunities locally to reduce commuting, including independent local shops <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better public transport network and better roads • More direct/linked cycle routes • More electric cars <p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good relationships between the local community and local police • There are opportunities to use the Welsh language in communities and the workplace • People are accountable for their actions and have strong moral and ethical values

Key issues for the Public Services Board to prioritize

What	
<p>Health, social care and wellbeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote healthy lifestyles • To improve access to appropriate health services • To look after older population with better access to social care services for all ages in need • “National Service” for the community for young people
<p>Energy efficiency and environment</p>	<p>Secure our energy supply: (Longer term)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insulation, solar panels, wind and water power • Supported by National and local government, community councils and communities • Electric cars
<p>Fit for purpose housing to meet the needs of the whole community</p>	
<p>Improve the transport system</p>	<p>Links to jobs, prosperity and attracting industry, cross valley links in particular</p>
<p>Sort out the problems we have now</p>	
<p>Communities need to work together:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop in centres for isolated people (social and geographical) using buildings we already have (closed pubs?) and offering volunteering opportunities for all ages • What is missing is community drivers – community development driven by communities themselves, with local people as sources of information • There needs to be support for volunteers/volunteering (providing young people with experience)Parent Network model • Third sector networking / shared resources / support • More social responsibility/Community safety/community responsibility
<p>Employment:</p>	<p>Local employment opportunities including through the medium of Welsh.</p>