



# Y Gaerffili A GAREM THE Caerphilly WE WANT

## **Wellbeing of Future Generations Workshop: The Caerphilly YOU want! Upper Rhymney Valley 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016 – White Rose Centre, New Tredegar 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 the Upper Rhymney Valley.

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 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016, 13 individuals undertook a workshop, facilitated by the Corporate Policy Unit. Three of the individuals present were Council Members. The workshops were facilitated by Paul Cooke (Senior Policy Officer) and Vicki Doyle (Policy Officer).

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

- The best and worst things about the Upper Rhymney Valley
- 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:

### Jobs

- There is a lack of jobs at all abilities. There needs to be good quality, fairly paid wide ranging, local job opportunities
- We need to give young people the opportunities to train and work locally “to give the young people a future and keep them here rather than drive them away”
- “system allows people not to work”
- Need to support businesses with money, apprenticeships, more social enterprises, support local businesses not larger nationals.

### Health

- New Health Centre in Rhymney seen as a positive asset
- High numbers of people with ill health. High numbers of smokers
- “Need to focus on prevention not cure”

### Education

- We have good primary and secondary schools
- “Education is the back bone of life”
- Qualifications not previously needed as history of mining + manufacturing provided jobs at all levels including low achievers. “High levels of people with no qualifications is not new”.
- Need to support youngsters to turn aspirations into reality. Lack of parental support
- “Need the right type of academic and vocational opportunities. Need technical qualifications for the jobs of the future”

### Environment

- Green spaces / natural environment and country parks seen as positive assets
- Lack of respect for the environment – litter, fly tipping, dog fouling all big problems
- Dislike of wind turbines. Suggest solar farms, hydro energy / electric trains

### Transport

- Lots of traffic congestion + car parking issues although car ownership is reported as lower . Group queried this
- Bus services not linked up to trains. Need more evening buses
- Train service valued

### Community

- Community centres seen as positive assets but are they under used ?
- Lack of facilities for young people (teenagers)
- Lack of community spirit. People do not want to volunteer or take responsibility for their actions . “IT keeps people in their houses”. Need more leaders in our communities
- We should encourage sustainable communities. Local shops, schools and jobs will build community cohesion. Less need for cars

- Lack of shops – only have takeaways. We should encourage town centres not retail parks
- No opportunities available for people to practice their Welsh outside of education. No activities in Welsh north of Bargoed

### Young People

- Major theme running throughout workshop was how to make the future of our young people better i.e. more activities, increased opportunities for academic and vocational qualification, local jobs, getting young people involved in their local communities

### Key issues to be prioritised by the Public Services Board

What	Why	Nos. in agreement
Need to create a skilled workforce for inward investment to create jobs	Schools, colleges and businesses need to work together. Need opportunities for both academic and vocational qualifications	
Improved Employment opportunities	Need to give young people the opportunities to train and work locally to give the young people a future and keep them here rather than drive them away  Support businesses to provide local jobs	
Improved public transport / road infrastructure	Chaos at peak times. Buses do not meet trains. No cross valley transport links. More buses needed in the evening. Need improved transport for more people to come into the valleys for employment.	
More things to do	More local activities – especially for teenagers. Enhanced community spirit will encourage volunteers to run activities	
Bring back community spirit	Residents to take responsibility for their actions and get involved.	
Promote the positives of the county borough – that we have a nice environment to live in	The Council, National Resources Wales and Welsh Government have a role	