



## **Big Cheese Festival 30<sup>th</sup> + 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016**

### **Background and purpose of the event**

Set in the shadows of one of Europe's largest Castles, the town of Caerphilly comes to life as people of all ages come to The Big Cheese®, an extravaganza of street entertainers, living history encampments, music, dance, traditional funfair, folk dancing, falconry, fire eating, minstrels, troubadours and much more.

The Big Cheese is a 'must see' attraction for all visitors, celebrating its 19th year in 2016. Portraying the history, heritage and culture of Caerphilly, families from all over the country flocked to Caerphilly to experience this fun filled programme of activities and entertainment.

The Big Cheese weekend is a FREE event and over 80,000 people attended in 2016.

### **Method**

Staff from the Corporate Policy Unit (CPU) shared a marquee with colleague from the Police, Armed Forces, Police and Crime Commissioners Office and Hate Crime organisation. CPU staff involved were: Kath Peters, Sian Wolfe-Williams, Vicki Doyle, Alison Palmer, Mandy Sprague and Chris Hunt.

Over the 2 day festival 81 short questionnaires were completed with residents of the county borough. The questionnaire had 4 sections:

- What are the best things about where you live and why?
- What are the worst things about where you and why?
- What do you want your communities to look like in 2040?
- Which issues should Public Services solve first to create the Caerphilly You want in 2040?

## Summary of Key Findings

Data received from the questionnaires has been split into A) County borough wide themes and selected quotations B) the 5 Future Generations county borough planning areas.

### A) County Borough wide themes

- Need more activities for children and young people
- Countryside / parks and green spaces are valued and people want these retained
- Varied opinions about needing more housing/ more affordable housing and not building on green spaces or until improved infrastructure – better roads to cope with traffic, more facilities for more people
- Traffic / parking is a concern
- Dog mess / litter is a problem
- More visible policing to tackle crime and anti social behaviour. Robberies and theft & poor police response was also a theme.
- With the exception of Blackwood, the need for town centre developments was a central theme
- More local, long term jobs
- More responsibility & pride & aspirations from residents. Assist communities to help themselves and build community cohesion / spirit
- Many people stated that they wished for their area to stay the same.
- More / better local facilities
- There was mixed feedback on the quality of schools
- Concerns about drugs and alcohol raised
- Positive and negative comments about Health services.
- Differing opinions on public transport depending on where you live

- **What are the best things about where you live and why ?**

“Community spirit – everyone goes over and above to help each other.” Aberbargoed

“New park and green space.” Rhymney

“Being semi rural is the best. Green spaces and beautiful scenery but able to get to towns easily. Butetown is picturesque but the views could be spoilt.” Rhymney

“Quiet. Nice big garden. Lovely woods. Lived there all my life. Environment fabulous – nice and green. Always clean – rarely litter”  
Crumlin

“Village life - most people know each other. Good community spirit. Quiet.” Oakdale

“Very green, lovely neighbours and community spirit. I really like where I live.” Abercarn

“Friendly, all amenities, quiet area, fabulous views.” Risca

“Mountain views and canal. Reduced anti-social behaviours”. Risca

“Good school. Lots of things for kids to do. Ystrad Mynach park is lovely. Live on lovely quiet estate” Hengoed

“Semi – rural. Easy access to shops, post office but still feel I’m in the countryside. Castle. Walks.” Rudry

“Mountains & green spaces. River Rhymney. Closeness to Cardiff & Caerphilly Castle.” Bedwas

“Community. Lots of facilities park school flying start.” Trethomas

“Rural & lovely views. Peaceful. Tranquil”. Machen

“Close amenities open spaces & castles. Sense space Views with NO houses.” Caerphilly

“A forward thinking authority active @ improving the lives of residents a community that knows each other ..... no SB in estate.” Caerphilly

“Close to a City (Cardiff) but has a Valley feel to it. Community spirit, pretty towns – a lot going for it. Local industry.” Caerphilly

“Good friendly community good location, village feel easy transport to Newport for work family and friends.” Bedwas  
Like house, new build, great location flowers scenery lots going on in town easy access to Merthyr and Cardiff for work and family.” Caerphilly

“Nice and quiet Lots of trees Good GPs.” Llanbradach

“Low crime Having new pavements .” Abertridwr

“It is a beautiful town with a lot of investment over the past 15 years. It is relatively safe and quiet. The services for transport are very good. It is a well kept town.” Caerphilly

- **What are the worst things about where you live and why ?**

“Dogs mess on pavement although there are not many dogs /cats wondering about, there are lazy dog owners.” Aberbargoed  
“Alcoholics, drugies, people growing drugs in their houses. Nothing for the children. Kids running around without adults from age of 4.” Pontlottyn

“Lost parks – only awful parks left. Sense of community lost – don’t know neighbours. Lack of facilities – not much going on in the Hanger. New Skateboard park used by older kids – younger children not using it. 3 week wait for GP. Got too big. Too many houses no extra facilities. No community centre. Scary at traffic lights – scared for kids. Drug users in new social housing in old council offices & countryman halfway house.” Aberbargoed

“Public transport from the RV is poor. Trains are only once an hour unless you travel from Bargoed. The proposed Nant Llesg open cast site is a worry. House prices will drop and will ruin the landscape.” Rhymney

“Grass fires. Theft, gangs on street, drugs, intimidation, kids out at all hours.” Rhymney

“The roads are poorly maintained on the residential streets. The road floods when it rains no proper drainage. Off road motorbikes on the mountainside where they rise past our house to get to the mountains.” Abercarn

“Parking commercial vehicles in residential parking. Disabled and cant park close to home. Not community sprit” Newbridge

“Forsythia Close - street above - bad behaviour. Used as a skip. Dog mess. Council worker Colin always cleaning street.” Risca

“Changed where new houses have been built – areas which were open land once. Infrastructure overloaded”. Oakdale

“We have an issue with drugs from age 13-14 anywhere in the county. Its not alcohol which they can get hold of its easier to turn to drugs. Cheaper, easier to get hold of and easier to use.” Gelligaer

“Not enough things for kids to do. Shops closing down – full of charity shops. Need a good retail park”. Caerphilly

“Shoping centre is pathetic. Top of town no good empty shops and wrong mix of shops. Parking is an issue - yellow lines. Lack of benches. Morgan Jones Park – nothing there.” Caerphilly

“Caerphilly Town Centre, leisure centre –neglected. Need to spend some money.” Rudry

“lots of kids hanging about. Need more police at night. Vandalism of flying start centre. Gangs hanging around” Trecenydd

“Too many new houses planned.” Bedwas

“No more development! Senghenydd will have a knock on effect – more traffic. More shops, more things for the kids to do.”  
Caerphilly

“Don’t like Caerphilly Town , poor – shops and development is taking its toll on shops, environment, burger bars. Poverty issues.”  
Machen

“ Not enough police presence closed police stations.” Caerphilly

“Lack of entertainment for children particularly in Summer.” Caerphilly

“Threat of development. Lots of charity shops & betting shops”. Caerphilly

“Recycling collections leave rubbish & chuck bin everywhere.” Abertridwr

“Dogs Poo speeding traffic robberies & theft.” Bedwas

“Rubbish at flats foxes attracted by overflowing bins. Unsightly. Dogs mess. Dogs off the lead.” Caerphilly

“Stray dogs Anti social behaviour adults & childrens parties theft no response from police.” Caerphilly

“Anti Social Behaviour from children theft no response from police – using curfews for children.” Caerphilly

“Forgotten area. Neglected Welfare Park.” Abertridwr

“Slightly spoilt by having a hospital 5 miles away. No frontline medical service. YYF very picky with what they take. Need an emergency out of hours GP service No everyone has transport in the evenings. We need services local. Haven’t seen a policeman in the town for about 5 years.” Caerphilly

“The deprived areas and the generational expectation of something for nothing. Cluster communities of 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> generation unemployed. Young people with no aspirations. The whole thing needs a radical shake-up.” Caerphilly

“ The kids hang about the Co-op and park after dark. They should be doing something at night. Not enough litter bins in my Cul De Sac. I don’t have a street sign at the end of my road. The Health services cant find me.”

“Dirty and grubby the whole of Caerphilly is gritty to look like Newport. Everything is shut down. Small businesses are closing in town centres. We need big retailers and an out of town retail park near the town centre. The Pentrebane Street development knocked the town badly.” Senghenydd

- **What do you want your communities to look like in 2040?**

“A community that local amenities, shops etc. Better opportunities for local employment. More houses that are affordable for the next generation.” Bargoed

“Summer schools. Swimming – any activities, What there is is too expensive. No drugs. Kids supervised by adults.” Rhymney

“No open case mine. Less drug users, abuser and dealers. More local employment through decent work.” Pontllotyn

“Shops - not nail bars/tanning salons or pubs.” Risca

“see a lot more facilities for young people, get them involved in communities” Ystrad Mynach

“Keep green area 20% developed 80% green.” Hengoed

“I would like to see more sports facilities and more community integration between young and old. More better kept green areas.” Gelligaer

“More populated. More industrialised. Flying around in vehicles” Caerphilly

“Tidier area. More for young people to do. More shops so we don't need to travel to Cardiff. Need good restaurants.” Caerphilly

“Part of Cardiff probably. Better transport connections to other parts of South Wales. Re-open railways.” Caerphilly

“lots of people living on their own more local services for people with depression, isolated people.” Trecenydd

“Better quality, consistent schools for all ages (English & Welsh).” Bedwas

“Faster broadband. Still a local feel – community.” Caerphilly

“No big retail parks better town centre more independents, restaurants .” Caerphilly

“skate park keep facilities in good condition more youth facilities.” Trethomas

“Greener – more recycling – less litter more bins safe play areas for children” Caerphilly

“More thriving town centre like 30 years ago.” Caerphilly

“Green, heart to the village. Hub for socialising & linking. M&S Waitrose. Broad shops not just retail outlets type. Cultural and social centres, Buzzing attractive cafes. Create wealth. Local produce – From Tommy Cooper to Bank improve architecture like library & visitors centre. Reduce poverty entrepreneurial”. Machen

“Stay the same, don't build thousands of extra houses on greenfields.” Caerphilly

“More variety in town centre smaller versions of big retailers.” Caerphilly

“Lots of independent shops like Hay on Wye. Open green spaces and good views”. Caerphilly

“No more houses because of road Better public transport on weekend especially for older people. ” Caerphilly

“A community that is respectful of others recycling focused a community that has a say and an active involvement in their own locality more police on the street. More nurses than managers.” Caerphilly

“More equal communities, more cohesion between the haves and have nots. Build resilience between people to get on with each other.” Caerphilly

“More things for children – older childrens provision. More jobs –create new industries (long term jobs not seasonal.” Caerphilly

“Same as it is. Work for the kids. Affordable homes. Nice environment keep the green areas”. Bedwas

“Still have green spaces goo, accessible schools playgrounds modern, fit for purpose sports facilities.” Caerphilly

“ Not solar power panels no green power windmills spoil view unsightly & inefficient. Local jobs – not all in Cardiff. Fast train – not just to Cardiff but other places – Merthyr & Pontypridd.” Caerphilly

“Better opportunities for kids less pressure for new mums to go back to work (pressured from 2 months on by Job Centre.” Caerphilly

“Penyrheol completely rebuilt. Functioning community centre with activities good park More Police not PCSOs.” Caerphilly  
“Flood Rhymney River & make reservoir in Llanbradach.” Llanbradach

“Need local cottage hospital in village – older people cannot travel to bigger hospital. Local GP appointments (not in Bedwas).” Abertridwr

“The Castle should have more of an active in the community. It is the most iconic building in the County Borough, There should be concerts ..... At the moment Caerphilly town centre closes at 4.30pm. “ Caerphilly



"I would like it to stay the same. The potholes in the road could be better. I want people to have pride in where they live, Keep roads and pavements clear. I am a wheelchair user. People abide by speed limits." Bedwas

"I would like my community to have more for young people to do. They have nothing to do. They need more youth clubs and activities that are affordable for low income families. Exercise other than swimming. Community centre with free pool & table tennis." Senghenydd

- **Which issues should Public Services solve first to create the Caerphilly You want in 2040 ?**

"Stop Nant y Llesg. Aspirations in deprived communities." Rhymney

"Need to work together. One partner will always want a bigger piece of the pie. Issue of CCB officers being paid – sticks in throat" Oakdale

"Work closer together as a team. Bargoed police are great but Blackwood police don't want to know about the Islwyn side. All need to work together for the goodness of all." Aberbargoed

"ASB is a problem and the public sector should focus on this." Abercarn

"Protect the environment. Improving schools. Helping small businesses. Keep local facilities local." Risca

"Traveling community – need somewhere for them to go. They are human." Risca

"More police/bobbies on the beat. Local police station." Risca

"People need to take ownership of their own health. Use ambulance & hospital etc. for serious problems. Clean up after themselves, grow own food." Nelson

"Climate control – emissions will improve". Caerphilly

"Need to employ traffic wardens (council). Improve parking – enforcement." Caerphilly

"Need to cater for the more of "middle class" nice restaurants, things to do. Would encourage people to stay local." Rudry

“Stop any form of privatisation in public services. Keep them public.” Caerphilly

“Better education attainment & support childrens’ aspirations to become real” Bedwas

“Improving peoples health – stopping smoking & poor diets.” Bedwas

“Need to think about development – housing, transport, infrastructure.” Caerphilly

“Tackle drug problem” . Trethomas

“Inward investment from private sources. Make more of the castle as inward investment opp.” Caerphilly

“Policing – visible on the beat.” Caerphilly

“Creating Wealth, Fixing potholes. Making place look better.” Machen

“Health – distant to hospital don’t want to go to the Gwent – can’t park”. Caerphilly

“Supporting older people” Caerphilly

“Bus fares are high so it deters people from using public transport.” Caerphilly

“Better public transport links.” Caerphilly

“Educate people to be more community focused. Tackling littering and countryside crime”. Caerphilly

“Improve peoples life skills, more job opportunities, tackle crime and law and order. Better education prospects for more deprived communities. Assist communities to help themselves.” Caerphilly

“Evening provision for children. Tackle crime and disorder Public transport until evenings which is safe.” Caerphilly

“Sustainability To fulfil promises made to people Widen Families First, Communities First & Flying Start to all deprived areas i.e. Llanbradach, all streets in Bedwas – provide support to those who need it not by postcode.” Bedwas

“Obesity / health in general including mental health.” Caerphilly

“Health service – improved service. More police More responsibility from children More restrictions on alcohol sales like cigarettes – for the children.” Caerphilly

“Guaranteed good school for my child. More opportunities for children. Teachers should be able to discipline children – gone to far (child protection).” Caerphilly

“Better education More opportunities to go to University”. Trethomas

“Health More activities for children Bring back National Service.” Bedwas

“Health centre in Llanbradach. Always waiting for something in the process – promised for years.” Llanbradach

“Health. People getting older . To far to travel to the Royal Gwent on a weekend if ill on a Friday.”

“Policing and health. And providing discipline and aspirations for young people. By instilling responsibility and pride in where they live.” Caerphilly

“The lack of use in town centres. They need to be the beating hearts of our areas. We have a lot of issues with big retailers and entertainment providers coming in. The whole town centre needs development.” Caerphilly

“More rubbish picked up. I want my area to look attractive and pleasant!.” Bedwas

“Prioritise and not lying. The YYF lie that it would be 24/7 Accident and Emergency when it opened it wasn't. Health won't pay for Caerphilly people. Royal Gwent don't want to pay for Caerphilly people. Price Charles won't pay for Caerphilly people. We need an A & E !!.” Senghenydd

B) Please find below a summary of the themes from the 5 geographical areas:

What are the best things about where you live and why ?	What are the worst things about where you and why ?	What do you want your communities to look like in 2040?	Which issues should Public Services solve first to create the Caerphilly You want in 2040 ?
<b>Upper Rhymney Valley (10 surveys)</b>			
<p>Green spaces and beautiful countryside and walks Semi rural location Near to amenities</p>	<p>Not enough to do – for teenagers and families. Antisocial behaviour Dog Mess Alcoholics Drugs – both growing and misuse Lack of community spirit</p>	<p>More activities for children &amp; young people More local employment Better affordable housing / no more housing</p>	<p>Less fear of crime – more Bobbies on the beat  Drugs, crime and anti social behaviour  Reduce deprivation – make it a better place to live.  More housing but with balance of facilities infrastructure</p>
<b>Lower Iswlyn (10 Surveys)</b>			
<p>Quiet Good parks / green areas Views Good facilities / amenities Community spirit / good neighbours</p>	<p>Speeding cars &amp; buses and accidents Dog mess</p>	<p>To stay green and quiet Modern local facilities and shops Community spirit &amp; neighbourliness  More community engagement</p>	<p>Anti social behaviour More police / Bobbies on the Beat.</p>

<b>Mid Valley East (7 surveys)</b>			
Quiet Good environment / woods and greenery. Semi rural Village life – good community spirit Blackwood Town Centre	Issues with drugs, alcohol and homelessness in Blackwood Bus Station  Litter/ broken glass / dog mess	Stay the same – protect what we have  More local facilities – shops, community / youth centre, leisure	Crime Anti social behaviour Stronger police patrol and police community engagement
<b>Mid Valleys West (11 surveys)</b>			
Parks Countryside Peace and quiet Good facilities & transport Good schools & nurseries Community spirit	More for teenagers to do Theft / crime Antisocial behaviour Dog mess Litter No shops	To stay fairly rural Better facilities – local hospital, more for younger people. Stay the same More jobs Less cars	Health needs – early diagnosis of illnesses, people needs to take ownership of own health – use ambulance & hospitals for serious problems, boundaries of care – moving between residential and nursing  Litter  Community integration
<b>Caerphilly Basin (43 surveys)</b>			
V good Public transport Good schools Quiet Lots of shops & facilities Low crime / safe Town / location Flowers / trees / countryside/ views Friendly community / community	Small businesses shutting down Town centre  No local out of hours GP service  Kids hanging around streets / shops – no facilities for children  Rubbish – both litter and	More activities for young people  Keep it as it is  Cleaner environment  More long term jobs / new industries	Fulfil promises made to the public that do not happen * A&E 24/7 in new hospital * Health centre in Llanbradach  Improved health service Local health services on weekend

<p>spirit Local jobs New houses Safe environment</p>	<p>overflowing bins.  Dogs mess / dogs barking / stray dogs  Antisocial behaviour / lots of drunks / parties  Crime / No local policemen / theft / no response from police  Caerphilly town centre is run down. poor choice of shops. Empty shops  No retail park  Too many cars / parking issues  Too many new houses  Deprivation</p>	<p>More visible police  Green – keep green spaces  Good choice of shops / thriving town centre / encourage smaller shops / more restaurants  No more houses on green fields or because of road infrastructure / more affordable housing  More recycling  More safe play area  Better schools  Better Broadband  Make more of the castle – more events.  Better, faster transport links to other parts of South Wales . Improves transport on weekends</p>	<p>Improve peoples health and lifestyle – reducing obesity, stop smoking  Better care services  Development of town centres  More bins / less litter  More activities for children  More responsibility &amp; pride &amp; aspirations from residents. Assist communities to help themselves and build community cohesion / spirit  Guaranteed good schools / better education prospects for those in more deprived communities  Tackle crime and disorder. More visible police  Better, cheaper public transport and more, safe, buses in the evening  Fix pot holes  Traffic issues</p>
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