

Future Scenarios Workshop - 20th September 2016
Globally Responsible

1. What do you see as the top three issues for Caerphilly county borough to be globally responsible?

WASTE:

- Improving waste management and increasing recycling linked to sustainability
- Increase jobs in recycling
- Prevention of fly tipping – keeping the environment clean. A messy environment puts people off living in the area and puts business off moving here.
- Brownfield sites and industrial waste are an issue for the re-use of the land.

ENERGY

- Fuel poverty
- Improved use of renewables (less reliance on fossil fuels) more solar power and energy efficient street lighting
- Community based renewable energy schemes e.g. windfarms and solar farms that share a percentage of the profits with the community so they have a say in the use of the funds and buy into the schemes, replacing the previous schemes with the feed in tariff where people lose interest when the benefit reduces.
- Identify resources to invest in changing to renewable energy away from gas, oil and coal generated electricity to solar/hydro-electric/wind.
- Retrofit to inefficient infrastructure buildings
- There needs to be an aggressive campaign – a national strategy to sell the benefits of wind turbines, and work with neighbouring authorities. (SYDIC wind turbine project would support the community as well)

POLLUTION

- Carbon emissions – do we need a new open cast at Fochriw?
- Restrict air travel.
- Improve public transport to reduce transport emissions.
- Industrial emissions? There are other pollutants/emissions as well as light and noise.
- Brexit. What impact will that have on EU defined recycling and air quality targets?

ENVIRONMENT

- Need to make the most of and consolidate green space in the borough, some parts are overgrown and unkempt.
- We have a welcoming environment to live in.
- Concern for the decline in biodiversity through climate change.
- Industry have waste reduction and packaging targets and regulations, we have some globally responsible companies locally.

HOUSING & TRANSPORT

- Need for affordable, well-managed, sustainable housing, there are some in the borough but land needs to be freed up for more flexible housing to meet need (not profit).
- Buildings in disrepair/empty need to be brought back into alternative use – housing.
- Heads of the Valley area lack of housing – about the wider infrastructure / transport issues for commuting public.
- Housing shortage in some areas, inability to meet demand for some types of housing.
- Empty private properties v homelessness crisis, waste of resource. There needs to be government incentive to get people into empty properties (housing market fluctuation one of many reasons why properties are retained but empty).
- Retrofit insulation to all current housing stock. Some areas have been done through WG schemes but need investment for all to be done.
- There needs to be a link between housing and employment sites to reduce the need for transport.
- There is increasing demand for roads and transport e.g. M4 and Metro system, big projects are still road related.
- More reliable and affordable community transport with joined up timetabling that is easy to understand.
- Electric vehicles still have a high investment cost for vehicles and charging points and need government incentive.
- Driving licence age should be raised encouraging use of public/alternative transport.

EDUCATION

- Need for education for all to develop an understanding of:
 - Waste and recycling
 - Food management, growing and natural resources
 - Impact on the environment
 - Support the development of food growing projects, promote allotments
 - Food production should be part of the school curriculum
 - Tackle food waste.
- Need to educate older people too! It takes a long time for work with children to feed through into the adult population, there needs to be more education of the whole community – for instance about wind turbines, to sell the benefits and the early return on investment.

EMPLOYMENT

- Digital / ICT, cyber security and increased use of technology – change to remote working / agile working – broadband needs to be better.
- Stepped process to development of digital “hutch/hub” for remote workers being able to use a local hub for hot desking.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Outward facing social responsibility to look after the planet and population.
- Transport, immigration, economy, local services and social services are all interlinked.
- Need balance between local and global.
- Public bodies (PSB) between them own a lot of land, not all in use. Communities and groups are out there who could help manage/use the land for community allotments and other community uses and this would help community cohesion.
- Sustainability = community ownership. Organisations can't work on their own, the community and voluntary sector can help.
- There needs to be work with children and young people to ask them what they want.

OTHER

- Balance of tourism development v impact on ecological footprint and sustainable development.
- Stop invading other countries.
- Stay in Europe.
- Population control.
- Funding contribution towards external issues.
- Influence on larger decision making for global stage.
- Could someone come to my house and explain to my wife what is allowed in the brown bin and what is not!?

2. Comments on the current picture from the data and what the experts are telling us, do you agree and is there any data missing?

- Need figures on out-migration, including age. This links to skills, age and productivity. Are young people coming back after university and staying or is there a lack of investment in skills or a lack of skills? Where we have tech based companies the workers are not home grown.
- CO² data – there is not as much heavy industry as in the past but these figures do not capture the use of power from outside the borough.
- Waste figures don't capture level of waste prevention.
- Pollution figures need effect on health, need health statistics alongside showing impacts of pollution on COPD etc. Also the wider impact on sickness/Worklessness and the effect of emission hotspots on health.
Emissions = travel = work e.g. the numbers travelling to work. Transport levels are rising and still an issue, Industry is becoming more responsible and is reducing its emissions.
- Carbon emissions – need the impact on Caerphilly figures of the open cast.
- Should reflect the other forms of emission e.g. electromagnetic, radiation, generators, masts etc.
- Global warming data – both warming and cooling will have an impact on people.

3. Do you think we will have the same top three issues in 2040? If not what do you think they will be?

- **Education for sustainable development**/about the environment. Will be embedded more with young people, more sensitive to issues. Recycling will become natural to them and the wider community by then.
- **Fuel poverty** will still be there – pressures will be more real, we will need greater investment.
- **Climate change / global warming** – will be more significant, there will be an increase in extreme weather, increase drought or increased flooding. Pressure on resources will be more magnified.
- **Housing** – there will always be a shortage of suitable housing and we have outdated sheltered housing schemes and lack ability to provide for the aging population – unless we start interventions now. Will need to be more creative about housing and include local renewable energy schemes with all house building. Population will grow
- **Culture Change / Employment** – more leisure time (people working longer, living longer, mortality rate change. Growth of people working from home – cultural change to technology at home – danger of increased social exclusion and isolation but less

commuting. A lot more people out of work – no suitable jobs (has been happening for 40 years due to the change of the employment sector). Danger of loss of practical skills. What will robots replace?

- **Industry** – will be reducing waste, developing more recycled packaging, investing in carbon transfer and local production.
- **Environment** – Wider impact of the loss of pollinators, people will need to realise the importance of the local ecology. This links to land use.
- **Transport** – less cars as fuel will become more expensive and people will not be able to afford them. Will require a massive investment in transport networks, metro, electrification of rail network. Improved electric cars will increase.
- **Food** – there will be pressure on food supply, we will need to produce more.
- **Energy** – Huge possibilities for renewable energy including water power but need to balance with protecting biodiversity.