

LLANDOGO COMMUNITY LED PLAN

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Acknowledgements

Once the Action Plan has been adopted, the project ideas can be prioritised and developed effectively through Trellech United Community Council, Monmouthshire County Council and individual Community Groups within the village.

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View of Llandogo from Trellech Road

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1. Introduction

This Community Led Plan (CLP) for Llandogo is a visualisation of how local residents would like the community to develop in years to come. It details the evaluation of responses from local consultation with residents and to a community questionnaire. The proposed actions included at the end of this document aim to address the issues raised by responses to the questionnaire.

The Steering Group members hope that the Plan will be the beginning of an ongoing process of improvements for the village.

2. adventa

This CLP is part of Monmouthshire County Council's Rural Development Programme under Axis 3, 'Aspirational Monmouthshire'. This programme, run by adventa, aims to stimulate entrepreneurial and organic growth by offering rural communities help and advice.

There are five sections under the project; Rural Enterprise, Social and Community Enterprise, Sustainable Tourism, Food Tourism and development and Festivals and Events; each with a tailored range of activities.

The Community Plans/Village Audits are to be executed by the Social and Community Enterprise Officers, and are able to provide a wealth of knowledge and experience during this process. The project has a target of 12 Plans to be completed by September 2014.

3. What are Community Led Plans?

A Community Led Plan relates to whatever is relevant to the people who live and work in a community, evaluating its social, environmental, physical and economic aspects. Community members discuss issues, ideas and the sustainability of aspects of the community, and identify actions that can be taken to improve it.

It is important for a community-led plan to reflect opinions from all sections of the community. It aims to identify what local people value in the village, what opportunities could be explored, and what possible solutions there are to problems. It outlines how people in the community want the village to develop in the future, and creates an action plan for achieve these goals.

A CLP should also facilitate the planning process, for example for community facilities or the building of new housing, so that the views of residents can be used to influence planning. Although they do not carry the same weight as statutory documents (*such as Neighbourhood Plans*) in determining planning applications, significant weight is given to those that are based on proper consultation and can therefore provide sound evidence. They can also influence planning applications in the absence of any adopted planning policies, or where the policy is inconclusive.

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4. Background to Llandogo Community Led Plan

Following support from Trellech United Community Council, adventa facilitated an open meeting in Llandogo Village Hall on 2 May 2013 for all those interested in a CLP for Llandogo. From that, a steering group was formed to take the plan forward. The group met several times to plan and prepare for the Community Consultation.

The consultation event was held over two days in September 2013, at Llandogo Village Hall. Residents were invited to stick coloured flags in a large map of the area to indicate problems that they perceived in a number of categories:

1. Crime and community safety
2. Education
3. Traffic, transport and access
4. Leisure and tourism
5. Housing
6. Facilities and services
7. Environment and sustainability
8. Work, training and the local economy.

The steering group, with the help of adventa's Shirley Hughes, then consolidated the issues raised into two questionnaires, one for adults and one for young people up to 18 years of age. During November 2013, the questionnaires were distributed by hand to all households in Llandogo to give everyone a chance to consider the issues raised and comment on them. Additional copies were also available at Brown's Village Stores.

Responses were returned to Brown's Village Stores and collected during December 2013. Shirley Hughes then input the data into a computer program which turned them into bar charts and percentages. This data was further analysed by some of the Steering Group and the outcome of that analysis was converted into the Action Plan which forms part of this document.

As a result of the whole process, the steering group has prepared this document to reflect the majority view of Llandogo residents. It includes a series of actions and recommendations and formally sets out a vision for the future of the Llandogo community.

Following on from this report, various groups, including those that volunteered, will be set up to pursue the highlighted actions.



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6. About the respondents

In all, 136 completed adult questionnaires were returned and 12 children's and young people's), which represents a return rate of about 30%.

Among adults, 55% of respondents were women. Most respondents are aged 45–74 (41% aged 45–64, 37% aged 65–74). Less than 3% are aged 18–24; 13% are 25–44; 7% are aged 75+.

Most respondents (55%) have lived in Llandogo for 10–30 years, 18% for more than that. Only 3% have lived in the area for less than a year. The biggest two reasons for people moving to Llandogo were that it was an attractive area and because of family (47% each). Most respondents live in private housing (90%); 7% are in Housing Association properties.

Looking at services, the vast majority of people have mains electricity (90%), most have mains water (90%). Only 75% of respondents said they have mains sewage, but it is suspected that some have it without realising it! As there is no mains gas in the village, most people heat their homes with oil (62%).

Most people are employed (55%), though a large percentage (42%) are retired. No one said that they were unemployed. Of the employed, 55% work within 30 miles of Llandogo, and only 7% have to travel further than that. Most drive to work (83%) but 16% use public transport. However, a significant number (25%) work from home.

7. Issues raised

Speeding



A466 through Llandogo

Speeding emerges as a significant concern, with 50% of people being 'very' concerned about it, and a further 32% being 'fairly' concerned. Most (73%) are concerned about speeding through the village on the A466, but there is also concern about speeding around the primary school. Only 7% are opposed to any further speed restriction around the school, while 75% would like to see a 20 mph zone in place. Most (69%) would like this zone to be between the main road and the school; 31% would like it to extend along the main road, from the 30mph sign on the Monmouth side of the school, to the start of the Trellech Rd (next to the shop).

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Most people (60%) are in favour of traffic calming measures in the village, but 21% are not. One respondent was in agreement, but did not want speed bumps. Another suggested sensor-driven speed limit signs.

At the time of writing, a 40 mph limit has just been introduced on the A466 leading into the village from the north.

Action 1
Speeding and Traffic Calming
Action 2
Speeding around school

Pedestrian concerns

A large majority of people agree that hedges should be trimmed along the A466 for pedestrian and driver safety. However, four people disagree, possibly because of the risk to nesting birds – which could be avoided if the trimming were to take place outside of the nesting season.

Action 3
A466 Hedge Trimming

A fairly large number (40%) want more resurfacing of pavements, and only 9% object to this. The majority (50%) have no view on this. A large majority (89%) were also in favour of public footpaths around the village being maintained. However, the steering group thought that there might be some confusion in people's minds between footpaths and pavements.



Local footpath

Action 4
Pavement resurfacing
Action 5
Footpath maintenance

A majority (57%) would like a zebra crossing in the village, but 43% are opposed to this.

Action 6
Pedestrian Crossing

Cycling

There is significant support (49%) for a cyclepath along the riverbank or railway line. However, 32% are opposed to any cyclepath. One view is that there should not be a cyclepath along the riverbank because of its impact on an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There is some support (19%) for cycle lanes on the A466. However, steering group discussion highlighted the fact that the A466 may not be wide enough for these to be implemented safely.

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Highways, parking and street lighting

Many people think that road surfaces need to be improved – especially on the A466 between Bigsweir Bridge and the village, on the Trellech Rd, and on the Freedom. It was also noted that the road outside the church is in need of repair and, since there is no pavement, it is also a hazard for pedestrians.

Action 7
Road improvements



Holmfield Drive

There is also a widespread demand for more road markings, including give-way markings, and cats' eyes, especially around the school and the Priory Nursing Home.

It does seem to be generally acknowledged that the village is short of parking. Most people would like there to be more parking in the vicinity of Holmfield Drive, the church, the school and village hall.

Action 8
Additional Parking

There are a wide range of views on the issue of street-lighting. However, there is little support for any drastic increase in lighting. The majority (46%) want no change, and 29% want lighting only at safety spots. As to timing, most people (45%) would like lighting on between dusk and midnight, and 5.00a.m. till dawn. In steering group discussion it was observed that some people have a problem with streetlights shining into their windows.

Action 9
Street Lighting

Transport

Interestingly, it appears that most people (39%) see no need for more buses; however, 33% would like more frequent buses, and 28% would like buses to run in the evening. Not surprisingly, no one voted for less frequent buses.

Action 10
Bus timetables

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Tulip Gardens

Housing

On the assumption that in time there will be more houses built in and around the village, most people (78%) would prefer them to be affordable homes for local people. However, there is significant support (51%) for bungalows for older residents. Very few people (10%) want more executive-style homes built.

Action 11
Affordable Housing

Communications

There is widespread demand for faster broadband (90%) and better mobile coverage (82%) in the area, the broadband of course suffers from distance from the St Briavels telephone exchange and local topography (hills and valleys). These high figures are interesting given the relatively low response to the questionnaire by younger age groups, who would perhaps benefit from better broadband and mobile coverage even more than older age groups.

Other facilities

Questions about other facilities showed, in order of support, enthusiasm for riverside seating, the eradication of Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam, the maintenance of the Memorial Green outside the church, and of the village playground (including 47% wanting fencing round it), and a large map of the village on display for public use. The 72% of respondents who were keen for the village to have its own defibrillator should be pleased to hear that this has already been achieved, and people are being trained in its use.



Action 12
Environmental activities

Defibrillator installed outside Brown's Village Stores

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The idea of having an adventure playground and fitness trail appeals to quite a lot of people (57%), and there is some support for a village campsite and picnic site. However, the picnic site is more popular (51%), the idea of a campsite being supported by only 26% and opposed by almost half of respondents (49%). Steering group discussion suggested that this might be because of associated problems with parking, etc.



Footpath to River Wye

Action 13 Physical Activities

The questions about garden sharing received a less enthusiastic response: only 9% would be willing to share their garden, and only 5% would be interested in working in and using someone else's shared garden. However, there was more support (49%) for community composting.

Action 14 Garden Sharing

Other facilities for which there is a significant demand include more dog waste bins (58%), playground maintenance (63%) and a heating oil club to get discounts on oil (49%).

In terms of what is provided by local government, 58% would not accept the loss of some services, a small majority (51%) would accept a small increase in the Precept paid for these services. A fair number of people (44%) would be prepared to help with some services as volunteers, for example maintaining footpaths in the village.

Activities

There is quite a lot of adult support for the idea of the village having a youth club, with 54% agreeing, although 43% of adults are neutral on this question. The 12 young people who answered the questionnaire are equally divided on this.

Action 15 Youth Club

There is keen interest among adults in attending sessions in a variety of activities: Keep Fit (97%), IT and Drama (both 93%), and Painting (90%). There is, in fact, already a weekly painting class on Friday mornings at the Wye Valley Arts Centre.

Some people also expressed a willingness to be involved in running or organising sessions: Keep Fit (5%), IT (11%), Drama (7%), and Painting (10%). (We're obviously a talented village!)

Action 16 Cultural Activities

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Children and young people

Sadly, as only 12 children and young people completed questionnaires, it is only possible to draw some tentative conclusions from them. Equal numbers of boys and girls answered.

Most spend time hanging out with friends, watching TV, playing computer games, using the internet, and cycling. Slightly fewer play sport, or use the park, and only half are members of clubs. There are no skateboarders in the sample, possibly because there is nowhere safe to skateboard in Llandogo!



Llandogo Millennium Hall and Park

As noted above (under 'Activities'), only half of the group are interested in a youth club, but they are much more positive about the idea of an internet café, and tennis on the LATSA court (both 8 out of 12). They are also positive about football on the LATSA court. Very few are interested in a 'youth shelter'.

Impressively, the commonest use of the internet in this group is for homework, followed closely by research. Surprisingly few use it for social networking.

Most travel to Monmouth, rather than Chepstow, Coleford or Tintern, for other leisure activities.

More young people are evidently worried about speeding traffic (7 out of 12) than boredom, dog mess or litter (all 5 out of 7). Hearteningly, only 2 out of 12 cited bullying as a cause for concern.

Like many adults, some young people mentioned faster broadband as one thing they would like in the village. The school already has it. Perhaps by the time these children are grown up we will have it in our homes too!

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Action Plan

	Subject	Specific Actions	Responsibility	Timescale
1	Speeding and traffic calming	Pursue with MCC Highways	Ashley Thomas, Bob Dagger	End 2015
2	Speeding around school	Ask Sgt Seymour (Community Police) to speak to Head of school and remind parents in school newsletter	Ashley Thomas, Bob Dagger	End April 2014
3	A466 Hedge Trimming	Clerk of TUCC to raise with MCC Highways	Clerk of TUCC	As required
4	Pavement resurfacing	Raise with Community Council. NB need for resurfacing by Pat Yallup's house, and Holmfield Drive	Clerk of TUCC	End 2014
5	Footpath maintenance	Organise volunteers who have already expressed willingness. Contact 'Overlooking the Wye' project for maintenance of kissing gate at end of path from church to river.	Steering group	September 2014
6	Pedestrian Crossing	Raise with MCC Highways whether this is a viable option.	CC Debby Blakebrough	End 2015
7	Road improvements	Raise with MCC Highways. NB resurfacing needed outside church. White give-way markings needed, e.g. exit of Priory onto Freedom, and around school	CC Debby Blakebrough, Bob Dagger, Ashley Thomas	End 2014
8	Additional Parking	Anne Davison to investigate potential new parking areas.	Anne Davison	September 2014

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	Subject	Specific Actions	Responsibility	Timescale
9	Street Lighting	Discuss with Roger Joy, Clerk of TUCC	Clerk of TUCC	September 2014
10	Bus timetables	Discuss options with Richard Cope, Passenger Transport Unit MCC	Steve Eddy	June 2014
11	Affordable Housing	No action as yet: await opportunities		
12	Environmental activities	Organise volunteers at meeting. Parents raise money for hedge around play area? Install defibrillator and instruct in use.		Ongoing. Defibrillator already installed.
13	Physical Activities	Volunteers?		
14	Garden Sharing	Put those interested in touch with each other.	Bob Dagger	
15	Youth Club	Canvass volunteers. Contact Monmouthshire Youth Service.	Steering Group	
16	Cultural Activities	Facilitate bringing those interested in taking part with those interested in running activities in the village	Sign-up by Steering Group	Ongoing