



CYNEFIN LLANSADWRN
Community Consultation
in Llansadwrn
and area
MAY 2026

Conducted by:
Pobl, Tir, Môr CIC
&
Iaith Cyf.

Funded by:
Cynllun Perthyn,
Welsh Government

Perthyn



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

In November 2025 Cynefin Llansadwrn community group received a grant of £7,000 from the Welsh Government's Perthyn scheme, a scheme administered by Cwmpas, to undertake a public consultation into the possibility of establishing a Community Benefit Society (or similar entity) which could promote four streams of work in the area – strengthening the Welsh language, strengthening access to the arts and cultural opportunities, strengthening local services, and exploring options for developing renewable energy locally.

Two consultancy firms were commissioned to work with the local project group to carry out the consultation – Pobl Tir Môr and IAITH Cyf. It was also an intention to obtain guidance from Cwmpas as to which model of incorporation would be most appropriate in order to realise the identified objectives, should a positive response be had from local people.

A number of initial ideas had been discussed locally, including:

- developing community ownership of local assets or services,
- developing renewable energy projects,
- developing projects around community land ownership,
- establishing a community shop,
- establishing a cultural centre that would boost the Welsh language locally.

The local group had identified some significant challenges to the social viability of the area from holding conversations locally, e.g.

- the closure of Llansadwrn Primary School in 2017 and Llanwrda Primary School in 2016,
- the closure of the village shop in Llanwrda in 2024,
- the high prices of private housing in the area and the lack of rental housing available to local people,
- demographic and linguistic changes,
- the centralisation of services in the neighbouring towns and further afield.

Funding for the Perthyn scheme is distributed as part of the Welsh Government's *Cymraeg 2050* programme. Therefore, strengthening the social conditions that contribute to the viability of the Welsh language is a key aspect of the scheme's aims and objectives. The scheme, which was established in 2022, aims:

"... to provide local early-stage support to communities in north and west Wales, who have high levels of second home ownership, who are interested in developing social enterprise ideas to support and protect the Welsh language". ([Perthyn - Cwmpas](#))

That aim is central to the local group's vision, as the percentage of Welsh speakers in the area has fallen to below 50% in recent decades (Census 2021 – 44%).

The Cynefin Llansadwrn group applied for the grant to:

- establish a knowledge base that could inform further planning,
- establish a purposeful platform and corporate vehicle that could respond constructively to emerging opportunities, and to
- encourage a proactive spirit among the local population that would increase their sense of ownership over their own future as a community.

The project ran from December 2025 to March 2026.

Fuzzy boundaries and the concept of community

The concepts of community (*cymuned*), neighbourhood (*cymdogaeth*), the Welsh term 'bro' and the geographical area (*ardal*) are complex and multi-faceted. Individuals' perceptions can depend to a large extent on shared experiences and commonly held perceptions that can vary between various local social groups and networks. It can also be linked to varying senses of belonging to the local neighbourhood as well as individuals' sense of their cultural identity.

Recognising these complexities, the group decided to focus the consultation exercise on two administrative communities, Llansadwrn and Llanwrda. However, it's recognised that the boundaries of *cymdogaeth*, *bro* and *ardal* are not limited to those administrative boundaries. As a result, a flexible approach was adopted in terms of the target district, that recognises local understandings and the fact that local networks extend beyond administrative boundaries.

Furthermore, it is recognised that the usual discourse around 'community' tends to include all residents of a particular geographic area within the definition of 'community'. The reality of the situation, more often than not, is that it is only a percentage of the local population (often a relatively low percentage) that is involved and engaged in contributing to and sustaining the social life of a particular area. The group approached the project, therefore, with the shared understanding that strengthening community engagement and involvement would be one of the long-term goals of the project. This project, therefore, attempts to lay the foundations for the realisation of that goal.

1.2 Research questions

On the basis of the application submitted it was agreed that the main research questions of the exercise would be the following:

1. What development needs do the people of Llansadwrn and Llanwrda identify in terms of:
 - promoting the Welsh language and its culture,
 - increasing access to the arts and other cultural opportunities,
 - improving local services,
 - promoting renewable energy, and
 - protecting and promoting the biodiversity of the natural environment.
2. What vehicle would the people of the area support in order to achieve those objectives?

Furthermore, a framework of key questions was formulated that would form the basis of the field research. The aim of the framework was to offer opportunities for local residents to offer information, views, comments and ideas along the following paths:

1. Describe Llansadwrn: What kind of place is it? Who lives here? How do they make a living? How do they spend their leisure time? What's important to them?
2. Where is Llansadwrn? With whom do Llansadwrn people engage? Where do they work? Where do they get educated? Where do they do their shopping? Where do they hang out and get their entertainment? Where do local support services come from? From where do they get their energy?
3. What do you like about Llansadwrn and the local neighbourhood? What are the most important elements for you?
4. What are considered to be the strong points of Llansadwrn and the larger local area? What would be considered to be local assets?
5. What aspects of local community life in Llansadwrn could be strengthened, improved or developed?

6. Do you have any ideas for new activities, projects or developments you would like to see happening in Llansadwrn?
7. Would you support the establishment of a community initiative (e.g. Community Benefit Society) that could further some of the ideas suggested by local people during this exercise
8. Any other comments?

The above questions were included in the scheme's engagement plan and were used as the framework for the questionnaire and on-line survey used in the community consultation.

1.3 Methodology

The consultation took place throughout March 2026. A number of consultation exercises were held which provided opportunities to share information locally and for local people to express their views, ideas and comments based on the above research questions. The main methods of information gathering included:

- individual face-to-face and telephone conversations,
- presentations and discussions with key groups within the local community,
- an online and paper questionnaire for individuals,
- engagement event at Llansadwrn Reading Room on 14 March 2026.

The intention in choosing the variety of methods was to make it as easy and as accessible as possible for local people to contribute to the consultation – either face-to-face, online or on paper – as they wished.

The local project group created a list of all the community groups in the area, in order to target them in various ways. That list included:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| • Llansadwrn Community Council | • Llansadwrn Reading Room Committee |
| • Llanwrda Community Council | • Vestry Venture (Llansadwrn) |
| • Llansadwrn Church | • Llansadwrn spinners, weavers and dyers |
| • Llansadwrn Community Garden | • Cornwallis Trust |
| • Clwb Gwawr | • Sinema Sadwrn |
| • Adran yr Urdd Llanwrda | • Six O'clock Club (Llansadwrn) |
| • Llangadog YFC | • Secondary and primary school pupils in the area |
| • Sadwrn Singers | |
| • Sadwrn Start Art | |
| • Sadwrn Stitchers | |

The online questionnaire and the paper questionnaire were promoted among the local groups and associations. A QR code was created which was distributed via the publicity materials, shared on the Llansadwrn village website, the area's social media and local telephone groups. It was also advertised in the area's community magazines, including 'The Post' and 'Y Lloffwr'. There were also direct conversations with the community councils, the Reading Room Committee, the Urdd group, Llangadog YFC and a number of individuals who hold leadership roles in the area.

The focus of the consultation exercise was a community open day event held at the Reading Room in Llansadwrn on Saturday, 14 March, between 12.00pm and 4.00pm. In all, 44 local people, within a wide age-range, attended the event in the course of the afternoon and provided a very enthusiastic and positive response.

For the engagement event Pobl Tir Môr had prepared an attractive board based on the questionnaire which enabled individuals to leave comments and ideas on post-it notes. The local group members were present, along with the consultants, in order to speak with

participants, stimulate response and encourage individuals to fill out the questionnaires. An art workshop was also held by an experienced artist, Angela K. James, and a presentation on the demographics of the area was given by the consultant from IAITH Cyf., a talk that spurred a discussion that highlighted a number of issues that were of concern to those in attendance.

The board was left in the Reading Room for a week after the engagement event in order to give others an opportunity to contribute to the consultation. The board was moved to Llanwrda Hall for the final week of the consultation, especially to capture comments at that week's community event by Adran yr Urdd Llyn y Fan on the 25th of March, which was a Bingo night attended by around 50 local people. All participants contributed anonymously and we do not disclose any comments made by specific individuals in this report.

The consultation closed on 27th March. At the end of the engagement period, the following contributions had been received from 87 individuals:

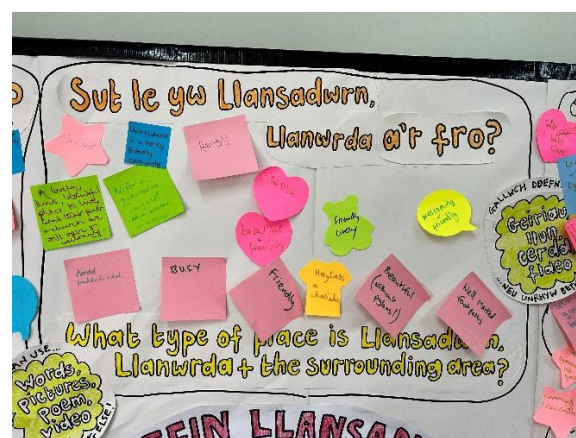
- 44 contributions during the consultation afternoon,
- 14 additional comments added to the comments board following the consultation event,
- 18 answers to the online questionnaire,
- 6 responses to the paper questionnaire,
- 6 direct conversations held by members of the local project group.

All the comments from the questionnaires, from the individual conversations and from the comment board were collated in a combined database by Pobl Tir Môr. The database has 82 individual responses – which represents around 8% of the local population. The information collated was analysed and organised by a the IAITH Cyf. consultant for this report.

A draft of the report was checked and verified by a local project group representative before the final report was published.

1.4 Respondents

In engaging with the consultation exercise the contributors were asked to note their identifying characteristics, so that the project group could monitor diversity, equality and inclusivity factors (DEI). A summary of the respondents' profile is given below. A fuller report is available as an appendix to the report.



Age

The age profile of the 41 contributors who answered this question was as follows:

Age range	No.	%
Under 15 yrs	5	12%
16-24 yrs	0	0%
25-49 yrs	13	32%
50-64 yrs	12	29%
65 yrs and older	11	27%

While some children under the age of 15 have responded, the majority of the responses were presented by adults over the age of 25. There is a significant underrepresentation of responses from young people aged 16 to 24. It is acknowledged that the project group had targeted secondary school pupils and Llangadog YFC members, but they are not fully represented here.

Gender

Of those who responded to this question, 20 of the 32 (62.5%) were female and 12 (37.5%) were male – suggesting an under-representation of male views within the views expressed.

Welsh language skills

31 respondents answered this question (28 fully). The range of their skills in Welsh was as follows:

Skills	No.	%
Understands spoken Welsh	12	39%
Speaks Welsh	11	35%
Reads Welsh	13	42%
Writes Welsh	9	29%
Learning Welsh	3	10%
None of the above	12	39%

61% who answered the question had some level of skill in Welsh.

However, 7 out of 28 respondents (25%) indicated that Welsh was their main language. 19 of the 28 (68%) identified English as their main language and 2 of the 28 (7%) indicated that their main language was another language.

Long-term and medium-term health conditions

Of those who responded to this aspect, 10 (32%) of the 31 indicated that they suffer from a physical or mental health condition or illness that persists or is expected to continue for 12 months or more.

Economic status

Of the 31 respondents to this question, 10 (32%) indicated that they live in low-income households.

Enquiries

Of those who responded to this aspect, 14 (45%) of the 31 indicated that they were members of families with children aged 17 and under.

Ethnic background

All (100%) of the 24 who answered this question indicated that they belonged to a 'White Welsh or White British' ethnic group.

Conclusion

It is recognised that a minority of the individuals engaged with answered the DEI questions. However, going forward, in order to ensure representative engagement, it is suggested that the local action group should make a targeted effort to engage with the younger generation, with males, with native Welsh speakers and with individuals from any ethnic minorities living in the locality.

1.5 Profile of the local area

As a facet of the project's knowledge base, IAITH Cyf. consultants created a basic demographic area profile based on 2021 Census statistics in relation to people 3 years old and older, comparing the Census statistics for the communities of Llansadwrn and Llanwrda with the data for Carmarthenshire and Wales as a whole. A summary of the main features is presented below. The full profile is presented as an appendix to this report.

Population

The combined population of the two communities (people 3 years old and over) in 2021 was **983**. There were slightly more females in the area than males.

Females = 50.7%

Males = 49.3%

Welsh Speakers

In the 2021 Census, **424 reported** being able to speak Welsh – a percentage of **43.5%**. The percentage was slightly higher in Llanwrda (46%) than in Llansadwrn (41%). In line with general demographic trends in Carmarthenshire, it is assumed that there is a higher percentage of Welsh speakers among the younger age groups than in the older age groups.

Occupations

The Census shows that the most significant economic group is the 'skilled trade occupations' group. This group includes the construction industry, skilled trades and the hospitality industry. The group also includes the agriculture industry and related businesses.

In Llansadwrn the percentage employed within this group was **22.7%** and in Llanwrda it was **30.5%**. This compares to the percentage for Carmarthenshire (14.8%) and Wales (12.2%) – which is a significant feature of the local economic profile.

In comparison, there were considerably fewer jobs in the sales and customer service sector.

Housing Tenure

Age

In the 2021 Census it was reported that 139 children and young people aged between 3 and 15 years old lived in the two communities – 75 in Llansadwrn and 64 in Llanwrda – **14%** of the local population.

There were 557 residents aged between 16 and 64 – 294 in Llansadwrn and 263 in Llanwrda – **56%** of the local population.

Significantly, **30%** of the population were aged 65 and over – a total of 301 individuals, 141 in Llansadwrn and 160 in Llanwrda. The corresponding percentages for Carmarthenshire and Wales as a whole are 24.2% and 21.3%.

Summary

It can be concluded, therefore, that compared to the populations of Carmarthenshire and Wales as a whole, the populations of the villages of Llansadwrn and Llanwrda are:

- comparatively older,
- are more likely to speak Welsh,
- are more likely to work in agriculture and related skilled fields, and are
- more likely to own their homes.

Naturally, questions arise around the viability of these communities (and the future of the Welsh language locally) if a high percentage of the population is within the older generations and there is a corresponding comparatively low percentage of young people. The percentage of people renting their homes is relatively low. Moreover, the availability of appropriate homes for younger people and access to the housing market in general can also be factors that could affect the future sustainability of these communities. There may also be questions to be raised if a community is dependent on an industry which is experiencing challenges, hardship or change, (e.g. the current economic downturn in the agricultural sector).

www.llansadwrn.org.uk

Cynefin
Llansadwrn, Llanwrda a'r fro

Gwasanaethau ac asedau lleol
Local services and assets

Natur a bioamrywiaeth
Nature and biodiversity

Ynni adnewyddadwy
Renewable energy

Iaith Gymraeg
Welsh language

Celf a diwylliant
Art and culture

Arolwg ar-lein i gasglu gwybodaeth am anghenion a syniadau ein cymdogaeth
Online survey to collect information about the needs and ideas of our community

Diwrnod Cymunedol Agored
Community Open Day
14.03.26 / 12.00 - 16.00
Darllenfa / Reading Rooms
Llansadwrn

Perthyn

Arweiniad gan Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by Welsh Government

cwmpas



2.0 Responses to the consultation

In this section we will try to summarise the responses received from the various sources.

2.1 What kind of place is Llansadwrn, Llanwrda and the neighbouring area?

There were 34 responses.

Llansadwrn and Llanwrda are described as beautiful and quiet villages set in a beautiful landscape of verdant hills and dales on the outskirts of the Tywi Valley. The natural beauty of the area was emphasised by many. The rural and agricultural nature of the area and the fact that it is typical of the landscape of north Carmarthenshire were noted.

Generally, the neighbourhood is described in positive terms. It was said that the people were neighbourly, friendly and supportive of each other. It was noted that there is considerable goodwill in the area and a desire and spirit to survive and thrive. It was said that there is a strong sense of community in the area, that there is a strong sense of belonging and that people engage cooperatively to maintain the local community, instilling a sense of local pride.

It was noted that Welsh is a living language in the area and that it is used on a daily basis by a significant percentage of the population – particularly those who were raised in the area. It was also noted that recent demographic changes have seen changes in the area's language profile to the detriment of Welsh. While there were no obvious tensions between local families and recent in-migrants, one respondent noted that the language networks did not always mix socially. Another respondent noted that there is a need for more deliberate bridging between the two language communities and firm measures put in place to ensure that the Welsh language retains its status in the community and thrives as a community language.

The facilities and activities provided by both the local church and pub in Llansadwrn, as well as the various voluntary societies found in the area, were very much appreciated. However, many noted that the area was suffering from a lack of general services – especially after the closure of the two primary schools, the café, a pub and a local shop. It was also noted that opportunities for socialising were scarce. The lack of public transport was also a concern for some. It was also noted that there is economic potential in increasing the value of the local food production industry, as well as the value of the local environment and its biodiversity.

2.2 What do you like about Llansadwrn, Llanwrda and the local neighbourhood?

There were 54 responses.

Many respondents stated that they liked the tranquillity and natural beauty of the area. The magnificent views were noted, including being able to see the peaks of the Carmarthenshire Beacons and the beauty of the Tywi Valley. The natural environment and the public paths available locally were appreciated, including those provided by Natural Resources Wales and the Woodland Trust (*Coed Cadw*).

To be able to live in a rural area but not to be too secluded was also appreciated. The location of the villages near the A40 highway and the ease of reaching the area's market towns was seen as advantageous, as it provided easy access to health services and public transport.

There was a sound and enthusiastic appreciation of the social life of the area. A number of voluntary groups and societies were identified in the responses:

- Llansadwrn Show
- Sinema Sadwrn
- Reading Room
- Llansadwrn Church
- Vestry Venture
- Sadwrn Singers
- Art Club
- Sexton Arms
- Litter picking crew
- Play Park
- Big Lunch
- Adran yr Urdd

There was also appreciation of the hard-working individuals who organise and support the above activities. Llansadwrn Show was highlighted as an important feature of social life locally – and an appeal was made for more volunteers to help organise the event.

The bilingual nature of the area was also appreciated in two responses, with one respondent including a note expressing concern about the viability of the Welsh language in the area.

But the biggest response in terms of numbers, certainly, was an appreciation of the community spirit that is found among local residents. The people of the area were described as social, creative, kind, friendly and caring people of each other. Two typical responses would be:

"It's a wonderful feeling to live here, surrounded by nature and incredibly kind, caring and creative people whom I am fortunate to be able to call friends."

"I like the scenario, the natural environment and the wildlife. I like the lively community events that are in the village. I like the friendly and supportive attitude of the people."

2.3 What are the most important elements of the neighbourhood to you?

There were 18 responses. This question was not on the Consultation Board due to space limitations. It could only be answered via the survey.

However, the same themes emerged. There was an appreciation of the rural nature and natural beauty of the area. The common land was specifically identified as an important habitat for wildlife.

The social life was valued, citing the Reading Room, the pub, the community field and the church as key resources for Llansadwrn society. One (who was not religious) suggested that more use should be made of Llansadwrn Church as a community asset/venue.

The people themselves received the most response. They were noted to be close, friendly and skilled, with a number of individuals who were willing to dedicate themselves to maintaining local social life. There were two responses stating that the significance of the area to them was that it was their home and that it was an integral part of their identity.

Other responses indicated that important aspects for them were the low crime-rate, the speed of fibre-broadband and the monthly walks.

2.4 What is frustrating about living in Llansadwrn, Llanwrda and the neighbouring area?

There were 54 responses.

Despite their overall appreciation of the area, many frustrations were expressed by the respondents. Among the most prominent issues cited were:

- The limited opening hours at the pub and the fact that the pub did not provide food on a regular basis. It was noted that there was a need for a centre that individuals and families could use to meet socially.

- The weaknesses of the local public transport system (bus, train and cycle route), and in particular the lack of late return buses from Llandovery and Llandeilo.
- The lack of a corner shop in the area.
- Potholes in the country lanes.
- The lack of information about what's going on locally.

Some more strategic frustrations were also identified:

- That the community has not been so close since the closure of the two local schools.
- That the Welsh language is a secondary consideration locally and that there are not enough Welsh-medium activities available in the area.
- That there is no obvious cultural centre in the area.
- That it's a challenge to attract the younger generation to attend committees and take on leadership roles within the community.
- There are barriers to accessing some local footpaths in the area – while they could, if opened, be a potential economic asset.
- The area is dependent on external systems to ensure food and energy security.

Other frustrations included:

- That the park and the community field are far from each other (Llansadwrn).
- That the park needs to be improved for the use of the children.
- That the seats in the Reading Room were somewhat uncomfortable.
- Signs need to be improved locally.
- That more litter bins are needed locally.
- A supply of road salt is needed for winter use.

It was regretted that some local groves had recently been felled. One respondent complained about the intention to erect electric pylons in the area. One respondent cited the need to cut the grass in the play area, while another wanted the community field's grass not to be cut until June in order to promote biodiversity.

In terms of positive responses, one respondent suggested that the residents needed to come together to solve some of these local difficulties. Another respondent suggested that the appointment of a coordinator to coordinate local efforts in that regard could be considered.

2.5 What aspects of neighbourhood life in Llansadwrn, Llanwrda and the vale could be strengthened, improved or developed?

There were 16 responses. Again, this question was not included on the Consultation Board due to space limitations. It could only be answered through the questionnaire.

The two main responses were (a) the desire to see a shop (and Post Office) reopen in the area and (b) the desire to see the pub open for more hours and provide food and entertainment.

Other responses noted:

- The need to ensure that the bus service continues.
- A desire to see evening activities taking place at the Reading Room.
- A suggestion to develop the Llansadwrn community field in terms of community building(s) and a car park.
- That public paths are protected and developed, and that greater access to the countryside is facilitated.

- That provision is needed for local children and young people, e.g. a Welsh-medium youth club.
- Improving the roads and cutting the roadside hedges.

More strategically, the need to develop more affordable housing in the area was also identified.

There was one response which suggested that there was a little frustration regarding the relationship between the two language groups in the area:

"What I'd love to see is that the people who grew up in Llansadwrn feel valued and included in society. Sometimes it feels as if those who have always called it home are being ignored, in fact they are the ones who carry the history and character of the area, along with its continuity."

2.6 Do you have ideas for new activities, projects or developments that could benefit the people of Llansadwrn, Llanwrda and the neighbouring area?

There were 71 responses to this question. The ideas are listed below with the number of multiple responses in parentheses.

There were a number of suggestions regarding the development of the community field (8), including:

- erection of community building(s) (e.g. hall) (2)
- planting of a community forest
- new Play Park
- *Boules/Bocce* pitch
- music festival
- beer festival
- community BBQ
- picnic tables for food events.

Many responses suggested various social events and activities for interested individuals:

- Welsh & English book/reading club (7)
- Gardening club (6)
- Local history society (5)
- Music nights (4)
- Art/pottery/photography club (3)
- Spinning/weaving/wool products club (3)
- Running club (2)
- Movie nights (2)
- Current affairs discussion club (2)
- Astronomy club
- Healthy eating club
- Bingo
- Senior citizens lunch club
- Wine appreciation society
- Afforestation group
- Project to promote recycling locally
- Dog walking club.

Other suggestions were more ambitious in their intent, more broad in scope and had the potential to contribute more directly to the strategic objectives of the Cynefin Llansadwrn group:

- Open a community corner shop – permanent or pop-up (8).
- Set up a group to maintain and develop public footpaths and litter picking – which could contribute to the local tourism industry (6).
- Hosting events to buy, sell and promote local produce – which could contribute to the foundation economy locally (6).
- To establish Welsh-medium provision for children and youth – which could include, forest school, Lego club and sports provision – that would contribute to the viability of the Welsh language locally (5).
- Share information about local events, e.g. a notice board or newsletter– to promote community cohesion (5).
- Welsh classes and activities for Welsh learners – which could also contribute to the viability of the Welsh language locally (4).
- Generating renewable energy through the erection of a wind turbine (2) and creating energy from *biomethane* (1).
- Producing a local skills directory – to promote the foundation economy (2).
- County Cars scheme – to facilitate access to public services.
- Improving the playground.
- Setting up a community pub.
- Develop a project to promote 'green' housing.
- Restoration and creative use of Capel Libanus

There was one imaginative proposal to secure a community cow in order to produce milk locally.

2.7 Do you have any specific ideas about projects to promote the Welsh language, improve local services, promote renewable energy, protect nature and biodiversity or develop arts and cultural opportunities?

There were 44 responses to this question. The suggestions are listed under the theme headings:

2.7.1 Promoting the Welsh Language

- Local Welsh classes.
- 'Clwb Clonc' and opportunities to speak Welsh informally.
- Monthly rambles for fluent Welsh speakers and new speakers.
- A local produce market designed to facilitate the use of Welsh.
- A local storytelling group.
- Welcome packs for new arrivals to the area that introduce them to the linguistic and cultural nature of the community.
- Local directory of people who could translate text or provide simultaneous translation.

2.7.2 Improving local services

- Development of social housing, affordable housing and sheltered housing – possibly in partnership with the Cornwallis Trust.
- Establish a community car scheme to ensure access to surgeries, hospitals etc.
- Utilising the Reading Room as a casual shop

2.7.3 Promoting renewable energy

- Investigating the possibilities of establishing a local electricity generation scheme(s) by means of a wind turbine, solar panels, biomethane or a water turbine (in the River Marlais).
- Set up a local energy club to buy electricity at a discounted price from a 'green' provider.
- Install solar panels on Llansadwrn Reading Room, along with a battery storage system to provide a community backup resource when the electricity supply is cut off.
- Installation of electric vehicle charging points near the Reading Room in Llansadwrn.
- Distribute information about grants to facilitate the use of renewable energy.
- Establish a project to promote 'green' eco-housing.

2.7.4 Conservation of nature and biodiversity

- Planting wildflowers in hedgerows and roadside plots.
- Establish a bilingual Nature Club.
- Refrain from mowing the grass of the community field, only cutting walkways.
- Establish a Welsh-medium forest school.
- Set up a local walking club, map local trails and create leaflets to promote them, as well as promoting local habitats and wildlife.
- Promote the installation of bird boxes and bat boxes locally.
- Protect local woodlands.
- Develop sustainable drainage plans (SUDS) locally in collaboration with landowners.

2.7.5 Developing the arts and cultural opportunities

- Restoration of Libanus Chapel as a performance space for cultural events.
- Supporting the establishment of an arts and cultural centre in Llandeilo or Llandovery, similar to that of Theatr Mwldan in Cardigan.

2.7.6 General suggestions

- Set up a local newsletter.
- Extending the Tywi Valley cycle path.
- Produce a directory of local producers (food and other produce).
- Opening a local corner shop.

It was also noted that the local Community Councils could raise their profile and share their achievements with the local populace.

2.8 Would you be supportive of seeing a community company being established to try to realise some of the ideas put forward by local people during this consultation (e.g. Community Benefit Society)?

A total of 34 individuals answered this question – either online or by expressing an opinion in the consultation event. Of which 22 (69%) were supportive of the idea of setting up a community enterprise, i.e. a Community Benefit Society or similar, to realise some of the ideas proposed during the community consultation. Only two (6%) were against the idea while 8 (25%) were unsure about the idea.

There were 19 comments regarding the possibility. Most were supportive, with one respondent willing to financially support such an initiative.

Others wanted more information about the nature of the initiative, saying their support would depend on the nature of the activities. One respondent stated the view that it was important to work with the local community councils. It was also noted that activities and ventures already happening in the area needs to be considered and supported.

Some doubts were expressed about the local capacity to sustain such an initiative, and whether sufficient funding would be available to carry it out successfully, as well as the fact that long-term planning is needed to ensure succession is maintained. It was also suggested that a project officer would need to be employed to sustain and co-ordinate the initiative from its inception.

Respondents were also given the opportunity to indicate whether they would be prepared to assist the project group in setting up a community enterprise. In all, 33 respondents responded to that question, either in the online questionnaire (18) or in a face-to-face interview with the written questionnaire (15). Of those 33, 20 (60%) responded positively, with 9 (27%) stating a conditional response. There were 4 (13%) who indicated that they would be unlikely to assist the enterprise but would like to keep in touch with the initiative.

The skills and experiences offered to the initiative as support covered the following areas: social media, research, organising, translation, food, gardening, construction, running workshops, as well as providing general advice and opinions.

2.9 Any other comments?

There were 13 additional comments. Most repeated or highlighted ideas already presented, e.g.:

- the need for a local shop,
- a desire to see the Sexton Arms pub open for longer hours,
- a desire to see the promotion of biodiversity at Llansadwrn community field,
- a desire to see the younger generations take leadership roles within the community.

One idea expressed at the meeting of Llansadwrn Community Council was to establish a project to collect the names of local fields.

There were also some more wide-ranging comments. One respondent noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed people's social behaviours and their community engagement for the worse. Another respondent expressed sadness at seeing the language of events held at Llansadwrn Reading Room change from Welsh to English over the years. Another respondent noted a warning against creating local tensions between language networks.

One notable message of pride and encouragement was received, a message that congratulated the organising group on bringing new energy to the local community.

2.10 Group discussion at consultation event

During the consultation event on 14 March 2026, a consultant from IAITH Cyf. presented a summary of the local area profile for the participants in attendance, teasing out their response to the statistics and facilitating discussion around some strategic priorities suggested by the profile.

The specific comments noted from the discussion, recorded on a flipchart at the time, revolved around the following points:

- The lack of social housing locally and the growth of holiday accommodation, (e.g. Airbnb accommodation).
- Transport difficulties and the need for a scheme similar to County Cars.
- The lack of a corner shop locally.

The contextual factors below also arose in the conversation and an ambition expressed to:

- keep young people in the area and attract more of the younger generations to live in the area,
- promote the Welsh language and facilitate bilingualism within the community,
- respond to the difficulties facing agriculture locally,
- take action on food security locally,
- promote an appreciation of local resources, facilities and assets, and
- promote more social opportunities in order to boost a sense of community and belonging.



3.0 Summary, conclusion and recommendations

3.1 Summary of findings

It was agreed that the main research questions of the exercise would be:

1. What development needs do the people of Llansadwrn and Llanwrda identify in terms of:
 - promoting the Welsh language and its culture,
 - increasing access to the arts and other cultural opportunities,
 - improving local services,
 - promoting renewable energy, and
 - protecting and promoting the biodiversity of the natural environment.
2. What vehicle would the people of the area support in order to achieve those objectives?

Participants were also given the opportunity to express views on the strengths and frustrations of living in the area, as well as offering constructive ideas about how to improve the quality of life for the local residents and the social viability of the area as a whole.

Area strengths

Overall, the impression was gained that the respondents were very satisfied with their experiences of living in Llansadwrn, Llanwrda and the wider neighbourhood. The tranquil rural environment and the natural beauty of the area were identified as prominent assets. At the same time, there was also found to be value in being fairly close to the local market towns and relatively easy transport links.

A sincere appreciation of the community spirit found in the area was expressed. The local residents were described as being social, creative, kind, friendly and caring people of each other. The strong impression was conveyed that the people, their skills and their attitudes were the area's greatest asset.

It was noted that the Welsh language was an important and core feature of the local society, and a general sense of goodwill was expressed towards the Welsh language as well as a determination to see it flourish.

The enthusiasm of all the voluntary groups that sustain the social life of the area was appreciated. But there was also regret at how the area had lost a number of key services such as the village shop, a pub (Llanwrda), a café and two primary schools in recent years. The provision provided by Llansadwrn Church, the Reading Room and the pub at Llansadwrn is greatly appreciated. The effort and dedication of the volunteers who organise and support the area's social activities is also appreciated.

Area weaknesses

Despite their overall appreciation of the area, a fair few frustrations were expressed by the respondents. Among the most prominent issues were:

- the failings of the local public transport system,
- limited pub opening hours at Llansadwrn,
- the lack of a corner shop in the area,
- the dearth of information about what's going on locally.

Some more strategic frustrations were also identified:

- That the Welsh language is a secondary consideration locally and that there are not enough Welsh-medium activities in the area – for neither fluent speakers or new speakers.
- There is no obvious cultural centre in the area.
- That it's a challenge to attract the younger generation to committees and leadership roles within the community.
- The area is dependent on external systems to secure supplies of food and energy.

Aspects for improvement and development

When asked what aspects should be sought to be improved in the area, the two main responses were (a) the desire to see a local corner shop (and Post Office) reopen in the area and (b) the desire to see the pub open for more hours and provide food and entertainment on a regular basis.

Other responses noted were:

- The need to ensure the continuation of the existing bus service.
- A desire to see evening activities taking place in the Reading Room.
- A suggestion to develop the community field in terms of the erection of a community building and the installation of a car park.
- That public paths need to be protected and developed, and that greater access to the countryside is facilitated.
- That provision for children and young people needs to be improved locally, e.g. a Welsh-medium youth club.

More strategically, the need to develop more affordable, social and sheltered housing in the area was also identified.

When asked for ideas for the future, there were eight suggestions regarding the development of the community field. Many responses suggested developing various social events and activities for interested individuals – there were 17 specific suggestions.

Other suggestions were more ambitious in their intent, broader in scope and had the potential to contribute more directly to the realisation of the strategic objectives of the project group, e.g.:

- Welsh-medium provision for children and young people – which could contribute to the viability of the Welsh language locally.
- Welsh classes and activities for new speakers.
- Develop plans to generate renewable energy locally.
- Establish a community pub.
- Open a community corner shop.
- Establish a group to maintain and develop the area's public paths.
- Organise events to shop, sell and promote local produce.

Achieving Cynefin Llansadwrn's strategic aims

When asked about specific ideas that could achieve the strategic goals of the project group, the following were noted, among others. See section 2.7 for the list in full:

1. Promotion of the Welsh Language

- Local Welsh classes, and opportunities for new speakers to speak Welsh informally with their neighbours, e.g. monthly rambles.
- A local produce market designed to facilitate the use of Welsh.
- Welcome packs for in-migrants that introduce the area's linguistic and cultural nature.

2. Improving local services

- Development of social housing, affordable housing and sheltered housing.
- Establishment of a community car scheme.
- Use of the Reading Room in Llansadwrn as a pop-up shop.

3. Promotion of renewable energy

- To research the possibilities of establishing a local electricity generation scheme(s) by means of a wind turbine, solar panels, biomethane and a water turbine (in the River Marlais).
- Set up a local energy club to buy electricity at a discounted price from a 'green' provider.
- Installation of electric vehicle charging points near the Reading Room in Llansadwrn.
- Distribution of information about grants to facilitate the use of renewable energy.

4. Conservation of nature and biodiversity

- Establish local action groups that could facilitate projects such as:
 - Planting wildflowers in hedgerows and roadside plots.
 - Mapping and promoting local walking trails.
 - Create leaflets to promote local habitats and wildlife.
 - Promote the placement of bird and bat boxes locally.
 - Protecting local woodlands.
- Develop sustainable drainage plans (SUDS) locally in collaboration with landowners.

5. Developing the arts and cultural opportunities

- Restoration of Lebanon Chapel as a performance space for cultural events.

6. Setting up a community enterprise

It seems that much enthusiasm has been sparked in the area as a result of this engagement exercise. In all, 22 of the participants indicated that they would support seeing a community company being established, e.g. a Community Benefit Society, to promote some of the ideas proposed during the consultation. Moreover, 20 people offered their practical support to the project group, with a further 9 offering their conditional support.

3.2 Conclusion

The main aims of this project were to:

- establish a knowledge base that could inform further planning,
- establish a purposeful platform and corporate vehicle that could respond constructively to emerging opportunities, and to
- encourage a proactive spirit among the local population that would increase their sense of ownership over their own future as a community.

The aim was to seek to stimulate social change that would contribute positively to the social viability of Llansadwrn, Llanwrda and the neighbouring areas.

The medium used to drive this change was a local consultation exercise that would highlight the aspirations of local people regarding their future, focusing on five specific aspects, i.e. local people were asked for ideas on how best to:

- to promote the Welsh language and its culture,
- facilitate access to the arts and other cultural opportunities,
- improve local services,
- promote renewable energy, and to
- protect and promote the biodiversity of the natural environment.

A wealth of ideas and suggestions was received – in terms of the five areas noted above, along with other relevant areas of interest – which provides the project group with a sound knowledge base for future planning. On the basis of the information received the project group can proceed to draw up a comprehensive, broad-based and dynamic community development plan.

Secondly, it can also be concluded that the enthusiasm generated by the exercise, together with the promises of support received from participants, justifies the project group's intention to establish an incorporated community enterprise which could facilitate and realise the stated aspirations of the residents of the communities of Llansadwrn, Llanwrda and the wider area.

Thirdly, the enthusiasm generated seems to have sparked a proactive spirit among a cohort of the local population, raising awareness that the local populace needs to develop their ownership and agency over their own future.

On the basis of the evidence gathered, therefore, it can be concluded that this community consultation has been extremely successful in terms of its own objectives.

3.3 Recommendations

Based on the above evidence, it is recommended that the project group consider the following actions:

1. Report back and share the findings of this community consultation exercise with people locally, including holding a feedback meeting at either the Reading Room, Llansadwrn Church or the Sexton Arms in Llansadwrn.
2. Hold further conversations with key groups and individuals about how best to implement some of the ideas suggested, e.g. the Reading Room committee, the Llansadwrn community field committee, the priest-in-charge and wardens of Llansadwrn Church, the owner of the Sexton Arms, the management committee of Capel Libanus, Llansadwrn Community Council and Llanwrda Community Council.
3. Further consultation with the 16-24 age group, by contacting Llangadog YFC members, school pupils and young families locally.
4. Use the findings of this consultation exercise as a basis for the development of a Community Development Plan; and initiate a follow-up prioritisation exercise to inform the plan and give the community action group a focus on where to start.

5. Proceed with the intention to establish an incorporated community enterprise, investigating the vehicle which would be most likely to realise the objectives of the Community Development Plan.
6. Research sources of funding to fund the activities and administration of the incorporated community enterprise, including finding the funding to employ a coordinator.
7. Consider how to include under-represented groups in future consultations and projects, particularly the younger generation, males, native Welsh speakers and individuals from any ethnic minorities living locally.

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May 2026

