

Stage 1 Results: The responses of Community/Town Councils, groups and organisations in the Dolgellau Area



Draft Summary (January 2022)

1. Introduction

- 1.1** The purpose of the 'Ardal Ni 2035' project is to conduct a conversation and discussion with local communities to identify what matters to residents and how they would like to see the area develop in the next 10-15 years.
- 1.2** We intend to collaborate and jointly develop solutions with organisations, groups and individuals. At the end of the project there will be 13 specific regeneration frameworks that reflect the aspirations of local communities.
- 1.3** The first stage of the project was to conduct initial talks with Councillors, Community and Town Councils and local regeneration groups in order to establish:
 - What is good about the area?
 - What is not so good about the area?
 - What changes would you like to see happen in your area in the next 15 years, that would make your area a better place to live?
- 1.4** An invitation, together with area statements (namely booklets that summarised the main economic, social, cultural and environmental data) were sent to all Councillors, Community Councils and the main local groups.
- 1.5** Between September and November 2021 a discussion took place with 9 Community /Town Councils, organisations, groups and local Members in the Dolgellau Area.

2. What's good about your area?

These are the principal matters the responders of the Dolgellau Area noted that were **good** about their area:

Theme	Number who noted this in their response
Environment and proximity to natural attractions e.g. mountains, the seaside and the countryside	7
Community spirit and friendliness	5
A safe and secure area	4
Education provision and good schools	3
The area's history and heritage	3
The Welsh language / culture	2
Footpaths, cycle paths and coastal path	2
Social activities e.g. sports clubs, choirs	2
Amenities and facilities such as shops, cafés, restaurants	2
Activities and opportunities for young people	1
Public transport - good train network	1
Job opportunities and self-employment	1
A good place to bring up a family	1
Good playing field	1
Strong economy / not much poverty	1
Active volunteers	1
Societies willing to organise and promote events	1

3. What is not so good about your area?

These are the principal matters the responders of the Dolgellau Area noted that were **not so good** about their area:

Theme	Number who noted this in their response
A lack of high salary / full-time jobs	7
Concerns about health provision - hospitals and surgery	5
Lack of affordable housing for local people	5
Public transport and insufficient bus network	2
The number of second homes and holiday homes in the area	2
Geographical distance from everywhere	2
Problems concerning parking	2
Access /accessibility of the town and beach	2
Community buildings in poor condition	1
Problems and impact of over-tourism	1
Lack of Police presence	1
Concerns about the conditions of roads and traffic	1
Gwynedd Council have forgotten about the area / no awareness of local needs	1
Not enough car charging points	1
Lack of action by the Community Council	1
Environmental crisis - tree diseases	1
Nothing to keep young people in the area	1
Lack of social housing	1
The closure of schools has a negative impact	1
Lack of broadband infrastructure	1
Lack of interest in religion	1
Litter, untidiness and general look of the area	1

4. What changes would you like to see happen in your area in the next 15 years, that would make your area a better place to live? (identify up to 3 changes)

These are the principal matters the Community/Town Councils, groups and organisations in the Dolgellau Area wanted to see happen in the next 15 years:

Theme	Number who noted this in their response
Create high value work and jobs	7
A greener area and schemes to save the environment	4
Schemes to ensure suitable housing for the needs of local people	4
Schemes to support the Welsh language in the community	3
Develop Trawsfynydd Power Station	3
Make better use of public buildings	2
Make more use of Cae Penarlâg Offices	2
Better health provision	2
Support local businesses to establish and thrive	1
Develop the roads network	1
Local food production	1
Very difficult to say what will be needed in 2035	1
Need a Place Plan for the area	1
Public transport that uses electric energy	1
Create a broadband infrastructure	1
No need for foodbanks	1
Make more use of the area's environment	1
Education for all ages	1
More public services e.g. library, toilets, leisure centre	1
Political changes - independence for Wales as part of the EU	1
Sustainable tourism	1

5. Additional questions

5.1 Who are the main organisations and groups that could come together to fulfil the required change?

- Gwynedd Council
- Welsh Government
- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
- Adra
- Cwmni Nod Glas
- School Council
- Sport Clubs
- Sesiwn Fawr Dolgellau
- Cylch Meithrin a Meithrinfa Seren Fach
- Chapels and Churches
- Partnership such as BT
- Community/Town Councils
- Westminster Government
- Snowdonia National Park Authority
- Coleg Meirion Dwyfor
- Ysgol Bro Idris
- Dolgellau Partnership
- Young Farmers
- Yr Urdd
- The Town's Park Committee
- Organisations such as the Rotary, Merched y Wawr
- Fairbourne Amenities Trust

5.2 Are you aware of any local consultation work that has been undertaken in the last year?

This is a list of the consultation work noted in response to this question in the Dolgellau area:

- Consultation on bus services
- There has been no formal consultation, however, the community council has worked with other bodies to ensure that the Aberllefenni to Aberangell road is re-opened as soon as possible.

5.3 Other issues relating to the 'Ardal Ni 2035' work that arose in the Dolgellau Area:

- We have faith in the civil service and in the system that statutory officers can make unbiased decisions for the benefit of the town taking the required considerations into account. If there are resources available, we would support having experts from other parts of the world to share experiences and to look at and offer improvements/alternative ways of working that have been a success. Learning from others.
- Our main priority at the moment is the ramp - we need this for visitors to continue to come to the area.