

WENVOE COMMUNITY MAPPING



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Engagement Report

The community mapping activities took place during September and October 2016. The activities included a community survey, drop in sessions at the village show and primary school. This report gives further details of the activities and summarizes the findings.

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Wenvoe Community Mapping

ENGAGEMENT REPORT

1. Introduction

The Wenvoe Community Mapping Project funded under the Vale of Glamorgan Council's LEADER programme, a European funded programme to deliver rural regeneration by developing innovative ideas that create long-term social and economic benefits for rural Vale. One of the themes under the regeneration programme is to help 'Communities Evolve' by exploring new ways of delivering services, facilities, activities and networks. The aim of Community Mapping is to find new ways to engage people to identify in a positive way to identify what the community's assets (both physical and social) and needs are.

Wenvoe was the second community in the rural Vale to pilot community mapping, using the Draft Community Mapping Toolkit, which was developed by the Creative Rural Communities Team and first piloted in St Athan.

2. Community Mapping in Wenvoe

The approach taken in Wenvoe was slightly different to that of St Athan, where in depth support was given to build a clear picture of what the community needs were.

In Wenvoe, there was a clearer understanding of services provided. There was the Wenvoe Community Website, which gives a clear listing of everything going on in the local community – www.wenvoe.org.uk. Additionally the monthly magazine 'Wenvoe What's On' provides good communication of what going on and key contacts in the village. Although there is a small fee for the publication, over half the households in the area have signed up to it. Furthermore, there is a Wenvoe Facebook page.

The Creative Rural Communities Team worked closely with the Wenvoe Community Council on the community mapping activities. The target area for the community mapping was not the whole ward of Wenvoe, instead focused on the Wenvoe Community Council area and excluded the communities of St Nicolas and Bonvilston.

The community mapping project was driven by the Community Council's aspirations for a new library building. Following the Community Council's community consultations in 2012, a list of community priorities were identified including a new library.

Since 2012, the community of Wenvoe has changed with new residential developments on Port Road and at the former ITV studios, near Culverhouse Cross. It was felt that feedback from these new residents was important to understand what their services needs were.

The purpose of this community mapping exercise was to build on the previous consultation and re-affirm what the communities' priorities were.

3. Community Engagement

A significantly lighter touch engagement took place compared to St Athan. To gain up to date feedback from the community, the following community mapping activities were undertaken:

- Wenvoe Community Survey
- Drop in Sessions at Wenvoe Village Show and Gwenfo Primary School.

3.1 Community mapping promotion

A flier advertising the community survey and the Community Mapping Event was sent around all properties in the Wenvoe Community Council area the week commencing 5th September 2016. Properties in the following areas received a copy:

- Wenvoe
- Brooklands Terrace
- Cambrian Residential Park
- St Lythans Park
- Twyn-yr-Odyn
- St Lythans
- Duffryn

The flier was promoted on Wenvoe's facebook page. There was an article about the community mapping work in the 'Wenvoe What's on' and there was an article in the Gem on Thursday 22nd September 2016 encouraging residents to complete the survey.

3.2 Wenvoe Community Survey

The survey was open for 4 weeks from Monday 5th September to Monday 3rd October 2016. The public were encouraged to complete the survey on-line as well as paper copies being available at the Village Store, Community Centre and Library.

The over one third of the surveys were completed during the first week of the survey launch. A few additional surveys were completed on line at the Village Show. The survey was translated into Welsh; however, no responses were received through the medium of Welsh.

Summary of responses

About You

91 surveys were completed. Over 90% of respondents lived in Wenvoe, with only 8 responses coming from outside the village.

Just over 40% of respondents did not work. Of the remainder 20% worked within 5 miles of their home and 16% worked between 6 and 10 miles away.

In term of the age profile of respondents, approximately 5% were under 24 years and 20% were over 70 years. Just under a third were 40 – 55 years and a further third were 56 – 70 years.

About Your Neighbourhood

Nearly 70% of respondents wholly liked living in Wenvoe with only one person disliking and one person mostly dislike living in the area. In terms of the sense of community, nearly 65% felt Wenvoe has a strong

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sense of community. Only 7% felt it was not or not at all strong. The community appear to know each other with 60% of respondents knowing over 20 neighbours, over 20% knowing 11-20 neighbours and only 5% knowing 1 – 5 neighbours. Only 1 respondent knew no neighbours.

In terms of what people liked about their neighbourhood, the majority stated that Wenvoe was friendly with good community spirit. A third stated its rural location is what they liked, in addition to proximity to amenities and services both within the village and proximity to Cardiff. The table below summarises the responses to this open question:

What people like?	Number of respondents
Community spirit / friendly place	41
Rural location / countryside / peace and quiet	29
Proximity to Cardiff / all amenities	13
Lots of things to do / range of services	11
Feels safe	8
Well-kept and tidy	5
Parks, gardens and green space	3
Easy access when travelling	3

Over 90% of respondents felt safe in Wenvoe with only one person stating they did not feel safe at all. A few respondents identified particular issues with safety including poor lighting, uneven footpaths, slippery footpaths, lack of dog friendly styles, improved road crossings on the main road, which is not accessible to disabled, conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders and high levels on traffic on Port Road

Services in Wenvoe

Respondents' views on services / facilities varied considerable. The majority stated that the following services / facilities were excellent and very good (included play areas and parks, footpaths and open spaces / countryside, community centres and local clubs) and the following were satisfactory (shops, pubs and takeaways, public transport, library and sport provision). Over 25% did state the sports provision, training opportunities, public transport, pubs and takeaways were poor or very poor.

General comments about the use of services and facilities included improving the footpaths around Twyn yr Odyn, improve grass cutting in the park, lack of training opportunities, would like to see computers back in the library and one suggestion was that given nearest gyms in Cardiff more support should be given to running and cycling groups in Wenvoe. One respondent commented that it is a village and should remain a village so would not expect to see all these facilities in a village. The community do not want to be an extension of Cardiff.

It is interesting that although many respondents commented on the range of services / facilities available, many respondents did not use them. Some facilities were used more regularly, with over 50% using play areas and parks, footpaths and open spaces / countryside, community centres, public and takeaways and

shops more than once a month. The school and the training opportunities were the least well used by the community, however this may be due to the demographic of the respondents. Over 40% never used local clubs; nearly 40% of respondents never used the sports provisions and a third never using the library in Wenvoe. Concerning library membership, 47% of respondents were members of the library.

In terms of why services and facilities were not used, respondents made the following suggestions including better advertising of events so tickets could be purchase in advance, improvements to the pub including food offer and use of the function room upstairs for events and improved play areas. A number of respondents commented that they work full time or away from the area and do not have time to get involved in community activities.

In terms of services accessed outside, the area that they would like to see provided locally comments included:

Services access outside the village that respondent would like to see	Number of respondents
Coffee shop / delicatessen	11
Doctors / Chemist	15
Better public transport (including bus stop in the village)	7
Takeaway	5
Exercise Classes / gym eg. pilates	4
Outdoor gym	3
Beauty Salon / Hairdressers	3
Better pub with good food	2
Public car park and toilets	1
Better maintenance of footpaths / styles	1
Library that doesn't rely on volunteers	1
Better use of community centre for indoor sports for kids	1
Library	1
Better broadband	1

Other ideas including the Wenvoe Wheelers Cycle Club holding sessions for children in local green spaces.

Digital Technology

In terms of digital technology, over 97% of respondents had access to a computer / tablet at home, internet access, email address and a mobile phone, over 80% use on-line banking and on-line shopping and 64% had access the social media. Only 3% have none of the above.

The question relating to barriers to accessing digital technology had a poor response rate with only 27% of respondents answering the question. Of those respondents, 80% sited poor internet coverage and 16% lacked confidence using and setting up computers and tablets. Of the 90% of people responding to the question asking whether they were interested in attending Digital Drop in session, 25% stated they would be interested.

Improvements in Wenvoe

The following ideas were suggested as improvements to the community:

Type of improvement	Idea for improvement	Number of respondents
	Prevent traffic cutting through the village	5
	Doctors	4
	Café (particularly to go to between play group finishing and nursery starting)	4
	No parking on pavements / green verges	4
	Improvement to public footpaths eg. Removing weeds, making styles dog friendly	4
	Better broadband	4
	More activities for the community including young adults and intergenerational activities	4
	Improvement to pavements eg. Port Road to Llanfair	2
	Opposed to growth of Wenvoe – no more new houses	2
	Youth development worker to work with young people	2
	More litter bins / better litter collections	2
	Better broadband	2
	Better bus service	2
	Replace felled trees and plant more specimen trees	1

	Better pub with good food	1
	Create a vision for Wenvoe	1
	More frequent grass cutting	1
	Better designed cycle routes	1
	Better crossing points to enable disabled / elderly to catch a bus	1
	More frequent grass cutting	1
	Inadequate street lighting	1

Wenvoe Wish List

The Community Council had identified a 'Wish List' of projects following previous community consultation exercises. Respondents were asked to indicate what priority they would give to each project.

The following projects were identified as being the **highest priority** with over 40% of respondents stating it was their highest or high priority:

- Replacement of the library building with new multi-functional building to include cafe and afterschool club (58%)
- Renew play equipment and improve access to Grange Avenue Play Area and Twyn-yr-Odyn play area (49%)
- Undertake various wildlife projects (43%)
- Village coffee shop (42%)
- Installation of a multi-use games area for school and community use. (42%)

The following projects were identified as being a **medium priority** with the majority of their responses being either low priority, medium priority or high priority. Not all these projects had high scores under the lowest or the highest categories. These have been listed in order of priority with 1 being the most popular of the medium priority projects.

1. Complete missing section of street lights on Walston Road between Orchard Close and Wenvoe Close
2. Install pavement on Old Port Road, between Rectory Road and the Old Rectory
3. Improve drainage at junction of Walston Road and Orchard Close and Walston Road and Pound Lane
4. Undertake highway improvements (including dropped kerbs and general repairs) within Wenvoe and Tyn-yr-Odyn.
5. Burial land - a new area is required for future use.
6. Install pavement on blind spot adjacent to No. 32 Walston Road

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The following projects were identified as being the **lowest priority** with over 40% of respondents stating it was their low or lowest priority:

- Install grasscrete to enable vehicles to drive over grass verge on Rectory Close (67%)
- Install toposcope, local information sign and public art. (62%)
- Install hard standing parking on the grass verge between Sport Road and Playing Field, Station Road East (59%)
- Install outside gym at Station Road Sports Field. (56%)
- Provide off road cycle network to the new developments. (52%)

Other ideas

Respondents were asked an open question about other ideas for new services. The following suggestions were received:

- food co-op run by local volunteers
- developing horse friendly routes away from cars
- better signage for public rights of way
- off road parking areas for vans or 2nd / 3rd cars, better parking by the school
- community garden
- cash machine
- public art whose development involves the local community
- encourage more adult learning facilities in the village hall / community centre
- a dog exercise area.

A total of 38 respondents left their contact details.

3.3 Drop in sessions

3.3.1 WENVOE VILLAGE SHOW

The Creative Rural Communities Team and Wenvoe Community Council undertook a community mapping drop in session at the Wenvoe Village Show on Saturday 17th September 2016.



Approximate 85 people participated in the following exercises:

1. **Mapping where they lived**

Participants were asked to identify where they come from in the Wenvoe ward, and the majority lived in the village itself with only 6 people coming from outlying villages.

2. **Voting on community priorities** – each participant was given £1200 to allocate (12 x £100) to 12 projects. They could either put their money on one project or allocate it across a number of projects depending on what they felt their priorities were. The top three projects were a coffee shop, replacement library and renew play equipment and improve access to Grange Avenue Play Area and Twyn-yr-Odyn play area.

3. **Dream Tree** – asking participants for their aspirations for the future of the village. There were a number of new ideas / issues suggested including providing a doctors, prohibiting horses from using the shared footway and cycleway and importance of keeping the library.

4. **Feedback Posters** – 3 large feedback posters were stuck up at the community centre and participants could leave comments on.

The following questions were asked:

- What do you like about Wenvoe? Participants stated that they liked the community feel and their neighbours, and the range of community groups / activities available.
- What services / facilities do you use in Wenvoe? Participants stated that they used the pub and shop in addition to facilities such as the library, church and village hall.
- What are your aspirations for the future? Participants stated that they would like to see better public transport, a pub that did good food, ban horses and riders from using the shared cycle / footway on Port Road.

These were left in the community centre for a few weeks to gain further feedback.

3.3.2 WENVOE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Creative Rural Communities Team attended the MacMillan Coffee Afternoon on Friday 30th September 2016 to seek feedback from parents. Approximately 50 residents participated. Most of those attending lived in Wenvoe and children attended the school. A few grandparents and the local vicar also attended. Similar exercises were undertaken to those at the Village Show. Participants were asked to vote on community priorities.

Again the priorities were the renewing the play equipment and improved access to Grange Avenue Play Area play area, village coffee shop, installation of a multi-use games area for school and community use and replacing the library with a new multifunctional buildings. In discussion participants felt that the multifunctional community building, which meets the needs of all would be a priority. A large number of people suggested a doctor's surgery.

4. Key Findings

From the discussions and survey results most residents liked living in Wenvoe, felt there was a good community spirit and knew at least 10 neighbours.

Most liked living in the rural area and having easy access to Cardiff, but felt the public transport could be improved.

Of the priorities identified from previous community consultations the highest priorities were:

- A village cafe

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- Providing a new library, which is multi-functional including a café and afterschool club.
- Improved play areas and a new multi-use games area

Other ideas for improvements included providing a doctors, improved footpaths, more community activities and better broadband.