

Raglan

Community Plan



Version 1 June 2014



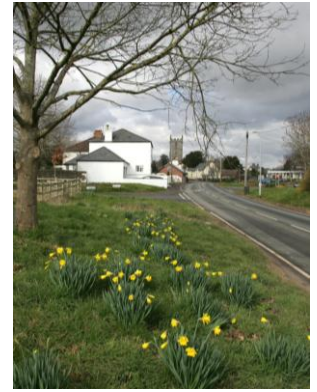
Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu
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The European Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development: Europe Investing in
Rural Areas



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

1. Introduction

This Community Plan for Raglan United, (including Llandenny, Pen-y-Clawdd and Kingcoed) is a visualisation of how the local residents would like the community to develop in years to come. It details the evaluation of the responses from local consultation with residents and the results of a community questionnaire. Actions have been drawn from the issues raised (included at the end of this document) which will assist in informing future decisions and identify key issues where improvements can be made.



Chepstow Road

2. Adventa



The Cross

This community-led plan is part of Monmouthshire County Council's Rural Development Programme under Axis 3, 'Aspirational Monmouthshire'.

'Aspirational Monmouthshire' is a programme run by adventa and aims to stimulate entrepreneurial and organic growth by offering rural communities help and advice.

There are 5 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 Plan can include everything that is relevant to the people who live and work in a community.

A Community Led Plan includes social, environmental, physical and economic aspects of the area and evaluates their pros and cons. Issues, ideas and the sustainability of those aspects noted within the meetings, and are discussed and actions have the opportunity to be raised.

It is important that the plan reflects the opinions from all sections of the community, and not just the 'usual suspects'.



Raglan Primary School

The plan aims to identify what features and characteristics of the village are valued by the people, the local problems and opportunities that could be explored. A community led plan outlines how people in the local community want the village to develop in the future; the plan then gives an opportunity to set an action plan to achieve these visions.

4. Background to the Raglan Community Led Plan

Following support from Raglan Community Council, adventa facilitated an Open Meeting on Tuesday 15th November 2011 which was held in Raglan School for all those residents interested in a Community Plan for the Raglan area, and from that a Steering group was formed from people interested in taking the plan forward. The group meet several times to plan and prepare for the Community Consultation.



Raglan Arms, Llandenny

Pupils at Raglan Primary VC School were involved in designing a Poster for the Consultation event, and their views were sought (through the School Council) on what they would like to see for the future of their village. All community groups based in and around the village were invited to attend.

The Community Consultation event was held over 2 days in March 2012, which took the form of a drop in session, where residents had the opportunity to get together in Raglan Old School to discuss how they felt the village should move forward over the next 5–10 years. Using giant-sized maps of the Raglan Wards, (including Llandenny, Pen-y-Clawdd and Kingcoed) residents were able to indicate with flags where and what should or should not happen in the future of the village, and surrounding hamlets.

Issues raised fell mainly into eight areas:

1. Crime and Community Safety
2. Education
3. Traffic, Transport & Access
4. Leisure and Tourism
5. Housing
6. Facilities and Services
7. Environment and Sustainability
8. Work, Training and the local Economy



Llandenny

The next part of the exercise was to consolidate all the issues raised into two questionnaires, one for adults and one for young people up to 18 years of age. These Questionnaires were prepared by the Steering Group with guidance from Shirley Hughes from adventa to ensure that they reflected the main issues which were raised at the Community Consultation. During August 2012, the questionnaires were distributed to all households to ensure that everyone had a chance to consider every issue raised and have their say on those issues.



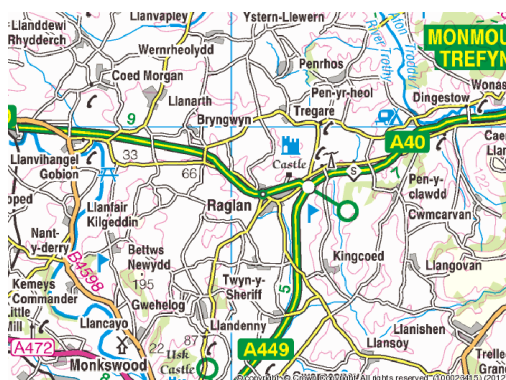
St. Martins Church Penyclawdd

Responses were collected at the end of October, and eventually results from every returned questionnaire, including any additional comments made at the public meetings or on the questionnaires, were further analysed by the Steering Group and the outcome of that analysis converted into the Action Plan which forms part of this document.

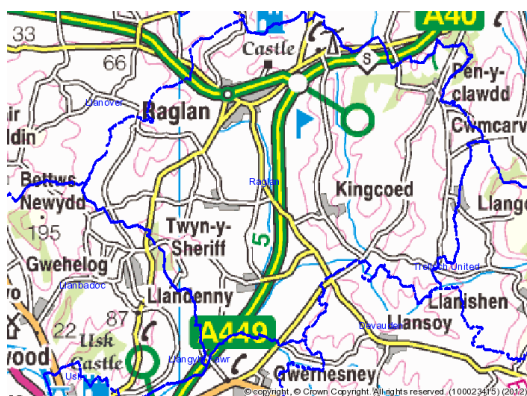
Finally, out of the whole process, this Community Led Plan document has been prepared by the Steering Group to reflect the majority view of the Raglan Ward residents. It includes a series of action and recommendations and formally sets out a vision for the future of our Community.

5. The Raglan Ward

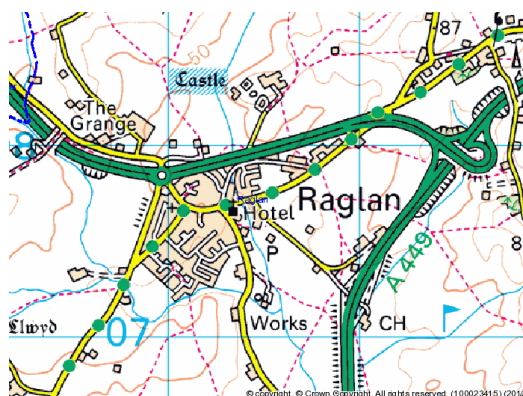
General location of Raglan within Monmouthshire



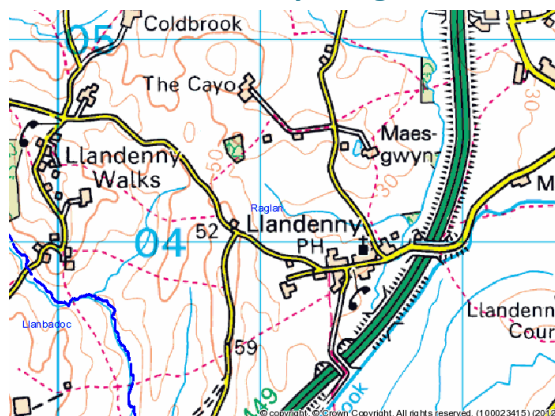
The Raglan Ward



Raglan Village



Llandenny Village



6. Summary of Key Issues

The Questionnaires were delivered by hand to every household in the Wards during September and October 2012, and every child (200 +) in Raglan Primary School was asked to fill in the Children's version. Members of the Steering Group also visited Youth Groups in the village such as Scouts, Brownies, and Explorers to consult with as many young people as possible. Additional copies were available from the Village Post Office and Primary School. Local Community Councillors delivered to Llandenny, Kingcoed and Pen-y-Clawdd.

Post Boxes were sited at Raglan Post Office and Raglan Primary School for completed Questionnaires to be dropped into. In all, **484** completed questionnaires were returned (**248 Adults** and **236 children & young people**), which represents an excellent **return rate of just under 40%**.

62% respondents were women and mainly came from the **45 – 64** age group, with residents proportional to the percentages of inhabitants in each of the Raglan United areas. It was evident that the older generation completed the Questionnaire, with just **3%** aged **18 – 24**, **15%** of **25-44**, **34%** in the **45 – 64** age category, **26%** **65- 74** and **22%** were in the **75+ age group**.

It was evident that Raglan was deemed as an attractive place to live, as **34%** of the respondents moved into the area because of that reason, with **28%** stating that they came to the area because of their employment. Over half of the respondents have lived in the area for more than 10 years, with just **6%** who have moved into the area in the last 2 years or less. **12%** stated that they had always lived in the area.

Due to the Class work in Raglan Primary School, 132 responses came from the 6 – 9 age group with just 5 of the 15 – 17 year olds responding.

The overriding message from this process was that a vast amount of people living in the Raglan Community want to have a say in the long term future development and sustainability of the village.

Many items got a mixed response, but there were also a large number of issues where a large vote indicated their importance to community members. For most of the questions in the survey, the results were calculated as a percentage of those who gave an answer to the question. This is normally the most appropriate way to present the results.

The figures shown below are taken from the Survey Monkey results that were input by Shirley Hughes & Helen Williams.



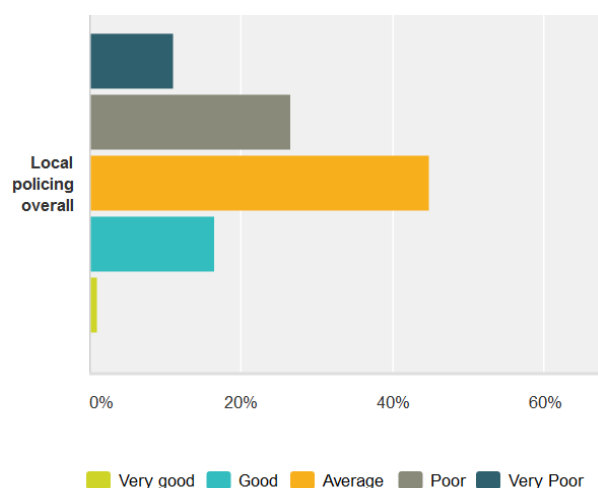
Usk Road, Raglan

Crime and Safety

When asked their opinions on the standard of local policing, over 41% thought the **local policing** was average. Nearly 22% thought it was good, although twice as many people felt that it was 'very poor' than those who felt it was 'very good'.

A summary of attitudes to local policing is shown in the chart on the right.

35% of residents are members of the online **neighbourhood watch** scheme called OWL, but a higher 53% would be interested in helping with a neighbourhood watch scheme.



It was evident that people wanted to see more **Police patrols** in the village.

Crime issues – views were sought on a number of specific crime types, with the relative balance between those feeling affected and unaffected. A low 5% were concerned about **violence**, but 36% were concerned about **local burglaries**, and the fear of **leaving the house unattended** was flagged up by 40% of the total respondents. Another issue raised was **walking alone at night**, which was of concern by 34%, and **feeling safe in your home** seemed to be of concern by 26%. These figures perhaps are reflected by the age of the majority of the respondents (over 45).

Drug taking (16%) and **Drug Dealing** (14%) seemed issues that don't really affect too many of the community.

Amongst the Children & Young People, the Question was asked 'Do any of the following worry you?'

	Yes	No
Being bored	28%	72%
Being bullied	60%	40%
School work	37%	63%
Transport facilities	30%	70%
Speeding traffic	63%	37%
Drug/alcohol abuse	69%	31%
Dog Mess	63%	37%
Litter	65%	35%
Anti-social behaviour	66%	34%
Not being able to meet up with friends outside school hours	33%	67%

The above results showed that **being bullied, speeding traffic, Drug/alcohol abuse, Dog Mess, Litter and Anti-social behaviour** were the main worries for the children and young people.

Street lighting - 32% would like to see additional street lighting, and some of the key locations mentioned were Monmouth Rd, alleyways, Ethley Drive, High St, and Station Rd; however 27% would like to see less street lighting, particularly after midnight, when energy can be saved by switching them off. The dual carriageway (A40) lighting was mentioned by many as an area where this could be trialled.

Road safety spots of concern in village are highlighted in the following tag cloud in which the size of the words shows how often they appear in the survey responses. The main comments showed concern about parking around the School and in the High Street, plus speeding traffic in Chepstow Road past the School and in the High Street.

Caestory Crescent Castle Street **Chepstow**
 Road Corner Crossing Dual Driving Too Fast Dual
 Carriageway Entering Gwehelog Road Lanes School at Busy times
High Street Leaving Old Monmouth Road
 Outside School Roundabout shops Sunnyvale
 Footpath Usk Road Village West Lea

Education

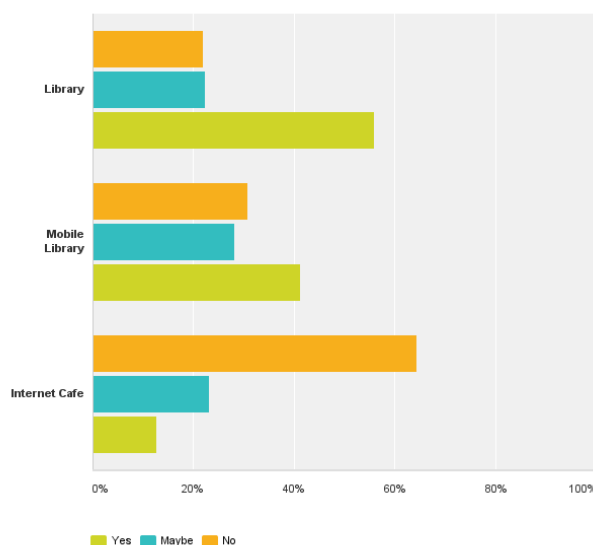
Interest in **adult education** classes was recorded as follows:

Welsh 27% **Computing 22%**
Internet Use 17% **Art 23%**
Soft furnishings 15% **Crafts 24%**
Music 19%

Interest in various other educational services is highlighted in the chart opposite:

Q10 Educational Services - Would you use any of the below if they were made available?

Answered: 235 Skipped: 13

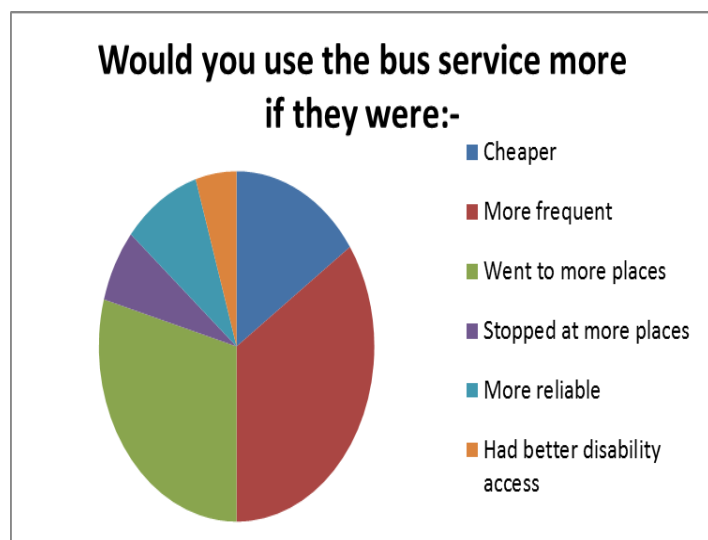
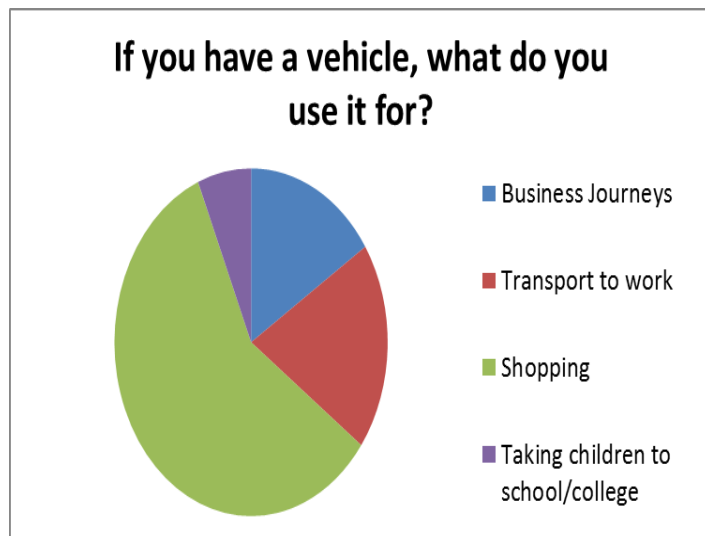


72% thought that there was enough **pre-school provision** (0-5 years old), whereas (Q12) – 60% thought that there was enough **before and after school provision**. Interest in a **library or mobile library** was shown by both adults and children in their responses.

Transport

Vehicle use locally is dominated by shopping trips, with other uses coming much further down the list, as shown on the right.

Local bus service - Only 1.26% use the bus daily, 12% at least weekly and 51% never use the local bus service at all. The main concerns over bus services are limited frequency and destinations, ahead of cost and other factors, as shown below:



Local bus destinations used by residents are quite well distributed, with Monmouth visited by 70%, Newport by 67%, Abergavenny by 64%, Usk by 53%, and Cwmbran by a smaller 38%.

Later in the survey, it was revealed that for getting to work, nearly three quarters (72%) drive rather than using public transport. But a very significant 39% of residents work from home, so this is less of an issue than it might be.

It was revealed that 79% knew about the **Grass Routes Bus** but 80% never used it. This could be because 81% felt that the Grass Routes Bus doesn't travel to their desired destination; although most respondents didn't actually answer this question (only 23 responded).

Road safety

How do you think **road safety** could be improved in the community? The answers were broad-ranging, with the most-favoured answers being lower speed limits and routing HGV's away from the High Street.

Traffic calming measures – 53%

Speed cameras – 38%

Reducing speed limit – 63%

Pedestrian crossing- 60%

Re-Route HGV's – 73%

Better pavements – 40%

Bridge over dual carriageway to Castle – 56%

Better signage – 27%

Parking restrictions – 60%

Creation of new pavements – 29%

One way traffic – 30%

As you can see the majority of concerns were centred on **speeding** and **parking**.

Footpaths, Bridleways & Cycling routes

25% use the **local footpaths** daily and 41% occasionally

To improve the footpaths, 43% would like to see more of them and have them better maintained (35%), whereas 28% would like to see better route information and signage and 37% would like to see gates replace stiles, to improve accessibility.

63% are aware of the Raglan Local Ways Community Group, who help open up local walks. On cycling, 75% NEVER cycle at all but 38% would like to see more **cycle routes**, which would perhaps increase the cycling base.

94 % do not ride horses but 26% would like to see more **bridleways** and safe off-road routes for horses.



Raglan Healthy Footsteps Walk

Village Development

Housing is always a topic that causes comments from residents, and when asked if any additional accommodation was built in the community, the desired housing type was both affordable and small - medium size:

- Affordable homes for local young people to purchase 84%
- Realistically priced starter homes 82%
- Affordable homes for local young people to rent 76%

It was also very clear that there was no desire for any further Executive homes to be built. Just 25 people thought there was a need in Raglan. **Harold's Field** site was identified as the most popular site for future development.

The community was asked which type of **tourist facilities** they would support for the community in the future, with new B & B's scoring 72%, and 68% backing Heritage Trails.

Play Park - both adults and children stated that they would like to see more facilities for children on the site, which included different play equipment, Gym equipment suitable for adults, and several people requested toilets be installed on the site.



Play Park, Raglan



Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

Community Centre

The residents attending the Consultation Event were asked if **Raglan Old School** was handed over to the Community, what improvements would they like to see?

Most people felt that the Old School was not 'fit for purpose' for the size of the village, and that the facilities that could be created, would not accommodate the events currently held in the present **Community Centre Facilities** in the Primary School.

It was noted that the Scouts require more space, as their current building is not adequate for their numbers.



Raglan Old School

To continue using the Old School and make it 'fit for purpose' as a Community space within Raglan, there was overwhelming support (81% - 95%) for the development of: new indoor toilets, disabled access, modern catering kitchen, community café, IT centre/community office, library and youth group.

34% would be prepared to volunteer in a **community café** on weekdays and 17% on weekends; a higher percentage (41%) would be prepared to help in a **community library** (Q44) on weekdays and 22% on weekends.

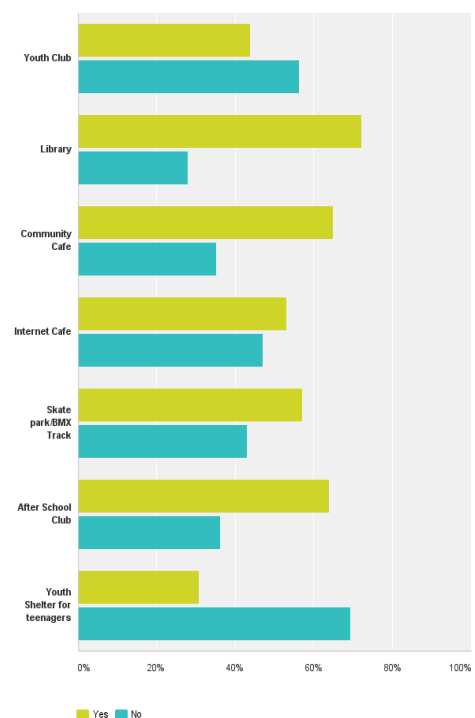
The Children & Young People were asked what facilities they would use if they were provided in the Community (Q7) and a **Library** came out on top (**72%**) with **After School Clubs** 2nd and a **Community Café** where they could hang out with friends was in 3rd place.

Of the 66% who had broadband access 67% would like **high-speed broadband connections** if there was no additional cost, while 25% would be prepared to pay extra and would support the development of a Wi-Fi system in Raglan High Street. In the business community, a majority 60% wanted high speed broadband and 23% were prepared to pay extra.

46% would use a **Local Farmers/Producers Market** regularly and another 44 % occasionally, demonstrating strong overall support to this idea.

Q7 Which of the following would you use if they were provided in the community?

Answered: 189 Skipped: 47

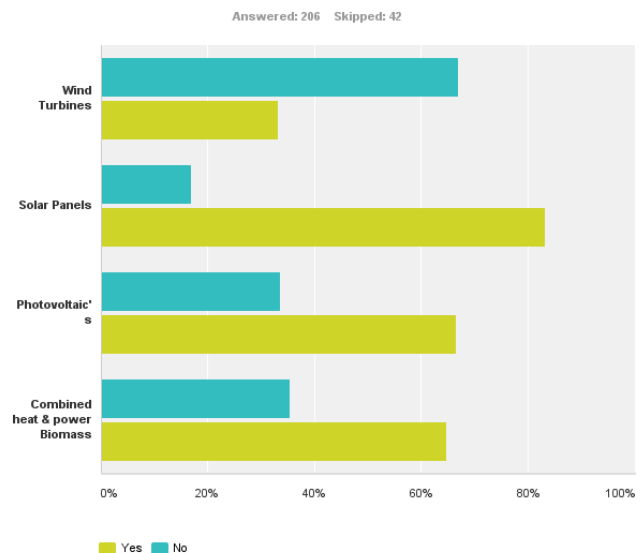


Environment & Sustainability

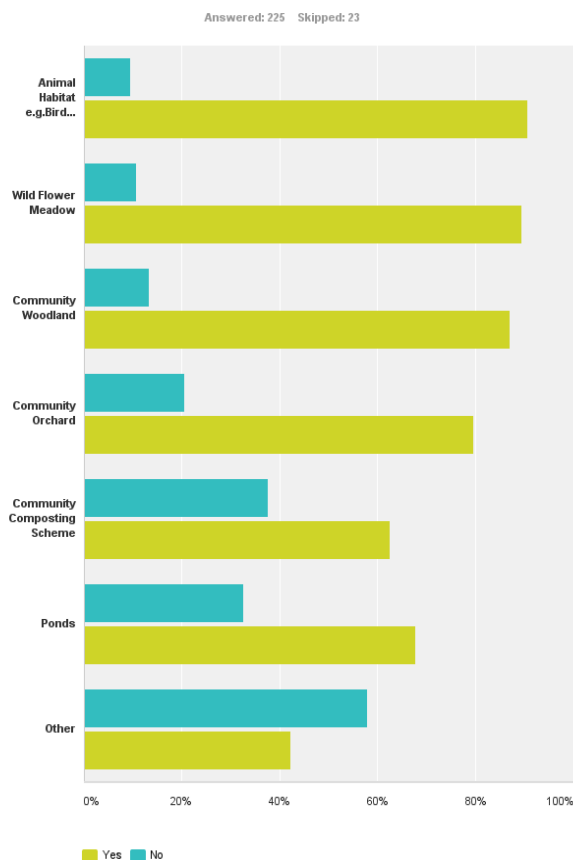
68% are interested in Raglan generating its own **community energy supply**, to achieve greater independence and control of own resources. In terms of the type of renewable energy installations favoured, the spectrum of views by technology is as shown right:

92% are happy with the **recycling facilities** in the village but only some 40% still use the recycling site near St Cadoc's Court

Q49 Which alternative energy systems would you like to see developed/used?



Q52 Would you like to see land/areas made available to create:-



Land use is an important issue to consider when mapping the future of the community, and residents were asked about a range of environmentally-friendly schemes, with the results shown on the left

In terms of local heritage, 71% are interested in **conservation of old buildings** in the village.

Business

Just 6% said they need **help starting or expanding their business** but 34% didn't know about the help available for rural enterprises.

Barriers that prevent business expanding include: Lack of mobile phone coverage (18%), Poor broadband connection (23%), Lack of affordable workshop space to rent (14%), and Lack of guidance & support (11%).

72% of respondents thought a local jobs information board would be useful.

Energy - 30% of households are not connected to mains gas, and are instead using either heating oil (21%) or propane gas (8%).

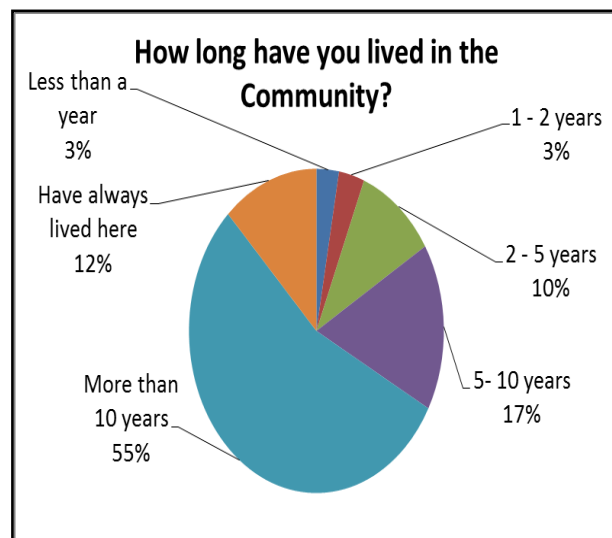
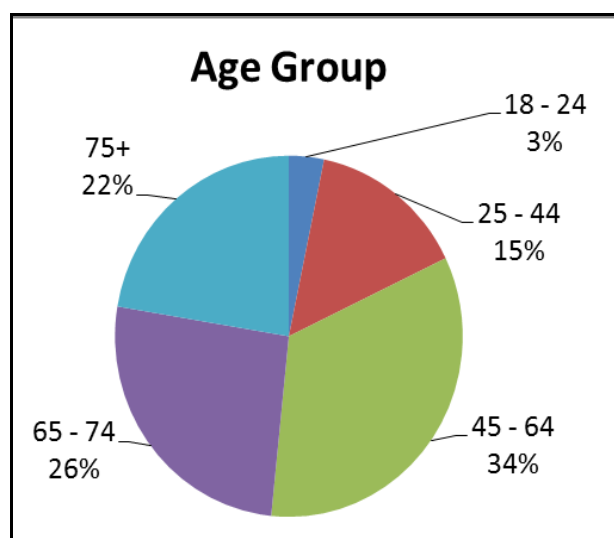
Village Environment

Dog Fouling, Litter Picking, Flower Beds and **Street Sweeping** were mentioned as issues that need addressing which would improve the general environment of the village.

Raglan Brownies



Who are you? – Demographic information on respondents



The majority of responders were retired (51%), with fewer than 18% in full-time employment. No-one, however, claimed to be unemployed.

55% of the responders have lived in the community for more than 10 years, with 12% always having lived in the community. 27% moved into the area because of work, and 34% moved here because it was an attractive area to live.



Crown Square, Raglan

Action Plan

The actions outlined in this plan reflect the views of the majority of the Raglan Community. The objectives are based on the results of the Community Questionnaire and other related consultation within the community. The plan identifies key issues and ideas for improvement that will help inform future decisions.

The steering group has prepared this action plan based on the key issues raised in the Community Questionnaire, where over 35% of the population expressed their thoughts on what was important to them in their local area. This action plan raises objectives for the future based on the main issues and wishes raised; it then identifies specific actions to be carried out in relation to the objectives, with the timescale in which they are to be addressed and by whom.

Topic	Objective	Specific Actions	Responsibility	Timescale
Crime & Community Safety				
Fear of crime	More Police foot patrols/presence in the village	Report results of Survey to Neighbourhood Police	Local CSAT representative	Soon
OWL – Online Watch Link	To encourage residents to join the online Neighbourhood Watch scheme	Distribute OWL Leaflets/Posters/Press Release	OWL Area Co-ordinator/Neighbourhood Police plus Via Raglan Matters	Soon
Street Lighting	All street lighting to be assessed to determine where additional lighting is required, where lighting could be dimmed or where lights are not working	Confirm areas that have been highlighted Promote procedures on how to report lights which are not working	Via Community Council – report to Street Lighting Engineer Via Raglan Matters & local Noticeboards	12 months.
Pedestrian Safety	Parking and speed issues on Chepstow Road, Monmouth Road and Raglan High Street	Report issues relating to the area surrounding the School to the 21 st Century Schools team Report to Police and MCC Highways	MCC	12 months
Education				
Adult Education Service	To explore whether there is a genuine interest for additional Adult Education Services which can be started in the village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any interested party to develop an appropriate group, such as Welsh, IT etc. Opportunity for members of the community to develop appropriate clubs – Volunteers required to take lead 	Community Led Plan Steering Group. Use Raglan Matters and local Noticeboards to seek volunteers to liaise with Adult Education Officer	On-going

Topic	Objective	Specific Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Pre-school provision	Although it was perceived that there was adequate provision when the Questionnaires were completed, one of the providers has now closed, so this may no longer be correct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with all of the Raglan Mother & Toddler Groups to see if there is a need for this type of provision based within the village. • Investigate if there is a provider who would be prepared to open such a business 	Community Led Plan Steering Group Via Raglan Matters and local Noticeboards	On-going
Library	To explore the possibility of establishing some type of Library service for the village	Both adults and children indicated the need for some type of Library to be set up so: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak with Head of Raglan School • Engage with MCC Library Services • Ask Post Office to promote the small book library they have 	Community Led Plan Steering Group Shirley Hughes	On-going Soon
Transport				
Grass Routes Bus	To raise awareness of Grass Routes Community Bus	It seems that many local residents were unaware of routes and availability of the service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute details of routes and times and inform people the bus is not just for the older residents • Promote scheme on Raglan Matters • Address difficulty in booking seats 	Grass Routes Volunteers Shirley Hughes Monmouthshire Passenger Transport Unit	6 months Soon On-going
Local Transport	Although most people use their own transport, the possibility of improving the existing bus service should be explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with Monmouthshire Passenger Transport Unit and Bus Service providers regarding improving service and advertising timetables and routes 	Monmouthshire Passenger Transport Unit	On-going
Footpaths, Bridleways and Cycling Routes				
Footpaths	To improve access and enjoyment of walkers when using the local footpaths	Footpaths to be better maintained and signposted Promote Raglan Local Ways to get further volunteers via RLW Website	MCC Countryside Services/Raglan Local Ways Raglan Local Ways	12 months

Topic	Objective	Specific Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Village Development				
Housing	<p>From the Questionnaire, the following housing should be built in the new LDP site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable homes for young people to purchase • Realistically prices Starter Houses • No further Executive homes 	<p>Inform Community Council of residents desires and wishes for the new LDP site</p> <p>Engage with MCC Planning Department to pursue priorities for the village</p>	Raglan Community Council	6 months
Play Park	To enhance the play equipment on the park near St Cadoc's Court	To explore if a village Community Group could fundraise and see if there are any Grants available to enhance the present play equipment to include different play equipment and gym equipment suitable for adults	<p>Raglan Village Hall Association/Raglan Tots and Tinnies</p> <p>Permission would be required from MCC unless RCC takes on responsibility?</p>	On-going
Community Centre				
	<p>To explore the possibility of having suitable Community Facilities in the village of Raglan, which are fit for purpose for the size of the village – to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern Catering Kitchen • Disabled access • Community Café • IT Centre • Library • Youth Group 	<p>Inform RVHA & Raglan Community Council of resident's wishes and needs in this respect as identified in the results of the Community Plan Questionnaires.</p> <p>To engage with all Community Groups in the village to see what their requirements would be</p>	<p>Community Led Plan Steering Group</p> <p>Raglan Village Hall Association</p> <p>Raglan- MCC Working Group</p>	Now

Topic	Objective	Specific Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Energy & Sustainability				
Re-cycling	To raise awareness of local recycling facilities to increase usage	The MCC doorstep Re-cycling was felt to be adequate, but the recycling near St Cadoc’s Court was underutilised: Clothes/Shoes/Paper Signs/posters could be erected to promote the facility.	Monmouthshire County Council Waste Department	On-going
	To explore options for a viable community energy scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Form a steering group to do a local resource studyDeliver a talk to residents on community energy, from a local energy expertArrange study visit to nearby communities, such as Llangattock	Diary to promote schemes on Raglan CC Website & Raglan Matters	Soon
	To identify potential areas within Ward for new animal habitats, wild flower meadows and community woodland / orchard	Identify suitable areas – will areas be available in the new Raglan School and the LDP Development?	Contact SWEA and advertise their study visits	On-going
		Identify land ownership issues so that Fruit Trees could be planted	Engage with MCC Estates/ MCC 21st Century Schools/The Keep Raglan Tidy Group/Raglan in Bloom Raglan Community Council	
Business				
Rural Businesses	To raise awareness of help available for rural enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Advertise the help that can come from Monmouthshire EnterprisePoor Broadband and Mobile Phone signals needs improving to enable easier working conditionsProvide an Information Board specifically for local businessIdentify affordable workspace to rent for small local businesses	Contact CMC2 re: Superfast Broadband MCC Estates Dept.	Soon

Topic	Objective	Specific Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Village Environment				
Dog Fouling	To raise dog owners awareness of issues	To assess if Dog Litter Bins need re-siting or additional bins required	Raglan Community Council Raglan Matters	NOW
Litter Picking/Street Sweeping	To ensure that the village is free of litter	To provide the appropriate equipment for the volunteers from Keep Raglan Tidy Group	Tidy Towns	NOW
Flower Beds	To plant flower beds within the village	To explore opportunities for Wildflower/pollenating plants in the flower beds, rather than annuals (as per MCC Pollinator Policy)	The Keep Raglan Tidy and the Raglan in Bloom groups MCC Landscape Department Tidy Towns	NOW

Acknowledgements

Once the Action Plan has been adopted, the project ideas can be prioritised and developed effectively through Raglan Community Council, Monmouthshire County Council and individual Community Groups within the village. Grateful thanks must go to Ellie Williams and Jennifer Taylor for supplying the photographs:

We also gratefully acknowledge the support given by all those residents who attended the Community Consultations and Open Meetings and those who took the time to complete the Community Questionnaire. Without that valuable input, there would be no Community Plan.

For further details please contact: Shirley Hughes, adventa's Social Enterprise Development Officer:

07793 259016 or shirley@adventa.org.uk

June 2014