



A Community Consultation Report on Talybont Football Field

Background

Llanllechid Community Council asked Partneriaeth Ogwen to conduct a public consultation into the development of the football field in the village of Talybont. The field is owned by Llanllechid Community Council and the general view of the councillors was that the facility needed to be improved for the benefit of the villagers. With that aim in mind, a public meeting was held at Bethlehem chapel on 19 February when 28 inhabitants from the area attended and questionnaires were distributed both on-line and on paper to all homes in the village. Questionnaires had been filled by 34 individuals in all which represented 20% of the population. The report below summarizes the chief conclusions of the consultation and sets forth a direction for the Council and the community group to take in the development of the work in future.

General Meeting

Following a marketing campaign, letters delivered from door to door and on-line promotion, 28 local inhabitants came together to a consultative workshop on the development of the Talybont football field. Ten of the attendants were between 11 and 18 and the others were local inhabitants mainly from the village with one or two from Llanllechid. It was good to see the children's interest and to be able to discuss the football field with the young users.

During the evening three questions were put forward -

- i) What are the barriers which prevent people from using the field at the moment?
- ii) What opportunities are there to develop the field?
- iii) What contribution can you make to develop the football field for the future?

Obstacles

The following were noted as obstacles which prevented people from using the field at the moment –

- i) LONG GRASS – the grass is too long and as a result the children cannot play football and wheelchair and pram users can't get on to the field.

- ii) FOOTBALL – The field is too small for a 11 a side football and too large for 5 a side football and the goals are the wrong size.
- iii) LIGHTING – There isn't any lighting which means that the place is not safe at night.
- iv) GENERAL ACCESSIBILITY - The access gate is too narrow for wheelchair and pram access..
- v) SHELTER – There isn't any building of any form to provide shelter from the weather.

Opportunities

There was a lively discussion on the potential of developing the football ground with several ideas being put forward including an all-weather field to play football, netball/basketball and other games, the purchase of a large container to put away sports equipment, more bins to get rid of rubbish, creation of green spaces including a community orchard, creation of shelter from the weather and even a community centre as a meeting point for the community. It was proposed that a group be created which would bring together young people and children to make future use of the resource. Emphasis was laid on the importance of creating a space that would be suitable for both girls and boys. At the end of the session, the group was asked to prioritize these developmental opportunities which resulted in the following priorities:

- i) A high priority was given to the creation of a resource for LOCAL children and youth. The aim was not to create a resource to attract tourists or visitors from outside the area but a community resource mainly for the benefit of the children and youth.
- ii) Creation of an all-weather multi use artificial pitch which would include 5 aside football, netball and basketball.
- iii) Creation of a building which could be used as a shelter and a community space for the community.
- iv) Ideas about creation of green spaces, biodiversity and a community orchard on the outskirts of the field were welcomed but priority should be given to the children's use of the field for sport activity.

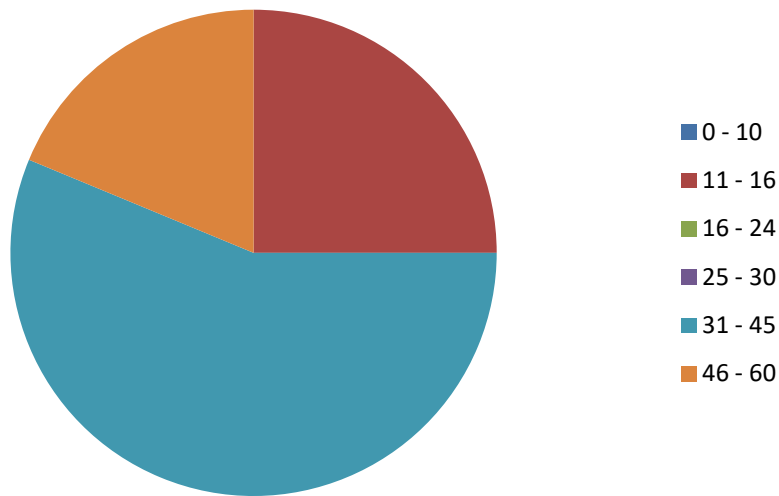
Participation

10 individuals put their names forward as being willing to help to develop the project. Many people were also eager to volunteer in a practical way by clearing away the brambles, fund-raising, painting benches and offered other specific skills that would promote the project. Some of the children were willing to volunteer after school or at weekend to develop the site.

Questionnaires

Please refer to the attached copy of the questionnaire the main conclusions of which are noted below under the heading of each question. As to the age range of the respondents , it should be noted that a ¾ of them were between 31 a 60 years of age with the majority being parents. As to the frequency of use 35% of the respondents were frequent users and the same percentage unfrequent users. The rest of the respondents were occasional users..

Ym mha grwp oedran ydych chi? / In what age group are you?



Barriers

The main barrier which currently prevented people from using the field at the moment was the fact that the grass was too high and often wet. This made it impossible for anyone to play on the field and prevented access by the disabled. Some noted the fact that only a football field was currently available and that this prevented its use by girls and other individuals who didn't play football. It was also noted that lighting problems needed to be considered to increase use during winter months.

Development of football field

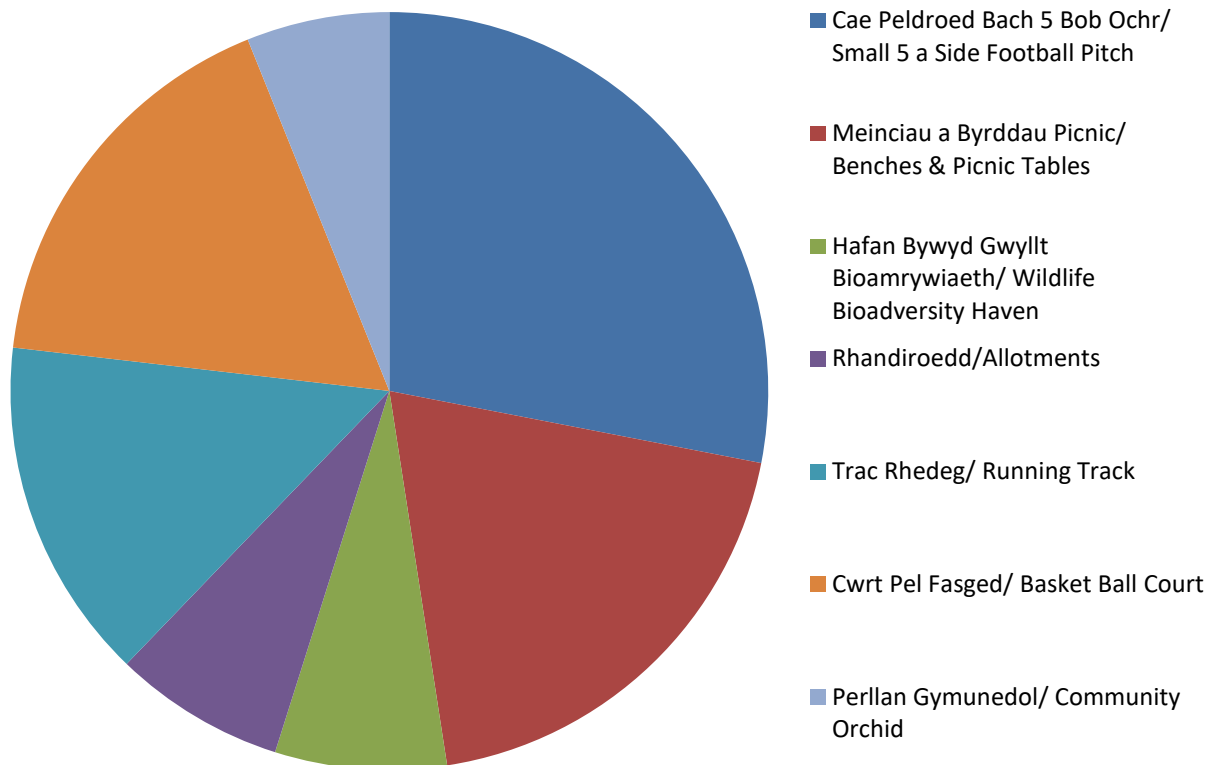
The respondents were asked to respond to the following question by suggesting a number of options..

The football field is a large space. If we maximised the use of the space, which facilities would you like to develop?

Games – The most popular use was the development of sports options (football, basketball and running track) which represented 60% of the sample. Of the sports options, the most popular option was the development of a 5 a-side football field (28%).

Green Space - 20% of the sample wanted to see benches and picnic tables set up and another 20% wanted a development of a green space for a community orchard, allotments and an area allocated for wild life and biodiversity.

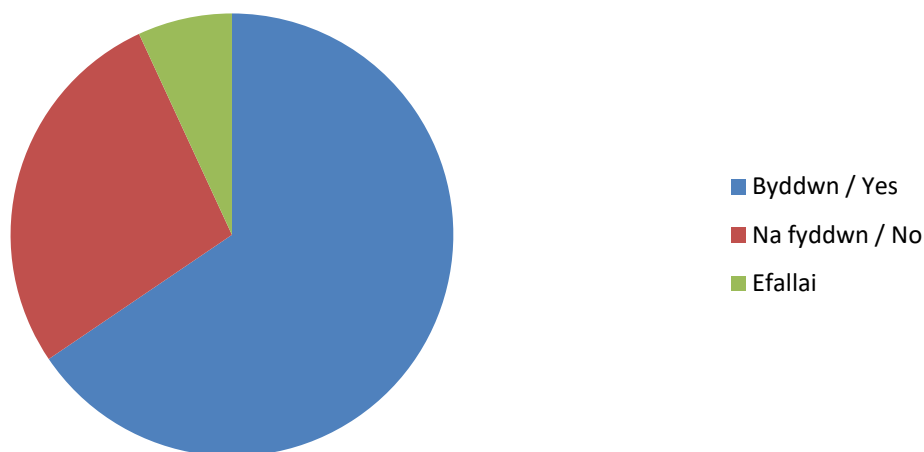
Mae gofod y cae peldroed yn fawr iawn. O ddefnyddio'r gofod yn well, pa adnoddau hoffech chi eu gweld? / The football field is a large space. If we maximised the use of the space, which facilities would you like develop?



Participation

66% of the respondents were prepared to help to develop the football field as a community resource in the future.

Bydd angen gwirfoddolwyr i ddod at ei gilydd i ddatblygu'r cae peldroed. A fydddech chi'n fodlon helpu? / We will need volunteers to come together to develop the football field.
Can you help?



Further Comments

There was a wide range of further comments. A number noted that the space was too large and that there was a significant potential to develop the space to be more than just a football field. If the focus was not on football more girls and a wider cross-section of users would be encouraged to use the field. One respondent was adamant that the area should be kept as a community space and not be allowed to be a residential development or parking area. More than one respondent noted the need to create a community focus for the village by creating a community building which would act as a community centre, or a shop. One respondent also suggested that the football field equipment could be relocated to free up part of the football field to provide a parking area for Cae Gwigin houses.

Conclusions

Participation

In view of the responses in the questionnaires and the response during the public meeting we can definitely say that there is a wish to see the football field being developed in Talybont and that a number of the people who responded to the consultation want to be part of this process. This is significant and shows a successful community interaction by the council and a wish in the community to take ownership of the project. The interest shown by the young people is to be welcomed and their continued input to the future of the project should be ensured.

Priorities

In term of developmental priorities, priority should be given to the idea of creating an all-weather multi use artificial pitch. It's all important that the new sports resources are open to all with equal opportunities for both boys and girls. The idea of an all-weather multi use artificial pitch where 5 a side, netball/basketball games and a running track could be offered should be further researched.

The facilities should be readily accessible to all and field maintenance should be greatly improved, especially in terms of frequent grass cutting, as this obviously prohibits people from using the field at the moment.

Creating a resource which would serve as a community centre was also a priority for several people and further research needs to be done to the possibility of creating a shelter or erecting a building within the field.

As far as the target audience is concerned, village children was the obvious priority and the facility/ resource needed to be both attractive, accessible and in active use.

Recommenations

We recommend that –

- The Council accepts the contents of this report based on the community consultation.
- That a community working group be set up which shall include the enthusiastic individuals who have already put their names forward to help with the project.
- That the Council commits itself to collaborate with the community group to develop the space according to the findings of this report and continues to discuss any plans with the community.

MD 05/04/2019