



UPPER AFAN VALLEY

ACTION PLAN

2006

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Why Develop a Community Action Plan

At it's simplest an action plan is a goal and a list of actions to get you there. The plan has two main audiences. These are the local community itself and the agencies you wish to help you deliver the actions set out in the plan and it should be written with these in mind.

The purpose of a community action plan is to share the vision of the community with a range of stake holders. In particular to show the aspirations and solutions identified by the local community on the basis of evidence and their local knowledge. It should be a strategic broad based document, which is developed and owned by a variety of people with a stake in your community. It should set out realistic actions and targets against which local people can review actions and decide whether things have improved. The Action plan is not a one-off, and should be reviewed and developed over time.

An Action Plan should also be a key tool to make your case to a wide range of agencies that deliver services in your community. Most agencies that deliver services in your community plan their services and decide how money will be spent well in advance (sometimes a year or two ahead). If you want to make suggestions for improved services or influence budgets, then having an action plan with a clear set of priorities will be vital for making your case, as it will help agencies that deliver services in your community to plan ahead. (Gareth Thomas, Head of Policy and Strategy Communities First Unit. 2005)

Upper Afan Valley



The Upper Afan Valley is situated 6-12 miles north of Port Talbot. It is a narrow valley with beautiful natural scenery. There are three ward areas consisting of eight villages. Glyncoerrwg is composed of a single village, Gwynfi however is made up of two villages, Abergwynfi and Blaengwynfi, Cymmer is the largest ward consisting of five villages, Croeserw, Dyffryn Ronda, Cynonville and Abercregan. Croeserw has the larger percentage of population in the ward of Cymmer. Each community has a strong community atmosphere and can be classed as very “tight knit”. Each ward is spread over a very large geographical area which is a barrier to internal communication. This has a knock on effect with the transport issues that darken each area, making it very difficult for people to have any kind of external communication and therefore making it difficult for people to Venture into the world of employment.

The estimated population of the Upper Afan is 6,336. The information from the Office of National Statistics suggests that the population is declining by 1.6% a year. (*Neighbourhood Statistics –ONB*)

Each ward has a few amenities in place and the valley itself has tremendous assets such as Afan Forest Park, The Miners Museum and Glyncoerrwg Ponds.

Afan Argoed Country Park and The Welsh Miners Museum lie in the heart of the Valley. Set in among 9,000 acres of unspoilt woodland, the park is seen as the gateway to the Afan Valley. The 27 mile Coed Morgannwg Way links the park with the neighbouring Margam Park and Rhigos Mountain.

Upper Afan Forum



Luckily for us in the Afan Valley, community activists had been hard at work for a number of years. There have been several co-operatives set up (e.g. Upper Afan Transport, Gwynfi Co-op and Glyncorrwg Ponds). The people involved in these and community groups had realised that by working together they could be more effective and have a stronger voice in local affairs. They had set up a regeneration Forum to bring everyone together to look at what the area needed. They had also applied for grants to employ a full-time administrator to support their work.

When Communities First came along, the regeneration Forum was still there and able to step in and take a lead. They were involved in calling a public meeting along with the Local Authority and the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS).

A public meeting was held in November 2001 and here a steering group was elected to set up a new organisation, which will be able to take the lead in the development of the Communities First programme in the Afan Valley. The new organisation was needed so that it could be more representative than the Regeneration Forum and to have a constitution that reflected its new role.

Four representatives were elected at the meeting in November, from each of the three ward areas. By March 2002 they had worked to establish a constitution and at a meeting in March 2002 the constitution was accepted and the Upper Afan Forum was officially established as a Limited Company with 12 Directors reflecting the geographical spread of the Upper Afan Valley.

The Regeneration Forum was officially ended and it was agreed that the admin worker appointed by the Regeneration Forum would be transferred to work with the Upper Afan Forum. This again has been extremely useful and has enabled the Upper Afan Forum to develop more quickly than if no staff had been available. (*Jean White, Director of the Upper Afan Forum*)

What is Communities First?

The Communities First programme is a long-term strategy for improving the living conditions and prospects for people in the most disadvantaged communities in Wales. The programme ensures that the funds and support available from the Welsh Assembly Government and various other publicly funded agencies are targeted at the poorest areas.

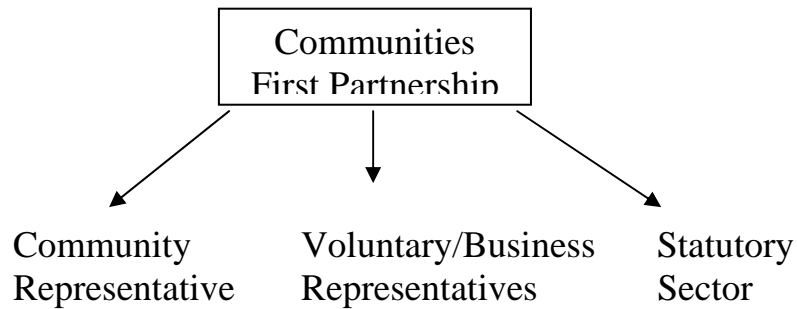
The Assembly Government, on the basis of evidence of deprivation, selected communities to receive help and support under the programme. Areas included in the programme are:

- The most 100 most deprived communities, according to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation;
- 32 areas at sub ward level throughout Wales where pockets of deprivation have been demonstrated; and
- 10 communities of interest and communities for which imaginative proposals have been made by local authorities, in consultation with others.

Funding is available for Preparatory Activities, Capacity Building Plans and Community Action Plans.

Communities First provides 100% funding for the implementation of Preparatory Activities and Capacity Building Plans and can be used for match funding purposes with other programmes in the Community Action Plan.

Upper Afan Valley First



Partnership membership should be guided by the principle of one third community representatives; one third statutory sector representatives; and the remaining third representatives of the voluntary and business sectors. The development of an inclusive Partnership is essential to the longer-term success of Communities First in each area. Applications for funding will not be agreed by the Welsh Assembly Government unless it is satisfied that all sectors are adequately represented, in particular local people and community organisations.

The Partnership should develop a clear operational framework setting out its powers; responsibilities and patterns of accountability at an early stage Once the Partnership and Co-ordinator are confident that their processes are well developed and that the Partnership is properly established according to the thirds principle, all members of the partnership should sign a Partnership Agreement. Confirming that they are content to be part of the Partnership and support its activities. (*Communities First Guidance 2002*)



Partnership Agreement

Name

The name of the Partnership is “Upper Afan First”.

Aim

To lead in taking forward the Communities First programme in the wards of Cymmer, Gwynfi and Glyncoirwg in order to improve quality of life and opportunities for local residents.

Responsibilities

Identify the needs and resources of the community, including:

- * Consultation with the community;
- * Statistical evidence;
- * Analysis of existing services and resources.

Promote awareness and understanding of the Communities First programme.

Develop a 10-year vision for the regeneration of the community.

Promote and support the involvement of local residents in the Communities First process and in any activities that improve the quality of life of the community.

Promote partnership working between all agencies and organisations serving the Communities First area and their involvement in the Communities First programme.

Develop a Capacity Building Plan of activities to enable the community and partner organisation to participate effectively in Communities First and lay the foundations for delivering the Action Plan.

Involve all partners and the community in formulating a Community Action Plan.

Ensure that Communities First benefits all sections of the community.

Monitor the delivery of plans, evaluate progress and revise plans as necessary.

Agree the overall work programme of the Communities First staff in carrying out all of the above.

Membership

The partnership will follow the three-thirds principle (one-third community sector, one-third statutory sector and one-third voluntary/business sectors). The community sector representation will always be at least equal to any other group.

Community sector representatives will be nominated annually at open meetings held in each ward. A minimum of 3 representatives will be sought from each ward.

The Partnership will invite appropriate organisations from the other sectors to nominate members on an annual basis. It will ensure that all organisations that have an essential role to play in the regeneration of the community are invited to nominate a member.

If vacancies arise in the community third the Partnership will invite a resident from the appropriate ward to join the Partnership.

If the representative of an organisation from another sector resigns, that organisation will be asked to nominate a replacement. If the organisation does not wish to do so, the partnership will select another organisation to invite from the same sector.

If a member of the Partnership fails to attend 3 meetings without good reason the partnership can consider that individual to have resigned and seek to replace them in accordance with paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5.

If any problems or disputes arise regarding membership or representation by any sector or organisation a special meeting of the Partnership will be called to resolve this.

Meetings

The Partnership will elect a chairperson and vice-chair annually - other officers will be elected as required.

The Partnership will meet at least bi-monthly unless exceptional circumstances prevent this.

All members will be given 10 days notice in writing of meeting dates, times and venues. Emergency meetings can be called at 3 days notice.

Minutes will be kept of meetings and circulated to all members.

One third of the membership + 1 will be required for a meeting to be quorate.

In meetings everyone should have the right:

- * State their opinions and put forward suggestions.
- * Have these opinions and suggestions listened to and reacted to.

- * Understand what is being said.
- * Disagree with views put forward by others.
- * Make their contributions without being interrupted by others.
- * Not be personally attacked or put down for their views.
- * Change their views.
- * Not be subjected to offensive language
- * Not be excluded by the use of jargon.
- * Have their confidence respected.

Decision Making

Control of the Partnership and all of its affairs rests with the recognised members, who have equal rights in the management and conduct of the Partnership's plans and activities.

The Partnership will seek to make decisions by consensus.

Where consensus is not reached, decisions can be made by a simple majority of those present.

The Partnership can form sub-groups with clear terms of reference to undertake work on behalf of the Partnership.

Respecting the Interests of Members

The Partnership recognises that individual members are bound by responsibilities to their own organisations and shall respect the needs of all partners in the Communities First process.

Partnership members must declare any interest they may have in an agenda item at the earliest opportunity.

They may either be allowed to participate in the discussion, asked not to participate, or asked to leave the room, at the discretion of the Partnership.

Roles and Responsibilities of Members

The Partnership will need to consider the roles and responsibilities of its members with respect:

- * Representing and reporting back to their individual organisation;
- * Representing the concerns and interests of their sector;
- * Bringing the particular skills, knowledge and experience of their organisation and sector to the Partnership.

Finance, Employment and Administration

Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service (NPTCVS) will act as the Grant recipient Body for Communities First and Upper Afan Forum as the 'Lead Body', in accordance with Communities First guidance.

Upper Afan Forum will enable the Partnership to carry out its work by taking on responsibility for managing the administration of funds, employing staff and servicing the operational requirements of the Partnership.

A service level agreement or protocol will be drawn up between the Partnership and Upper Afan Forum, in line with the guidance of the Communities First programme and grant terms and conditions, setting out clearly their roles and responsibilities.

Amendment and Termination

Proposed amendments to this Framework must be circulated in writing to all partners 10 days prior to an ordinary or special meeting at which the amendment will be discussed and decided upon by a simple majority of those present.

It is intended that the Partnership will exist at least for the life of the Communities First programme. A proposal to dissolve the Partnership before this date must be circulated in writing to all partners 10 days before a special meeting. It must be agreed by two-thirds of the membership.



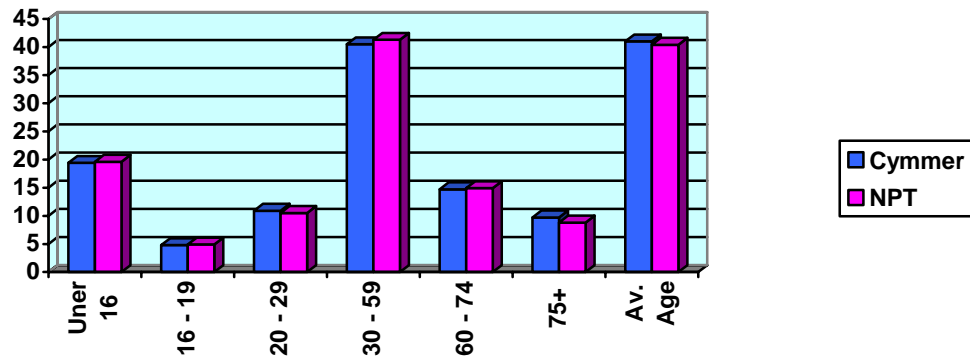
STATISTICS

These statistics are from the 2001 Census

CYMMER

The resident population of Cymmer was 2'883 of which 49 per cent were male and 51 per cent were female. The resident population of Neath Port Talbot was 134,468 of which 48 per cent were male and 52 per cent were female.

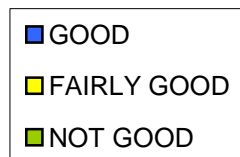
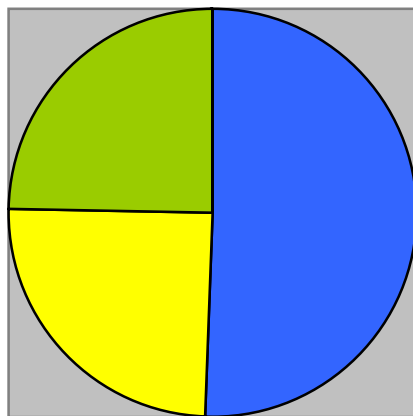
Resident Population (percentage)



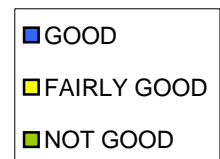
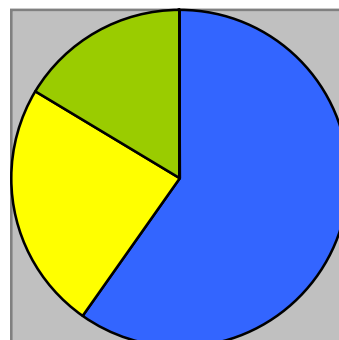
Health and Provision of care

The 2001 Census asked people to describe their health, over the preceding 12 months as 'good', 'fairly good' or 'not good'.

CYMMER



NEATH PORT TALBOT



	Cymmer	Neath Port Talbot
With a limiting long-term illness	37.7	29.4

Economic Activity

	Cymmer	Neath Port Talbot
Employed	40.9	50.6
Unemployed	5.6	3.9
Economically active full time students	1.3	1.7
Retired	13.8	15.6
Economically inactive students	3.8	3.6
Looking after home/family	8.3	6.8
Permanently sick or disabled	20.0	13.6
Other economically inactive	6.6	4.2

Within Cymmer, 17 per cent of those unemployed were aged 50 and over, 11 per cent had never worked and 38 per cent were long term unemployed.

Students and Qualifications

	Cymmer	Neath Port Talbot
Total number of full-time students and schoolchildren aged 16-74	92	4,878
Percentage of total resident population	3.2	3.6
Total number aged 16-17	57	2,687
Total number aged 18-74	35	2,191
Had no qualifications	54.6	39.0
Qualified to degree level or higher	7.8	19.8

Housing and Households

	Cymmer	Neath Port Talbot
One person household	30.9	30.3
Pensioners living alone	18.2	16.4
Other all pensioner households	8.5	10.1
Contained dependent children	28.3	30.0
Lone parent household with dependent children	11.0	7.9
Owner occupied	56.1	71.3
Rented from Council	33.0	16.6
Rented from Housing Association or Registered social landlord	2.8	3.7
Private rented or lived rent free	8.1	8.4
Without central heating	3.1	4.0
Without sole use of bath, shower or toilet	0.0	0.4
Have no car or van	41.9	30.2
Have 2 or more cars or vans	15.4	23.2
Average household size (number)	2.3	2.4
Average number of rooms per household	5.4	5.5

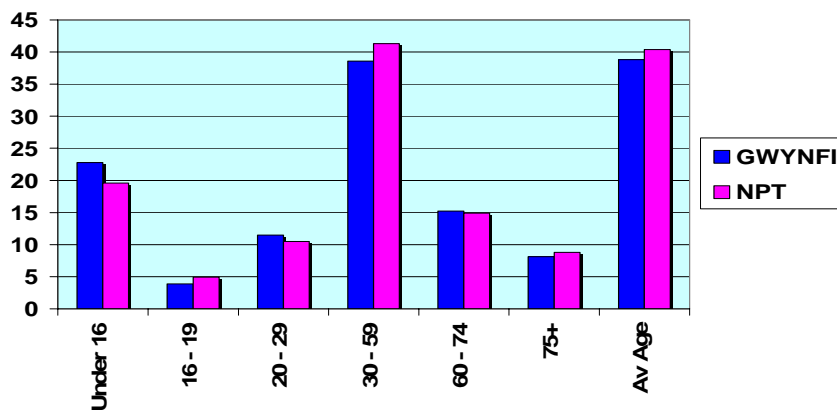
GWYNFI

STATISTICS

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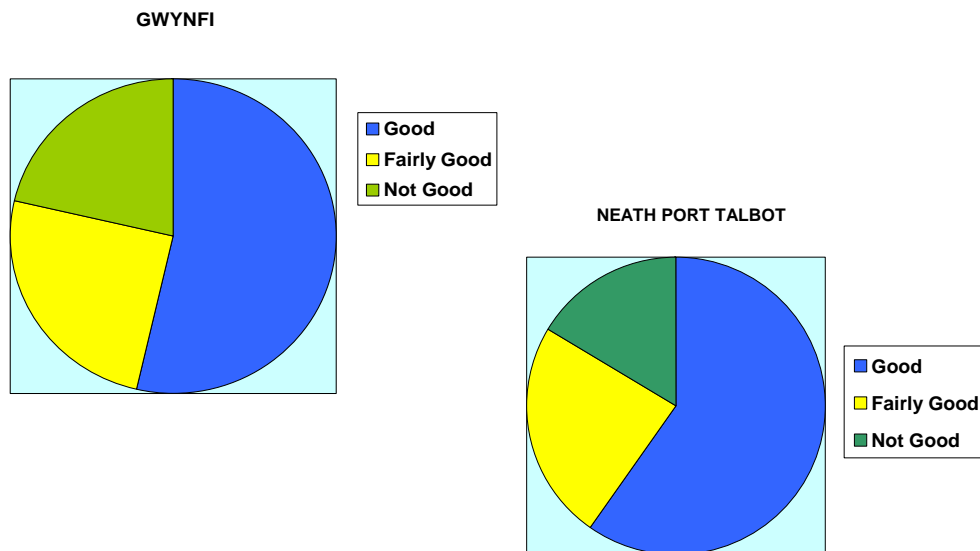
The resident population of Gwynfi was 1,495 of which 49 per cent were male and 51 per cent were female. The resident population of Neath Port Talbot was 134,468 of which 48 per cent were male and 52 per cent were female.

Resident Population (percentage)



Health and Provision of care

The 2001 Census asked people to describe their health, over the preceding 12 months as 'good', 'fairly good' or 'not good'.



Economic Activity

	Gwynfi	Neath Port Talbot
Employed	38.5	50.6
Unemployed	5.1	3.9
Economically active full time students	1.0	1.7
Retired	14.2	15.6
Economically inactive students	2.7	3.6
Looking after home/family	10.0	6.8
Permanently sick or disabled	21.8	13.6
Other economically inactive	6.8	4.2

Within Gwynfi, 17 per cent of those unemployed were aged 50 and over, 19 per cent had never worked and 40 per cent were long term unemployed.

Housing and Households

	Gwynfi	Neath Port Talbot
One person household	30.0	30.3
Pensioners living alone	18.8	16.4
Other all pensioner households	8.6	10.1
Contained dependent children	31.2	30.0
Lone parent household with dependent children	10.9	7.9
Owner occupied	65.1	71.3
Rented from Council	17.0	16.6
Rented from Housing Association or Registered social landlord	5.9	3.7
Private rented or lived rent free	12.0	8.4
Without central heating	5.8	4.0
Without sole use of bath, shower or toilet	0.0	0.4

Have no car or van	44.5	30.2
Have 2 or more cars or vans	12.2	23.2
Average household size (number)	2.3	2.4
Average number of rooms per household	5.3	5.5

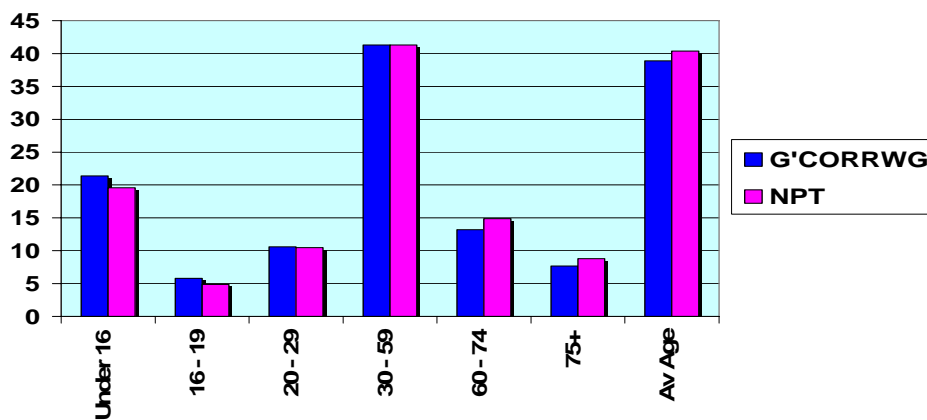
GLYNCORRWG

STATISTICS

These statistics are from the 2001 census

The resident population of Gwynfi was 1,166 of which 48 per cent were male and 52 per cent were female. The resident population of Neath Port Talbot was 134,468 of which 48 per cent were male and 52 per cent were female.

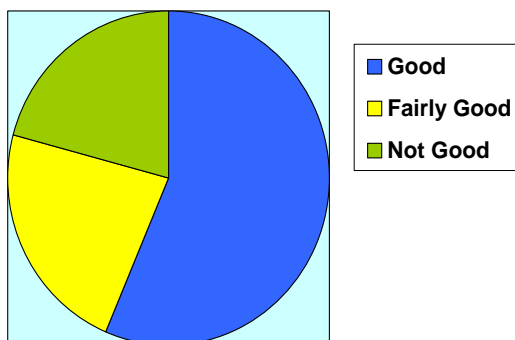
Resident Population (percentage)



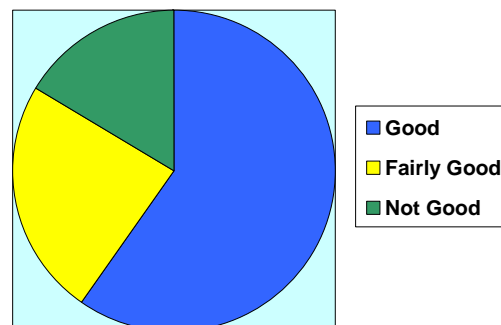
Health and Provision of care

The 2001 Census asked people to describe their health, over the preceding 12 months as 'good', 'fairly good' or 'not good'.

GLYNCORRWG



NEATH PORT TALBOT



Economic Activity

	Glyncorrwg	Neath Port Talbot
Employed	39.0	50.6
Unemployed	4.8	3.9
Economically active full time students	1.2	1.7
Retired	13.4	15.6
Economically inactive students	4.1	3.6
Looking after home/family	8.7	6.8
Permanently sick or disabled	22.5	13.6
Other economically inactive	6.2	4.2

Within Glyncorrwg, 8 per cent of those unemployed were aged 50 and over, 25 per cent had never worked and 42 per cent were long term unemployed.

Housing and Households

	Glyncorrwg	Neath Port Talbot
One person household	27.2	30.3
Pensioners living alone	14.7	16.4
Other all pensioner households	9.7	10.1
Contained dependent children	32.4	30.0
Lone parent household with dependent children	9.5	7.9
Owner occupied	58.2	71.3
Rented from Council	27.4	16.6
Rented from Housing Association or Registered social landlord	5.1	3.7
Private rented or lived rent free	9.3	8.4
Without central heating	4.0	4.0
Without sole use of	0.6	0.4

bath, shower or toilet		
Have no car or van	41.4	30.2
Have 2 or more cars or vans	14.3	23.2
Average household size (number)	2.5	2.4
Average number of rooms per household	5.4	5.5

Visions

The visions that were highlighted through the Vision Framework are set below. Projects were then identified for each of the visions by a community lead working group and the Communities First Partnership.

Education and Training

- That facilities exist to promote access to life-long learning and continuing education at all levels and at places and through means which are acceptable to the community.
- That ladders of opportunity exist for education, training and skills development which provide the individual with choice to progress to the highest level of attainment within his/her capability.
- That appropriate training and development opportunities exist to enable real community participation in the local regeneration process.
- That people of all ages are actively encouraged to develop skills that will help them to find work and participate in learning, training and development throughout life.
- That facilities exist to train and build confidence through arts and cultural activities.
- That access to training in and through Information Computer Technology is provided at all levels.
- That there are accessible and affordable transport services and infrastructure available to widen educational opportunities.

Crime and Community Safety

- That the police and other criminal justice agencies are fully involved in the Communities First Process
- That the police and other criminal justice agencies are fully involved in the Communities First Process
- That the area is free from fear of crime and disorder
- That plans exist to offer support or treatment to those who want to change their behaviours.
- That road safety and traffic control strategies are developed and implemented in partnership with the community.
- That safety in the home is promoted by partnership of all relevant agencies.
- That safety in the home is promoted by partnership of all relevant agencies.
- That the community and agencies work with youth offending teams to develop schemes to encourage young people to lead crime-free lives.
- That appropriate links are made with local domestic violence to ensure that people suffering from domestic violence know where to go for help.

Health and Well Being

- That the community has a shared responsibility for health and takes action to help people protect and improve their health and wellbeing.
- That positive health and wellbeing are encouraged and supported.
- That the potential health impact of policies, programmes and services on people's health, include their mental health, are considered.
- That new opportunities to improve health and wellbeing are routinely identified.
- That health and social care advice, support and information is easily accessible; tailored to the needs of all age groups in the community; and takes account of people's language and culture preferences.....
- That Communities First Partnerships ensure engagement with key health service planners and providers.
- That people are able to live a healthy lifestyle to help reduce the risk of heart disease, cancers, mental illness and other diseases.
- That healthy lifestyles are promoted as an integrated part of wider action to address the social, environmental and economic factors that affect health, including mental illness.
- That contraception and sexual health advice and services are accessible to all members of the community, particularly to those most vulnerable to teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections including HIV; and that they take account of cultural language and disability issues.
- That nutrition advice is available to enable people to follow healthy and balanced diets.
- That healthy and reasonably priced produce is available locally to enable people to adopt healthy and balanced diets.
- That community residents have ease of access to affordable exercise and leisure facilities and are actively encouraged to participate in physical activity.

Environment

- That there is a clean and pleasant physical environment, free from litter and industrial heritage scars and supporting a diverse wildlife that the community can enjoy
- That there are safe play and recreational areas for children and people of all ages.
- That housing is of acceptable standards and is repaired and maintained with reasonable responsiveness to need.
- That transport facilities enable participation in economic and social activity.
- That the community plays an active role in the promotion and maintenance of a clean, pleasant and healthy environment.
- That the community and agencies make every effort to respect others needs in relation to noise, disputes, litter dumping and care of animals.

Jobs and Business

- That a full advice and support structure exists to enable the creation of job opportunities in the private and social economy sectors
- That there is a full range of support services for the growth of private, community and social enterprises.
- That activities are undertaken to promote local trading, exchange and wealth circulation within the area.
- That there is an advanced Information Computer Technology infrastructure to support business development and commerce.
- That there is a clear focus on helping people of all ages to find work.
- That there are accessible and affordable transport services and infrastructure available to widen employment and business development opportunities.
- That there are community generated links to agencies and businesses which help provide opportunities for those of all ages who have difficulties in finding employment.
- That members of the community have access to financial services via post office and/or credit unions and are encouraged to circulate income within the community.

Active Community:

- That the community is empowered to engage freely with the local and national democratic processes.
- That the community has in place developed and well used channels of communication with the various agencies.
- That a community partnership exists which involves key service providers, the voluntary sector and community members.
- That there is a culture which encourages volunteering through formal and informal processes.
- That the community has a forum in which the views of all people, young and old, are sought, listened to and acted upon.
- That systems are in place to ensure that disabled and older people can play a useful role in regenerating their communities.
- That all people, including younger and older people, people from the BME communities and people with disabilities are encouraged to participate in community activities in positive ways.
- That the community has access to advice and guidance on the range of help and benefits available to increase the incomes of local people.
- That links are encouraged between people of all ages to benefit the wider community.

Projects Identified

Here is a list of projects identified through the Vision Framework. Community meetings were held in each ward during the month of June 2006 for members of the community to come along and decide themselves which order the projects should be prioritised.

Education and Training Project

The projects below have been identified through the Vision Framework exercise. The Vision Framework was devised from the help of the Cymmer Local Action Centre Manager, Heads Cluster Group, Communities First Partnership, Upper Afan Forum Ltd, and then the Framework was updated by the Focus group that attended meetings at the Afan Riverside centre.

Childcare Facilities

The 'Upper Afan Vision' are a group that has been set up within the Upper Afan Valley with the aim to have a purpose built healthy living centre. The centre would incorporate the following: -

Full time childcare facility

Breakfast and after-school club provision

Healthy Living Café

Training Kitchen

Office Space

Class Room Space – one for arts and crafts, one for ICT, one general use

Leisure Area – space to run courses such as Yoga, Tai Chi etc

Food Co-op

In order to compliment these facilities and services and in addition to the adult education curriculum running in the Upper Afan Valley the centre would be incorporating a number of other projects and schemes.

Ladders of opportunity for Education, training and skills development.

By linking in with the relevant agencies, to advertise ways and means to access opportunities within the Education sector for members of the community. To identify gaps within these services and any deterrence that members of the community may face. To help members of the community overcome these obstacles and access Education opportunities.

Involvement from the Community

To increase Community involvement by linking in with Voluntary Organisations and finding out what courses they are interested in accessing. To put together provisions that will encourage participation from the community.

Courses Listed

- Training opportunities for cultural activities.
- Courses on Communities First.
- Community Development courses.
- More advice and guidance.
- Courses on funding.

Crime and Community Safety Projects

The projects below have been identified through the Vision Framework exercise. The Vision Framework was devised from the help of the Police, Communities First Partnership, Upper Afan Forum Ltd, The Fire Service, Domestic Violence and then the Framework was updated by the Focus group that attended meetings at the Afan Riverside centre.

Neighbourhood Policing plan.

This project is at the last stages of planning. Once fully devised we will be informed of the project in its entirety.

Communities First Police Co-ordinator to be appointed

This was a project that was decided on when liaising with the CF Police Officers some time ago. At present This could interlink with the Neighbourhood Policing Plan.

Advertise Crime and Prevention and Domestic Violence Support Networks.

To Advertise services through the Newsletter, Directory and by any other means on a regular basis.

Communication Strategy

To devise a working communication Strategy throughout the relevant agencies, Police, Fire Brigade, Domestic Violence, Youth Service, CF Youth Workers and any other relevant agencies who work within the Upper Afan valley.

Regular Information Exchange Meetings between relevant agencies. Since November 2005 we have organised bi-monthly Youth Meetings. The police and LA Members along with youth workers and members of the community attend these meetings, the meetings are minuted and discussed at Partnership Meetings.

Health and Well Being Projects

The projects below have been identified through the Vision Framework exercise. The Vision Framework was devised from the help of Communities First Health Board Officer, Local Health Visitors, Communities First Partnership, Upper Afan Forum Ltd, and then the Framework was updated by the Focus group that attended meetings at the Afan Riverside centre.

Sports Hall

To advertise this facility throughout the valley and to continue to do so.

Project with WGCADA

A WGCADA (West Galmorgan Council for Alcohol and Drugs Abuse) outreach project is at development stages. There is currently a new Police Substance Misuse Liaison Officer in post and a worker from WGCADA is available for one to one support.

Advertise

To advertise free swims and pharmacy services throughout the valley, via the newsletter and any other provisions currently running.

Mental Health

For a representative to attend a Partnership meeting and to inform the community of Mental Health needs.

Welfare Rights

To look at having a Welfare Rights Officer in the Upper Afan Valley.

Health Visitors

More involvement with the Health Visitors, possibly through the steering groups.

Healthy Lifestyles

To look at projects to promote healthy lifestyles, for example to look at designing a sports project for all ages males and females.

Environment Projects

The projects below have been identified through the Vision Framework exercise. The Vision Framework was devised from the help of the Forestry Commission, Afan Argoed Project Manager, Groundwork, Work Ways, Communities First Partnership, Upper Afan Forum Ltd, and then the Framework was updated by the Focus group that attended meetings at the Afan Riverside centre.

Litter projects

To link in with Keep Wales Tidy and look at a number of projects with regards to litter picks, fly tipping, bins in designated areas. Possible employment opportunities.

Clean up

To work with the Police and identify graffiti areas to clean up.

Mural Project

To work with the youth in a mural project on the buildings which have the most graffiti.

Bus Stops

To look at new bus stops as the present bus stops are a safety issue.

Unused Buildings.

To look at the unused buildings and create a new use for them which is sustainable, possible funding for renovation work.

Play Areas

Abercregan and Duffryn and Cynonville have requested a play area, to work to see if this is a feasible project.

Skateboard park

To write a business plan linking in with the Skateboard Park Strategy to see if this is a feasible project.

Housing Issues

To consult with tenants linking in with the housing authority to identify cases of need and to better the conditions.

Services Available

To inform people of the services that are available, when and where.

Transport

- To initiate a project that will identify gaps in services with regards to transport. For the team to design and carry out a survey that will identify the gaps within these services and also to identify a way forward.
- To look at transport from village to village.

Jobs and Business Projects

The projects below have been identified through the Vision Framework exercise. The Vision Framework was devised from the help of Action Team for Jobs, Cymmer Local Action Centre Manager, Communities First Partnership, Upper Afan Forum Ltd, and then the Framework was updated by the Focus group that attended meetings at the Afan Riverside centre.

Employment Opportunities

One stop information shop on training and employment opportunities.

Promote Local Businesses

- To help promote local businesses, this could be through a local 'brochure' of services and facilities which are available within the Valley.
- To promote local wealth circulation by encouraging people to take part.

Job Fares

Possibility of holding jobs fairs within the valley. In partnerships with org's such as Action Teams, Jobcentre plus, CLAC.

Apprenticeship Training

To encourage local businesses in training local apprentices.

Active Community Projects

The projects below have been identified through the Vision Framework exercise. The Vision Framework was devised from the help of the Communities First Partnership, Upper Afan Forum Ltd, and then the Framework was updated by the Focus group that attended meetings at the Afan Riverside centre.

Information Sharing

- Schemes to reach the people that are not currently engaged in the process.
- Look at projects to continue to get more people engaged.
- To make sure that it is known throughout the community that information is freely accessible through the Afan Riverside Centre.
- To provide the community with updated information on where and when this advice and support system is active.

Volunteers

To encourage volunteers throughout the community to become active in current projects.

To have a data base of volunteers within the Afan riverside Centre.

BME Groups

To actively link in with the BME groups and to look at projects, such as 'foods of the world'.

Youth

To set up a youth forum, this is needed as the young people do not attend the steering group meetings or the partnership meetings.

Inclusion of all the community

To actively involve disabled and older people in projects that will develop through consultation in the future.

Projects Prioritised

	<i>Project</i>	<i>Heading</i>	<i>Priority No</i>
<i>Short Term</i>	Communication strategy	Crime and Community Safety	1
	Mural project	Environment	1
	Transport	Environment	3
	CF Police Co-ordinator	Crime and Community safety	3
	Courses Listed	Education and Training	4
	Healthy lifestyles	Health and Well being	4
	Skateboard park	Environment	4
	Bus Stops	Environment	5
<i>Medium Term</i>	Drugs Worker	Health and Well being	1
	Youth	Active Community	1
	Advertise Crime and Provention and Domestic Violence support networks	Crime and Community safety	2
	Unused Buildings	Environment	2
	Health Visitor	Health and Well being	3
	Sports hall	Health and Well being	5
<i>Long Term</i>	Childcare Facility	Education and Training	1
	Employment Opportunities	Jobs and Business	1
	Ladders of opportunity	Education and Training	2
	Mental Health	Health and Well being	2
	Apprenticeship Training	Jobs and Business	2
	Inclusion of all the community	Active Community	2
	Involvement from the community	Health and Well being	3
	Promotion of local Businesses	Jobs and Business	3
	Information Sharing	Active Community	3
	Job Fares	Jobs and Business	4
	Volunteers	Active Community	4

Engagement with the Community

The draft Action Plan has been devised through a number of different avenues, encouraging a great deal of community input.

A number of meetings and focus groups were held to identify projects throughout the Vision Framework document and then these projects were once again taken out to the community so that they themselves could prioritise.

The information gained through consultation and surveys carried out was addressed by the Communities First Partnership, the Upper Afan Forum Ltd (grant recipient body for the Upper Afan Valley) and through community meetings held within each ward.

A Planning for Real document has been devised which highlights the issues from the Vision Framework. Planning for Real is a 3D consultation exercise that has been carried out in each of the Wards throughout the Upper Afan Valley. It is a highly visible, hands-on community development and empowerment tool, which all members of the community find easy and enjoyable to engage in.

The exercise consists of 3D maps a polystyrene base and cardboard cut-outs for buildings, these were made up by the children from each of the five local Primary Schools, Cymmer, Croeserw, Duffryn Rondda, Glyncorrwg and Gwynfi.

The maps were then taken to a central point for the community consultations. Members of the community then had the opportunity to put forward their ideas on how their area could be improved. Participants placed suggestion cards on the model indicating what they would like to happen and where.

The findings for each of these areas are included in the document along with graphs highlighting each heading. These graphs point out the difference in issues within each of these areas.

These findings will be listed into projects linking in with the There was a response rate of 11.5%. In total 517 people attended the Planning for Real events.

Summary

The Draft Action Plan will be used as a working tool and taken throughout the Upper Afan Valley for continuous consultation. The consultation will be held over a period of nine months by which a revised Action Plan will be drawn up.

The final Action Plan will be reviewed annually over a set time scale decided by the community. This will also allow for updates on projects and for new information, issues, aims to be included. It will be regarded as a flexible working tool with the support documents, these being the Vision Framework and the Planning for Real Document.

From the projects that have been prioritised these can now be included in the Annual Calendar of Projects each year, with the Communities First team working on the projects that are priority number 1 through to priority number 5.

Different issues and projects are being suggested by the community on a weekly basis, as new issues crop up and are identified so we then become aware, this is why this document will be reviewed and updated and also why consultation must continue throughout the Upper Afan Valley