Dyfodol Dyfi – planning a brighter future / cyd-ddyheu i’w gwella hi

We will help people share their ideas for the future of the area through an inclusive bilingual community engagement process. Conversations will work some of these up into plans and describe how they can be put into practice. The resulting 'community development plan' will provide evidence to support subsequent funding applications and may help the area speak with a more united voice.

We will ensure the following topics are explored, amongst others:

* Needs of younger people;
* People’s well-being, including provision of services and facilities in the new Well-being Centre at Machynlleth;
* Community facilities such as meeting spaces;
* Skills and livelihoods.

We will draw on previous community exercises that describe unmet needs, particularly:

* Rural Futures’ action-planning report ‘Bro Glantwymyn’;
* The ‘Making a Difference’ community survey that led to the current Trywydd Iach – Outdoor Health project;
* The Trywydd Iach School Survey report dated July 2021;
* Machynlleth Climate Action’s action planning process aligned to Machynlleth Town Council’s Declaration of a Climate Emergency;
* The Dyfi Biosphere’s business and development process;
* Summit to Sea’s co-designed project ‘Blueprint’.

As well as making plans for future projects and the use of future Funds, we would like to deliver some specific ‘sub-projects’ during the project, such as feasibility or business planning for proposed infrastructure improvements, and ‘quick wins’ to sustain interest. We prefer not to itemise these now, so as not to pre-empt the community engagement process, but will confirm them by the end of July. The following proposals illustrate the potential:

* Re-use of The Old Stables (Machynlleth);
* Community/business use of the Natural Resources Wales site at Heulfryn, Esgairgeiliog;
* A performance area at Y Plas;
* A new building for Machynlleth Community Children’s Project;
* Development of Canolfan Owain Glyndŵr;
* Development of village halls/hubs, including Cwmlline, Derwenlas and Aberhosan, and of proposals for meeting spaces where no Hall exists e.g. Penegoes, Darowen.

We intend to continue the joint working after the project ends, evolving the project group into a network that brings together local elected representatives across the planning area, community groups, and others. Funding targets for proposals in the plan will include the anticipated Shared Prosperity Fund, the National Lottery Community Fund and public sector bodies.

Ecodyfi is acting as the ‘responsible body’ for the evolving local network called ‘Dyfodol Dyfi’ during the project period of mid-May to 31st October 2022, so that the area can access a grant from the UK Government’s Community Renewal Fund through Powys County Council and the Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations.

While this particular grant will have to be spent primarily within Powys (Carno, Llanbrynmair, Glantwymyn, Cadfarch and Machynlleth), Mawddwy, Corris and Pennal will be included on an equal basis in the discussions and in membership of the group.

As well as employment and overhead costs, the budget of nearly £20,000 includes £7,340 for engagement events, facilitation and promotion, and £4,000 for ‘quick wins’ that can be delivered during the project period.

£2,000 of the total will be contributed by Mach Fringe, ecodyfi, and legacy funds from Communities First Bro Ddyfi.

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