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# PAVO

Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations  
Cymdeithas Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Powys

"Ariennir y prosiect hwn gan Lywodraeth y DU drwy Gronfa Ffyniant Gylfredin y DU, a gefnogir gan Gyngor Sir Powys".

**Powys**

Tyfu  
Cenolbarth Cymru  
Growing  
Mid Wales

"This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, supported by Powys County Council".

# Community Conversations

# BUILTH WELLS AREA

## Voices of Builth Wells: Shaping our Community Together

### The Current Landscape: What Matters to Builth Wells

## 71 Local Voices

Insights gathered from 71 survey respondents provide the foundation for these community priorities.

#### Nature and Community are Strengths

Residents highly value the sense of community and easy access to nature as primary assets.



#### Community Loves

- Top Priority: Sense of Community (54) ✓
- Secondary: Access to Nature (53) ✓
- Tertiary: Local Events (38) ✓



#### Community Concerns

- Top Priority: Public Transport Links (38)
- Secondary: Local services (22)
- Tertiary: Local Shops & Amenities (20)

#### The Service Gap Crisis

Public transport and local services are identified as the primary areas of concern.

### Building the Future: Priorities & Actions

#### Solving the Communication Gap



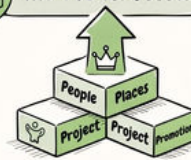
Developing a 'Builth Directory' to help residents and organisations connect and share information.

#### Youth-Centred Focus



Establishing a 'Youth Cafe' at Strand Hall for ages 11-16, operating Thursdays during term-time.

#### The 4 Ps for Success



Ensuring every project is built on People, Places, Project, and Promotion.

Supported by PAVO Gemini Notebook

## What matters most to people in Builth Wells?

Builth Wells and the surrounding communities have a strong sense of identity and community. People value the area's natural surroundings, local events and activities, and the independent businesses and services that help make the town a distinctive place to live.

However, local people also raised concerns about the future of essential services, public transport, opportunities for young people and the pressure on volunteers and community organisations.

*This report brings together what local people told us through the Shaping the Future of Powys Communities survey, community events and follow-up focus groups. It highlights the priorities identified by local people and opportunities for communities, organisations and partners to work together.*

# At a glance

71 people from the Builth Wells area shared their views  
in a Powys-wide survey

People told us they love:

- Access to nature
- A strong sense of community
- Local events and activities

The biggest concerns were:

- Poor public transport
- Access to health and care services
- The future of local shops and amenities
- The rising cost of living and affordable housing
- Support and opportunities for young people

People also highlighted concerns about the potential impact of climate change and windfarm developments

Focus groups were held at:

TIC Building | 8 December 2025 | 10 participants

TIC Building | 12 & 26 January 2026 | 10 participants

## Five priorities for the future

### 1 Better information and communication

One of the clearest messages was that people do not always know what is happening locally or what support, services and organisations are available. This can be particularly difficult for people who are new to the area.

Information about groups, activities, venues and services is spread across different places, making it harder for residents to find what they need



### Community opportunities

Communities could:

- create a shared directory of local groups, organisations and services
- improve information about venues and spaces available for community use
- bring organisations together to share events and activities
- develop regular local newsletters or other community information
- make better use of local media and other communication channels

## 2 Working together across the community

Local organisations are doing important work, but there was a strong feeling that better collaboration could help make a bigger difference.

Small organisations face limited funding and volunteer capacity, highlighting the need for groups to share ideas, support each other and work together on local priorities.

There was also a desire for stronger working relationships between the town, surrounding communities and local organisations



### Community opportunities

Communities could:

- bring local organisations together around shared priorities
- develop joint projects and funding applications
- share volunteers, skills and resources where possible
- strengthen links between Built Wells and surrounding communities
- create a clearer understanding of the roles of Town, Community and Ward Councils and build connections with local organisations

## 3 Supporting young people

Activities should reflect what young people want, with young people involved in developing and, where possible, taking ownership of clubs and groups

Young people need places where they can meet, socialise and feel part of their community.

Local conversations highlighted concerns about transport to activities, as well as the lack of a dedicated safe space for young people.

### Community opportunities



Communities could:

- involve young people in designing local activities
- create safe and welcoming spaces for young people
- work with existing organisations to provide youth activities
- improve transport and access to activities
- help young people take an active role in local groups and organisations
- link youth provision with wider community and wellbeing opportunities

## 4 Protecting local services and improving access

Access to essential services was a major concern, with people highlighting the importance of services being available when they need them. People highlighted difficulties accessing dentists, GPs, hospitals and other health and care services, particularly in rural areas where limited public and community transport adds to the challenge. Residents were also concerned about the future of banks, shops, pubs, leisure facilities and other important local amenities.

Ageing population will mean more demand on services as people stop driving



### Community opportunities

- work together to highlight gaps in local services
- gather evidence about the impact of service changes
- improve information about available support and transport
- collectively influence decisions affecting essential local services
- explore local partnerships that could improve access for rural communities, especially for young people who want to take part in activities and clubs

## 5 Building pride, participation and community capacity

At the same time, many community activities depend on volunteers, and organisations are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain people. The rising cost of living and changing lifestyles can make volunteering harder

The area has many assets that local people value, including independent businesses, green spaces, community organisations and local events.

People felt it was important to celebrate these strengths rather than focusing only on what the town has lost or what is missing.

### Community opportunities



Communities could:

- celebrate local businesses, organisations and community achievements
- create new and flexible ways for people to volunteer
- share volunteering opportunities across the area
- support volunteers with training and clearer roles
- develop projects that bring different generations together through shared interests

# What happened next?

Following these Community Conversations, local people chose to take forward an **after-school Youth Café for young people aged 11–16**, supporting youth provision. A small financial resource was made available through PAVO, funded by the UK Government's Social Prosperity Fund.

The project is being led by **Play Radnor**. The first session was held in June, with sessions taking place on Thursdays.

## Looking ahead

The Community Conversations showed that Builth Wells and its surrounding communities have many strengths to build on. People care about where they live. They value the town's sense of community, its natural surroundings, independent businesses and the organisations and volunteers who make things happen.

The priorities identified through this work provide a clear starting point for community organisations, town and community councils, volunteers and public services to work together. By building on local strengths and addressing shared challenges collectively, Builth Wells can continue to develop as a connected, resilient and thriving community.

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**This project was funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.**

Find out more about the project and read the full report:  
[pavo.org.uk/news/community-conversations-what-you-told-us/](https://pavo.org.uk/news/community-conversations-what-you-told-us/)

If you'd like more detailed information about the contents of this report, please get in touch at [\*\*info@pavo.org.uk\*\*](mailto:info@pavo.org.uk)