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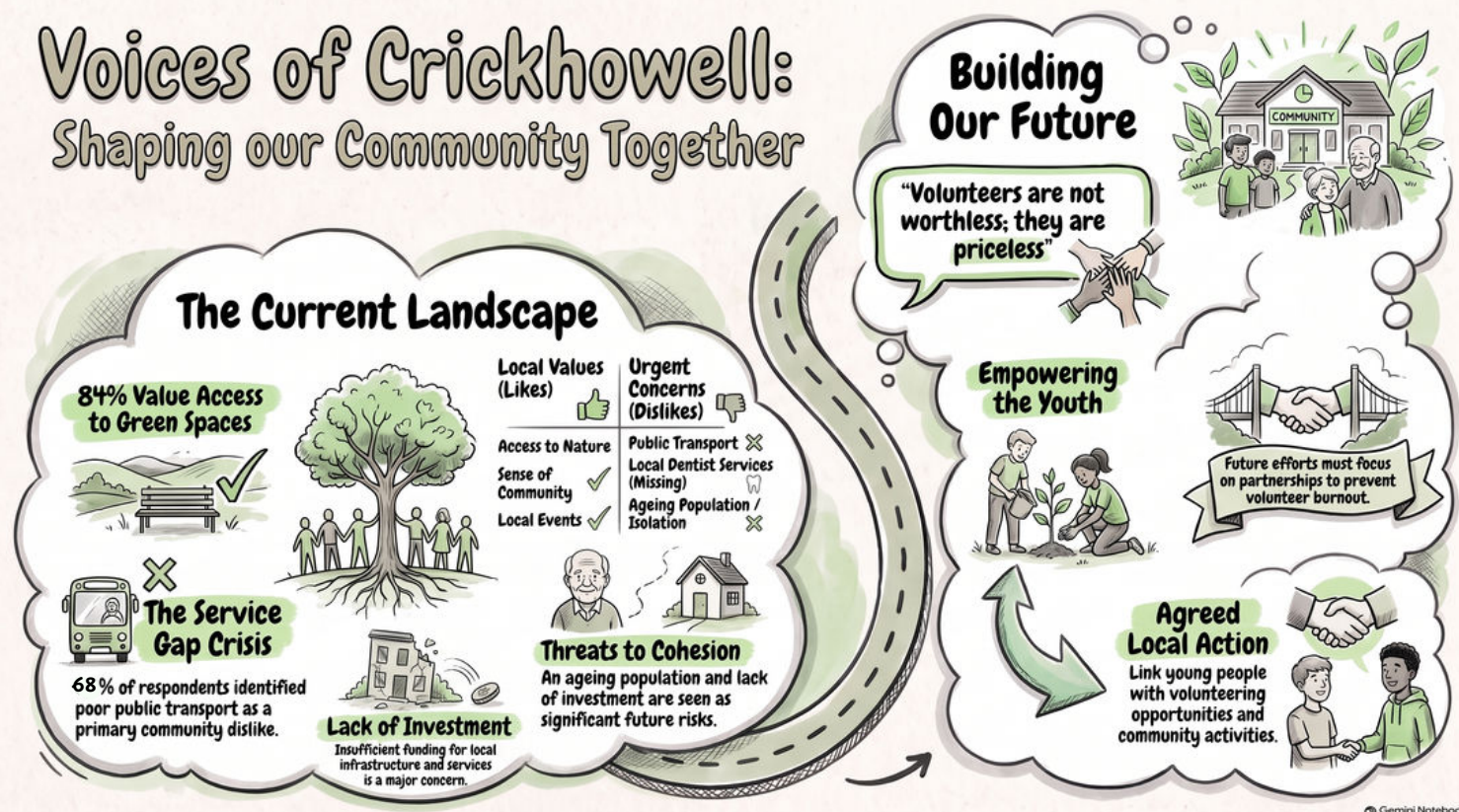
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**Community
Conversations**

CRICKHOWELL AREA

Voices of Crickhowell: Shaping our Community Together



What matters most to people in Crickhowell?

Crickhowell and the surrounding area is a place where people value nature, local activities and a strong sense of community.

People are proud of their area. But there are growing concerns about public transport, local services, 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

50 people from across the Crickhowell 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

Sustaining and funding local projects and services were also concerns

The biggest concerns were:

- Poor public transport links
- Access to local services, including health and social care
- The future of local amenities such as shops, banks and libraries
- An ageing population and the risk of isolation and loneliness

Focus groups were held at:

Crickhowell Community Fair | 14 October 2025 | Clarence Hall | 46 attendees
Clarence Hall | 12 January & 2 February 2026 | 24 participants

Four priorities for the future

1 Supporting young people and their future

One of the strongest messages was the need to give young people more opportunities, independence and a stronger voice:

- Concerns about the future of sixth form provision and the limited range of activities available.
- Practical barriers to participation, with many activities dependent on parents providing transport

Local groups are already doing valuable work. The challenge is helping more young people find out about and access what is available

Community opportunities

Communities could:

- promote activities on platforms used by different age groups
- give young people a stronger voice in local decision making
- create taster sessions to introduce young people to local activities
- link young people with community groups and volunteering opportunities
- explore safe, welcoming spaces for young people
- support projects that build skills, confidence and independence

2 Improving transport and local connections

People described buses that are unreliable, poorly timed or simply unavailable. This affects people of all ages, particularly young people, older residents and those without access to a car.

For many people, poor transport is a barrier to:

- Education
- Social activities
- Accessing local services
- Work
- Health appointments
- Volunteering

People want better connections between Crickhowell and the surrounding villages, with services that meet local needs



Community opportunities

Communities could:

- develop and strengthen community transport
- explore local car, minibuss and lift-sharing schemes
- gather evidence about where and when transport is most needed
- work together to improve local transport information
- support walking and cycling opportunities
- work collectively to influence transport providers and decision makers

3 Strengthening volunteering and community organisations

Community organisations are at the heart of life in Crickhowell and the surrounding area, but many are concerned that fewer volunteers are being asked to do more. Volunteers are highly valued, but community organisations cannot replace public services.

Community organisations need greater support to continue providing the activities and services that local people value

Local groups are facing:

- Volunteer fatigue and burnout
- An ageing volunteer base
- Difficulty attracting younger volunteers
- Limited long-term funding
- Increasing costs
- Pressure to spend time searching for funding rather than delivering activities

Community opportunities

Communities could:

- create short-term and flexible volunteering opportunities
- make it easier for people to try volunteering
- use taster sessions to connect people with local groups
- encourage more young people to get involved
- share volunteers, skills and resources
- work together on funding and long-term sustainability
- support new community leaders to develop

4 Protecting local services and community life

People value the services and places that make everyday life possible.

People highlighted the services they feel are most important to have locally as:

- Dentists
- GP and health services
- Schools and childcare
- Pharmacies
- Leisure and sports facilities
- Shops and other local amenities



We need to keep our high street independent and retain the character of the town

People also raised wider concerns about affordable housing, second homes and the ability of younger people and families to remain in the area.

For many, these issues are connected. A community needs homes, services, activities, transport and people willing and able to support local life.



Community opportunities

Communities could:

- gather local evidence about services and facilities that matter most
- work together to protect valued community spaces
- improve awareness of existing services and activities
- support local discussions about housing needs
- strengthen partnerships between community organisations and public services
- collectively influence decisions that affect the future of the area

What happened next?

Following the Community Conversations, local people decided to focus on **youth and volunteering opportunities**. A small financial resource was made available through PAVO, funded by the UK Government's Social Prosperity Fund.

The agreed local project, **led by Peak and the Youth Club**, brought together local organisations to give young people opportunities to explore volunteering and take part in taster sessions.

Looking ahead

The Community Conversations showed that Crickhowell and the surrounding areas have many strengths. People care deeply about their community. There is a strong tradition of volunteering, a wide range of local activities and organisations, and a clear willingness to work together.

The priorities identified through this work provide a starting point for community organisations, volunteers, local councils and public services to work together.

By sharing resources, strengthening connections and giving young people and volunteers more opportunities to shape their community, Crickhowell and the surrounding communities can build on their existing strengths and continue to be connected, active and resilient places to live.

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/

If you'd like more detailed information about the contents of this report, please get in touch at info@pavo.org.uk