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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  
Canolbarth 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**

# KNIGHTON AREA

## Voices of Knighton: Shaping our Community Together

### What Matters to Knighton (The Landscape)

**85%**

of residents value  
access to nature.

Nature is recognised as the  
town's most cherished local asset.



### Community Spirit & Local Events.

Over 60% cited  
community sense  
and activities as  
core strengths.

| Community Loves                                                                                                                                | Community Concerns                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to Nature (72)</li> <li>Sense of Community (53)</li> <li>Local Events/Activities (53)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Transport Links (51)</li> <li>Local Services (38)</li> <li>Shops &amp; Amenities (26)</li> </ul> |

### Youth Services: The Top Priority.

- Residents unanimously agreed that youth involvement is the most urgent focus area.

### Building the Future (Priorities & Action)

#### The Youth Outreach Pilot.

A dedicated worker engaged 40+ young people to identify their specific needs.

#### Solving the Communication Gap.

Revisiting the community newsletter and reinstating public event diaries to connect residents.

### Primary Concerns: Transport & Local Services.

Residents identified public transport and local services as the primary areas for improvement.

## What matters most to people in Knighton?

Knighton and the surrounding areas are places with a strong identity, a proud community and important natural, cultural and historical assets. People value living close to nature, the sense of community and the activities and events that bring people together.

At the same time, local people are concerned about the future of essential services, opportunities for young people, the availability of volunteers and the challenge of keeping the town connected and thriving.

*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

85 people from across the Knighton 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

People were also concerned about the pressure on volunteers and the risk of losing important services, community spaces and activities

The biggest concerns were:

- Public transport
- Access to local health and care services
- The future of local shops and amenities
- Affordable housing and the rising cost of living
- Support for young people
- Sustaining local projects and services

Focus groups were held at:

Knighton Community Fair | 4th December 2025 | Community Centre | 26 attendees  
Community Centre | 14 & 28 January 2026 | 14 participants

## Five priorities for the future

### 1 Supporting young people

Supporting young people emerged as the strongest local priority.

People highlighted the loss of previous youth provision and the difficulty of sustaining youth activities without long-term funding, suitable spaces and enough trained adults and volunteers.

The message from young people was: they want a safe place where they can meet friends, relax and spend time together



#### Community opportunities

Communities could:

- listen directly to young people about what they want and need
- create a youth committee or other ways for young people to shape local decisions
- develop activities with local schools, sports clubs and community organisations
- recruit and support volunteers to help sustain youth activities
- build evidence to support longer-term funding

## 2 Better communication

Useful information exists but can be difficult to find, because it is:

- Scattered across different channels and organisations
- Sometimes shared too late
- Less accessible to people who do not use social media or cannot easily get out

Previous approaches to information sharing, including a widely distributed newsletter and public events diary, were remembered positively



### Community opportunities

Communities could:

- develop a shared approach to promoting events and activities
- revisit local newsletters or other printed sources of information
- make better use of existing noticeboards and community spaces
- coordinate information between local organisations
- ensure that communication works for people who are not online.

## 3 Protecting and making better use of community spaces and local services

People value Knighton's health services, community hubs, local shops, parks and green spaces.

Better use of local buildings could support community activities, youth provision, outreach services and wider regeneration

There are concerns about the loss or reduction of health and care services, community activities and other local facilities. Residents also identified buildings and spaces that are underused or not widely known about.

### Community opportunities



- raise awareness of buildings and spaces available for community use
- identify underused spaces and explore new uses
- work together to protect valued facilities
- encourage outreach services to use accessible local venues
- connect community buildings with opportunities for youth activities, health services and volunteering

## 4 Strengthening volunteering and community capacity

Volunteers are central to community life in Knighton, but many organisations are already operating at their limit, with:

- Difficulty recruiting new volunteers and trustees
- A small number of people carrying most of the responsibility
- Challenges sustaining activities and finding new ways to attract volunteers

At the same time, there may be opportunities that people simply do not know about

### Community opportunities

Communities could:

- promote volunteering opportunities more consistently
- make roles clearer and easier for people to understand
- offer training and support to new volunteers
- share positive stories about the difference volunteers make
- work together across organisations to recruit volunteers and trustees

## 5 Making the most of Knighton's tourism, nature and culture

Knighton has important natural, cultural and heritage assets that support its identity and local economy.

There was also recognition that visitors need good access to shops, cafés, toilets, attractions and clear information about what the town has to offer

Residents highlighted the potential of places such as Offa's Dyke, the Rail Walk and other local attractions, with opportunities to:

- Strengthen promotion of local assets
- Improve collaboration between organisations

### Community opportunities

Communities could:

- work together to promote Knighton's attractions and events
- refresh tourism information, websites and printed materials
- develop shared marketing and networking between local organisations
- explore new cultural events and opportunities
- build on Knighton's distinctive identity as a border town with strong natural and historical assets

# What happened next?

Following the Community Conversations, local people chose to focus on **supporting and involving young people**. A small financial resource was made available through PAVO, funded by the UK Government's Social Prosperity Fund.

**Knighton & District Community Centre** took the lead on a **Youth Outreach Project**. The project reached young people through schools, college, sports clubs and outreach sessions.

## Looking ahead

The Community Conversations showed that Knighton and the surrounding areas have many strengths. It has committed local people, active organisations, important community spaces and a strong sense of place.

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, Knighton 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)