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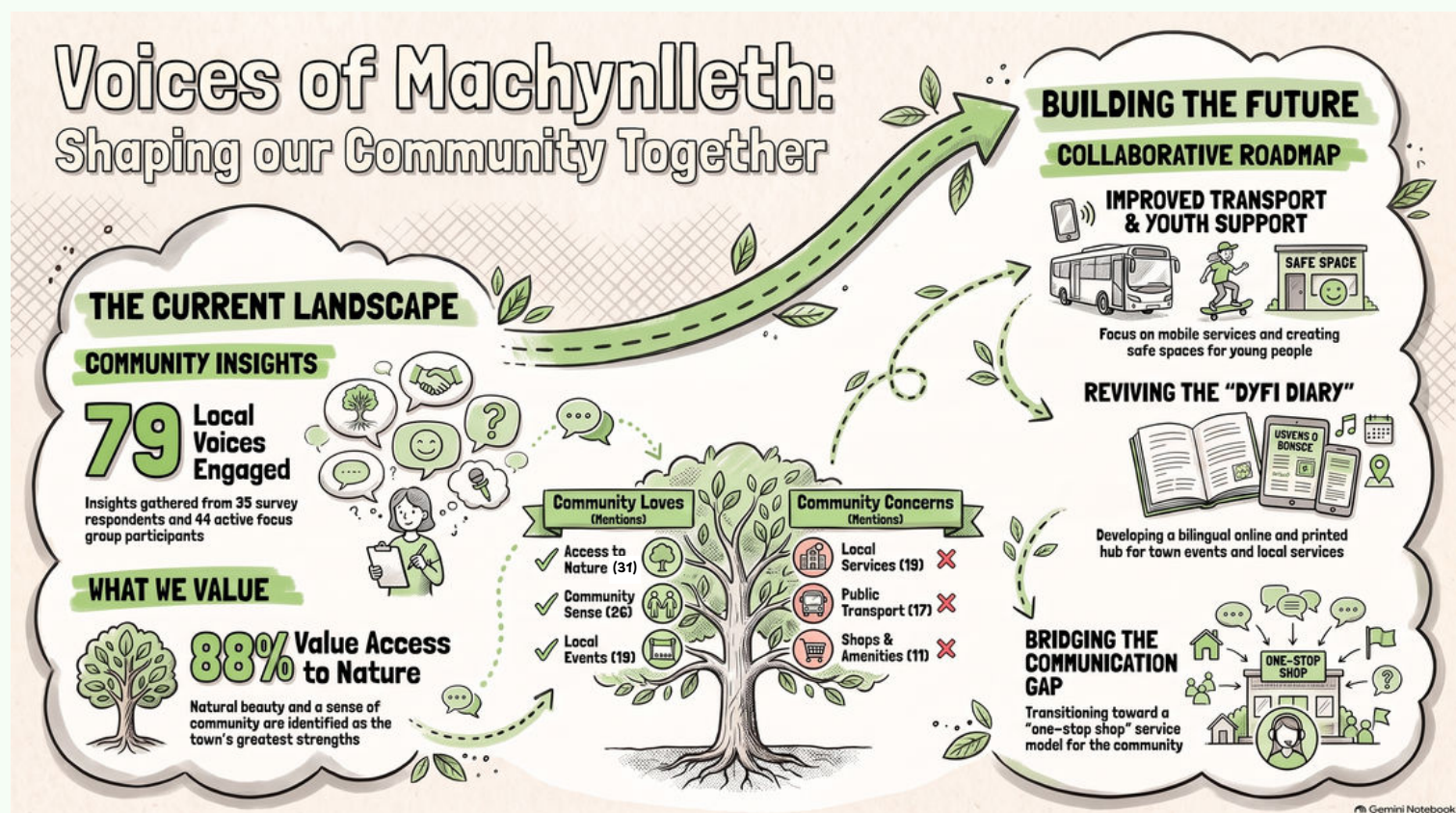
Powys

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**

MACHYNLLETH AREA



What matters most to people in Machynlleth?

Machynlleth and the surrounding areas have a strong sense of identity, a rich cultural life and many active community groups and organisations. People value the area's natural environment, sense of community and range of local events and activities.

But people also shared concerns about the future. Transport, access to services, clear communication, volunteer capacity and community connection were all important issues.

People also said they wanted to see a better link between being asked for their views and seeing how those views lead to action.

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

35 people from across the Machynlleth 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:

- Local services, including health and social care
- Public transport
- Local shops and amenities

Looking ahead, people were particularly concerned about:

- Keeping communities connected
- Council services and engagement
- Access to health and social care.
- The cost of living
- Climate change

Focus groups were held at:

Machynlleth Community Fair | 10 December 2025 | Y Plas | 38 attendees
Y Plas | 22 January | 6 participants

Four priorities for the future

1 Giving people a greater voice

People said they are often asked for their views, but do not always know what happens next. There was a feeling of consultation overload, with repeated requests for their views and limited visibility of what happens to their feedback. They want to see how their views influence decisions and lead to change.

Community opportunities

Communities could:

- be clear about the purpose of consultations
- tell people what happened as a result of their involvement
- take conversations into existing groups, clubs and community spaces
- use trusted local voices and word of mouth
- ask a small number of simple and focused questions
- involve young people in ways that work for them
- use community events and activities as opportunities to hear local views
- help people understand how they can influence local decisions

The conversations highlighted the need for better ways to hear from young people and others who do not typically take part in formal consultations

2 Better information and communication

People find it difficult to know what is happening. Information about local groups, activities, services and events is spread across multiple channels, making it difficult to find accurate and up-to-date information.

People want a clearer, more joined-up approach to sharing information, using a mix of digital, printed and face-to-face communication.

Community opportunities

Communities could:

- bring together information about local events, activities and services
- build on trusted local newsletters, noticeboards and networks
- make better use of village halls, community buildings and local groups to share information
- make sure information is available in Welsh and English where appropriate

No single approach will reach everyone, particularly people who are less confident online or have limited internet access

3 Supporting community capacity and connection

Machynlleth has many active groups and organisations, but much of this work relies on volunteers. People highlighted the risk of volunteer fatigue, with many already giving significant time and energy.

Some informal groups also face barriers to accessing funding because they are not formally constituted

People described different experiences of life in Machynlleth and perceived divisions within the community, while also identifying shared issues and valuing places and activities that bring people together.

Community opportunities

Communities could:

- bring local groups together to share information, skills and resources
- provide better support and coordination for volunteers
- help informal groups access funding and support
- create opportunities for different parts of the community to connect
- build on trusted local networks and focus on shared issues

4 Improving transport and access to services

People also highlighted the potential for mobile or visiting services to reduce the need to travel

Transport remains a major challenge across, particularly for people living in rural communities. Limited and infrequent services can make it difficult to access work, education, activities and health appointments. Young people and those living further from key services can be particularly affected.

Community opportunities

Communities could:

- identify and evidence the transport gaps having the greatest impact
- improve awareness and coordination of existing transport and community transport
- work with transport providers and public bodies to highlight local needs
- explore mobile or visiting services where travel is a barrier
- make transport a key part of future community planning

What happened next?

Following the Community Conversations, local people agreed to focus on **community information**. A small financial resource was made available through PAVO, funded by the UK Government's Social Prosperity Fund.

The proposed project, led by **Taj Mahal Community Hub**, will create a bilingual online diary for Machynlleth and the surrounding areas, providing a central place to promote events, activities, local services and community opportunities.

Looking ahead

The Community Conversations showed that Machynlleth and the surrounding areas have many strengths. There are active community groups, trusted local networks, a strong cultural identity and people who care deeply about the future of the area.

The challenge is not a lack of ideas. It is making sure that people can find the information they need, have meaningful opportunities to influence decisions and have the support and resources to turn ideas into action.

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, Machynlleth can continue to develop as a connected, resilient and thriving community.

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