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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**

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Tyfu  
Canolbarth Cymru  
Growing  
Mid Wales

**Community  
Conversations**

# MONTGOMERY AREA

## Voices of Montgomery: Shaping our Community Together

A community-driven strategic plan connecting local insights to future infrastructure and social actions.

### Community Insights (The Foundation)

#### Core Community Values



Residents prioritise access to nature, a strong sense of community, and local green spaces.



#### Valued Local Services and Spaces



Health Centre & GP Surgery Local Parks & Green Spaces Walking & Cycle Paths

Community members identified health services and outdoor spaces as their highest priorities for the town.

#### Future Challenges (5-10 Years)

An ageing population and the rising cost of living are identified as primary threats.

### Building Our Future (The Plan)

#### Strategic Priorities for Growth



Workshops identified youth provision and transport infrastructure as critical focus areas for the town.

#### Infrastructure Requirements

The plan calls for a designated bus stop and improved active travel routes.



#### Agreed Local Actions

- ✓ Support Town Crier printing and distribution costs
- ✓ Support Guiding group venue costs

## What matters most to people in Montgomery?

Montgomery and the surrounding areas have a strong sense of community, active local groups and a proud history.

But people also shared concerns about the future. Transport, access to health and care, opportunities for young people, affordable housing and the pressure on volunteers were all important issues.

People also highlighted that, although Montgomery can appear to be an affluent community, some local people are struggling with the rising cost of living.

*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

29 people from across the Montgomery 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:

- Public transport
- Local shops and amenities
- Access to local services

Looking ahead, people were particularly concerned about:

- Affordable and suitable housing
- Access to health and social care
- Keeping the community connected
- An ageing population
- The cost of living

Focus groups were held at:

Montgomery Community Fair | 2 December 2025 | Town Hall | 30 attendees

Montgomery Town Hall | 24 January | 10 participants

## Four priorities for the future

### 1 Supporting young people and families

People highlighted the need for more opportunities for young people in Montgomery, including places to meet, take part in activities and get involved in their community.

They also identified gaps in youth provision, and the importance of helping young people feel connected to Montgomery and want to stay.

People also highlighted the challenges faced by young people who need to travel outside the area for further education

#### Community opportunities

Communities could:

- include the voice of young people to build on existing groups and activities
- explore new youth provision and make better use of community buildings
- support young people to volunteer and get involved locally
- work with schools and youth organisations to strengthen opportunities
- improve access to activities for young people across the wider area

## 2 Keeping the community connected and informed

The Montgomery Town Crier is a valued source of local information, with opportunities to build on its success and reach more people

People highlighted the importance of good communication to a strong community, and recognised the need for a mix of printed and digital communication to ensure important information reaches everyone. There are also gaps in practical information, including transport timetables, road closures and other work taking place locally.



### Community opportunities

Communities could:

- build on trusted local information sources such as the Town Crier
- use a mix of printed and digital information
- share practical information about local events, services, transport and road works
- work with local organisations to improve how information is shared
- make sure important information reaches people who may not be online

## 3 Supporting community groups and volunteers

Montgomery has a strong tradition of volunteering, with community groups, events and local facilities relying on people giving their time.

However, people highlighted the need for greater support, particularly with funding, community buildings, accessibility and the practical challenges of running local organisations.

They also recognised the importance of encouraging younger people to get involved in volunteering

### Community opportunities



Communities could:

- bring local groups together to share information, ideas and resources
- encourage younger people to get involved in volunteering
- identify shared challenges that groups could address together
- work with larger organisations and funders to strengthen local capacity
- identify practical improvements to make community buildings more accessible and sustainable

## 4 Better transport, travel and access

Transport affects access to health, education, services and community activities in Montgomery.

Better transport and connections were also seen as important to the future of the town, particularly in supporting families and younger people to live and work locally

People highlighted:

- lack of designated bus stop in Montgomery
- gaps in public transport,
- difficulties for those without access to a car
- the need for safer and more accessible walking and cycling routes

### Community opportunities



Communities could:

- identify and evidence the transport gaps having the greatest impact
- improve access to clear information about local services and timetables
- work with transport providers and public bodies to address gaps, including the need for a designated bus stop
- identify priorities for improving walking, cycling and footpath networks
- ensure the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users are considered in future planning
- link transport planning to access to health, education and community activities

## What happened next?

Following the Community Conversations, local people agreed to focus on **youth activities and community communication**.

A small financial resource was made available through PAVO, funded by the UK Government's Social Prosperity Fund.

Support for community venues used by local Brownies, Guides, Rainbows and Rangers groups was led by **Guiding in Montgomery**. Support was provided to strengthen the **Montgomery Town Crier**, including funding for development and printing.

# Looking ahead

The Community Conversations showed that Montgomery and the surrounding areas have many strengths. There is a strong volunteering culture, active local organisations and a community that cares about its future.

At the same time, people are aware of the challenges ahead. An ageing population, the cost of living, access to health and care, housing and transport will all continue to affect the community.

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

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**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)**