



Funded by
UK Government
Wedi ei ariannu gan
Llywodraeth y DU

PAVO

Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations
Cymdeithas Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Powys

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

Powys

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

Tyfu
Canolbarth Cymru
Growing
Mid Wales

**Community
Conversations**

PRESTEIGNE AREA

VOICES OF PRESTEIGNE: SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

THE CURRENT LANDSCAPE

**87% VALUE ACCESS
TO NATURE**



54 respondents cited the
natural environment as why
they love living in Presteigne



**THE SERVICE
GAP CRISIS**



Residents are deeply concerned
about public transport and access
to health and social care

**HIGHLY VALUED
ASSETS**

GP / Health Centre	54 votes
Pharmacy & Shops	49 votes
Leisure & Libraries	45 votes

BUILDING THE FUTURE



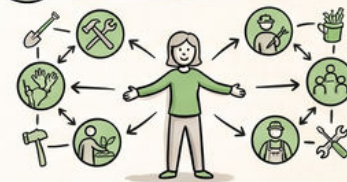
**CELEBRATION OF
YOUTH PROJECT**



A series of events launched with a
free 'Silent Disco' for summer
activities



**TOWN-WIDE VOLUNTEER
COORDINATION**



Establishing a central coordinator to
support volunteers across the community

Gemini Notebook

What matters most to people in Presteigne?

Presteigne and the surrounding areas are places with a strong sense of community. People value the local landscape, community spirit, events and activities, and the services and places that help make the town a good place to live.

At the same time, local people are concerned about the future of important services, public transport links, affordable living and opportunities for young people.

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

62 people from across the Presteigne 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

There is strong concern about whether people will be able to continue accessing the support they need locally

The biggest concerns were:

- Poor public transport
- Access to local health and care services
- The rising cost of living
- Affordable housing and local jobs
- The future of local services and amenities

Focus groups were held at:

Presteigne Community Fair | 22 November 2025 | Memorial Hall | 24 attendees
Youth Centre | 15 & 29 January 2026 | 6 participants

Four priorities for the future

1 Supporting young people

One of the strongest priorities identified by the community was supporting young people. People felt that young people need to be more involved in creating the opportunities and activities that affect them, and shaping the future of Presteigne.

There are already groups and activities available, but there is a need to better understand what young people want and make sure their voices are heard.

People feel there is a need to better understand what young people want and make sure their voices are heard

Community opportunities

Communities could:

- ask young people what they want and need
- involve young people in planning local activities
- strengthen links between schools, youth groups and community organisations
- create more opportunities for young people to volunteer and take on leadership roles
- bring organisations together to provide activities, information and support for young people

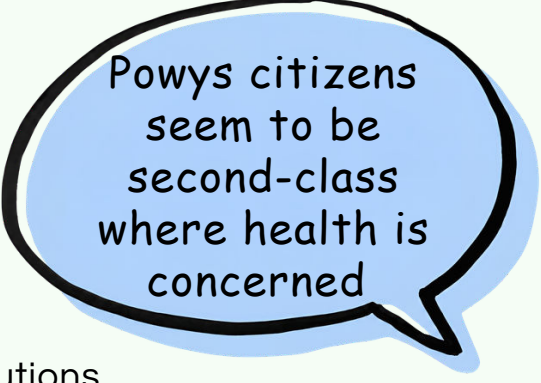
2 Strengthening local services and connections

Local services matter greatly to people in Presteigne. Health services, shops, the library, leisure facilities and public and community transport were all identified as important to everyday life. People were concerned about having to travel further to access services and about the possible loss or reduction of local facilities. For many people, the issue is not just whether a service exists, but whether it is accessible when they need it.

Community opportunities

Communities could:

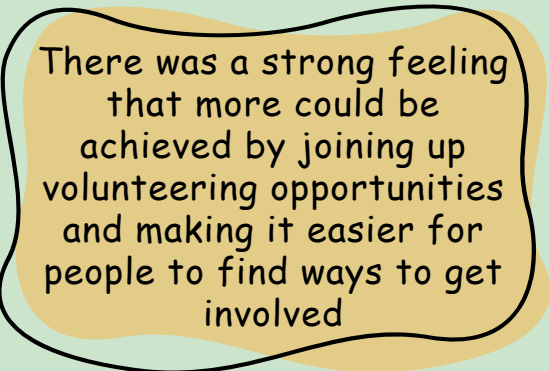
- share clearer information about local services
- work together to protect valued facilities
- support community transport and other local solutions
- strengthen links between local organisations and public services
- work collectively to influence decisions about changes to local services



Powys citizens seem to be second-class where health is concerned

3 Building a stronger volunteering community

Presteigne has many organisations, activities and events that depend on volunteers.



There was a strong feeling that more could be achieved by joining up volunteering opportunities and making it easier for people to find ways to get involved

However, local groups are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain enough people. Volunteers are carrying a great deal of responsibility, and many organisations face similar challenges.

Community opportunities

Communities could:

- create a clearer picture of local volunteering opportunities
- improve coordination between organisations
- encourage volunteering through schools and youth organisations
- share skills, contacts and resources
- develop a more coordinated approach to recruiting and supporting volunteers

4 Improving transport, communication and access

Good communication and transport are essential to keeping the community connected.

People raised concerns about public transport, the cost of travel and the lack of alternatives for people without access to a car. There was also interest in better cycling routes and exploring other ways for people to travel locally.

People said that information about services, changes and local decisions is not always easy to find. This is particularly difficult for people who are not online

Community opportunities



Communities could:

- improve how local information is shared
- bring together information about local organisations and services
- explore community-led transport solutions
- work together to campaign for better public transport and safer cycling

What happened next?

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

The **Celebration of Youth Project** delivered a programme of summer activities for young people, beginning with a Silent Disco. A Youth Worker was recruited to support the programme.

Looking ahead

The Community Conversations showed that Presteigne and the surrounding areas have many strengths - a strong community, valued local services, active organisations and people who care deeply about where they live.

The conversations also showed that there are real challenges ahead. Supporting young people, protecting local services, recruiting volunteers and improving transport and communication will all require people and organisations to work together.

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, Presteigne 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