



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 Gyflwynu y DU, a gefnogir gan Gyngor Sir Powys".

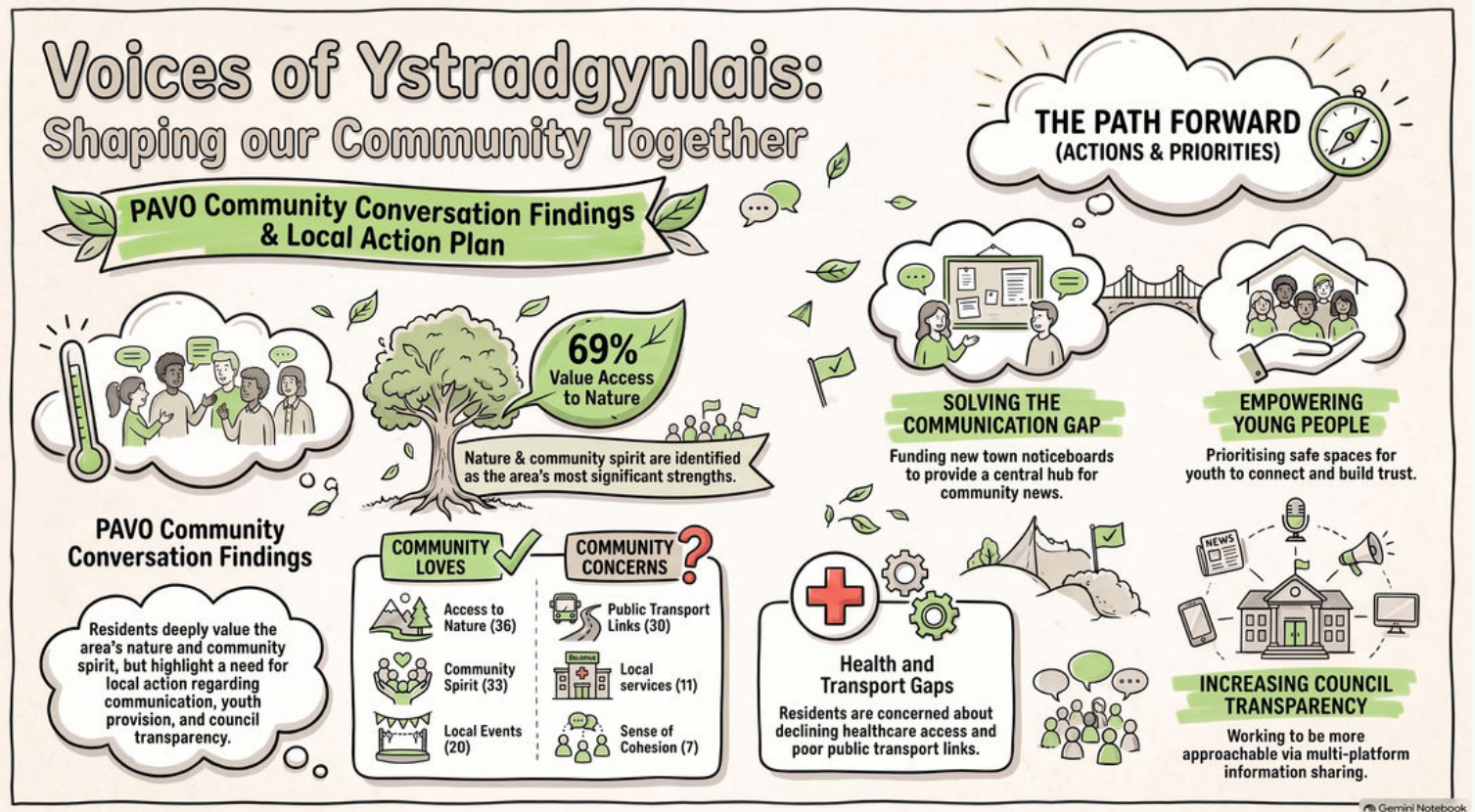
Powys

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**

YSTRADGYNLAIS AREA



What matters most to people in Ystradgynlais?

Ystradgynlais and the surrounding communities are places where people value the natural environment, local activities and, above all, the sense of community.

At the same time, people are concerned about access to services, public transport, affordable housing and the future of important community facilities

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

52 people from across the Ystradgynlais 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 links
- Local services, including health and social care
- Maintaining a strong sense of community

The survey also highlighted concerns about local amenities, community transport, sports and leisure opportunities, and activities for young people.

Focus groups were held at:

Ystradgynlais Community Fair | 27 November 2025 | Welfare Hall | 23 attendees

Ystradgynlais Volunteer Centre | 21 January 2026 | 7 participants

Five priorities for the future

1 Keeping health and care services local

Access to health services was one of the strongest concerns raised during the community conversations.

People are worried about services being centralised and moved away from Ystradgynlais, making it harder for local people to get the support they need.

People were particularly concerned about the loss of day care services at the Canolfan Centre and what this would mean for people who use the service and those who care for them



Community opportunities

Communities could:

- share information about local health and care services
- make sure the experiences of residents and carers are heard
- work together to understand local needs
- explore community-led support where services are at risk of being lost
- support the development of safe, welcoming spaces for carers and the people they care for

2 Better communication and more local information

There was a particular concern about the gap between decisions being made and the people affected by those decisions

Clearer information about what is happening locally and how they can get involved is needed. People also identified a practical problem: community information exists, but it can be difficult to find. There are several local 'What's On' magazines, but community information is spread throughout them.



Community opportunities

Communities could:

- create a shared local 'What's On' page for local events and activities
- use community noticeboards to promote events and organisations
- share information across existing community networks
- make better use of local businesses and community spaces to display information
- encourage organisations to share information rather than working separately

3 Giving young people more opportunities

People raised concerns about the loss or potential loss of places and opportunities for young people, including the Youth Centre in Gurnos and the future of post-16 education. There are youth clubs in the area, including community-run provision, but attendance can be low.

People felt there is a need to understand what young people actually want and create opportunities that work for them.

Community opportunities



Communities could:

- ask young people what they want locally
- support youth-led activities and projects
- make better use of existing community spaces
- connect young people with local organisations and volunteers
- work together to promote activities already available

People also highlighted concerns about the condition of buildings used for youth activities

4 Protecting community spaces and local amenities

Local buildings and everyday services play an important part in keeping communities connected. There are concerns about some of these places and services being lost or changed, including:

- Community and day care centres
- Post offices
- Libraries
- Pubs
- Local shops and other amenities

People were clear that losing these places can have a much bigger impact than simply losing a building or service. They provide places to meet, connect with others and take part in community life

Community opportunities

Communities could:

- identify important local buildings and spaces
- understand which places are most at risk
- explore community ownership or management where appropriate
- bring organisations together to share spaces and resources
- make sure the needs of different communities across the area are considered

5 Affordable housing, infrastructure and stronger communities

The cost of living, affordable housing and local infrastructure were identified as major challenges for the years ahead. People are concerned about:

Ystradgynlais is made up of several communities, each with its own strengths and challenges. Stronger connections between them could help build a greater sense of belonging across the area

- Whether local people can afford to stay in the area
- New housing and whether services can keep pace
- Transport and infrastructure
- An ageing population

Community opportunities

Communities could:

- Gather evidence about local housing need
- Highlight gaps in infrastructure and services
- Build on the strengths of existing groups
- Support activities that bring communities together
- Make the most of local natural and tourism assets

What happened next?

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

The resource contributed towards the purchase of a digital noticeboard by Ystradgynlais Town Council for the town centre, to improve communication as well as promote local events and communication organisations.

Looking ahead

The Community Conversations showed that Ystradgynlais and surrounding areas have many strengths. They also showed that communities are facing real challenges. Access to health and care, opportunities for young people, affordable housing, local services and community facilities all matter to the future of the area.

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, Ystradgynlais 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