



Rhosllannerchrugog Placemaking Plan Consultation Draft



CYNGOR CYMUNED
RHOSLLANNERCHRUGOG
COMMUNITY COUNCIL



CONTENTS

Background & Purpose	3
Health Check	6
Key Issues & Opportunities	9
Objectives	12
Projects	14
Feedback & Next Steps	25

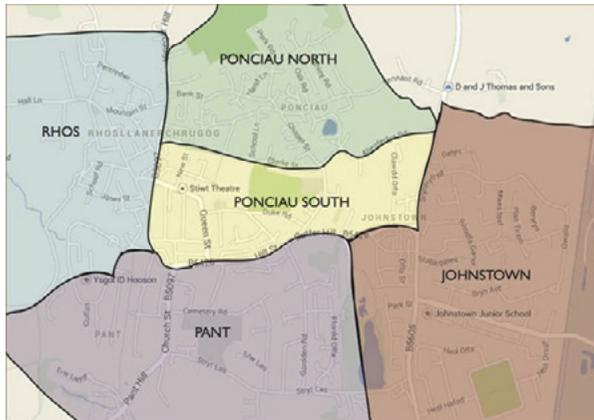


1. BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Introduction

Rhosllannerchrugog is Wales's largest village, home to around 10,000 people across five electoral wards. Located on elevated moorland to the south-west of Wrexham, the village in this context encompasses Rhos, Ponciau, Pant and Johnstown—communities that share a sense of identity rooted in both industrial heritage and Welsh language culture. Rhosllannerchrugog developed during the 18th and 19th centuries as a mining community and still carries strong echoes of that past in its buildings, spaces and traditions.

Areas of Rhosllannerchrugog

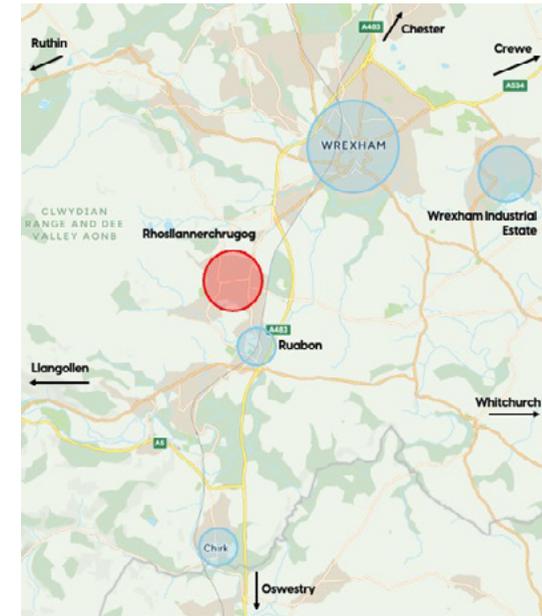


Source: Rhosllannerchrugog Community Council

Today, the village centre faces significant challenges. Market Street remains the commercial core, but its vitality has declined as banks and small retailers have closed, leaving visible signs of contraction and change. Many former shops have been converted into housing, and the remaining retail

offer is now dominated by takeaways, barbers, convenience stores and supermarkets. Signs of dereliction and poorly maintained spaces detract from the centre's appearance. Johnstown functions as a secondary centre with its own commercial cluster, providing convenience shopping and essential services that for many residents replace Market Street's role entirely. Parts of the community rank among the 10–20% most deprived in Wales, underlining the need for a regeneration strategy that balances social need with cultural pride.

Despite these challenges, Rhosllannerchrugog possesses unusually strong community infrastructure for a place of its size. The Community Council plays a major role in managing community centres, Ponciau Park, recreation facilities and the cemetery. Sports clubs, choirs and a Youth Council active for more than 20 years all contribute to a strong culture of participation and local pride. The Stiwt continues to host theatre and music, drawing regional audiences to a 490-seat venue whose professional-standard stage matches Theatr Clwyd's capabilities and whose annual pantomime attracts thousands of children from across Wrexham County Borough, serving as a focal point for civic life and a key asset in the county's cultural landscape. The Hafod Colliery Social Club provides important space for community events. Resilience is evident in community cafés and active chapels that continue to bring people together. Rhosllannerchrugog has a higher proportion of Welsh speakers than Wrexham or Wales as a whole, reinforcing its distinctive borderland identity where language and culture remain vibrant.



Map showing Rhosllannerchrugog's strategic location and location in relation to nearby settlements

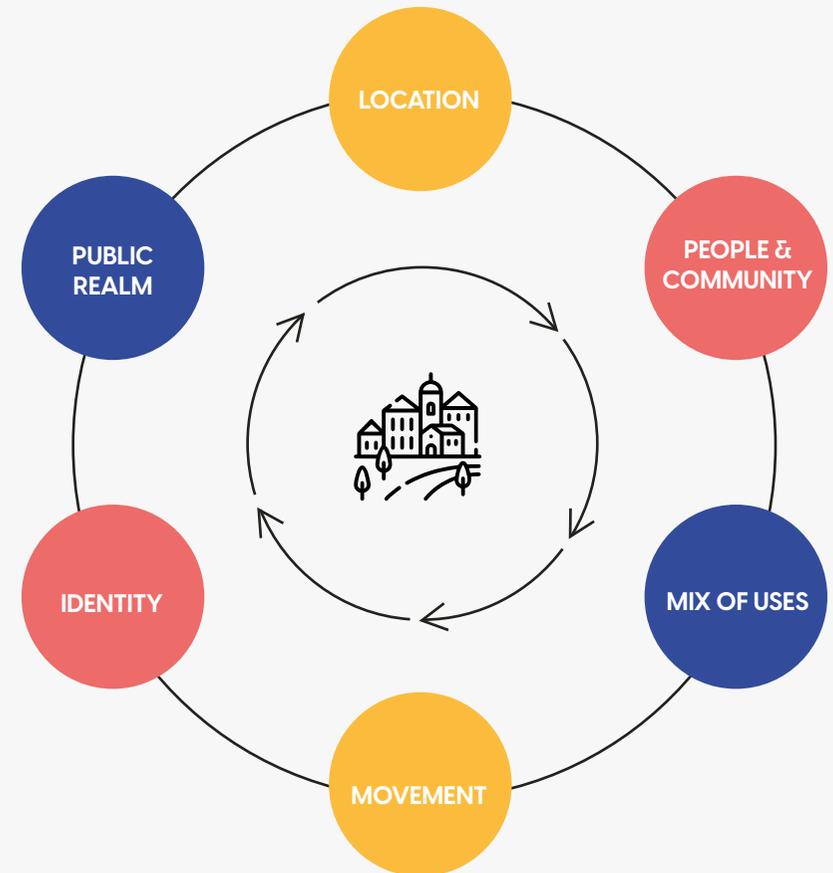
The village now stands at a moment of significant cultural opportunity. The Stiwt's centenary in 2026 coincides with Wrexham's bid to be UK City of Culture 2029, following the successful 2025 National Eisteddfod. These moments offer potential for transformational cultural investment that could revitalise Market Street, find viable futures for historic buildings, and ensure that regional momentum is felt locally. The Placemaking Plan seeks to build on the village's strengths—establishing a shared vision rooted in local pride, Welsh culture and lived experience—while setting out practical interventions that attract investment, improve wellbeing, and make Rhosllannerchrugog a better place in which to live, work and visit.

MAKING THE TOWN CENTRE A GREAT PLACE

4

Places like Rhosllannerchrugog have been a focal point for communities for generations, and this contributes to their individual identity and that of the wider area and its population. Places shape us and we continue to shape them. This Plan provides the opportunity to help celebrate and grow the best features of Rhosllannerchrugog whilst reinvigorating the less-loved ones.

A great place needs to deliver on several fronts simultaneously. The Placemaking Wales Charter describes of these as six key themes which work together to make a great place:



STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

5

We are consulting with the public on this Draft Placemaking Plan following local research, stakeholder meetings and discussions with local organisations including Rhosllannerchrugog Community Council. Engagement also included a dedicated session with Rhosllannerchrugog Youth Council, whose ideas and priorities have informed a number of the proposals in this Plan.

The local community, businesses and organisations are invited to comment on the following ideas. We want to understand your priorities and the level of support for changes and improvements before taking forward any proposals. The final Plan will be a blueprint for guiding investment and attracting funding for the next 5+ years.

2. HEALTH CHECK

The health check provides the context for the analysis and ideas in later sections of this Placemaking Plan.

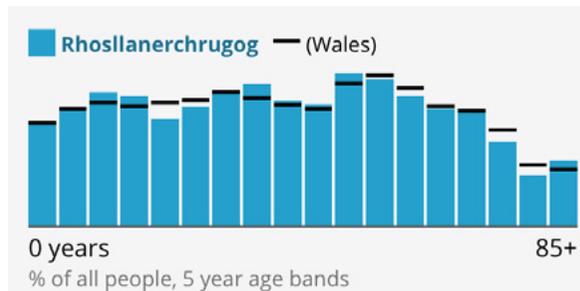
It is a summary of the Rhosllannerchrugog Baseline & Health Check Report, produced as part of the Placemaking Plan development process in 2025 and available on request.

6

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

Around 9,300 people live in Rhosllannerchrugog across approximately 6,000 households, making it one of Wales's largest village communities. The population is relatively balanced across most age groups, though the community is ageing with 23% now aged 65 or over (up from 18.5% in 1998).

Age profile, Rhosllannerchrugog (blue) and Wales average (black bar)



Source: Office for National Statistics – Mid Year Population Estimates 2022

Nearly a quarter of residents (23.1%) speak Welsh—significantly higher than the county average—making Rhosllannerchrugog an important Welsh-speaking community. The village has strong community traditions, with active choirs, an established youth theatre, and

a Youth Council with over 20 years of operation that continues to provide young people with a voice in community decision-making.

Around 23% of residents have no qualifications (slightly above the Wales average of 20%), and parts of the community rank among the 10–20% most deprived areas in Wales. However, employment rates are reasonable at 54% economically active and in employment.

Nearly a quarter of residents (23.1%) speak Welsh—significantly higher than the county average—making Rhosllannerchrugog an important Welsh-speaking community. The village has strong community traditions, with active choirs, an established youth theatre, and a Youth Council with over 20 years of operation that continues to provide young people with a voice in community decision-making.

Around 23% of residents have no qualifications (slightly above the Wales average of 20%), and parts of the community rank among the 10–20% most deprived areas in Wales. However, employment rates are reasonable at 54% economically active and in employment.

SERVICES AND BUSINESS

Market Street remains the traditional commercial core, but the village centre has experienced significant decline over recent decades. The retail offer includes essential services: a pharmacy, Co-op convenience store, another convenience store, a longstanding hardware store, and personal services (particularly hairdressers). There is also a community café and community shop.

Hospitality provision includes daytime cafés and takeaways (some also open evenings), but there are no restaurants on Market Street itself. There are a couple of pubs nearby, one just off Market Street, but the evening economy is limited.

7

Over the last 30 years many of the commercial premises have been converted to residential. Both banks closed (HSBC in 2011, NatWest in 2016), along with multiple shops including butchers, newsagents and video shops. Multiple vacant premises and poorly maintained buildings affect the centre's appearance.

Shops and local services are distributed across the wider community, with Johnstown having its own Co-op, post office, bakery, dentist and pub. The village benefits from two industrial estates—Coppi (3 hectares) and Vauxhall (21.2 hectares)—providing important local employment.

Mix of uses of Rhosllannerchrugog village centre



EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNITY ASSETS

Despite Market Street's decline, the wider village possesses remarkable community infrastructure:

The **Stiwt Theatre** is the jewel in Rhos's crown: a professionally managed 490-seat venue whose professional-standard stage matches Theatr Clwyd's capabilities, drawing audiences from across Wrexham County Borough and beyond to make it one of the borough's most important cultural venues and a significant presence in the north Wales regional arts scene. It hosts theatre, music, cinema and community events, and its annual pantomime alone attracts thousands of children

from across the region. The Grade II* listed building was restored by the community in the 1990s and celebrates its centenary in 2026, with the City of Culture 2029 team already identifying it as a key asset for Wrexham's cultural ambitions. The building also houses the Community Council Estate Office. However, the Stiwt has only 33 parking spaces and limited integration with Market Street businesses.

Recreation and sports facilities are extensive, including Ponciau Banks Park, multiple playing fields, bowling greens, tennis courts and active sports clubs across football, rugby and bowls. Ponciau Banks Park is rightly valued as an outstanding recreational asset, but its benefits are not equally accessible to all parts of the community. Young people living in Johnstown told us that the park feels too far away and that the busy B road makes the journey on foot

unappealing. They rely instead on their local parks, which they perceive as less well-equipped and less invested in. Ensuring that recreational provision is genuinely accessible across all parts of Rhosllannerchrugog – not just in Ponciau – is an important consideration for this Plan.

Education and community facilities include three primary schools—Ysgol Maes y Mynydd (English-medium, ages 3-11), Ysgol I.D. Hooson (Welsh-medium, ages 3-11), and Ysgol Yr Hafod (ages 3-11)—plus Ysgol Y Grango (English-medium secondary, ages 11-16). The public library serves not only as a lending library but as an important meeting place for community groups, hosting activities from reading sessions for children to Welsh language classes and social groups. Environmental initiatives include the Tiny Forest project at Penygraig.

Community governance is strong, with an active Community Council operating a substantial annual precept of £348,077, and a longstanding Youth Council with over 20 years of continuous operation providing young people with genuine involvement in community decision-making.

ENVIRONMENT AND CHARACTER

The village centre sits within a Conservation Area, reflecting its historic character. However, public realm quality is poor with dated street furniture, tired signage and maintenance challenges. Some prominent sites feature poorly maintained buildings.

The most prominent vacant building in the area is Plas yn Rhos, which has been empty for a number of years.

In early 2026 proposals to use the building as asylum seeker accommodation generated significant community opposition, ultimately leading to the plans being withdrawn. The episode illustrated the strength of local feeling about what happens to key buildings in Rhosllannerchrugog. The future of the building remains unresolved, but the community's clear message is that any future use should be positive and have community support.

Rhosllannerchrugog possesses an exceptional concentration of chapels—the 1905 Royal Commission recorded twenty-one places of worship serving 9,414 people. While several remain active (including Grade II listed Penuel Baptist Chapel and Capel Mawr), many have closed or been converted. Four of the village's eight listed buildings are places of worship. The Grade II* listed Stiwt anchors the built heritage.

The village has recent infrastructure improvements including EV charging points in car parks.

MOVEMENT AND ACCESS

Rhosllannerchrugog has good bus connectivity to Wrexham with regular services, including the recently added Route 6 circular service which has increased frequency and capacity on the corridor, and sits strategically on the A483 corridor. However, car dependency is high with 66.7% driving to work (versus 56.5% Wales average).

The compact village centre makes walking practical, though historic street patterns mean pavements are sometimes absent (including parts of Church Street). The

terrain is hilly but manageable.

Parking presents challenges. The centre has several free car parks with EV charging, but the two largest (former Bonc Wen Community Centre and Jones Street) are in poor condition with minimal signage and wayfinding. The Stiwt's 33 spaces are inadequate for its 490-seat capacity. Market Street operates as a one-way system, and parking on double yellow lines appears common during peak times.

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND IDENTITY

Rhosllannerchrugog maintains a vibrant cultural identity centred on Welsh language and musical heritage. The village has a choral tradition that has produced internationally recognised musicians.

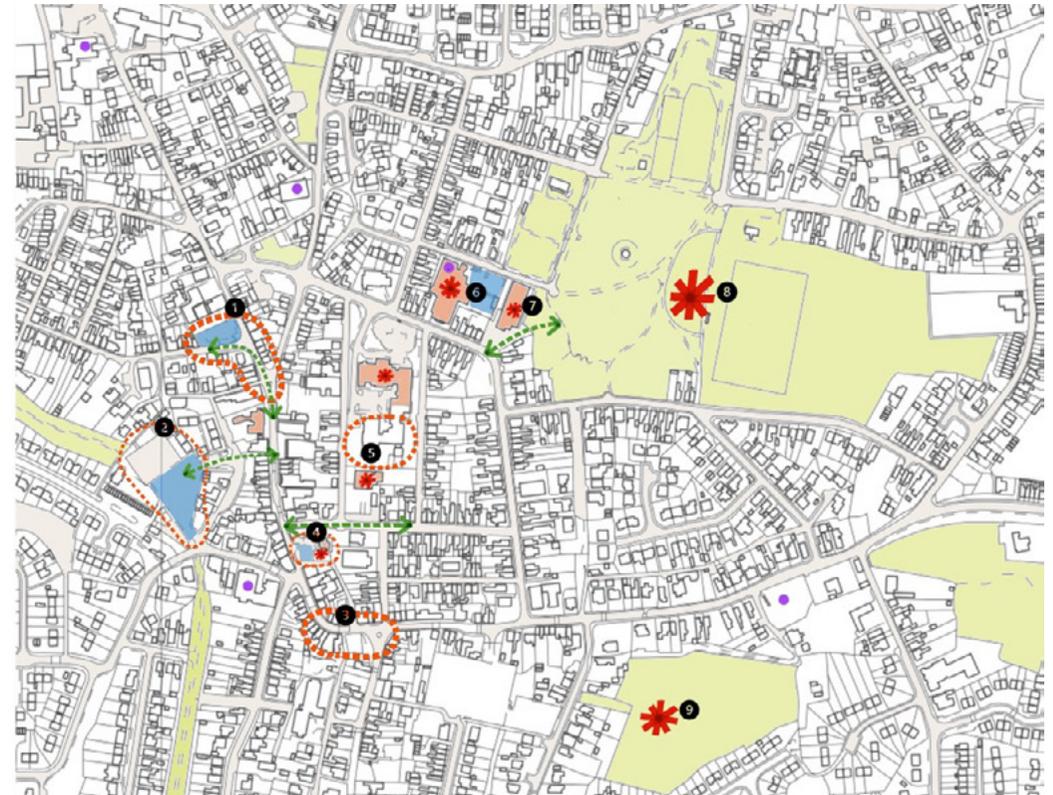
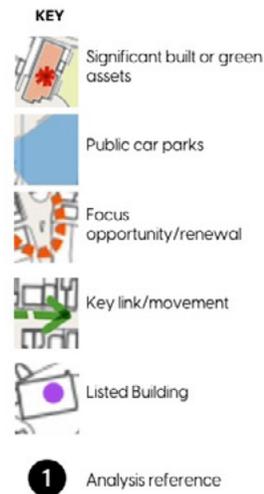
The village's mining heritage remains visible through Hafod Colliery Social Club (now community-owned), the cemetery containing mining disaster memorials, and industrial archaeology sites.

Rhosllannerchrugog has a distinctive local dialect—a unique form of North-East Welsh known for particular vocabulary and vowel pronunciations. The dialect includes unique words such as 'nene' (meaning 'that over there'), which is perhaps the word most associated with the village and is even the title of the local community newspaper published monthly by volunteers.

The Stiwt Theatre anchors cultural provision with professional productions, community performances and youth theatre development through Theatr yr Ifanc.

3. KEY ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES

1. Hall St and car park – concentration of poor-quality buildings and frontages. Car park poor sense of arrival & appearance. Small open space with isolated information board
2. Bonc Wen Car park – future plans for housing and renewed car park. Require effective signage
3. Market Street – concentration of vacant and poor-quality buildings at key gateway
4. Market Street Car Park – key open space and facilities. Importance for disabled access for centre/ library
5. Plas yn Rhos – prominent vacant building close to the village centre; community strongly opposed to inappropriate uses; future use unresolved
6. The Stiwt – regionally important cultural venue
7. Hafod Colliery Social Centre – significant community venue
8. Ponciau Park – diverse high quality recreation area
9. Community Gardens





Strengths

Scale and Viability

- One of Wales's largest village communities (10,000 residents across 6,000 households)
- Critical mass to support viable local services and businesses

Exceptional Community Assets

- The Stiwt: 490-seat professional venue with regional draw
- Extensive recreational facilities
- Strong educational provision
- Active Community Council with substantial annual precept (£348,077)

Cultural Heritage and Identity

- Strong Welsh cultural identity
- Rich mining heritage with community ownership of key assets
- Multiple active choirs and established youth theatre
- Distinctive local dialect and strong community traditions

Strategic Location and Connectivity

- Strategic position on A483 corridor
- Good bus connectivity to Wrexham
- Free parking throughout centre with EV charging infrastructure

Community Capacity and Governance

- Proven track record of successful heritage restoration (the Stiwt, Ponciau Banks Park)
- Youth Council with 20+ years operation
- Successful adaptive reuse of former industrial sites



Weaknesses

Market Street Commercial Decline

- Limited retail offer reduced to essential services only
- Multiple vacant premises and poorly maintained buildings
- Weak evening hospitality sector with no restaurants or pubs on main street
- Poor public realm quality with dated street furniture and signage

Economic and Social Challenges

- Areas ranking among 10-20% most deprived in Wales
- Below-average educational attainment (23.1% no qualifications vs 19.9% Wales)
- Limited professional employment opportunities locally
- Ageing population (23% over 65, increasing from 18.5% in 1998)

Transport and Accessibility

- High car dependency (66.7% drive to work vs 56.5% Wales average)
- Limited public transport beyond Wrexham connections
- Parking constraints at key venues (the Stiwt only 33 spaces)
- Some streets lack proper pavements due to historic narrow widths

Infrastructure and Maintenance

- Mixed mobile phone coverage with indoor reception issues
- Heritage buildings facing ongoing maintenance pressures
- Some community facilities requiring upgrading and modernisation



Opportunities

Reconnecting Assets with Commerce

- Link the Stiwt, sports facilities, and schools to Market Street through improved wayfinding and pedestrian routes
- Coordinate programming to encourage linked visits
- Capture spending from existing community activity

The Stiwt as Economic Catalyst

- 2026 centenary creating momentum for investment
- Develop hospitality/evening economy for 490-seat venue and regional audiences
- Grow specialist retail linked to cultural programming
- Wrexham City of Culture 2029 alignment if bid succeeds

Heritage-Led Regeneration

- Mining legacy, chapels, cemetery, and industrial archaeology as tourism drivers
- Adaptive reuse of historic buildings
- Distinctive Welsh cultural identity (choirs, dialect, language) as unique selling point

Market Street Transformation

- Vacant premises offering development opportunities
- Gateway site interventions to shift perceptions
- Evening economy creating new hospitality businesses
- Enhanced visitor economy through cultural events

Regional Momentum

- Ambition North Wales Growth Deal investment
- North Wales Metro connectivity improvements
- National Growth Area designation benefits

Community Capacity

- Strong broadband supporting home working/digital businesses
- Untapped LoRaWAN infrastructure for smart applications
- 20+ year Youth Council tradition
- Proven track record of asset management and restoration.



Threats

Continued Commercial Decline

- Further erosion of Market Street retail and service base
- Competition from online shopping and larger regional centres
- Potential closure of remaining essential services (pharmacy, post office)
- Loss of foot traffic reducing viability for remaining businesses

Demographic and Social Pressures

- Continued population ageing reducing economic activity and spending power
- Outmigration of young people for education and employment opportunities
- Potential erosion of Welsh language use among younger generations

Financial and Governance Challenges

- Ongoing pressure on Community Council finances and service provision
- Heritage building maintenance costs potentially becoming unsustainable
- Competition for volunteer time and community capacity

Infrastructure and Development Pressures

- Parking and traffic management challenges from increased activity.

4. OBJECTIVES

The visible decline of Market Street – with vacant and shuttered shops, limited commercial variety, and a fading public realm – has become the clearest signal of a wider pattern of underinvestment, economic contraction and loss of confidence. This erosion is not only physical; it indicates a weakening of Rhosllannerchrugog’s identity, the vitality of its high street, and the day-to-day experience of residents and visitors alike.

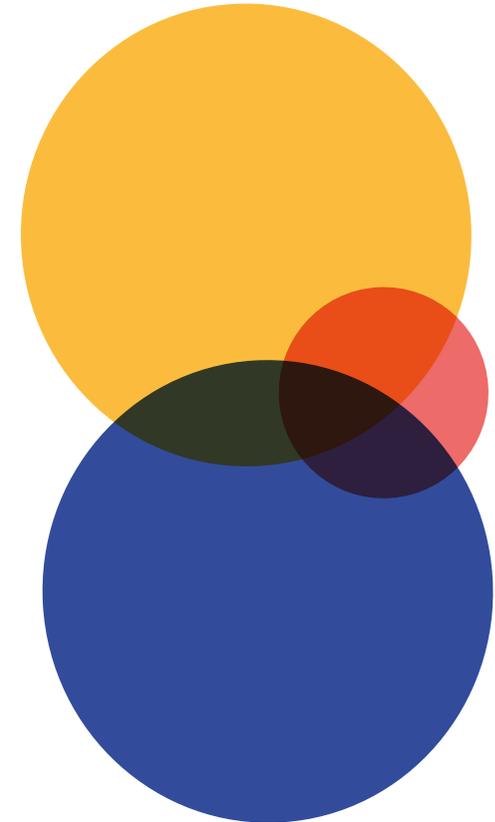
However, Rhosllannerchrugog is also a place of exceptional community identity and cultural significance, symbolised most powerfully by the Stiwt – the village’s civic landmark and a beacon of Welsh language, musical heritage and collective pride. Yet while the village possesses remarkable community assets, strong traditions of self-organisation, and a deep sense of belonging, its centre no longer reflects this strength or the community behind it.

At the same time, the foundations for renewal in Rhosllannerchrugog are exceptionally strong. Few communities of comparable size can point to such a concentration of cultural institutions, nor to such a deep-rooted tradition of youth leadership, volunteering and civic participation. These assets are not incidental: they are Rhosllannerchrugog’s defining strength and its clear unique selling point.

The Stiwt’s role as a cultural venue of borough-wide and north Wales significance—combined with its approaching centenary and the momentum of Wrexham’s wider cultural ambitions—creates a once-in-a-generation opportunity. This is the primary catalyst for future regeneration in Rhosllannerchrugog: not the reinvention of identity, but its confident amplification. By building on what already distinguishes the place culturally and socially, Rhos can reposition itself as a village of regional significance, rooted in its heritage yet outward-looking and future-focused.

The task now is to reconnect the heart of the village with the cultural energy that sits at its edge; to ensure Market Street projects the same welcome, character and creativity that people experience throughout Rhosllannerchrugog.

The objectives that follow place heritage and cultural identity at the centre of the strategy: strengthening the village centre so it reflects who Rhosllannerchrugog is; celebrating and enhancing the assets that make the community unique; and ensuring that future generations inherit a Rhosllannerchrugog whose identity is not only preserved, but flourishing.



1. Revitalise Market Street

Restore Market Street as the cultural and commercial heart of the village: a street that reflects Rhosllannerchrugog's heritage, creativity and pride. Reduce vacancy and dereliction, improve its appearance, support reuse of empty units, and create opportunities for new businesses, makers, artists and social enterprises. Make the public realm greener, more beautiful and more accessible, and ensure Market Street provides the welcome that visitors – particularly Stiwt audiences – expect from a place with such a strong cultural identity.

3. Improve Movement and Access

Make it easier for residents and visitors to use and enjoy the village centre by improving parking, signage, lighting, crossings and walking routes. Ensure parking arrangements support the Stiwt, library, cafes and local businesses, especially during peak cultural events. Introduce clear bilingual wayfinding that connects Market Street with the Stiwt, Ponciau Park, community venues and heritage sites, helping people navigate, linger and discover more of what Rhosllannerchrugog offers.

2. Celebrate Culture and Heritage and Link Together Key Cultural Places

Strengthen the links between the village centre and the places where Rhosllannerchrugog's cultural energy thrives – the Stiwt, Ponciau Park, chapels, the library, youth groups, choirs and community events. Support more cultural programming, festivals, markets and performances in and around the centre. Make heritage and stories visible through interpretation, trails and public art, amplifying the Welsh language, music, mining and community traditions that make Rhosllannerchrugog unique.

4. Empower Cross-Cutting Community Leadership and Collective Action

Support a culture of shared responsibility for the future of Rhosllannerchrugog's, reducing reliance on the same institutions and volunteers. Encourage new groups, partnerships and civic action – from a Rhosllannerchrugog Civic Group to youth-led initiatives and collaborations across community venues. Provide the tools, coordination and visibility so that people, businesses, schools and local organisations can shape, lead and sustain village-centre improvements together.

5. PROJECTS

OBJECTIVE 1: REVITALISE MARKET STREET

Why this matters

Market Street has experienced steady decline over the past 30 years, with vacant units, deteriorating shopfronts and a lack of activity that doesn't reflect the strength of the community around it. In our community engagement, residents told us clearly that the village centre's appearance is their primary concern - they want to see visible improvements that make Market Street feel welcoming, cared for and distinctly 'Rhos'.

The disconnect is striking: Rhosllannerchrugog has exceptional cultural assets like the Stiwt Theatre, thriving sports facilities, and strong community organisations - yet these strengths aren't visible in or connected to the centre. Residents want practical action: better shopfronts, more greenery, improved lighting, and uses that bring life back to empty spaces.



Priority Projects:

1. Market Street Public Realm Programme

Transform the look and feel of Market Street through coordinated improvements to shopfronts, street furniture, planting and lighting. This programme would work with building owners, businesses and the Borough Council to create a welcoming, attractive centre.

What success looks like: Market Street feels cared for and distinctively 'Rhosllannerchrugog', with improved shopfronts, creative lighting, expanded planting and places to sit. People choose to spend time here rather than just passing through.

Proposed actions:

- Conduct detailed audit/survey of Market Street to assess condition and prioritise improvements
- Potential improvements could include:
 - Working with building owners and businesses to upgrade shopfronts and signage
 - Removing unnecessary shopfront shutters or making existing shutters more attractive
 - Encouraging businesses to trade without shutters down
 - Expanding seasonal planting and introducing more containers and planters
 - Introducing creative lighting features
 - Installing welcoming seating areas and street furniture
- Create a coordinated approach to materials, colours and design

2. Vacancy & Dereliction Intervention

Address empty units and derelict properties through a mix of approaches tailored to individual properties and owners. Solutions will vary - some buildings may suit temporary creative uses, others could support new businesses, and where full reuse isn't possible, improving frontages still matters.

What success looks like: Fewer shuttered units on Market Street, with empty properties brought into productive use or at least presenting well-maintained frontages. A mix of new businesses, creative spaces and community uses adds activity and interest to the centre.

Proposed actions:

- Work with property owners to bring empty units back into use
- Support temporary creative spaces, artist studios and community uses as meanwhile activity
- Provide support for new business start-ups
- Improve frontages of derelict buildings where full reuse isn't immediately possible
- Explore compulsory purchase or enforcement where owners are unresponsive
- Recognise that vacancy and dereliction extends beyond Market Street itself – Plas yn Rhos, close to the village centre, is the most prominent example of a building whose long-term future remains unresolved and where community views on any future use must be central to any decision-making



OBJECTIVE 2: CELEBRATE AND CONNECT CULTURAL, WELSH-LANGUAGE AND COMMUNITY ASSETS

Why this matters

Rhosllannerchrugog has exceptional community and cultural assets for a village of this size: a professional theatre, historic chapels including architecturally significant buildings, a strong Welsh language presence, thriving sports clubs, the Hafod Colliery Social Centre, Community Garden, Café and Shop, and a rich industrial heritage. Yet these strengths feel dispersed and disconnected from each other and from the village centre.

During engagement, residents told us that heritage and identity matter deeply. They want interventions that celebrate what makes Rhosllannerchrugog distinctive - not generic improvements that could be anywhere. The Welsh language, mining history, choral tradition, and the Stiwt as a community symbol all featured prominently in conversations. There's also recognition that Rhosllannerchrugog's story isn't widely known or visible, even to residents themselves.

The Stiwt's centenary in 2026 and Wrexham's City of Culture 2029 bid create opportunities to make culture and heritage more visible and connected throughout the village.



Priority Projects:

1. Heritage & Identity Infrastructure

Create permanent markers of Rhosllannerchrugog's distinctive identity through a coordinated programme of trails, signage, public art and Welsh language visibility.

What success looks like: Rhosllannerchrugog's cultural identity is visible in the everyday environment. Residents and visitors can follow heritage trails discovering local stories, see Welsh language and mining heritage celebrated through public art, and easily find their way between cultural venues. Pride in the community's distinctive character is strengthened.

Proposed actions:

- 17
- Develop a heritage walking route linking the Stiwt, historic chapels, former mining sites and notable residents' connections
 - Install bilingual wayfinding signage connecting key community venues
 - Commission public art and murals celebrating Welsh language (especially Rhosllannerchrugog dialect), music and mining heritage
 - Create poetry trails or spoken-word installations
 - Install plaques and interpretation at significant locations
 - Work with schools and community groups to research and tell local stories
 - Explore the potential for a dedicated local history display or museum space celebrating Rhosllannerchrugog's distinctive story – potentially in an existing venue such as the Stiwt, or as a future use for a suitable vacant building.

2. Cultural Programming & Events

Develop a coordinated cultural and events programme that connects the Stiwt, Hafod Social Centre, Market Street, Ponciau Park and other community spaces, whilst strengthening the Stiwt's visibility and connections across the village. Currently, excellent activities happen in individual venues but opportunities for connection are missed, and the Stiwt can feel separate from the wider community despite being Rhosllannerchrugog's flagship cultural asset.

What success looks like: A vibrant, year-round programme of cultural activity connects venues and brings people into the village centre. The Stiwt's presence is visible throughout Rhosllannerchrugog, with clear routes and strong links to Market Street and other community spaces. Theatre-goers and event attendees explore the wider village, generating social and economic benefits beyond individual venues.

Proposed actions:

- Create regular coordinated programmes linking cultural activity across the Stiwt, Hafod, Market Street and Ponciau Park
- Develop markets, outdoor performances, family activities and food fairs that connect venues
- Build partnerships with schools, choirs, sports clubs and community groups
- Build towards Stiwt centenary celebrations in 2026 as a major catalyst
- Improve wayfinding and signage between the Stiwt and Market Street
- Promote Market Street and Hafod businesses to Stiwt audiences and vice versa
- Explore opportunities for performance nights to generate wider village benefits
- Make the Stiwt's programme and presence more visible throughout the village
- Develop regular affordable programming specifically aimed at young people, such as weekly cinema screenings at the Stiwt, building the venue's role as a resource for the whole community

3. Chapel Heritage Programme

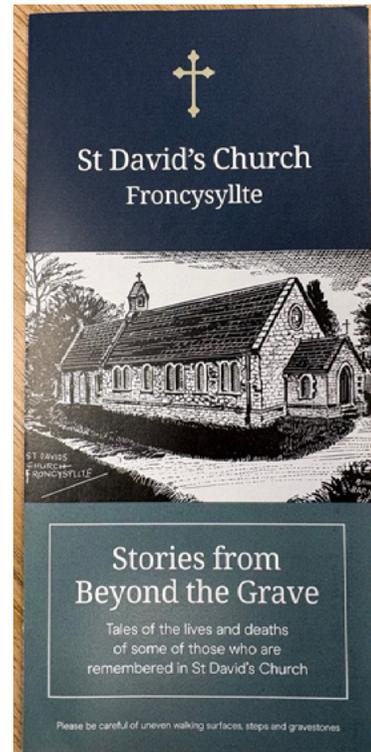
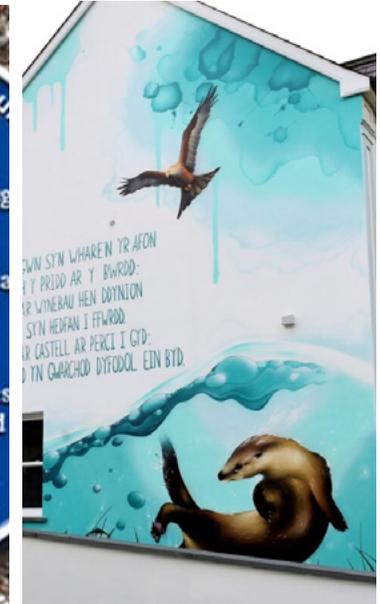
Explore sustainable futures for Rhosllannerchrugog’s historic chapels through sensitive heritage preservation and potential adaptive reuse. Several chapels face uncertain futures as congregations decline, yet these buildings are architecturally and culturally significant.

What success looks like: Historic chapels have viable long-term futures that respect their sacred character whilst ensuring buildings don’t deteriorate and are lost. Where possible, chapels accommodate new community, cultural or creative uses alongside continued worship. Where buildings cannot be preserved, their stories are properly recorded and interpreted.

18

Proposed actions:

- Work with chapel communities, heritage bodies and potential partners to explore options
- Assess potential for continued worship alongside community uses or shared spaces
- Explore creative and cultural activities that respect buildings’ character
- Document and celebrate chapels’ architectural and cultural significance, with a view to formal recognition through local listing in future
- Develop interpretation even where buildings cannot be preserved
- Seek funding for building surveys, feasibility studies and restoration where viable.



OBJECTIVE 3: IMPROVE MOVEMENT, ACCESS, PARKING AND WAYFINDING

Why this matters

Getting around Rhosllannerchrugog and finding your way between key places isn't always straightforward. Parking concerns featured prominently in community engagement - both the need for more parking near Market Street and better use of existing parking. Parking near shops and services on Market Street is limited, which creates challenges for people making quick visits. Walking routes between the centre, parks, community venues and residential areas have gaps in pavements, poor crossing points and accessibility barriers. Signage is limited, making it difficult for visitors to find key destinations or understand how places connect.

These movement and access issues compound Market Street's challenges. If people can't easily park, walk safely, or find their way around, they're less likely to visit and spend time in the village centre. Better connections are also essential for linking Rhosllannerchrugog's dispersed cultural assets - people need clear, attractive routes between the Stiwt, Hafod, Market Street and the parks.

Improving movement and access requires partnership with Wrexham County Borough Council, who control highways and parking. The Community Council can advocate for improvements and contribute where possible, but delivery depends on collaborative working.



Priority Projects:

1. Parking Strategy & Improvements

Work with the local authority and key partners to make better use of existing parking and improve facilities. The focus is on making existing parking work better and feel safer, whilst keeping options open for additional off-street parking if opportunities arise.

What success looks like: The Bonc Wen and Jones Street car parks feel welcoming and well-maintained, with clear signage helping people find spaces and navigate to the centre. The Stiwt has a clear parking management strategy for event days. Visitors can easily find parking and understand how to reach key destinations from car parks.

Proposed actions:

- Ensure any redevelopment of the former community centre site leads to improvements to Bonc Wen car park that benefit the wider community
- Support the Stiwt to develop a clear parking management strategy for event days, communicated effectively to ticket holders
- Develop clear directional signage from car parks to Market Street and other destinations
- Keep options open for creating additional off-street parking if suitable opportunities arise
- Create signage directing Stiwt visitors to local businesses

2. Walking & Wayfinding Network

Create a comprehensive network of walking routes and wayfinding signage connecting key destinations across Rhosllannerchrugog. In many areas, narrow streets mean there isn't space for pavements, but a structured assessment would help identify where improvements are possible.

What success looks like: Walking around Rhosllannerchrugog is easy, safe and pleasant, with continuous pavements where possible, good crossing points and accessibility for all. Bilingual wayfinding signage helps residents and visitors understand how places connect. Enhanced gateways at village entrances create a sense of arrival and welcome.

Proposed actions:

- Conduct audit of walking routes to identify pavement gaps, poor crossings and accessibility barriers, recognising that narrow streets limit options in some locations
- Prioritise improvements on key routes linking Market Street to major community assets
- Develop comprehensive bilingual wayfinding signage linking Market Street, the Stiwt, Hafod, parks, library and community venues
- Create enhanced 'gateway' treatments at key road entrances to the village
- Work with the county council on implementation priorities and delivery programme

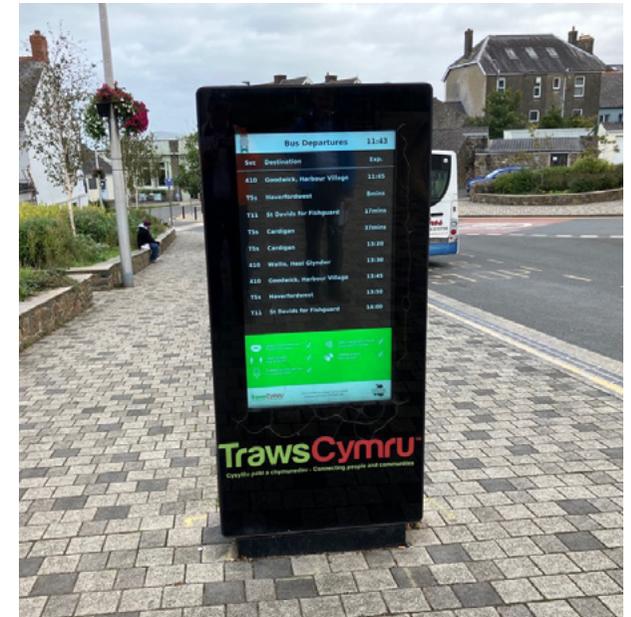
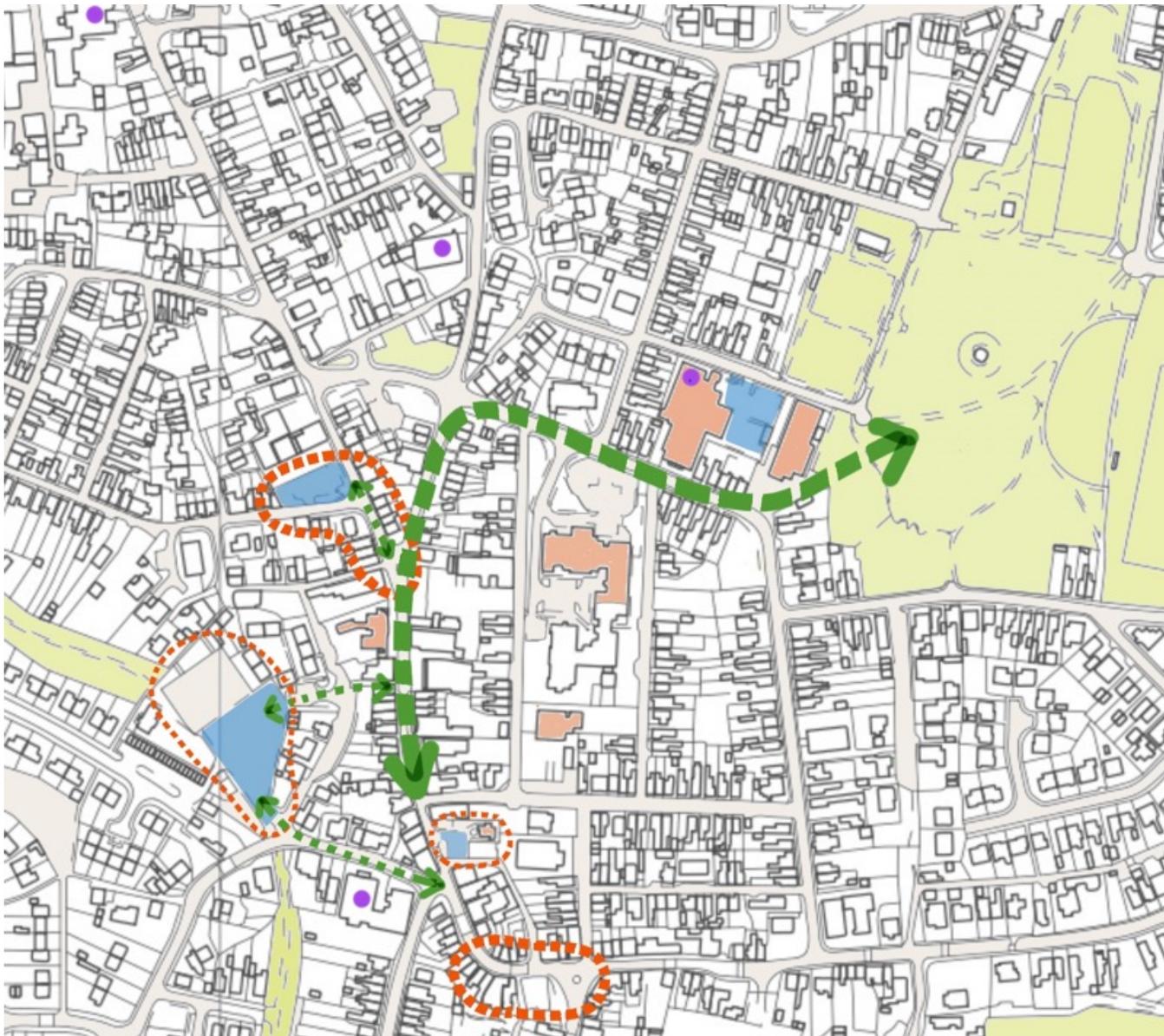
3. Bus Infrastructure & Service Promotion

Upgrade bus stops and shelters, and promote existing bus services more effectively. Rhosllannerchrugog has good bus connections to Wrexham and surrounding areas, but infrastructure is often poor and services aren't well promoted.

What success looks like: Bus stops have good quality shelters with seating, lighting and real-time information where possible. Residents and visitors can easily understand which services are available and when. Bus use increases, particularly for those without cars.

Proposed actions:

- Work with the local authority and bus operators to improve stop facilities
- Introduce real-time information displays where possible
- Develop better information materials about services available
- Promote bus services through community communications channels
- Ensure new wayfinding signage includes bus stop locations



OBJECTIVE 4: STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY CAPACITY

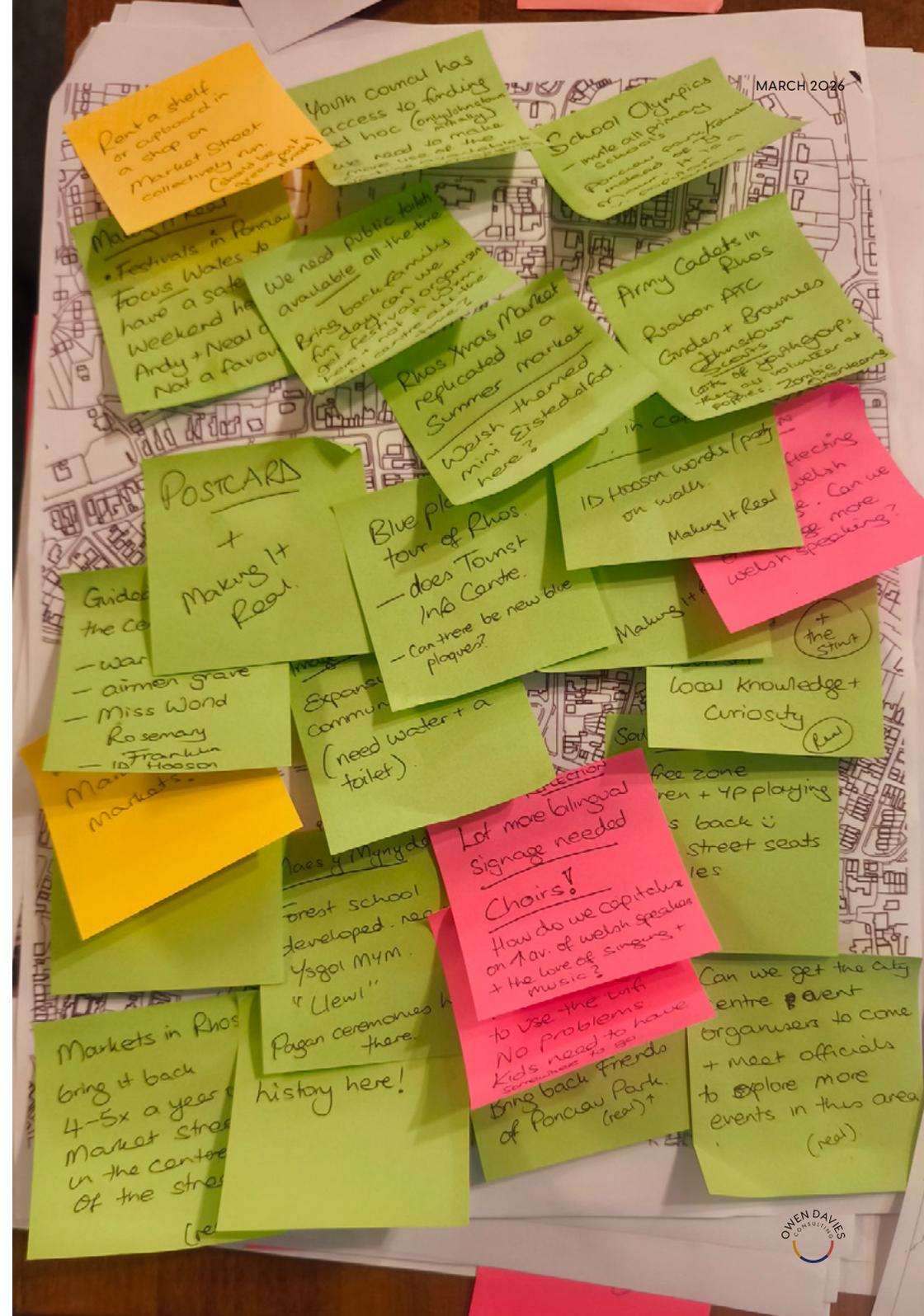
Why this matters

Delivering this Placemaking Plan requires more than good ideas and funding - it needs strong community structures, sustained effort, and genuine partnership between the Community Council, local organisations, residents and especially Rhosllannerchrugog's young people. Rhosllannerchrugog has active community groups and committed volunteers, but capacity is stretched and coordination between organisations could be stronger.

During engagement, residents emphasised that young people must have genuine decision-making roles in shaping the village's future, not just token consultation. There was also recognition that the community needs better ways to share information, coordinate activities, and support volunteers. Without addressing these capacity issues, even well-funded projects risk failing through lack of sustained community ownership.

This objective is about creating the structures and partnerships that enable everything else in the plan to happen - and to keep happening beyond the initial project phase.

22



Priority Projects:

1. Rhosllannerchrugog Civic Partnership

Establish a formal partnership bringing together the Community Council, key community organisations, the local authority and other stakeholders to coordinate placemaking activity.

What success looks like: Different organisations across Rhosllannerchrugog work together effectively, sharing resources, avoiding duplication and identifying joint opportunities. The Civic Partnership provides collective oversight of plan delivery, creating shared responsibility for the village's future rather than relying on individual organisations working in isolation.

Proposed actions:

- Establish partnership bringing together Community Council, Stiwt, Hafod, sports clubs, residents' associations, local authority and other key stakeholders
- Meet regularly to review progress on plan delivery
- Work together to identify, apply for and deliver grant funding opportunities
- Identify opportunities for joint working and resource sharing
- Address emerging issues and coordinate responses
- Ensure different organisations' activities complement rather than compete with each other
- Create clear governance arrangements and terms of reference.

2. Youth-Led Placemaking Programme

Create genuine decision-making opportunities for young people in shaping Rhosllannerchrugog's future. This goes beyond consultation to give young people control over specific projects and budgets. The existing Youth Council may provide a forum for this work, or a new approach may be needed.

What success looks like: Young people have real influence over Rhosllannerchrugog's development, with control over specific projects and budgets. Their ideas shape what happens in the village, and youth representation on the Civic Partnership ensures their voices influence strategic decisions. Young people feel ownership of their community's future.

Proposed actions:

- Explore whether the existing Youth Council can provide the forum for youth-led placemaking, or whether a different approach is needed
- Give young people control over specific projects and budgets – ideas raised by the Youth Council include public art, a nature pond at Ponciau Park, and new recreational equipment
- Ensure that youth-led projects reflect the needs of young people across all parts of Rhosllannerchrugog, including investment in local parks and play facilities in Johnstown which young people there see as less well-equipped than Ponciau Park
- Create and support informal social spaces and gathering places for young people across the village – recognising that young people need somewhere welcoming to spend time together, not only structured activities and clubs
- Support youth-led heritage research and storytelling
- Enable young people to design walking routes or activity trails
- Ensure youth representation on the Civic Partnership with voting rights
- Work with schools, youth clubs and community groups to reach diverse young people.

3. Volunteer & Skills Hub

Develop coordinated support for volunteers and community groups across Rhosllannerchrugog, working with AVOW (County Voluntary Council for Wrexham). Many placemaking activities depend on volunteers, but individuals and groups often work independently without shared resources or skills development.

What success looks like: Volunteering in Rhosllannerchrugog is sustainable and rewarding. Volunteers have access to training, shared resources and equipment. People can easily find opportunities to contribute their skills and time. Community groups build capacity to deliver projects effectively.

24

Proposed actions:

- Work with AVOW to develop coordinated volunteer support
- Provide training in fundraising, project management and event organisation
- Share equipment and resources between groups
- Connect people with opportunities to contribute
- Recognise and celebrate volunteers' contributions
- Host the hub through an existing organisation or operate as coordination function across venues
- Build community capacity to deliver projects independently.

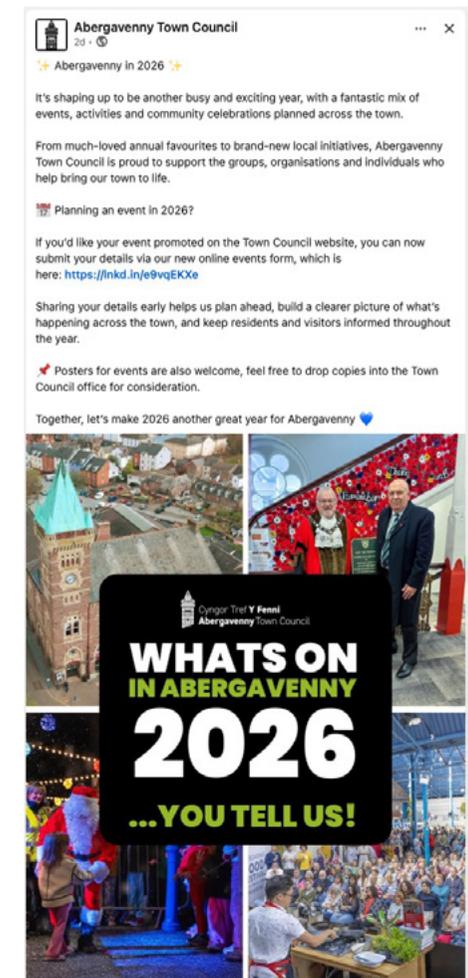
4. Community Communications Hub

Create coordinated communications channels to share information about activities, opportunities and decisions affecting Rhosllannerchrugog. Currently, information is scattered across different organisations' social media, noticeboards and websites, making it difficult for residents to stay informed.

What success looks like: Residents can easily find out what's happening in Rhosllannerchrugog through a central information point. Events, news, consultations and opportunities are promoted bilingually through coordinated channels. Rhosllannerchrugog's activities and achievements reach wider audiences, supporting cultural tourism and raising the village's regional profile.

Proposed actions:

- Create central point for community information (events calendars, news, consultations, volunteer opportunities)
- Ensure bilingual provision across all communications
- Maintain online presence and physical noticeboards in key locations
- Coordinate communications between different organisations to avoid duplication
- Promote Rhosllannerchrugog's activities and achievements to wider regional audiences
- Use communications to support cultural tourism and raise village profile
- Explore physical 'ideas points' at key locations around the village – simple, visible ways for residents of all ages to suggest improvements and contribute to the ongoing conversation about Rhosllannerchrugog's future.



FEEDBACK & NEXT STEPS

Comments on the draft Plan can be submitted online using the comment form or interactive map to post ideas:

wrexhamplacemaking.info/rhos/

There will be a drop in event held in the village centre providing an opportunity to meet the team and discuss the Plan. Details will be advertised locally.

Following consultation on the draft Plan, all comments received will be reviewed and discussed with local stakeholders before a final Plan is agreed. The Plan will include an action plan setting out how proposals with wider community support could be taken forward, including potential funding sources and delivery timescales.





Contact Owen Davies Consulting,
43A&B Frogmore Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5AN.

Owen Davies - owen@owendaviesconsulting.co.uk and
Adam Greenwood – adam@owendaviesconsulting.co.uk

Owen Davies Consulting Ltd is the owner or the licensee of all intellectual property rights in connection with the study and the material published with it. These works are protected by copyright laws and treaties around the world. All such rights are reserved and should not be reproduce, duplicated, copied, sold, resold, or exploited for any commercial purposes, products or service.

