

This note is a Summary Report from all the notes recorded, plus a few general reflections.

General Comments

- The Youth Workshop was organised in partnership with the Town Council and Newtown High School. Although the event had not been planned into the original Place Plan consultation timetable, the opportunity arose for the Town Council to attend the Newtown Cluster Schools meeting and it was an opportunity not to be missed!
- 43 children attended the workshop together with 7 teachers. 6 primary schools and Newtown High School were represented at the morning workshop taking place on the 13th February 2019. The children's ages ranged from 9 to 16 yrs.
- The schools that attended were sent a Teacher Factsheet prior to the event so all teachers and pupils were fully informed of the format for the workshop. The factsheet included information on what a Place Plan is, who is preparing the Plan, the activities that were taking place at the workshop and how the schools could assist with future evidence gathering (an example survey sheet was included and a Frequently Asked Questions sheet on Place Plans).
- The event was extremely lively with all pupils and teachers taking part in the interactive style session. The workshop was facilitated by Planning Aid Wales with assistance from NLTC and Newtown High School staff.
- The workshop illustrated how informed the children are about their local area and the innovative ideas they have for future projects and improvements.
- The local layer of planning information in a Place Plan can be formally adopted as 'Supplementary Planning Guidance' (SPG) which will add local detail and information to the relevant main policies in the Powys Local Development Plan. This event enabled the process of preparing the SPG for Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn taking on board the views of young people in the area.

What Places are important to you?

- The workshop began by considering the places that were important to the children in and around Newtown. The children had an opportunity to work in groups and note the areas that they visited and used regularly, places where they meet friends and take part in out of school activities.
- Themes started to emerge from this exercise with the following being noted by several of the children:
 - Football Club
 - Leisure Centre
 - Cinema
 - Scout Hut
 - Skate Park
 - Town Centre shops and the out of town stores
 - Restaurants and Take-Aways

A Place Plan for Newtown – what should be considered?

- The second exercise asked the children to note on post-it notes the things they thought the Place Plan should consider. This exercise enabled the children to think about the future of Newtown and how they would like to see it develop and the improvements they would like to see.
- Again, when arranging the post-it note wall – themes started to emerge. Key issues and topics highlighted included:
 - Heritage/ Facilities
 - Energy
 - Improved facilities e.g. Care homes
 - Improved tourism facilities
 - Improved safety measures e.g. Street lighting
 - Jobs / Economy
 - Improved parking facilities
 - Recycling and litter bins
 - Artwork e.g. Graffiti walls
 - Recreational facilities / places for young people to meet / more clubs
 - Improved open spaces
 - Charity work for young people
 - Retail / town Centre – more “chain” stores

Evidence Collection

- For the Newtown and Llanllwchaearn Place Plan to be successful and to be adopted as SPG, it will need a lot of solid, clear, strong evidence behind it. As part of the workshop the schools were introduced to the theme of evidence collection and how evidence can be collected.
- During the workshop, the children gave their thoughts on how evidence could be collected, ideas included:
 - Residents / Residents Associations
 - Schools / School cluster groups – e.g. History lessons
 - Scouts
 - Guides
 - Cadet Groups
- Treowen school, for example, noted that they were already doing traffic surveys as part of their curriculum work and partnership working with the schools was seen as a positive tool for gathering evidence for the Place Plan.

And What Next?

Open consultation events are currently taking place across the town area. Evidence gathering on topics will also take place and a workshop will be held on the 11th April 2019 to begin that process. Keep an eye on the project web page for regular updates.