



Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Town Council Place Plan

Initial Stakeholder Event – 30th January 2019



Report Status: Final
12/4/2019

Contents

- 1.0 Background
- 2.0 Pre-Event
- 3.0 The Stakeholder Event
- 4.0 Conclusions and Findings
- 5.0 Appendices

- Appendix 1 Workshop Briefing Paper
- Appendix 2 Photo evidence of Workshop
- Appendix 3 Arrivals Briefing paper
- Appendix 4 Character maps produced at the workshop
- Appendix 5 Briefing paper – Topics and Issues
- Appendix 6 Results from the Post-it Note wall
- Appendix 7 Briefing paper - What makes for good community involvement?
- Appendix 8 Results – What makes for good community involvement ?
- Appendix 9 Professional Bodies – Evidence
- Appendix 10 Evaluation of workshop
- Appendix 11 Summary Report

1.0 Background

The Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Town Council (NLTC) Place Plan was initiated in November 2018 with the appointment of Planning Aid Wales (PAW) and Place Studio (PS) who are working in partnership to support NLTC with the community engagement aspects of the Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Place Plan.

The Project Plan outlines a number of planned community engagement activities from January 2019 through to July 2019. The views of the local community in and around Newtown are integral to the development of the Place Plan and a consultation programme has been developed which includes:

- Initial Stakeholder workshop
- Youth workshop
- Community and local stakeholder drop-in events (4 no.)
- Community Survey
- Evidence Collection surgery
- Stakeholder Event – Place Plan drafting workshop

PAW and PS want to encourage a sense of ownership of the Place Plan project and working with NLTC, the intention is to reach out and discuss ideas with as many people from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors and youth groups during the community engagement and evidence collection stages. The Regeneration Team and Planning Policy team at Powys County Council have also been closely involved during each stage of the process.

The community engagement and community evidence collection aspects of the project have been developed by PAW and PS in close liaison with NLTC with input from Powys County Council (Planning and Regeneration teams) and key stakeholders from Newtown.

The intention is for NLTC to work in partnership with Powys County Council from January 2020 to proceed with formal consultation stages in order for the Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Place Plan to be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to the Powys County Council Local Development Plan (2018).

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. The initial Stakeholder event enabled the process of preparing the SPG for Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn.

This report outlines the key findings of the Initial Stakeholder event that was held at Newtown Football Club on the 30th January 2019 and includes a record of everything captured at the event. A summary note has also been produced, this is included at Appendix 11.

2.0 Pre-Event

The Stakeholder Event was an opening workshop to begin the process of preparing a Place Plan for Newtown.

PAW / PS worked closely with NLTC to ensure that the stakeholder invitee list covered as many key organisations as possible to ensure a broad input at this early stage of the process.

In addition, meetings and regular liaison with the Planning Policy team at Powys County Council ensured that all background information (evidence) and maps were up to date and accurate.

Over 80 email invites were sent out by NLTC to key stakeholders. 47 signed up to attend the workshop.

Prior to the event, all delegates that had signed up to attend were sent a Workshop Briefing Paper (see Appendix 2) to set the scene. The briefing paper explained what a Place Plan is, the links it will have with the Powys Council Local Development Plan (2018) and gave an overview of what to expect at the opening workshop.

3.0 The Event

36 representatives attended the workshop held at Newtown Football Club. The workshop ran from 2pm to 4pm.

The stakeholders were asked to bring a range of interests and information together to:

- highlight issues and topics of concern for the future of Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn,
- suggest how best to engage the whole community and
- begin the process of collecting evidence that must underpin the Place Plan.

A number of engagement techniques were used during the event to capture information, these are outlined in the report below:

On Arrival

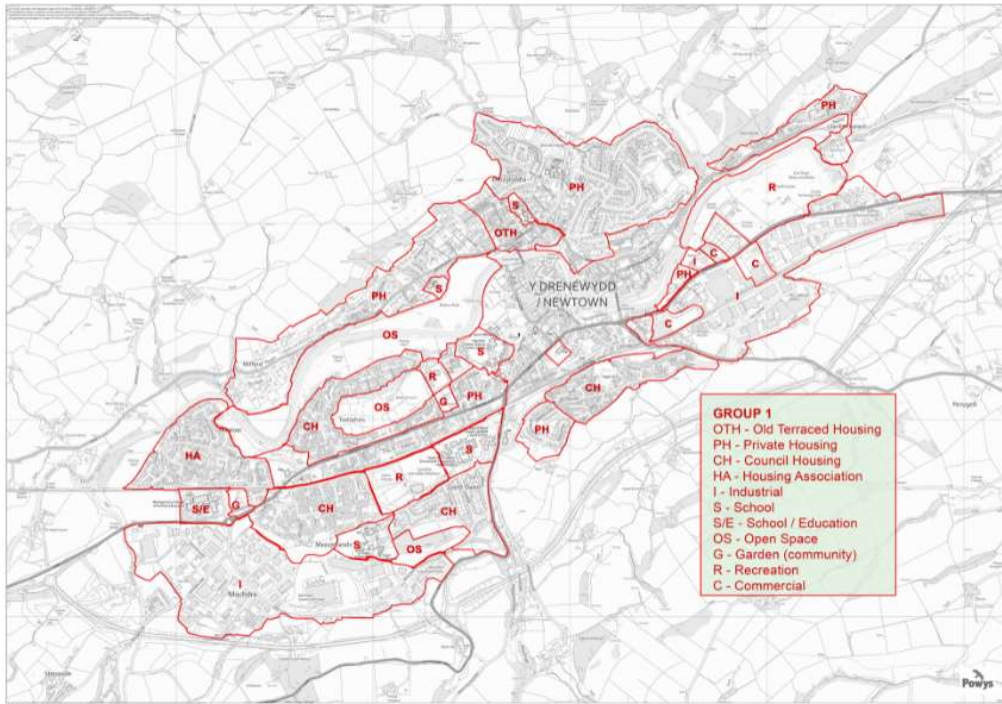
On arrival everyone was asked to sign in and were given a Group number. 10 pre-prepared group tables had been set up to evenly distribute representatives and to allow an opportunity for networking and discussion.

Each group was asked to do some initial work before the event formally started. See Appendix 3 for the Brief.

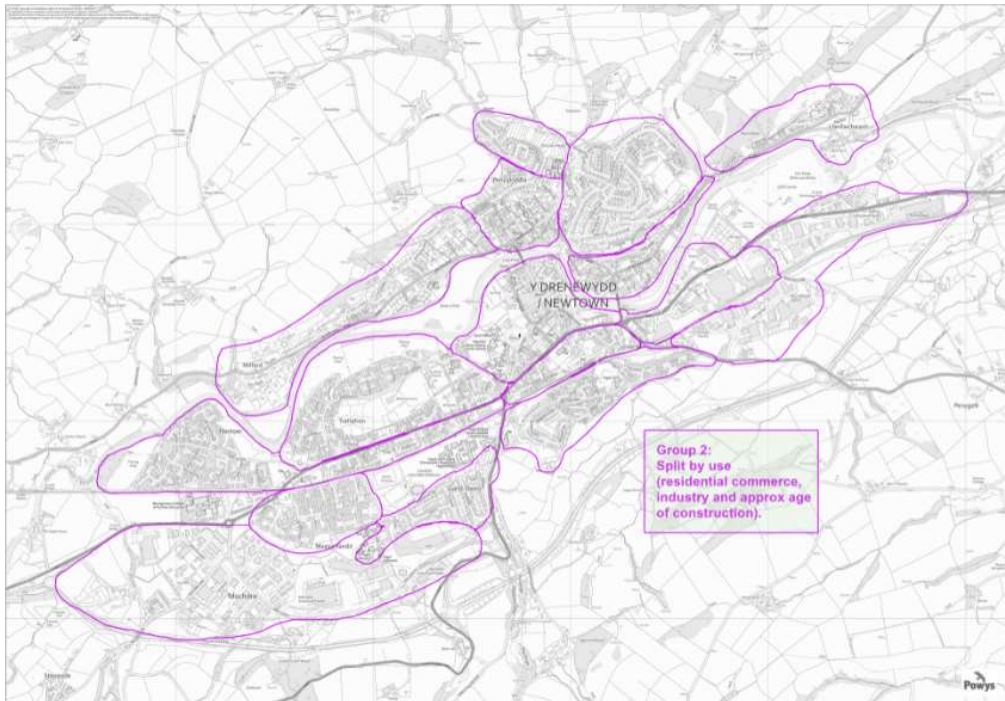
- **Character areas** – for those living in Newtown or know it well, representatives were asked to mark up an A1 map on their table to indicate character areas. The maps produced at the Stakeholder event are shown in Appendix 4.

The information captured at the workshop has been used to prepare the digital overlays shown below.

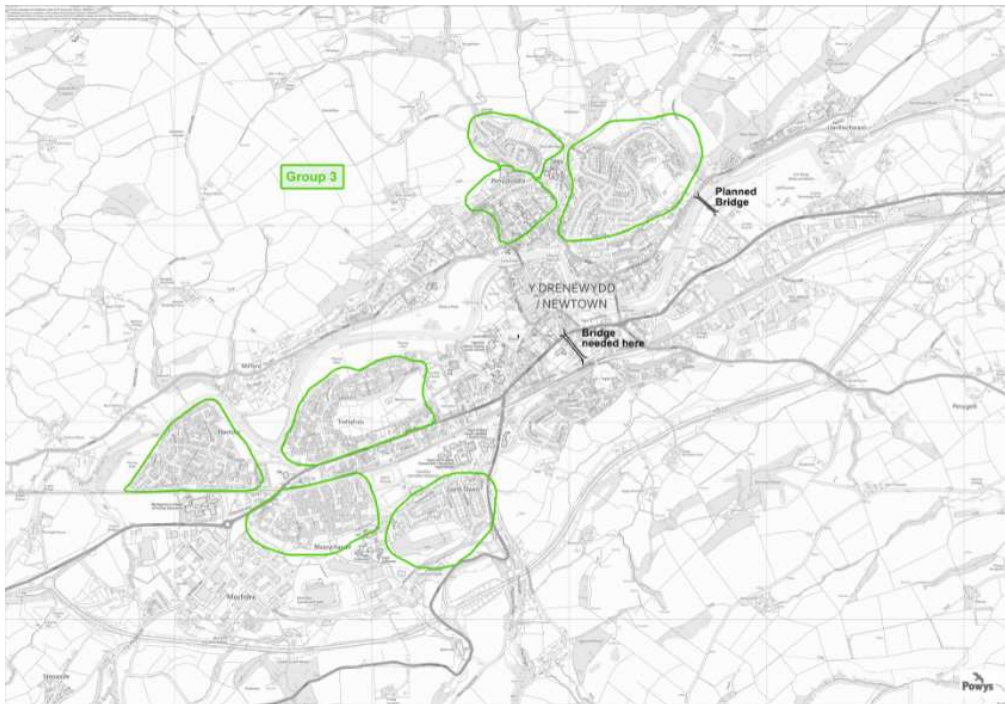
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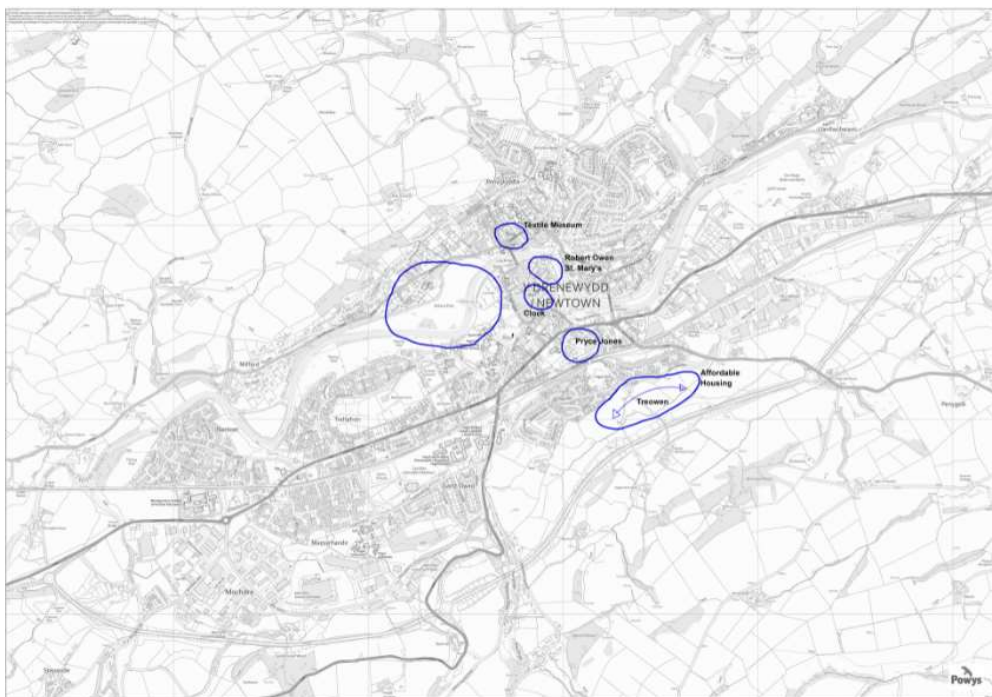
Group 2:



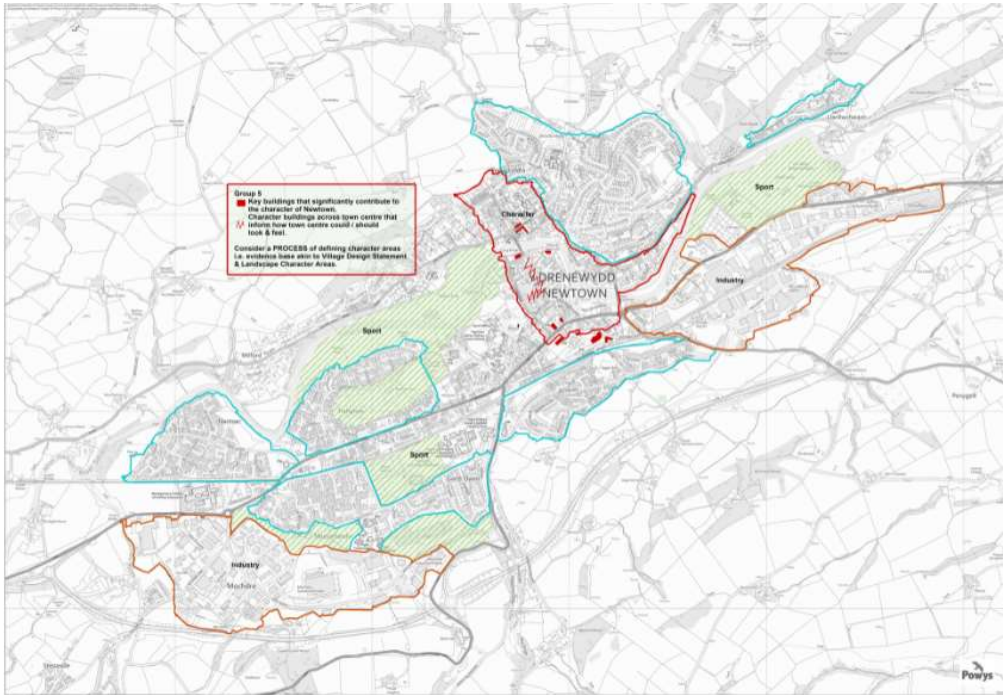
Group 3:



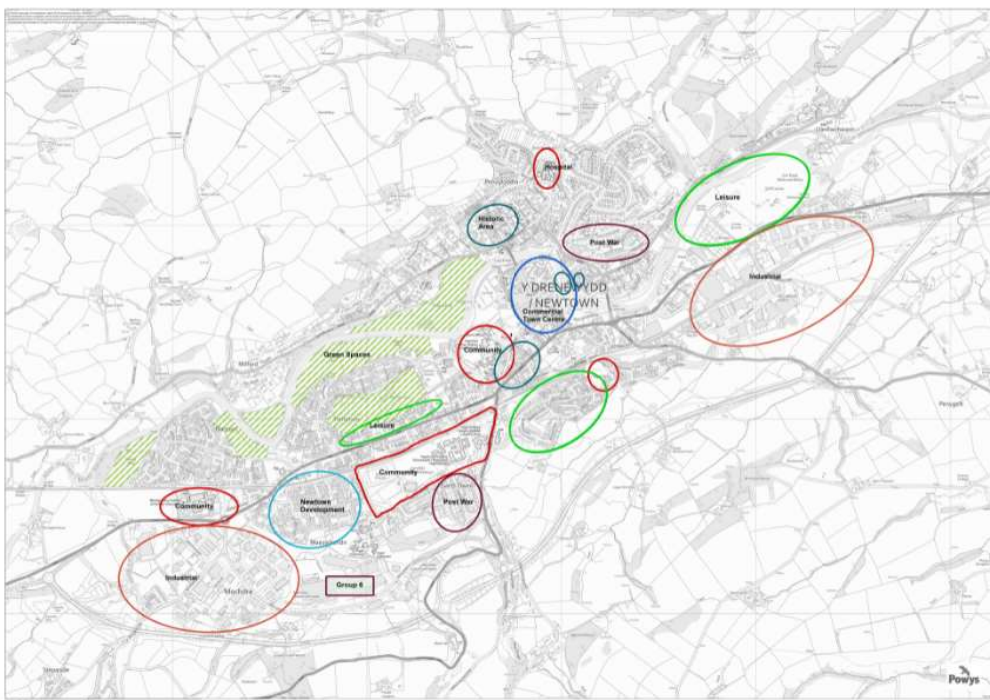
Group 4:



Group 5:



Group 6:



Summary of character areas work :

The character area session demonstrates that there are a number of clear and distinct character areas that people identify as being important within Newtown. These include areas of different aged housing stock and different housing types, commercial and industrial areas. Also educational, retail and areas of distinct open space and recreation were identified. In addition, key buildings were identified as contributing to the character of Newtown.

This work will assist in identifying distinct areas to collect basic characterisation information for all built areas of the town.

Session 1:

What Topics and Issues could a Place Plan for Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn cover?

The workshop began by considering the topics and issues that a Place Plan for Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn could cover. A list of possible issues was provided (see Appendix 5). Representatives were asked to mark up 3 post it notes of issues they felt were important to the town. These could be land-use issues e.g. Affordable housing, improving open spaces or non-land use issues such as traffic management and healthy lifestyles.

The results were added to a Post-it note wall. The facilitators organised the notes into grouped themes and topics.

Some high-level themes for the Plan began to emerge from this exercise:

- Destination Newtown
- Open for Business
- Green Town.

Cross-cutting practical initiatives also became apparent:

- Canal/River
- Open Newtown
- Health

It was clear that a linked-up approach was important due to the number of initiatives that are currently taking place in Newtown.

The full list of comments captured at the workshop are shown in Appendix 6.

Key issues and topics highlighted included:

- The canal and it's restoration.
- Linked to the canal, there were many connections which were drawn to the restoration of the canal, highlighting tourism, health, well-being and history.
- The promotion of heritage and improving the built environment.
- Space for start-up businesses / a media and tech centre.

- High Street regeneration and improving the retail “offer”.
- Improved linkages and signage – town centre, rail station, river, schools - improved links to cycle and footpath networks.
- Safe spaces for youth.
- A good mix of sustainable and affordable housing.
- Regeneration of key landmark buildings within the town.
- A green town – energy efficient projects.

Session 2

What Should Good Community Involvement in Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn look like?

This session asked representatives to discuss with their group a list of principles and asked whether they agreed with the approach, disagreed or did they have any other principles they would like to add. Appendix 7 shows the briefing paper provided. Appendix 8 shows the results of this exercise.

In summary:

- The approach to consultation should be ‘alive’ and accessible, with activities that raise awareness and generate enough interest to, ideally, get ‘everybody’ involved.
- Starting early (not when things are already virtually finished) was key.
- Exploring with the wider community what is and is not open to include in the plan.
- A whole, planned process is needed; not just a random list of events/activities.
- Use of a range of different methods to make sure it’s an interactive process. Ideas included a pop-up shop, using social media and using existing places, e.g. libraries.
- Use appropriate methods at different stages (open-ended events are good at the start, far more focused ones best towards the end).
- Report back speedily, regularly and in detail.
- And it was also noted that a ‘live’ plan was important, rather than something that gathers dust on the shelf.

Session 3

Professional representatives – Evidence available

Whilst the community and voluntary representatives discussed evidence collection options, the business, local authority and professionals attending the workshop met separately to discuss the evidence they could bring to the project.

The groups represented were:

- NRW
- Hughes Architects
- Powys County Council – Regeneration
- Powys County Council – Planning Policy

- Powys County Council – Affordable Housing
- Montgomery Canal Partnership
- Mid and North Powys Destination Network.
- Revive + Thrive

Appendix 9 highlights the full list of evidence that these organisations are able to assist with during the course of the Place Plan project. Evidence examples include:

- flooding information
- housing market and strategic housing issues
- planning policies and planning history information,
- reports on the economic value of the Montgomery canal and wellbeing values,
- tourism statistics
- high street regeneration trends
- Business Improvement District details
- social housing stock information.

In addition, Powys County Council representatives noted that they could assist with funding, facilitating and providing contacts in other service areas of the Council such as Transport and Highways and Education teams.

Session 4

Evidence Collection

For the Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Place Plan to be successful and to be adopted as SPG, it will need a lot of solid, clear, strong evidence behind it. The Stakeholder Workshop began the process of exploring what evidence needs collecting, and how it can be collected. It was noted that some of the evidence can come from community ideas, opinions and hopes – that has its place – but to be really effective the plan will need the back-up of a lot of facts and figures and well-substantiated evidence.

At the workshop local representatives explored what sort of evidence would be required and began the process of volunteering to lead on the collection of that evidence.

The collection of evidence is something many people can be engaged in (and it can work as a way to engage a broad range of people in the Plan) and the ways to do this were discussed.

In summary it was noted that the following organisations could lead on evidence collection:

- Design and Character – Civic Society
- Small sites for new housing – via Adam Kennerly (Open Newtown)
- Open spaces- Open Newtown
- Allotments – Cultivate
- Play areas – Youth groups, Guides, Scouts
- Footpaths and Bridle paths – Walking Newtown
- Community Facilities – Town Council

- Town Centre Signage – BID / Town Council
- Town Centre Accessibility – BID
- Town Centre space over shops – BID / Town Council
- Premises for businesses - CELF- ABEL + Mental health+ Dem Group
- Encourage energy conservation and renewable energy – via Jeremy Thorp (Sharenergy)
- Active Travel – Ruth Stafford
- Tourism – Anne Evans

4.0 Conclusions and key findings

In summary the stakeholder workshop.....

- was a success in terms of bringing key stakeholders together to discuss the start of the Place Plan process.
- was lively and allowed all participants to actively get involved.
- illustrated the significant number of local initiatives already underway in the areas of business, heritage and the environment.
- highlighted a number of key issues and topic areas including the canal and its restoration, tourism and well-being . The promotion of heritage and improving the built environment. The demand for start-up business space. The need for high street regeneration and improved retail “offer”, and the regeneration of key landmark buildings in the town. Improved linkages were discussed together with safe areas for young people. Affordable housing and energy efficient projects were also cited.
- identified key character areas within Newtown.
- identified high level themes for the Plan including Destination Newtown, Open for Business and Green Town.
- identified cross-cutting practical initiatives including the Canal/ River, Open Newtown and Health.
- Brought together experts in their field and a range of existing evidence was identified by professionals who can assist with the Place Plan project.
- Identified a range of organisations who were willing to assist with evidence collection.

Appendix 1 – Workshop Briefing paper

A PLACE PLAN FOR NEWTOWN AND LLANLLWCHAIARN

2 – 4.30pm, 30th Jan 2019

Newtown Football Club

WORKSHOP BRIEFING PAPER

We look forward to seeing you on the 30th January for an engaging and productive session. This short paper aims to set the scene so that we can make a prompt start when we convene.

WHAT IS A PLACE PLAN?

Place Plans are a relatively new initiative introduced by the Welsh Government. They offer local communities, usually Town and Community Councils, a formal opportunity to add a very local layer of detail to the broader strategic plans produced by planning authorities. So a Place Plan:

- sets out local level planning guidance on the use and development of land;
- links into and strengthens (localises) planning policies set out by your Local Planning Authority;
- is written by local people who know an area well and can add more detail to the work done by the planners and
- can include a non-planning part covering a wide range of local issues.

Through creative collaboration with local planning authorities, local communities can develop community-led guidance in their Place Plan to help achieve local aspirations and improve community well-being.

To ensure it makes a difference, scoping and developing a Place Plan needs to follow some clear guidelines. That way, the local layer of planning information in a Place Plan can be formally adopted as 'Supplementary Planning Guidance'. And there is an important clue in the word 'supplementary' because what is in a Place Plan needs to be *supplementary* to (i.e. build on and localise) the relevant main policies in a Local Development Plan. Once adopted, the supplementary guidance becomes important as a tool in decision-making on whether a development proposal should be granted planning permission.

Other issues, for example about well-being, can – and should - be addressed. Although these may not link directly to planning guidance, any evidence that we gather about well-being needs and potential solutions can then be used to attract future investment.

A PLACE PLAN FOR NEWTOWN

The top-down starting point for you in Newtown is the Powys Local Development Plan, adopted during 2018. That is what your Place Plan – the first in the Powys Local Planning Authority area* - will need to be 'supplementary' to. There are then some other Powys policies and programmes to which the Place Plan should link, for example on highways (e.g. town centre parking) and schools (e.g. school buildings). (**Place Plans are already*

being used in the neighbouring Brecon Beacons National Park which is a Local Planning Authority in its own right.)

The local level is also, very importantly, not a vacuum. There is the “Newtown Community Action Plan” from 2016, the Town Council’s recently consulted “5 Year Plan” and, if a little older, the “Powys High Street Feasibility” project report (and perhaps some others). Then there are practical initiatives underway or soon to materialise, for example the new river bridge and the action programme from the successful Big Lottery bid for £1 million for ‘Going Green for a Living’. (which is soon to operate under a new name of “Open Newtown”).

Newtown is a very active community so the Place Plan will need to build on and add to these and other local initiatives, not repeat or cut across them.

Drawing from existing material, some of the issues that the Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Place Plan might address that have clear planning and land use links might be:

- affordable housing for local people;
- locally sensitive design of new buildings;
- keeping and improving open spaces (strong link to the Lottery project!);
- new facilities for visitors and improvements to the town centre, etc
- retention of existing community facilities

Slightly more peripheral to formal land use planning, but also worth covering, could be traffic management*, more activities/spaces for young people, tree planting and community arts for public spaces. (* *Traffic is always a key issue for communities, but that is covered by highways legislation, not planning legislation, so care is needed in anything highway related to a land use Place Plan.*)

The above is just a starter list; the final list for Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn will be longer and also much sharper about how *exactly* all the aspects can be dealt with in your Place Plan. The limits are not set in stone and depend on thorough and robust local evidence.

PREPARING YOUR PLACE PLAN

Though managed overall by your Town Council, preparing the Place Plan really will be a collaborative exercise. Powys County Council are on board and will provide evidence, information, guidance and help. But the key principle is that there needs to be a thorough and wide-ranging process of active community engagement. And that means more than just giving people an opportunity to comment once something is already drafted!

There is not as yet a detailed plan for how to engage people on the preparation of the plan, but the principles and some details of that will start to emerge from what you as participants contribute to the workshop on the 30th. So, from the very start, this is a collaborative process.

The Town Council have also secured funding to get support from Planning Aid Wales and Place Studio. Both have worked together previously on a Place Plans website www.placeplans.org.uk so have experience in this area of work and will be facilitating the workshop.

THE OPENING WORKSHOP

First of all, the invitees. There is no right answer to who the main 'stakeholders' are for your Place Plan (and it will change as work proceeds) but the invitation list is a current best option list of people from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors. With such a wide mix, there is no point in an event with one or two people talking from 'the front'. We need to hear from *all* of those perspectives so, as far as we can make it, this will be a practical and interactive event, with everybody involved.

To prove that point, there will be a couple of things to do literally as you arrive, so **please come prepared with any questions you have to help you better understand Place Plans**. The team will then provide a further introduction to Place Plans generally and the Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Plan and answer the questions raised.

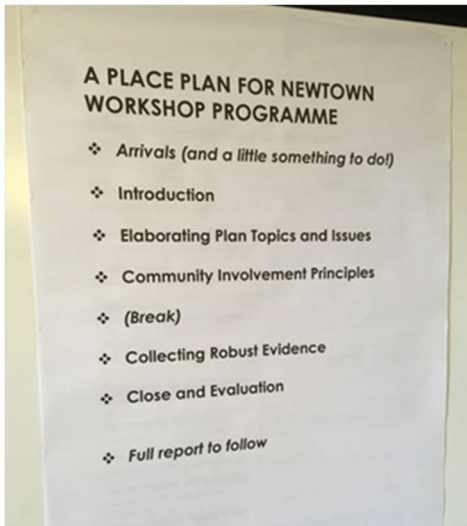
The first really active session will be about 'Issues'. Some general ones were listed above but the aim is to broaden that list with more topics and deepen it with more specific local examples and issues. All the results will be 'mapped' to help to build a shared understanding of what are core land use issues, what might be core and what might fit better under the 'well-being' heading (but can still be included in the plan).

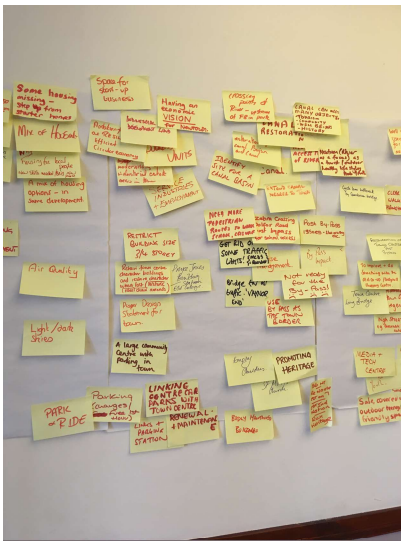
The next two sessions in the workshop will be about community engagement in evidence collection on the main issues. We will start by considering – hopefully agreeing – some principles, and then aim to begin to get volunteers from mainly local groups to take the lead in collecting the key evidence.

Apart from some closing points and a quick evaluation, that will finish the event.

As we said, we are looking forward to meeting you!
Planning Aid Wales and Place Studio
(on behalf of Newtown & Llanllwchaiarn Town Council)

Appendix 2 – Photo evidence of Workshop





Appendix 3 – Arrivals Briefing Paper



WELCOME!

AND A LITTLE SOMETHING TO DO AS OTHERS ARRIVE

- *If you live in Newtown or know it well, please see the note below about **CHARACTER AREAS**.*
- *If you do not live in Newtown or do not know it well, please see the note below about **ISSUES**.*

CHARACTER AREAS

- **Please look at the built up areas on the map on your table that shows the whole of the built area of Newtown and Llanllwchaearn.**
- **Looking at the map, you can no doubt think of some obvious areas or neighbourhoods within the built area that have a similar character: same sort of age, style of buildings, layout, materials etc.**
- **If you can, draw around those obvious ‘Character Areas’ on the map and, only if possible, give each a name.**
- **Some may be easy, others less so, but try to cover all the built area, industrial/commercial estates and parks etc. included – the lot!**
- **If you are first to the table, just use a pencil, then share your thoughts with others who arrive before you use a felt tip pen to show your agreed ideas.**
- *(We’ll collect the map later.)*

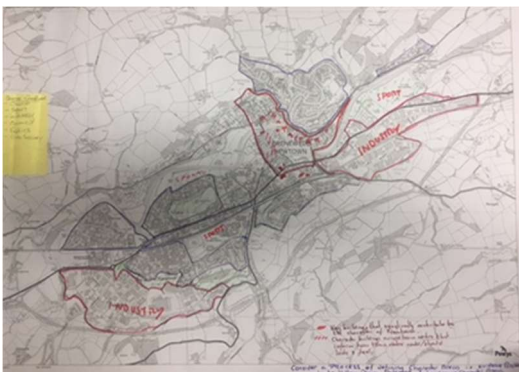
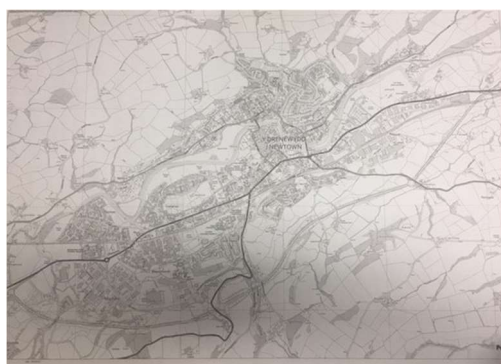
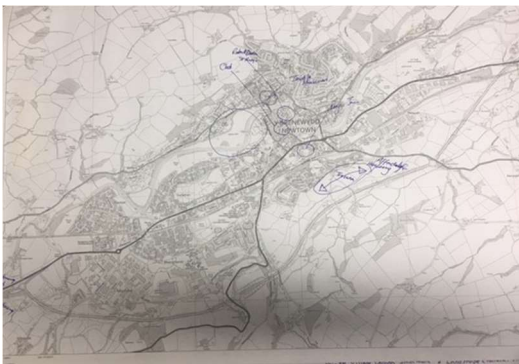
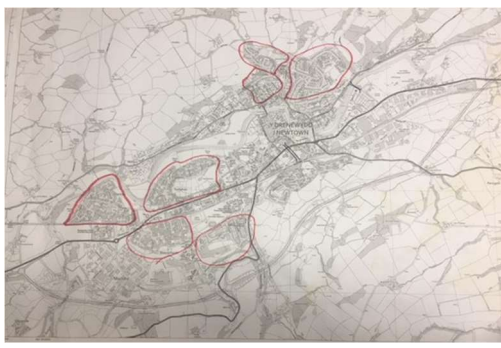
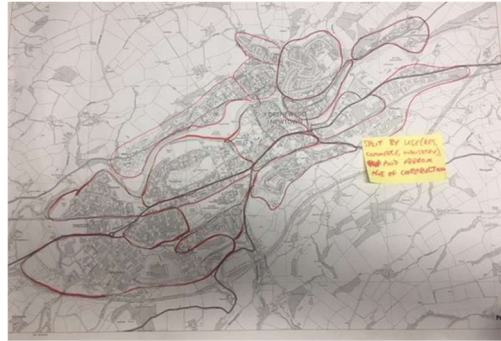
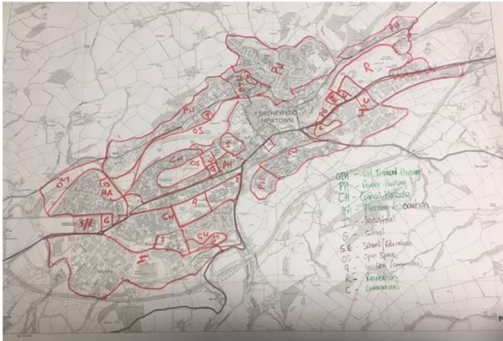
ISSUES

- **On the table you will find a list of possible Issues that could be addressed in the Place Plan.**
- **Please have a think through other issues that you think are important for the future of the town – anything you like for now, because we'll come back later to whether or how the Place Plan may be able to deal with them.**
- **You may also want to be more specific about the general examples we have listed in the note – 'localise' them with more detail.**
- **Once you have some thoughts, take no more than 3 post-its and a large pen (please, no ballpoints!) and write each of your issues on the post-its – separate issue, separate post-it.**
- ***(Hold onto the post-its for when the session is underway.)***

AND

We will start by saying a little more about Place Plans and have a short session on any questions. If you have a question already, get in first and write it with a large pen on a post-it and hand it to one of the organisers.

Appendix 4 – Character maps produced at the workshop



Appendix 5 – Briefing Paper - Topics and Issues

A Place Plan for Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn

TOPICS AND ISSUES

The list below is divided (roughly) into planning and non-planning issues.

Land Use Planning Issues

Small sites for new housing development

The Place Plan can identify opportunities for other suitable small housing sites/redevelopment of brownfield sites.

Affordable housing for local people

The Place Plan may be able to inform judgements on need – locally appropriate mix and type of affordable housing on developments.

Locally sensitive design of new buildings

The Place Plan could highlight local character, distinctiveness and features of Newtown and its surrounding landscape.

Keeping and improving open spaces

The Place Plan could highlight existing open spaces to keep and maintain, and suggest potential new open spaces. (Build on the 'Going Green for a Living' consortium of local volunteers - soon to be Open Newtown, whose remit is to invest in the open spaces and natural assets of the town!)

Encourage energy conservation and renewable energy

Locally specific approaches to this can be in the Place Plan.

Retaining existing community facilities

More and better evidence can help to sustain existing facilities and ensure that planning obligations money continues to support them.

New facilities for visitors

Good evidence can also help to encourage and support recent or totally new initiatives, e.g. the Montgomery Canal Restoration.

Premises for local employers

Local evidence can be extremely useful in helping to deliver premises for small and new local businesses

Improving the town/village centre

The Place Plan can include approaches to improving disability access, improving public areas, making good use of space over shops etc.

Regeneration, Local Growth Zones, Mid Wales Growth Deal

The Local Development Plan aims to maximise opportunities presented by Local Growth Zones. Place Plan evidence (and projects) can help towards this aim.

Borderline and Non Land Use Issues

Traffic management (speed control etc.)

The Place Plan can engage with the de-trunking proposals following completion of the by-pass and potential improvements to the local network as a result.

More/better footpaths, cycleways, bridleways

Good local evidence can help to link paths and cycleways together and ensure that new developments add to the local network.

Encouraging healthy lifestyles

This is very much a well-being issue but new developments can be planned to encourage walking.

More activities/events for older people

Encouraging good use of local facilities can increase the opportunities for older people to meet.

Tree planting and wildlife management

The Place Plan could include a project to promote more tree planting, wildlife management and wildlife corridors in and around the town.

And YOU TELL US!

Appendix 6 - Results from the Post-it note Wall

Sheet 1:

- Industrial development Land.
- Canal Restoration.
- Ambition for economy as self-resilient, efficient, circular economy.
- Business units
- Restoration of canal basin and canal.
- Need better access to /use of river.
- Modernising of industrial estate areas in town.
- Services, industries + employment.
- Canal
- Extend Canal near Town.
- Restrict building size 3/4storey.
- Need more pedestrian routes to work, school, leisure.
- Zebra crossing Dolfor Road post bypass for school access.
- Post By-Pass issues- that are many etc.
- Retain town centre character buildings and restore character where lost (historic/retail chain amends)
- Get rid of some traffic lights! (MacDonald's roundabout)
- Noise management.
- By-Pass Impact.
- Bridge for all traffic 'Vaynor End'.
- Not ready for the By-pass.
- Use By-pass as the Town border.
- A large Community centre with parking in Town.
- Empty Churches.
- Linking centre car park with Town Centre.
- St Marys Church.
- Links +Parking at station.
- Renewal + maintenance
- Badly maintained buildings.

Sheet 2:

- Retro-fit solar + Solar water on social housing.
- Tourism development. Post by-pass where develop?
- More ambition on incorporating PV panels on new development
- Delivery of:
 1. Sustainable
 2. Managements
 3. Natural
 4. Resources
 5. Locally

Part of Wales Governments Environmental Act.

- Newtown as zero carbon:
 1. Housing
 2. Transport
 3. Energy
- Community arts area for health and well-being and use old buildings.
- Shop fronts improved.
- Don't forget the arts.
- Affordable night time transport.
- Public transport (after 6pm!)
- Welsh language education.
- Creating more linkage with/through 'active travel routes'- utility recreational.
- Encouraging healthy lifestyles.
- Link with regeneration strategy.
- An active travel town:
 1. Public transport
 2. Cycle
 3. WalkInfrastructure and through businesses.
- One stop shop for out of town public services.
- Integration of facilities/functions
- Encouraged/enhanced use resident +visitor) of open spaces.
- Disability friendly physical/ emotional.
- Employment /economy areas.
- An economy U.S.P for Newtown.
- Socialising Economy area.
- "Destination Newtown".
- Greenest town in Wales- Guerrilla gardening (Paris e.g.)
- Killer! H&S Regs! (affects everything)

Sheet 3:

- Volunteering opportunities.
- Economic value of volunteers.
- Mental Health support whilst change takes place.
- Ageing population.
- Where is the health and education facilities being sited?

Sheet 4:

- Newtown (river as a focus) as a tourist/outdoor healthy lifestyles hub.
- Well-connected use of trainline for freight. New Depot.
- Space for start-up business.
- Cycle have bottleneck by Cambrian bridge.
- Clear marked walkways throughout town.
- Having an economic VISION for Newtown.
- Crossing points of River-Upstream of FB in park.
- Information signage +directions.
- Canal can meet many objectives-
 - Tourism
 - Community
 - Well-being
 - History.
- Pavement in Town centre.
- Regeneration of Town centre post by-pass.
- Improving Town Centre offer.
- Make Town centre more pedestrian friendly.
- New pedestrian bridges. Need interconnecting paths -discourage car use.
- To improve +do something with the old Co-Op/Ladywell shopping centre.
- Vacant shops.
- Town pedestrianisation- Benches/trees/nice environment.
- Town Centre Long bridge,
- Redevelopment of Town centre, regeneration.
- Pryce Jones building, station, old college.
- Revitalise the high street. E.g. favourable business rates.
- Do something with the Pryce Jones building.
- Promoting heritage.
- Media +Tech centre.
- Upkeep of landmarks e.g. Longbridge.
- A place to drop in and find info. "Pop-up" shop.
- Places for community gathering.
- 36 NT. Re-name NT on Seven. 1st Ind notion. Rich heritage.
- Safe spaces for youth.
- Safe, covered outdoor teenage friendly space.
- Lack of community space in /Newtown South Ward.
- New community facilities.
- Public library.

Sheet 5:

- Sustainable/affordable housing and mainly built by the local firms.
- Retrofit 175 homes/yr to 2050 to give people warm an affordable.
- Some housing missing-set-up for starter homes.
- Housing.
- Mix of housing.
- Regeneration local growth zones.
- Practical solutions to housing needs and aspirations. Deliverable sites!
- Why. Housing for Local people. New skills needed / bring new people.
- A mix of housing options in same development.
- Relaxations of rules and modification listed buildings when incorporating energy efficiency improvements.
- A circular 5K track.
- New building to have renewable energy element.
- Black hall. Hill. Green space South Access improved.
- Air quality.
- Light /Dark skies.
- Running track along Dolerw Park.
- Keeping and improving open spaces.
- Need more community friendly open spaces-clean, safe.
- Proper design statement for Town.
- Have a town tree plan.
- Leisure facilities.
- Indoor recreation??
- Park and ride.
- Parking (charges /free first hour).

Appendix 7 – Briefing Paper – What makes for good community involvement?

WHAT MAKES FOR GOOD COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT?

There is no single right answer! Drawing from Welsh Government, Powys County Council and Planning Aid Wales advice, a possible list of 'Principles' follows below.

Please spend 10 minutes or so discussing this list and, on just one person's sheet:

- Add a tick if you are happy with each principle.
 - Add a tick/cross if you fairly happy but want to sharpen or add to the text. (Add any new text at the bottom of the sheet.)
 - Add a cross if you disagree with a principle.
 - Note down any other principles you would like to add.
-
- ❖ **A whole, planned process is needed; not just a random list of events/activities.**
 - ❖ **Develop and agree that process with some key people. (PS. That is what we are doing here!)**
 - ❖ **Identify all possible target groups.**
 - ❖ **Set up activities that raise awareness and generate enough interest to, ideally, get 'everybody' involved.**
 - ❖ **Be clear what is and is not open to change from people's involvement.**
 - ❖ **Start early (not when things are already virtually finished).**
 - ❖ **Use a range of different methods (workshop, questionnaire, survey, drop-in etc.).**
 - ❖ **Use appropriate methods at different stages (open-ended events are good at the start, far more focused ones best towards the end).**

Report back speedily, regularly and in detail.

Appendix 8 – Results – What makes for Good Community Involvement ?

1. **A whole, planned process is needed; not just a random list of events/ activities:**

13 agreed

2 disagreed

Notes:

- Master plan
- + organic
- + principles + goals
- Make it interactive and adaptive.
- Organic, use big ideas
- Done all this before (many times)

2. **Develop and agree that process with some key people. (PS. That is what we are doing here!)**

7 agreed

1 disagreed

Notes:

- +mandate + collaboration in process.
- Who decides?
- People to convert ideas to output.
- Has to be inclusive
- It needs to be adaptable.
- Yes, in principle.
- Key people- who? Should be more diverse (age+ bottom up+ interest)

3. **Identify all possible target groups**

8 agreed

3 disagreed

Notes:

- Stake-holders
- Who decides the groups?
- Evolving overtime. Ensuring feedback is given.
- Inclusive +cohesive.

- Across the community-do not alienate/exclude.

4. Set up activities that raise awareness and generate enough interest to, ideally, get 'everybody' involved.

8 agreed

1 disagreed

Notes:

- Publicise on other people's events e.g. Food festivals.
- Interactive and everyday methods.
- Inclusive approach.
- Communication is key.

5. Be clear what is and is not open to change from people's involvement.

9 agreed

3 disagreed

Notes:

- Instead of 'be clear' write 'explore' in the question.
- Depends on stage.
- But don't suppress wider ideas/ambition i.e. be able to signpost.
- To prevent let-down or cynicism.
- Need clarity to prevent people becoming unhappy about process.
- Parameter setting.
- Managing expectations.

6. Start early (not when things are already virtually finished).

9 agreed

7. Use a range of different methods (workshop, questionnaire, survey, drop-in etc).

6 agreed

2 disagreed

Notes :

- Pop-up shop.
- Social media +places e.g. libraries
- Accessibility important.

- Interactive, place based.
- Not everyone responds to one method.
- People fed-up of promises not delivered.

8. Use appropriate methods at different stages (open-ended events are good at start, far more focussed ones best towards the end).

6 agreed

1 disagreed

Notes:

- Different methods for different groups.
- Needs to be constant, up to date, updates on delivered news.

9. Report back speedily, regularly and in detail.

7 agreed

Notes:

- Need to be aware of language + visual cues.
- Interactive approach to been plan 'live'.
- Evidence based needs to be foundation. E.g. citizen, juries etc.

Additional Principles noted:

- Establish the need +impact with people to motivate people to be involved.
- Review+ use it.
- Being open through the process and maintaining regular communication.

Appendix 9 - Professional bodies - Evidence

1. **Organisation:** NRW

- Habitats and species information/green infrastructure.
- Recreation information
- Fisheries
- Water quality Information.
- Flooding information
- Social housing stock- Affordable housing.

2. **Organisation:** Hughes Architects

Name: Ian Fraser

- Housing market
- Deliverability of housing sites
- Local vernacular/character
- Economic activity – Seven valley effect etc
- Regeneration strategy- green futures
- Strategic housing issues.
- Community knowledge.
- What do we know/how can we contribute?

Improvements:

- Funding
- Capacity
- Community cohesion
- Bureaucracy?

3. **Organisation:** Powys County Council

Name: Sam Lloyd Clayton

- I am assisting in this process with funding and support.
- I am happy to facilitate, where necessary, in accessing contacts within other service areas- Transport/Highways
Education
Social services etc.

4. **Organisation:** Powys County Council, Planning Policy

Name: Tanya Dearing

- LDP policies
- Planning history
- Use Welsh Government (LLE) – To check for designations/ Pot. Issues + constraints.

5. Organisation: Montgomery Canal Partnership

Name: John Dodwell

- Report on economic value of canal-based holiday makers.
- Report on evaluating financially the wellbeing value of canals.
- Examples of economic values of canal restoration e.g. “Water Adds Value”
- Previous report on how to restore the canal to Newtown.
- Examples of what volunteers of all ages are capable of doing in canal restoration.
- List of canal restoration consultants and examples of other restoration projects they have reported on water resources experts.
- Construction industry training opportunities.
- Community payback- Jobs done elsewhere.

6. Organisation: Mid and North Powys Destination Network.

Name: Wendy Abel

- This is the tourism network covering Montgomeryshire + Radnorshire, bringing together grassroot tourism groups/town councils who have taken as a remit for tourism.
- Network Town Council as part of this network.
- Strong links with Powys County Council Tourism plan and visit Wales.
- Access to regional/County tourism networks.
- Access to tourism network /statistics.
- Bringing community across the area together for creating and delivering tourism initiation.
- It’s important that communities hook into larger projects- with the appreciation that the funding needs to spread further.
- Personally, working a freelance basis/have compiled the network Tourism Plan. (published Jan 2019)
- Network provides opportunity for learning, best practice and collaboration with others- across other like-minded activities.

7. Organisation: Revive + Thrive

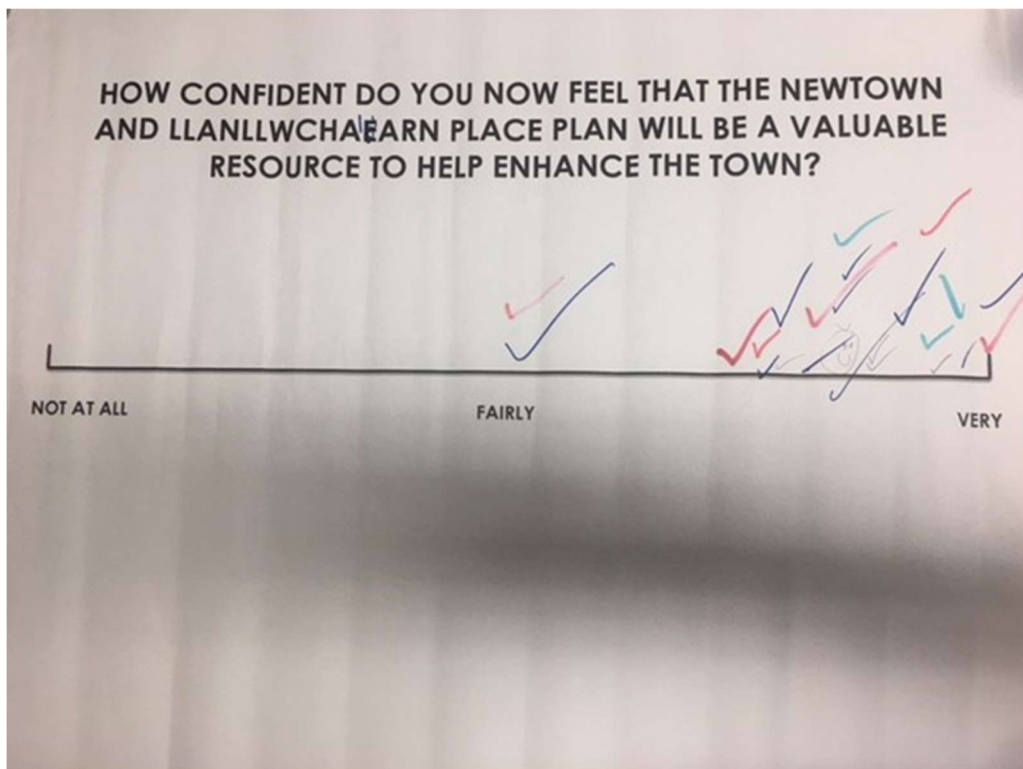
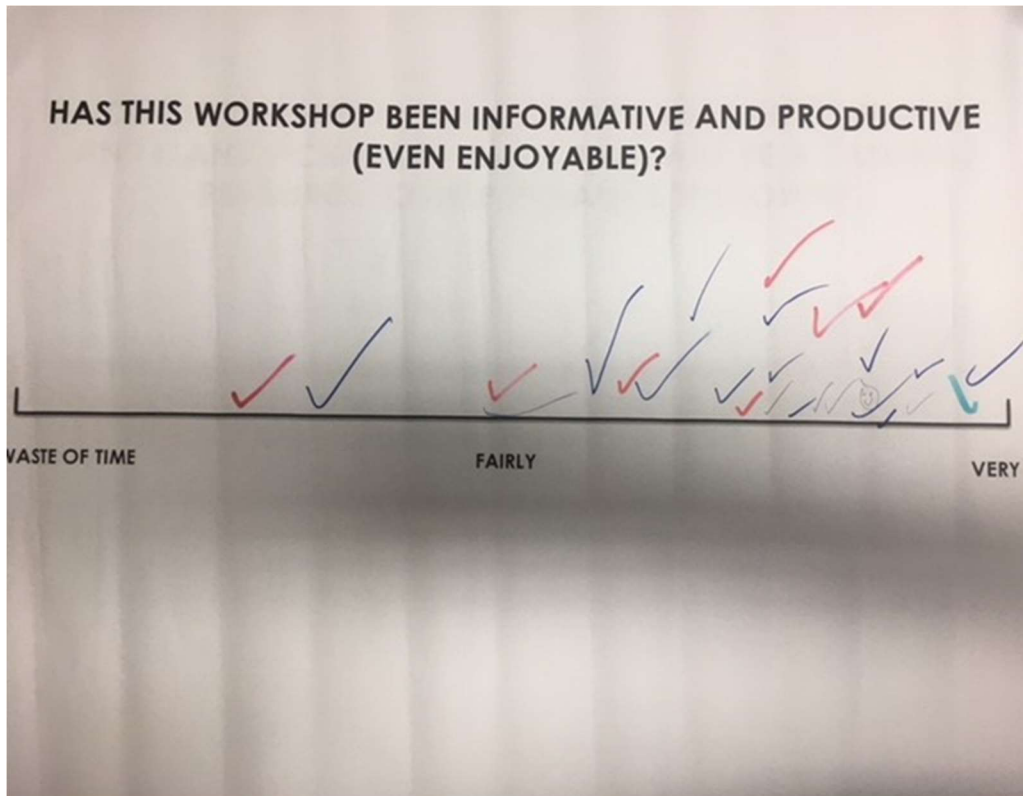
Name: Claire Hames

- Specialise in regeneration, business improvement districts, membership organisation + events.
- Currently working locally with Brecon +Newton feasibility study for a BID.
- Needs for community.
- High street regeneration.
- Town centre/ Community needs.

8. Organisation: Affordable Housing Team@ Powys CC
Name: Sue Callery

- Can provide
 - Social housing stock information.
 - Social Housing need information.
 - Some (scant but growing) information Affordable housing need (Market Housing).
- Can Access
 - Landownership
- Can Support
 - Local initiatives (Housing)

Appendix 10 – Evaluation of workshop



Appendix 11 – Summary Report

Newtown Place Plan | Stakeholder Workshop 30th January 2019 SUMMARY FEEDBACK REPORT

***This note is a Summary Report from all the notes recorded, plus a few general reflections.
The Full Report, with all the workshop material and every single comment noted is
available on the project website.....***

General Comments

- This event was an opening workshop to begin the process of preparing a Place Plan for Newtown.
- 38 stakeholders attended the workshop held at Newtown Football Club on 30th January.
- The stakeholders that attended were invited to bring a range of interests and information together to:
 - highlight issues and topics of concern for the future of Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn,
 - suggest how best to engage the whole community and
 - begin the process of collecting all the important evidence that must underpin your Place Plan.
- The event was lively and illustrated the significant number of local initiatives underway in the areas of business, heritage and the environment.
- 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.

What Topics and Issues could a Place Plan for Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn cover?

- The workshop began by considering the topics and issues that a Place Plan for Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn could cover.
- Some high-level themes for the Plan to address began to emerge from the workshop: Destination Newtown, Open for Business, Green Town.
- There could also be some cross-cutting practical initiatives: Canal/River, Open Newtown, Health as it was clear that a linked-up approach was important.
- Key issues and topics highlighted included:
 - The canal and it's restoration.
 - Linked to the canal, there were many connections which were drawn to the restoration of the canal, highlighting tourism, health, well-being and history.
 - The promotion of heritage and improving the built environment.
 - Space for startup businesses / a media and tech centre.
 - High Street regeneration and improving the retail "offer".
 - Improved linkages and signage – town centre, rail station, river, schools - improved links to cycle and footpath networks.

- Safe spaces for youth.
- A good mix of sustainable and affordable housing.
- Regeneration of key landmark buildings within the town.
- A green town – energy efficient projects.

What Should Good Community Involvement in Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn look like?

- The approach to consultation should be 'alive' and accessible, with activities that raise awareness and generate enough interest to, ideally, get 'everybody' involved.
- Starting early (not when things are already virtually finished) was key.
- Exploring with the wider community what is and is not open to include in the plan.
- A whole, planned process is needed; not just a random list of events/activities.
- Use of a range of different methods to make sure it's an interactive process. Ideas included a pop-up shop, using social media and using existing places, e.g. libraries.
- Use appropriate methods at different stages (open-ended events are good at the start, far more focused ones best towards the end).
- Report back speedily, regularly and in detail.
- And it was also noted that a 'live' plan was important, rather than something that gathers dust on the shelf.

Evidence Collection

- For the Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Place Plan to be successful and to be adopted as SPG, it will need a lot of solid, clear, strong evidence behind it. This workshop began the process of exploring what evidence needs collecting, and crucially how it can be collected.
- Some of that evidence can come from community surveys of ideas, opinions and hopes – that has its place – but to be really effective the plan will need the back-up of a lot of facts and figures and well-substantiated evidence.
- Local people can supply – may even be the only people who can supply – some of the evidence
- At the workshop local representatives explored what sort of evidence would be required and began the process of volunteering to lead on the collection of that evidence.
- The collection of evidence is something many people can be engaged in (and it can work as a way to engage a broad range of people in the Plan) and the ways to do were discussed.
- The workshop also identified the existing material that the attending professionals and their organisations can contribute to underpin the plan.

And What Next?

Open consultation events will take place next across the town area. The first of those has already taken place with student representatives of local schools who explored similar issues to those in this first workshop. Evidence gathering on particular topics will also take place and a workshop will be held in April to begin that process. Keep an eye on the project web page for regular updates.