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***This note is a Summary Report from all the notes recorded  
at the Drop-in events plus a few general reflections.***

## **General Comments**

- The project plan for the Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Place Plan outlined several 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.
- This summary report outlines the key findings of the Drop-in events held between mid-March and early May 2019, which raised awareness of the Place Plan and the preparation process.
- There were four events in total spread across the town where Town Council representatives were able to speak to a range of people and collect evidence and community views on aspects such as design, active travel and possible small housing sites. (There was also a similar event held with representatives of local schools.)
  
- The 2019 Drop-in events were held as follows:
  - Mon 18th March – 4–7pm - All Saints Church, Commercial Street
  - Mon 8th April – 5–7pm - Newtown High School
  - Thu 2nd May – 4–7pm - Treowen Community Hall
  - Weds 8th May – 4–7pm - Waggon & Horses, Canal Road
  
- The Drop-in events took place early evening allowing local people to drop in for a short time or stay longer to discuss issues with representatives from the Town Council and facilitators from Place Studio and Planning Aid Wales.
- On arriving, people were given a verbal briefing by a team member to explain the process of the session and how to provide comments using the post-it notes, maps and flip charts provided.
- Several “themed stations” were laid out in each venue to allow participants to have their say on several issues. The themes had emerged from the initial stakeholder event held in January 2019. They included:
  - The “Good, the Bad and the Ugly” places in town
  - Open Spaces and Footpaths
  - Design and Character areas
  - Community facilities
  - Small housing sites
  
- The events were lively and interactive and attracted 120 members of the public over the 4 sessions.



## General comments:

Comments common across all events started to emerge, for example:

- *Re-use of vacant buildings and potential restoration projects for housing, community or tourism uses (e.g. Old Fire station / Flannel Exchange/ Bethesda Chapel/St David's Church)*
- *Fly tower at College - needs attention*
- *Facelift of buildings in conservation areas / historic core of town*
- *Open spaces (e.g. Dolerw Park), the river and canal all great assets for the town*
- *Historic heritage of the town to be recognised and celebrated - encourage tourism/ educational uses*
- *Sports facilities, the gallery and theatre are attractions to be retained*
- *Signage needs attention in the town – make better connections between places*
- *Improve shop signage / frontages*
- *Improve access in the town e.g. disabled parking spaces*
- *Attract new shops to town centre and look at innovative uses for empty shops*
- *Potential for redundant buildings to be used for homes*
- *More litter / recycling bins*
- *Create civic spaces and pedestrianisation of shopping core*
- *Creative Indoor and outdoor play areas needed for young people*
- *Better use of college site*
- *The Mound – improvement and promotion of this site*
- *Opportunities to avoid short car journeys – walking and cycling to shops, school and work*
- *Activities for teenagers (safe secure indoor spaces with wi-fi) / all-weather activity centre (e.g. trampolining / climbing wall)*
- *Affordable housing for young people and the elderly*
- *Attract visitors from the new by-pass into the town – boost tourism*
- *Path linkages around the town to be improved and maintained*
- *Small housing site opportunities identified*

This list is not exhaustive and not written in any priority order. All comments received from the Drop-in events have been recorded in four separate reports (one for each event) and will be used when preparing the Place Plan. (Detailed event reports are available on the Town Council website.)

## Summary:

In summary, the 4 drop-in events:

- *Were a success in terms of bringing members of the public together to discuss issues that are important to them in Newtown.*
- *Were lively and allowed everyone who attended an opportunity to give their views and get actively involved.*
- *Highlighted numerous key issues that local people feel strongly about and wish to be considered as part of the Place Plan.*
- *Identified key character areas - which can be looked at in the evidence collection stages of the project.*
- *Encouraged partnership working e.g. Open Newtown attended the Newtown High School event to seek local opinion on their work.*
- *Encouraged the youth of the town to participate, e.g. the town's Youth Group attended the event at Treowen Community Hall.*
- *Identified overarching themes that will start to shape the Place Plan:*
  - *Newtown – a great place to live and work*
  - *Green Newtown – the environment*
  - *Newtown - A destination*

## And What Next?

- We are currently working with volunteers to collect some specific data on topics such as footpaths, signage, accessibility, housing design, character areas and community facilities.
- We will be bringing together all the feedback and suggestions you have given us in the Autumn and will start drafting the plan and working with colleagues in the planning team at Powys County Council to prepare the information to be formally adopted.
- If you would like to be involved or if you would like to receive email updates about the Place Plan, please contact Project Officer, Sorelle White - [sorelle.white@newtown.org.uk](mailto:sorelle.white@newtown.org.uk)

## Thank you / Diolch

