

Bonvilston Community Consultation

Creative Rural Communities, the rural regeneration team from the Vale of Glamorgan Council, organised a community consultation for Bonvilston held in the Reading Room on Friday 24th February 2012. The event ran from 6.00pm – 8.00pm on a misty evening. 27 people of all age groups dropped in during the session. It was an opportunity for local people to have their say about the community they live in and propose project ideas that they could possibly progress to benefit of the community. Creative Rural Communities has several funding opportunities and officers can help sign post groups and project ideas for funding where possible.

The event was advertised in the local shop, and pubs and a flyer was posted through every house holds door. Creative Rural Communities also e-mailed local contacts as well as the community council who were asked to circulate the information and information was posted on the Creative Rural Communities Facebook page.

Thoughts and ideas were gathered in three ways.

- Post-it notes asking people what they loved about their village and what improvements they'd like to see in Bonvilston.
- A short questionnaire asking for project ideas they could help with and their contact details.
- A map of the village where people could place a pin where they would like the project/improvement to take place.

Key points that emerged from the community consultation:

20 questionnaires were completed, the following projects were raised by people who filled in the questionnaire, who made comments on the post-it notes and who contributed to the map. People were able to make several recommendations:

- 7 people mentioned more group activities at the village (suggestions included aerobics, music/choir, gardening club, summer events, reading group, Welsh classes)
- In addition to the above, a further 6 people specifically mentioned having a mobile cinema / cinema club at the village
- 4 people wanted to see better maintenance and access to footpaths around Bonvilston, the access behind Tudor Lodge and the condition of Green Lane specifically mentioned.
- 3 people saw speeding through the village as a problem and wanted some sort of speed reducing method to slow drivers down
- 3 people would like to see community grown food allotments introduced to the village
- 3 people mentioned more activities or play area for children
- 3 people wanted to see better communication in the village (suggestions included a village website or email system) with a further 2 people wanting to create a village heart/more community spirit (including more/new people on the community council and to help with activities/events)
- 3 people wanted to see more bins in the Bonvilston area
- 3 people wanted to see a take away service introduced in the village shop

- 2 people supported the idea of a Village History exhibition in St Mary's Church
- 2 people wanted to see a crossing for pedestrians between the shop and Reading Room
- 2 people would like to see the tree at the bottom of Redway Road replaced, possibly for the Diamond Jubilee
- 2 people wanted a new bench at Maes-y-Ffynnon
- 2 people would like a coffee shop at the village shop
- 2 people mentioned advertisement for the new hair salon in the shop

Other comments included the need for smaller more affordable housing in the village and comments about bus times and cost. Other suggestions on post-it notes included introducing wheelie bins for refuse collection, cheaper bus fares for students, road repair (Pendoylan Road specifically mentioned) and correct spelling of Maes-y-Ffynnon on road sign.

When asked "What I love about Bonvilston" people said the following:

- 11 comments mentioned the shop
- 5 highlighted the Pub
- 5 alluded to access to countryside
- 4 comments said the Hall/ Reading Room
- 7 commented on the nice friendly people, with a further 2 naming Paul and Rosemary Fisher
- 4 alluded to the peace and quiet
- 5 pointed out that it Bonvilston is convenient and accessible (especially to Cardiff) and a further 3 loved the bus
- 2 people see Bonvilston as a safe/low crime area

Other comments included the churches, hair salon and 'my bedroom' (age 4)

What can you do to help?

There were offers of assistance from those who completed the questionnaires from experience and knowledge to digging and fund raising, many replied ask and we will see what we can do.

Next Steps:

Creative Rural Communities (CRC) the rural regeneration team from the Vale of Glamorgan Council supported Bonvilston to complete this community consultation. We hope this report aids the village in developing new projects for the community.

Creative Rural Communities is able to assist in signposting to funding sources that may be able to support the types of projects suggested by the community in this report. In addition support and funding streams Creative Rural Communities currently has available includes:

With regard to community allotments, Community Foodie is a CRC project that helps to identify, develop and support community food growing. Rob McGhee is the project

officer from CRC and is there to help you explore the potential of food growing space in the area. If you are interested in this work please contact Rob on 01446 704835 or e mail RMcghee@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Pride in your Villages is a grant scheme that can support physical capital improvements to village's (for example benches, play/community areas). For further information contact Jane Williams on 01446 704755 or e mail Jewilliams@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Contact has been made with the Public Rights of Way team at the Council and they are aware of the access issues behind Tudor Lodge. Although the path along the edge of Tudor Lodge has been walked for many years, the legal definitive route is through Stonecourt. However this original public right of way is now blocked off by large gated entrance to the driveway of Stonecourt. The owners of Stonecourt have been contacted and have been told of the need for them to open up the original route through their property or apply to divert the path on to the well used informal path between Stonecourt and Tudor Lodge. No response has been received to date.

The process of diverting a footpath can take many months. A letter has been sent to the owner of Tudor Lodge asking for a site meeting to discuss the options for improving the informal route in advance of completion of the diversion. For more information please contact Sandra Thomas on sathomas@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

With regard to Green Lane, Maes-Y-Fynnon, improvements could be made to this lane to improve access. This can be done via the Footpaths Grant. Match funding of 30% would need to be raised to take advantage of this grant. For more information please contact Mark Cottray on 01446 704645 or mcottray@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

The Rural Hubs grant scheme could help fund the village cinema club, either with setting up a trial or with purchasing equipment, or other community activities. For more information please contact Mari-Wyn Pivotti on 01446 704637 or email mwepivotti@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

With regard to the community of Bonvilston wanting more community events, such as a summer event, it would be worth joining the Rural Events Network which is a network aimed to bring together rural event organisers from the local area to share ideas, experiences and to take advantage of the use of free stock equipment. For more information visit www.ruraleventsnetwork.com

The Pride in our Heritage grant scheme could help with any history related projects, such as Bonvilston Village History at St Mary's Church. For more information please contact Branwen Dickson on 01446 704828 or email bdickson@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

As Creative Rural Communities is part of the Vale of Glamorgan Council we will also feed back the information provided regarding roads, footpaths, speeding and transport to the relevant council departments.