

Partneriaeth Ogwen Annual Report 2018

Vision

Partneriaeth Ogwen's vision is to create a strong community organisation that works innovatively for the benefit of the communities of Dyffryn Ogwen.

Our business plan aims to do this by:

- Strengthening the foundations of the organisation and developing staff competency to provide services and projects of the highest standard
- Protecting and creating new income streams
- Strengthening our internal policies and procedures to safeguard our staff and volunteers
- Prioritising projects that create economic, environmental and social benefits with a focus on transferring community assets, buying new assets to generate income, and projects that make our community stronger and more resilient.

Integral to this is sustainability which is at the heart of all our activities and encompasses environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability.

This report records the main developments of the past year.

Staff, Management Committee and Partneriaeth Ogwen Board Members

Staff

Chief Officer: Meleri Davies

Clerk and Administrative Manager: Donna Watts

Junior Clerk and Administrative Officer: Bethan Griffith

Property Caretaker: Dylan Jones

Energy Local Project Officer: Cynan Jones

Maintenance Officer: Adam Quaeck

Partneriaeth Ogwen Directors

Dafydd Meurig

Dafydd Owen

Rheinallt Puw

Bethesda Community Council (Represented by Pearl Evans, Neville Hughes, Mary Jones, Griff Charles Morris and Godfrey Northam)

Llanllechid Community Council (Represented by Geraint Hughes and Kevin Glyn Williams)

Llandygai Community Council (Represented by Dafydd Owen and Mair Owen Pierce)

Management Committee

The Management Committee is a delegation of Partneriaeth Ogwen's full Board and represents the three local community councils. The Management Committee meets every other month to monitor Partneriaeth Ogwen's work programme. The members of the Management Committee are:

Geraint Hughes: Llanllechid Community Councillor

Neville Hughes: Bethesda Community Councillor

Dafydd Meurig: Chairman of Partneriaeth Ogwen and County Councillor

Griff Charles Morris: Bethesda Community Councillor

Dafydd Owen: County Councillor

Mair Pierce: Mynydd Llandygai Community Councillor

Rheinallt Puw: County Councillor

Property

Ogwen Office

Partneriaeth Ogwen owns 26 High Street, Bethesda which is divided into three floors. The upper floor is rented by local tenants. The lower ground floor is rented by North Wales Police and is the base for Dyffryn Ogwen Police Community Support Officers.

The ground floor is used as an office by Partneriaeth Ogwen's Chief Officer, Clerk and Administrative Officer, Partneriaeth Ogwen project staff and as the permanent office of Community Energy Wales and, until recently, Sian Shakespear Associates. Use of the meeting room during the past year has included one-to-one sessions with the Gwynedd a Môn Youth Justice Service, counselling and CBT therapy sessions, and guitar lessons. Ynni Ogwen, Business Wales, Cyd-Ynni, Llanllechid and Bethesda Councils' subcommittees, and other agencies have also used the room.

Visits by members of the public to the Partneriaeth Ogwen office continue to increase, and a number of people use the site as a community information point. Our presence on the High Street makes a difference with regard to enabling the public to get in touch with their local councils.

Shops, Flats and Studios for Local Tenants

Partneriaeth Ogwen continues to manage nine units on Bethesda's High Street. Four of these are commercial shops and include:

Cwrw Ogwen: Dyffryn Ogwen's new community brewery

O Law i Law: antiques business

Annie's Orphans: charity shop selling second hand clothes, books and toys

The Pay As You Feel Cafe at 57 High Street has now closed and the property will soon be rented to a new commercial tenant

We also rent out two studios to local creative companies:

9Bach: musical artists from Gerlan

Dyfal Donc: contemporary art and craft designers from Bethesda.

Four flats are also rented out to local tenants.

Rental income from these properties contributes towards Partneriaeth Ogwen's running costs, including the appointment of a Property Caretaker to coordinate maintenance work.

Clerking

Partneriaeth Ogwen provides clerking services to three Community Councils – Bethesda Community Council, Llandygai Community Council and Llanllechid Community Council. Clerking work includes organising and preparing documents, taking minutes at Council meetings, dealing with correspondence and enquiries from members of the public and managing finances on behalf of the Councils. The clerk assists with additional work such as co-ordinating the Llanllechid Mountain Committee's grazing rights' payment system and organising the St. David's Day Procession. During the past year, we have been supporting and training our Administrative Officer to work as a Junior Clerk.

During this period, Partneriaeth Ogwen has also employed a Maintenance Officer to carry out litter clearing and maintenance work. The post is funded by Llandygai and Bethesda Community Councils and is a direct response to community concerns about litter in the area.

Projects

Community Assets Projects

Dyffryn Ogwen Community Library and Canolfan Cefnfaes

Community ownership and asset transfer are strategic priorities for Partneriaeth Ogwen. During the past year, Partneriaeth Ogwen has worked closely with Gwynedd Council to discuss the asset transfer of two distinctive buildings in the village, namely Canolfan Cefnfaes and Bethesda Library.

Dyffryn Ogwen Community Library

After a period of negotiation and consultation with the County Council and community councils, Partneriaeth Ogwen has now signed a three year lease on the Library. We sub-let one room to the Family Planning Association and use the back room as a community space to host events. Since signing the lease, two art exhibitions have been held and a number of local clubs have used the space. Llanllechid, Llandygai and Bethesda Community Councils have agreed to contribute towards the running costs of the building to ensure that the Library remains open. In addition, we have secured a grant of £7,000 from the Gwynedd Voluntary Development Fund towards the cost of installing a new disabled toilet and some changes to the community space.

Canolfan Cefnfaes

Canolfan Cefnfaes is a community centre located in the middle of the village. Over the past year, we have worked with Gwynedd Council, the Cefnfaes Committee and Agoriad Cyf and we look forward to seeing these plans come to fruition. Funding has been earmarked to employ a Project Manager to guide the development of the centre with the support of the former Cefnfaes Committee.

Sustainability Centre 27 High Street

Partneriaeth Ogwen has received a grant of £25,000 from the Welsh Government's Community Facilities Programme fund towards the purchase of a building on Bethesda High Street. The building, located next to our existing office, will be used as a hub for Partneriaeth Ogwen's environmental and sustainability activity. We have also secured an interest-free loan from Gwynedd Council towards the rest of the purchase and renovation costs of the property, and secured a grant of £10,000 from the Gwynedd Council Empty Properties Fund towards the cost of renovating the two storey flat above the shop space.

Gerlan Car Park

Partneriaeth Ogwen has been working on this project with Bethesda Community Council, but there has been a considerable delay as the site of the proposed car park has had to be moved. Cadarn Consulting have been commissioned to submit a planning permission application to Gwynedd Council on behalf of the Community Council and a loan application will be submitted to the Public Works Loan Authority.

Siop Ogwen

Siop Ogwen sells local crafts and Welsh books. Although Siop Ogwen is an independent legal entity that acts as a company limited by guarantee (not-for-profit), Partneriaeth Ogwen continues to carry out administrative, general management and marketing work on behalf of the company. The work is currently provided as a service level agreement for Siop Ogwen. The shop is staffed by a combination of volunteers and paid staff. The shop contributes to Partneriaeth Ogwen's wider vision of regenerating Bethesda High Street and the feedback from regular and new customers is positive, but increasing income to meet staffing costs and the running costs of the building is a challenge.

Sustainability Projects

Cyd Ynni – Ynni Lleol

Partneriaeth Ogwen is employed by Community Energy Wales as a local partner in the development of the Energy Local scheme. We employ an Energy Local Officer one day per week to raise awareness of Energy Local, energy efficiency and sustainability.

Ynni Ogwen

Partneriaeth Ogwen provides secretarial services to the Ynni Ogwen Board under a service level agreement. Ynni Ogwen is also a partner in the development of the 27 High Street

sustainability centre and we will use this space to promote Ynni Ogwen's work and raise awareness of renewable energy.

Community Transport and Electric Cars Project

Following complaints from the public and local councillors about community transport problems in the Ogwen Valley, Partneriaeth Ogwen organised a special day to discuss the issue. Contributors to the discussion during the day included Community Transport Wales, SP Energy Networks, the National Trust, Open Energy Monitor and Gwynedd Council officers. As well as discussing the challenges for local people when accessing public transport, the parking problems near Ogwen Cottage were discussed and also the potential for developing a community transport plan - ideally powered by renewable local electricity.

Egin Ogwen

We continue to hold some community growing events with a group of local volunteers, but grant applications are pending to further develop this project as part of the activity of the Sustainability Centre at 27 High Street.

Other community projects

Community WiFi

Partneriaeth Ogwen has secured financial support from the Digital Gwynedd scheme to develop a Community Wi-Fi scheme that will be free for any users on Bethesda High Street.

Partneriaeth Ogwen has been successful in its application to Gwynedd Council for a grant to provide free Wi-Fi access to Bethesda High Street. The system will comply with legal, reliability and security requirements, and will be available to both visitors and residents.

We are also planning a new website to promote the Ogwen Valley. This site will promote the area, our businesses and the tourist and cultural offer. Together, the free Wi-Fi system, tourist newsletters and a new website will strengthen the 'local tourist offer' and help promote and market local businesses and societies. The plan focuses on developing a communications strategy to promote our village, our local businesses, our heritage and our culture. Gwynedd Council's grant does not cover all costs so we are working closely with the High Street Business Forum to promote the scheme among small and large businesses in the area to seek funding to deliver the scheme within the next year.

Exploring the Ogwen Valley

Partneriaeth Ogwen has been successful in obtaining a grant from the Gwynedd Voluntary Development Fund to develop the *Exploring the Ogwen Valley* pamphlet which guides the reader along 8 circular walks in the area. The pamphlet has been distributed to businesses and tourist centres in the area.

Consultancy and Working in Partnership

Partneriaeth Ogwen has members of staff with extensive skills and experience and we offer an advisory service to other organizations locally. Current work includes development work for the Tabernacl Bethesda Cyf (Neuadd Ogwen) company. We are also included on the

mentors database of Atebion Mentrus-Enterprising Solutions which supports collaborative ventures across Wales.

Carneddau Project and Unesco World Heritage Site Application

Partneriaeth Ogwen is a member of the Carneddau Partnership Project Management Board. This is a significant heritage project and we have helped with the development of the bid and held community engagement sessions in the Valley. We have already established a close relationship with Gwynedd Council officers who are leading the application for Unesco World Heritage Site status for the slate quarrying areas.

Marketing and Publicity

Partneriaeth Ogwen hosts the website www.ogwen.org and three Facebook accounts - Ogwen, Ynni Ogwen and Siop Ogwen and regularly updates these pages. We also have @SiopOgwen and @YnniOgwen Twitter accounts, and all these accounts have over a thousand followers. All marketing and publicity work is carried out by Partneriaeth Ogwen staff members.

During the year, our work has attracted attention on local, national and British media.

Partneriaeth Ogwen also receives requests to speak about our projects to local and national associations including Wales Co-operative events, the M-SParc Energy Summit and the Building Communities Trust's manifesto launch in Cardiff.