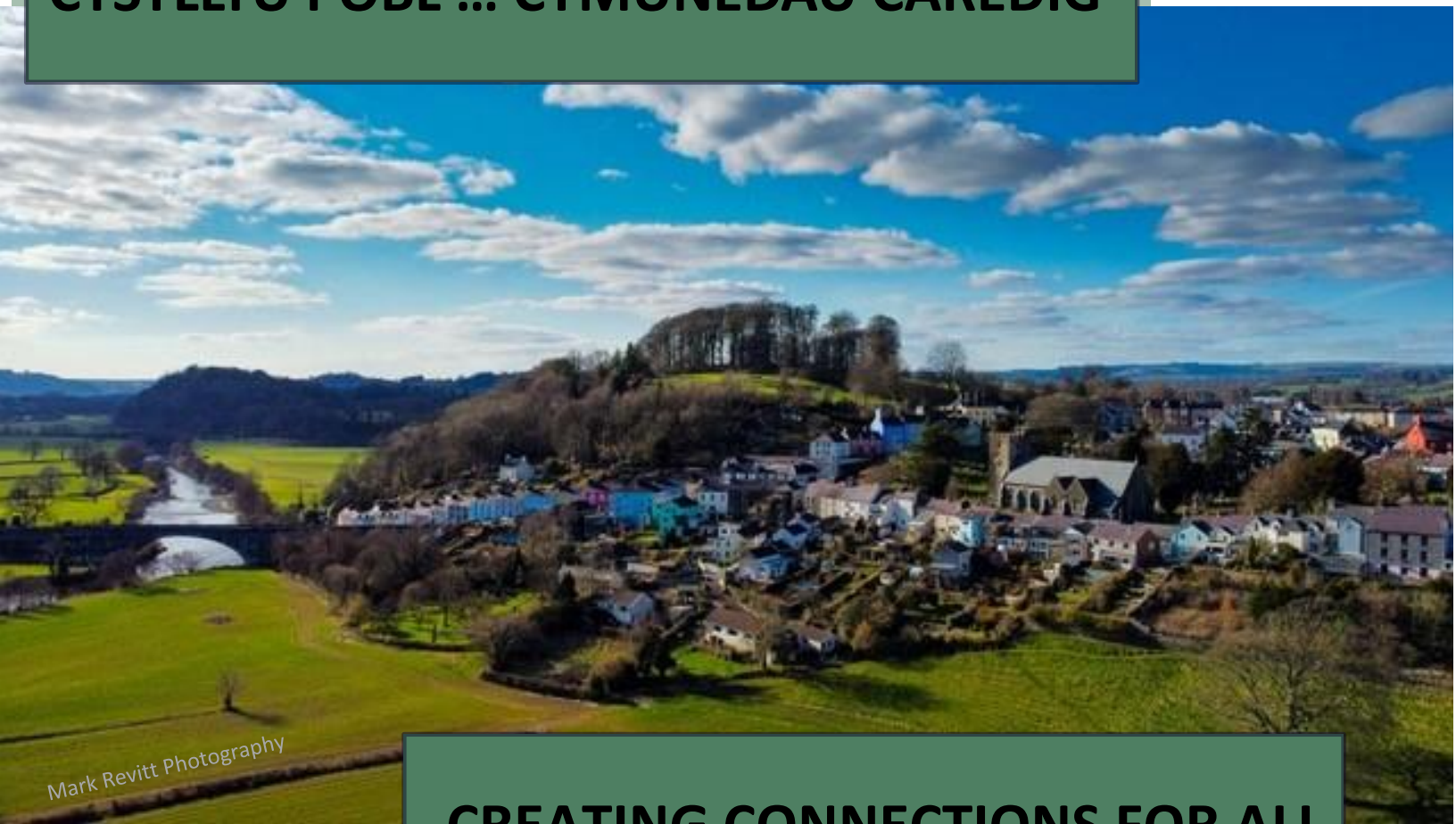


CYSYLLTU POBL ... CYMUNEDAU CAREDIG



CREATING CONNECTIONS FOR ALL

Gweithredu Cymunedol Llandeilo Community Action

The aim of LLANDEILO COMMUNITY ACTION HUB is to establish and maintain a network of volunteers, a time bank exchange and an information network about local social and support groups and their services.
To promote community activity for the benefit of all.



Background

The West Wales Regional Partnership Board developed a regional response to the Welsh Government's 'A Healthier Wales' programme in the form of a bid for £18m to support transformation activity across the region and at local level linked to the Area Plan and to Hywel Dda University Health Board's Health and Care Strategy. This work covers action priority 4: Connected people, kind communities and more specifically, programme 7 Creating connection for all.

West Wales Care Partnership "Our ambition"

West Wales has a strong foundation of community resilience and supporting citizens to maintain their well-being within their communities. We know that encouraging people to become active and engage in their community brings significant benefits including reducing or delaying the need to access statutory care. We now want to build on these foundations to establish at pace a system-wide and asset-based approach to health and well-being which has social connectedness at its heart. This will require helping people to help themselves and collaborative working across sectors to support the development of new services that embrace social value principles and ensure people needing additional support can access it as close to home as possible.

Local Action Hubs (LAHs)

Identifying and delivering flexible ways of enabling more people to give their time to make a difference in their communities by establishing local action hubs with town and community councils, encouraging spontaneous and informal volunteering.

"Enabling all citizens to contribute to local activity"

What is a Local Action Hub?

An asset-based, grassroots, not-for-profit community initiative/scheme/ project within a dedicated local area, community or neighbourhood run **by** local people **for** local people to improve their health and wellbeing which encompasses:

- A pivotal public building(s) at the heart of a community where local people can come together (building)
- Active citizens within a community coming together with a common goal of using local assets to meet identified needs (people)

- A single organisation or group of organisations within a community working together with a common goal of improving individual and community well-being (organisations)

How does a Local Action Hub help the community?

A Local Action Hub empowers local people to rejuvenate their own communities to create a more caring and supportive environment in the following ways:

- Empowering individuals through personal development (including volunteering)
- Campaigning by working on local issues
- Planning and becoming organised to gain recognition and become more effective
- Being accountable to local people
- Being responsible for funds being used only for the community
- Being committed to initiating change through community activities

- Supporting groups of local people involved in acting for change


What are the anticipated outcomes of a successful Local Action Hub?

- Improved health and wellbeing of both the help-giver and receiver
- Alleviated social isolation
- New and improved services in the community
- Increased skills and knowledge within the community
- Intergenerational activity
- New friendships and relationships locally
- Enhanced community environment both aesthetically and ecologically
- Increased sense of pride and belonging



Covid-19 Pandemic 2020

Programme delivery required a flexible and responsive approach at a time when formal volunteering became displaced by community action. The idea of a physical place for the community to meet, share ideas and support one another was no longer a 'safe', or practical, option and so all work moved on-line. In many respects the Coronavirus jump started the community call to action across Llandeilo and supported many of the project's anticipated outcomes.



Welcome to Llandeilo

Llandeilo is a small, but thriving, market town in Carmarthenshire, situated on the edge of the Brecon Beacons National Park. It is located within easy reach of the hills and the coast, the Heart of Wales railway line and the M4 motorway.

The community, of about 2000 residents, is well served with small friendly shops and enjoys excellent services provided by the health centre, primary and secondary schools, library, churches and chapels.

The Llandeilo Community Support Group was created in March 2020 as a direct response of the Covid-19 pandemic. Their growing team of volunteers were able to support vulnerable residents, those in isolation, those shielding and residents who had contracted the virus.

It was this outpouring of compassion and commitment to community support and resilience that brought this Hub project to the town.

POPULATION STATISTICS
2019 Mid Year Population Estimates

Age	Llandeilo	Llandeilo	Carmarthenshire
Structure	Population	%	%
Aged: 0-4	108	3.6	5.0
5-14	354	11.7	11.5
15-24	256	8.5	10.2
25-44	568	18.8	21.6
45-64	897	29.8	28.0
65-74	391	13.0	11.9
75+	440	14.6	11.9
Total	3,014	100	100

“We are a community driven, community action, group focused on the needs of its residents. Every resident deserves to have their voice heard and we support active participation of all”.

In discussion with several volunteers, including local business and Town Councillor's, it was agreed that the best way to maximize positive outcomes for this pilot project would be to use some of the funds to employ a dedicated Community Liaison and Coordination Officer.

The appointment was created through an agreement between Llandeilo Community Action Hub and Menter Dinefwr, to deliver the community development assistance required. The appointment would be held under the Menter banner to be able to access their additional resources.



The remainder of the funds would be used to fund community group activity.

The remit of this post would be to:

- Map community provision across Llandeilo: Researching and analysing the existing community, volunteer, charity, food, support, social and wellness groups and services on offer.
- Share what has been learnt: Providing information about the available services to the community in digital and non-digital form.
- Working with community partners: Liaising with other community connectors, particularly CCC Community Connect, Coop Co-operate and CAVS.
- Get to know the community: Liaise with the local groups and service providers and keeping up to date with their development.
- Supporting and promoting the community: Networking and assisting these groups and services with their needs, promoting them on social media and bringing the groups and their target audiences closer together. Linking in with the West Wales Connect to Kindness campaign.
- Supporting community volunteers: Establishing a local network of volunteers and setting up a time-bank-like service for the area – Connect Carmarthenshire.
- Encouraging community growth: The development of new groups and services and researching which ones would enhance the community and are desired and / or needed.
- Helping to set up new groups and liaising with additional county support as needed.
- Facilitate and advocate: Acting as communicator, and coordinator, for the community, its volunteers and social and wellness groups.



Introducing: **Owen James**

I am a local lad, born and bred in Llandeilo. Following a long line of family who have lived, worked and socialized in Llandeilo and its neighbouring communities. I applied for the role as I am passionate about bringing the best out of people, who then essentially give their all to the community.

Having been a Town Councillor for five years I feel I know a lot more about the needs of Llandeilo. It's amazing how much passion the residents of Llandeilo have for the town, this being a great opportunity to integrate more into Llandeilo life. Personally since the start of the pandemic I've been volunteering wherever I can to help residents not go without; including the foodbank, Council, prescription runs, dog walking

etc. I'm always willing and hope this will show others that whatever your age, you can get involved within your local community.

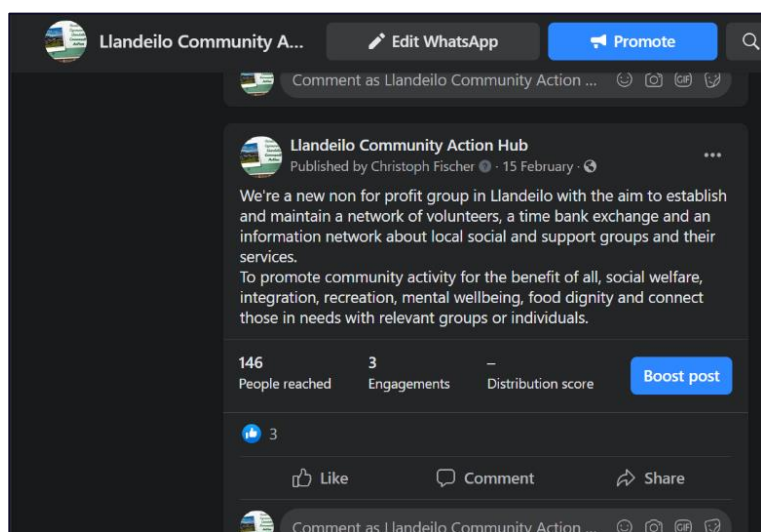
I am active within the sporting community and always looking for new innovative ways to get people involved from all ages. Making sure we, as a community, are inclusive to all and giving everyone an equal opportunity.

Evidence: Role description, scoping meeting notes

Starting point

Firstly, Christoph Fischer (Town Councillor, Co-op Member Pioneer) and myself rallied local individuals together to create the Community Action Hub group. This consisted of various individuals and volunteers from specific backgrounds that would benefit the group moving forward.

- Chair: Christoph Fischer
- Treasurer: John Meredith
- Secretary: Eurn Madoc Jones
- Community officer: Owen James



The group then went and spoke with all organisations locally, including businesses, charities, community groups etc. to really find out what was missing in the Llandeilo Community. We put up posters/leaflets on local notice

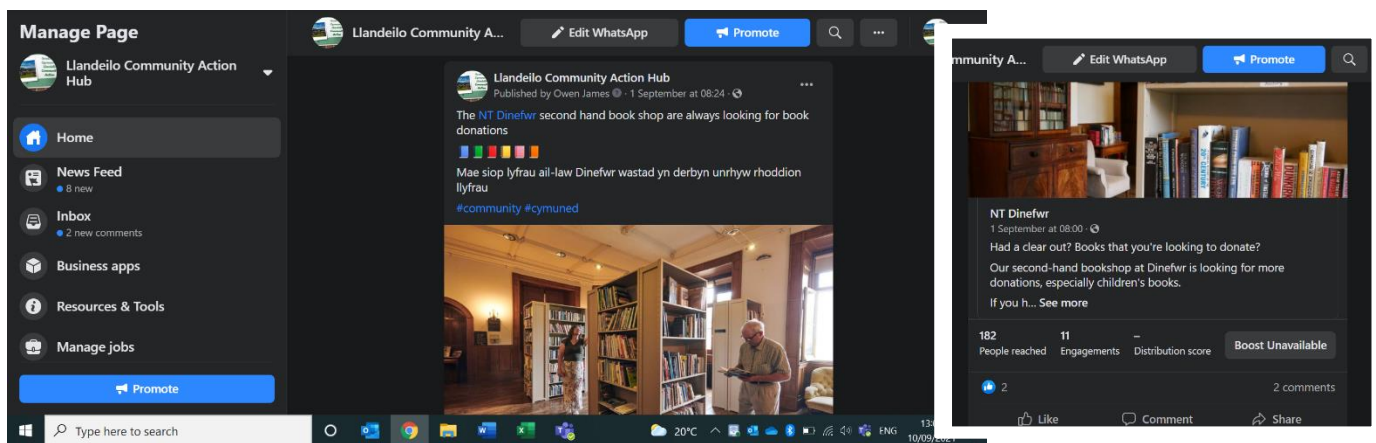
boards, and social media posts advertising the new group.

Evidence: Minutes from action hub committee meeting, social media posts, posters

Mapping

I then set off to create a volunteer form for people and groups to sign up and create a network of information. All group forms were distributed via posters in local businesses and via social media for personal print.

We received 28 completed forms from various groups, eg. Llandeilo Angling, Litfest Llandeilo, Dinefwr Ramblers and many more. The main purpose of this is to create an itinerary of groups that the public can access. We will continue to help promote these groups via our social media.



Due to covid restrictions, we have yet to progress with the volunteer forms, but we have received group forms which are still coming in weekly. We are pleased with the progress on the web page which is up and running, with all community groups that sent in their details advertised (Having discussed with Rod Davies, a volunteer computing engineer). The domain name changed away from 'Covid' to 'Community Hub', hopefully moving forward this will be a great website to visit. This will continue to grow as this approach is further embedded into community life.

[Capel Newydd](#)
[Llandeilo](#)
[Dinefwr Ramblers](#)
[TACLO Llandeilo](#)
[Jac Lewis Foundation](#)
[West Wales Poundies](#)
[Dog Rescue](#)
[Llandeilo LitFest](#)
[Royal British Legion –](#)
[Llandeilo Branch](#)

[Clwb Gwawr](#)
[Llandeilo](#)
[Fairtrade Town](#)
[Llandeilo](#)
[Karate Llandeilo](#)
[Tywi Valley](#)
[Open Studios](#)
[Llandeilo Mosaic](#)
[Project –](#)
[Prosiect Murlun](#)

[Clwb Rygbi Llandeilo](#)
[Tywi Harmony](#)
[Festival of the Senses](#)
[Permaculture Tywi](#)
[Llandeilo and District](#)
[Dementia](#)
[Friendly Community](#)
[Llandeilo Town Band](#)
[Youth Club Llandeilo](#)
[Tregib Sports](#)
[Facilities](#)

[Dinefwr National](#)
[Trust](#)
[Friday Night Football](#)
[Chamber of trade](#)
[Llandeilo and District](#)
[Sports association](#)
[Mind Carmarthen](#)
[Llandeilo Angling](#)
[Society](#)
[Friends of](#)
[Llandyfeisant Church](#)

[Dinefwr Nordic](#)
[Walkers](#)

TACLO Llandeilo, Dan Morris

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“It’s been fantastic to be a part of the community hub, where we can share and promote our volunteer work to a larger audience. By doing this, our numbers on clean up days have definitely increased”.

Friday night football, Rod Davies

“It’s been a straight forward process to get involved on the Community Action hub website. It’s increased our reach within the area of Llandeilo, recruiting players and volunteers”

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Llandeilo Town Band, John Morgan

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“We are more than happy to be a part of the Community Hub. We always welcome new members and players of all ages and backgrounds. We support numerous groups and organizations within Llandeilo, this will help with recruiting and promoting the group”.

We hope to expand the list to all local groups, promoting all the good work that volunteers and organisations do in the area.

Every month since June 2020, Kate Glanville and Isaac Romanov have been creating a **press release** advertising that the Community Action Hub has been set up. This is mainly, at this stage, to raise awareness that the group is formed and is eager to help where we can promote good community activities.

We have worked closely with community groups such as the Llandeilo Food Hub and Alex at Tyfu Sir Gar. The Food bank will work closely with the Community Hub moving forward, to maximise community support and volunteer work. Christoph and his team of volunteers already run the food drop off point at Cae William, which then deliver the food to the hub itself. Karen Towns and the volunteers, mainly from Ysgol Gynradd Llandeilo, have been working tirelessly since the beginning of the pandemic and continue to do so. The Food Hub is in an exciting stage where they are transferring to a ‘Bocs Bwyd’, meaning it will open up to the wider community to purchase fresh, local food at a rate which they can afford. The community hub offers advice and help with



volunteering, this has been evident in the renovation of two rooms where the hub organised a group of volunteers to clear and paint said rooms.

Once the rooms in the Llandeilo Food Hub are ready, Alex Cook from Swperbox will be looking to create a community cooking session for the users of the Hub, promoting the benefits of cooking healthy nutritious meals at a budget cost. We have similarly had expert advice from Candance Browne, who runs the no waste shop 'Pantri glas' in Llandeilo. She has many connections across the food network of Llandeilo and Carmarthenshire and is a valuable asset to both Llandeilo and the Food Hub.

Alongside this project, Ysgol Bro Dinefwr are liaising with the Llandeilo Food Hub and The Community Action Hub to create a food workshop with Alex, utilising their new outdoor area where they grow their own produce. By using their own produce, they promote how to grow fruit and veg, where they'll cook it in the classes with local families that use the Food Hub. This project will open to the wider community to again promote sustainability and educate families on healthy eating on a budget. We aim to implement this project in 2021.

On the point of Ysgol Bro Dinefwr, I've managed to create another link with a local Barber team, Sam Davies and Cameron Jones from Unit 1 Barbershop. Sam and Cam are going to start a barber hour in the school for pupils who are struggling personally, giving the students the chance to just chat with the barbers. The barbers' is a very unique place, it tends to bring people out of their shell and speak about personal issues. The school are keen to get this implemented before Christmas 2021.

Regarding other groups, such as the Festival of Senses who organise a lot of events, we promote all events at every opportunity on our social streams and help with volunteer awareness - mainly on Facebook which is a great outlet for promoting events. Similarly, communal organisations such as the foodbank drop off point and more recently the local 'School of Arts', we advertise and promote within the community.

Evidence: Registration forms, posters, social media posts, Llandeilo Community Hub – Llandeilo Community Information and Group directory, press releases

Volunteers

We contacted Jane Hemmings, from CAVS, who offered us assistance with the Volunteer Policy, which came into place on the 01/06/21. We have been doing limited volunteering drive's due to the Covid cases in the area. Hopefully moving towards Christmas 2021, we can really push this and recruit new volunteers into the scheme. The Committee will then manage the policies and procedures going forward. We will designate a member of the committee to lead on this sector

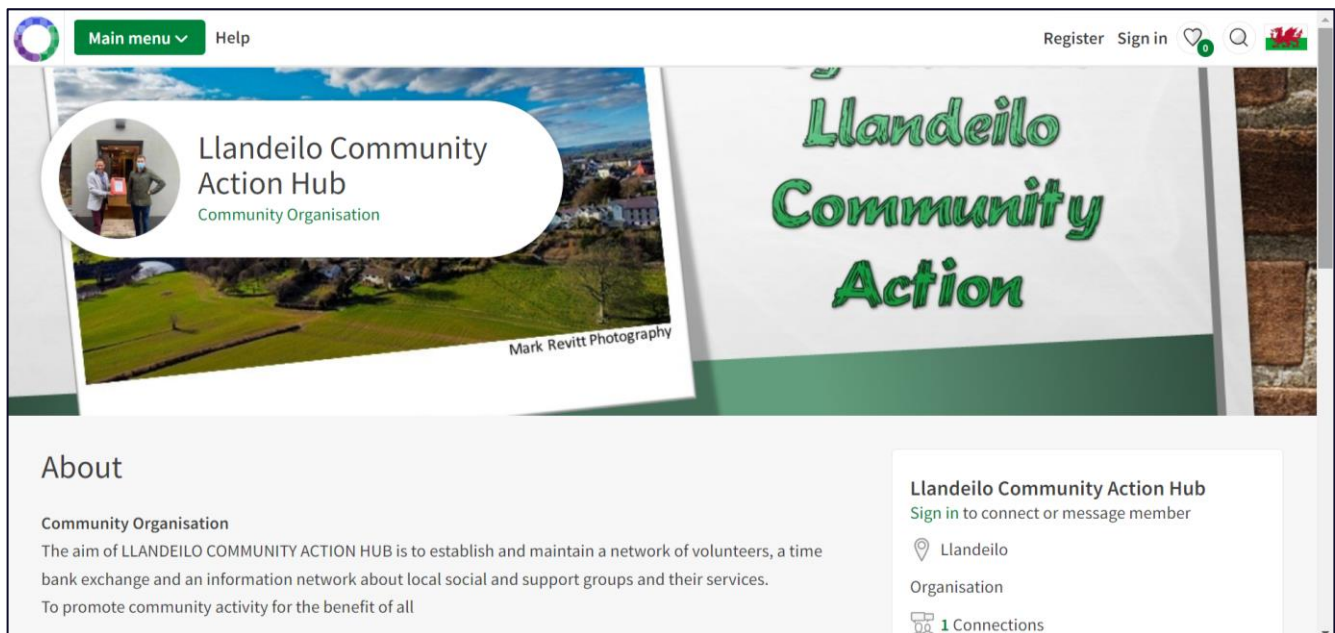
Evidence: Llandeilo Volunteering Policy

Wider links



We have registered as a group on the Connect Carmarthenshire Platform.

- <https://connectcarmarthenshire.org.uk/profile/LlandeiloCommunityActionHub>



The purpose of doing this is to reach a wider audience, hopefully encouraging more to get involved in volunteering in their area. We have fantastically skilled people in Llandeilo and this is a great platform to highlight that.

Also, Sue Smith (Carmarthenshire Community Connector Plus) has run a Connect to Kindness session in Llandeilo, which was a great success in spreading the work of being Kind in our community and promoting the positive effects to health by volunteering in

your community. We aim to do another session in early 2022. We always promote kindness in the workplace and the available E-module available.

www.connecttokindness.wales/workplace

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Sue Smith, Community Connector Plus

“The Community Action Hub members embraced a lively Connect to Kindness awareness session on 9th September 2021 at The Vic, encouraging discussion around the kindness in the Llandeilo Community. One of the key messages, Kindness Inspires, was one of the messages that the group wanted to take forward to inspire the Llandeilo Community, increase volunteer participation and strengthen the connections in the town. Kindness awareness sessions are available for any community on-line and face-to-face”.

We also are looking to move forward with Minarose Pascoe, our GP **Social Prescriber**, to introduce the communal groups into the GP practice and support residents with their social prescriptions.

Personal development: I attended and completed a social prescribing course. Raising my awareness of community engagement and how that can help certain individuals. This would include the local GP surgery, where they would refer an individual to a communal approach



instead of a medicinal approach. This would be a long-term project but definitely something worth looking into. Llandeilo has an abundance of health opportunities from walking paths, gyms, community health and wellbeing groups. It would be fantastic if the local community were referred where possible to these groups to improve their wellbeing.

[Home - Bromley by Bow Centre \(bbbc.org.uk\)](http://bbbc.org.uk) Christoph Fischer also attended some community sessions delivered by Bromley by Bow. Level 3 social prescribing qualification delivered through Conexus Healthcare.




Evidence: Link to both websites, link to both Facebook groups, link worker training certificate

Funded activities

We have awarded 3 grant sums, up to the £1000.00 allocated.

1

The first supported group was for **TACLO** Llandeilo, which is a community clean-up group made up of volunteers, cleaning their community. They offer a place to meet and an activity that all people can get involved in, for all ages and disabilities.

  			
Community Action Fund 'Creating Connection for All' Application for Funding			
Please read the Guidance Notes carefully before completing the Application Form			
The Community Activity			
Name of the project		TACLO litter picking group	
Start date and end date of your project		Start	End
Briefly outline the activity you are going to offer			
<p>TACLO is a newly formed litter picking group working with local volunteers to maintain a clean, attractive and environmentally healthy image of town. We taclo / tidy parks, public areas and streets. It is a feel good group where people join together to do something constructive and positive for the community and our 'can do spirit' has attracted many people who saw us tidying up and joined us. We also have cleared weeds in the public car park.</p>			
Who will benefit? Please put a X against those that apply.			
Patients or others self-isolating at home			
Frail and older people to maintain their independence and remain at home			
People with learning disabilities		People with physical disabilities	
People living with dementia		People with mental health issues	x
Unpaid carers/ young carers		Children and young people	x
Others, please specify:		The entire community	



Taclo was funded to increase their numbers on clean up days by providing equipment to the group. Also, to make the cleaning easier, as they are volunteers who always give time to make Llandeilo a better place

”

Dan Morris TACLO

“With the added funds from the community hub, we can now buy the necessary equipment to pick the litter whilst being visual and safe in our community. It’s vitally important that we show our community that we are taking pride in our patch. We must look after our planet for future generations, they are the future of Llandeilo”

Fern Thomas, Thomas Street Resident

“It’s fab to see so many caring individuals who make Llandeilo the clean and welcoming town it is”

”
“

The TACLO group help with the cleanliness of the town, but more importantly it’s an opportunity for people to chat and socialize in a safe, friendly environment and whilst doing fantastic communal work. TACLO are going from strength to strength with more members helping keep the community tidy at every event. Again, with the added equipment the group can accommodate more members. But more importantly, as the equipment is better suited for all ages, this encourages participation from all ages. The group have many generations of family who enjoy spending time cleaning their community.

2

The second was for **Llandeilo Cricket Club** to help to cover rental costings for the newly formed women’s section, over winter. They offer indoor sessions to female cricketers of all levels and disabilities over the winter period and into next summer. This fund will alleviate start-up pressure which is a much-needed addition to the community.

Mark Bleasdale

“It is of paramount importance to have a training facility for the winter months, and with the added financial backing it alleviates pressure to find funds. You can see from the images how important training is, for the development and togetherness of the team. Diolch”.

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Clare Thomas, Player

“I started playing cricket on the off chance. Never once did I think I would have gained so much knowledge and passion for a sport in such a short amount of time. The ongoing support from Mark and the club has helped us all strive to put women's cricket on the map for Llandeilo. This sport has given me the opportunity to meet new friends, help with my fitness and mental health. It is giving me the opportunity to progress and give back to the community of Llandeilo. I have done my F1 course which I now use to support and coach the all-stars and Dynamos on a Friday evening.

Llandeilo Cricket club has reinforced that it is never too late to learn a new sport and skill”.

”
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Name of the project		Women and Girls Softball Cricket (Indoor)	
Start date and end date of your project		Start	End
		1/10/2021	31/03/2022

Briefly outline the activity you are going to offer

Llandeilo CC has this year started a Women's and Girls softball section with all their games and training taking place at Cae William which is a facility that we maintain and prepare for cricket in the summer. This has been very successful, though only starting it up in June, we now have 20 women and girls playing cricket regularly. The weather will be too inclement to regularly play there from October onwards so we need to book a 90 min session at the Hall in Tre- Gib Sports facilities on a regular basis (A game takes about 75 mins to play). The cost of the hall is about £39 for the 90 mins so this grant would assist by match funding the player and club contribution to hall hire

A grant of 350 would allow us to make a 20 week booking with the club and players contribution to just over half the cost each week

The form of the game allows easy adjustment for physical difference and ability. It also develops excellent motor skills around running, throwing and catching (all recognised and standard for good exercise programs).

The club has qualified coaches and others undergoing training too. So the learning aspect for all will be well supported.

Who will benefit? Please put a X against those that apply.

Patients or others self-isolating at home		
Frail and older people to maintain their independence and remain at home		
People with learning disabilities	x	People with physical disabilities x
People living with dementia		People with mental health issues x
Unpaid carers/ young carers	x	Children and young people x
Others, please specify:	Women in Team Sports – many other sports are not offering this	



The group is funded to offer a competitive sporting activity for women in Llandeilo. One of a few opportunities for women to play sport. As a group we are more than happy to help the inclusion of women in sport locally. Hopefully this will be a catalyst for other clubs to encourage women into sport.

The response from new players for the women's cricket team has been fantastic. For players and committee members alike. With a large bulk of training costs covered, this allows for better sessions, with additional expertise from cricket coaches who freely offer their time.

3

The third supported organisation was the **Llandeilo Town Band** who were looking to re-start activities post Covid Pandemic lockdowns. The band is open to all talents, ages, backgrounds and supports all local events. They are hoping to expand and adapt to more outdoor sessions which the grant will cover.

We funded the Town Band as they do fantastic work and are inclusive. This equipment will be a fantastic boost to the band.

Name of the project	Band Tref LLANDEILO Town Band		
Start date and end date of your project	Start	10/11/2021	End Ongoing
Briefly outline the activity you are going to offer			
<p>Weekly rehearsals involving multigenerational mixed ability musical group. This band was formed to involve amateur musicians of all ages and abilities to come together and perform at events within Llandeilo. The intention being to perform a concert with other groups or alone and help raise money for good causes. Examples are Llandeilo Fireworks event, remembrance and day, mayor's charity events. Entertaining Christmas shoppers and actively involving children when possible.</p> <p>The band would appreciate funds to help with instrument maintenance/music purchase and rehearsal costs. We are currently trying to save to purchase a set of music stands. (approx £800).</p>			
Who will benefit? Please put a X against those that apply.			
Patients or others self-isolating at home			
Frail and older people to maintain their independence and remain at home			
People with learning disabilities	X	People with physical disabilities	X
People living with dementia		People with mental health issues	X
Unpaid carers/ young carers	X	Children and young people	X
Others, please specify:		Helping older people socialise and keep mentally and physically alert.	



John Morgan

"Inclusion is key to a successful band and with this added equipment we can accommodate all ages, backgrounds, etc. We are passionate for music and find that music brings us together. So, a big thank you to all that have supported us since the beginning and going forward. We're always welcoming new players, all abilities welcome!"

”
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Edward Thomas, resident and County Councillor

"We are taken aback by the band's enthusiasm. The Town Band from those earliest days has been part of the town fabric. We have seen them playing at the Mayor Charity Concert, taking part in various events, such as the Remembrance Day, Fireworks Display, Festival of Senses weekend. John has adopted the bandstand and is keen to reinstate regular Sunday concerts in the bandstand after the gap due to Covid, with this new equipment they will accommodate all and really look the part!"

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The Town Band has now the capacity to add members due to new equipment and are branching out further, creating contacts outside the initial Llandeilo boundary.

Simply put, the purpose of funding local groups is to increase participation and encourage diversity. As you can see from the images, the money will support a wide array of people from all different backgrounds; including children in the town band, to female cricketers for Llandeilo Cricket club.

The impact these groups are having within the community is infectious and we are promoting communal activity through volunteering and taking part.

Evidence: Funding forms, Monitoring forms, photographs...



Reflections...

Phase 1 of this project has been successful to a certain extent. New connections have been made. Awareness of new groups has never been greater, and more so an understanding of what these groups do. We have had many new volunteers step forward in our local community, helping local organizations maximize their potential.

On the other hand, Covid has been a big strain on the project. It has been difficult to run as many person-to-person projects as we'd hoped. Our volunteer form has been put on hold as we do not want to entice face-to-face engagement with the large covid numbers.

To counter this, the group have been doing fantastic work in engaging willing volunteers to combat loneliness by helping on all fronts, by helping with shopping/prescriptions, walking, volunteering with such groups as TACLO Llandeilo, Ffrindiau Penlan Park etc.

One of the main hurdles was time. Everything takes time to implement. We are all volunteers in this community and with limited time outside of working hours, it can be difficult. Also, it tends to be the same people who help with more than one group or voluntary organization. Again, you almost feel a burden asking the same people to help repeatedly. A priority moving forward will be to entice new members to get involved with their community, even if it's only an hour or two a week.

With more volunteers comes a great sense of pride and belonging in your own patch. Take the Ffrindiau Penlan Park for example. This group maintains and cleans the park on a regular basis through the summer months, therefore taking added pride when telling others in the community.

Owen James, Community Officer.

The Llandeilo Action Hub has provided a platform and a forum for volunteers and community to come together. I got involved as **volunteer coordinator** for the Llandeilo Covid19 Support group and the Llandeilo Food Hub Donation volunteers. The pandemic inspired community spirit and brought a park volunteer group and a litter picking group into existence. Then Mayor Owen James had the idea to set up a database of volunteers and the groundwork we had done with an information website and Facebook group during the pandemic naturally led to the formal founding of the Hub.

Funding enabled Menter to employ a member of staff part time to collate data and update the website. This has enabled us to bring the community spirit of the pandemic into the post pandemic era.

The Action Hub has provided backing and infrastructure for other groups and has raised its profile through the Participatory Budgeting project in Llandeilo. Now that people are aware of it and its capabilities it has become a major player in town, providing administrative and funding assistance to other groups.

There is a lot more work to be done, e.g. the publication of a directory of services, groups and interest groups, the forming of new groups that are missing in town and the creation of interest group networks. I'm looking forward to getting my head down into these projects and to continue to support all volunteer and community activity in town.

Christoph Fischer, Chair of the Llandeilo Community Action Hub

Llandeilo is full of people that want to make a difference. During the pandemic, volunteers in and around the town stepped up to help others in need and this good work has continued. It has been a pleasure for Menter Dinefwr to support the Llandeilo Community Action Hub through undertaking the mapping work and supporting local voluntary groups.

There is definite scope to attract new volunteers and reach more people as the group develops.

The project has strengthened the relationship between Menter Dinefwr and the Community Hub and has led to further collaboration on local projects – long may this continue.

Llongyfarchiadau mawr i bawb a fu'n rhan o'r prosiect – gwyh!

Sara Rees, Community Services Manager, Menter Dinefwr

Working with a group of passionate people in Llandeilo was inspirational, nothing was too much, they embraced the process. We had individuals as well as a member of staff from Menter Dinefwr. The groups had lots of local knowledge and worked collectively to empower the local community.

My involvement was to support structures and assist with seeking additional funds for the Action Hub. The group were successful in obtaining additional funds from our Covid 19 Recovery fund to support the work to engage with more people and to further map out provision across the area.

The groups have gained momentum and have done a great job in supporting those who most needed it during the Pandemic, and beyond.

Keeping things local for local people is really important for the future growth of community.

Jackie Dorrian, Senior Development Officer, CAVS

I approached Llandeilo with the view of creating a community action hub based on their outpouring of support at the beginning of the pandemic lockdowns across the UK. The Llandeilo Facebook Community Support Group was responding to the needs of their community, with over 1,000 members engaging online, and with a community spirit that was palpable.

This was a good choice as the response to the invitation to work in partnership was warmly accepted and CAVS was able to forge a closer working relationship with Menter Dinefwr, as well as key members of the community. I was really pleased with the amount of support and passion that was shown by those I worked with; this group have been able to take this project further through additional funding and will continue to seek new ways of developing their rich assets and supporting the community.

It is essential to highlight that this project in no way required the community to do anything other than further develop existing practices to evidence their incredible work. At such a challenging time it was agreed that this piece of work was best led by an individual within the community and on reflection I would agree that Owen was the perfect choice for this. As an active, and trusted, influence within Llandeilo he has been able to extend his reach and incorporate a large amount of work into the brief.

Similarly, Christoph Fischer was integral to the actual creation of a Community Action Hub which saw the community move away from a covid emphasis, with greater focus on sustainable community resilience.

This project realised the opportunity to lay the foundations in a phase one approach, with phase two later supported through an alternative funding stream and further developments being supported through the 'hub' gaining charity status, community

commitment and common priority. As well as a Facebook group, development and expansion of website, this 'community and information tool' is supported and encouraged by the Town Council and Llandeilo citizens.

Congratulations.

Whilst some reflections have cited the pandemic as creating immovable boundaries, there is an argument that it also supported the creation of interest, action and drive. 'Causes' historically draw communities together to steel them for their specific fight, often being the catalyst for change. It is not possible to say whether the outcome would have been comparable, outside of these world events, or whether a community action hub would have been welcomed by the community at all.

From my involvement I can conclude that this pilot's success could arguably stem from the following points:

1. Community change needing a driver/s who could evidence their passion, connections, and willingness to work under varying pressures and circumstances.
2. Community action coming through realizing what 'works' within the community and developing on its strengths and successes.
3. Cross community co-operation at all stages of the work.
4. An understanding of the limitations of the pilot, willingness to address them and determination to find alternative routes.
5. The community's positive regard, and response to, the purpose of the pilot and working with its agents of change.

Jamie Horton, Community Volunteering Development Officer, CAVS

This community action hub pilot project (phase 1) took place between January and July 2021. The hub received £4,000 in total from the transformation funding and has been able to evidence it's spend value.

The volunteers of the Llandeilo Community Action Hub showed a strong commitment to embedding their work into the community that it was agreed to offer the opportunity to be involved in a follow-on project concerning 'Participatory Budgeting'.

The community was further offered the opportunity of taking part in a digital pilot; involving accessing digital kit for on-line learning as well as digital kit to deliver blended activities-In-person and on-line meetings and activities to support social isolation and community engagement.



Final Budget

Staff Hours	Through Menter Dinefwr	3000
Activity funds	Taclo	300
	Llandeilo Cricket Club	350
	Llandeilo Town Band	350

Evidence: Invoices, receipts