

ACTION PLAN



*prepared by
the communities of*

MARTLETWY, LANDSHIPPING, LAWRENNY, NEWTON & MINWEAR



CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

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Prepared By

The COMMUNITIES OF MARTLETWY, LANDSHIPPING, LAWRENNY,
NEWTON AND MINWEAR

In Conjunction With

PEMBROKESHIRE LOCAL ACTION NETWORK FOR ENTERPRISE
AND DEVELOPMENT



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This Action Plan was agreed at the public meeting held on the 20th November 2003, following the circulation of the Draft Action Plan to households in the Martletwy, Landshipping, Lawrenny, Newton and Minwear communities.

Introduction

The intention of this Action Plan for Martletwy, Landshipping, Lawrenny, Newton (Cross Hands) and Minwear is to describe issues important to local people, which if addressed over the next few years, will improve the quality of life in the community. It is hoped that this will be achieved by: -

- Ensuring the provision of adequate facilities for the community,
- Improving the local economy
- Enhancing the appearance of the area,
- Protecting the local environment,
- Strengthening its attractions for all residents and visitors whilst not compromising the nature of the area.

This Action Plan aims to encourage both local residents and potential partners to realise the benefits that the proposals can bring to the community and assist in achieving them.

Background To The Action Plan

An appraisal of the area was first carried out with the help of the TCRI [Taf & Cleddau Rural Initiative] resulting in a report called 'The Martletwy Area in the 1990's'. Shortly afterwards, a Countryside Stewardship Exchange Scheme [funded by SPARC – South Pembrokeshire Action for Rural Communities] brought experts in Rural Re-generation from the United States and Canada to our area. A written report was also produced with numerous suggestions for the community.

Since then a considerable amount of work has been undertaken to carry out initiatives identified in the reports by the community. Some of these included:

- Improvements to the Baptist Hall in Martletwy
- Children's Play Areas in Martletwy and Lawrenny
- Heritage Leaflets for Martletwy and Lawrenny
- Interpretation Panels for Lawrenny, Martletwy and Landshipping
- Path improvements as part of the Landsker Borderland Trail/South of the Landsker Trail/Cycle Route for Martletwy & Minwear.
- Lawrenny Quay Study
- Improvements to Burnetts Hill Chapel
- Miners memorial
- Improvements to the sea wall at Lawrenny

In the spring of 2003, Landshipping, Martletwy and Newton 2000 (LMN2000) under the Community Association of Landshipping, Lawrenny, Martletwy and Minwear [CALLMM] carried out a survey in the Landshipping, Martletwy, Minwear and Crosshands areas in order to establish possible 'ways forward' and ideas for future projects to be undertaken by the Association.

It was agreed to invite PLANED [Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise and Development] to work with the community. Two Community Visioning Workshops and follow up meetings have been held with an invitation to attend going to all households in the community with the active involvement of everyone encouraged.

The workshops were held in Lawrenny and Crosshands with participants identifying strengths, weaknesses and opportunities in the local area; the potential skills, knowledge and experience existing within the community and ways in which various initiatives could be implemented.

History of the Community

The Martletwy community lies mainly to the West of the A 4075, which links Carew in the south with the Canaston Bridge junction at the A 40, although part of the Crosshands area bridges the main road. To the west and south, the area's boundary is the Eastern Cleddau, and to the southeast the river Cresswell forms its boundary.

The district is an undulating plateau of farmland with dispersed farms, several hamlets and a central village at Martletwy. Streams dissect the landscape, with wooded valleys running down to the Cleddau and Cresswell where small wharfs and quays reflect a past industrial legacy. The main clusters of settlement at Minwear and Newton in the north and Landshipping and Lawrenny to the west and south of the area are located on higher ground above the waterway. The area shows evidence in castle sites, church ruins and earthworks of a long history of settlement

In the past, the three distinct communities of Landshipping, Lawrenny and Martletwy were linked to each other by the Cleddau river, which provided the main transport 'highway' for the area but nowadays the communities are linked by a series of narrow, hedge-banked roads which wind through picturesque countryside.

The rich, fertile land hides a more recent industrial heritage. This was once a coal mining area, part of the Pembrokeshire Coalfield with high quality anthracite being the main resource. Timber, limestone quarrying and fishing were other industries, which supported the economy of these communities from the Middle Ages onwards.

The area is predominately agricultural and is therefore subject to the same threats as other rural areas. There is a need to encourage suitable farm diversification to encourage a wider economic base for the area

The district has a substantial group of long-term residents but has also experienced an increase of people moving into the area over the last 20-30 years contributing to the changes in demography.

Tourism and leisure are very important to Pembrokeshire, visitors come mainly to enjoy the seaside towns but increasing numbers now seek out the beauty and tranquillity of the Cleddau River and its surrounding countryside. It is a happy place,

its people find pleasure in their surroundings and in themselves, and are welcoming to visitors.

1. Community Facilities & Activities

Commentary

The individual communities of **Martletwy**, **Lawrenny**, **Landshipping**, **Minwear** and **Cross Hands** display a strong sense of community. Numerous annual activities provide opportunities for local residents to come together. These include raft races, duck races, hog roasts and Bar-B-Qs. However, requirements such as licensing, health and safety and insurance are proving too expensive and difficult for communities and threaten the organisation of future events. It is felt that greater collaboration and joint activities could take place between the communities with the better use of existing facilities and resources.

The dispersed nature of the communities can lead to a sense of isolation, especially in the winter months. Improving the communication network by establishing a local newsletter, would better inform people of activities and local events taking place and update residents on the latest news within the communities.

Since the closure of the Chapel Hall in **Martletwy** for community use, **Lawrenny** is currently the only community with a Village Hall. The Hall is run in conjunction with a YHA Youth Hostel whilst it has adequate facilities for the village, its capacity is limited to 60 seated and 100 standing, which can restrict activities and events that draw residents from the surrounding villages. Events and activities such as circle dancing are also held at the Penquoit Centre, offering an alternative community meeting place for dances, meals and get togethers. The centre, situated on the road from Cresswell Quay to Lawrenny, has its own kitchen, several function rooms and can provide accommodation for groups of 10-25. A variety of courses and workshops are held there, some of these include yoga, meditation and singing.

There are a number of churches and chapels in the area, these include three parish churches in, **Martletwy**, **Lawrenny** and **Minwear** and three chapels; Horeb, the Baptist chapel in **Martletwy** and Burnetts Hill, which has been restored and is available for community activities. Unfortunately the number of services in several of these has been reduced due to decreasing congregation numbers.

Other activities that take place in the area, include the Senior Citizens Christmas Meal, are held at Lawrenny Cricket Club. Martletwy Young Farmers Club have their own hall, three miles away in the village of Cresselly, which is also used for general community events in that area.

Proposals:

- **Investigate feasibility and potential sites for a new Hall / Community Centre** - to cater for Martletwy, Landshipping, Minwear and Newton. To include toilets which are accessible from the outside. This would cater for the lack of public toilets in the village.
- **Approach Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) Access Officer to organise an audit of community facilities requiring disabled access** - to include churches, chapels and sports clubs.
- **Encourage development of local interest groups** - to focus local interest and assist in developing and completing projects e.g. environment, road safety, heritage, events co-ordination.
- **Obtain information about cheaper community event insurance**
- **Support interested parties to investigate the feasibility of establishing toddler and playgroups and examine the need for childcare** – the nearest group is in Templeton. Local residents have expressed a need for facilities for children.
- **Assess feasibility of establishing a Luncheon Club and increased assistance for older members of the community** - to enable residents to gain the social benefit. Possible venues include: Lawrenny Village Hall, Lawrenny Cricket Club, Lawrenny Arms or the Stanley Arms in Landshipping.
- **Encourage improved communication:**
 - a) Community newsletter
 - b) Improve communication between community groups and the wider public
 - c) Investigate the potential for Broadband and encourage community members to register interest.

2. Leisure & Recreation

Commentary

Sporting activities predominately take place in **Lawrenny**, which has extremely successful cricket and football clubs, with two senior teams each. The clubs receive strong local support. The Cricket Club provides the village with an alternative meeting place and numerous activities and events are held there.

However, it is generally felt that there are few activities for youth in the area, particularly in **Martletwy**, which, because of the lack of community facilities and a recreational ground, has limited opportunities for leisure activities thus placing a heavy reliance on the provision of transport by parents. Martletwy Young Farmers Club, which meets at Cresselly, is one way in which young people in the area can participate in activities with people of a similar age.

The Daugleddau River and estuary are a source of enjoyment for local boat owners and visitors in **Landshipping** and **Lawrenny**. They can sail up the Western Cleddau to Haverfordwest, along the Eastern Cleddau to Blackpool Mill past Minwear Woods,

stop for refreshment on high tide at Cresswell Quay, Landshipping or Lawrenny, or sail down the Haven to the open sea. Lawrenny Yacht Station provides services for those wishing to use the river; these include moorings, boat storage, a chandlery and petrol and diesel. The station charges for use of the slipway and for the launching of larger vessels. Lawrenny Yacht Club is based here and holds numerous annual events. Lawrenny Boat Owners Association is responsible for moorings for local residents. In Landshipping, Landshipping Boat Owners Club are responsible for the maintenance of the slipway and the Voluntary Control Area and also provide recommendations for mooring applications.

Proposals:

- **Establish an interest group to investigate the need for more activities for young people e.g. a youth club, youth football, cricket and activities on the river.**
- **Establish the level of local interest in developing a playing field in Martletwy,**
Possible ideas include: -
 - a) A recreation area for all ages, to include benches etc.
 - b) Skateboard park or ramp
- **Enhance existing play area in Martletwy**

3. Environment & Enhancement

Commentary

The communities lie within an area of national and international environmental importance. **Lawrenny, Landshipping** and **Minwear** are situated within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (PCNP) and the river and estuary is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The entire area has an abundance of ancient woodland and forestry and is surrounded by lush green fields. Wildlife thrives and the bird life is superb. It is not surprising therefore, that there is a local concern for environmental issues such as water quality, waste and renewable energy as the communities strive to reduce their impact on the environment and preserve the nature of the area.

The lack of recycling facilities and the requirement for doorstep recycling has been highlighted. The nearest recycling facilities are situated in Carew and Narberth, alternative facilities can be found at the major supermarkets 15 miles away.

The present sewage system in **Lawrenny** has become a cause for concern and measures are being taken to remedy this.

Several residents have identified a need for general enhancement, particularly in **Landshipping**. It is felt, however, that any enhancement must be in keeping with the nature of the area.

Proposals:

- **Investigate the possibility for the provision of affordable wheelie bins**
- **Improve recycling facilities – enquire about door-step recycling – liaise with PCC**
- **Investigation into the feasibility of reed bed sewage systems – as an alternative to existing sewage systems.**
- **Investigation into the use of renewable energy in the area –e.g. tidal energy, windmills and biomass.**
- **Establish an environment group – to look at environmental issues such as river water quality and raise local awareness.**
- **Rebuild section of the quay wall in Lawrenny**
- **Village enhancement in Landshipping – the Landshipping Association may be able to assist. Potential projects include:**
 - a) Complete the car parking area at Landshipping Bridge
 - b) Care for green spaces – liaise with PCC Highways and PCNP.

4. Tourism, Economy & Business

Commentary

Farming is the predominant industry and employer throughout this area, ranging from dairy, cattle, arable, sheep, fruit and vegetable and organic. In fact, the majority of farmland in **Lawrenny** is organically farmed and local residents have expressed an interest in a local organic vegetable box scheme. However, there is currently an existing scheme which is run from Whitland. It may be possible that a more local scheme could be run. There is a shop/post office in **Lawrenny** and the Farm Shop at Yerboston Gate currently provides an outlet for local produce. There is a keen interest in promoting local products.

Tourism provides an important seasonal input into the local area. Oakwood Park provides local employment for people in the area. Caravan sites in **Lawrenny**, **Landshipping** and **Martletwy** ensure that, in addition to local trade, The Stanley Arms in **Landshipping** and The Lawrenny Arms in **Lawrenny** are kept busy throughout the holiday season. Several farming families have successfully diversified to include catering businesses and holiday accommodation.

It has been suggested that environmentally friendly initiatives are one way in which the local communities could promote tourism without having a detrimental effect on the beauty and tranquillity of the area. Currently, cycle and walking trails are promoted. The 'Cleddau King' based in **Landshipping** offer group trips across and up the river as well as fishing and diving excursions.

The **Lawrenny** YHA Youth Hostel attracts members and groups throughout the year who take part in activities on and around the river. Easy access to the river and woodland and the co-ordination of existing activities present opportunities for low impact tourism. This would assist the local economy without compromising the nature of the area.

Proposals:

- **Support development of a Shop Delivery Service** - to enable residents to ring in orders etc.
- **Examine potential for marketing local produce locally e.g. organic vegetable boxes.**
- **Public Internet access in Lawrenny** - either in the Post Office / Village Hall / Youth Hostel. This may have to be in conjunction with I.T training in the community.
- **Examine ways in which more job opportunities can be created for young people**
- **Promotion of collective marketing for local businesses** - encourage local businesses to collaborate on issues such as local advertising and promotion. Suggestions include a local business directory and advertising in a local newsletter.
- **Enhance and support existing low-impact tourist activities and investigate possible future activities.**

5. Heritage

Commentary

It is difficult to imagine when enjoying the tranquillity of this area that the area was once a busy commercial centre for coal, limestone and oysters. The quays at **Lawrenny**, **Cresswell** and **Landshipping** hint at this, although the quay at **Landshipping** is now sadly almost lost to the river. A number of coal mines existed in the area and a monument to commemorate the miners lives lost at the Garden Pit at **Landshipping** was erected in 2002. Local residents feel that better interpretation of this tragic event and the local history of the area is needed, to enable visitors to visualise the events of the past. There is currently nothing at Landshipping Quay to interpret events of the past.

The communities of **Martletwy** and **Lawrenny** have researched and interpreted their own history, and a series of leaflets and information points are available providing detailed information on short walks allowing the visitor to explore the unique history of each settlement.

Proposals:

- **Identify Heritage Sites within the community for possible consolidation, maintenance or interpretation.**
- **Restore old Quay in Landshipping and link with interpretation panels and local walks** – the quay is used predominately by locals and visitors for fishing. Its current dilapidated state is cause for concern over safety. The site is privately owned, however the owner is keen to restore the site to its original state and also develop a picnic area to commemorate the mining disaster at Landshipping Quay. Funding and a 25-year public access agreement would be required.
- **Investigate developing a heritage leaflet for Landshipping.**

6. Highways & Transport

Commentary

Concern has been expressed over issues of transport. In the past, a Post Bus was provided for residents wishing to travel to Narberth, however the scheme failed due to the lack of interest and the length of time it took to reach its destination. The existing public bus service to Lawrenny and Landshipping is due to cease in December; this will mean that local solutions to transport will need to be investigated. The Lawrenny Youth Hostel has managed to secure funding for a fully accessible minibus. Country Cars, run by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, offer a service for people with no transport of their own. A local car-pooling scheme, to be assisted possibly by the Community Newsletter, may prove to be a more effective means of solving the local transport problem.

Residents have also expressed concern for children catching school buses in the area, as pick up points are open to the elements and vary for different schools and bus companies. Better co-ordination between the different bus companies may be required.

The roads leading from the villages all join the A4075 that runs past Oakwood Park. This road has become increasingly busy over the years and residents have expressed their concerns over safety along this road and at the Cross Hands and Canaston Bridge junction. Concerns have also been expressed in regards to the safety of walkers along this road, in particular at Eagle Lodge. Speeding on the network of lanes that connect the villages, has also been highlighted and there is concern for the safety of horse riders, cyclists, children playing and walkers.

Proposals:

- **Investigate effective ways to improve local transport and school transport** – liaise with PCC, local bus companies, Bloomfield's 'Dial a Ride' and others and investigate the alternatives.
- **Speed limits through the villages** – Lawrenny is the only community that has speed limits. Concern has been expressed over road safety in the area, but

residents **do not want** this to be in conjunction with increased street lighting. Liaise with PCC.

- **Raise awareness of horse riders, cyclists and walkers on the lanes.**
- **A roundabout at Cross Hands** - due to increased traffic on A4075. Liaise with PCC and Welsh Assembly Government (WAG).
- **A roundabout and improved street lighting at Canaston Bridge Junction** – to ensure no further loss of lives. Liaise with PCC.
- **Footpath at Eagle Lodge on the A4075** - to ensure the safety of walkers, particularly at night when visibility is poor.

7. Housing

Commentary

The issue of affordable and “locals only” housing has become as big an issue in the **Martletwy, Landshipping, Lawrenny** area as elsewhere due to rising house prices. PCNP, PCC, WAG and the Institute of Welsh Affairs are all involved in the debate and efforts to work out policies which could help in some way.

The Joint Unitary Development Plan has been produced by PCC and PCNP to provide a framework for land use and planning decisions and attempts to address the issues of development that meets local needs. The Plan is subject to a Public Enquiry.

One way forward that the Welsh Assembly Government is considering, would be for local communities to be much more closely involved in planning decisions linked to the provision of affordable housing.

Proposals:

- **Increase the amount of affordable housing in the area** - to ensure that young people in the area have the opportunity to remain in the local community.
- **Assess whether more development in the area is feasible** – and whether provisions can be made to ensure that any future development not only creates local opportunities but is also affordable for younger members of the community.

Next Steps

By preparing a local Action Plan, which stresses the benefits that can be achieved through working together. The community hopes that public and private sector funding can be attracted to implement the various initiatives described in the Plan.

The public meeting will provide an opportunity for those wishing to become more involved, to form interest groups and begin the task of progressing the individual projects.

This could be achieved through individual village community forums working under the umbrella of the Community Association of Landshipping, Lawrenny, Martletwy and Minwear (CALLMM). These village forums would include representatives from all local community and interest groups, resulting in a pooling of experience and the development of new ideas and would work in partnership with local agencies and authorities such as PLANED, Pembrokeshire County Council and the WDA, to identify appropriate sources of funding and drive forward the proposals identified in the Action Plan.