

Narberth



2005

Action Plan



CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

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NARBERTH

ACTION PLAN

Prepared by
NARBERTH COMMUNITY
In conjunction with

PEMBROKESHIRE LOCAL ACTION NETWORK FOR ENTERPRISE AND DEVELOPMENT



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*THIS ACTION PLAN WAS AGREED AT A PUBLIC MEETING
HELD ON 1ST DECEMBER 2005, FOLLOWING THE
CIRCULATION OF THE DRAFT PLAN TO ALL HOUSEHOLDS
IN THE COMMUNITY.*

BACKGROUND TO THE ACTION PLAN

In 1989 the Narberth Enhancement Committee was established to undertake a community appraisal, and following a public meeting in 1990 an Action Plan produced "Narberth in the 1990s". Most of the opportunities identified in the Plan had been achieved by 1999. Therefore, in 1999, Narberth Enhancement Committee decided on a reappraisal, assisted by SPARC. A new Action Plan was approved in May 2000.

A number of specific projects were identified and below are just some of the achievements that have been made:

- Enhanced facilities at the Queen's Hall and Bloomfield
- Community Association formed – Narberth Enhancement Committee
- Local history researched – Interpretative leaflet produced
- Town Centre Enhancement Study
- Town Centre Enhancement Scheme carried out
- Restoration of Narberth Old Town Hall
- Purchase of redundant secondary school by Welsh Development Agency and conversion into managed workshops
- Four new workshops built at the Old School in the style of the original buildings, making a total of 19 workshops
- Extensive footpath improvements and themed walks created
- Consolidation and opening of Narberth Castle
- More housing for local people

Earlier this year representatives of Narberth Enhancement Committee and PLANED discussed proposals to prepare an Action Plan. The intention was to involve all ages and representatives from the various sections of the community in the preparation, adoption and implementation of the Action Plan and to form an active Community Forum.

On 13th June 2005 Workshop 1 of the Community Visioning Exercise was held and on 11th July Workshop 2. The results have formed the basis for the first draft of the Plan.

THE ACTION PLAN AREA

Narberth, which is a compact town, is a natural employment and service centre for a larger rural community. It lies the 'right distance' from the A40 trunk road, which is about a mile to the north. The town is interesting and attractive both to residents and to visitors with its brightly painted houses and range of shops and cafes.

It is estimated that the settlement of Narberth has a population of 2350 with 455 under 16, 210 between 16 and 24 years, 1025 25 to 59 and 660 60 years plus (19%, 9%, 44% and 28% respectively).

HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY

Although the town of Narberth has grown around the walls of its stone castle the name of the town, derived from the pre-Norman name for the district – Arberth, is older than the castle.

"Narberth is one of the places where the Prince of Dyfed held court according to the medieval Mabinogion. A Norman castle is mentioned in 1116. In 1652 a weekly market was commenced and proved very successful. By the late C18 Narberth had become an important post-town, situated on the Haverfordwest-Carmarthen turnpike road and the town's several hostelryes were founded in this era.

The early C19 saw the near rebuilding of the town, including the De Rutzen Arms in 1833, a large hotel with a covered market behind, for the lord of the manor, Baron De Rutzen of Slebech. The railway came in 1866 but brought little growth. Even today Narberth has not grown much beyond its triangular core and is still a small inviting town." (Source - based on The Buildings of Wales - Pembrokeshire).

Although Narberth sits on the Landsker line which separates the Welsh speaking north of Pembrokeshire from the English speaking south, the local primary school has a welsh stream offering education through the medium of welsh. Locals continue to frequent church or chapel services in the town.

Narberth now boasts 2 well used community centres. In 1979 a community group formed to fundraise to acquire and convert the redundant local authority offices into a community sports, leisure

facility, Bloomfield House Community Centre. Over the years there has been considerable enhancement to the Queen's Hall as an arts and function centre.

Narberth now has an attractive and active shopping centre which encourages visitors to stop and spend some time in Narberth. There are a number of tourist attractions in the Narberth area including Herons Brook, Oakwood and Folly Farm.

ACTION PLAN PROPOSALS

Adoption of the Action Plan will give Narberth an agreed programme for community development, both in terms of improvements to the infrastructure and to the social life of its residents.

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Commentary

Local centres and facilities include

- The Queens Hall, which comprises:
 - a large and well equipped hall on the ground floor.
 - a smaller hall on the first floor and
 - an art gallery on the second floor (which is also used for meetings and events),



is the basis for a number of entertainment, community and arts related activities catering for all ages and a wide range of tastes.

- The Queens Hall also hosts conferences and seminars for both local and West Wales based events.
- There is an associated café fronting High Street and a licensed bar forming part of the main hall.

- Bloomfield Community Centre, including the air-dome, is the setting for a wide range of community education classes and youth facilities for local organisations and indoor sports activities, including :



- courts marked for badminton, basketball, tennis and five-a-side football
- Fitness centre
- After-School club, Ysgol Feithrin play school
- Youth club
- State of the art I.T. and Training Centre
- Learning Pembrokeshire, and
- a Seminar Room
- In addition the County Council's Day Centre, which is one aspect of social care for the elderly, forms part of the Bloomfield complex.

Part of a single recreational area, with access from Spring Gardens include:

- Rugby pitches, clubhouse and spectator stand. Floodlights have been installed to allow evening training and games.
 - Soccer pitch
 - Cricket pitch and pavilion
- A swimming pool, on the old school site, although of limited size and depth, attracts a range of users, including the over 55's club.
 - SPAN Community Arts holds arts workshops and courses for children and adults in its premises in the Car Park and has the facility to hold other community based activities.
 - St Andrews's Church is situated on a gentle slope to the south west corner of the town. The former National School in Church Street was converted in 1981 to the Church of the Immaculate Conception. The Bethel Baptist Church, dated 1889, is set back from the High Street and the Tabernacle United Reformed Chapel is located in Tabernacle Lane.

- Kings Christian Fellowship (KCF) is a church which offers facilities and activities for youth in the former Court House.
- The present junior school is in unsuitable buildings and is overcrowded. A new school with access from Jesse Road has been agreed to replace the present building. Construction is anticipated to start in 2006.
- The Guide (and former Scout) Club House on the Town Moor is the home of the Bright Buds Play School and Guides.
- There is a children's play area on the Town Moor.

Proposals

1. Investigate the possibility of increasing the size of the swimming pool and providing facilities for spectators.
2. Discuss with Pool Manager increasing the opportunity for early morning swimming.
3. Investigate the possibility of improving the quality of the play area on the Town Moor by introducing a greater variety of equipment.
4. Evaluate the need for
 - A floodlit astro-turf pitch - which could accommodate a variety of games and the associated training sessions - possibilities include tennis, hockey and basketball as well as football.
 - An out-door tennis court or courts
 - A bowling green
 - An indoor bowling alley
 - identify sites (possibly at Bloomfield), approach funding agencies and construct the facility / facilities.
5. Support the construction of a skate park to the rear of the Town Moor.
6. The community to investigate acquiring the current Primary School on its closure. Prepare a business plan based on a multi-use of the school building, with intentions of broadening opportunities for employment, socialising, entertainment,

education and training in the Narberth area, particularly for young people. Possibilities to include:

- new arts and crafts activities including pottery -
 - community based workshops to complement activities in the Queens Hall.
 - Tourism Information Centre - help Narberth develop a year round tourism venue.
7. Identify a building for the young people to establish a Youth Drop-In Centre e.g. extend the county council owned boxing hut on the Town Moor.
 8. Strengthen the financial basis of the Queens Hall as an arts venue for Central and East Pembrokeshire through:
 - Preparing a questionnaire to gain views and excite interest in additional use and users of the hall.
 - Compare with other Pembrokeshire models for funding arts and entertainment.
 9. Support the further development of SPAN and its activities including the purchase of a building.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Commentary

Narberth is a very neighbourly community with a tolerant and 'respect for others' attitude. Because of the friendly atmosphere and the history of working together progressing ideas and projects, the community adapts well to change. Narberth is a good example of a community that values what it has, other communities would like the success that Narberth has achieved.

There are a number of effective community based organisations in Narberth including

- The Town Council
- Queens Hall Committee
- Narberth & District Community & Sports Association
- SPAN Arts
- Youth Forum (Gennex)
- Friends of Narberth School
- Wilson Museum

All of which would wish to encourage people to have a greater say in local debates and in planning activities.

In addition PLANED (Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise and Development) has its base in Narberth.

Public services which are delivered locally include:

- The library in St James Street, which is open every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, but closed between 12-2pm.
- The impressive Health Centre in Redstone Road which comprises two Doctors' surgeries, a dental practice, a chiropodist, an optician and other health related clinics and services.
- Meals on wheels is delivered daily from Monday to Friday.
- A day care centre service is available every day at Bloomfield House Community Centre.

Residents belong to a variety of clubs and societies including Narberth and Whitland Rotary, the Inner Wheel, Macmillan Committee, Adelarian Society, Narberth Book Club, the WI, Dyers, Spinners and Weavers, Friends of the Earth, a Food Club, PACT (Pembrokeshire Alliance of Complimentary Therapy) and a senior citizens club.

Increasing the range of activities, sports and training opportunities in Narberth should strengthen the community and encourage young people in particular to use their energies in a positive manner.

Pre-school and adult education are important activities in Narberth.

The number and size of rooms available at the Queens Hall and at Bloomfield have encouraged a variety of activities including:

- at the Queens Hall, a film society, a drama group, including both adult and children's drama, singing workshops under the aegis of SPAN, Kung Fu, a senior citizens club, a quilt club, art classes and art exhibitions and
- at Bloomfield there are 46 day and evening classes ranging from languages to the Dyfed Choir, Côr Meibian De Cymru, an After School Club, the youth club and music lessons, gym and aerobics, yoga, kick boxing and martial arts, folk dancing, writing, computer classes and learning conversational French as well as Welsh.

Many of those learning welsh at Bloomfield are also members of the welsh learners group CYD.

It is considered that the County Council does not fund culture and leisure to an appropriate degree.

Kings Christian Fellowship (KCF) hold a youth club and provide a number of activities for young people. A Guide, Brownie and Rainbow Pack meet every Tuesday. The chapel and churches hold coffee mornings as part of their support networks.

Although there are a number of activities, there is also a shortage of volunteer helpers, particularly of and for young people. For example the Scouts, Cubs, Beavers have disbanded and the Army Cadets are no longer functional.

It is hoped that more individuals could be attracted to organising events and activities.

Information about local events and occasions is available through a variety of media including local newspapers (for example the Western Telegraph, Whitland and Narberth Observer and the Tenby Observer), notice boards, Pembrokeshire Radio (based in Narberth), the Narberth web-site, newsletters, announcements in church and chapels and notices in the window of many businesses as well as word of mouth. Programmes are published for special occasions, for example, Civic Week.

Included among the sports played in Narberth are football, rugby, cricket indoor bowls, squash and badminton. There are swimming clubs and a kayak and canoe club. Other activities enjoyed by residents in and around the town include horse riding, cycling, walking and dancing.

Some young people consider that

- there are not sufficient opportunities for them to be involved in activities and clubs in which they are interested.
- communications between adults and younger people could be improved giving encouragement to young people to become more involved and have a greater say.

There is a perceived lack of a police presence in Narberth. Direct dialling to Narberth police station has been cut - further distancing the service from the public.

Although there are some instances of anti-social behaviour from a small proportion of the population, including vandalism and graffiti, Narberth is generally regarded as a safe environment.

Residents are quite health conscious - a number cycle, walk, eat healthily and take regular exercise by attending fitness classes or by pursuing a variety of sports.

There is also a wish to raise the quality of health through

- easier access to information on nutrition,
- seeking to reduce those environments where smoking is allowed and
- involvement with crystals
- healthy eating classes

Residents would wish to see more NHS dentists in Narberth.

Proposals

1. Re-establish a community association - Narberth Future Forum, to:
 - Organise a course which would encourage more people to volunteer and manage effectively the development of community organisations in Narberth assisted by PLANED and PAVS.
 - Set up a Health & Wellbeing Group to progress opportunities for improved access to exercise and to outdoor recreation. For example
 - Work with the County Council and landowners to improve access to rights of way and permissive paths.
 - Start a Narberth Walking Group.
 - Help form a ladies football team
 - Co-ordinate all of the different events in Narberth. Consider appointing a co-ordinator.



- Seek to extend the music activities, both tuition and playing, which are already well established.
- Encourage the Book Club to organise a literary festival; possibly in association with the current arts programme in the Queens Hall.
- Managers at Bloomfield and the Queen's Hall to extend the range of activities available to meet the needs identified in the Action Plan.
- Introduce Salsa dancing at a suitable venue.
- Boxercise is suggested as an additional sport at Bloomfield.
- Clubs and societies to examine options for greater involvement by young people, for example:
 - Encourage their participation in organising committees.
 - Encourage the re-starting the Boy Scouts.
 - Investigate the feasibility of more activities for young people in existing centres.
- Develop a Service Skill/life-skills course that would prepare young people for 'independent living'. Commercial sponsors/expertise could contribute to the success of the course. Subjects could include thrift cooking, 'housekeeping' skills, such a course may have an appeal to young people preparing to leave home for college, university or employment.

Available venues include Bloomfield and the Queens Hall, which are already seen as training centres.

- Facilitate an integrated approach by health service providers, education providers and managers of sport and leisure sites in devising and marketing a programme to raise standards of health and wellbeing in Narberth.
- Discuss with the Health Authority how to increase access to (NHS) dental services in Narberth.

- Work with Pembrokeshire County Council to improve pavements, develop cycle paths and install bike racks in town to encourage people to walk and cycle more.
- Discuss with Pembrokeshire County Council the possibility of opening Narberth library between 12-2pm so that people working in Narberth can use the library in their lunch break.
- Liaise with Dyfed-Powys Police to
 - operate a more personal 'on the beat' approach to law awareness.
 - re-instate the direct telephone line to Narberth Police Station.
- Explore ways in which communications and personal contacts to generate greater involvement in community activities can be achieved - be 'eye-catching'.
- Encourage Pembrokeshire County Council to devote more funding to the arts.

ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING RIGHTS OF WAY

Commentary

Narberth is located in a very attractive part of the County with a mixture of woodlands, river valleys and small villages, for example Llawhaden. Local woods include those around Carding Mill Lane and Canaston. A network of public rights of way and permissive paths connects Narberth to the adjacent countryside.

Narberth High St enhancement scheme improved the appearance of the town. The town moor is an attractive green park area which residents of all ages can enjoy.

Proposals

In discussion with Pembrokeshire County Council:

1. Maintain the network of paths and bridleways around Narberth working closely with the authority so that greater use can be made of the countryside for walks.

2. Under the Community Forum establish an Environment Committee to look after Carding Mill Community Woodland and Narberth Bridge Ponds and create other environmental projects.
3. Reinstate picnic area on Carding Mill Lane.

HERITAGE

Commentary

The centre of the town has been designated a Conservation Area - helping to preserve local architecture in a sensitive manner. A number of the properties are listed as buildings of architectural or historic interest. The castle, which is scheduled as an Ancient Monument, has recently been made safe and is now open to the public. Interpretive boards describe the origin and importance of the Castle and its links with the Mabinogion. Narberth has its own museum and active Museum Society. There is an informative leaflet on Narberth.

Older residents have a great knowledge of traditions and old values and have been invaluable in contributing to the production of Narberth's heritage leaflet.

Preservation and enhancement of the historic character of Narberth is important both for its own sake and as valuable generator of economic activity as the town attracts large visitor numbers.

Key buildings include the castle, the museum, St Andrews church and the chapels, the former Court House, the Bonded Store in Castle Street, Bloomfield House, the Town Hall and the library building in St. James St.

Proposals

1. Prepare and promote a local 'Heritage Trail'.
2. Hold a number of events at the Castle to celebrate local history and culture, including an annual 'Castle Festival'.
3. Explore the feasibility of erecting a flag on the castle.

COMMERCE (INCLUDING EMPLOYMENT AND TOURISM)

Commentary

Narberth has a very active shopping centre with a variety of businesses that attracts visitors from a wide catchment area. Included among the various premises are some less usual and 'quality' shops and galleries covering the arts and crafts and antique and furniture sectors as well as fresh meats, fruit, vegetables and flowers.

There is no men's clothing shop and there are two small supermarkets. There is a branch of the Landsker Credit Union in Spring Gardens, a Post Office and 3 high street banks.

There are a number of pubs and cafes and the interest in quality / organic foods has generated an annual food fayre.

Residents are ecologically aware and belong to environmental groups and buy organic foods (from the local health food shop). Complementary medicines and therapies are also available. Every Thursday morning a Country Market is held in Queen's Hall.

A number of festivals and carnivals are held which attract people to visit and spend in the town. Examples include Civic Week and the associated Summer Carnival, the Food Festival and the Winter Carnival. Christmas decorations and lights encourage the yuletide atmosphere. A Children's Festival has also been held during the summer holidays in the past.

Major employers are outside of Narberth, Texaco and Elf, Pembrokeshire County Council, Pembrokeshire College and Withybush Hospital. Local employers include the Health Centre, the primary school and Bloomfield Community Centre, James Williams, Dingle Marquee Hire, shops and vehicle repairs. Nursing homes, including Sunnybank, are the other significant local employers. The postal sorting office is based in Narberth. Farming is still a key local employer although it is perceived to be in decline. Hotel and bed and breakfast accommodation, local caravan and chalet sites also provide employment although much is seasonal.

There are three business parks in Narberth with a diverse range of employers. Entrepreneurship has come alive in the town and the number of enterprises is increasing.

As the surrounding countryside is particularly attractive and varied, including areas around the eastern Cleddau, there are opportunities to develop additional countryside related holidays in and around Narberth. A Tourist Information Point in the Town Hall reflects the importance of tourism to the economy, but the County Council closed the Tourism Information Centre some years ago.

There is considered to be a shortage of hotel accommodation and few eating venues of a 'higher quality' standard and interest. Narberth residents hope to remedy this problem by working closely with their twin town Ludlow, which is well known for its local produce and high standard of eateries.

Residents perceive a shortage of well-paid jobs. Low wages are often associated with the holiday and service sectors, therefore 'Bluestone', for example, is considered both by locals as a threat and as an opportunity for Narberth and its economy.

Proposals

1. Continue to strengthen and promote Narberth as an all year tourist centre with high points based on the established festivals and carnivals.

- Market Narberth as a 'foodie' centre:

- Promote extending the range of cafes and restaurants, including a 'good' evening restaurant to diversify the attraction for both residents and visitors
- Investigate a monthly 'Farmers Market' (produce only) to be held on the Town Moor.
- Promote Narberth as a Christmas shopping destination, particularly for coach trips - in association with improved coach (and car) parking.
- Maximise the limited opportunities for outside seating for pubs and cafes.
- Promote organic and 'slow foods'. Narberth is a key player in the slow food movement i.e. encouraging



people to take their time and enjoy their food – the opposite of the fast food movement.

- Encourage cafes to remain open longer.
 - Support the development of the Queens Hall and its gallery for year round arts and entertainment activities and the visual arts as a centre of excellence.
2. Encourage the further development of activities in the area, and market these as tourism opportunities including walking, cycling and horse riding as 'income generators' in the Narberth vicinity together with:
 - overnight accommodation, especially hotel and B&B accommodation and
 - associated retail opportunities.
 - festivals, events, heritage activities.
 3. Explore the opening of a Tourism Information Centre.
 4. Encourage education providers, including Pembrokeshire College to ensure that they provide courses which meet the employment needs of the developing economy including catering and hospitality.
 5. Take advantage of the wide range of experience, talent and interests of Narberth residents.
 6. Develop any opportunities associated with recent twinning of Narberth with Ludlow.
 7. Consider twinning Narberth with a comparable location abroad and develop economic and social links.
 8. Revive the children's festival.

HOUSING

Commentary

The rising cost of property has made first time purchase beyond the reach of many households, particularly for local and young buyers. There is insufficient affordable property and there is also a lack of property to rent, particularly Council housing.

It is felt that too much accommodation has recently been permitted in the town centre reducing opportunities for car parking.

The construction of Kings Court and Queens Court has also restricted opportunities for links to the rear of High Street properties and the Town Moor.

Proposals

1. Carry out a Housing Needs Survey.
2. Pursue with the County Council as the Housing and Planning Authority, measures to provide affordable housing in and around Narberth; options include the provision of community housing.

TRANSPORT, ROADS AND TRAFFIC

Commentary

Narberth Station, which is on the Pembroke Dock to Whitland line and thence eastwards to Carmarthen and Swansea, has a train service of 8 trains per day in each direction during the week and 5 on Sundays (summer 2005 timetable). The station, which is about a mile from the town centre, is unmanned and the telephone for travellers to arrange to be met or for taxis to be ordered is several hundred yards away.

The 381 bus route between Tenby and Haverfordwest runs through Narberth generally on an hourly basis except on Sundays when there is one run to Haverfordwest and back.

Other routes include

- Haverfordwest to Carmarthen via Narberth - route 322.
- Tuesdays and Saturdays route 390 buses run from Tenby via Narberth to Cardigan and
- On Thursday only from Glandy Cross to Narberth and return - route 391.

A dial a bus service, the 'Bloomfield Bus' based at Narberth, serves those local villages that are not on a regular bus route, allowing visits to shops and services. The bus also is available for local clubs and societies and transport children from outlying villages to the After School Club at Bloomfield.

The only bus shelter is for Haverfordwest bound buses at the entrance to the car park.

There is a perception that rail and bus services are insufficient for the size of Narberth - possibly reflecting the benefits of concessionary travel which is generating additional journeys.



Narberth lies on the A478 which runs from Tenby, via Kilgetty to the A40 and onwards to Cardigan and the coast road. There is a suggestion that traffic from Pembroke and Pembroke Dock travelling north passes through Narberth rather than by Canaston Bridge and A40. As a result a high proportion of

traffic passing through the town and High Street in particular has been generated outside the Narberth area.

The one-way system operates clockwise from Spring Gardens to St. James St to High St.

Traffic congestion, which principally occurs in the High Street, is caused by a combination of

- The frequent flow of vehicles
- Vehicles trying to park - both legally and illegally,
- Large delivery vehicles, particularly during the morning in High Street, or Post Office vans in Spring Gardens. (There are few opportunities to deliver goods via lanes or parking areas to the rear of premises).
- Shop keepers and employees parking all day in the High Street.

Delays can also cause back ups affecting St James St and Spring Gardens, gridlocking the town.

Not only does this mix of heavy vehicle flows and crossing pedestrians generate the opportunity for accidents, particularly within High Street, but it causes added disturbance from noise and pollution.

Off-street car parking, principally the Town Moor, is free and occasionally the school playground is made available for car parking. However there is a shortage of off-street car parking which is affecting businesses and public facilities i.e. Post office, pharmacy, library and health centre.

Over recent years some opportunities to provide additional spaces in close proximity to the shopping centre have been lost - principally to additional housing.

There was also a proposal to provide parking adjacent to the De Rutzen site, near the castle.

Parking regulations are not enforced in an effective manner. Cars park on pavements, on corners, across flush kerbs and on yellow lines.

Whilst pavements have been improved some are sub-standard. Either their surface is in poor condition or the width is insufficient for pram or wheelchair use. Such pavements are particularly unsafe for children and there are insufficient drop kerbs within the town.

The absence of footpaths on Station Road or Narberth Hill requires people to walk along these busy roads; again particularly unsafe for children.

A number of road surfaces in and around Narberth require upgrading. Proposed improvements to the A40, is regarded as a benefit to the Narberth area by some and unnecessary by others.

Measures are required to promote cycling as a means of local transport.

The local environment has a high air quality and the streets and public areas are relatively clean, although dropped litter is a problem.

Grass verges are not cut frequently enough and some hedges are untidy.

Some residents feel that there are too many lights and many lighting schemes are of poor design which result in loss of the 'night sky' or light pollution.

Proposals

1. Approach train operators and the Transportation Authority to consider improving the frequency of trains and service times to Swansea and beyond.
2. Pressure BT to install a public phone at Narberth Station.
3. Liaise with the bus operator and the Transportation Authority to consider improving the bus services to and from Narberth.
4. Working closely with the Highway Authority -
 - Investigate the feasibility of a two way traffic flow along Spring Gardens to reduce traffic volumes through High Street.
 - Develop new areas for parking, e.g. the lower end of town, adjacent to the castle.
 - The school yard outside school times and after the Junior School has been re-located,
 - Improve pedestrian and cycling network, thereby reducing the need for car transport in and around the town. Consider ways of financing any improvements.
 - In the interest of environmental awareness and to reduce petrol costs, set up with the assistance of the County Council's Community Transport Officer, a car-pool to facilitate shared use of cars, for example travelling to work in Haverfordwest.
 - Consider the feasibility of a 'park and ride system'.
 - Improve the quality of road surfacing.
 - Create footways from
 - Narberth Bridge to the town.
 - Along Station Road.
 - Investigate pedestrian crossing outside health centre.
 - Improve the quality of existing pavements and pedestrian links as required.
 - Construct a footpath and cycle track from Bloomfield to Spring Gardens as a safe and convenient link between

housing areas and the new school. The route could form part of a broader circular link to include the castle, Narberth Bridge and Carding Mill Lane.

- Install secure cycle racks, for example within the town centre, at the swimming pool, at Bloomfield and at the railway station.
 - Designate/appoint a local traffic warden to discourage abuse of parking regulations (discretion is required between prohibiting obstructions and allowing loading and off-loading) and therefore reduce congestion.
5. Confer with the school managers (Pembrokeshire County Council and the Governors) the possibility of organising a 'walking buses' to and from the new school.
 6. Improve the cutting regime of grass verges and hedges in the public eye.
 7. Review the impact of existing lighting schemes.
 8. Request that the Planning and Highway Authorities consider new schemes to minimise light pollution.

WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING

Commentary

Narberth residents appreciate using the current civic amenity site on the Town Moor, including bottle, can, paper and clothes banks, but seek improvements to the current recycling arrangements.

Many have a conscience about not allowing dogs to foul the streets.

There are serious questions about the capacity of the surface water and foul water drains to meet the requirements of storm conditions.

Proposals

Discuss with the relevant authority

1. Developing a Narberth and district composting scheme - distributing and collecting green bags for garden waste.
2. Adding opportunities for recycling plastics at the civic amenity site.
3. Distributing receptacle boxes for door to door collection of recyclable materials.
4. Liaise with the Highway Authority and Welsh Water to monitor the capacity of surface and foul water drains and increase their capacity as necessary.

IMPLEMENTATION / ACTIVITY GROUPS

In order that the Action Plan can be progressed effectively it is proposed to form special interest working groups within the proposed Narberth Futures Forum and working closely with the Town Council. The Groups would, in consultation with the relevant organisations, concentrate on preparing more detailed action programmes giving priority and focus to those proposals which are capable of early implementation.

The Groups could be centred on:

- Community facilities and activities, youth and communications.
- Environment (including recycling) and heritage.
- Commerce, including employment and tourism.
- Highways, traffic and transport and housing.
- Festivals and Events Co-ordinating group.

It is important that the Groups would:

- Work within the agreed Action Plan and the proposed Forum,
- Work with the Town Council, existing groups and organisations,
- Meet on a regular basis,
- Keep the broader community informed of progress.

OPPORTUNITIES

Business, Heritage & Tourism

Greater use of countryside for walks etc x 2
Develop Narberth as a tourist venue all year round x 2
Alternative holidays e.g.: walking, cycling, and riding to be promoted even more
Twinning with a place abroad
Make as much as possible of the Ludlow/Narberth twinning x 2
Traditions and old values – respect for others
Heritage trail in Narberth
The castle opening/cultural events x 4
Develop Narberth as a “Foodie” centre
Flagpoles at Narberth Castle

Festivals & Events

Children’s festival
Start a “Castle Festival” each year
Hold events at the castle
Provision for wider range of music entertainment/performance
Literary festival
Monthly farmers market on the green x 2
Build on “slow food” movement

Community Activities & Facilities

Christmas shopping coach trips (if parking available) x 2
Community workshop in old school
For more café & restaurants
Traffic warden
More PC’s walking round town
Landsker Credit Union
Free/low cost use of Queens Hall for local organisations
Value the friendly local community town – other people want what we’ve got
Old school site
Ensure primary school building remains a community asset and isn’t sold to a private venture x 3
New school
Town Council to buy CP school
Using the old school as a youth facility e.g.: pool hall etc

Leisure & Recreation

Outdoor tennis courts
Bowling green x 3
Bowling alley
Ladies football team
Floodlight astro turf
Larger swimming pool with public area for viewing

Youth Activities & Facilities

Start up boy scouts again x 4
Skate park etc x 5
Training opportunities for young people – increasing skills base
Drop-in centre for the youth x 2
Hard court play area
Walking bus to new school

Education

To develop service skills especially in catering, hospitality
Diversity of skills
Manager for volunteers
Community bank
Taking advantage of the influx of wide range of experience, talent & interests

Highways, Traffic & Transport

Car pool
New car park
New path from Narberth Bridge to town etc x 3
Source money to improve footpaths
More parking in the play ground once new school comes
Improved pedestrian & cycle routes
Two way road system for Spring Gardens to ease traffic congestion
Install public telephone at Narberth Railway Station