

Reynalton



Action Plan 2006



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COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

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REYNALTON ACTION PLAN

Prepared by

REYNALTON COMMUNITY

In conjunction with

PEMBROKESHIRE LOCAL ACTION NETWORK FOR
ENTERPRISE AND DEVELOPMENT & THE PRINCES TRUST



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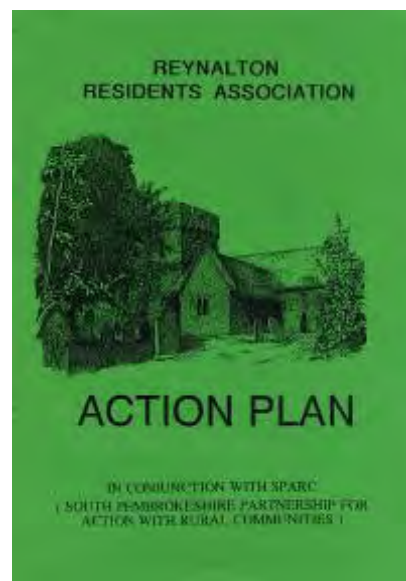
This Action Plan was agreed at a public meeting held on 8th February 2006,
following the circulation of the draft action plan to all households in the
community.

BACKGROUND TO THE ACTION PLAN

The intention of this Action Plan for the community of Reynalton is to describe issues and ideas identified by residents, which if addressed over the next 10 years, would improve their quality of life.

By preparing the community led Action Plan, which stresses the benefits that can be achieved through working together, it is hoped that public sector support and funding can be attracted to implement the various initiatives described in the Plan.

From 1988 onwards SPARC (a predecessor to PLANED) worked with the Reynalton Residents Association (RRA). A wide range of projects resulted from this work many of which were featured in the first action plan prepared by the village. The initial survey and subsequent plan “identified the opportunities facing the community and assessed the needs for the future”.



Achievements:

- Village Enhancement including tree planting on Village Green
- Stone Name plinth at the entrance of the village.
- Clearing and re-opening of footpath from Reynalton to Loveston via Stone Bridge.
- Interpretive panels and village map/ leaflet.
- Repairing Village Hall Floor, update Hall toilet and kitchen.
- Winning an Award for Village Improvement

In Autumn 2005 it was agreed to prepare a second Action Plan. A Community Visioning Exercise was held on 9th November and 15th November 2005. Invitations were sent to every household in the community, over 10 percent of the population attended, 19 residents (including 4 young people) at the first workshop, and 14 at the second.

THE ACTION PLAN AREA

The small village of Reynalton is a quiet rural community which, during the summer months, welcomes many holiday makers who come to enjoy the peace and beauty of this part of Pembrokeshire. Reynalton has a resident population of about 130 (2001). It is served by a network of ‘C’ class roads which provide links to the nearby settlements of Jeffreyton and Templeton. The larger towns of Narberth and Kilgetty lie approximately four miles to the north east and south east respectively. A small river to the west of Reynalton, flows southward in a steep valley.

The Reynalton Ward forms part of the area covered by Begelly-Kilgetty Community Council. There is community representation on this council.

HISTORY OF REYNALTON

The name 'Reynalton' was first recorded in 1394 and may recall Reynald, who was probably Flemish, the original settler here. The prefix 'ton' in Pembrokeshire place names is often associated with Norse settlements but its combination with Reynal suggests a Norman link.

Research has traced coal mining activity at Reynalton to 1813 but its heyday was in the early years of the 20th century. Until the early 20th Century a number of small pits in the area produced high quality coal (anthracite) which was in high demand particularly for those processes which required smoke free burning.

In 1857 mining rights were sold on 347 acres at Reynalton and in 1906 it is recorded that 11 men were employed mining locally. This number increased to 48 by 1914, brought about by the formation of the New Reynalton Anthracite Coal Company. The colliery brought prosperity and newcomers to the village and the Saundersfoot Railway was extended to the village. A special low engine called 'Bulldog' worked the line which included a long tunnel under Kingsmoor Common.

In the best years the colliery produced over 10,000 tons of high quality anthracite per annum and employed between 50 and 100 men. However, a combination of drainage problems and labour troubles, together with the collapse of the mine at Loveston, brought the colliery's closure in 1921.

The cinders heaps, reminders of the village's coal era, were used during the Second World War as hardcore for Templeton Airfield.

The other major occupation in and around Reynalton has been and still is farming.

ACTION PLAN PROPOSALS

A number of aspects were covered during exercises carried out in the 2005 Community Visioning Workshops. Exercises included:

- Sense of Place – Looking at the distinctiveness of the community
- A Community Audit – What exists in the community, what resources are available?
- Weaknesses, Threats, Strengths and Opportunities
- The Vision for 2016
- Skills and Resources Audit – Developing a picture of the skills & also training requests in the community.
- Translating Ideas into Action - Project Planning
- Pledge Wall.

Issues raised have been grouped into broad themes and, where appropriate, related to specific sites. This process encourages the identification of clear objectives and recommendations.

Adoption of the Action Plan, which will be circulated in draft form as part of a consultation process and Public Meeting, will give Reynalton an agreed programme

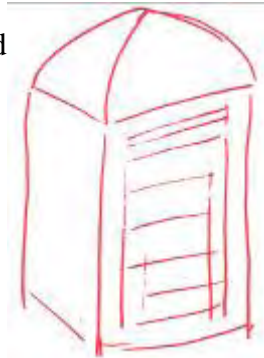
for community development. It will cover physical improvements to the infrastructure and the means to develop social and cultural opportunities.

Sense of Place

During the first visioning workshop participants were asked to think about their community, what was unique and what the special qualities were.

Reynalton was described as a friendly neighbourhood, pleasant environment, quiet and crime free. A village with an abundance of wildlife. Beautiful entrance to the village. Wonderful sunset across the valley, pollution free sky. An overall feeling of safety, security and trust, neighbours rely on one another.

There were illustrations of the Red Telephone Box, the Chapel and Church in the centre of the village which are both regularly used. And many images depicting the landscape, sky at night, environment, heritage and village hall.



Community Facilities

Commentary

People in Reynalton feel a strong sense of belonging, a feeling which is strengthened by the presence of the Chapel and Church and by the activities held in the Village Hall. Neighbours can rely on each other and there is a strong sense of safety, security and trust. The mix of ages, skills and experiences of residents are seen as a strength. Reynalton is a friendly neighbourhood and newcomers are welcomed.

The present village hall, which lies in the centre of Reynalton, was built in 1947. A number of improvements have since been undertaken, most recently the improved toilet block and disabled entrance. It consists of a carpeted main room with a stage, a kitchen and toilets and some storage facilities. The hall is licensed for sports and music. Unfortunately there are a limited number of car parking spaces in the vicinity of the building.

St James Church and the United Reformed Chapel (formerly the Congregational Chapel) attract regular congregations. Most of the younger children now attend the recently opened school at Jeffreyton some two miles away which replaced the school at Loveston and Cresselly.

The nearest pub or restaurant are 2 miles away at Jeffreyton or Templeton. Beachdean and The Croft Caravan Sites permit residents to use their facilities – during the tourist season.

A youth club was set up in 1994 which was successful with about twelve children from a wide age group attending regularly. There are no play facilities for young children and few activities for young people (there are more than 20 teenagers in Reynalton). It is important to retain the interest and involvement of young people, and it was great to see a number of young people attending the visioning workshops.

A mother and toddler group was also set up, around the same time which was well attended.

Although the village is 'off the beaten track' it is close to Tenby, Haverfordwest and Carmarthen for shopping and other leisure amenities. The nearest shops are at Jeffreyston and Yerberston which provide a range of goods.

A mobile library visits Reynalton. Other deliveries include milk, papers (to a central point but not unfortunately to individual addresses) and bread, a visiting hairdresser and Meals on Wheels for the elderly. Some shops in Narberth also deliver.

Caravan site owners welcome residents to use bar and restaurant facilities.

There is a public telephone box on the village green, of which the community are very proud – identified in the sense of place part of the visioning.

Proposals

- Reynalton to continue as a lively and committed community. Encourage residents to participate in local committees, including the RRA, with particular efforts made to include young people as organisers and participants.
- Improvement to existing bus shelter on village green.
- Improve and enhance the front of the village hall.
- The RRA to look at options for improving parking around the village hall.
- Investigate a suitable site for a children's play area; the scale and nature of the facility to reflect the wishes of users and the proximity of dwellings, local need and specialist advice to be sought.
- Continue to work with the Community Council to improve the appearance of Reynalton.
- To ensure information is available regarding the village boundary within the JUDP.
- Survey the wishes of young people and if appropriate, with the assistance of youth club leaders and parents, form a Youth Club.
- Open local gardens as a fundraiser for the church, chapel and hall.

Activities & Communications

The Reynalton Residents Association, the Reynalton and District WI, a short mat bowling club, whist drives and coffee mornings are some of the regular activities. There is an enthusiastic local history society. In recent years, seasonal events have been held such as lighting up the Christmas tree. Previously coach trips have been arranged by the WI to Swansea.

Residents also participate in other activities in the area, such as vintage tractor club, model aeroplane club (using the former Templeton Airfield), and fly-fishing. Residents travel to other locations for a wider variety of activities including swimming at the pool in Narberth and around the coast. Bloomfield Community centre and the Queens Hall in Narberth are popular for a number of activities, including a youth club, Tai Chi, Line Dancing, Belly dancing and card making.

Walking public rights of way and those further afield are important aspects of recreation together with cycling.

Reynalton has an excellent newsletter and a parish magazine. In addition, there are notice boards on the village hall, at the post office and in a flower bed in the northern part of the village. Word of mouth is a further source of information. The overhead telephone wires require renewing as the service suffers from interruptions; lines have come down a number of times recently.

Broadband is not yet freely available.

Proposals

- Encourage more people to work with the RRA.
- Survey residents and thereby determine which activities would attract most support and who can assist with organising the chosen activities.
- Form a sub-committee to the RRA to explore the increased use of the village hall particularly during the daytime, and identify people willing to run the activities, opportunities to explore could include:
 - A luncheon club for elderly residents.
 - Dance and exercise groups; including ballroom, line, salsa and belly dancing, keep-fit, yoga and Tai Chi, using qualified instructors as and when appropriate
 - Table tennis
 - Art and craft classes; possibilities include card making and flower arranging.
 - Establishing a film club, including films for children.
 - Dinner parties with wine tasting.
 - Sunday afternoon teas.
 - Theme nights and festivals, for example the 1920's and Christmas respectively.
 - Encourage residents and other local communities to use the stage facilities for a variety of performances.
- Co-ordinate the activities of the different clubs within Reynalton to attract funding for training, equipment and insurance.

- ❑ Identify whether Bloomfield, Pembrokeshire College or PCC would organise outreach classes.
- ❑ Arrange coach trips, possibly in conjunction with the nearby villages of Loveston, Thomas Chapel and Jeffreyston; destinations could include shopping and the theatre.
- ❑ Promote the times and dates of the mobile library visits to ensure the service is not lost.
- ❑ Arrange a summer fete with cake stalls, to complement the Christmas festivities.
- ❑ Look into the community interest in forming a Computer group:
 - Explore PCC's Cultural Xchange project. – which encourages communities in Pembrokeshire and Ireland to research their history and provides a village website.
 - Develop a Reynalton web-site through liaison with community website designers and managers (PAVS) contact comparable Pembrokeshire villages who manage IT based communications, for example St Florence, for advice.
 - The Reynalton Web Site would:
 - promote the village and its history
 - investigate and co-ordinate potential car sharing opportunities
 - promote occasional coach trips
 - advertise the proposed produce market.
 - advertise events at the Church, Chapel and village hall.
- ❑ Fully investigate the issues regarding all communication problems, i.e. Broadband and the telephone network.

Environment, Including Rights of Way & Recycling

Commentary

The very rural environment of Reynalton is characterised by:

- ❑ the variety of flora, fauna, and fungi, including stream banks, woodland and open fields. (The variety of vegetation supports 32 varieties of birds, badgers and foxes – RSPB Survey).
- ❑ the general quietness of the area and the fresh air.
- ❑ the ability to see wonderful sunsets and the stars at night, made possible by the low levels of both atmospheric and light pollution.

The cross-Pembrokeshire Landsker Borderlands footpath links Reynalton to Loveston in the west and to Thomas Chapel in the east. There is a spur to this footpath leading to St James Church. The paths require surveying so that any improvement can be identified. On a broader perspective Reynalton is well positioned for both residents and visitors to enjoy both the coast and countryside.

Some residents and local businesses are very environmentally aware; Croft Caravan site recently won the David Bellamy Conservation Award. This awards businesses for their contribution and achievement in protecting the environment. In 1990 Reynalton received the Prince of Wales Award for Environmental Improvements.

There was a general feeling that people would like to do more recycling and composting. Because of the small size of the village and its distance from main roads no provision has yet been made for bottles, cans or paper banks. Recycling is currently dependant on residents taking bottles etc to other sites, for example Jeffreyston, Kilgetty, Narberth and Tenby when shopping.

Proposals

- ❑ Organise a group to clear and maintain footpaths and bridleways and improve signposting and waymarking of routes. Consult with landowners and the County Council (as Rights of Way Authority) to ensure progress and that there was no overlap in activities.
- ❑ Form a sub group of guides to lead occasional rambles describing the history and ecology of the area. Longer distance walks could trace the history of coal mining in South Pembrokeshire, including the former railway route to Saundersfoot. – link with heritage.
- ❑ Form a Reynalton Environmental Group; activities could include:
 - the local generation of power from renewable energies, for example wind and hydro and from the installation of solar panels.
 - reducing car mileage / making better use of car journeys
 - recycling materials
- ❑ Look at the feasibility of improving recycling opportunities in the village. Discuss with PCC's Recycling Officer opportunities to improve existing waste collection and recycling services at Reynalton Including PCC to distribute and collect recycling containers per household

Heritage

Commentary

The parish church, which is dedicated to St James, dates from the 13th or 14th Century although its origins may be earlier. The present chapel dates from 1904 and is constructed of stone quarried from near Beachdean Caravan Site. Originally of a Congregationalist denomination, it is now a United Reformed Church.

By 1921 the colliery in the area had ceased operations and there are few obvious vestiges of this once important industry. Among the remaining structures are some cottages, the mine, the winding house and the abutments of the former railway bridge.

The first school serving the village was a private school indentured at Carn in 1834. By 1870 a school was functioning at East Farm. However this site was closed and pupils transferred to a school at Loveston and Cresselly. More recently transferring to the new school at Jeffreyston.

The Church Warden is undertaking a study of St. James' churchyard.

The village green is enhanced by the traditional red telephone box, a post box and the relocated old water pump. Also the bus shelter which was donated by Reynalton WI during the year of the child (1980-81).

To the side of the village hall is one interpretation board celebrating the history of the village completed under the first Reynalton Action Plan with TCRI. “Bull Dog”, the name of the locomotive that headed the coal trains through Reynalton, is the subject of a mural in the hall which also celebrates other elements of the areas heritage.



There is already a local history group running, and a number of residents who have lived locally for all their lives – therefore there is an opportunity for oral history to be explored through reminiscences and memory.

Proposals

- The existing Reynalton & District local history group to:
 - identify any remaining structures and records in the Reynalton area associated with the South Pembrokeshire Coalfield, its connecting railways and with the impact the industry had on the locality and then,
 - encourage, in association with landowners and appropriate authorities, their conservation and interpretation.
- Conduct tours to places of interest in community –link with footpaths.
- Research the history of the village, and create a photographic survey of the village today – organise an exhibition, and or a book.
- Instigate an oral history project.

Employment, Business & Tourism

Commentary

There are four caravan and tent parks in or adjacent to Reynalton which provide local employment opportunities, particularly during Easter to late September. Two also have a number of facilities enjoyed by visitors including a play area, a launderette and shop.

Other local employers include the vineyard near Martletwy, shops at Narberth and Kilgetty, the limestone quarry at Carew and the tourist attractions of Folly Farm, Heatherton and Oakwood.

Out of the holiday season the small shop / Post Office at Beachdean is open between 9.30 and 11.30 only on Tuesdays and Thursdays to serve residents. A limited range of banking facilities are operated by the Post Office.

The nearest banks are in Narberth and there are branches of the Credit Union at Narberth and Kilgetty. There is a farm shop at Yerbeston and Jeffreyton stores.

Many of the jobs associated with tourism are seasonal. There is a lack of job opportunities in the local area.

Proposals

Promote activities which generate income for the community, for example -

- Support the existing annual tabletop sale and investigate the need for a regular seasonal, local produce sale / market in the village hall and encourage residents to:
 - grow, sell and buy local produce
 - encourage various arts and crafts to attract visitors.
- Support the shops and post office at the local caravan sites which are open all year to the whole community, and encourage link to PLANED's village shop network. Discuss with the caravan site operators:
 - Selling an increased range of (local) produce to include eggs, fruit, vegetables, honey, and fish.
- Explore the potential of a LETS scheme (Local Exchange Trading System) whereby services such as gardening or decorating can be exchanged between participants.
- Encourage the production of a local trade's directory to promote buying local, and keep the money in the local economy - seek advice and funding work with PLANED.
- Look into the feasibility of organising a consortium to bulk purchase, for example fuel and provide information through the newsletter.

Housing

Commentary

Concerns were expressed that there was a lot of residential development is happening within this small village. There is an increasing amount of holiday accommodation in and around Reynalton, and little provision is being made for affordable housing.

Proposals

- The RRA to consider hosting a meeting with the Rural Housing Enabler (representing PCC and Housing Associations) to outline what can be done to ensure at least a proportion of the limited building opportunities in Reynalton for affordable housing to meet local needs.

Transport, Roads & Traffic

Commentary

Whilst Reynalton is not served by a regular bus route, pupils are collected on a number of school buses. There is a bus shelter on the green.

Although Reynalton is only served by a network of minor roads, there is a feeling that some vehicles use the village as a 'rat run' to avoid heavier traffic elsewhere. Traffic speeds are managed by a 40mph area to the north of the village and a 30mph through the centre.

There are no pavements in the village and the street lighting is intermittent. Surface water disposal arrangements in Church Lane need improvement.

Residents suggest there would be both environmental, social and economic benefits if efforts were made to share cars and to 'advertise' lifts to those who have no or limited access to a car.

There are limited opportunities for parking at the Village Hall, about 10 spaces. Some people drive to the Hall who live on the outskirts of the village, or from other communities for whist drives, and bowls etc.

Proposals

- Survey the need for public transport in the Village.
- Link Reynalton with the existing Community Bus based at Bloomfield, or operate a Reynalton (and District) minibus driven by volunteers
- Improve contact with other providers of community transport, including Country Cars, Pembrokeshire Voluntary Transport Association and Age Concern.
- To undertake a survey of likely interest and if appropriate Promote a car sharing scheme and / or a register of volunteer drivers to cover:
 - 'essential' journeys to work, doctors, shopping.
 - for entertainment and sport.The scheme could be advertised via the existing Reynalton Newsletter and the proposed web page. (Clarification would be required on insurance etc).
- The RRA to discuss with PCC and bus operators, the possibility of regular services from Reynalton to Narberth, Haverfordwest or Tenby, particularly during the summer when there are more visitors. Options include:
 - diverting some or all of the existing bus services that currently serve Jeffreyton to include Reynalton.
 - making greater use of the existing bus serving Jeffreyton school.
 - running a new service that includes Reynalton (likely to be on an infrequent basis but there are precedents for weekly services to market towns).
- Investigate the ownership of the area of land in front of the Church.
- Encourage village enhancement scheme to consider improving road safety and road surfaces as well as the area around the church.

Waste Disposal

Commentary

Last year the water system in the village was improved. The sewage disposal arrangements require upgrading; particularly as additional development is taking place.

Proposals

- Work with the Community Council and County council to encourage Welsh Water to improve the quality of the sewage disposal system.

IMPLEMENTATION / ACTIVITY GROUPS

In order that the Action Plan can be progressed effectively it is proposed to form special interest Working Groups within the Reynalton Residents Association which is constituted as a community association and open to all residents, and the Community Council. The Groups would, in consultation with the relevant providers, for example the County Council Highway Authority, 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:

- Encourage more people to join the Reynalton Residents Association
- Community, facilities, activities and communications.
- Environment including rights of way, and recycling.
- Heritage
- Transport and traffic and housing.

It is important that the Groups would:

- Work within the agreed Action Plan and the Reynalton Residents Association, and Kilgetty and Begelly Community Council.
- Work with existing groups and organisations,
- Meet on a regular basis,
- Keep the broader community informed of progress.