

# TEGRYN



# ACTION PLAN

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CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU  
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

# TEGRYN ACTION PLAN

Prepared by

**TEGRYN COMMUNITY**

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 27<sup>th</sup>  
September 2005, following the circulation of the Draft Action  
Plan to households in the Tegryn community.*

## **BACKGROUND TO THE ACTION PLAN**

Earlier this year representatives of Tegryn and of PLANED discussed proposals to prepare an Action Plan for the village. On 26<sup>th</sup> April 2005 Workshop 1 of the Community Visioning Exercise was held and on 10<sup>th</sup> May Workshop 2. The results have formed the basis for the first draft of the Action Plan.

The intention is to involve all ages and representatives from the various sections of the community in the preparation, adoption and implementation of the Plan.

## **THE ACTION PLAN AREA**

Tegryn is one of the highest villages in Pembrokeshire at over 250m. On a clear day it is possible to see Snowdon. The village lies in a very rural area some three miles east of Crymych. Tegryn and the surrounding villages are served by a network of 'C' class roads. The A 478 between Tenby and Cardigan passes through Crymych some three miles to the west.



Tegryn, which lies within Clydau Community Council area, has a population of about 140.

## **HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY**

The village of Tegryn is situated in the North of Pembrokeshire in the parish of Clydau, three miles east of Crymych, and at the height of 750ft it possesses some of the most striking scenery in the district. On a clear day the mountains of Snowdonia can be seen. Tegryn has about 110 properties and is very much a growing village which is recognized in the new JUDP (Joint Unitary Development Plan) for more development, but it is somewhat isolated and mostly served by narrow minor roads. Whilst the village has two garages, a post office, a pub and many local trades people, it nevertheless has no shop and relies on Crymych for day to day groceries and supplies. The village closely borders the Counties of Carmarthenshire (1mile) and Ceredigion (9 miles).

Even though the village is in Pembrokeshire, there are important ties with Cardigan – which is in Ceredigion, as the town that provides most of the goods that are not available in Crymych. Today most people that are of working age have to travel to neighbouring villages and towns for work. Whilst the village has always had a proud link with agriculture and was predominantly built around the needs of the ‘Clynyfw’ estate, the number of working farms is in decline with the smaller farms being amalgamated to make larger viable units.

The Community contains some archaeological and historic sites ranging in date from the Neolithic to the modern period, although few are of notable importance. There are some Prehistoric Monuments, such as a Bronze Age round burrow on top of the Frenni Fach, and a little known fact that at the farm Llangene Fawr, one mile north west of Tegryn, there was an identified site of Llan Geneu, one of the so called “Seven Bishop Houses” of pre Norman Dyfed. These seven Celtic monasteries represented the ecclesiastical heart of the seven pre-Norman Cantrefi, or provinces, of the ancient kingdom of Dyfed. An important monastic settlement may well have existed here in the early mediaeval period, and this may explain why such fine early Christian inscribed stones are kept in the parish church. It has also been suggested that the monastery of Hendy Gwyn ar Daf, usually identified with Whitland, was in fact near here, closer to the source of the Taf. This was of course the monastery made famous as the location where the Welsh laws were made statutory by Hywel Dda in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, and not the later Norman Abbey near Whitland.

North east of the village at the hamlet of Llwyndrain, there are the remains of a Welsh ‘earth castle’ signified by the place-names in its vicinity – Nant-y-Castell, Penrhiwcastell, Pencastell and Castell. The very existence of a castle is suggestive of invaders, sieges and battles. It’s also interesting to discover that nearby farms bare names like Tre Saeson and Pant yr Heddwch; and a little further to the east we have Bryn Gwyddyl and Pant y Gwyddyl.

On the ‘back road’ from Tegryn to Llanfyrnach there is a steep hill known locally as ‘Rhiw Speit’. It is believed that the name Speit is derived from the Latin word Hosbitium meaning hospitality, and it is interesting to note that construction workers on the Tegryn-

Llanfyrnach sewerage scheme discovered what looked like the remains of a Church.

The village has a chapel called Llwynyrhwrdd which stands in a



prominent position overlooking the Taf Valley. The chapel was first built in 1805 and was later enlarged and restored. Glogue Quarry nearby played a major part in the development of the village of Tegryn. The slate quarry was successful, and during the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, John Owen,

the son of the quarry owner – himself a successful London business man, was the main benefactor of the Whitland to Cardigan railway line (Cardi Bach) 1875-1963. The cemetery at Llwynyrhwrdd harbours the remains of John Owen. It is also interesting to note that the first village school was at Llwynyrhwrdd from 1867 to 1880, it was known as ‘The Llwynyrhwrdd British School’. In 1879, Tegryn School was built and it was opened in 1880. The village has always had a wealth of talent and the area is notable as the home of several Welsh language poets of some renown, all having spent their formative years at the village school and chapel. E. Curig Davies, Tresaeson, David Gwyn Evans, Blaenyffynnon, Tomi Evans, Blaenyffynnon, W. Rhys Nicholas, Penparc (now known as Gwynfryn), who were active in literary circles during the mid and later 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The phenomenon ‘tai unos’ is also a part of Tegryn’s history. It was the custom of allowing anybody who could erect a dwelling overnight on common land to be the proud owner of the said dwelling – plus all the land within ‘a stone’s throw’. There is evidence of at least three of these ‘tai unos’ being built during the late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century in the vicinity of Tegryn.

The vibrancy of Tegryn and its environs today was easily matched and bettered by the Tegryn of yesteryear. It is within living memory that the village contained 4 shops and a post office, 2 tailors, a seam-mistress, a cobbler, an egg trader, a bus proprietor, and in close proximity to the village – a woollen mill and a blacksmith.

The pub in Tegryn is one of the few businesses that still remains in the village today. It is almost as old as the chapel. It was built in the nineteenth century and dates back to 1826.

The cultural life of the community, centred mostly on the school and chapel, was predominantly welsh-speaking. The chapel, especially, being the main bastion of the ancient tongue. Unfortunately, there has been a rapid decline in attendance. The only hope for our culture in Tegryn is the survival of its cradle – the welsh language. There are signs of hope for the future; the school is doing a magnificent job in integrating new arrivals, our young people are deciding to settle and raise their families here, and people in Tegryn are encouraging newcomers to learn the welsh language, and by so doing, immersing themselves in the traditions and culture of Tegryn.

## **ACTION PLAN PROPOSALS**

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

### **A. Community Facilities**

#### Commentary

The substantial chapel at Llwynyrhwrdd, to the south of Tegryn, celebrates its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May however the current building dates from 1874. The community is proud of the chapel and have compiled a history of the chapel which is likely to be published in the near future. Attendances are, however, falling.

Both Bwlch-y-Groes and Tegryn School were closed in 2001. What was Tegryn School was reopened as Clydau School to serve both these communities. Strong individuals in Tegryn community have fought to keep Clydau School open.



The pub, like the chapel, was also built in the nineteenth century and dates back to 1826. The pub is still open today and in the

absence of a community hall/centre it serves as a friendly environment for members of the community to meet. It is ideally situated in the centre of the village.

The football field, which was donated to the community, lies some distance to the north of Tegryn. Some improvements are required, principally refurbishment of the toilets and there are no changing facilities.

Temporary cover for any social or sports facilities held at Tegryn (or at adjacent villages) could be provided by a demountable marquee.

Additional equipment in the children's play area which lies in the centre of the village, would make the facility more attractive as there are not enough safe play areas for local children. Currently there are swings and a climbing frame with a small slide.

There are limited facilities in Tegryn to retain the interest of its population, for example no village hall.

It is a concern that the chapel and school could close through lack of use.

### Proposals

With the support of the Tegryn Welfare Committee, a Community Association which is open to everybody in the community, and the Community Council:

- Identify an existing building or a site for a village hall which would act as a general meeting place, for all ages, and act as a coffee bar - incorporation of a shop within the structure would provide a more comprehensive amenity.
- Form a Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee/Group to:
  - Prepare a Business Plan for the development of community, leisure and sports facilities.
  - Gauge the level of interest and the availability of a property / site. Adaptation of an existing building or construction of new would require grant assistance,

preferably the donation of the property / land and a builder with a 'community spirit' approach.

- Encourage new groups to form in order to demonstrate a need for a community facility such as a community hall.
- Increase and improve the extent of the playground and the range of play equipment available.
- Determine the need for a skateboard ramp, in conjunction with the youth of Tegryn, and if proven, identify a site (possibly in association with the play area), raise funds and construct the ramp.
- Improve the management of the playing field and upgrade or replace the existing toilets.
- Purchase a marquee for use in connection with local events (and with the opportunity to hire it out).
- Invest in fixture and fittings for the marquee and in infrastructure for the playing field e.g. electric, fencing, access, etc.

Surveys are suggested to determine the requirements of possible user groups e.g. the floor and ceiling dimensions should indoor sports be considered for the Village Hall.

## **B. Community Activities**

### Commentary

People are friendly, chatty and work well together. Tegryn is a safe and caring community. There are a number of willing and committed volunteers to organise and participate in a variety of activities and occasions, for example the school's Christmas concert



and the successful annual carnival / sports day - with its day and

night entertainment, beef roast and disco. Such events often act as fundraising activities.

The small population and the increasing average age of the community will make it more difficult to maintain some social activities and there is concern for the viability of some activities. For example the number attending chapel is decreasing and if there are not enough youngsters the annual carnival could also fold. Young people may leave the village.

Many people from Tegryn are also members of Clydau church. Although the church is not situated in the village people from Tegryn attend services and people feel it is part of the history of the area.

A number of residents also feel that if the village grows too big, or too quickly, there will be a loss of community spirit.

The same people tend to be the 'doers' in the community. The Tegryn Welfare Committee, which meets at the Butchers Arms and the School, is concerned with looking after the needs of all sections of the community.

There are no venues where young people can meet indoors and insufficient activities for children and young adults; there is no youth club and not enough safe play areas. Children are interested in forming a youth club.

People meet at the Butchers Arms public house, where darts and pool are played, at the chapel and at Clydau School - the hubs of the village. Unfortunately both the chapel and the school are out of the village centre.

A multi terrain race is held every year up the Frenni Fach and Frenni Fawr with people of all ages taking part. Ras Dau Fryn attracts people from afar to compete - including Canada.

Merched y Wawr meet in Llwynyrhwrdd and WI meet in Bwlch-y-Groes.

Local pastimes include off-road walking, cycling, horse riding, jalopy racing, football and gardening. Further afield in Cwm Cych some locals enjoy 4x4 off-roading.

Whilst participants travel to Crymych for Welsh classes, computer classes are held at Clydau School.

Due to the friendly nature of the neighbours and residents a Home Watch scheme is in operation.

From the Skills and Resources Audit that was carried out in Workshop 2 of the Visioning exercises it is apparent that

- there are a variety of skills within the community through which the Action Plan could be progressed. People with the skills should be encouraged to be active in the implementation of the Action Plan.
- Some residents would appreciate training to develop existing or new skills or activities.

### Proposals

Ensure that Tegryn Welfare Committee meets on a regular basis to support implementation of the Action Plan to focus the energies and skills of residents to maintain and develop the community.

Using existing venues, such as the School and playing field, or developing new, Tegryn Welfare Committee will be responsible for creating and organising opportunities to meet and encourage local people to develop new experiences, for example:

- Occasional organised walks within the area to increase appreciation of north east Pembrokeshire and to improve health of locals of all ages, for example to the Frenni Fach. Taith Gerdded Flynyddol may promote this proposal.
- Aerobic classes - possibly at locations within the village.
- Line dancing - probably using halls outside the village.
- Cycling trips.
- Form an events committee/group to organise additional fund raising events including concerts/Noson Lawen, a Village in Bloom competition and additional new events particularly in the autumn.
- RTV (Rough Terrain Vehicle) trials (in discussion with countryside organisations).
- Evaluate the training needs described in the Skills and Resources Audit and progress any possible courses that

- could be held at the School or in other locations e.g. running DJ training/courses and developing an assault course for the youth.
- Start a Tegryn youth club/group responsible for organising events such as discos and pool competitions.
  - Work with existing organisations to encourage participation by young people, for example
    - Encourage interested locals to start a football club
    - The football club to manage a 6-a-side football competition. Form teams, attract referees and encourage out of season play.
    - The Chapel to revive Sunday School.
    - And assess the desire for a youth club and associated activities, especially for 14+.
  - Do an appraisal with the youth of Tegryn to see what activities they would like to have. If the youth are interested, speak to the Urdd and Aelwyd about setting up an Urdd youth club in the community of Tegryn.
  - Events Committee/Group to promote and market current events such as Ras Dau Fryn on an area basis to attract more visitors to Tegryn.
  - Form a Tegryn 'Cyd' to encourage locals to practise their Welsh in the community.
  - Start welsh language courses in Tegryn to encourage people to learn the language.

## **C. Communications**

### Commentary

Tegryn has a very successful community Newsletter run by Llais Tegryn Voice which is free of charge and delivered to all in the community on a bi-monthly basis.

Local notices in the Post Office, and a notice board at the Butchers Arms are the sources of information about events in and around the village. Tegryn was also the first village in Pembrokeshire to have a web site, it was launched in 1998. The Tivyside and Carmarthen Journal provide details on a broader north east Pembrokeshire / Cardiganshire basis. As many people in Tegryn are welsh speaker many locals read Clebran to source local information.

The mobile phone signal is weak and there is only an intermittent signal in the village.

### Proposals

- Form an editorial / design group for a youth magazine/newsheet to strengthen the Tegryn Newsletter and include
  - articles that would encourage young people to participate in creating their own page in the Newsletter.
  - advertisements of events, local discos etc.
  - competitions, for example 6-a-side football, pool and tennis.
- Set up a communications group to ensure that the notice boards are managed to show current posters, newsletters etc.
- Increase the number of Tegryn notice boards and improve the quality and availability of information about events in and around Tegryn.
- Discuss with providers improvements to the quality of mobile phone transmissions.

### **D. Environment, including rights of way**

#### Commentary

The elevated position of Tegryn gives beautiful and extensive views over the nearby hills and valleys and plenty of fresh air. Conversely the same location results in high inclement weather.

It is a nice quiet, clean and tidy village. The community playing field is seen as an asset to the village in terms of green environment.

There is easy access via the local footpath network, including those across farmland, to

- a variety of natural habitats including hills and woodlands some of which include the highest area of oak scrubs is in Pembrokeshire. The Frenni area of open space is particularly attractive.

- the former industrial activities in the Glogue vicinity.

The national cycle trail, Route 47, which forms part of the Celtic Trail, passes through the village.



The nearby wind farm is a tangible presence of sustainable power generation.

Some members of the community enjoy gardening in their free time.

### Proposals

- Set up an environment group and explore, for example with the Eco Centre,
  - the feasibility of installing solar heating panels in existing homes and the availability of grant.
  - Alternative means of generating electricity from renewable resources, including community scale wind turbines.
- Set up an enhancement group to look at ways of enhancing the village.
- Discuss with the Environment Agency and Welsh Water the possible use of the previous source of water to the village.
- Establish whether there is enough local interest in starting a gardening club and investigate the possibility of a community garden.
- Raise the awareness of environmental issues through
  - Planting native hedgerows
  - Feeding wild birds / birdbaths
  - Discussions by local organisations, for example Clydau School.
- Add to the current network of paths and develop a leaflet on the walks in and around Tegryn.

- In addition to the development of walking paths, create a quiet road cycle path in the area. Route 47 already runs through the village and could be used to create new routes from it.

## **E. Heritage**

### Commentary

The area around Tegryn, including Star, Llanfyrnach and Glogue, has associations with former lead and silver mining and the now abandoned railway to Crymych. The area is also well known for its wool industry in previous centuries. Although the industry has long ceased to be remains of former factory buildings can be found in Star village.



The Chapel will be 200 years old this year and holds much heritage and historical value for the community.

The pub was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, 1826, and continues to be an important place for bringing the community together.

There is also more than one Ty Unos in the area, similar to Ty Hyll (Ugly House) in North Wales, which according to old laws, is a house on common land which could be owned by anyone who managed to build it in one night and have smoke coming out of the chimney by the following morning.

A number of people prominent in Welsh life have been born in Tegryn including Canon Dewi Thomas, Reverend Rees Nicholas, Tommy Evans, an Eisteddfod Chair.

Individuals currently living in the village still enjoy writing prose and poetry.

### Proposals

In connection with the residents of Glogue and Llanfyrnach, The Clydau History Book Committee and Cambria Archaeology:

- Set up a History/Heritage Group to:

- Identify and signpost a historical trail in and around Tegryn.
  - Research, design and install interpretive boards describing the history of the area and the contributions to Welsh national life by some previous residents.
  - Publish a heritage leaflet which can be made available at the Post Office, which maps the trail and documents the history along the trail.
  - Arrange local history evenings during the winter months.
  - Hold poetry recitals.
- Contact possible funding organisations to publish the history of Llwynyrhrdd Chapel.

## **F. Housing**

### Commentary

The scale of recent new building and the prospect of further houses are seen as changing the character of Tegryn and a possible threat to the community spirit. There is also concern that there is insufficient capacity in the sewage system to cater for the existing - or any additional properties.

There are now few houses available and affordable for first time buyers and there is a fear that young people will start moving away from the area.

The older section of the community feels that there is a need to build sheltered housing for old people.

### Proposals

- Working with PCC (Pembrokeshire County Council) consider limiting the overall size and form of Tegryn, or at least the rate of its development,
  - in order to maintain the community spirit
  - until the capacity in the sewage system has been increased.
- Tegryn Welfare Committee to work with the County Council and Community Council to undertake a local needs survey to

determine the current demand for affordable housing for rent or sale and, should the results warrant action:

- Develop more affordable housing, principally for the young – possibly through the involvement of a Housing Association i.e. Tai Cantref – or support the development of a local housing trust. Thus helping to retain young families near their current home.
- Develop/improve local provision of housing for the elderly.

## **G. Business, Services & Employment (including tourism)**

### Commentary

The principal local employers, who contribute to the local economy, employ local people in haulage, agriculture, auto repairs and various other trades and crafts.



Tegryn Post Office, which allows limited banking activities, is open during mornings and afternoons and this service is recognised as a valuable asset.

The locals are also proud of their local pub, which many people use as a meeting place.

Among the services which are delivered to Tegryn as part of their visits to other villages in the area, are the travelling library which includes videos, milk, a butcher and the bread van.

There are no shops in the area, the nearest shops are in Crymych, Bwlch-y-Groes and Boncath. There is concern that many of the businesses could close due to lack of use.

### Proposals

- Working with Tegryn Welfare Committee and the Community Council identify a possible property for a village shop; one option could be an extension of the existing post office, another could be a new building.
- Form a business group to promote and raise awareness of local businesses.

- The business group could prepare a local directory of trades and services which would encourage the community and visitors to sustain the local economy.

## H. Transport, Roads and Traffic

### Commentary

The scheduled bus services are very limited.

- On the first Wednesday of every month the Cardigan to Carmarthen bus 230 runs through Tegryn at 10.40 returning after 5.15 hours at 17.05.
- On Mondays and Friday the Pentre Galar to Cardigan at 10.06 service passes through Tegryn returning at 14.53 allowing 3 hours at Cardigan.

The Green Dragon Bus, which is very much welcomed by the community, is a flexible 'dial a ride' service operated by PRTA in the Clydau, Crymych, Brynberian and Newport areas. It runs five times a week from Tegryn during the summer using voluntary drivers. The service is primarily offered

- as a link to other bus services in the area
- to provide a specialised service for the elderly, disabled or young people.
- As a walkers bus assisting exploration of the Preselis by residents and visitors.

Households pay to become a member of the Green Dragon Bus. The bus shelter is opposite the post office.

Although Tegryn village is within a 30mph limit, residents feel that traffic speeds through the village and more signs could be erected along the village.



There are insufficient pavements and footpaths within Tegryn and a lack of parking spaces at the school; particularly evident at setting down and picking up times.

Tegryn is on the National Cycle Route No 47.

## Proposals

Any transport, road and traffic proposals are to be progressed in conjunction with the County Council.

- In liaison with adjacent communities, discuss with the County Council and bus operators possible increases in the frequency of bus services.
- Improve street lighting (likely to be undertaken in 2006 / 07).
- Extend pavements / footpaths within the village, particularly outside the school.
- Promote the use of sustainable transport and encourage residents to walk, cycle or take public transport rather than depend on the private car.
- Improve car parking arrangements in the village particularly through the creation of safe parking spaces by the school.
- Install traffic calming measures to curb traffic speeds, particularly those of HGVs. (Sleeping policemen are not favoured); for example place repeater speed limitation signs within the village.
- If necessary, the Police to increase enforcement of the 30mph restriction by spot checking the 30mph speed restrictions and sending speed cameras to visit the village.

## **I. Waste Disposal and Recycling**

### Commentary

Whilst there is a desire to recycle, the only local facility in Tegryn is the bottle bank to the side of the Butchers Arms. Composting takes place in a number of gardens, some garden waste, tins and paper are taken to the Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre near Hermon.

There is insufficient capacity in the sewage disposal arrangements to meet the needs of the current population or of any proposed increase.

There are no public toilets in the village.

### Proposals

- Working with the County Council improve recycling and waste disposal arrangements by identifying a site and installing additional recycling opportunities for paper and tins.
- Agree a site for public toilets.
- In discussion with the Environment Agency and Welsh Water, expand the capacity of the sewage disposal arrangements to meet existing requirements and any anticipated population growth.

## **IMPLEMENTATION / ACTIVITY GROUPS**

In order that the Action Plan can be progressed effectively it is proposed to form special interest Working Groups within the Community Association. The Groups would, in consultation with the relevant providers, for example the 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

- Community Facilities
- Community Activities
- Communications
- Environment (including rights of way)
- Heritage
- Business, Services & Employment (including tourism)
- Waste disposal and recycling
- Housing
- Transport, Roads and Traffic
- Youth

It is important that the Groups would:

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