

Tiers Cross



COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

PLANED's 'Supporting Communities' project is part-financed by the European Union Objective 1 (EAGGF) and the Welsh Assembly Government through the Local Regeneration Fund, Environment Wales and the Countryside Council for Wales.



CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

For
Tiers Cross

Prepared in conjunction with



(Pembrokeshire Local Action Network
for Enterprise and Development)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents	Page
Background to the Action Plan	2
The Action Plan Area	3
Local History	3 - 4
People & a Sense of Place	4 - 5
The Bigger Picture	5
The 21st Century Vision	5 - 6
Action Plan Proposals	6
Community Facilities, Activities & Communication	7 - 9
Youth, Sport & Recreation	10
Environment, Enhancement & Recycling	11 - 12
Heritage & History	13
Business & Enterprise	14 - 15
Transport, Traffic & Highways	15 - 16
Housing & Services	17
Implementation /Activity Groups	17

This Action Plan was agreed at a Public Meeting held on 9th May 2007 following the circulation of the Draft Action Plan to all households in the community

Background to the Action Plan

The parish of Tiers Cross which includes the wards of Dreen Hill and Thornton, in the west of Pembrokeshire, is situated 4 miles south of Haverfordwest and the same distance north of Milford Haven. Neighbouring settlements include Walwyns Castle, 2 miles to the north west and Johnston to the east. There is a willingness for an opportunity for a greater community spirit and of pulling together to get things done, as evidenced by the community garden at its centre.

In 2006 it was agreed to compile an Action Plan expressing local needs and aspirations for the future development of the community. During the autumn two Community Visioning Workshops were facilitated by PLANED.

In addition, a brief questionnaire titled 'Your Community and You' was circulated to all households. Workshop participants were also encouraged to complete the questionnaire.

Questions related to:

- *Demographic spread - age groups living in the community;*
- *Housing, length of residence and reasons for change;*
- *Transport and travel to work and facilities;*
- *Childcare- current and desired provision;*
- *Business and employment- current situation and potential opportunities;*
- *Healthy living – current and potential for local exercise opportunities.*

Information gathered through the questionnaire and at the workshops has been drawn up into this draft Action Plan. After reviewing it with the workshop participants, a draft will be circulated to the whole community. This will include an invitation to a public meeting, where the draft will be considered in detail and amendments discussed. The final version will provide an agreed plan for community action.

The 2006 Community Visioning Workshops consisted of the following exercises:

- Something Special – celebrating the special qualities of the community.
- A Community Audit – listing the main features and facilities
- The Community in the Bigger Picture – considering global and local issues
- Weaknesses, Threats, Strengths and Opportunities
- The Vision for 2016 – an aspirational view of the future
- Skills and Resources Audit – illustrating the variety of local skills
- Translating Ideas into Action – using the information to plan projects

The Action Plan Area

The village is linear in shape, made up of a mix of traditional houses like the Manse adjoining the United Reformed Church, individual properties and homes on estates.

The surrounding area is dotted with large farms in fertile countryside. Dramatic dips and water filled gullies are the legacy of the quarrying industry, still operating at Bolton Quarries, north of Tiers Cross.

The village has a mix of businesses, including a post office, public house, Tiers Cross Motors, Stoddarts Tyres and Torestin residential home. Local farms specialise in potatoes and poultry and some have diversified into self catering accommodation.

There is no dedicated community centre or village hall but the School Room at the Tabernacle United Reformed Church is used for activities related to the Church and for YFC meetings. The pub is regarded as a good social centre. Residents also attend activities and play sport in surrounding villages and towns.

There is a regular bus service in each direction and trains stop on request at Johnston, two miles to the east.

Local History

There are a number of stages in the development of the village name. According to the County Records Office, the name “Tears Cross” appears in records dated 1729. By 1773 this had changed to “Tierce Cross”, and by 1884 the current spelling was well established, although there is a further reference to “Tyers Cross” in 1857. Of much greater age is the name “Tierson”, first recorded as “Terreston” in 1383, followed by “Terryston” (1392), “Terston” (1577), “Tierston” (1613 and 1773). It appears that the cross roads were named after this person, family, who had an estate situated on the back road to Thornton (now past “Torestin”), maybe a mile or so from what is now Tiers Cross. A further suggestion as to the origin of the village name is that it derives from the old French name “Thieri” or “Terri”.

An 1819 map clearly shows the surrounding estates of Anneykell, Bolton Hill, and the then larger parish/area of Robeston. Redbath is also indicated. Alan Wood adds that in Cromwell’s time the surrounding estates also included Herbrandston and Rickeston. In what is now the village there are dwellings whose position approximated to the Welcome Traveller (then a coach house?), and the Old Forge opposite (long since converted for housing). The church as a fellowship dates back to 1815 – I am unsure when the church was actually built, though I believe it was built by members of the farming community. The land that is now Tiers Cross did not belong to any particular estate. So perhaps the village grew up around the Cross Roads, through which people travelled from the various estates. The Chapel and manse were purchased from the Picton Castle Estate in 1922-1924.

Rev Martyn Evans recalls the form of P H Clarke and Sons, Agricultural merchants and Haulage Contractors, whose green lorries were frequently to be seen in the village, and who owned nearby buildings, including what is now the Post Office. He

recalls a village populated with dock workers and others employed in the Milford Docks, then a nationally thriving industry. The building of houses began on the south side of Clarke's in the 1920's, with a few bungalows being built in the 1930's (the Chapel's Schoolroom was built in 1932). He also recalls that the 1930's Tiers Cross Chapel was the hub of a thriving community. There were Sports days and a Whit Monday event in "Jack's Field, where races took place. The Tiers Cross Dramatic Society, which began sometime in the 1920's or maybe the 1940's; good links with Camrose; and the Young Farmers Club, which began after the war. Martyn recalls the village pump, situated opposite "Glenmoore", where John Morgan's family used to live; and the school bus service.

In the war the village was bombed, close to "Glenmoore". Talbenny Airfield at that time hosted a searchlight contingent, which was perhaps the bomb's intended target. It was in 1959, following the collapse of the fishing industry, that the first oil refinery was built in the area. Martyn recalls how the huge refinery tanker lorries would often collide with the two trees then outside the Manse gate. In the end the trees were cut down, to avoid further punishment! The detached bungalows began to be built in the 1970's (one at least I believe actually physically built by the current owner occupiers!).

Today Tiers Cross still hosts some 50 houses and three businesses. Stoddarts, where Clarke's garage used to be; the Tiers Cross Garage and the Wholesalers. The village is still surrounded by large estates, and I understand that there are no plans for expansion. So many of the families who lived in and, it seems, almost ran the village, have now moved out, or passed on. The village remains for the vast majority a crossroads, a place to pass through. Yet there are desires for greater facilities, greater friendship and fellowship and mutual help and co-operation. For the sake of the young who follow on, this should now be our priority.

Provided by Rev Colin Foreman in co-operation with Rev Martyn Evans

People & a Sense of Place

An exercise carried out during the Community Visioning workshops encouraged residents to sum up the essential qualities of their village. 'Quiet, welcoming and friendly' was an immediate description of Tiers Cross.

Local people value the village's rural, yet central position, within easy reach of local towns but close to the coast and the national park too. The bus service is regarded as an advantage.

The Memorial Garden and its care by local people is a particular feature whilst the Tabernacle Unite Reformed Church and 'fine chapel and school room' were also highlighted. The village has retained its post office and pub and a number of businesses operate locally. The refinery is a local employer.

The Young Farmers Club is good for socialising and developing young people but few of the members are local to the village. There are plenty of opportunities for

recreation and leisure, with a golf course and a network of bridleways and cycle tracks nearby. Views, sunsets and space were among the qualities mentioned. A number of people mentioned the potential for the community to develop further, retaining all the essential qualities that make it special but widening the range of opportunities for local people, both socially and economically.

The Bigger Picture

Local people are fully aware of global and local sustainability issues and are concerned about those that might affect their community in the future.

Global concerns with local implications were concerned. Issues included the squandering of energy and other resources and ‘the disparity between what we say and we do.’ The effect of poor diet was another concern – ‘give our children the best we can’ and food sources ‘what we eat and where we get it from, is killing our local businesses’, were among the comments. One suggestion was to grow more vegetables and produce locally to ensure quality, cut down on food miles and create enterprise.

Increasing volume and speed of traffic and the associated safety implications, were a particular concern. Pollution from vehicle engines presented an extra disadvantage. This was regarded as a vicious circle, as people who live in rural areas rely on cars for the variety of journeys made each day.

Producing too much waste and a need to increase commitment to recycling were also discussed. Participants felt there should be more incentives and recycling should be made as easy as possible so that there is no excuse not to do it.

There was a sense that everyone needs to have more courage in their convictions about these issues. There is scientific evidence regarding the detrimental effects of global warming, for example, so everyone should take responsibility for their own actions and reduce the burden on the environment in every way possible.

One group suggested that ‘more grants are needed to put our dreams into action.’

The 21st Century Vision

During the Community Visioning, participants were asked to envisage their ideal community in ten years time.

They shared a vision of a more united community, with different groups coming together in a Village Community Hall. There would be a programme of regular activities and events, including summer barbecues and Christmas parties.

The village would retain its local businesses and the post office might operate as a community business.

A sports field would cater for tennis, cricket, rugby and football and there would be a dedicated children's play area.

The bypass would have been completed and an integrated transport policy would be operating, facilities like bus shelters would encourage usage. Pavements would be car free and there would more off road links to footpaths and the cycle track.

No further industrial development would have taken place and tree planting would give the village a greener appearance.

Action Plan Proposals

Issues raised in the workshops have been grouped into broad themes and, where appropriate, related to named sites, with specific proposals.

Communities are encouraged to form a Community Forum to help get Action Plan proposals underway. This is an umbrella organisation which meets about four times a year to review progress and discuss next steps etc. The Forum is made up of at least one representative from each organisation in the community e.g. Community Council, Church, YFC, etc. A simple constitution is agreed at a local level, which ensures that the forum can draw down funding for community projects.

Forums work in collaboration with Community Councils, dealing with proposals which are additional to a council's usual responsibilities. Many Community Forums publish newsletters, which keep everyone informed of project progress, dates of meetings and encourages them to get involved.

A Community Forum can apply for funding to implement proposals – members provide mutual support for each other's projects and may identify opportunities for collaborative working. This is important because all funding bodies require evidence of community participation and co-operation between organisations.

Implementation of the Action Plan will be assisted by PLANED which offers specialist help and funding for projects, including village enhancement, recycling and local history interpretation. It also links to other agencies which could offer help. Other advantages of a Community Forum include greater capacity when organising events, seeking insurance cover or public licenses, for example.

Community Facilities, Activities & Communication

Commentary:

Local people are proud that they have worked together on a common project - the village centre Memorial Garden. It has a dual purpose, providing a modern day 'village green' and a venue for community events like the very successful Fun Day.



However, there is real concern that a combination of circumstances is destroying community spirit causing 'slow death of village through lack of facilities and communication.'

The lack of a dedicated community hall for regular meetings and leisure activities and education classes, is an issue. The United Reformed Church (*pictured on the right*) is used but is not currently suitable for the range of activities demanded by different ages and interests. The Welcome Traveller pub is a good meeting place but cannot provide facilities for classes, children's activities, or pastimes such as bowling.



An area known as 'greenfield' is also used for outdoor activities sometimes but this is privately owned. Local people travel to the neighbouring villages to participate in their activities, including Walwyns Castle for Ladies Guild and history group and to Milford or Haverfordwest for IT classes, British Legion and sport.

Poor communication is another issue, the physical position of the village along the busy main road between Milford Haven and Haverfordwest, is not conducive to stopping for casual chats about village activities or scanning the Memorial Garden notice board. The Post Office is a good meeting place but many people work away from the village in the week so unless they are pub goers or attend church services, they may not be aware of potential events. There is interest in starting a community newsletter to publicise events and to encourage the development of local projects.

Tiers Cross has lots of potential for developing more community projects and there is a core group of people with a real belief that this can be done. When asked about local strengths, workshop participants referred to 'wanting to make a difference' and having 'enthusiasm for encouraging community projects.' This is a significant advantage – having the will and confidence to improve local quality of life has been a key factor in the success of many community projects in Pembrokeshire.

Tiers Cross already has a good track record with its existing groups and the success of the memorial Garden project. There is clearly interest in developing further projects which is an important step to reviving community spirit and involving people who have not had a chance to participate in the past.

During the course of the community workshops, the need for a 'community action group' was expressed and the idea of an Action Plan was welcomed. Additional suggestions included 'more involvement of community in projects within the village' 'a coming together of the community', 'events that would join the village together' and 'community activities/meeting place owned by locals. There was also recognition that funding would be needed to enhance existing community facilities.

Suggestions for community activities included:

- A 'group similar to WI involving male and female'
- Nursery group
- Pensioners Luncheon club
- Potential for links between groups e.g. pensioners and toddlers
- In hall socialising events
- A village BBQ or annual Fun Night
- Keep fit club and exercise classes
- Dance classes
- IT classes
- Cookery classes

It is significant that a workshop participant pointed out that classes and groups had 'taken place here many years ago – keep fit and sewing. 'A Community Activities Survey would help to identify current interests and commitment to encourage a revival of local activities. It is important that this is not just a wish list but a practical indicator of need and commitment to offering skills, experience and knowledge. There is a range of these – evident in a Community Skills Audit that took place during the workshops. This was just a flavour, as it was only a portion of the community represented. But the wide range of skills – from administrative, to fund raising and

public speaking, drama, dance and singing, was inspirational. Some are also willing to contribute practical help such as use of a computer and other technology.

Local people are keen to improve communication – ‘get all the residents to communicate, talk to each other....’ This is especially relevant with the proposal to widen community activities and raise funds to improve facilities – this would need good promotion to ensure success. In addition to an active community forum, a local newsletter is an effective means of promoting local activities, featuring news items from local organisations and general information about community council decisions. Putting it together each month or quarter, also brings people together through being involved in a common aim and contacting groups for new etc.

Community Newsletters can be used to advertise meetings and events, assess interest in community project proposals and encourage a wide range of residents to get involved in local activities. A small group of enthusiastic people is needed to run the newsletter and a commitment from local groups to supply information for each edition. Some communities secure small adverts from local businesses to sustain the publication. PLANED runs a day’s Newsletter course to assist this process.

Other forms of communicating local news include the notice board outside the Memorial Garden and there is interest in a community web site.

Proposals:

- Form a Community Forum – involving all local organisations and as many residents as possible in driving forward the Action Plan proposals. It should meet regularly to review progress on each proposal and keep everyone informed and involved.
- Plan a Community Facilities Study to assess potential of existing facilities and feasibility of building a new venue.
- Organise an Activities Survey to assess interest in a range of activities and education options. Ask for volunteers to run classes. Include specific sections for young and older community members.
- Consult with other communities who already have developed a Hall / busy Hall programme such as Robeston Wathen / Llanteg – how do they encourage participation and sustain interest?
- Form Events Group to build on success of last years Fun Day and look at other options such as a Pig Roast and barbecue.
- Look at local fund raising options – a village lottery was suggested also sponsorship from the oil companies.
- Consider options for community enterprise to help sustain activities, tap into local visitor base – *see Business & Enterprise section.*
- Young people would be encouraged to take an active role in all of these and may wish to run specific youth events.
- Assess enthusiasm for starting a Newsletter and recruit volunteers, agree format and frequency, delivery and encourage input from all local groups.
- Develop a village website which would include the newsletter and provide a form of online communication.

Youth, Sport & Recreation

Commentary:

Questionnaire results suggested that exercise and keeping fit is important to Tiers Cross residents. The Sports Centre at Milford Haven is popular but there is a desire for more locally based facilities, which might include a flexible sports area and local exercise classes.

The Haverfordwest to Neyland cycle track was regarded as a local benefit and residents want closer access to it from Tiers Cross. Currently they have to use part of Bulford Road which is regarded as a local hazard.

The workshop findings reinforced this - there was enthusiasm for creating a programme of classes, activities and events and residents wanted a sports field or a flexible green space that can be used for sport and local events.

The busy road and high volume of traffic are concerns for everyone and make this type of healthy living proposal even more necessary. Traffic concerns are an obstruction to any sort of communal recreation including young children playing, teenagers kicking a ball around or residents gathering for a community event. (See *Transport, Traffic & Highways on p14*)

Workshop suggestions included, 'a field with football, rugby, cricket, tennis, basket ball facilities' and 'a play area for young children with swings etc.' As well as providing a safer environment, a playing field or at least a multi use games area (MUGA), would have a health and fitness perspective and fulfil a social need too.

Current sporting and recreation activities include walking and cycling - the cycle track is very popular which suggests that facilities are provided, they would be used. As there are currently no sporting facilities in the village, all other sport takes place elsewhere – rugby in Haverfordwest and Milford Haven.

A group of interested individuals is needed to plan this project, to assess the potential for securing land locally, whether to lease or buy. Discussion is needed about specific facilities required Technical advice would be needed from the County Council, Sports Council and other agencies, who could also provide funding guidance. A number of organisations, such as PAVS, may help with this sort of project but the common requirement is for community need and involvement.

The project would link to other community proposals, including the need for common aims to draw people together and a newsletter would help to track progress.

Proposals:

- Form Sports Field Working Group to plan the project – involve young people.
- Research land options for a sports area. Consult local landowners to see if there is any available for rent or sale.
- Assess the type of facilities needed for different ages-children's play and sport
- Obtain technical advice – County Council can help with MUGAs
- Research funding e.g. Lottery, Community Land Trust.

Environment, Enhancement & Recycling

Commentary:

The local environment is regarded as a great asset by residents who are keen to enjoy and protect it. Among Tiers Cross's strengths, workshop participants highlighted the 'rural small village footprint' and proximity to 'beaches and the national park.' They are proud of the local countryside and woodland, particularly a nature reserve near Walwyns Castle.

The proximity to the oil refineries causes anxiety about air pollution and there is raised awareness of the risks posed to the environment by oil spills and other industrial accidents, as well as climate change.

Walking, cycling and horse riding enable local people to enjoy the surrounding countryside and forestry. There is interest in developing more linking paths to the cycle route to avoid the busy road. The local public path network is also popular and this would benefit from a survey to assess condition and need for improvements.

There is also increasing interest in the value of growing produce and following organic principles – setting up an organic farm or smallholding, was suggested during the visioning workshops. However there may be an existing enterprise that would benefit from local support. For example, one workshop participant has a wildlife area on their land and farms organically. At the very least, buying local produce ensures maximum nutritional quality, minimum travelling time and keeps locals in business.

Conserving and valuing the local environment 'to encourage wildlife' and 'plant trees' is considered important. This was complimented by a general interest in gardening - 'sharing garden cuttings to help everyone create a beautiful living space,' has been suggested. Many local people have gardening skills and experience and they expressed interest in sharing this during the skills audit.

Residents are also keen on a village 'makeover,' but it must be 'environmentally friendly.' The green area alongside the Steynton road, was suggested as a site for potential improvement, with the idea of extending the benefit already felt from the Memorial Garden. This would have to be true community project that would be discussed at a public meeting, to address aspects such as car parking areas etc

Many residents are keen on recycling but want more facilities in the village to make this convenient and effective. There was also a call for more flexible opening times at the nearby Winsel recycling centre and the residents anticipate the introduction of the orange bag recycling scheme in the summer of 2007. They want more information about recycling plastic and cardboard. A local recycling project was discussed where people of all ages would be encouraged to recycle and compost. Assistance could be provided by the County Council and the SRS scheme.

'Green Tiers Cross' was a suggested title for a proposal to explore options for incorporating energy saving measures and alternative sources of power into daily life. This could be as simple as raising awareness about energy saving light bulbs to the more ambitious proposal for a co-operative system for buying materials such as solar

panels. A step further would be the commercial aspect of 'central power micro-generation' including wind turbines, biomass etc - to provide power for the whole community and sell surplus to the national grid. (*See Business & Enterprise on p13*)

All of these interests could be covered by forming a local Environment Group that would meet regularly - inviting speakers to raise awareness and provide advice on various topics and undertaking practical works such as path surveys. Local organisations could be invited to get involved e.g. the WI movement undertake environmental projects in some areas.

There is good support available to such groups. PLANED's Valuing the Environment officer works with local environment groups, providing training and support. The Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Officer will assist in carrying out habitat and species audits; the County Council will give advice and support for rights of way issues. There is also a variety of funds available for community environment projects.

Proposals:

- Form an Environment Group to provide information on a range of topics including local biodiversity, public rights of way, gardening, renewable energy and recycling. A programme of speakers and practical projects would engage more residents by extending the programme of community activities.
 - Walking enthusiasts could survey paths and undertake improvements. Circular walks could be organised and path conditions checked. This would also have health and social benefits.
 - Support local organic growers and producers – buy locally if possible.
 - Gardeners could pool knowledge and exchange produce or even sell it locally. They might organise an 'in bloom' competition.
 - Review Recycling practice in the community e.g. investigate possibility of 'orange bag' scheme and research community composting.
 - Promote energy saving initiatives and research alternative energy sources.
- Organise a 'village walk about' and map out potential areas for improvements such as planting, seating, wildlife gardens etc.
- Work with local volunteers to organise practical improvements – all licenses and permissions to be secured first - PLANED can help with this.
- Plants should be chosen that are suitable for the local environment and should enhance habitats where possible – investigate 'plant sharing' proposal.
- Work with local landowners and the appropriate agencies to ensure an informed and effective approach to environmental matters.

Heritage & History

Commentary:

Local people are interested in exploring the history and heritage associated with Tiers Cross. Recent excavations for the LNG gas pipeline revealed a Bronze Age boat which attracted lots of media attention. This was not the first 'find'. A metal detector discovered gold bracelets dating from Roman times in 1991.

Historical features are all around, ranging from the remains of a hill fort at Romans Castle, to the old village blacksmith's forge. Corner House was a shop about 80 years ago and there is still evidence of old cottages that were once part of the local landscape. The origin of the name Tiers Cross is a point of interest. It is possible it could derive from Tierson as a local farm still bears that name.

It is felt that these features should be accounted for and given the attention they deserve. For example, the hill fort is overgrown with brambles which should be cleared. Where possible, sites should be made accessible to locals and visitors and interpretation provided so that everyone is aware of the local heritage. However, it is important to remember that some sites are on private land.

A Heritage Trail could be designed around the features which would be an opportunity to combine forces with the walking group to agree a route. This would also be an opportunity to agree the best position for interpretation panels. Local people were keen on health and fitness and this would combine enjoyment of the environment and heritage with taking exercise and would also have a social benefit.

Proposals:

- Form a local History Group, linking with the history group in Walwyns Castle, by organising an open evening, inviting local people to bring old photographs along, which always promotes lots of interest.
- Potential projects could include an audit of local historical features – help is available from Cambria Archaeology's Ancient Sites and Monuments register.
- Research and design a village leaflet.
- Consider the development of a Heritage Trail
- Look at potential sites for interpretation panels.
- Liaise with Environment Group to identify common goals e.g. walking trail.
- Seek advice, training and support from various agencies, including the County's Museums and Cultural Services Department and PLANED's Heritage Training programme.

Business & Enterprise

Commentary:

Tiers Cross appears to have a large number of businesses for such a small settlement in a rural setting. However, its location, midway between Milford and Haverfordwest plays a role – providing a large catchment area. An additional factor is the proximity to the oil businesses which has increased the general population over the last 30 years.



Businesses include the Welcome Traveller Hotel (*left*); a post office; Tiers Cross Motors; Stoddarts Tyres; Torestin Care Home; TBS Skip Hire; Edwards Coaches and ‘Treeworks’, tree surgeons.

There are several large farms on the village outskirts. Some of these are specialists, such as the potato growers, whilst others have diversified into self catering accommodation and other businesses. Quarrying, a traditional local industry, still takes place nearby.

Local people are proud of local enterprise and concerned about losing out to large multi nationals. The plight of small post offices is a concern and they have suggested running theirs as a community enterprise when the current proprietor retires. The whole system is currently being reviewed and ‘rationalised’ on a national basis. Information can be obtained from Postwatch Wales, which campaigns to save rural post offices. Like local food producers, the message is ‘use them or lose them.’

There is some concern about the ‘untidy’ appearance of the village and a desire to work with local businesses and householders to restore a sense of pride in the community. All would be encouraged to get involved with a local enhancement project which would improve the quality of life for all.

The idea of providing alternative sources of energy and power was discussed, which led to exploring the idea of a community wind turbine which would be a commercial enterprise where any extra power would be sold to the national grid which happens in other areas, including mid Wales.

Research and information is needed to even consider this idea. Participants were interested in finding out more about this type of enterprise in other areas. No more than an idea at this stage, it shows that there is a growing awareness and a will to explore different options and information is to be sought from specialists such as the West Wales Eco Centre, the centre for Alternative Technology in Machynlleth.

Proposals:

- Support existing local businesses and encourage local enterprise projects.
- Businesses could consider forming a local Traders Association as a mutual support system and to share information on relevant topics and be represented on the Community Forum.
- The community wind turbine idea could be researched as part of the Environment Group's remit. The West Wales Eco Centre and other agencies could be invited to attend a meeting to explain more about this type of power generation. A visit to an area which is already operating this type of scheme could also be organised.

Transport, Traffic & Highways

Commentary:

Road safety issues were raised by a large number of workshop participants, particularly the ever increasing volume and speed of traffic. Safety of children is a real concern and all the more reason why a dedicated play area is needed.



The village has a 30mph speed limit but this is not adhered to. The nature of the traffic, including many heavy lorries and tankers, create noise and pollution as well as a safety hazard. Residents feel that extra traffic calming is needed – flashing speed limit signs were suggested but not humps or chicanes. Pavement safety was also highlighted – hazards

include parked cars. All traffic related hazards are detrimental to the health of local people and deter them from taking simple exercise such as walking.

The Highway Authority, Pembrokeshire County Council, is very aware of local concerns and included proposals to address them during a consultation exercise held at Milford Haven during 2006. These include a by pass and improvement schemes.

The Bulford Road Improvement is proposed for the 1.9 km single lane road with passing places, between Johnston and Tiers Cross. It carries substantial levels of heavy vehicles for which it was not designed.

Proposals include on-line widening and a bypass of Tiers Cross at the western end. A link to the A4076 (T) / A477 Sunnycroft junction at the eastern end is also proposed. This scheme would provide some traffic relief to Milford Haven including the A4076(T) Hamilton Terrace.

The County Council is not currently able to fund this scheme. Estimated costs are £6 - £7 Million

Insufficient space for efficient car parking is an issue in the village.

Residents want an integrated transport system, making the best of bus and train services with an off road link between the village and the station at Johnson where the cycle track can also be accessed.

The majority of questionnaire findings suggest that most local journeys are undertaken by car for a range of reasons but specifically work and health services. Residents indicated that they would use public transport if better services were available locally.

Alternative transport such as cycling is to be encouraged so that locals and visitors might use cars less and have minimum impact on the environment. The local cycle trail is regarded as a great advantage and residents would like to see more links to it and to the local public path network.

Proposals:

Work with Welsh Assembly Government, PCC and Community Council to:

- Liaise with the highway authority to progress plans for local improvements and ensure as much local input as possible.
- Review car parking arrangements in the village and potential for creating dedicated parking spaces.
- Contact Pembrokeshire Transport Co-ordinator to pursue an integrated transport policy, taking into account bus routes, rail travel from Johnson and usage of cycle track. Measures would include bus shelters, clear timetables and ensuring bicycles could be carried on public transport
- Meanwhile undertake bus users survey to gauge support for improving service.
- Review Country Cars scheme to provide wider range of transport options.

Housing & Services

Commentary:

Local people are keen to retain the current size of their village and surroundings and do not want any large scale housing development. However, they recognise that affordable housing (and employment) is needed if young people are to stand any chance of working and living in the area where they were born and brought up.

Tiers Cross has a few local services, including a mobile library and a milk round. There is interest in providing a shop which would include local produce and a post office service—maybe as a community enterprise - see *Business and Enterprise*.

Proposals:

- Work with Community Council to meet with the Rural Housing Enabler to undertake a local needs survey to assess demand for homes for first time buyers.
- Support idea of community enterprise and provision of services at local level.
- Join PLANED's Area Enterprise Group which looks at the economic aspect of rural community life and measures that can be taken to build capacity.

Implementation/Activity Groups

In order that the Action Plan can be progressed effectively it is proposed to work through a Community Forum – an umbrella body with representatives from the Community Council, all local organisations and the County Council. This could be the existing community association with a renewed mission. Working Groups would progress the proposals – reporting back to the whole Community Forum – and in consultation with the relevant providers, for example the Highway Authority.

The Working Groups could be centred on:

- Community - facilities, activities and communications.
- Environment - including rights of way, energy & waste
- Heritage and History.
- Business & Enterprise
- Transport, Traffic & Highways
- Housing & Services.

It is important that the Groups would:

- Work within the agreed Action Plan and report to the main Forum –
- Work with existing groups and organisations, including the Community Council and other local authorities.
- Meet on a regular basis – at least four times a year.
- Keep the broader community informed of progress.

Support, advice and funding would be offered by PLANED and partner organisations to help progress the Action Plan proposals. In certain instances, local proposals might feed into wider area strategies which would be supported by Area Enterprise Groups.