

Bollescaille



ACTION PLAN

Updated 2008

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WOLFSCASTLE ACTION PLAN

Prepared by
WOLFSCASTLE COMMUNITY
in conjunction with



Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise & Development

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This Action Plan was agreed at a Public Meeting held on 24th September 2008 following the circulation of the Draft Action Plan to all households in the community.

The Workshop findings and the results of a Community Questionnaire have been incorporated into this Action Plan, which was circulated to all residents prior to being discussed at the Public Meeting.

A total of 25 families responded to the Community Questionnaire, 13 had lived in the community for more than 16 years, while 8 had lived in the Wolfscastle area for between 6 -15 years. The remainder had lived here for less than 5 years.

Reasons for moving to the community in the first place, if not born here, were for a better quality of life, retirement, tenancy of council farms, a good place to bring up a family, countryside, to be closer to friends / family and to escape from city life. Reasons for any proposed move from the community were a lack of affordable housing, family, education and employment.

Background to the Action Plan

In the autumn of 2004 representatives of Wolfscastle community and of PLANED discussed proposals to prepare an Action Plan for the village. In February 2005 Workshop 1 of the Community Visioning Exercise was held and on 16th February Workshop 2. The results formed the basis for the subsequent Action Plan.

After consultation with the Wolfscastle Community Forum it was agreed to hold a Sustainable Project Planning Workshop in November 2007. Invitations were sent to all households in the community to encourage wide participation at the event thereby continuing the approach adopted when the Action Plan was first proposed. Involvement by all sections of the community strengthens the basis for preparation, adoption and implementation of the Plan.

The aim of the 2007 workshop was to review, update and add new opportunities to the 2005 Action Plan and to look at projects which could contribute to the long term sustainability of the community. It was also hoped that the workshop would strengthen community understanding and enthusiasm for sustainable living and help local people become more self-sufficient, healthy and energy conscious.

Since the 2005 Action Plan was adopted the Wolfscastle Community Forum has been established, bringing together community groups and individuals within the community, together with three working groups to work on the various proposals including:

- ◆ A heritage group has undertaken local research, organised a Heritage Exhibition and developed the Wolfscastle Heritage leaflet.
- ◆ The Wolfwhistle Newsletter Editorial Board has been formed and produces a quarterly newsletter for the community.
- ◆ An Environment group has met and among various proposals is promoting footpaths in the area.

Existing local committees including the Festival Committee and the Community Council feed back their activities to the Community Forum to ensure communications are flowing and activities integrated.

The Action Plan Area

Wolfscastle is situated in the valley of the Western Cleddau at the northern entrance to the Treffgarne Gorge at a point where the railway from Carmarthen to Fishguard crosses the A 40 trunk road. It is equidistant between Fishguard to the north and Haverfordwest to the south. Wolfscastle, which lies in its own Community Council area, comprising Trefgarne, Ford and St Dogwells, has a population of about 580. It is a place where “people come here and they want to stay”.

History

The Wolfscastle area has a history stretching back to the dawn of time - situated as the village is, on the edge of the Treffgarne Gorge, with its Pre-Cambrian rocks, which were laid down a thousand million years ago. The village and the surrounding area are rich in historical remains and virtually every crag and rock, field and lane, mansion, cottage and church bears evidence of past peoples and their various activities.

Experts debate as to whether the presence of the Irish Sea Glacier or the final phases of general glacial activity was responsible for the physical form of the area, but the first evidence of human activity can be dated back to pre-Christian times. From a somewhat later period, it is worth noting that in a County with relatively few Roman remains, Wolfscastle possesses one of the most notable relics from that age in the shire. For in a field just outside the village on the Hayscastle Road was discovered, at the start of the nineteenth century, the remnants of a Romano-British villa. The actual discovery was made by a farm labourer and his find has excited historians from the contemporary Fenton to Dr Mark Merrony some two centuries later.

Whilst a church had been founded at St. Dogwells by Dogfael sometime in the sixth century, and the presence of the Ogham stone in the churchyard (though not now in its original position), also bears testimony to human activity in the area during the Dark Ages, it is



perhaps the coming of the Normans to Pembrokeshire that had the most profound effect on Wolfscastle. A motte and bailey castle was built on the easily defensible high ground between the Rivers Cleddau and Angof, whose remains can still be seen to this day and which in the last few years have been restored due to community efforts.

It is impossible to know for certain whether the castle was built in the midst of an existing community or whether the village developed around the castle, but it is definite that in the Middle Ages the village lay within the Episcopal lordship of Dewisland. Because of the ecclesiastical connections, a detailed description exists of the manor in the “Black Book of St. Davids” (1326), which makes fascinating reading. It is also worth noting that when the medieval bishops received their feudal summons to go to war, the relics of the patron saint accompanied them as far as nearby Garn Twrne.

Two other links between the area and the middle Ages deserve mention. The first is that in 1141 the then Bishop of St. Davids invited a group of Cistercian monks to found a centre at Treffgarne. Unfortunately, it was very short lived as the community moved to Whitland where they established an abbey. The second is the story that Owain Glyndwr was born at Little Treffgarne and the origin of the story lies in the fact that his mother’s family were landowners in the area – unfortunately the story cannot be proved – nor disproved!

“Trwy Trawgan pob lladron” says the old saying and it reflects how

following the Norman Conquest, when the invader took the richer agricultural lands to the south, the impoverished Welsh of the north raided their more prosperous neighbours. Through the gorge they brought back cattle, sheep, horses and other moveable valuables and the practice continued for centuries. It is not recorded what was the response of the inhabitants of Wolfscastle to such practices!

In 1627, so records the plaque at St Margaret's Ford, Margaret Symmons founded this chapel of ease (Yr Eglwys Fach) for the benefit of her tenants who were far removed from their parish church. Whilst the Symmons' of Martel, in the parish of Puncheston, were landowners in the area, two local families were to play a far more prominent role: the Tuckers of Sealyham and the Edwardes of Little Treffgarne. Both families produced some notable characters, including Admiral Thomas Tucker who supposedly captured the pirate Blackbeard and Captain Jack Edwardes who bred the famous Sealyham Terrier. In the eighteenth century the son of the Edwardes' married the Tucker heiress and the history of the bride's ancestors and of their Tucker Edwardes descendants can be traced in the memorials which adorn the walls of St. Dogwells Church.

It was in St. Dogwells Church that Joseph Harris married Martha Symmons. He was the son of a farm bailiff and though brought up as a member of the Anglican Church, he was greatly affected by the religious revivals of the period, and became a committed Baptist. After preaching locally, he moved to Swansea, where he laboured as a minister. A multi-talented man he is chiefly remembered today for his first all-Welsh weekly "Seren Gomer" and consequently he has earned the sobriquet "the father of Welsh journalism." Joseph Harris was typical of his fellow-countrymen when he converted to Nonconformity.

In 1797 the Rev. Thomas Skeel of Trefgarn Owen preached for the first time in Wolfscastle. His first adherents met at Ford Farm before going on to establish Pen-y-bont Chapel in 1807. The chapel was renovated in 1907 and now looks forward to its bi-

centenary in 2007. Rather interestingly, when the squire of Sealyham, William Tucker Edwardes, founded a village school at Wolfscastle in 1834, under the auspices of the British (i.e. Nonconformist) Society – then a very rare occurrence.

Whilst agriculture has always been the mainstay of the local economy and the main employer in the area, it must be remembered that some jobs were provided by industry. The Sealyham Slate Quarry originated as an estate quarry and commercial exploitation only commenced when William Tucker Edwardes inherited in 1825. Throughout the nineteenth century it suffered fluctuating fortunes, but there were periods of relative prosperity. The last working was around 1903 and remains can still be seen in Sealyham Woods to this day.

One of the reasons why the slate quarry never became truly successful was due to poor communications and that was partly remedied at the start of the twentieth century with the building of the railway, although Brunel had first attempted the task back in the 1840's. Navvies struggled long and hard to force their way through the exceptionally tough rocks of the gorge and the first train ran in 1906 – just as Sarah Evans had foretold in a vision almost a century and a half before. The twentieth century also saw the A40 trunk road being greatly improved to avoid the old route with its narrow hill and hairpin bend (where, according to local tradition, a circus elephant hauling a heavy cart had a heart attack!). However, whilst being an improvement, the new road cut a rather ruthless swathe through the landscape, which touched the edge of the motte and bailey castle.

The twentieth century saw many changes affect Wolfscastle as everywhere else. Two World Wars left their toll and it is interesting to record that local British Resistance Auxiliary Unit had its hidden headquarters in Sealyham Woods. In addition to vastly increased volumes of traffic, the village has acquired a new role as a leisure facilitator. In addition to the Wolf Inn, there is the Allt Yr Afon Country Hotel, a pottery, the renovated castle, whilst Nant y Coy Mill, (the present buildings date from 1844), has now become a

tourist attraction. At the start of the twenty first century, it is pleasing to record that school, Sunday school, chapel and church still flourish and the community spirit, as exemplified in the Festival Week, is the envy of many another community.

Action Plan Proposals

The production of an Action Plan will give Wolfscastle an agreed programme for community development, both in terms of improvements to the infrastructure and to the social life of its residents. It is hoped that the projects described in this Report will be achieved as quickly as practical with the various partners working in unison with local people to design, find and implement schemes.

Community Facilities, Activities & Services

Community Facilities & Services

Commentary

Penybont Congregational Chapel, built in 1807, is right in the centre of village life. It is apparent that most of the activities that go on in the community are located near to the Chapel. The bi-lingual Sunday services are well attended, with worshippers travelling from a wide area. The Church is also fortunate to have one of the most thriving Sunday Schools within the Welsh speaking denominations, as well as a faithful gathering in the prayer and sisterhood meetings. St Margaret's is a small church on the southern edge of the village with very limited car parking (although with a pavement link along the A40).



The Chapel Vestry, in which a number of meetings are held, is a first floor building with access from an external and broad flight of steps. There is a small meeting room to the right and a kitchen to

the left.

The absence of a village hall and closure of the play area has meant that there are limited facilities for all ages, a lack that is particularly unfortunate for younger children and teenagers who depend on others for transport.

Wolfscastle School is set in the centre of the village of Wolfscastle just to the north of Treffgarne rocks, which mark the divide between the “Welshry” of north Pembrokeshire and the “Englishry” of the south. The school is renowned for fostering that “Welshness” in its pupils, both culturally and linguistically, whether parents are able to speak the language or not. As part of the Authority’s language policy the school has been designated a category A school belonging to a traditional Welsh area.

Wolfscastle school is at the heart of the community, a true village school, providing entertainment for the over 60’s, helping with clean up programmes, forming an integral part of the village’s entry for the annual “Wales in Bloom” competition. Villagers are very supportive of school activities and help to raise money for the school e.g. via the Wolfscastle Festival. The school has a very active Parents and Friends Association which raises a substantial amount of money to support the school each year.

The school is a co-educational County Primary School, catering for children in the Wolfscastle and Treffgarne areas. The school was built in 1834 and consists of two classrooms separated by what was originally the school house. Recent developments mean that the school has been refurbished with a new toilet block, a library / computer suite, an extra teaching room, store room and staff room. This year generous fundraising has provided the children with creative play area / outdoor classroom, also a safe play area for the younger children. Wolfscastle school tries to give all children some physical activity during the week but as there is no hall this proves difficult if it is raining.

As part of the Shaping Our Futures exercise, the community was

asked to consider four proposals in the Action Plan and test how sustainable project planning could assist in the delivery of the Action Plan. In the absence of an ability to develop a village hall in Wolfscastle, one of those projects was the completion of a village hall at Treffgarne.

The proposal is to lease the existing hall from the Church in Wales and develop it in a sustainable manner for a community facility. As part of the works it is proposed to install solar panels, rainwater harvesting and a biomass boiler to reduce running costs and keep a low carbon footprint.

Proposals

1. Support the community at Treffgarne in their proposals to re-develop their existing village hall or construct a new one.
2. Support the Local Post Office: Additional services could include:
 - a. A Post Office - which includes basic banking service.
 - b. Cyber café/tea room with internet access, printer/photocopier.
 - c. Police contact point.
 - d. Tourist Information Point (TIP).
3. Encourage the selling of local produce.
4. Look to provide a suitable recreation area in Wolfscastle where all members of the community may access a variety of activities.
5. Identify a site to re-create a play park on its original site, including equipment for pre-school / primary school children.
6. Strengthen any relationship with the Sealyham Activity Centre as a local base for outdoor activities and possibly as a resource for the Wolfscastle community should there be any delay in proposals at Treffgarne.
7. Request that the Health Authority consider the operation of a mobile Doctor's Surgery to meet the needs of Wolfscastle and other rural communities.
8. Improve the availability of dentist services (both private and NHS).

Community Activities

Commentary

A strong community spirit, its friendly nature and a sense of belonging attract people to move into the village. Wolfscastle is more outward looking as the population increases, however, the population is now ageing.

The Treffgarne and Wolfscastle Millennium Committee was set up in order to cultivate and promote a range of cultural activities within the community for the entertainment of the general public. Since its existence, the committee have been successful in securing funding for the creation of a community mosaic which is sited adjacent to the Riverside amenity area, where the community flag pole is situated. Stones have been erected in each of the three wards - Treffgarne, Ford and St Dogwells to commemorate the Millennium. On special occasions, the Welsh Dragon is seen flying above Treffgarne Gorge, where a flag pole was situated for an unknown reason at the beginning of the 20th Century, but was rediscovered after almost 90 - 100 years.

There are a number of annual events currently organised by the Millennium and Festival Committees, including Festival Week, Gardens on Show, which act as foci for the community. The Millennium centrepiece reflects pride in Wolfscastle. Other local organisations include the WI, Friends of the School, members of the Church and Chapel (including a Sunday School), the Sisterhood, the Community Council and Over 60.

However, it is felt that this community spirit is at risk of decline for a number of reasons, including the absence of a place to meet (apart from the Vestry in the forecourt of the Congregational Chapel, the Wolfe Inn or the Allt yr Afon Hotel), allowing newcomers to be involved. As there is no village or community hall in either Wolfscastle or in nearby Treffgarne, residents are having to depend more and more on Letterston. For example the Brownies meet either there or in Fishguard.

The changing character of the village has also meant a decline in the numbers speaking Welsh, although there is also a feeling that learning Welsh is welcomed & encouraged. Retaining a bilingual community is seen as important.

Replies to the community questionnaire suggest people are interested in looking after their health and would like more opportunities to exercise. Lack of spare time and better local facilities were among suggestions to make it easier to participate in exercise. Concern was expressed by the lack of cycle ways and facilities particularly for young people to exercise. The most popular ways to exercise are walking and gardening.

A general reduction in the level of community services has been experienced over recent years including closure of the village shop/post office in 2003 which also provided a general meeting place for villagers; a greatly missed service. The former Youth Club has closed and attempts to re-form have failed. The village pub no longer feels like a village pub - more of an eatery – and a reduction has taken place in the level of policing and the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has closed. There is, however, a low crime rate and everyone looks out for everyone else.

The mobile library visits and there are daily deliveries of milk and newspapers (from Letterston) As well as a mobile butcher. There is limited access to NHS services, particularly the specialist services, for example dentistry.

Proposals

1. Form a Community Forum Events Committee, which could subsequently meet at Treffgarne village hall, and would focus the ideas and energies of volunteers in the areas of events, clubs and sports.
2. Build on the success of existing annual events, including Festival Week and the Christmas Nativity. Re-



introduce the Carnival the Fireworks displays and organise additional occasions and displays throughout the year.

3. Reintroduce a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
4. Be aware of the opportunity for a youth club at Treffgarne once a village hall has been completed.

Communications

Commentary

The mobile phone mast at Treffgarne Farm has improved communications. A Wolfscastle and School web site, the community newsletter (Wolf Whistle), word of mouth, a school newsletter and notice boards inform residents of local events and activities. They complement the Pembrokeshire newspapers, Radio Pembrokeshire and the local Minister.

Proposals

1. Strengthen the Editorial Board and attract additional volunteers to distribute Wolfwhistle; maintain a broad interest reflecting activities at the school, Chapel and local Churches.
2. Investigate the construction of additional notice boards.
3. Investigate improvements to television reception

Environment including Rights of Way

Commentary

Wolfscastle is set in a very attractive and tranquil environment. From the higher points in the village there are views over the countryside including the rock outcrops of Treffgarne Gorge and the wooded areas in the river valleys. The rocks either side of the gorge are particularly ancient and of geological interest.

Features, which give a particular character to the village, are the open valley of the Western Cleddau, which runs into the heart of Wolfscastle, the old two-arched bridge and the village green. Interest in improving the quality of the environment is apparent. In 1989 Wolfscastle won the Best Kept Village Award, and the Wales in Bloom Award in 2003. The areas of open space within the

village are attractively maintained and generally litter free, buildings are looking neat, gardens generally well cared for and with more flowers.

The two rivers and the surrounding woodland attract a variety of wild life and the quieter hobbies of fishing and bird watching - although fish stocks seem to be in decline.

One acre of mixed woodland has already been planted, farming practices reflect Agri-Environment scheme requirements and organic fruit and vegetables are grown.

Residents are interested in sustainable and healthy living including the careful use of materials and recycling waste, small scale renewable energy initiatives, eating fresh produce and walking or cycling rather than automatically using the car. There are many footpaths and bridleways in the vicinity including a path through the woods via an old bridge to nearby Sealyham with a link to the Motte and Bailey. There is also a River and Heritage Amenity Area, which adjoins the 'Millennium Garden' and is divided by flower planters.



Wolfscastle CP School, which is adjacent to the village green and was opened in 1834, has won a Sustainable School Bronze Award and successfully completed four years of the Pembrokeshire 'Health Promoting Schools' scheme. There is a school garden, which has been designed and planted and is now maintained by the children, it is also open to the community on occasions.

Proposals

1. Form a local Environmental Improvement Group to feed into the Community Forum.
2. Retain and enhance the appearance and character of Wolfscastle; including a reduction in the number of signs, for

example outside the pub.

3. Develop energy conservation and small scale renewable energy initiatives.
4. Ensure that any future conversion or new build is 'green designed' and energy aware.
5. Signpost and maintain a series of walks around the village including:
 - a. via the Motte and Bailey and Sealyham Woods to Sealyham Mansion
 - b. the circular walk around Sealyham Slate Quarry.
 - c. Treffgarne Mountain
6. Publish a leaflet of walks with references to sites of interest, including the local geology.
7. Promote proactive tree and forestry management throughout the community area.
8. Agree facilities for grass cutting of open spaces.
9. Encourage the community and visitors to the area to effectively collect and dispose of litter. Increase the number of anti-litter signs.



Heritage

Commentary

The area around Wolfscastle is rich in both archaeology and history. A cromlech, the Iron Age village at nearby Sealyham, Iron Age forts at Treffgarne and the most significant Roman find in Pembrokeshire are among the archaeological aspects. The remains of a Motte and Bailey of a former Norman Castle are sited on a headland overlooking the village at the confluence of the Western Cleddau and Afon Anghof.

In September 2002, the Motte and Bailey site was opened with much support from the owner of the site. Improvements have recently been made to the site including the footpath access, boundary fencing, picnic tables and an interpretive board and the area is now well maintained



In the centre of the village a wolf's head is featured over a fountain, which was built in 1902 in memory of GGWE Edwardes of Sealyham by his widow and was restored for the Millennium by members of the W.I. This fountain was the original supply of drinking water to the 'top end' of the village.

Wolfscastle School, St Margarets Church, Penybont Congregational Chapel and, to the south, Nantycoy Mill are all important buildings within the community. There are remains of a Roman Villa just outside the village although access to it is limited. The line of the former Great Western Railway, which was opened in 1906, runs through the village in a cutting. Sealyham Mansion to the north east of Wolfscastle was built in the early 19C, and is now a successful Activity Centre. To the east of the village is St Dogwells Church.

Raising the local Cromlech was one of four projects discussed in

detail at the sustainability workshop. Consent and assistance would be required from the owners as well as from Cadw and heritage related grant giving organisations.

The Heritage Group have recently compiled and published a leaflet on the history of Wolfscastle.

Proposals

1. Continue researching the archaeology, history and folklore of the area including the site of the Roman Villa.
2. Review and add to the Wolfscastle leaflet, erect additional interpretive boards at key sites and keep a photographic archive (as part of a village hall proposal).
3. Investigate the possibility of raising the collapsed cromlech.
4. Link the rights of way and heritage strategies.

Business, Employment & Tourism

Commentary

There are limited and reducing opportunities for local employment combined with low wages. Apart from farming, the local enterprises include the Allt-yr-Afon Hotel, which opened in 1977, the Wolfe Inn, a local builder, the Pottery, Frio Products, the school, and B&B accommodation which are all great assets to the community,. The Sealyham Centre, which includes overnight accommodation, is a significant local employer.

The community questionnaire indicated 13 respondents owned or managed a business in the community employing 7 full time and 10 part time. All of them own their own premises.

The shortage of jobs, whilst affecting all ages, is particularly unfortunate for young people as it is a further spur to them leaving the neighbourhood to find work and possibly a house. There are few facilities and services and an aging population. There is concern that if this trend continues more services could be lost.

Proposals

1. Look to diversify the farming economy through 'green

tourism', for example:

- a. Developing horse / donkey riding, including trekking.
 - b. Utilising local milk production as a basis for dairy related products.
 - c. Farmhouse accommodation for visitors.
2. Encourage local farmers to access greater participation in the Agri-Environment Scheme and encourage the growing of organic fruit and vegetables.
 3. Promote Wolfscastle on a local, regional, national and international scale through the web page, Wolf Whistle and by leaflets available at TICs etc.
 4. Encourage additional B&Bs.
 5. Liase with the relevant agencies and existing businesses to look to provide employment opportunities in the north of the County.

Transport, Roads & Traffic

Commentary

Although the railway runs through the centre of Wolfscastle, the nearest stations are at Fishguard or Clarbeston Road (the point where trains for Haverfordwest and Milford Haven depart from the Fishguard line). The twice a day 'boat train' does not however stop at Clarbeston Road but further east at Whitland.

The 412 Monday to Saturday bus service operates from Haverfordwest to Cardigan via Fishguard. Apart from an early morning school bus from Wolfscastle to Fishguard the first service leaves Haverfordwest at 9.00am and then on each hour. The return service commences earlier, leaving Wolfscastle at 7.40am. There is a need for a late evening bus service and also a Sunday service partly because there is little opportunity for entertainment for younger people in Wolfscastle.

Apart from the 412 there is little opportunity for those without easy access to a car to use public transport or community transport to travel to destinations other than along the A40 bus route.

There is a fear that rural bus (and train) services could be at risk should the transport subsidy be reduced or user rates fail to increase (Travel is currently free for the over 60's).

Bus stops with shelters and raised kerbs for easy access to buses have been installed on each side of the A40 but the pavements run intermittently along this road.

The A40 linking Ireland to mainland Europe via Wales and England, is part of a Trans European Network of a major routes. Throughout the day and night ferry traffic, which includes a high proportion of HGVs, travels through Wolfscastle as well as vehicles on more local journeys. Residents are aware of the associated pollution from cars and lorries using the A40. There is a 40 mph advisory speed limit through the village and there is intermittent street lighting.

The Treffgarne Bends have been the scene of a number of accidents. There is an advisory speed limit of 30mph, a skid resistant surface and cautionary signing in an attempt to reduce speeds.

There is no separate provision for cycling, for example to Letterston or Treffgarne. There is also no safe cycling route within or through the village.

One of the projects chosen for a sustainability assessment in November 2007 as part of a review of the Action Plan was to install a covered bus shelter between Bryn Gower and The Manse. Although the existing stop is marked there is no shelter. Removal of part of the field hedge would allow a shelter to be constructed. A relatively small cost would directly benefit a large number of people.

The results of the community questionnaire identified the car as the most popular mode of transport for accessing work, shops and facilities. 7 people who replied would prefer to walk with 5 using the bus/ public transport where possible. 16 respondents would

prefer a different mode of transport if possible. They cite the dangerous roads, lack of parking at bus stops and high cost of train travel as reasons why they use the car.

Proposals

Any proposals affecting roads and traffic should be progressed in conjunction with the County Council as the Highway Authority and other relevant agencies.

1. Encourage walking and cycling rather than driving for short journeys as a contribution to reducing car exhausts, improving personal health and to meet other villagers.
2. Look to construct a cycle way/pavement between Wolfscastle and Letterston to the north. There is a fairly wide grass verge all the way.
3. Discuss with:
 - a. Rail operators (Arriva Trains and PCC as the Transportation Authority and / or the Pembrokeshire Rail Travellers Association), the possibility of opening a local railway station and/or improving the current service. Options include re-opening the former station at Mathry Road, and / or the halt at Wolfscastle, allowing trains from Fishguard to be stopped by request at Clarbeston Road and increasing the number of trains using the Fishguard route.
 - b. Bus operators - the possibility of a late evening and an improved Sunday service.
4. The County Council to improve the width of pavements where they are too narrow for safe walking, particularly along the A40 and generally improve the maintenance of roads, footpaths and pavements.
5. Work with the Community Council and PCC and install a shelter at the existing bus stop between the Manse and Bryn Gomer.
6. Explore with the County Council the possibility of :
 - a. Increasing the availability of Community Transport Services, for example PVTAs or Country Cars.
 - b. The community operating a Wolfscastle Community Transport bus.

7. Apply additional traffic calming measures and more rigorous enforcement of the existing speed limits through the village and to the advisory 30mph in the vicinity of Treffgarne Bends.
8. Resurface Treffgarne Bridge as a traffic safety measure.
9. Consideration to be given to rerouting the A40 around Wolfscastle, particularly with the anticipated increase in international HGV traffic on the Rosslare - Fishguard route and the continuous impact of vehicle flows on residents - from noise, fumes and risk of accidents. Moves to dual sections of the A40 may bring forward such a by pass.
10. Identify a site for a (visitors) car park.

Housing

Commentary

There is concern that local and first time buyers can no longer afford to purchase a property and are therefore moving away from the area. This partly due to the rise in house prices and partly to the use of properties as retirement, second or holiday homes.

Whilst some additional development is required there is concern that the character of Wolfscastle may be lost if too much housing is allowed.

Replies to the community questionnaire suggested that 16 families would be seeking a new home in the next two years. 8 would be looking to purchase affordable homes, 7 private homes 5 requiring council/ housing association homes and 2 requiring adaptations for elderly or disabled relatives.

Proposals

1. The Rural Housing Enabler to be requested to:
 - a. Undertake an assessment of local housing needs,
 - b. Obtain planning consent and land/building ownership,
 - c. Construct/self-build and manage some environment friendly housingand thereby increase the availability of affordable housing for local needs.

2. Priority to be given to affordable housing for local needs; and for the occupancy to be controlled so that the property does not become a second or holiday home.
3. Request that the Planning Authority consider to relax land use policies and allow limited local residential development for local people.

Waste Disposal & Recycling

Commentary

There are no Pembrokeshire County Council recycling facilities in Wolfscastle. Recycling of cans and bottles can only be done as part of a trip to Letterston which has a privately owned facility or to Fishguard, Manorowen or Haverfordwest for PCC facilities. A successful 'Green Dragon' environmental scheme is currently in operation at Sealyham Activity Centre and paper is recycled at the school although it must be taken to Manorowen.

However, the school currently rely on parents residing in the 'orange bag' areas to recycle the large quantity of plastic milk containers produced.

The provision of a local site for recycling glass, paper, cans and plastics was one of four projects examined in detail at the Shaping Our Futures Workshop. Action is required by the County Council and local land owners to identify a suitable site.

The sewerage system is overloaded because it is being pumped from a nearby village and occasional smells arise in the vicinity of the works.

Proposals

1. Identify a site for recycling - providing at least for bottles, tins and paper and possibly plastics; one possible site is by the sewage pumping station, another may be by Treffgarne village hall.
2. Investigate composting of grass cuttings.
3. Encourage the County Council to start collections of refuse

- separated for recyclable and non-recyclable wastes.
4. Encourage the County Council to consider providing recycling boxes for households to reduce the amount of bags used.
 5. Request that there are public toilets in the village centre which are open and accessible throughout the year.
 6. Welsh Water/Environment Agency to upgrade the sewerage system as required eliminating any odours and ensuring trouble free working.
 7. Request that Welsh Water re-route the large sewerage pipe that crosses the Cleddau adjacent to the Riverside & Heritage Amenity Area which is an unfortunate attraction for children.

The Next Steps

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 Forum. 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 activities, facilities, services and communications.
- ◆ Environment (including rights of way), waste and recycling.
- ◆ Housing, employment (including tourism), transport and traffic
- ◆ Heritage,

It is important that the Groups would:

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

