



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY SPORTS HUBS – FEASIBILITY STUDY

**A
REPORT
BY**



JANUARY 2018

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SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 1.1 Bridgend County Borough Council (the Council) as lead body for Reach (the Rural Development Programme for Bridgend) is currently seeking to explore the potential for the development of one or more sports based community sports hubs in the Garw Valley.
- 1.2 As a result RPT Consulting has been appointed to develop a feasibility study for community sports hubs based in the Garw Valley, which will seek to address the needs of the local population and key stakeholders.

Background

- 1.3 Currently in the Garw Valley as with all other areas in Bridgend, sports and community groups are considering the transfer of sports and community venues and assets from the Council, through the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) process.
- 1.4 Some of the assets within the Garw Valley are in a poor state of repair and well below an acceptable standard. The cost of repairing and maintaining these assets is beyond the reach of many of the sport and community groups and therefore a potential solution is being sought to ensure that sporting and community activities are not lost.
- 1.5 To support the CAT process, Reach has already produced a 'Rural Community Asset Transfer Toolkit' which provides groups with a step by step guide to asset transfer and also commissioned a report 'Review of Sustainable Community Venues and Assets in Bridgend County Borough', which provides a detailed understanding of the issues faced by groups who both currently are or are considering managing/owning/leasing community facilities.
- 1.6 The barriers identified that groups face, fall into two main headings (affordability and asset condition), as a result the recommendations include
 - Inter-organisational partnerships – where local organisations partner with large organisations, such as development trusts or housing associations in order to secure and run community assets
 - Local partnerships and consortia – maximise community capacity and resources.
 - Community partnership or co-operative approach including partnership approaches between organisations and governing bodies such WRU and FAW – stand a better chance of succeeding
- 1.7 Against this background a steering group of partners has been established who have interest in developing sustainable sports provision in the Garw Valley and this includes.
 - Garw Valley Senior Boys and Girls Club
 - Welsh Rugby Union
 - Tennis Wales
 - Welsh Football Trust

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- Football Association Wales
- Wales Cricket
- Bridgend and District Football League
- Sport Wales
- Reach Rural Development
- Bridgend County Borough Council Community Asset Transfer Officer
- Bridgend Disability Sports Co-ordinator
- Garw Valley Community Council

1.8 The steering group has overseen the project to date and throughout the project have guided the approach and identified opportunities.

Our Approach

1.9 Our approach has been set out to ensure that there is robust consultation and input from stakeholders and also to identify a sustainable plan for the delivery of community sports hubs for the Garw Valley and has included the following key areas.

- Strategic overview – where we review the context in which the Garw Valley sits including the wider regional and local agenda
- Catchment Analysis – identifying the basis of the Garw Valley and the location of facilities
- Stakeholder Consultation – with key partners, including sports clubs and schools, including a number of workshops to gain feedback on proposals
- Facility Mix Options – which sets out possible facility mix options for the future development, including indicative capital
- Management and Funding Options – how the facilities could be managed and funded, including revenue projections.

1.10 In particular in developing the potential sports based community hub we also consider not only future facility development but also activity and programme development. We summarise the outputs from our work over the remainder of the report in the following sections

- Section 2 – Needs Analysis, setting out the results from our strategic overview, need analysis and stakeholder consultation
- Section 3 – Community Hub Options, setting out the potential facility mixes and management options, including financial implications
- Section 4 – Conclusions and Way Forward, including key recommendations

1.11 We support our report with a number of key appendices.

SECTION 2 – NEED ANALYSIS

Introduction

2.1 Within this section we seek to identify the potential need for sports based community hubs in the Garw Valley. This includes the following key areas, which have been reviewed

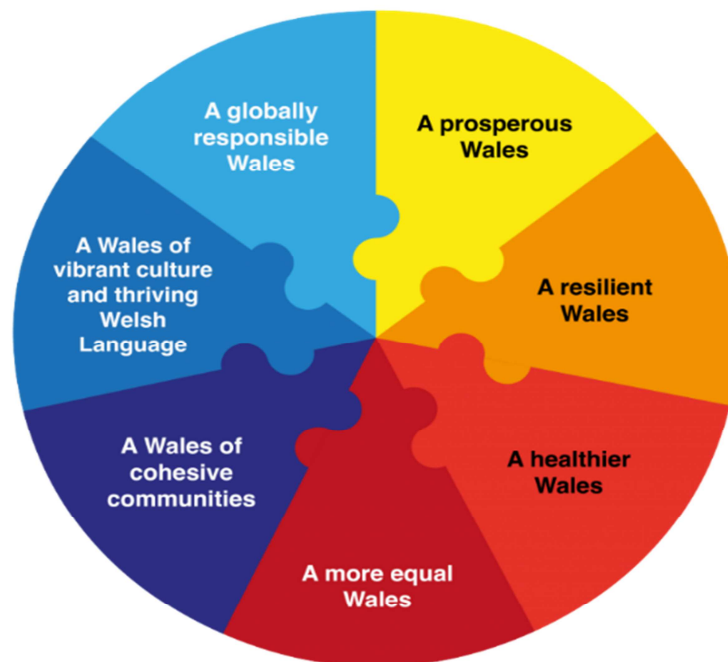
- Strategic Context – an overview of the strategic framework within which the Garw Valley sits
- Needs Analysis – catchment analysis to identify the current picture in the Garw Valley
- Consultation – summarising the outputs of our consultation with stakeholders
- Facility Review – analysis of the existing facilities in the Garw Valley

2.2 We summarise the key findings from each of these areas over the following paragraphs, and we present an overall summary of the likely need for facilities at the end of the section.

Strategic Context

2.3 The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (WbFGA) is the key strategic framework within which sport operates at a national level and is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It is the over arching legislation which governs how community sport can benefit the wellbeing of the population. There are 7 well being goals defined within the act as illustrated below

Figure 2.1 – WbFGA – 7 Well Being Goals



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2.4 The WbFGA sets the context in which future delivery of sporting opportunities can contribute in particular to promoting a healthier Wales.

2.5 The ‘Facilities for Future Generations (March2016)’ document is also relevant which is a blueprint designed to complement national and local initiatives and help inform responsible and sustainable decision making on the design, provision and maintenance of sport and recreation facilities.

2.6 In addition to the national picture there are some local plans which also impact or provide the context for development of sporting community hubs in the Garw Valley including

- **Bridgend County Borough Council Corporate Plan 2016 – 2020**

Sets out the Council’s plan and in particular the following two priorities are particularly relevant

Priority 2 – helping people be more self-reliant

Priority 3 – Smarter use of resources

- **Bridgend Draft Well being Plan 2018 – 2023**

In the process of being developed by the Bridgend Public Service Board and sets out four well being objectives for Bridgend

- Best start in life
- Support Communities in Bridgend to be safe and cohesive
- Reduce social and economic inequalities
- Healthy choices in a healthy environment

The draft plan is currently out to consultation.

- **The Rural Development Plan (RDP)**

The RDP for Wales receives funding under the European Commission Common Agricultural Policy. In Wales, it is administered and co-financed by the Welsh Government and runs from 2014 - 2020 inclusive. The RDP for Wales comprises a number of Schemes activated under various Measures of its governing European Commission Regulations.

- **The Thriving Rural Communities Preparatory Support Scheme**

The funding for this commission is made available under the LEADER Measure [M19] of the RDP for Wales which supports projects that align with the following five themes:

- Adding value to local identity and natural and cultural resources
- Facilitating pre-commercial development, business partnerships and short supply chains

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- Exploring new ways of providing non-statutory local services
- Renewable energy at community level
- Exploitation of digital technology

- **The Local Development Strategy (LDS)**

A Local Development Strategy has been put in place for rural Bridgend County Borough up to December 2020. The Strategy has three strategic objectives:

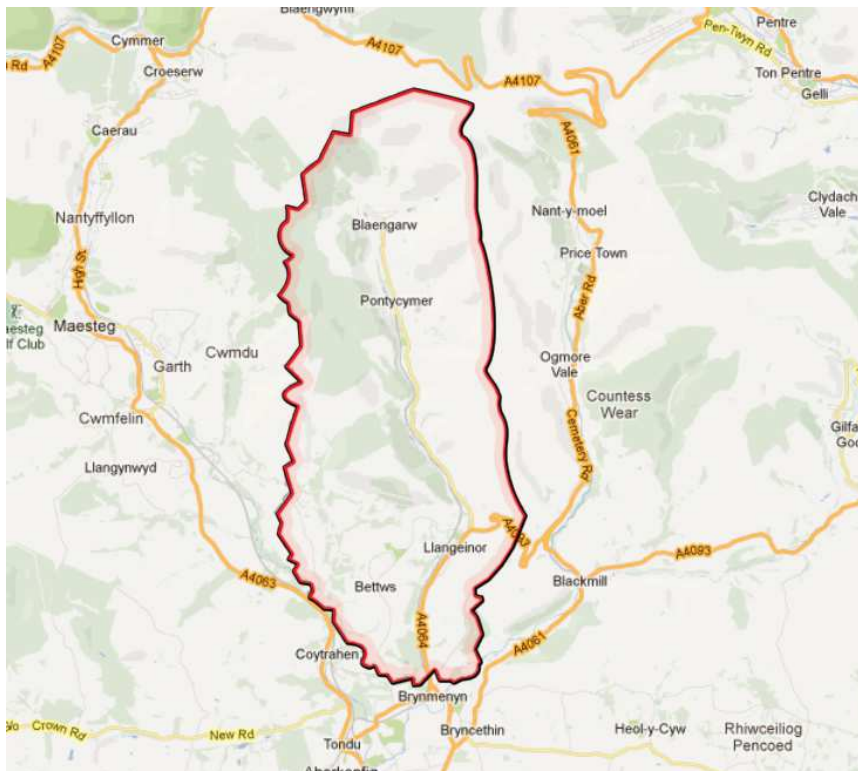
- SO1. A place to live - Creating self-sustaining rural communities
- SO2. A place to visit - Developing diversified rural enterprises
- SO3. A place to work - Supporting vibrant rural economies

2.7 Thus in evaluating the future opportunities for Garw Valley we will need to consider the key themes and outcomes and requirements from the various strategies to reflect whether the future proposals would deliver on these outcomes, particularly if funding is to be sought.

Catchment Analysis

2.8 Figure 2.2 below illustrates the Garw Valley boundary which is considered in scope for our analysis and this consists of 4 wards, Bettws, Llangeinor, Blaengarw and Pontycymer.

Figure 2.2 – Garw Valley Boundary



SECTION 2 – NEED ANALYSIS

2.9 The total population of the Garw Valley is circa 7,784 across the four wards and we present below the age breakdown in comparison to Bridgend Council population. It can be considered that the wards of Blaengarw and Pontycymmer make up the Upper Garw Valley with the other two wards making up the remainder.

Table 2.1 – Population Age Profile

| Age | Upper Valley | Lower Valley | Garw Valley Total | Bridgend |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|----------|
| Total Population | 4,288 | 3,496 | 7,784 | 139,200 |
| 0-14 yrs | 18.7% | 20.3% | 19.4% | 17.0% |
| 15-19 yrs | 6.4% | 6.9% | 6.6% | 6.0% |
| 20-34 yrs | 19.2% | 19.4% | 19.3% | 17.9% |
| 35-44 yrs | 15.0% | 12.9% | 14.1% | 14.2% |
| 45-54 yrs | 13.8% | 14.1% | 13.9% | 14.4% |
| 55-64 yrs | 11.2% | 12.5% | 11.8% | 12.6% |
| 65-74 yrs | 9.1% | 8.4% | 8.8% | 9.8% |
| 75 yrs plus | 6.6% | 5.5% | 6.1% | 8.0% |

2.10 In general the Garw Valley has a similar age profile to Bridgend as a whole although it does have a slightly younger age profile with a higher percentage of under 19's (26%) as opposed to 23% for Bridgend.

2.11 The Lower Valley wards also have a younger age profile than the Upper Valley with 27.2% under 19's as opposed to 25.1%.

2.12 On review of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) the four wards rank as follows, with rankings going from 1 to 1,909, with rank 1 being the most deprived. The WIMD identify those ranked 1 – 191 as the most deprived. The rankings for the four wards are as follows

- Pontycymmer 1 ranks 551
- Pontycymmer 2 ranks 425
- Blaengarw ranks 604
- Bettws ranks 90
- Llangeinor ranks 496

2.13 Thus Bettws can be considered to be amongst the most deprived in Wales. In addition Pontycymmer, Blaengarw and Llangeinor are all in the bottom 20% for health and Bettws is in the bottom 10% for health.

Market Segmentation

2.14 The Sports Council of Wales (SCW) have identified a number of market segments which categorise the market into different profiles, which have implications for how the segments will participate in sport and leisure activities and physical activity.

SECTION 2 – NEED ANALYSIS

2.15 We summarise the breakdown of the population in Bridgend, by market segmentation, compared to other authorities in Central South Wales and overall in the table below.

Table 2.2 – Market Segmentation in Wales and Bridgend

| | % of population | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------|---------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| | Wales | Central South Wales | Bridgend | Cardiff | Merthyr Tydfil | Rhondda Cynon Taf | The Vale of Glamorgan |
| Rhys | 3.3 | 3.6 | 2.3 | 5.9 | 1.0 | 1.7 | 3.8 |
| Gav | 4.3 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 5.4 | 3.5 |
| Lisa | 12.9 | 15.9 | 15.9 | 17.6 | 14.9 | 15.0 | 13.8 |
| Siân | 8.2 | 7.0 | 6.6 | 9.3 | 2.9 | 4.2 | 8.7 |
| Mark | 6.8 | 8.8 | 7.9 | 12.5 | 3.3 | 5.4 | 9.2 |
| Steve | 10.1 | 11.9 | 12.3 | 10.9 | 13.8 | 13.7 | 9.9 |
| Huw | 3.7 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 3.2 |
| Christine | 12.1 | 13.8 | 13.9 | 12.1 | 16.4 | 16.1 | 12.4 |
| John & Ann | 12.3 | 7.2 | 8.8 | 6.6 | 4.4 | 5.0 | 12.4 |
| Tony | 9.7 | 10.7 | 10.8 | 6.5 | 18.8 | 16.3 | 7.3 |
| Bob & Betty | 8.2 | 5.9 | 6.6 | 6.6 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 9.5 |
| Dot | 8.7 | 9.0 | 8.5 | 6.1 | 14.8 | 13.0 | 6.4 |

2.16 Appendix A presents a summary of the profile for each of the Market segmentations identified above. Bridgend has a very similar profile to Central South Wales with the percentage of the various segmentations being similar. In particular this means high percentages of the population in the following segments.

- Lisa – 18-35, low income, state benefits, likely to participate
- Steve – 26-45 young family, reasonable participation
- Christine – 36-55 years, low income, part time, lower participation
- Tony – 46-65 years old, manual skilled, low income, not very active

All of these are higher than Wales. Conversely there are a lower proportion of the following types

- Rhys – 18-25, student, low participation
- Sian – 18-45 years old, middle management, aspiring middle class
- Huw – 29-45 years old, professional, affluent
- John & Ann – 46-65 years old, married, likely to participate in sport and recreation

2.17 The market segmentation presents an overview of a population that has higher proportion of people who are likely to be more active (reflecting the younger age profile), which should be borne in mind when developing new facilities and programmes of use, however there are groups who are likely to be less active.

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Stakeholder Consultation

2.18 There are a number of sporting clubs in the Garw Valley, which include

- Garw AFC and Senior Boys Football Club
- Bettws Football Club
- Carn Rovers Football Club
- Llangeinor Ranger Football Club
- Llangeinor AFC
- Blaengarw Rugby Club
- Pontycymmer Rugby Club
- Pontycymmer Bowls Club
- Garw Valley Tennis Club
- Blaengarw Cricket Club

2.19 In addition to this there are a number of other stakeholders including schools, sport and community facilities and operators, such as

- HALO Leisure, who operate the Garw Life Centre
- Awen Trust, who operate Bryngarw House
- Richard Price Community Centre
- Primary Schools

2.20 As part of our work we have undertaken consultation with these key groups and summarise over the subsequent paragraphs the key findings

- Many of the clubs are keen to encourage participation in sport and increase the number of members they have. In particular the rugby clubs have identified the difficulty in gaining members, with both clubs struggling to field teams and having few junior members.
- The awareness of facilities and the services the clubs offer amongst the wider population is perceived to be low.
- There is concern over the quality of the facilities within the Garw Valley and in particular the support facilities such as pavilions and changing accommodation.
- There are a number of different facilities which clubs use and many of the facilities are used by individual clubs, with little sharing of facilities.
- Access to other activities and the promotion of activities such as cycling, walking and other activities in the Garw Valley are important to consider and promote
- A number of the clubs are in the process of working together to deliver facility improvements, for example the Llangeinor football clubs have plans to invest in a new community pavilion and football ground. The Garw Valley Tennis and Bowls clubs are working together to improve their existing facilities as well

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- Bettws Primary School is in the process of having a new school being built and this includes the development of two Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP), one of which has floodlights.
- A number of the organisations identified the potential for use of cycle hire facilities and the promotion of cycle links along the old railway to enable the Upper Valley to be linked with the lower valley, such as Bryngarw
- Clubs do use the Life Centre for training but the awareness of the Life Centre is perceived to be low amongst the general population.
- Consultation with BCBC and other National Governing Bodies such as the Welsh Rugby Union and Welsh FA suggest that there is no identified demand for additional playing facilities in the Garw Valley, however the quality of the facilities is considered poor at present.

2.21 All of the clubs recognise that there are a number of spaces and pitches for clubs to play on but the co-ordination and combined use of facilities could be improved.

Existing Facilities

2.22 Across the Garw Valley there are a number of existing facilities which provide sports pitches and supporting infrastructure (such as changing and social space) for clubs and other users. The majority of these are owned by BCBC at present.

2.23 The map in Appendix H identifies the current location of the facilities across the Garw Valley and we then summarise in Appendix B a review of the facilities.

2.24 It can be seen that the number of facilities is significant in the Garw Valley in particular in the Upper Valley as summarised below (and presented in more detail in Appendix B)

- 5 Football Pitches
- 2 Rugby Pitches
- 1 Cricket Pitch
- 3 Tennis Courts
- Bowls Green

2.25 In addition to this there is the Garw Valley Life Centre which has an artificial training area. There are a number of pavilions and clubhouses which support the playing surfaces above and within Appendix C we present a review of the various facilities.

2.26 The Council has recently undertaken condition surveys of the pavilions and assets which it owns and we summarise below the costs (excluding VAT, preliminaries and professional fees) arising from the condition surveys.

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Table 2.3 – Condition Survey Costs

| Facility | Costs (£) |
|---|------------------|
| Bettws Playing Pitch | 161,600 |
| Blaengarw Cricket Pavilion | 40,500 |
| Blandy Park | 212,500 |
| Cwm Garw Playing Field | 40,750 |
| Lawrence Park | 57,650 |
| Llangeinor Playing Fields | 187,000 |
| Pwyl Y Garn Playing Fields | 56,000 |
| Waunbant Bowls (located at Lawrence Park) | 80,450 |
| Total | 836,450 |

Note: The condition surveys were undertaken in 2015/16, with the exception of Bettws Playing Fields (2007), Lawrence Park (2008) and Waunbant Bowls (2014).

2.27 The analysis of the facilities has identified a number of quality issues with the facilities and this is reinforced with the condition surveys which identify a total of circa £0.84 million is required to ensure the facilities are maintained properly over a 10 year period.

Summary

2.28 We have illustrated within this section the current overview of facilities and the results of the consultation and catchment analysis which suggest that there are a number of issues which need to be addressed in any future community sports hub development. These include

- There is a need for clubs to work together to improve and deliver a co-ordinated approach to the promotion and raising awareness of sporting activities
- The Garw Valley does appear to have a significant number of playing pitches and sports facilities, however the quality of the facilities is considered poor
- There are plans within the lower valley to develop a sporting hub in Llangeinor
- Overall it would appear there are a number of opportunities to consider facility development which includes the following three areas
 - Upper Valley Hub – creation of a hub which brings together clubs and activities, recognising the difficulty of finding a space which could locate all facilities together
 - Llangeinor/Bettws Hub – creation of new spaces across the existing plans at Llangeinor and development of the AGP at Bettws School
 - Cycling Links – consideration of new cycling links and a hub to promote cycling within and in and out of the valley, which could also promote walking and access to the countryside

2.29 We consider these future opportunities in the following section and consider a number of options which can both deliver and meet existing users needs but also

SECTION 2 – NEED ANALYSIS

seek to maximise the opportunities for improving participation and usage meeting the outcomes set out above.

SECTION 3 – COMMUNITY HUB OPTIONS AND FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

Introduction

- 3.1 We set out in this section the potential options and how any future development should be managed. The section is structured to identify
- Community Hub Options – what are the options available for the development of Hubs
 - Management and Delivery Options – how should they be managed and developed
 - Financial Projections – what are the likely future revenue projections with sensitivities, together with indicative capital costs, in comparison with existing costs
 - Funding Opportunities – how can any of the options be funded
- 3.2 We illustrated in the previous section the potential for the development of three community hubs based on facilities, within the Upper Valley, Llangeinor and Bettws. However prior to considering the facility options it is important to consider what we mean by a community hub and also the future vision for sport and physical activity in the Garw Valley.

What is a Community Sports Hub

- 3.3 Sportscotland define a community sports hub as “essentially progressive sports clubs working together in a local community” and this is further illustrated below in some of the key areas a community sports hub focuses on

Figure 3.1 – Community Sports Hub Approach (Sportscotland)

UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY SPORT HUBS

Community sport hubs provide a home for sport. They bring together sport clubs and key local partners who want to develop and grow the sporting offering in the community. They focus on sustainable, community-led approaches that get clubs working together to develop welcoming, safe and fun environments for sport.

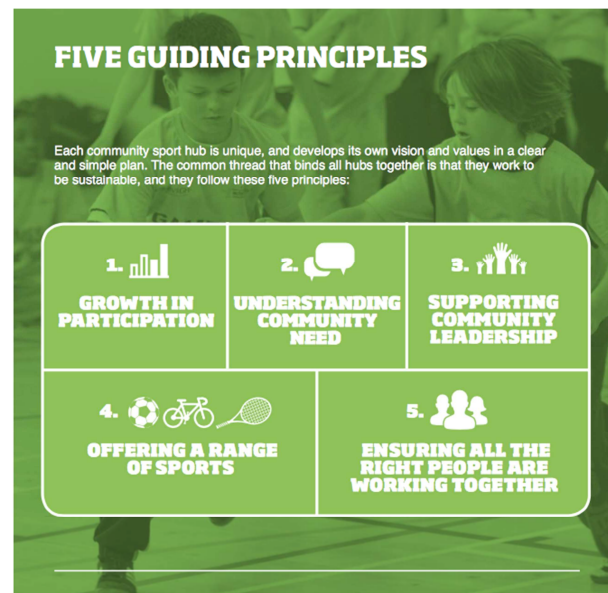
Community sport hubs are Lottery-funded and are one of sportscotland's key programmes which support local sport clubs to play their part in a world class sporting system.

Community sport hubs and sport clubs play a key role in delivering sporting opportunities within communities and help aspiring participants and athletes develop and learn. Community environments can provide less competitive, more recreational opportunities to a wide range of people. In all cases it is important that people experience world class environments and support in whatever way they participate, in the heart of their local community.

A community sport hub is focused on the clubs around a school, sport centre, community centre, park or playing field. In some cases the hub combines a number of these places, at other times they centre on a single venue hosting several clubs.

A community sport hub is essentially progressive sport clubs working together in a local community.

#hubs



- 3.4 It can be seen from the approach identified above that it is not necessarily about facility development and investment in new facilities. Indeed it identifies the potential to be focused around a number of facilities as opposed to one facility. The five

SECTION 3 – COMMUNITY HUB OPTIONS AND FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

principles identified above reflect an approach which the Garw Valley could adopt, in particular to deliver growth in participation.

- 3.5 Thus it is important to recognise that a Community Sports Hub is not necessarily about the development of new facilities but more importantly is about clubs and organisations working together to deliver improved participation.

“Get Garw Active”

- 3.6 Prior to considering any facility development options it is important that the development of a vision for the Garw Valley to encourage clubs and organisations to work together in partnership should be considered to deliver on the five principles set out above in Figure 3.1

- Growth in Participation
- Understanding Community Need
- Supporting Community Leadership
- Offering a range of sports
- Ensuring all the right people are working together

- 3.7 We suggest a working title for this vision should be

“Get Garw Active”

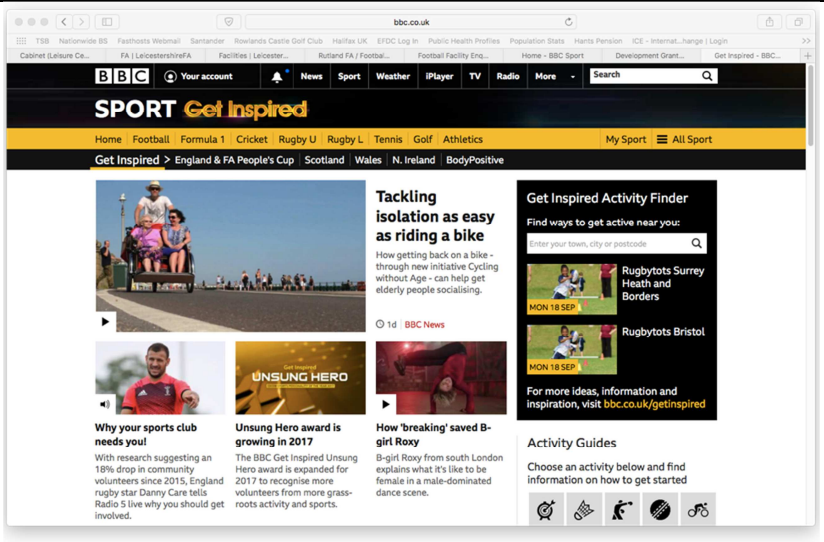
- 3.8 The vision should then be developed and promote the working together of clubs to develop a series of activities and promotions which will raise awareness and get more people active. This should include

- Establishing a partnership of organisations – inviting sports clubs, operators, schools to join and participate in the vision
- Develop a database of activities and clubs which happen in the Garw Valley, potentially the development of a website and links to the clubs
- Prepare and develop a promotional campaign (for example in line with the national “This Girl Can” approach below) to raise awareness of physical activity and get people engaging in activity and sport
- Create a series of events and activities which support the promotional campaign, such as
 - Multi Sport Try Out Sessions or Open Days – where people can come and try a number of different sports, with the links to clubs so that people can then start to play more regularly
 - “cycle the Garw” – get people on their bikes and a mass cycling event up the Garw to promote activity
 - Representative matches with local celebrities to promote sport and activities
 - Fund raising activities linked to physical activity such as sponsored walks, run the Garw, etc
- Involvement of all clubs and groups across the Garw – seek to invite clubs to participate

SECTION 3 – COMMUNITY HUB OPTIONS AND FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

- 3.9 The aim of the vision will be to get people to try out a sport or physical activity and then provide the links and make it easy for people to continue. For example the “This Girl Can” campaign and BBC “Get Inspired” provides an awareness raising and links to further deliver on sporting opportunities

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>This Girl Can</p> <p>A campaign run to try and break down barriers of women and girls not participating in sport.</p> <p>Has led to over 1.6 million more people in England exercising and playing sport, with the number of women playing sport increasing at a greater rate than men.</p> |  |
|---|--|

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>BBC Get Inspired</p> <p>Provides opportunities for links and promotes how you can get involved through club or session links</p> |  |
|--|---|

- 3.10 Whilst these campaigns are national campaigns the principle of these approaches can be used for the Garw Valley – for example the illustration of a session linked to “We Move, She Moves” (below) is a campaign based in a local authority in England, so these approaches can be delivered

SECTION 3 – COMMUNITY HUB OPTIONS AND FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS



3.11 This the first stage of developing a Community Sporting Hub is to get clubs and organisations working together to co-ordinate a programme of activities and events with a raising of awareness. Ultimately this could also lead to the development of coaching courses and volunteer training to ensure there are the right resources to continue the development of active participation.

3.12 We consider the potential financial implications later in this section, although the development of the programme is about people coming together and utilising existing resources more effectively.

Facility Development Options

3.13 Whilst we believe the key to developing community hubs is through the development of the vision as set out above this can then lead to the development of new or enhanced facilities for the Garw Valley which should be based around the following four projects, as illustrated in the previous section.

- Upper Valley Hub – the development of enhanced facilities which could include
 - Clubhouse and social space for clubs to meet and develop training, functions, etc
 - Additional Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP) or reconsideration of the current use of pitches, for example is there potential for clubs to share pitches
- Llangeinor Hub – development of new community centre and pitches as per the current plans
- Bettws Hub – addition of changing and floodlighting to the Bettws School facilities so that it becomes the home of sporting clubs out of hours for training due to the pitches not being full sized
- Cycling Hub – creation and use of the existing bikes at the Life Centre to create a hub for cycling in the Upper Valley and provide links to the

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mountain bike routes which exist and also through the railway line to Bryngarw House. This would ideally take the form of a café/bike centre to attract and encourage people to stay for lunch etc in the Garw Valley.

3.14 For all of the opportunities that are identified above these should recognise the multi sport opportunities and ensure the delivery of the opportunities for different sports such as hockey, netball, athletics and other sports.

3.15 We consider the current status and issues with each of the opportunities presented above in the table below.

Table 3.1 – Facility Development Options

| Opportunity | Facility Mix | Issues/Considerations |
|---|--|--|
| 1 Upper Valley Hub | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Clubhouse bringing together social space 3G AGP – rugby & football Links to existing playing pitches Create a focus for clubs but may need to retain some or all of playing space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location of the joint clubhouse to be worked up Lack of flat space means difficult to get all facilities in one location Consider whether there are opportunities to rationalise playing space to help fund developments |
| 2 Llangeinor Hub | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New clubhouse and function space New football pitches (including AGP) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current plans developed with a partnership Funding required of circa £2 million |
| 3 Bettws Hub | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New floodlights and changing to create community space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment from school to support and local community Funding required |
| 4 Cycle Hub & Adventure Links | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of cycle hire and open up routes between Bryngarw and the Life Centre and the Upper Valley Provide links to mountain biking routes Café and hub to increase visitor stay | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bikes for hire exist and commitment from HALO and Awen Trust appears to be there to deliver Possible opportunities to link to Afan Valley Adventure Park Resort development |

3.16 The facility opportunities set out above all have a number of issues and opportunities which could deliver improvements, however it is important that it is recognised that these should be considered ambitions to work to and in particular we consider potential funding opportunities below.

3.17 Whilst Llangeinor and Bettws developments have a clear plan and the clubs appear to be working together to try and deliver, the main issue is about identifying and achieving funding and ensuring a sustainable financial position.

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3.18 For the Upper Valley Hub there are more complex issues in that the location of any development will need careful consideration. There is not one location which would be ideal for the development of new facilities. There are a number of opportunities which could be considered including

- Lawrence Park – which does have a diversity of sports provision (rugby, bowls and tennis), but would require some joint use of facilities and playing surfaces
- Garw Valley Life Centre – which has indoor facilities but there is limited space for additional outdoor facilities
- Cwm Garw Playing fields – which has the potential for joint use of facilities and playing space
- Other sites – could also be developed for use

3.19 The decision on where any future club development should happen is a decision which we believe should be taken by the local community working together to identify the best location (or locations) which can deliver on the five principles (Figure 3.1) and in particular the development of increased participation.

3.20 Thus we recommend that the initial development of the Community Sport Hub should be through the development of the vision set out above in paragraph 3.8.

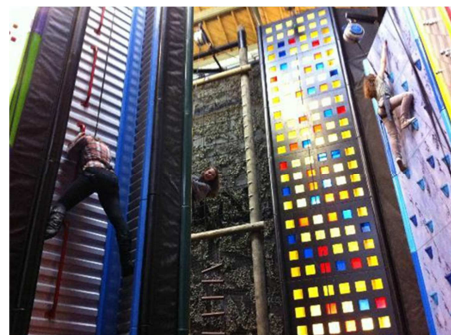
3.21 As the vision develops activity and create more interest in participation then there is the opportunity for the introduction of commercial facilities to balance the costs of providing the sporting facilities. We present below some examples and case studies to illustrate the type of facilities, which could deliver the commercial support.

Clip n Climb

Clip n Climb (and other similar facilities) provides a climbing facility which creates a number of different challenges in a safe environment. The facilities can be developed in a number of different sizes and can form facilities to meet the needs of the space requirements.

Exeter is the first development in the UK with more examples being Rock Up in Whiteley Village.

They offer facilities which can be used by children and adults alike, with opportunities for training, parties, corporate and team building events, etc.

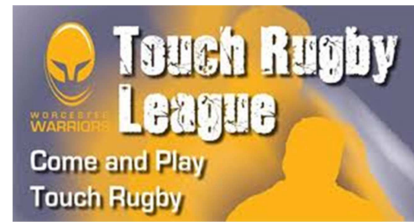


SECTION 3 – COMMUNITY HUB OPTIONS AND FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

5 a side Centres & Touch Rugby

5 a side football centres (such as Goals or Pwerleague) offer the opportunity for individuals or teams to play in a 5 a side league. Typically operated from Monday to Thursday nights as the peak times the facilities include a clubhouse and outdoor five a side pitches.

There are also a number of operations which are starting to consider a similar approach for touch rugby and the development of centres catering in a similar way to touch rugby. This would have a broader market appeal as there is the potential for mixed leagues and ladies leagues as well, whereas the five a side football tends to be male dominated.



Jump Zone

There are a number of facilities starting to be developed as Tramp or Jump zones, which are halls with trampolines throughout and create an environment where physical activity can be promoted, through tramp parties, dodgeball.

They have been developed in Dublin and are hugely successful in the US.



New Tredegar Indoor 3G Pitch

Caerphilly County Borough Council have recently converted a sports hall to an indoor 3G pitch which is proving popular for both rugby and football.

Including touch rugby, full contact and football, the facility has significantly increased usage and revenue



3.22 As can be seen from the examples above there are a number of different activities and facilities which can create spaces, which are slightly different from traditional sports and attracts different markets. Whilst at this stage some of the facilities may not work for the catchment, the development of indoor 3G AGP and touch rugby opportunities could be considered to help promote increased participation.

SECTION 3 – COMMUNITY HUB OPTIONS AND FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

Management and Delivery Options

3.23 Currently the majority of sports facilities in the Garw Valley are owned and managed by the Council retaining responsibility for building and grounds maintenance, with users paying a hire charge or annual rental which are subsidised by the local authority.

3.24 The Council has identified that they cannot sustain the continued investment in the facilities and is seeking to deliver long term financial savings and is prepared to consider community asset transfer (CAT) of pavilions and playing pitches.

3.25 In considering the future management and delivery options there are two elements to assess

- How should the delivery of the vision be managed and developed
- What should the arrangements be for the future delivery of any facilities

3.26 We consider the various options and issues for each of these over the subsequent paragraphs, with further background information on the management options in Appendix D.

Management and Delivery of “Get Garw Active”

3.27 There are three principle approaches to the management and development of “Get Garw Active” which include

- Informal Partnership – where the clubs and organisations agree an informal partnership to work together to promote the vision
- Formal Organisation Established – a formal organisation (most likely a not for profit organisation) is established
- Lead Organisation – one organisation takes the lead with support from other clubs

3.28 In considering these options there are a number of principles that should be considered in determining the most appropriate option including

- The clubs and organisations will need to feel ‘ownership’ of the management option so that the local community can feel involved
- There should be the opportunity for other clubs and organisations to join the vision/organisation as it gathers momentum
- It is important that bureaucracy is kept to a minimum
- There will need to be a legal organisation which can manage the finances and receive funding

3.29 We summarise in the table below for each of the options how well they will meet these principles.

Table 3.2 – Get Active Management Options

SECTION 3 – COMMUNITY HUB OPTIONS AND FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

| Key Areas | Informal Partnership | Not for Profit New Organisation | Lead Organisation |
|----------------------|--|--|--|
| Ownership | Yes ability to incorporate all clubs into organisation | Yes ability to incorporate all clubs into organisation | Possibly but danger that lead organisation maybe seen as 'owner' |
| Expansion | Yes can be incorporated into partnership agreement | Yes can be incorporated into organisation rules | Yes can be incorporated but will need to be clear on decision making |
| Minimise Bureaucracy | Yes – keeps partnership simple | Possibly but danger that organisation takes on too big a role for its activities | Yes – although important to ensure lead organisation has capacity |
| Finance | Possibly but may still need a lead organisation to take role of financial management | Yes will be legal entity | Yes will be legal entity |

3.30 The analysis above suggests that the use of a lead organisation may mean that the 'ownership' of the partnership could be difficult to achieve. It is therefore suggested that consideration is given to one of the other two options. Bearing in mind the approach of seeking to keep bureaucracy to a minimum and encouraging 'ownership' it is suggested that the development of a partnership is the most appropriate way forward.

3.31 This is supported from the recommendations of the "Review of Sustainable Community Venues and Assets in Bridgend County Borough" report which identified three core recommendations in respect of future management and delivery of community venues, including

- Inter- organisational partnerships – where local organisations partner with large organisations, such as development trusts or housing associations in order to secure and run community assets
- Local partnerships and consortia – maximise community capacity and resources
- Community partnership or co-operative approach including partnership approaches between organisations and governing bodies such as WRU and FAW, stand a better chance of succeeding.

3.32 Within the Garw Valley there are two Trusts (Awen and HALO) who operate facilities in the Garw Valley and have the potential to support the development of a partnership and get involved.

3.33 As a result it is recommended that for the "Get Garw Active" that a community partnership is formed which has the following key principles

Table 3.3 – Get Garw Active Partnership – Key Principles

SECTION 3 – COMMUNITY HUB OPTIONS AND FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

| Area | Principles |
|------------------------|---|
| Legal Status | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established as a community partnership with an agreement that commits organisations to work together to achieve key outcomes |
| Board Make Up | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is suggested that each club has equal representation in the partnership and a board is elected to represent the partnership This could mean a board of 5, with board members representing the Get Garw Active partnership not their clubs |
| Financial Arrangements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once the future plans for developing activities and approaches and funding is agreed then it is recommended that one organisation acts as the Treasurer This could be either Reach/BCBC/HALO or Awen or indeed one of the clubs, but a separate bank account is established and the financial arrangements reported to the Board and the partnership |
| Reporting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is suggested that in addition to the day to day operation and development of activities there are regular meetings at which all the partnership are invited (perhaps every 3 months) In addition the board may meet more regularly |

3.34 Discussions have been held with HALO and Awen over the future options. As a result it is likely that one of them would be prepared to support the partnership through providing administration and back office support for the partnership.

Facility Management

3.35 The majority of facilities are currently owned and managed by the Council who are offering the opportunity for CAT of the pavilions and playing fields and individual clubs will need to consider the opportunity and make their own decision on the facilities.

3.36 There are a number of options for the future operation of facilities within the Garw Valley which include

- Continued Operation by the Council
- Self Management of facilities by the Clubs following CAT
- Partnerships of Clubs who manage facilities
- Operation of facilities by either HALO or Awen Trusts
- Operation of facilities by the Get Garw Active Partnership

3.37 Each of these options has the potential for any future management of facilities, however the Council is seeking to reduce its current costs of operation.

3.38 Further consideration of the future operation should be given on a site by site basis, and this will depend on the facility developments which are progressed.

Financial Projections

SECTION 3 – COMMUNITY HUB OPTIONS AND FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

3.39 We consider here the capital and revenue implications for each of the facility development options identified earlier, including the Get Garw Active approach. These are summarised in this section based on the following approach

- Get Garw Active – identification of pump priming funding to enable the project to develop
- Cycle Hub and Adventure Links – identification of future hire and opportunities for a new café, however the projections do not include for a new café
- Upper Valley Hub – capital and revenue for a new AGP and continued development of pavilions
- Llangeinor Development – based on the plans which the Llangeinor partnership have developed
- Bettws School – based on future floodlighting and changing

3.40 Appendix E presents revenue projections and indicative capital costs for each of the facility development options presented above (with the exception of Get Garw Active and Llangeinor) and we summarise in the table below the future revenue projections and capital costs.

3.41 It should be noted that the revenue projections and capital costs are indicative costs only and further work will need to be undertaken to develop detailed business plans, once the preferred option (or options) have been chosen, prior to any future investment decisions.

Table 3.4 – Financial Summary

| Community Hub Options | Indicative Capital (£'000's) | Revenue (£'000's) | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| | | Income | Expenditure | Net Surplus/ (Deficit) |
| Get Garw Active | N/A | - | 23 | (23) |
| Cycle Hub & Adventure Links | 30 | 14 | 7 | 7 |
| Upper Valley Hub | 1,050 | 70 | 48 | 22 |
| Llangeinor Development | 2,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Bettws School | 175 | 36 | 20 | 16 |
| Totals | 3,255 | 120 | 98 | 22 |

Notes:

1. The revenue projections shown in the table above are based on a Year 3 operation.
2. Llangeinor Hub is currently in the process of developing its revenue projections and business plan

3.42 We provide a summary of the key elements for each of the options and opportunities set out in the table above

Get Garw Active

SECTION 3 – COMMUNITY HUB OPTIONS AND FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

- The basis of the Get Garw Active financial projections are based on pump priming funding to undertake a series of activities, which include the following
 - Website Development £5,000
 - Database of Clubs and Organisations £500
 - Events £5,000
 - People (potentially use of HALO staff) £5,000
 - Promotion & Marketing Campaign £7,500
 - **Total** **£23,000**
- This would be supplemented by the use of club volunteers and approaches to deliver events and open days which can link into the development of ongoing activities and events.
- Consideration of support from HALO and Awen should also be given in terms of the ability for their staff to participate and develop the business with clubs.
- Once the pump priming funding has been developed and activity has commenced then the Get Garw Active partnership would be seeking to continue the work through self-funding events.

Cycle Hub & Adventure Links

- These projections are based on the use of the cycles which are currently at the Life Centre and bringing back into service these bikes and creating promotion and publicity for hire, linked to the Life Centre.
- The projections are assuming a summer only operation at present for 28 weeks per year and are based on predominantly weekend use and early evening use. It is estimated that in a mature year there will be 18 people hiring cycles per week for 4 hours, during the summer months.
- The overall approach is for HALO to lead this and develop the cycle hire as a starting point.
- It is recognised that there are also opportunities for a cycle hub further up the valley and if this can be developed commercially and link into the trails in the Afan Valley then this would supplement the cycle hire at the HALO which has been projected.

Upper Valley Hub

- The projections have been based on the development of a 3G AGP which would be used by both rugby and football and concentrate use in one location, with supplementary grass pitches retained.
- The capital costs include for refurbishment of a clubhouse to act as the social hub for a number of clubs. This is an indicative amount not based on any specific location.

SECTION 3 – COMMUNITY HUB OPTIONS AND FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

- The projections are not site specific as it is recognised that further discussion needs to be held with the best site location as part of the development of greater co-ordination between the clubs.
- The levels of use and income proposed for a mature year (Year 3) are based on 12 teams using the facility for an average of 3 hours per week. Within the Upper Valley there are 2 football clubs and 1 active rugby club. Currently the clubs are running circa 7 teams at junior and adult level.
- It should be noted that currently the level of club provision in the Upper Valley is unlikely to be able to sustain an AGP, as expected for the demand, however there is the potential that future growth of provision and usage could sustain provision. This has been reflected in Year 1 figures which is based on 6 teams.

Llangeinor Hub

- We have only identified the capital costs for the Llangeinor hub which have been provided by the Llangeinor partnership for the proposed development.
- It is anticipated that the Llangeinor partnership will prepare revenue projections which illustrate the future sustainability and would be the basis of any funding bids.

Bettws School

- These projections are based on the AGP being used after school with changing and floodlights providing opportunities for community clubs to use the facilities in addition to the school.
- It is anticipated that the facilities will be managed by the school but made available for community use.
- The levels of use and income proposed for a mature year are based on 7 teams using the facility for an average of 3 hours per week. Within Bettws itself there is only the football clubs who run a number of teams and also the two Llangeinor clubs who run circa 10 teams. In the early years the number of teams required to sustain the training and forecasts is 5 teams.
- It should be recognised that the use by Bettws Club would not sustain the AGP on its own but would require support from other clubs and use by other sports and activities, such as five a side football.
- Currently the levels of use from existing teams may not sustain the income in the mature year but these projections assume the development of further participation and activity from Get Garw Active.

3.43 All of the projections build in sinking fund for replacement of facilities such as AGP surfaces. The projections illustrate that there is the potential for the facility

SECTION 3 – COMMUNITY HUB OPTIONS AND FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

developments to be sustainable, however it is likely that external capital funding will be required.

3.44 It should be recognised that if all three hubs were to develop AGP's then it is unlikely that the existing clubs on their own could sustain the facilities. This is borne out by the view from the NGBs which don't believe there is a demand for the facilities. However if "Get Garw Active" develops participation and use then they could be sustainable.

3.45 We consider the way in which the capital could be funded below

Funding Opportunities

3.46 There are three principal sources of funding, which include:

- Grant funding – from organisations such as Sport Wales, the Welsh FA, WRU and other Governing Bodies, Reach and rural funding and local community funding
- Developer contributions (or CIL), where funding is achieved from the sale of land for residential or commercial development; and
- Public sector funding – either from the Council's own capital programme.

3.47 These are discussed in the paragraphs below and highlight the likelihood of achieving the funding for the various options.

Grant Funding

3.48 There are a number of potential funding sources for grant funding which could be considered by any development and these include

- Sport Wales – there are two principle funding streams for community sport which are Community Chest (up to £1.5k) and Development Grant (up to £25k) both of which could be a target for the development of improved physical activity and in particular for the support of Get Garw Active
- Reach & Welsh Government – provides funding for rural communities such as Rural Communities Development Fund (RCDF) up to £128k and Community Facilities programme up to £250k.
- BCBC Town and Community Council Fund – which has an annual funding pot of £100,000 to support CAT projects
- BCBC CAT Business Support – provides funding for professional fees (legal, property and business support

3.49 Other funding has been channelled through National Governing Bodies (NGB), and their may be funding through NGB's however the demand and identification for new facilities such as 3G AGP's has not been specifically identified.

3.50 There may be opportunities to attract other smaller sources of funding through charitable trusts, regional funding sources and other grant giving bodies.

SECTION 3 – COMMUNITY HUB OPTIONS AND FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

Commercial Development (Developer Contributions)

3.51 Within the leisure market commercial development has been a source of funding, either where land has been sold or leased or through development agreements funding has been allocated for community developments (through Section 106 agreements and subject to there being a formally agreed strategy to which the funding would clearly contribute).

3.52 One of the opportunities for the facility developments could be through the rationalisation of the pitches and developing capital receipts from the sale of some of the land to deliver receipts to fund a hub. This will need careful consideration and discussion to identify the right solution for the Council, clubs and organisations involved.

Public sector funding

3.53 The potential for capital funding within the public sector is limited to the following principal area

- Funding from the capital programme – which would require the Council to approve any scheme and add to its capital programme. The Council has previously set aside £1M from capital receipts to support community organisations take over the self-management of pavilions.

3.54 As can be seen there are opportunities to fund many of the facility development options through a range of funding sources.

Summary

3.55 We have in this section presented facility development and management options which in principal address the outcomes which the clubs and organisations have identified as the most appropriate approach.

3.56 In particular the key first step is the development of the vision for the Garw Valley and the programme of “Get Garw Active”.

SECTION 4 – CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD

Delivering the Vision – “Get Garw Active”

4.1 In considering the facility development options outlined in the previous section, it has been identified that prior to considering any facility development options it is important that the development of a vision for the Garw Valley to encourage clubs and organisations to work together in partnership should be considered to deliver on five principles set out below

- Growth in Participation
- Understanding Community Need
- Supporting Community Leadership
- Offering a range of sports
- Ensuring all the right people are working together

4.2 We suggest a working title for this vision should be

“Get Garw Active”

4.3 The vision should then be developed and promote the working together of clubs to develop a series of activities and promotions which will raise awareness and get more people active. This should include

- Establishing a partnership of organisations – inviting sports clubs, operators, schools to join and participate in the vision
- Develop a database of activities and clubs which happen in the Garw Valley, potentially the development of a website and links to the clubs
- Prepare and develop a promotional campaign (for example in line with the national “This Girl Can” approach below) to raise awareness of physical activity and get people joining
- Create a series of events and activities which support the promotional campaign, such as
 - Multi Sport Try Out Sessions or Open Days – where people can come and try a number of different sports, with the links to clubs so that people can then start to play more regularly
 - “cycle the Garw” – get people on their bikes and a mass cycling event up the Garw to promote activity
 - Representative matches with local celebrities to promote sport and activities
 - Fund raising activities linked to physical activity such as sponsored walks, run the Garw, etc
- Involvement of all clubs and groups across the Garw – seek to invite clubs to participate

4.4 The aim of the vision will be to get people to try out a sport or physical activity and then provide the links and make it easy for people to continue.

4.5 It is then proposed that as part of the development of the community sports hub the focus is on the vision and then consideration of the ambition to develop new facility hubs which include

SECTION 4 – CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD

- **Cycle Hub and Adventure Links** – creating a facility which can hire cycles and create links for the mountain bike trails and links between the upper valley and Bryngarw House (for example).
- **Upper Valley Hub** – development of new 3G AGP for rugby and football which can create a location for clubs to come together.
- **Llangeinor Development** – delivering the current proposals developed by the Llangeinor partnership for new community clubhouse and new pitches
- **Bettws School** – development of floodlights and changing rooms to encourage community use of the AGPs.

4.6 The development of the Get Garw Active partnership would seek to develop more people participating and the ability to support the development of the capital investment.

4.7 In particular we have identified earlier that the development of 3 AGP hubs for the Garw Valley is likely to be unsustainable based on the current levels of participation but as growth in participation develops then they could become sustainable and this should be a consideration of the future delivery of the hubs. In particular as the growth in other sports supports the existing users and sports such as Netball, Hockey, Athletics grow.

Stakeholder Consultation Workshops

4.8 The development of the approach set out above was discussed at stakeholder consultation workshops held in the Upper Valley and in Llangeinor to test the approach. These workshops were held as follows

- Upper Valley Workshop – 16 October 2017
- Llangeinor Workshop – 23 October 2017

4.9 Appendix F provides the details of the attendance at the workshops, but both sessions were well attended by a variety of clubs and organisations.

4.10 The feedback from the sessions was that the approach identified above was seen as a positive way forward. In particular participants at the workshop felt that

- The development of a vision for the Garw Valley and the approach of “Get Garw Active” was a sensible approach.
- The approach of co-ordination between clubs to develop events and new activities was positively welcomed and clubs recognised the challenges of this but were keen to support the development
- The approach should ensure that the focus should be on all sections of the community to include young and old to encourage participation amongst all groups

SECTION 4 – CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD

- There was particular support for multi sport opportunities which could deliver introductory sessions across a range of activities and sports to then enable individuals to progress in a sport of their choosing.

4.11 The feedback from clubs and organisations in Bettws was such that they supported the approach and did not need a workshop, hence a workshop was not required in Bettws.

4.12 We therefore recommend that the development of the community sports hubs focuses initially on the development of Get Garw Active Partnership and seeks to work with the clubs and other stakeholders to deliver the overall vision for the Garw Valley as set out in this report.

Way Forward & Action Plan

4.13 If the Steering Group accept the recommendations above then the next steps should include

- A call to join the Get Garw Active Partnership which it is recommended is developed through developing a vision and briefing document based around the approach set out in this report and inviting organisations who want to participate to join a session which would seek to
 - Further develop the ideas and approach to improving participation building upon the work within this report
 - Gain commitments from clubs and organisations to sign up to the partnership and be involved
 - Agree individuals to participate and lead certain aspects of the programme
 - Confirm an action plan of activities and development of key responsibilities for the future development.
- Following on from this session there are a number of tasks which would then flow from this workshop as set out below
 - Development of partnership agreement for clubs and organisations to sign up to as per the principles set out in this report
 - Development of a funding bid (or bids) for resources to deliver the Get Garw Active programme
 - Development of database and website
 - Preparation of a programme and marketing campaign – linked to a series of events
- This would lead to the launch of Get Garw Active through the promotion campaign and the website and database.
- Funding bids for future facility developments would then be a core part of the work programme for the Get Garw Active partnership.

4.14 We set out in Appendix G a draft project timetable for the period up to the launch of Get Garw Active and suggest that the steering group continues to drive forward the

SECTION 4 – CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD

approach until the Get Garw Active partnership is established to manage the project.

Appendix A – Sport Wales Market Segmentation Summary

| Segment | Summary Profile |
|-------------|---|
| Huw | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males – aged 26-45, financially successful professional • 3.2% of adults • 82% participate in sport and physical recreation, 73% regular participation (at least once per week) • 31% are club members and 8% volunteer in sport |
| John & Ann | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults – aged 46 - 65, married with grown up children considering early retirement • 11.6% of adults • 69% participate in sport and physical recreation, 58% regular participation (at least once per week) • 17% are club members and 3% volunteer in sport |
| Christine | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults – aged 36-55, low income part time • 12.6% of adults • 58% participate in sport and physical recreation, 49% regular participation (at least once per week) • 11% are club members and 2% volunteer in sport |
| Mark | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults – aged 26-45, married with pre school children relatively affluent • 6.9% of adults • 80% participate in sport and physical recreation, 72% regular participation (at least once per week) • 31% are club members and 7% volunteer in sport |
| Bob & Betty | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults – aged 66+, retired • 7.3% of adults • 54% participate in sport and physical recreation, 45% regular participation (at least once per week) • 13% are club members and 2% volunteer in sport |
| Tony | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults – aged 46-65, full time skilled manual labour • 11.6% of adults • 52% participate in sport and physical recreation, 44% regular participation (at least once per week) • 12% are club members and 2% volunteer in sport |
| Lisa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults – aged 18-35, low income, state benefits • 12.5% of adults • 70% participate in sport and physical recreation, 60% regular participation (at least once per week) • 16% are club members and 2% volunteer in sport |
| Sian | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults – aged 18-45, owner occupier, children and lives with partner • 7.2% of adults • 78% participate in sport and physical recreation, 67% regular participation (at least once per week) • 22% are club members and 4% volunteer in sport |
| Gav | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults – aged 18-25, lives in rented , carefree • 3.9% of adults • 75% participate in sport and physical recreation, 67% regular participation (at least once per week) • 30% are club members and 3% volunteer in sport |
| Dot | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults – aged 66+, older retiree, health issues |

| Segment | Summary Profile |
|---------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9.4% of adults • 36% participate in sport and physical recreation, 31% regular participation (at least once per week) • 7% are club members and 1% volunteer in sport |
| Rhys | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults – aged 18-25, student • 2.8% of adults • 86% participate in sport and physical recreation, 77% regular participation (at least once per week) • 43% are club members and 5% volunteer in sport |
| Steve | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults – aged 26-45, young family • 10.9% of adults • 69% participate in sport and physical recreation, 62% regular participation (at least once per week) • 22% are club members and 4% volunteer in sport |

Appendix C – Notes on Facilities

Photos of facilities are separately presented

Blaengarw Cricket Pavilion

One team that uses the facility (mixed)

9 games per season, training twice a week weather permitting. Not used at all off season.

Building dates back to 1963 and is in a poor state of repair although it was externally clad in PVC a few years ago. The PVC is cracked and damaged in a few places where people have shot it with air rifles.

If council funding was removed club would cease to exist due to operational costs. The current club captain very amiable to relocating and sharing facilities with other sports as required, his main focus was getting children participating in cricket.

Access is via a private single lane stone track through two sets of gates which need to be kept closed to keep the horses in.

Car parking space is limited with most people walking to the facility having parked in the village or field below.

Situation offers spectacular views of the valley however the elevated position provides issues on the boundary to the east side where it drops away steeply. Large nets have been put up to keep balls from being lost. The nets are in a poor state and need to be replaced.

- 6 wickets in rotation outside two cannot be used for matches due to proximity to boundary
- Two changing rooms
- Two toilets
- Two showers
- Kitchenette (sink, fridge, kettle, microwave)
- No first aid room just a first aid kit (10-12 mins for ambulance to arrive)
- No dedicated changing for umpires etc.
- X2 cricket nets on wheels (in poor condition)
- Club own one roller and one petrol lawn mower for the wicket
- Council maintain the outfield
- Council currently undertake reactive maintenance to the building
- Not DDA compliant

Building services – electric bills paid for by the club. Water paid by the Council

Archery is practiced on occasion but nothing formal in place. All equipment stored in separate lock on at the cricket ground.

No real scope for other field sports.

Tennis Club

Established 1927 Over 150 members and 150 children play tennis per week.

Volunteer management team and a registered charity.

Self funded through membership and charity events, receive £2300 from the council per year.

Matches played all year round and up to 9pm due to good quality flood lights.

Building if it can be called that is an old portacabin that was salvaged from a cricket club 15 years ago. It is in a poor condition although not leaking.

Access is good from the main road via tarmac single lane path that passes to West side of the courts. Gated entrance to shared compound with the bowls club. Access to the building is through an enclosed glass corridor to the bowls with doors at each end.

Car parking space is limited to road side parking only.

Situation offers great views over the valley, the elevated position means that the whole site is terraced with steep slopes to the East and West. The courts are surrounded on two sides by residential houses and on the other two by recreational land (old practice cricket pitch) and the rugby club at Laurence Park.

- 3 tarmac courts in good condition. Recently steam cleaned, due for re-lining next season
- No changing rooms
- Two toilets one male one female shared with the bowls club
- No showers
- Kitchenette (sink, fridge, kettle, microwave)
- No first aid room just a first aid kit (8-10 mins for ambulance to arrive)
- No dedicated changing for umpires etc.
- Small wooden grand stand area for spectators on East bank
- Nets in good condition, posts need replacing or respraying
- Club own several rackets, balls and restringing machine (all equipment for child participants provided by club if required)
- Club maintain the courts
- Council currently undertake reactive maintenance to the building
- Not DDA compliant

Building services – Water and electric, bills paid for by the club.

Club have plans drawn up for developing a new club house to the South end of the courts, currently raised £12.5k require an additional £8.5k to implement.

No real scope for other sports (maybe net ball but this would require adding more lines on the courts which may detract from the tennis lines)

Club chairman very well connected in the valley and very amiable to working with other clubs and people to help develop sport participation. Has a good appreciation that people may partake in multiple sports.

Could be considered as a hub due to other sports nearby and currently underused recreational space. Would need significant investment though and co-operation from several clubs.

Rugby Club – Pontycymer Laurence Park

Didn't meet anyone at this club so less detailed info.

Building has benefitted from a recent refurbishment inside and out including all services (eg new boilers). Clear evidence of vandalism and design to mitigate against this including down pipe guards to prevent access to the roof being gained.

Access is good from the main road via tarmac single lane path that passes past the tennis club and some houses.

Car parking space is limited to 6-7 vehicles inside the gates without utilising the grass banks. After which it would be street parking competing with the residents and the tennis club.

Situation offers great views over the valley, the elevated position means that the whole site is terraced with steep slopes to the North, East and West. The tennis club, bowls club and recreational ground (old practice cricket pitch) are very close by on the South side of the field.

- 1 grass rugby field in reasonable condition, clearly maintained with no obvious signs of excessive wear or unauthorised use. No obvious signs of water pooling.
- Posts not in great condition but still standing.
- Building asset is not a club house
- 4 changing rooms with showers and toilets
- No first aid room just a first aid kit (8-10 mins for ambulance to arrive)
- Dedicated changing for referees etc.
- Council own the building and responsible for up keep
- Club carry out cleaning etc.
- Flood lights fitted by the club however they are not fit for purpose and installation may not be compliant.
- DDA compliant, one toilet and shower

Building services – Water, gas and electric, bills paid for by the Council.

Scope for other sports (maybe football but seasons may clash)

Football Club – Blandy Park

Didn't meet anyone at this club so less detailed info.

Two buildings, one of which is the changing rooms is very dated and is in very poor state of repair with mould growing on several surfaces and wall finishes peeling off.

Access is good from the main road via tarmac single lane path that passes past the tennis club and some houses.

There is no official car parking space, only what can be found on the road or a public car park a 1min walk away.

Pitch is located on the valley floor next to the river and site is prone to flooding. The buildings are set on East side of a steep bank overlooking the pitch. This provides a great view of the pitch however access to the pitch from the buildings is via some steep steps.

- 1 grass football pitch in reasonable condition, clearly maintained with no obvious signs of excessive wear or unauthorised use. No obvious signs of water pooling however it was a dry day in the summer.
- Posts not in position, not sure how often the pitch is used.
- Building assets; one club house and one changing block.
- 2 changing rooms
- 2 separate shower rooms
- 2 separate toilets
- No first aid room just a first aid kit (8-10 mins for ambulance to arrive)

- Dedicated changing for referees etc.
- Kitchenette with fridge, kettle, microwave.
- Council own the building and responsible for up keep
- Club carry out cleaning etc.
- No flood lights fitted
- Not DDA compliant
- Site access between buildings unsafe and should be in use (sign up informing players that they are not insured if they use the access path between the changing block and the club house)

Building services – Water and electric, bills paid for by the club, except changing rooms paid for by the Council.

Scope for other sports (maybe rugby but seasons may clash)

Due to flooding of pitch and condition of the buildings I would suggest this pitch is not fit for purpose.

Llangeinor Pavilion Playing Fields

Used by two football clubs, Llangeinor AFC and Llangeinor Rangers FC.

Two buildings, one of which is the changing rooms is very dated and is in very poor state of repair with asbestos roof and walls. Leaking roof with mould growing on several surfaces and wall finishes peeling off. The other building is the club house which is good state of repair but very old.

Access is good from the main road via tarmac single lane road that passes over the river.

Car parking space is good with sufficient for more than 20 cars.

Existing other use is limited a bingo morning once a week on a Tuesday.

Pitch is located on the valley floor next to the river and site is in flood plain although site contact indicated that it had not flooded in his many years there.

- 1 grass football pitch in reasonable condition, clearly maintained with no obvious signs of excessive wear or unauthorised use. No obvious signs of water pooling however it was a dry day in the summer.
- Posts in good condition.
- Building assets; one club house and one changing block.
- 2 changing rooms
- 2 separate shower rooms
- 2 separate toilets
- No first aid room just a first a kit (8-10 mins for ambulance to arrive)
- Dedicated changing for referees etc.
- Bar and club house, the profits from the bar go towards up keep of the building.
- Council own the building.
- Club carry out cleaning etc.
- No flood lights
- Not DDA compliant
- Site has a MUGA and small children's play area.

Building services – Water, gas and electric, bills paid for by the club, with bills for changing rooms paid for by Council.

Good potential location for a hub here, good location within the valley and good transport links. Could use land from Richard Price Centre for parking or develop for other sports and put bridge across the road/river between the two sites.

Existing plans in place for development of the site however not fully funded and no real feasibility carried out on whether the proposed facility is suitable or fit for purpose.

Area is right next to river and may be in a flood plain.

Richard Price Centre

Was not able to get inside this building. It is built on a slope with one end raised up on concrete beams to create a level floor. As such as there is a large unusable void under one part of the building which is fenced in.

Externally it is not an attractive or inviting building. It does have two floors on end with an external terrace with seating on it. There is no view as such from the terrace just some trees and the carpark.

Internally I am told there is one large sports hall on the 1st floor with a viewing gallery on one end and the terrace while the ground floor has changing/toilets a café facility etc. Looks like a creche is run out of it but it was not in operation on the day we visited.

Not sure of usage figures or what sports can be played there, given size it is a maximum of 2 court hall.

Parking enough for 12-14 cars

Access is good just off main road and good bus links from all parts of the valley.

Building services – Water and electric, bills paid for by the council.

Building maintenance and upkeep paid for the council.

No scope for any field sports.

Site could have high value as building plot although it is not flat and likely parts of it are on a flood plain.

If considered with near by facilities the location is good for a sports/activity hub. It could provide good satellite base as parking area and community activity centre joined to near by Llangeinor Park with a foot bridge linking the two over the road and river. Although costs may prove prohibitive.

The Life Centre

Leisure centre based in the centre of Pontcymer.

Owned by the council operated by Halo.

On speaking with the manager the operation of the leisure centre is not running at a profit.

Building is well maintained and in good condition.

Access is good from the main road via tarmac road. With good public transport links.

The old railway line ends at the leisure centre and there are plans (funding permitting) to reinstate the railway as a tourist attraction and create a railway history museum near to the leisure centre.

Car parking spaces for circa 25+ cars although not lined out.

General location of the leisure centre is good being central in the valley and certainly a good location for one of the hubs from that point of view.

Used in the winter months by football and rugby clubs for training.

The actual location of the leisure centre is not ideal as it allows little to no space for expansion without compromising on the available parking or nearby houses.

- One 3 court sports hall
- Gym, two rooms one with cardio and one with weights
- Outdoor 3G pitch rubber crumb 5v5
- Changing rooms and toilets in good condition for both male and female
- Library incorporated into the facility
- Drop in centre with midwife etc.
- Physio and massage rooms
- No coffee shop, just vending machines
- DDA compliant facilities

Building services – Water, gas and electric, bills paid for by Halo

Already a hub of sorts due to the variety of activities on offer not just sports.

Cycle path runs past the centre and they have bikes for hire here. The mountain bike trails are a 2-3 min drive or 7-8min cycle.