

## Sowing Seeds for the Future

*“Close your eyes, we are in 2035 in Llanidloes. We have successfully transformed our community and our area in many ways, tackling climate change, we are now at a net zero carbon production, we have sustainable local food production, thriving local economy that revive ancient craft and services. We have created a perfect balance with our environment and biodiversity. Human connexion, mutual aid and creativity are at the heart of our society....think about 2035 in Llanidloes for a moment and try to imagine what it feel like, taste, smell, what do you see... Now open your eyes, and share your vision!”*

In these times of deep division and deeper despair, if there is a consensus about anything in the world, it is that the future is going to be awful. There is an epidemic of loneliness, an epidemic of anxiety, a mental health crisis of vast proportions, especially among young people. There’s a rise in extremist movements and governments. Catastrophic climate change. Biodiversity loss. Food insecurity. The fracturing of ecosystems and communities beyond, it seems, repair. The future—to say nothing of the present—looks grim.

But in the same time, there is plenty of evidence that things can change, and cultures can change, rapidly, dramatically, and unexpectedly—for the better. It happens around the world and even here in Wales, where the community is becoming its own housing developer, energy company, enterprise incubator, and local food network—with cascading benefits to the community that extend far beyond the projects themselves.

Rather than awaiting that politicians, government take engagement and make changing decisions, rather than thinking that at our individual level, we are just a drop in the ocean, We, as a community can make things happens, can start new initiatives, lead the change here and inspire others.

All it takes to start is imagination and creativity. Imagination is *the ability to look at things as if they could be otherwise*. The ability, that is, to ask *What if?* And if there was ever a time when we needed that ability, it is now.

Imagination is central to empathy, to creating better lives, to envisioning and then enacting a positive future. Yet imagination is also demonstrably in decline at precisely the moment when we need it most and we must revive and reclaim it. Once we do, there is no end to what we might accomplish.

**On the 5<sup>th</sup> of march, we have hosted a ‘Sowing seeds for the future’ event, where we looked at what a best-case-scenario would look like in Llanidloes in 15 years. Volunteers from The Hanging Gardens, Zero Carbon Llanidloes, the gardening club and Llani Car Share worked together to contribute to and run the event, which was attended by 107 people.**

The objective of this workshop was to create collectively a positive vision of Llanidloes in 2035, sharing ideas, objectives, and ways to achieve them.

## Event Schedule

5th of March	what	Description	Timing
Morning	Seed Swap	Gathering people in the Hanging Gardens to share and swap seeds	10h-12h
	Gardening advices	Q&A about gardening and demonstration	11h
	ideas swap	A table for people to share ideas about the Futur of Llanidloes. It will form a tree with many leaves and each leaf will be an idea (that will be used for the afternoon session)	10h-12h
	School exhibition	displays made by kids at school and guides	10h-12h
	Other stalls	A stall for the school to sell pinecones birdfeeders; a stall for the Hay Meadow Project	10h-12h
	kids activities	A table with lots of materials for kids to draw their vision of the futur in Llani	10h-12h
Midday	community Lunch	A community lunch themed on seeds. The afternoon workshop will start during the lunch in order ot have more different people	12h-13h
Afternoon	Workshop	A workshop to draw a picture of possibilities for Llanidloes in the futur and a plan for steps to go toward these possibilities. A drawing will be made on the spot by a graphic facilitator Laura Sorvala	12h-14h
	Teas and coffee break	A tea break will be offered by the Hanging Garden Café for participants. In the meantime Laura will finish her drawing. It will be hung in the Hanging Gardens.	14h-15h

## Results

Hundreds of participants attended the event (107 signed the form), and about 50 people attended the workshops (38 signed the survey).

Many themes emerged from this work linking to the actions of Hanging Gardens and Zero Carbon Llanidloes.

Energy
Community Energy source
All roofs to have solar panels
Hydro at Shortbridge
Local Energy Hub
Community Owned Renewables
Curtain library (to provide insulated curtains to reduce heat loss)

<b>Food</b>
Market gardening
Seasonal food
All green spaces to have fruit & veg
No factory farms, small farmers' market
Local Organic food systems
Ask local landowner to donate land for allotments
Cooking with children at Hanging Gardens
Sunday Cafe
<b>Environment</b>
A park in town
Plant more trees, green rooftops
More nature reserves
More beavers
Llani trail
Flood plains to go back to being flood plains
Agroforestry
<b>Transport</b>
Pedestrianise Great Oak Street
Traffic calming in town
Personal transport
Integrated local transport
Community transport
Availability of various forms of transport
Cycle tracks through town
Better transport links
Market Day shuttle bus
Free Car Parking
Better public transport including rural areas
More electric charging for cars
A transport hub
<b>Economy</b>
Local small scale industry
Circular economy/ Repair Cafe
Sharing of skills/ time/ tools
More community involvement
Localise economy
<b>Housing</b>
Affordable housing
Suitable housing for all



Drawing made by the Graphic Facilitator "Laura Sorvala" during the workshop

Publicity:

# HAU HADAU AR GYFER Y DYFODOL

**10YB-3YH  
MAWRTH 5ED**



**ZERO CARBON LLANIDLOES**



**BORE CYFNEWID HADAU: 10YB-12YH**  
PARTOI AR GYFER CNYDAU Y DYFODOL A RHANNU FFRWYTHAU  
YFORY (SESIWN CWESTIWN AC ATEB I ARDDWYR, GWEITHGAREDDAU  
I BLANT, GWEITHDY RHANNU SYNIADAU)



**PRYD O FWYD IACHUS I'R GYMUNED**  
AGORED I BAWB



**GWEITHDY 'DYCHMYGWCH EIN  
DYFODOL'**  
CREU DARN O GELF PRYDFERTH GYDA'N GILYDD



**BETH PETAI'R DYFODOL YN CAEL EI HAU  
HEDDIW?**

