# DIGITAL LANDSCAPES: COMMUNITY CONSULTATION WORKSHOPS & VIRTUAL CENTRE PLATFORM CREATION

FOR CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL.



#### THE BRIEF.

Caerphilly County Borough Council were seeking tender bids from agencies to design a new online Virtual Visitor Centre and offer recommendations for Interpretations for both the Country and Urban Parks within the County Borough. There were two Lots, both of which Orchard were successful in obtaining. Lot 1 required the planning and delivery of three Community Consultation Workshops, and other relevant data gathering methods that provided feedback from local residents within the county. The data collected was then analysed and presented to the Council and the web team at Orchard who have also been tasked with creating the Virtual Visitor Centre platform. The information gathered during the consultation phase, and provided within this report, will inform the web team of what content, structure and functionality is key to the success of the Virtual Visitor Centre Platform.

Three key objectives were identified within the brief; Learning, Emotional and Behavioural. It was important to the Council that local residents understood that the parks are an ever changing landscape, that they feel a positive attachment to the parks and feel encouraged to discover more about the parks. Findings within this report will provide the Council with a number of proposals, considerations and initial concepts that will assimilate both existing and new information in an accessible and easy to use format.

#### OUR PROCEDURE.

The purpose of the consultation workshops was to gather information that would inform elements of the website and the physical on-site interpretation. Participants of the workshops were required to inform us of what they want to see at/about the parks and on the Virtual Visitor Centre platform. Other objectives during this phase included; identifying proposals for improved content and functionality of interpretations and the current parks website, their skill level and awareness of current technology, and how they like to obtain and absorb information.

A list of potential contacts was provided to Orchard by Caerphilly County Borough Council; these contacts included (but not limited to) Formal Education (e.g. Schools and Colleges), Community Groups (e.g. Scouts, Wildlife, Exercise, Senior Citizens), Regular Users (e.g. dog walkers, runners, horse riders, fishermen) and Local Businesses and Counsellors. During this time of investigation, Orchard also conducted their own online research to source potential groups that would be willing to participate during the consultancy phase.

Most groups and/or individuals were contacted via phone, email or social media initially with a request for Orchard to either attend a meeting, run a workshop based activity or to present the project in order to gain interest and feedback.

Groups that were contacted included (but not limited to):

- A number of schools and youth clubs from all areas within the County
- Regeneration/Community/Volunteer Groups
- Wildlife Groups
- Lifestyle/Activity Groups i.e. Ramblers, Sports, Over 55s, Parents & Toddlers
- Historical Groups
- Local Councils
- Local Businesses

#### OUR PROCEDURE.



The aim was to ensure that a variety of target audiences, age groups and users of the parks were identified and contacted for their contribution and feedback in relation to the parks.

During this initial phase, it was raised that not all users of the parks were able to provide feedback via an online survey. In light of this, a printed questionnaire was distributed to those that requested it, collated at a later date and combined with the online survey results. In most cases, Orchard and the Council were invited to promote the consultation and the project in order to engage members of the public. Only schools and a youth club were interested in participating in the workshops.

The online survey allowed Orchard, Caerphilly County Borough Council and stakeholders to share the survey widely and strategically in terms of scheduling, reminders, sharing/posting and to target specific audiences/groups. For example, the individuals contacted were encouraged to share the online survey link to their contact lists both for their personal contacts and their associated volunteer/community groups. An online survey also provided a more accurate form of data gathering, with little room for error in comparison to a printed questionnaire. To publicise the online survey, bilingual posters were designed to attract attention and provided a written link and a QR code for direct online access to the survey. Posters were distributed throughout the county; locations included parks, libraries, sports clubs and during any initial contact with community groups.

Both the online survey and the printed questionnaire were provided in English and Welsh.

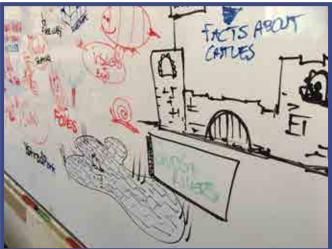
#### OUR PROCEDURE.

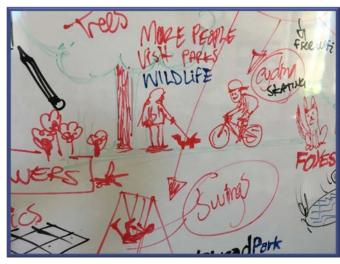


Workshops were conducted within schools and a youth club in order to engage and encourage contribution from younger users of the parks. The workshops included a short, engaging presentation by Phil Williams a Wales Sustainability Champion. The presentation put the world and its inhabitants in context, and the impact each individual has on taking care of our planet. The workshops provided useful information and prompted the pupils to inform us about why they think parks are important, what they do/can do in the parks and what would the best ever park website contain.

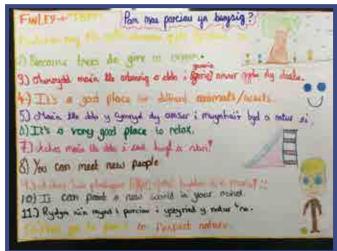
During the engagement workshops, our user experience designer and creative facilitator helped Phil to steer the target group to identify the information hierarchy associated with that particular target group. The aim as a team was to understand why people visit or do not visit the parks, how they engage with the local area and why. Often, people are not aware what is in their local parks, what the parks can offer or the important natural resource local parks provide. Obtaining this information aided in the idea generation and potential outcomes for this particular project and encouraged a greater understanding of the importance of parks in creating a sustainable future. Throughout each session, participants were encouraged to write and/or draw, ensuring that they felt at ease and confident completing the tasks at hand by using their chosen method of documenting their responses. During one workshop, a creative from Orchard documented key responses and identifiable themes from the participants, that saw their words come to life in a live, visual format.













The workshops not only provided Orchard with an insight of the minds of the pupils in relation to the local parks and the environment, it also provided the participants with knowledge of their local parks, its wildlife and their responsibilities as inhabitants of our planet and the environment.

# VIRTUAL VISITOR CENTRE CONSULTATION RESULTS:

**SCHOOLS & ONLINE SURVEY** 

# SCHOOLS & YOUTH CLUB WORKSHOPS

GILFACH FARGOED PRIMARY (30 PUPILS), YSGOLY LAWNT (50 PUPILS) & DERIYOUTH CLUB (10 YOUTHS)

#### SHORT PRESENTATION



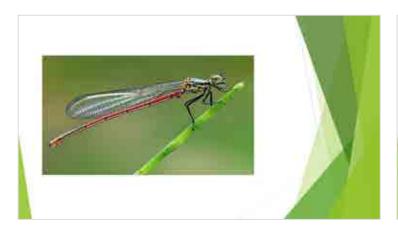




































# ARE **PARKS** IMPORTANT? Make a list of why you think parks are important



### Why do you visit a park?

Make a list or draw the type of things you do when you are at the park



### **CHALLENGE**

If you could create your own website about your local park and its habitat,

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ON YOUR EXCITING WEBSITE?



#### **RESPONSES**



During these sessions Orchard gained an insight into what the younger demographics are interested in and how they spend their time (or like to spend their time). Generally, the responses were very authentic, family orientated, simple enjoyment and wanting to take care of and learn more about nature.

# THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONSISTS OF THE **MAIN KEY THEMES** THAT AROSE FROM THE RESPONSES.

#### Why do you think parks are important?

- Bees can make flowers
- Flowers can be used for medicine
- · All kinds of bugs and animals live there
- Air comes from all the trees
- Bees can get honey from the plants
- Kids can have fun
- Kids can ride their bikes

#### What do you do/can do at the park?

- Play games
- Have a picnic
- Ride your bike
- Take dog for a walk
- Sliding down the slide
- Plant flowers
- Pond dipping
- Explore / Discover
- Football
- Fishing
- Family Time

#### **Additional Themes**

#### **Sport**

Running, Basketball, Tennis, Rugby, Rounders.

#### Leisure

Sit in the sun, Play fetch with your dog, Climb trees, Ride a scooter, Paint a picture of the land, Pick blackberry's, Fly a kite, Pretend to go camping, Make dens, Play with friends, Roast marshmallows.

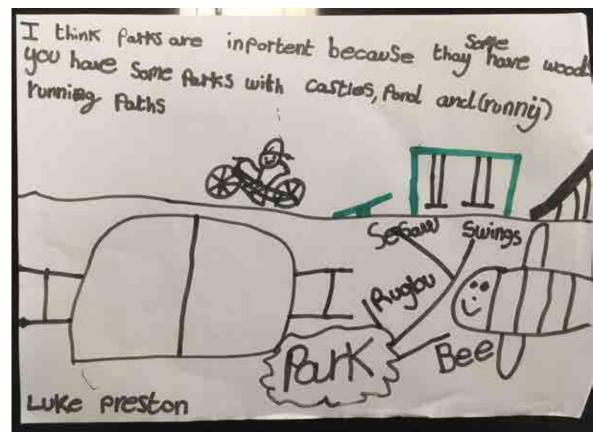
#### **Nature**

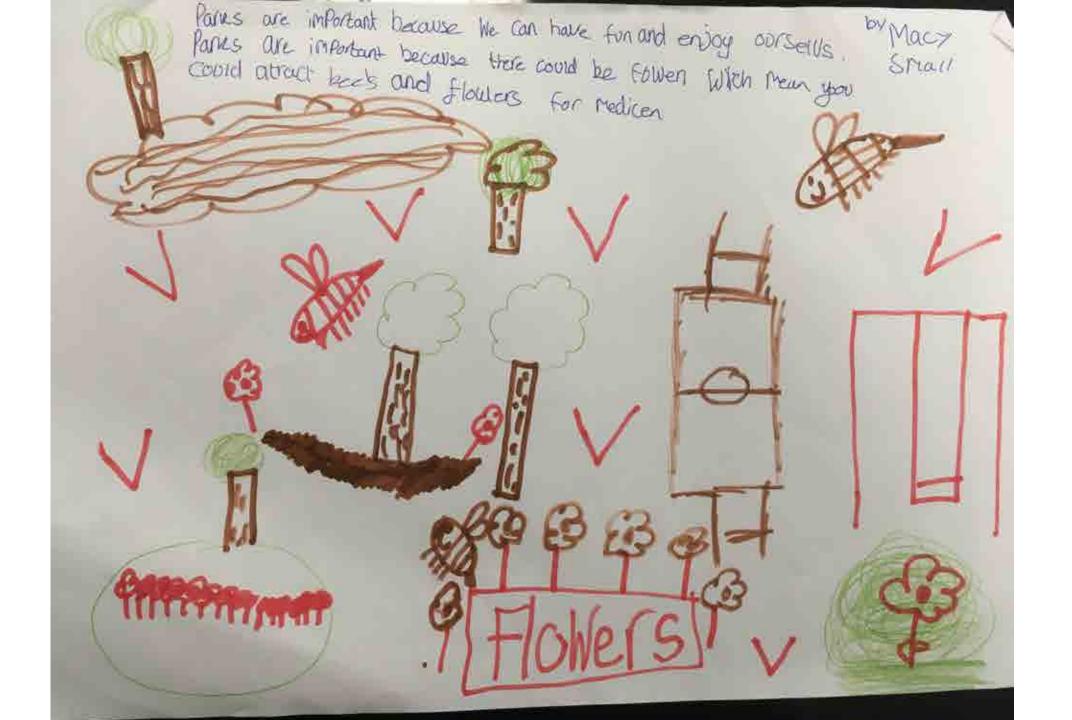
Nature hunts, Spend time with / watch wildlife, Feed the ducks, Look at rainbows, Watch the rivers/lakes, Explore the woods, Watch the sunset, Bird watching.

#### **Playground**

Swing on the swings, Get dizzy on a roundabout, Seesaw, Games –Tag, Hide & Seek, Bingo.

maycee - reigh I whick florks are importent because like can play we can exelor diffront Plants, animals, trees and That you can meat new people you can have more time with you're frends you can make diffrent things.

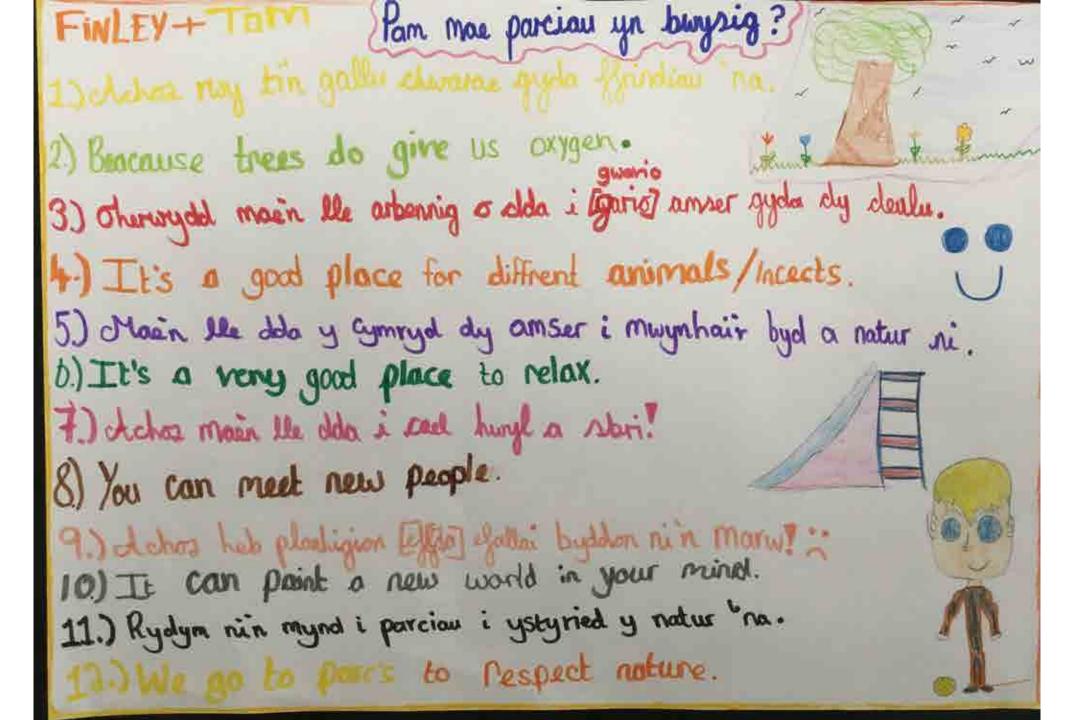




I shink parks are important becomes the can have fun and We can go beat ion somers for bee's 60 pollenes and the scan use thee's for oxygen and when we go to the park to hake Fon We seen take you bikes, scooker and you can do running, ruby, Football, tenis, When you go I can play on the swings and on The sciol and you can play with your Friends We need Ther bles a For hide and suck. these For Oxygen

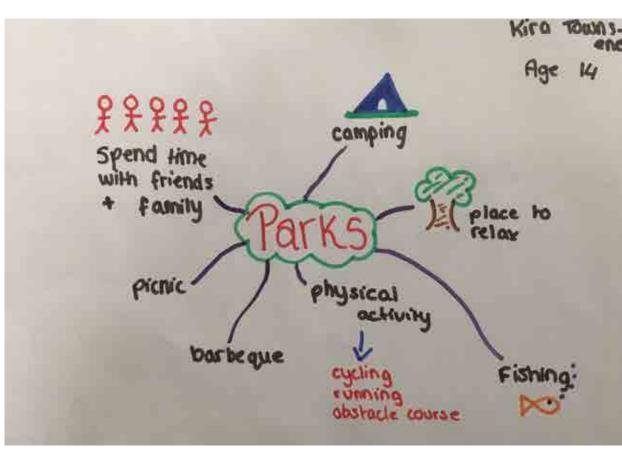
Whink Pulkes are important because: · they are homed to lots of animals you are bring blkes and scoolers blkes to the and you can also play lots of differt founds there. Sophle-lelgh James





What do I do in the Park
Me and my family Play games Play with my friends me and my dad, "Spent time together I have quidulty time with My man and my dad Without my brother and My Sister. talk to my sisters bay sisters belly and the baby kikes.

we can have a Picknick, Ride bikes, Scooters, family tag , ba) hide and seek fly a cite, explor the woods, Pick flowrs, book for wild life, Make dens, 1 Play 5-cothall wind life bing 99, Bond diring Luke





# THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONSISTS OF THE **MAIN KEY THEMES** THAT AROSE FROM THE RESPONSES.

### What would be included on the best website ever for your local park?

In addition to the key themes relating to helping and finding out more about wildlife and nature, under 18s enjoy watching and learning from video's, playing challenging games /quizzes with a reward system, and art based activities (How To's, drawing etc)

- You Tube
- Create a New Game / Games
  - A game where you start with nothing and work hard to get something
  - Fun challenges
  - Quizzes
- Bilingual
- How to make things
- Suggestion box for what can go on the website
- Roblox
- Minecraft

#### **Additional Themes:**

#### Facts about wildlife

- Where you can find animals, creatures, butterflies
- · Learn what animals are thinking
- What animals eat
- Show video's about the forest
- People are cutting down animals homes

#### **Arts & Crafts**

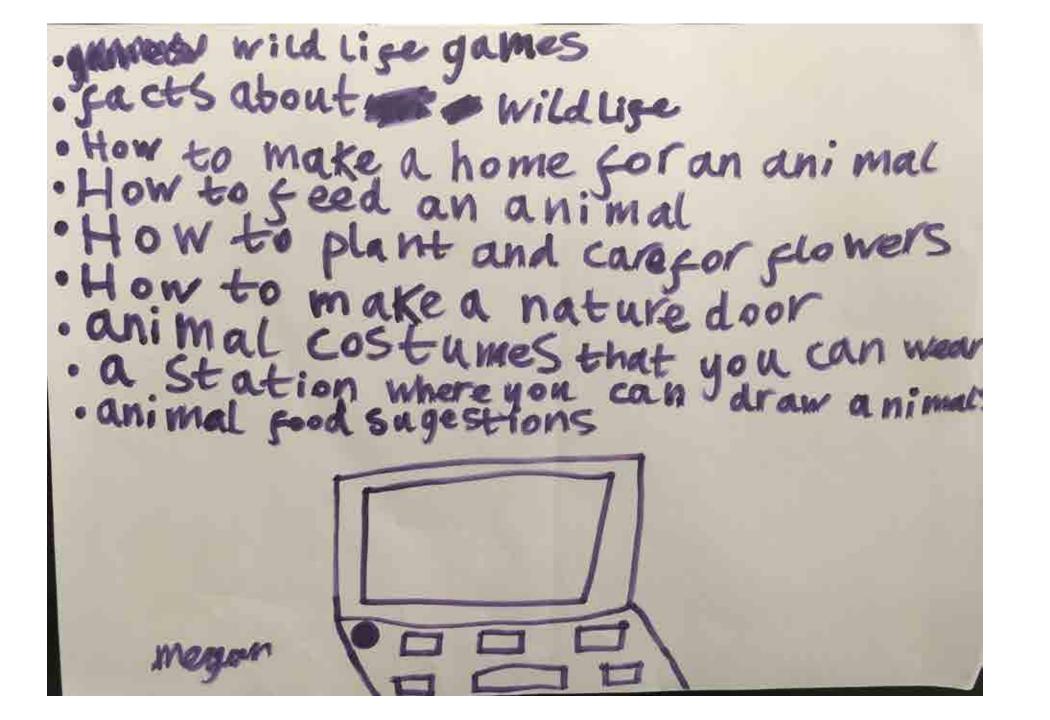
- · Animal costumes you can wear
- Draw animals

#### How To's

- How to make a home for an animal
- How to feed animals, Animal food suggestions
- How to look after animals
- How to plant and care for flowers, trees
- How to make a nature door

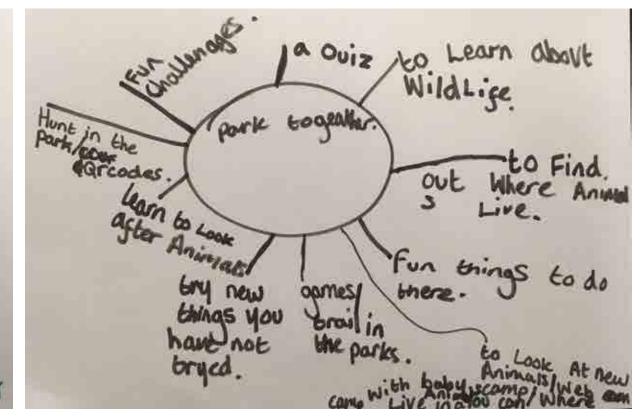
#### Other

- Put a map of all the parks in wales
- Pictures of gift shop
- Activities available
- Weather

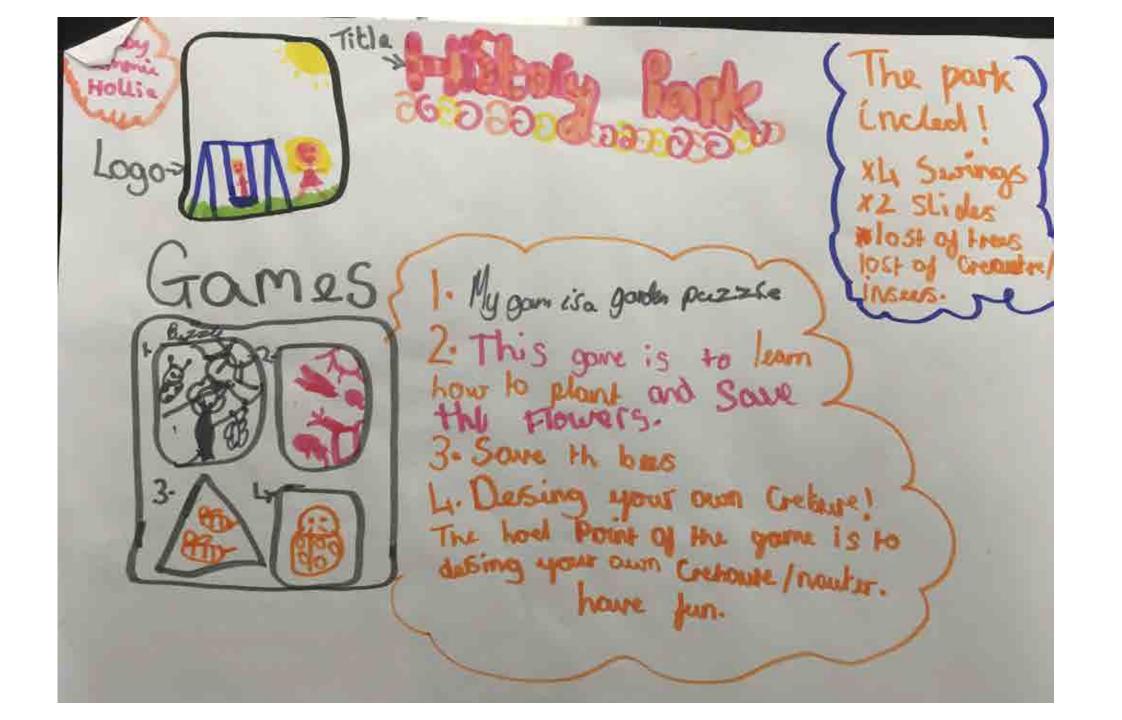


Here you can find arimals, creatures and buttersly's How you can make an easily new habital for animals. Show fictures of a gift shop in the part.

- Facts about animal lige offour to build a fait o Givewarso to Pract seeds · Facts about Parky a Pictures of Parks and steep How to draw a tree in 34 & Games and activities "En courge People tovisit for Parks

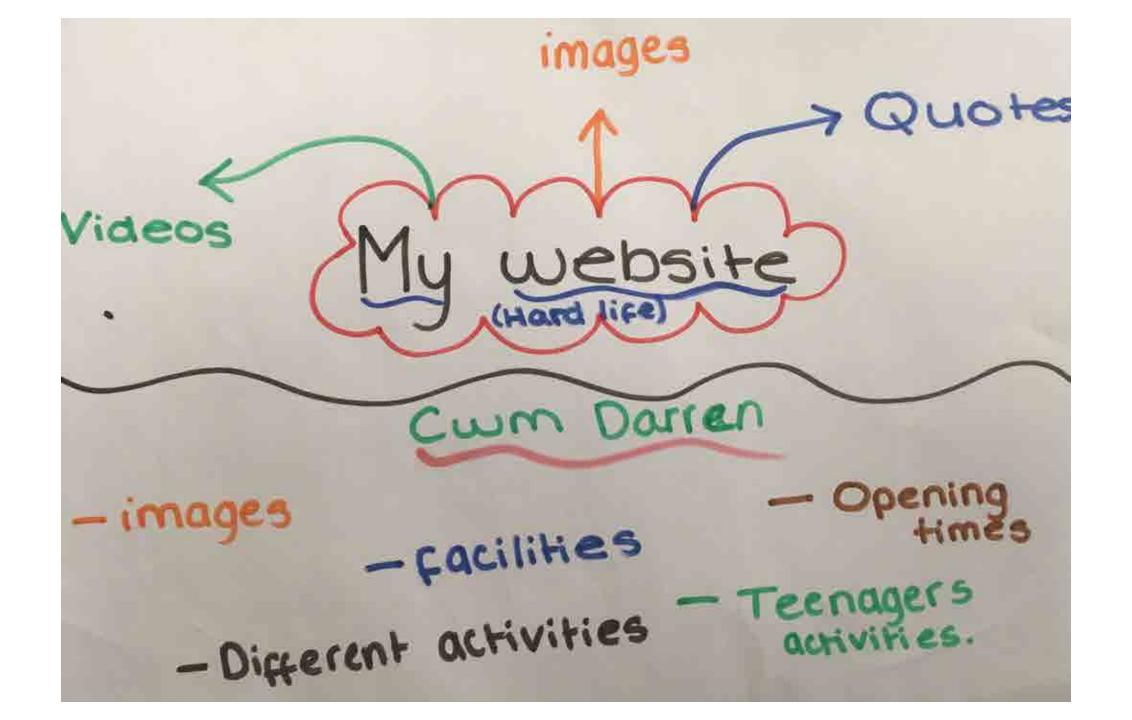


My Parfect hebsite would do be if you had a animal and you wanted to Sharch it UF, UP you class on the animal and it would Hove withe all the importation So you could see it in action to tell you about its there could be a toy comeria trail of bee steps to the end and of the end on the flour there will be go you to the end and uso a bee will be taken



## My Website Cum Darren - website. - images (lake, waverfall esc) - images - different activities available - Slogans - information lopen times ex) - games - price lists (camping, caje) - information - BBQ night - different festival for different celebrations. - music events (different ages / different styles) Abbie Rees, age 15.

Camping VIDEOS IMAGE S. FRIENDS Calendor LAMBO SNAPCITAT BBM Enjoy watching videos and socialisis



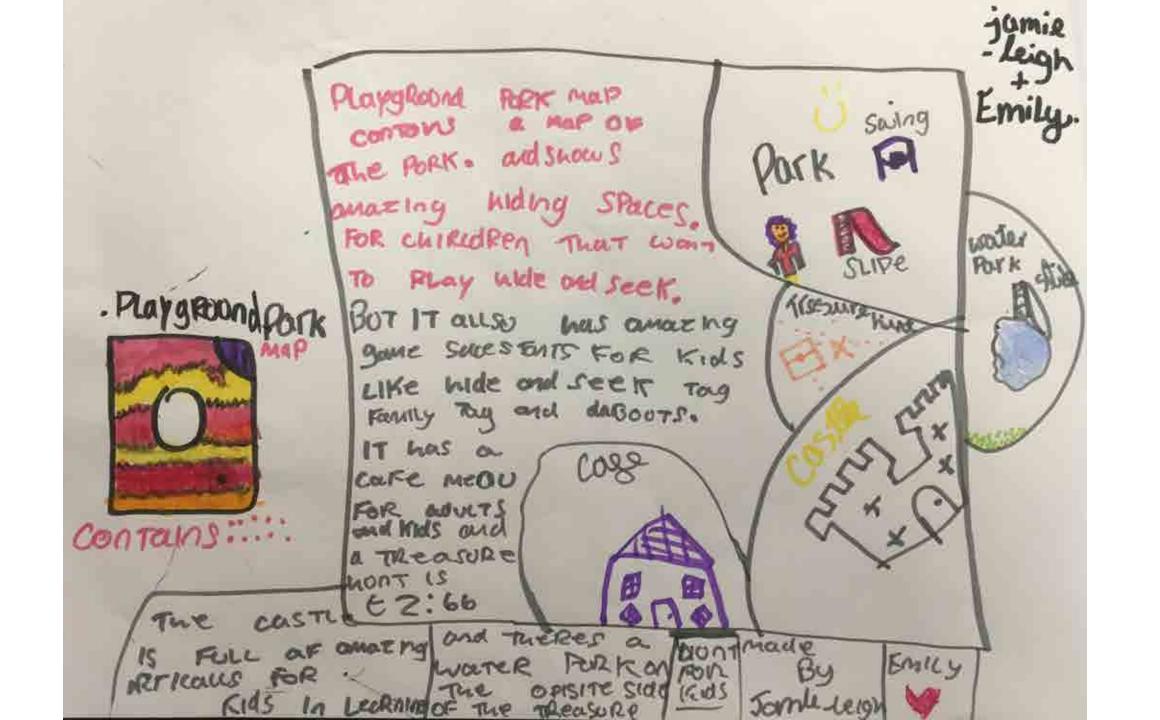
# My Website

- Videos
- images
- -games
- -quotes

-talk to friends

- Images of the park
- more facilities/activitiq
  - information on the park
  - Outdoor cinema

Cwm



### ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

15 QUESTIONS. 361 RESPONSES

The information gathered from the online survey provided Orchard with very useful information including covering 6 key areas; Demographics, Purpose, Information Format/Learning, Technology, Needs and Suggestions.



The responses clearly identified the following:

**Demographics, Purpose:** The Top 3 age groups that use the parks, the most used parks, when and why people use them.

**Information Format/Learning:** How they obtain information, what format they prefer to like to see information.

**Technology:** What type of technology they are aware of and have explored.

**Needs:** What information they would like to see on the Virtual Visitor Centre website.

**Suggestions:** Websites that they use often and why, for both content and functionality.

## The survey consisted of the following 15 questions:

## English Survey



## Orchard.

gree us o Virtu while this	in spaces (Country and Urban Parks). We are currently undertaking research that will inform if the type of information local residents wish to see and access on this online platform. The ial Visitor Centre will provide residents and visitors with a variety of accessible information e-giving local residents the opportunity to contribute to its development. In order to inform what online resource looks and feels like, we'd like to gather some basic information from select typs of people to help us along this journey.
Q1.	What is your age group?
	17 or Under
	18-24
	25-34
	35-44
	45-54
	55-64
	65-74
	_ 75+
Q2.	Which of the following country parks do you visit?
	Parc Penalita
	Parc Cwm Darran
	Parc Coetir Bargoed
	Pen Y Fan Pond
	Sirhowy Country Park
	Riverside Park
	Aberbargoed National Nature Reserve
Q3.	In general, how often do you visit these country parks?
	Daily
	Weekly
	Monthly
	Annually
	Seasonally
	Never visited

	Which of the following Urban parks do you visit?
	Waun Fawr
	Morgan Jones
	Bargoed Town Park
	Ystrad Mynach
	Nelson
	Harold Finch
	None of the above
Q5. Ii	general, how often do you visit these urban parks?
0	Daily
	Weekly
3	Monthly
1	Annually
ä	Seasonally
1	Never visited
1	hinking about your local Country and Urban Parks, are you aware of what type of aformation is available to you online?
	Yes - I'm very familiar
	Yes - I'm somewhat familiar
	No - I had no idea that there was any information online for each park
	you answered Yes to the previous question, please provide a list of the type of formation you have seen online to the best of your knowledge.
	n relation to the Country and Urban Parks, is there any specific information you would

## English Survey

Dog Walking	Woodlands & Marshes
Horse Riding	Plant Life
Fishing	☐ Enjoying Local History
Cycling	Local Art / Sculptures
Running/Jogging	Collectors Trail
Walking/Rambling	Scenic Trails
Family Outing	Cocal Events
Camping	Community Group Visits
Picnics	(e.g. Scouts, Volunteering)
Being Outdoors / Around Nature	Coffee Shop/Krosk
Well being	Socialising
Widlife Observation	Visitor Centre
Photography	Other
Artile to paint or draw	
Q10. In general, when you require informat	ion, what method do you use most offen?
Tick a maximum of 3	
Family/Friend	
Family/Friend Websites	
Family/Friend Websites Apps	
Family/Friend Websites	
Family/Friend Websites Apps Leaflets/Newspapers Telephone	stagram)
Family/Friend Websites Apps Leaflets/Newspapers	stagram)
Family/Friend Websites Apps Leaflets/Newspapers Telephone Social Media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Inc.	stágram)
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Family/Friend Websites Apps Leaflets/Newspapers Telephone Social Media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Inc. Search Engine (i.e. Google, Bing) Other.  Q11. Have you heard of any of the following QR Codes AR (Augmented Reality) VR (Virtual Reality) Apps	
Family/Friend Websites Apps Leaflets/Newspapers Telephone Social Media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Inc. Search Engine (i.e. Google, Bing) Other.  Q11. Have you heard of any of the following QR Codes AR (Augmented Reality) VR (Virtual Reality)	
Family/Friend Websites Apps Leaflets/Newspapers Telephone Social Media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Inc. Search Engine (i.e. Google, Bing) Other:  Q11. Have you heard of any of the following QR Codes AR (Augmented Reality) VR (Virtual Reality) Apps Podcast Bluetooth	
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	2. Have you ever explored or used any of the following technologies?
E	QR Codes
	AR (Augmented Reality)
0	VR (Virtual Reality)
	Apps
Đ,	Podcast
	Bluelooth
0	RFID
	NFC
	Webcam
	None of the above
Q13	What's your preferred method of absorbing information?
	d Text
	Photographs
	Drawings/Illustrations
	Video
	Audio
Q14	I. What websites do you enjoy visiting and what are the reasons for this?
Q14	s. What websites do you enjoy visiting and what are the reasons for this?
Q15 (bec	5. Do you feel that your experience in dealing with the Council was different in any way tter or worse), because of who you are, or are perceived to be, as an individual (e.g. ause of your age, your ethnic origin, your language requirements, your disabilities, you and orientation or gender, or anything else that makes you an individual)?
Q15 (bec sex	5. Do you feel that your experience in dealing with the Council was different in any way tter or worse), because of who you are, or are perceived to be, as an individual (e.g. ause of your age, your ethnic origin, your language requirements, your disabilities, you use orientation or gender, or anything else that makes you an individual)?
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Q15 (bec sex	5. Do you feel that your experience in dealing with the Council was different in any way tter or worse), because of who you are, or are perceived to be, as an individual (e.g. ause of your age, your ethnic origin, your language requirements, your disabilities, you use orientation or gender, or anything else that makes you an individual)?

## Welsh Survey



## Orchard.

#### Cyflwyniad

Mae Cyngor Sir Bwrdeistref Caerfilli yn y broses o greu Canolfan Ymwelwyr Rithwir ar gyfer eu mannau Gwyrdd (Parciau Gwledig a Threfol). Ar hyn o bryd rydym yn ymgymryd ag ymchwlliadau. arparu Er wfaint o

a fydd yn rhol gwybodaeth i ni am y fath o wybodaeth mae trigotion lleol eisiau ei gweld mynediad iddi ar y llwyfan ar-lein hwn. Bydd y Ganolfan Ynwelwyr Rithwir yn gallu di gwahanol wybodaeth a hefyd bydd yn siawns i bobl leol gaet, cyfrannu at ei datblygiad, mwyn cael gwybod sut y dylai'r adnodd ar-lein hwn edrych a theimio, hoffem gasglu rhy wybodaeth sylfaenol gan bobl o grwpiau dethol i'n hefpu ar y daith.
C1. Beth yw'ch grŵp oedran?
□ 17 neu lau
18-24
25-34
35-44
□ 45-54
□ 55-64
□ 65-74
75+
C2. Å pha barc gwledig ydych yn ymweld?
Parc Ponalita
Parc Cwm Darran
Parc Coefir Bargoed
Pwll Pen Y Fan
Parc Gwledig Sirhowy
☐ Parc Afon Bedwas
<ul> <li>Gwarchodfa Natur Genedlaethol Aberbargod</li> </ul>
C3. Yn gyffredinol, sawl gwaith ydych yn ymweld â'r parciau gwledig hyn?
Dyddiol
Wythnosal     Wythnos
Misol
□ Blynyddol
⊒ Tymhorol
Enoed wedi ymweld
W. Crinen Medi Juwani

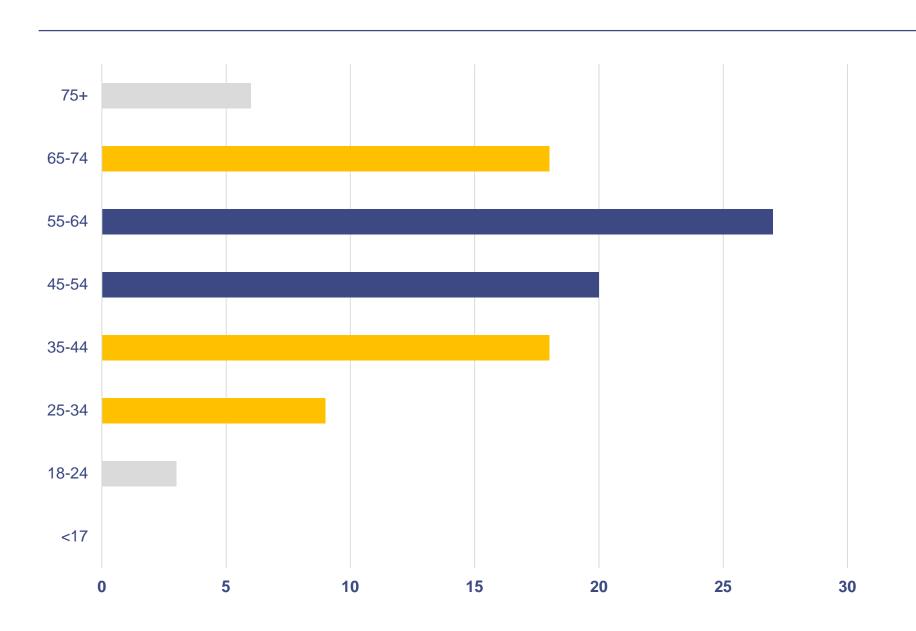
	h pha barciau trefol ydych yn ymweld?
	Waun Fawr
	Parc Morgan Jones
	Parc Tref Bargod
	Parc Ystrad Mynach
	Parc Nelson
	Parc Harold Finch
	Dirn o'r rhestr uchod
C5. Y	In gyffredinol, sawl gwaith ydych yn ymweld â'r parciau trefel?
	Dyddiol
	Wythnosol
	Misol
	Blynyddol
	Tymhorol
	Enced wedi ymweld
	Wrth feddwl am eich Parciau Gwledig a Threfol, ydych yn gyfarwydd â pha fath o wybodaeth sydd ar gael ar lein? Ydw – yn gyfarwydd iawn
	Ydw – ychydig yn gyfarwydd
	Na – nid oeddwn yn ymwybodol bod gwybodaeth ar lein ar gael am bob parc
	rea – rea decidwri yn ymwyddod dod gwyddodaeth ar ean ar gaer ae'i bob parc
	Os ydych chi wedi ateb "Ydw" i'r cwestiwn blaenorol, a fedrwch roi rhestr o'r math o wybodaeth rydych wedi ei gweld ar lein sydd wedi cwrdd â'ch anghenion.

## Welsh Survey

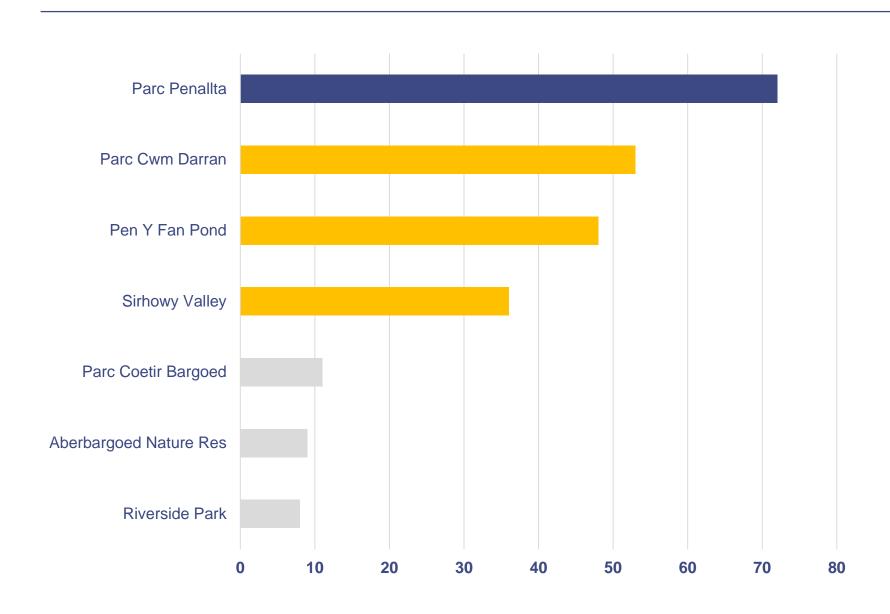
C9. Beth ydy prif bwrpas yr ymweliadau h	
Mynd â'r Ci am Dro	Coedwigoedd a Chorsydd
Marchogaeth	Edrych ar Blantvigion
Pysgota	Mwynhau Hanes Lieol
3 Beicio	□ Celt/Cerfluniaeth Lleot
Rhedeg/Loncian	Llwybr Casglwyr
Cerdded/Crwydro	Llwybrau â Golygfeydd
∴ Afian gyda'r Teulu	□ Digwyddiadau Lleol
Gwersylla	Ymweliadau Grwpiau Lleol
Pionics	(Sgowtiaid, Gwirfoddoli)
Bod Allan/o Gwmpas Natur	□ Siop Geffl/Ciosg
Lies	Cymdeithasu
Gweld Bywyd Gwyllt	Canolfan Ymwelwyr
Tynnu Lluniau	Arall:
Celf e.e. i beintio neu ddarfunio	
fwyaf? Ticiwch uchafswm o 3.  2 Teulu/Ffrind	wybodaeth, pa ddull ydych chi'n ei ddefnyddio
fwyaf? Ticiwch uchafswm o 3.	a kalantar ami a a mana a mana a sa a militar manakan a sa a mana a mana a mi a mana a mina a mana a mina a ma
fwyaf? Ticlwch uchafswm o 3.  Teulu/Ffrind Safleoedd gwe Apiati Pamffledi/Papurau Newydd Ffôn Cyfryngau Cymdeithasol (Facebook, Chwiliadur (e.e. Google, Bing)	Twitter, Instagram)
fwyaf? Ticiwch uchafswm o 3.  Teulu/Ffrind Safleoedd gwe Apiau Pamffledt/Papurau Newydd Ffon Cyfryngau Cymdeithasol (Facebook, Chwilliadur (e.e. Google, Bing) Arall:	Twitter, Instagram)
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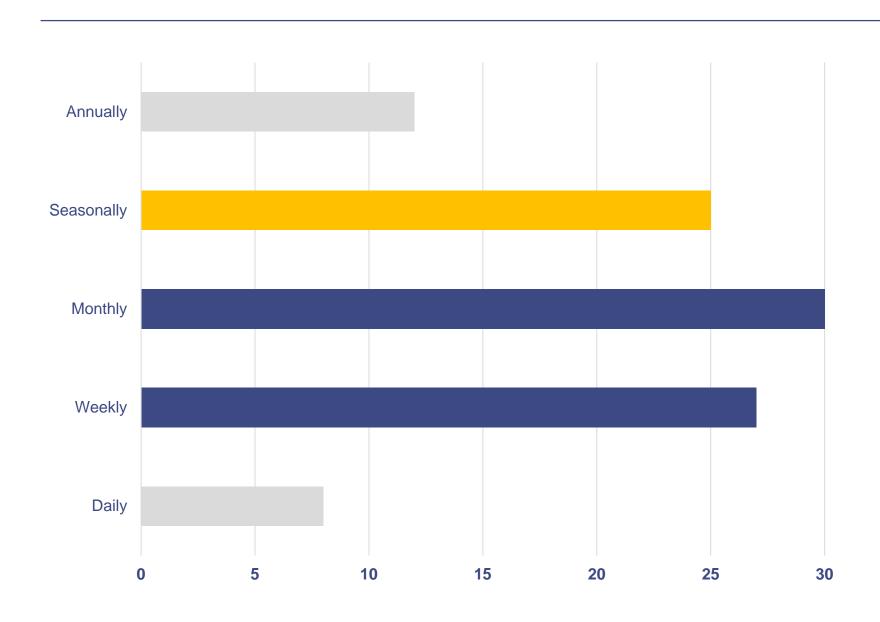
## **DEMOGRAPHICS.**



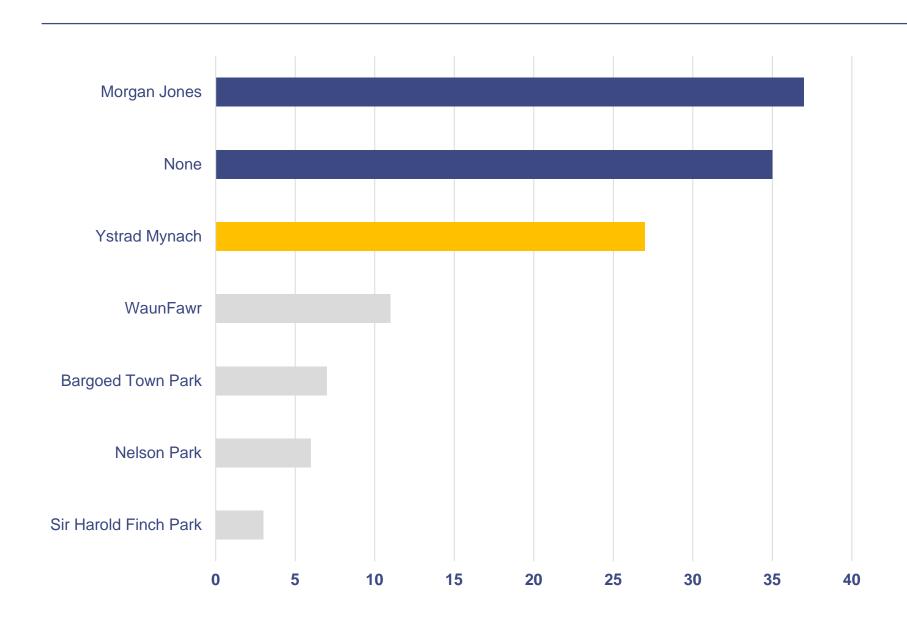
## WHERE THEY VISIT: COUNTRY PARKS.



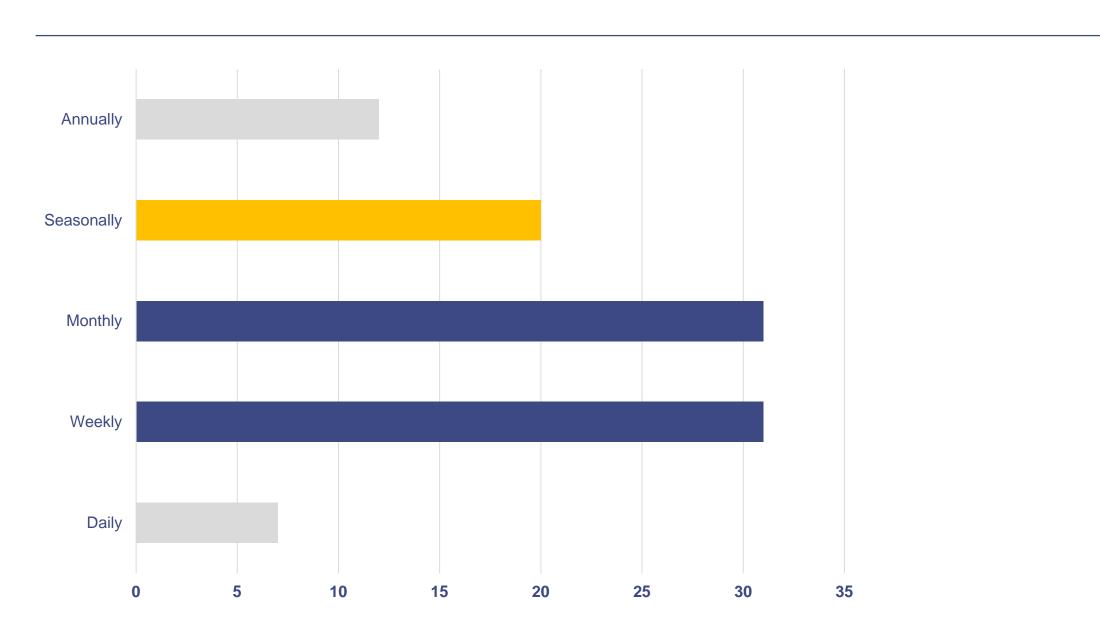
## **HOW OFTEN THEY VISIT:** COUNTRY PARKS.



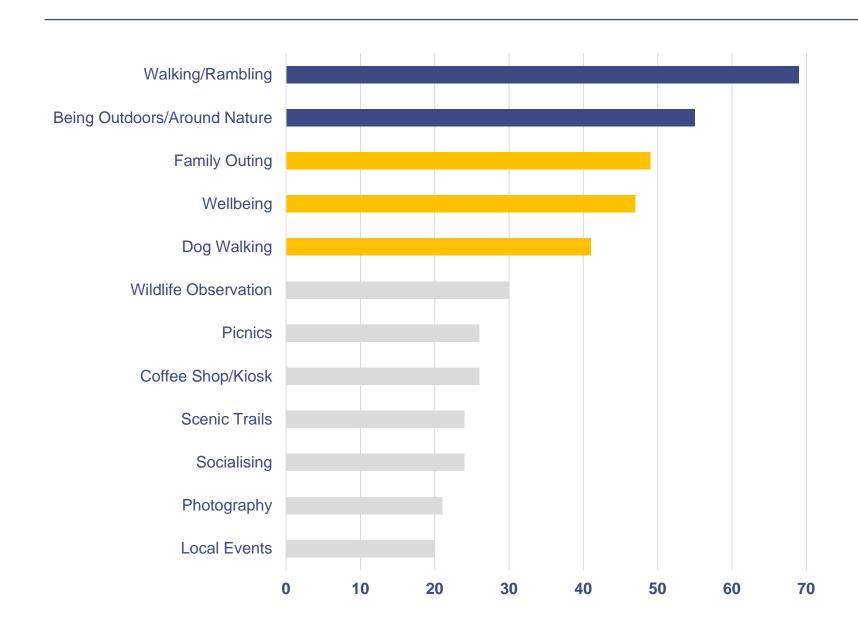
## WHERE THEY VISIT: URBAN PARKS.



## **HOW OFTEN THEY VISIT: URBAN PARKS.**



## WHY DOTHEY VISIT THESE PARKS?



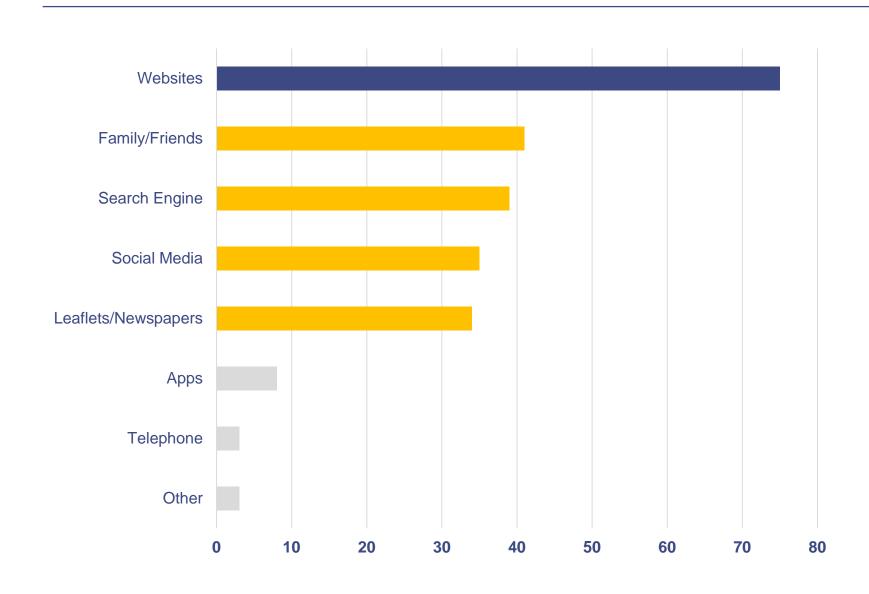
## WHY DOTHEY VISIT THESE PARKS? (OTHER)

Peaceful Surroundings (3)
Activities & Adventures for Kids (2)
Volunteer at Allotments (2)

(1)

- Running
- School Visits
- Forest School Meetings
- Earth Hour
- Summer Brass Band Concerts
- Bowls
- Canoeing & Kayaking
- Local Sports Events
- Safe Environment (Disabled user)

## HOW THEY OBTAIN INFORMATION.



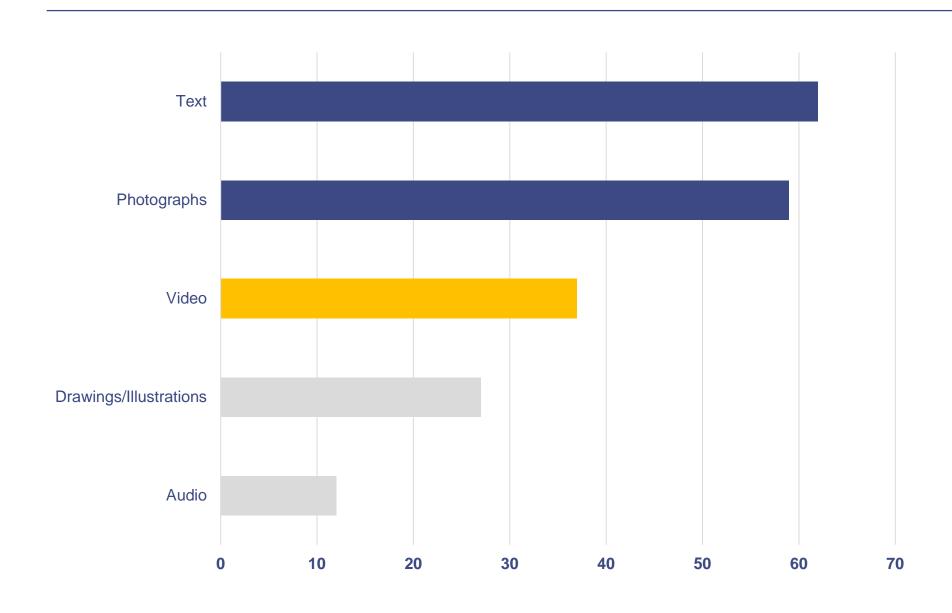
## **HOW THEY OBTAIN INFORMATION (OTHER)**

### **Tourist Information/Visitor Centre (3)**

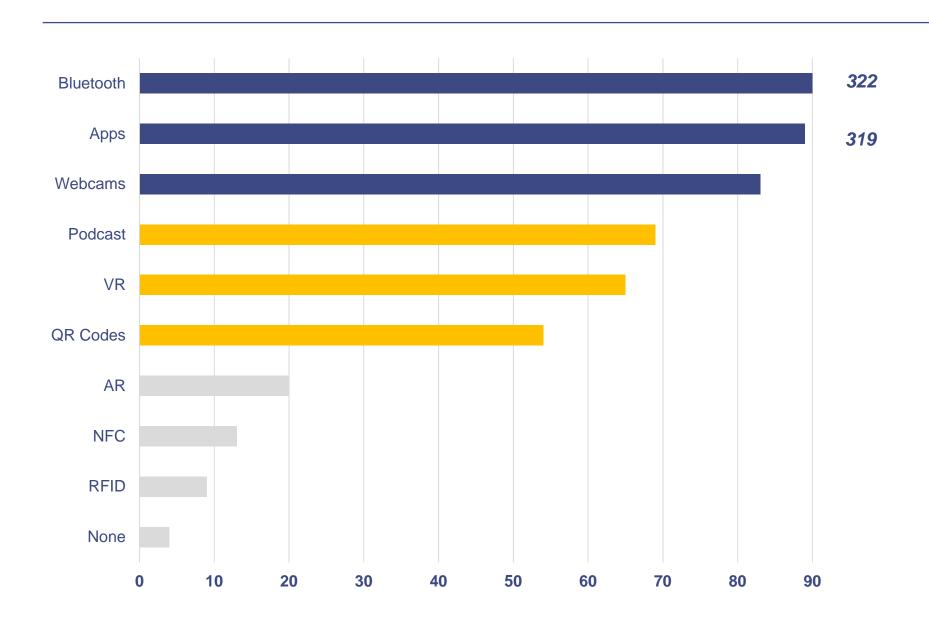
(1)

- Map
- Work
- Local Free Press
- Library
- Local Old Knowledge

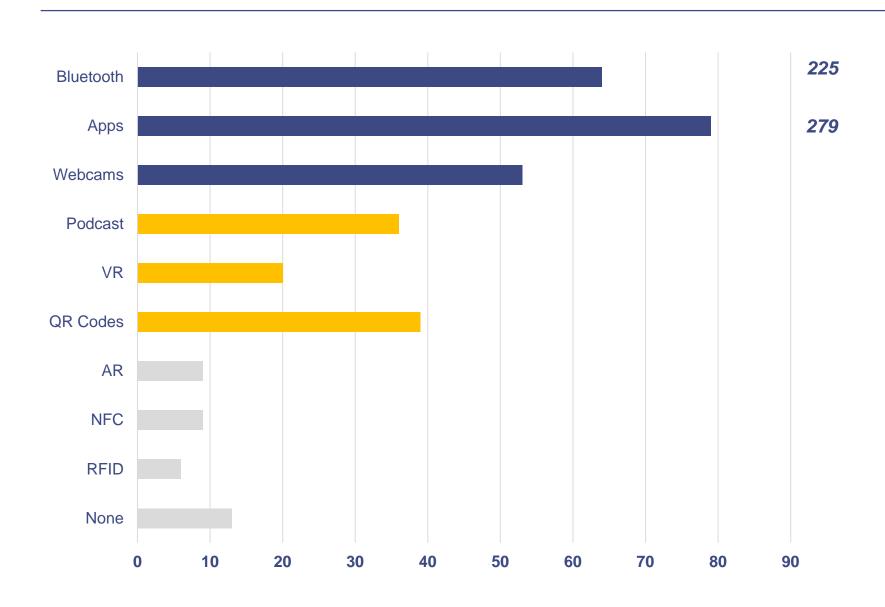
## HOW THEY LIKE TO ABSORB INFORMATION.



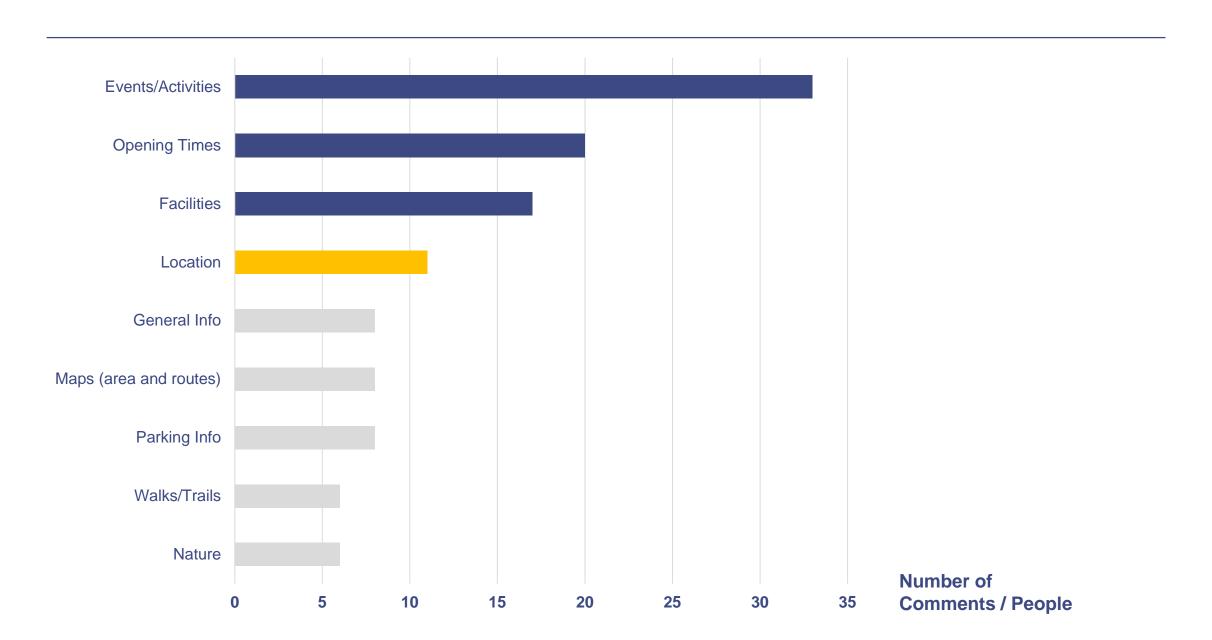
## **TECHNOLOGY: WHAT THEY ARE AWARE OF.**



## **TECHNOLOGY: WHAT THEY HAVE EXPLORED/USED.**



## **CCBC:** WHAT THEY HAVE SEEN ONLINE.



## **CCBC:** WHAT THEY HAVE SEEN ONLINE (1-3s)

Parking Costs (3)

History of the Parks (3)

Accessibility (3)

Things To Do (2)

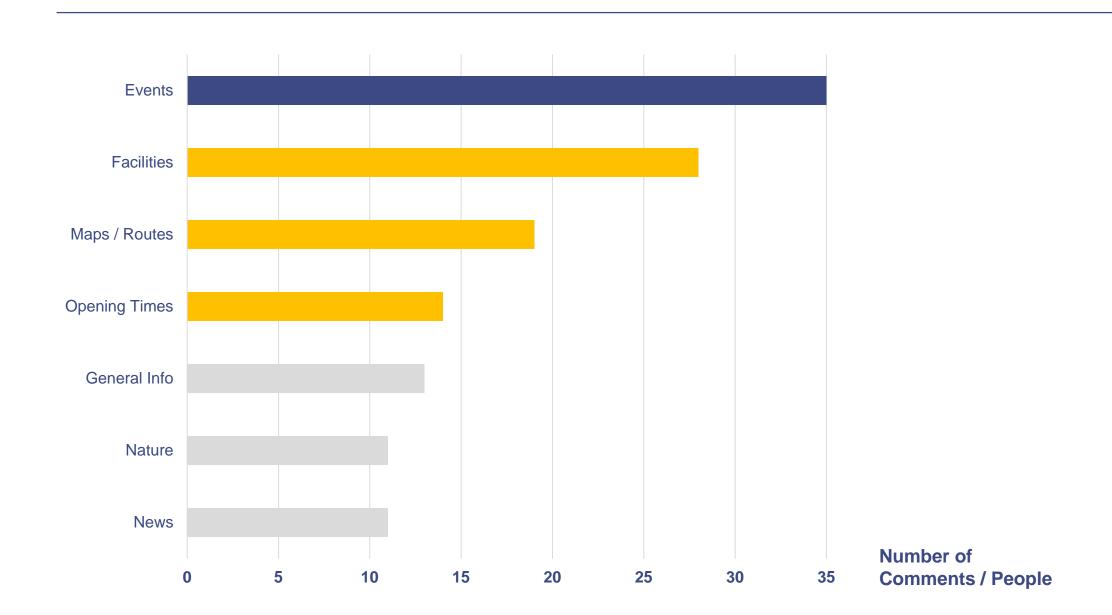
Things To See (2)

Newsletter(2)

(1)

- Park Layout
- Pictures of the park
- Restrictions (dogs)
- Noticeboard

- Postcode for Sat Nav
- Downloadable Maps
- Bands Playing (dates/times



#### 01. Events & Activities

Photo's, how to book, avoid busy times.

#### 02. Facilities

BBQ, Picnic Area, What's New, Info on centres, Quality of food.

#### 03. Maps of parks

Walking Routes, Type of Terrain (Bike friendly, family friendly), Gradients, Cleared brambles, Background info, Printable, Downloadable, Distances (walks), Distances between features, Better maps.

#### 04. Opening Times

#### 05. General Park Info

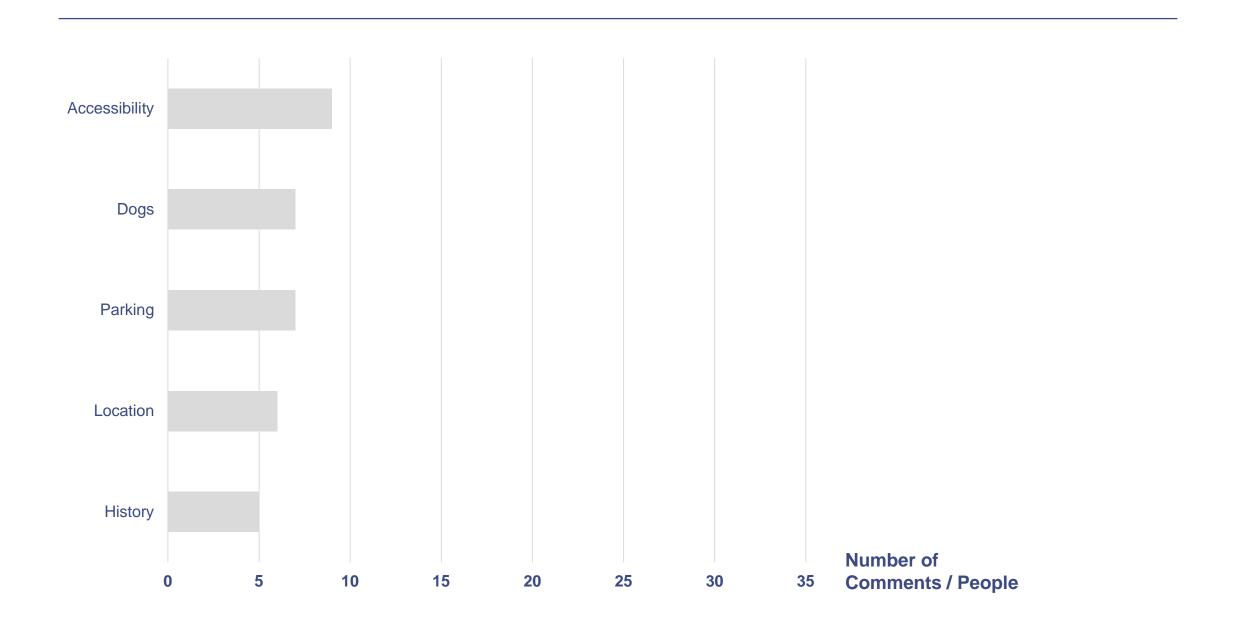
Up to date, what's there, play parks, viewpoints, structures, monuments, beauty spots, reasons to visit, points of interest, description of each park, info for frequents users, surrounding area.

#### 06. Nature

Flora/Fauna, Wildlife - What to look for, where, when. Seasonality of habits.

#### 07. **News**

Opportunities for volunteers, groups, Community meetings, news related to the park(s), Development plans & issues, Cleared ponds and free flowing rivers, Conservation projects, Incidents of vandalism, how many people get fined for littering.



#### 08. Accessibility

Restrictions, Facilities.

#### 09. **Dogs**

Allowed, Suitable, On/Off Lead, Location of Bins, Better information aimed at dog walkers (collecting mess).

#### 10. Parking

Availability, Charges (if applicable and costs), Season Ticket.

#### 11. Location

Directions, Public Transport, Entrances.

#### 12. History (of the parks)

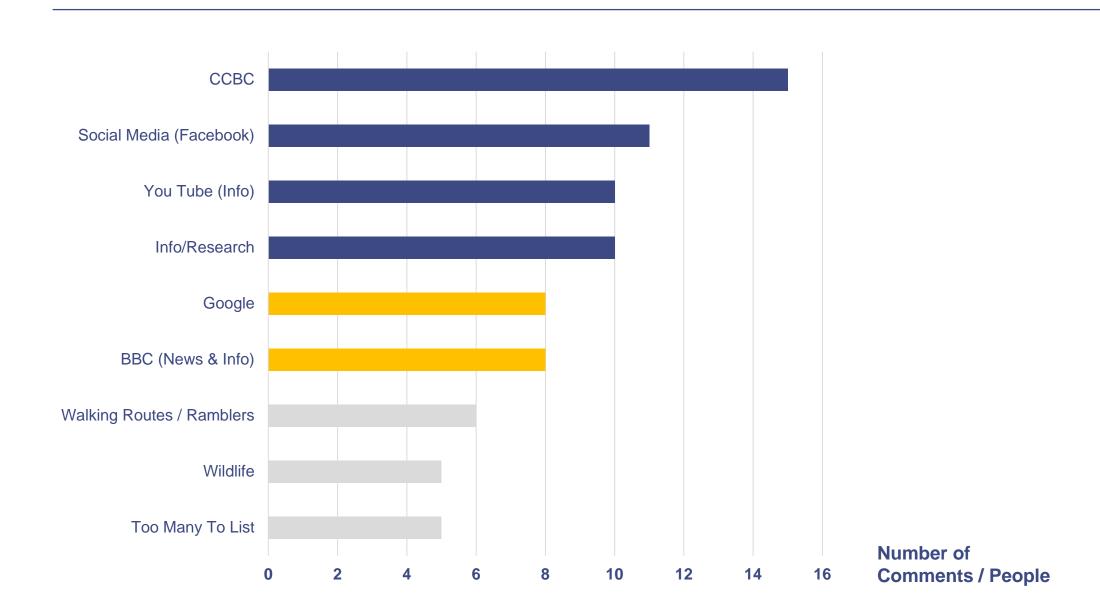
#### Other

Maintenance Works (4), Cycling Routes (2) Bowls, Interactive Digital Stories, Virtual Maps, Water sports, Links to other places and pages, Effect of littering.

#### **Ideas**

Fixed parking costs for use in all parks. Info on Cwmcarn scenic drive.

## WEBSITES THEY VISIT AND WHY.



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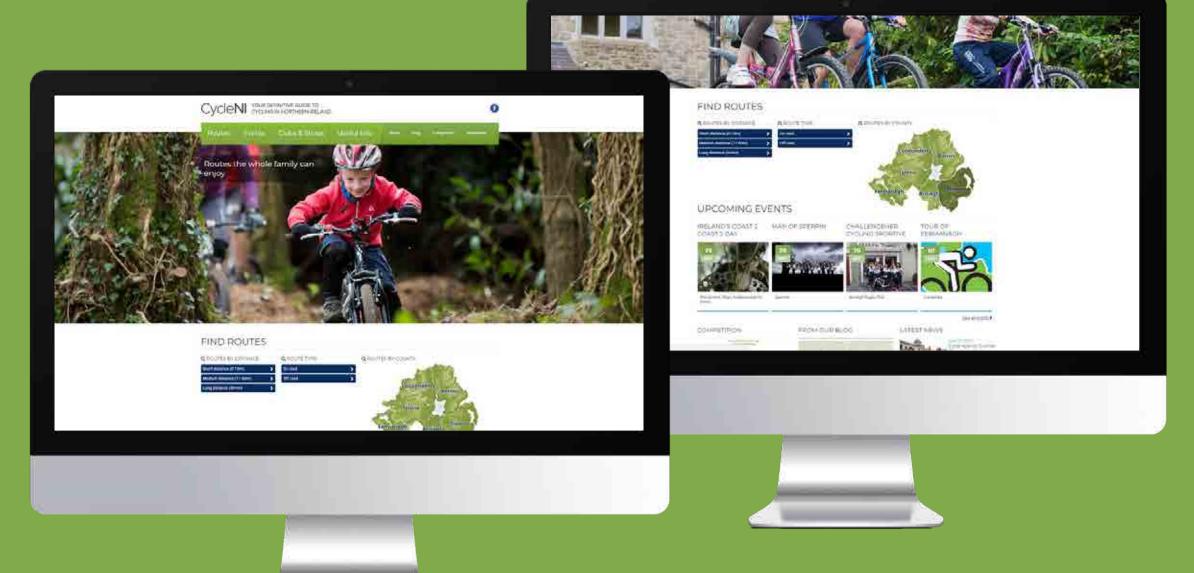
#### Information is easy to access

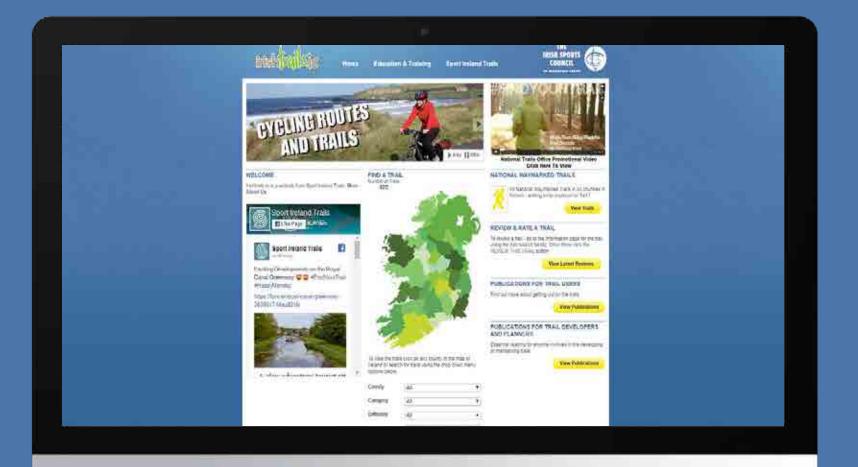
Cadw National Trust You Tube

#### Easy to use and access

Facebook

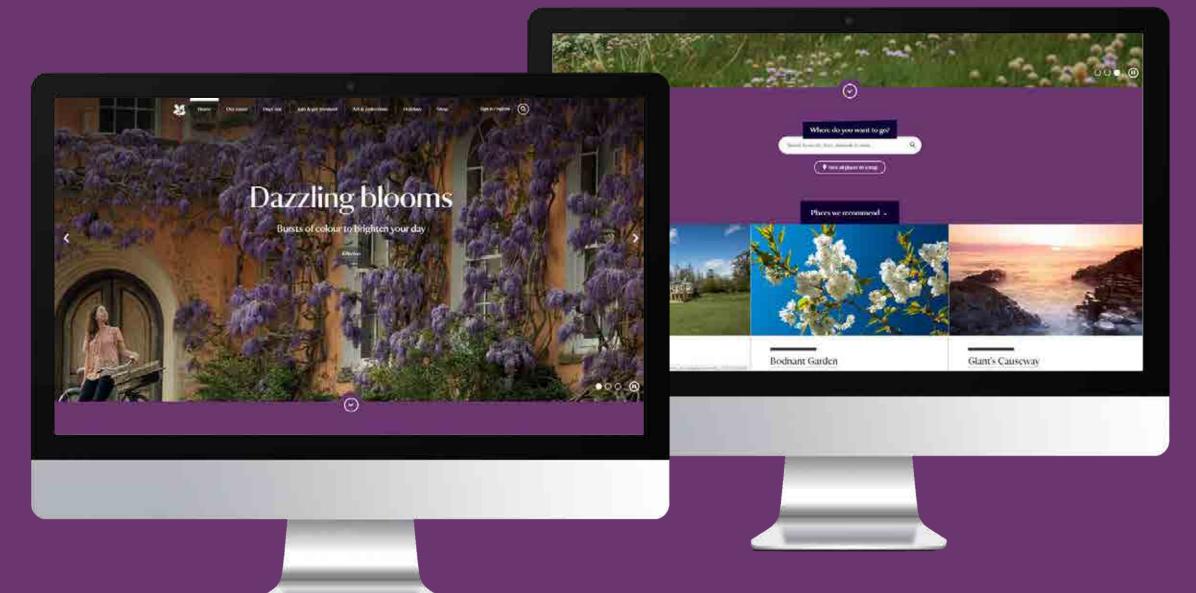
Suggested sites are shown on the following pages.





www.irishtrails.ie









www.pottermore.com

### OUR **RECOMMENDATIONS**.

During the consultation Orchard gathered insight into users familiar interactions with websites through means of practical workshops. What came out of these workshops was apparent and are listed below, with additional considerations and required best practices.

#### 'Quick Option'

The ability to easily choose a park based on the activity the user wants to undertake. Provide the user with a number of activities that will then recommend suitable green spaces within the borough. The more visual and engaging the options are for the user, the higher the engagement with the interface and ultimately the better the satisfaction of the green spaces services will be. Currently, the number of websites that offer clear navigational elements and user journeys through icons is increasing. Shortcuts to content using visual representations far outweigh text for a number of users.

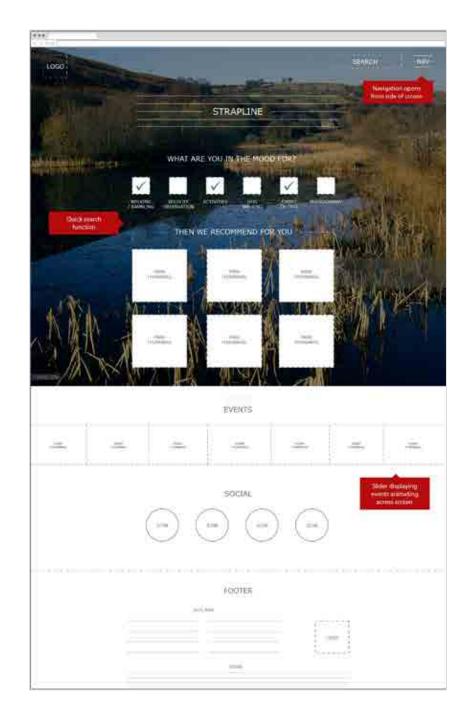
#### Geolocation

Track the geolocation information of the website visitor – 'Show me parks near my location' as a feature would be very user centric. We need to ensure GDPR compliance via acceptance of cookies and location tracking information before allowing location data to be loaded but this can be done via a standard cookie notification box at the very top of the website. There is a free open source geoIP service that is possible to use in order to gain access to a user's location. This will benefit their online experience and enhance the accuracy of data presented to them. Our website will provide more valuable user centric content, giving it a personalised feel.

#### I'd like to – 'Explore the area', 'Walk the dog', 'Go for a hike'.

Delighting the user with suggestions feels more like an information aid, rather than a one way information delivery system. We propose a search bar with a difference; a filtering system that contains the top 5/10 search activities from the research to act as a visual key similar to travel brochures. This could lead to a results page or dynamically load content below the search bar with tagged information about chosen area, park or relevant activity.

# INITIAL WIREFRAME.

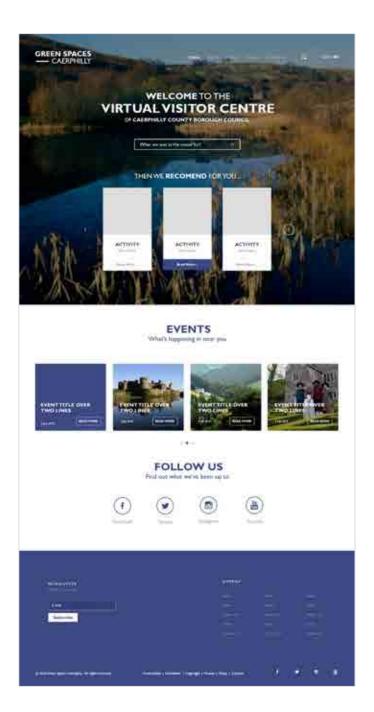




## PROPOSED LAYOUT.

Without Icons





# News page & detailed news page





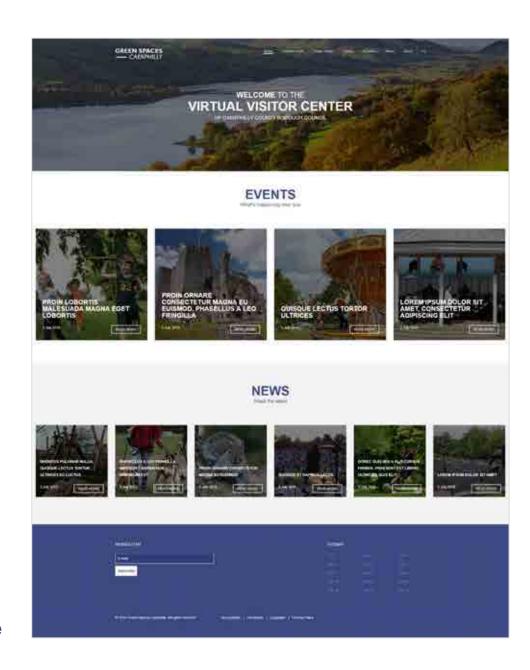


Generic content page

## PROPOSED LAYOUT.

With Icons





#### **Save My Favourite Parks**

This function will customise the online experience of returning visitors. It allows users the ability to save their favourite park and each time they visit the site, information related to their chosen park(s) would be more prominent on display compared to other parks. These preferences could be kept within the local storage of the browser, preventing the need to for the user to sign up or requiring user account data being part of the main CMS (Content Management System).

#### Video content

Informative YouTube channel or video feed with relevant information on both urban and country parks, including events that can direct users to the websites pages, increasing traffic and searchable links. The Virtual Visitor Centre needs to be constantly updated with a schedule of activity planned for a period of 12 to 18 months. This will allow content strategy and deployment of information to the public on a regular basis.

It will be key to determine which sections are more important to update frequently. News and Events are organic and will be updated as activities are announced and subside. News content can follow events with a round up the success of each activity. A strategy will be require in order to plan, write and collate content that is also on brand. Questions to consider are; What formats are appropriate for the story or event? What schedule is achievable for updates? It will be important to request content in advance in preparation for uploading to social channels and schedule the news and events posts to go live in time with all other activity. Within the CMS, there are levels of control achievable an Access Level Control if you will. This means 'editors' of content are granted permission to edit pages, posts and events. Managers have ultimate say in the ability to publish pages and content around the site, using this ACL approach.

Through the research, text and images were top of the list for the groups when it came to consuming information. This seems basic but important as it helps shape the focus for a clear information delivery strategy:

- Be bold with headlines
- Make good choices for images that engage
- Write clear, well thought out stories that entertain the relevant audience

It should be more than digesting dates and times, it's celebrating our open spaces in line with the Welsh Government's Future Generations Act and ensuring the content is on message in relation to enjoying and contributing to our open spaces.

#### A website with movement, never feels stale

Provide movement to static images/gallery sequences in order to make the site feel more alive. The current site is very static and through the research conducted, the websites listed, consistently had engaging user experiences and plenty of movement that keeps the sites feeling alive. Animated photo galleries, video content and buttons states with subtle suggestive animated actions was available throughout the suggested website. Drawing the attention of the user to key elements of the page can be creatively encouraged through animation. Buttons, clickable features and image sliders are but a few examples. A visual prompt that helps the user get to where they want to go simply enhances the level of satisfaction upon each visit.

Video content wasn't high on the public agenda within the online survey results, but could be introduced over time as a test bed of activity. However, YouTube was mentioned often when asked what sites they visit on a regular basis. During the workshops with the younger demographic, YouTube was mentioned often as a tool on the 'best website ever' challenge.

There is potential to introduce different perspectives of the parks through aerial photography and video. We have identified the three main Country Parks as potential avenues to explore with drone and aerial photography to gather this differing perspective. We are also in the process of exploring the licensing of footage we have already filmed for Visit Wales to minimize the need to recommission a series of flight days with drone pilots from Orchards production team. YouTube could be used as a search engine for identifying places of interest within the borough of Caerphilly and direct users to Country and Urban parks within the area. This also helps from a search perspective on the website; the more deep links that are incoming to the website, the more authority and presence the pages gain when searching.

#### Integrate social feeds with links from social to key pages on the site

It has been discussed that Social media is integral to the communication of key events and notifications within the borough. Due to the nature of access to social channels within the Council, it is recommended that the social channels be only links on the website itself that send users to the relevant social channels. At present those key channels are Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Our recommendation is for Youtube to be a testbed of information to determine if there is appetite for video content in the future. Vimeo is also a potential video platform to consider. It's cleaner, is advert free and much more flexible to style or brand.

#### What's on

Make news or blog stories more prominent. As mentioned previously it is important to have a strategy for the year in terms of content in order to fulfil the needs of the visiting user. Events and activities are high on the agenda for results and search criteria. Comments such as 'I can never find any events in the area' or 'I didn't know that event was on' are easily avoided by having a stream of Event activities higher up the agenda on the site visually and within search. We understand that event communication is daily on social channels but were getting lost deeper in the site with the events page being hidden within Activities. We recommend that Events have its own top level navigation page where users can search for events near them while at the same time being presented with a full body of filterable events to suit theirs and their families needs using our icon sets as a criteria for the visit.

#### Maps

Provide a quick parks map similar to **http://cycleni.com** to explore the parks in more detail. Giving the user access to a single infographic that encompasses the entirety of the Country and Urban Parks infrastructure on the site will serve two purposes; demonstrate the plethora of open spaces available within the borough as well as acting like an alternative navigation tool to read more about specific amenities at the parks themselves.

There are several approaches to information delivery that work. Most people make decisions visually and instantly, others like to search for the content themselves while some like to be led. It is important that the website has a blend of all three techniques in order to satisfy the personality types we intend to serve.

#### **Activities & resources**

From researching the identified websites the report returned, it is evident that more photography and visual assets are required to help lead people around the Virtual Visitor Centre. When providing activity sheets or downloads to use on the premises of the parks, we feel that it is better to present the activity sheets with brief descriptions and thumbnails of the intended activity simply to attract more usage. The activity sheets themselves could also adopt the icon led approach. A visual key for each country and urban park blended with great stories of wildlife and ecology in our backyard. Trail maps were also mentioned in the report, therefore providing a key to the level of effort required to walk certain routes, distances between activities would also be helpful. These could be presented as interactive maps with the ability to drag a marker over a section of terrain to determine a distance indicator. These could also then be provided as downloadable resources for further use at the parks.

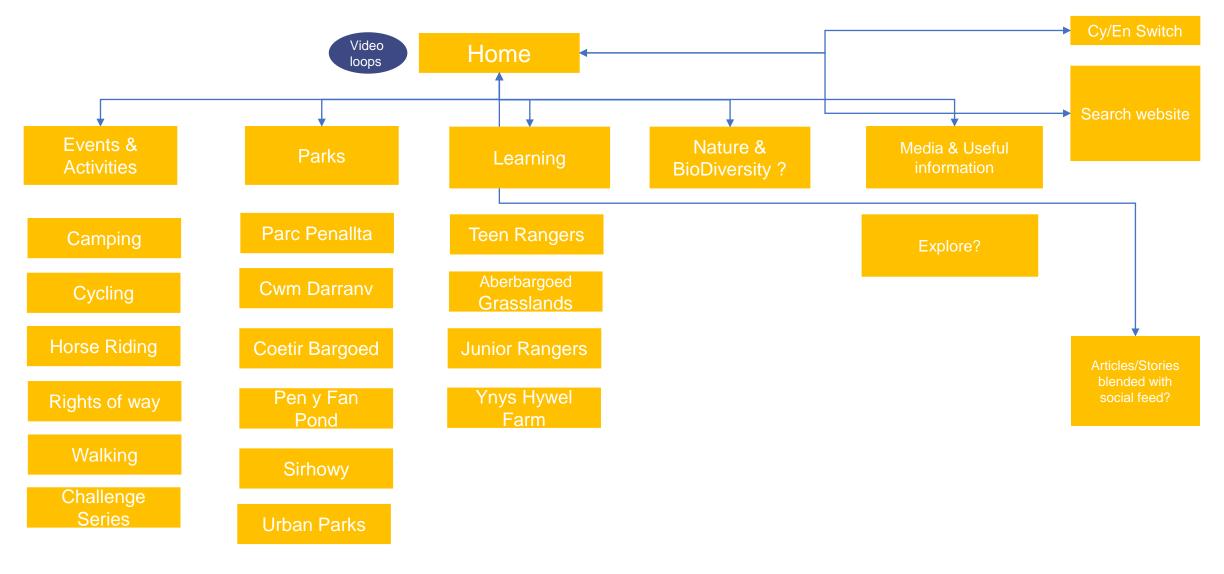
#### **Navigation**

Taking on board comments from key stakeholders, improvements to page content and hierarchy of items was high on the agenda. We are in agreement that Country Parks and Urban parks could benefit from their own top level navigation positioning. Along with this Events & Activities were suggested to be grouped together. The provided sitemap is a first draft suggestion of where items should sit and will require further discussion to confirm their positioning. The CMS itself will allow the Green Spaces team to alter the arrangement of pages organically as the requirements grow, allowing flexibility over time. What is key, is that the users see the most important items identified from the consultation as a priority: What's on, Where is it? And what can I do in the area?

#### **Responsive website**

Apps were mentioned a number of times within the consultation results. As we know, deploying, maintaining and updating Apps isn't a simple activity. It involves a lot of code changes, testing, deployment rounds and approvals by the app stores. This was deemed too expensive and not immediate enough for the needs of the Green Spaces team. With that in mind, a fast loading responsive website is of utmost importance for our users. Our CMS of choice Symphony CMS is adaptable and caters for the small screen. All images respond to device width rather than loading unnecessary pixels over cellular networks. It's catered for device level content loading. Video content via YouTube or Vimeo will automatically choose a data rate and resolution by its very nature so is already taken care of. The aim for any responsive mobile first website is to only load what's visible within the viewport. A load time of less than 2 seconds is ideal. If less can be achieved and the almost instant feel of a websites rendering can be achieved, then the App like feel will further enhance the users experience and ultimate satisfaction of the service, which in turn will bring the visitor back time and time again.

## **EXCITE, INFORM, ENGAGE**



#### **Games**

We discovered some fantastic ideas for games during the consultation with the younger groups. Games involving animal habitat and eating patterns. Some real insightful technically drawn up plans for story driven games that could find their way from the website through to the on site interpretations at the parks. These could be downloadable activity sheets that are a continuation from the online games: A sort of 'You have to complete the game at the park itself' concept, helping to encourage people to the parks from the website.

#### **Build your own animal**

We loved the idea of a build your own animal section. The ability to pick features of common known animals and combine them to make a totally new creature, build their habitat and ask what sort of food they would eat then name the creature and share that creation on social media or download a sheet for colouring in.

## INTERPRETATION.

The Council currently have various forms of interpretation within their Parks, including panels, audio trails, leaflets, website, digital media, augmented reality, touch screens and QR codes.

Below are Orchard's recommendations based on the findings from the initial consultation process. Games, Arts & Crafts and Discovery Activities were highlighted as key factors in engaging the younger target markets. The main focus is that the interpretations need to be **Interactive**, **Animated and Informative**.

In situ interpretation needs to reflect the Virtual Visitor Centre, Icons, Photography and visual keys will be integral to a successful interpretation.

#### Be Fun, Be Clear, Be Engaging

#### **Large Scale Maps/Boards**

Illustrated map that provides points of interest, sculptures etc and the distance between them.

Visual walking trail suggestions that includes information of the terrain, distance, estimate of time to complete, accessibility and suitability for children, bikes and dogs.

**QR codes** that link to items on the website, for example activities, games and information about a particular insect, flower or sculpture. **Considerations** - Users of the site are able to save their activities and progress if they register on the site.

Downloadable Items and/or printed items available at suitable parks: Suggestion: Users of the parks can download items to take with them for their visit. Items can include Maps, Activity Sheets, Games, Colouring.

#### **Augmented Reality**

Bringing nature to life/Animations:

**Suggestion:** Users can hover over a plant and the insects that feed from it will appear in the app. This can be applied to many other uses including trees, nesting areas, ponds etc

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9K2bv87PckQ

Printed Cards combined with AR

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\_continue=29&v=acKVVqSTgy8

#### **Useful Websites**

#### **Informative AR Examples**

https://blog.google/topics/google-asia/step-wild-tango-singapore-artscience-museum/

https://www.breezecreativeproducts.com/arzoo

#### **Conservation / Education**

https://www.trendhunter.com/trends/augmented-reality-gaming

http://www.edudemic.com/augmented-reality-in-education/

#### **Chester Zoo**

http://www.chesterzoo.org/

http://www.chesterzoo.org/campaigns/download-our-app

The app and website is a great example of engaging users and visitors before, during and after a visit. It provides important information in a fun and interactive way. There are some relevant activities and functions that would be ideal to take forward, adapt and expand for the local parks.

#### Functions include:

- Storytelling using bluetooth, geo-location and push notifications
- Downloadable Packs
- Curriculum Matched
- Rewards based activities/games
- Factsheets
- Maps
- Collect animal badges

https://www.codecomputerlove.com/work/chester-zoo

http://www.thedrum.com/news/2015/11/05/chester-zoo-s-islands-attraction-adds-digital-new-app-and-beacon-technology

https://www.theguardian.com/learning-with-chester-zoo/2018/mar/07/how-chester-zoo-brings-wildlife-into-classroom-internet

## THANK YOU FOR READING.

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