



Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales



Making the Most of all our Assets in the Rhondda 2:
Creating a healthy and vibrant Rhondda together, 04.06.2015

AND

The Summary of public engagement events in the Rhondda Summer 2015

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AGENDA

9.30am

Tea / coffee on arrival

10.00am

Introduction and aims of the session Fran O'Hara, Scarlet Design
Christian Servini & Becky Davies

10.03am

Re-cap of Rhondda Workshop 1 & the 7 main themes which emerged

10.10am

5 minute presentations relating to some of the key themes

- Proposal for family bike park in the Rhondda
Jamie Rowland, The Bicycle Doctor
- Restoring the Rhondda's hydrology
Jonathan Mead, SE Wales Rivers Trust
- Creating 'Capable Guardians' - involving local people in the places around them
Gary Evans, Fly Tipping Action Wales

10.35am

Exercise 1: How to take these themes forward

Group exercise (60 mins), including roundrobin of themes.

11.35am

Refreshment break

11.35am

Exercise 2: Identifying links and better ways of working

Group exercise (15 mins)

12.30pm

Open discussion and feedback

How we're going to take this forward
Thanks & feedback

12.35pm

Close



INTRODUCTION



The environment is one of our greatest assets, worth approximately £8bn to the Welsh economy each year. Our purpose as NRW is to ensure joined-up delivery so our natural resources in Wales are sustainably

maintained, enhanced and used for people, business and the environment. We are the first organisation of its kind which looks at the big picture for the environment.

On 24 March 2015, we held our first stakeholder engagement workshop in the Rhondda to help establish a set of priorities for managing the area's natural resources that could deliver multiple benefits for the people, economy and environment.

From this initial workshop, seven key themes emerged:

1. Management of public land (environmental focus) and nature recovery in the Valleys
2. Collecting and sharing what works (ideas, models, case studies)
3. Creating 'Capable Guardians': involving local people in the places around them

4. Helping the health sector to fund outdoor activities (building an evidence base between health and the natural environment)
5. A restored hydrology in the Rhondda
6. Improving access to the countryside
7. Changing perceptions of the Rhondda.

Rhondda workshop 2: 4 June 2015

To maintain energy and momentum, we held a second, follow up workshop in the Rhondda on 4 June 2015. The purpose of hosting a follow up workshop was to explore the key themes identified above in greater detail, and identify better ways of working between partners to help deliver them.

This document provides an overview of the second stakeholder engagement workshop held in June 2015.



Why are we doing this?

To enable Wales to develop sustainably now and in the future, changes to the law are being put in place. In 2015, both the Well-being of Future Generations Act and Planning Act received Royal Assent. Currently, the Wales Environment Bill is being drafted and by mid-2016, this will put in place a modern statutory process to plan and manage our natural resources in a joined up and sustainable way.

This Bill includes new duties for NRW to develop and implement a proactive and more joined-up approach to the planning and management of our natural resources. NRW will also be required to produce Area Statements which set out the vision, priorities and opportunities for a place, incorporating the environment, society and economy.

To prepare for these new duties, NRW is running three area based trials (the Rhondda, Tawe and Dyfi) to explore the practicalities of this new approach, and help embed natural resource management within Wales.

Summer 2015

So far, much of our work and engagement has been with professional partners. In the summer of 2015, we shifted attention to people who live, work and play in the Rhondda to find out their views. We attended a variety of community events which helped us gather information relating to energy (past, present and future), skills / jobs, what people most like / love about their area, how they use the outdoors and what their aspirations for their communities are.

Next steps

We're grateful to the public and partners for their valuable time and input so far - this has been invaluable. We're now bringing together all of the data, information and evidence we've gathered to date. This will form the basis from which we will prepare and draft a trial Rhondda Statement to help shape a vision for how we can manage the Rhondda's natural resources in a way that delivers multiple benefits for the people, economy and environment. We intend to host a final workshop in late 2015 to share the draft priorities for managing the Rhondda's natural resources - we'll keep you posted.

Christian Servini and Becky Davies, Area Based Project Leads for the Rhondda, Natural Resources Wales

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Visual Minutes
by Fran O'Hara
Scarlet Design
Int Ltd.





AIMS

The event was designed to build on the themes defined by the participants at the first event in March. We also wanted to embed co-production at the centre of our approach, by working in collaboration with people and partners.

Following the presentations the group was invited to self-select into themed tables and answer 3 questions. Participants recorded their ideas and responses on the large table-sheets, which have been transcribed into this document pages 11-21.

The outcomes demonstrate the wealth of work which is currently being undertaken and a wide range of opportunities to expand and built on these. It is hoped through these connections and conversations, that projects and collaborations will emerge to take this valuable work forwards.

This report is designed to share the outcomes of the June workshop to those who attended, and to a wider audience.

Fran O'Hara
Lead Facilitator



Q1. What would help you and NRW to deliver for this theme?

Projects on the ground? Policy? A joint strategy? Exploring new ways of working better together? Anything else?

Q2. Based on your discussions for Question 1, what are the best 2 ways to take this forward?

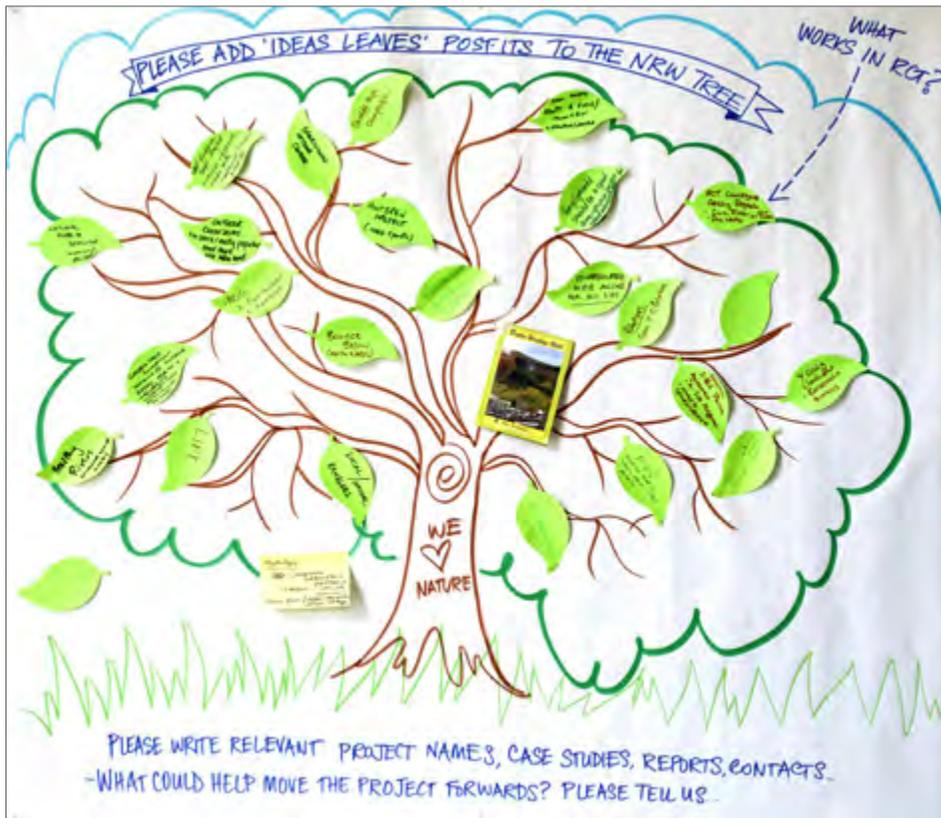
Identifying links and better ways of working

Q3. Who do you think you (and your organisation) could work more closely with to help better deliver the 7 themes?

Are there currently any projects / proposals where this is already happening?

IDEAS TREE: COLLATING WHAT WORKS IN RCT

Participants were invited to contribute their suggestions for what works in RCT to the ideas tree.



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- Pentre Heritage Walk leaflet
- Natural Health Service campaign/project
- Healthy Rivers Groundwork Wales
- WBP Evidence Gaps Project matches research needs with academic/student projects
- L.I.F.T.
- Green Care Consortium looking at outdoor based health and wellbeing interventions being used by NHS and PH
- Hydrology - Greening Grangetown Project - Cardiff - Uni, LA, Community - Flood Risk/Urban Prevention/Water Management
- 1. BCIG 2.Cwm Saerbren 3. Tylorstown
- Outdoor classrooms - once really popular, need more new land
- Local/National Ramblers
- Bounce Below (North Wales)
- Daerwynno Outdoor Centre
- Pontbren Project (Coed Cymru)
- Cardiff Hops Campaign
- RCT Countryside Gercins Project - Cwm Fields - Dare Valley - Case Studies
- School projects - Adopt a Field/Mountain and manage and observe it.
- Co-ordinated web access for all sites
- Pen y Cymoedd - should be a good demonstration project for upland management
- Potatoes - grow your own potatoes
- It's Autumn!
- NHS - funds to health improving outdoor activity
- Active nutrition - active woods
- Training Torfaen - ASC based approach training
- Examples - SI06 planning agreements - re: site management - related to upland wind farms etc
- Y Graig Llanlisoul - Conservation grazing



THEME 1 Management of public land [environmental focus] and nature recovery in the Valleys.

Q1. What would help you and NRW to deliver for this theme? Q2. Based on your discussions for question 1, what are the best 2 ways to take this forward?

Group: Becky Davies, Ken Moon, Richard Wistow, Gareth Davies, Shaun Moody

- Priorities
- Grazing for Biodiversity - grasslands, heath, ffridd
- Grazing for fire prevention
- Grazing for woodland
- Peat bog regeneration
- co-ordination of others
- removal of obstacles for proper discussion
- Realise that many departments owned land - working to get agreed actions e.g. wind farm schemes
- Work together to develop effective, low cost, sustainable management e.g. Pontsticill grazing animals project e.g. Pen y Cymoedd
- Go for 'simple' management options - pragmatic/easy to do e.g. conservation grazing

- Recognise planning gain capacity to deliver ecosystem work - a number one set up in place
- Can we realise fully the benefits of land management for planning agreements
- Land - who owns it, who manages it (Key), for what purpose, for whose benefit? - fear of losing control/power
- For whose benefit - farming, conservation, forestry, recreation, basic human need, food / medicines, clothing, jobs, homes / shelter
- Management of public land - record what is there, BioBlitz events SEWBR&C as partners - engaging people with nature
- Indicates best management ideas
- Difficult to manage without knowing what is there
- Nature recovery - access record centres (SEWBRec) to check historical records for areas

- Knowing what was there before - indication of seed bank & soil bank aids recovery
- Direction for recovery
- Deal with risk aversion
- How do we create links between land owners to create change?
- Communication and understanding between main bodies is key
- Who owns what?
- Who manages it?
- Is it legally constrained in terms of its use, covenants etc.?
- Mindsets need to change - all decisions in the current era seems to be driven by the accountants
- Different solutions - which are environmentally driven
- Needs a responsible coordinator (probably NRW or LA and participants need to be given authority to act and make decisions
- Funding and a shift on political priorities presents an opportunity - it is not just about funding cuts
- Set up a properly constituted body with prioritised objectives with a time-scaled plan'
- Managing the land for all the people of the Rhondda'
- Proper access - signposted'
- Encourage access'
- Employment scheme - targeted at 15-21 yr olds (1 year qualification) in Land Management
- Timescales and a priority list with end dates SMART
- Is there an overarching way of organising and managing the land?
- Who has responsibility?
- Can we have a directory of RCT or NRW owned land and perhaps a map?
- Management plans - must be consistent - major theme in Area Statement
- Time-scaled plan - Too much talking shop - need ACTION
- Long term approach
- Management layers
- First step is to change the course of action/change of culture
- Pen y Cymoedd - new land NRW must be fully engaged
- This could show the way - demonstration of massive landscape approach
- Coordination - need to know what is public land - an up to date directory, map of public land
- Will help with perception of what is 'ours'
- Who owns the land?
- How do we find out?
- How can we get in touch?



THEME 1 Management of public land [environmental focus] and nature recovery in the Valleys.

Q1. What would help you and NRW to deliver for this theme? Q2. Based on your discussions for question 1, what are the best 2 ways to take this forward?

- Not always obvious that we own the land.
- Land is being disposed of because it is seen as a burden and difficult to manage - public bodies being risk averse.
- Need to change this - need budget to manage public land
- NRW Estate needs to be more integrated and work with others to use the land opportunities being missed - because of old FC/WG targets.
- What is the priority - access? biodiversity? Anti Social?
- Better joined up working - act upon opportunities
- Steering group formed for Rhondda - ongoing - key to action - link closely - LSB to prioritise and inform action and ownership
- Pen y Cymoedd - demonstration project - will be very useful
- Rhondda trial needs to make a recommendation that one organisation takes a lead - should be NRW
- This is public land! The people own it! It is for us to use!
- Steering Group under a chair - proper group - not too many - must have delegated authority
- NRW important/useful tool to implement actions
- Council has land ownership layers (GIS) - greatest areas land rec land
- NRW has land ownership
- How do we get it all considered as a whole?
- Different land uses/targets
- History of public land - what was it used for originally? Forestry/pit props/mining - this has changed
- Forestry - policy change
- Working group targeting 15-21 yr olds give skills - manage the land and prevent fires.

Q3. Who do think you (and your organisation) could work more closely with to help better deliver the 7 themes?

- PCSO's who engage with kids on the street
- Country Land Owners Association
- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Public ground/land - grow food - good for communities
- Off road motoring Associations
- LIFT
- Celebrity Champions 'Sport'
- LIFT Project - 2nd/3rd Generation unemployed - to get people into work - training
- PHD students to multiple topics, to monitoring (Biodiversity, Access, Social) - Need to work with academia
- Better links with a younger demographic
- Education - fire safety - environmental education - No RCT Function
- Wildlife charities/organisations - eg. butterfly conservation, Plant life, etc.
- Countryside contractors - fences
- Graziers - potential site managers
- University projects
- Forestry angle - these should be working with others
- Police Service - links to anti-social behaviour - land management
- Sustrans/PROW - using trails as growing - Network Rail
- Visit Wales - Local biodiversity action groups
- Community groups and organisations
- Interlink County Voluntary Council (community sector)
- Volunteers and Training - placements - students - out of work - time wealthy
- Land rec. sites/Dept working with community groups to manage these small areas of land
- Growing food - links to pollinators - food poverty
- Farming Unions - agricultural contacts important
- Private land owners - private houses/connectors - work with them
- Sports Clubs - excellent community connectors
- Churches and WI and Mothers Groups - good community connectors
- WBAP -Evidence gaps project



THEME 2 Creating “Capable Guardians” - involving local people in the places around them.

Q1. What would help you and NRW to deliver for this theme? Q2. Based on your discussions for question 1, what are the best 2 ways to take this forward?

Group: Gary Evans, Mike ash, Gabi Torkington, Caryn Le Roux, Wynford Price, Richard Barret, Joanne Nicholas

- Interlink/Sustrans - database of groups that could become capable guardians, due to data protection act we can't get hold of it.
- Should landowners hand over land to community groups to bring about environmental benefits - Public Liability Insurance - huge problem
- South Wales seminar on Public Liability Llais y Goedwig (Body for community woodlands)
- Adoption means contributing to give benefit, volunteers not allowed
- Local Authorities worried about litigation - volunteers want to be covered if hurt
- LA's looking to utilise volunteer groups to deliver strategic duties, due to lack of resources
- Requires policy changes and a new way of working
- Communities confidence required - are they skilled in doing it adequately
- Access to new land is unclear - am I trespassing? How long is the route is there good signage? Good interpretation also required.
- Paws on Patrol
- Promotion of access to NRW estate - you must listen to communities.
- Gateway to estate needs to be inviting and accessible for all - tackle the transitional areas
- Need to engage with existing community groups to deliver messages that NRW estate is to be accessed and enjoyed by all the community
- We need to use willing volunteer groups, but somehow give them the skills to carry out activities on the NRW estate.

- All organisations need to have a strategic view to breaking down barriers to help communities access the natural environment more beneficially.
- Policy needs to reflect this, Health - Access - Biodiversity
- Increase access by anyone?- more capable guardians
- Or are there specific requirements? 'formal' guardians, eg. physical capability, Insurance, authority - is this too constricting for willing volunteers
- Informal' guardians - private individuals (public liability)
- Access is not a social norm - lack of confidence - how do we give this> - Information
- Remote Areas
- Fast food outlets
- How do we inform the public about access?
- Cultural change in organisations, such as LAs needed to encourage community usage/responsibility
- Know who is out there - groups
- Knowing where people can go
- Schools, informal education, cradle to grave approach = ownership of 'Their' outdoors.
- Actif Woods is a good example - local people lead their own community on walks, etc.

Q3. Who do think you (and your organisation) could work more closely with to help better deliver the 7 themes?

- Welsh Government: Top of all LAs, NRW, etc.
- Change requires “buy in” from all partners from top to bottom.
- Some changes require policy change/ resource etc.
- We require evidence-based arguments and relevant case studies to convince senior officials to ‘buy in’
- Policy need to have a holistic view to ensure policies compliant one another to achieve better use of the natural environment.
- NRW not promoting change in policy with enough to demonstrate differences in FCW/NRW.
- “Doers” are doing great work on the ground, despite lack of organisational support or perceived support from organisations.
- More at community level - requiring improvement in support, to demonstrate to communities.
- Need to connect with organisations.



THEME 3 Helping health to fund outdoor activities (building an evidence base).

Q1. What would help you and NRW to deliver for this theme? Q2. Based on your discussions for question 1, what are the best 2 ways to take this forward?

Group: Christian Servini, Adell Bridges, Sam Holt, Vicky Norman, Jill Price, Norma Greene, Michelle Gibbs, Charlene Davis, Lee Davies, Darren Bowden, Rosalind Davies, Jamie Rowland, Martyn Broughton, Julie Price

- Network of outdoor groups that health professionals can refer to
- Align aims and objectives of various profs. - Steering groups - go forward in partnership - joined up thinking/funding stream
- Work with communities - Needs to be sustainable/longterm projects - What do they already have? Where are the Gaps?
- Coordinators to act as link between GPs and environmental/outdoor groups
- Signpost out to communities - ensure people know what is local to them - What opportunities are there for them to access?
- Let's Go!
- Target areas with issues such as obesity, mental health - have coordinators in these areas - 3 yr pilot with guarantee from Health board for continued funding
- Need sound pilot projects - evidence to show that it works
- Marketing and promotion - how do you reach the majority of people?
- Central source of information - website directory - 'gocompare' type system - postcode/activity/health problems as choices.
- Holistic approach to the problems these people have - housing etc.
- Linking with agencies
- Sustainability

- Cwm Taf Health Observatory - local site for all health data - funded by various partners
- Go4It! - RCT homes/Meadow Prospects
- Sportrct.co.uk - register of clubs
- Mapping - what is already going on and where?
- Complex needs of participants - may lead to higher level of knowledge for activity leader
- Cost:Sustainability
- Constituted' outdoor activity clubs i.e. walking, Geocaching, cycling etc.
- Walking groups on tourism website
- Taf (Team around the Family)
- Marketing and promotion of what is happening, what groups exist, suppliers, etc.
- Person - GP - Let'sGo Coordinator - outdoor groups - healthy people - Evidence
- Funding for community projects increased referrals
- Sharing measurement tools - those in organisations to hold a licence for others to share.
- Greencare consortium - UK group
- RHS campaign and others - Natural Health Services
- Policy - public health wanting to develop a framework to support this pan-Wales
- Growing Together project - FCFCG - social enterprise
- Central database for activity providers, data collection, activity users, outdoor activity sessions. etc.
- Activity providers must show sustainability to get onto the central database, to make them eligible for any funding that is needed to 'top-up' the projects.
- Marketing = critical - one location for everything
- referring to community groups - how do we know that they are 'safe' for some of the participants needs? Do we need to know this? If so then who will do this? Coordinators?
- Small, separate community groups
- Some start and end, and they are disconnected. - How can we bring some of this together - coordinator for all groups?
- Other Work - Cynefin - Norma working with Cwm Taf, 'Let's Go' Gurnos and Tylorstown
- Groundwork - Go Green for Health



THEME 3 Helping health to fund outdoor activities (building an evidence base).

Q1. What would help you and NRW to deliver for this theme? Q2. Based on your discussions for question 1, what are the best 2 ways to take this forward?

- Shared outcomes between organisations - rather than separate organisation outcomes
 - Referral schemes (outdoors) need to be sustainable.
 - 1. Projects/proposals have to be sustainable!
 - 2. Standardising data collection - we're all doing it separately
 - 3. Partners working better together
 - 4. An organisation to hold/centralise tools as small groups can't necessarily afford them, eg. WEMWEB, Outcome Stars, EQ5D - these are the tools WG recognises
 - Ski lift at bike parks
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Financing long-term projects
 - Better communication to access projects
 - Know Your Area'
 - Open space accessible
 - Standardise monitoring and compiling data
- Marketing - communication - linking groups requirements/ funding to a need.
 - Various partnerships working together to access funding opportunities
 - Access to spaces - NRW land
 - Referral activities available for the whole family

Q3. Who do think you (and your organisation) could work more closely with to help better deliver the 7 themes?

- Local Elected members
- Community Connectors (the busy bodies)
- Choirs/Ramblers Associations
- National Third Sector
- Sports Teams - Rugby Clubs
- Area-based approaches happening in Council, UHB, Interlink, NRW - let's work together with communities
- Community Associations
- Local/Public Service Boards - top partnership of the area
- Media - Journalism - positive perception - tourism
- Welsh Government
- There is a Cwm Taf Public Engagement Group - set up to look at joint engagement needs across our organisations - We are a resource - (Contact Heledd)
- Private Grant Funding
- SWFRS - change personnel - location - utilise staff
- 7PF - NRW - Phoenix - Road Safety - wild land/fire
- Funding - WG, UA's, community chest funds, grants



THEME 4 A Restored Hydrology in the Rhondda. How do we achieve this?

Q1. What would help you and NRW to deliver for this theme? Q2. Based on your discussions for question 1, what are the best 2 ways to take this forward?

Group: Daniel Lewis, Jonathan Mead, Liz Dean, Gareth Henson, Hywel Abbot, Ian Woodland, Michelle Russ

- Reconnect people to rivers - Value river (enjoy) - promote - look after - attract people (tourism)
- People disconnected from rivers - flood defences - urbanised
- Wind farm - opportunity to set a precedent - mitigate correctly. Create an example or model that can be replicated on other wind farm developments
- England - catchment management partnerships - led by DEFRA and EA - involve stakeholders (All) - apply this to Wales/ Rhondda?
- Greater opportunity for funding
- Innovative run-off techniques - opportunity
- Landowner - improve way farmers use land, basic changes in farming practices
- Publicity

- Behaviour change campaigns WQ - Yellow Fish campaign - Let's Stop the Block
- Change perception that water is dangerous and a threat - It shouldn't be kept in pipes below ground or fenced off with defences - Treat it as an Asset!
- Micro-connections - surface water to foul also an issue
- Manage run-off at source, rather than working the end of a pipe - symptomatic solutions
- Maintenance
- Working together across organisations to maximise financial investment to deliver multiple benefits and increase potential for grant funding
- Retrofit examples -= Llanelli, Gowerton, Grangetown, Waunlwyd
- Take SuDs out of the too hard box on the basis of geology and ground conditions. Use the whole run off destination hierarchy to look at more innovative solutions.

- Not just about new development - will only maintain status quo.
- Retrofit SuDs need to be used to make improvements.
- Wind farm mitigation money not being match-funded to restore the peat bogs.
- Economic value of angling development - we should be more bold in promoting valleys fishing.
- Catchment partnerships - lead partners and stakeholders will be more effective than individual organisations all doing their own thing
- Bridgend Natural Neighbourhoods - Water video
- Re-engage people with their rivers
- Education and visits
- Needs better publication/media presence
- Loss of forestry is concern - restore to peat?
- 5% Future - landowners give up land for tree-planting
- Using wind farm money to match fund
- Wind farm mitigation needs to be understood and how to maximise benefits
- Joined-up approach between organisations and within organisations
- Partnerships - holistic approach in environment
- Regulation
- re-wetting upland peat bogs
- Improve and sell fishing in the Rhondda
- Culverts are main cause/source of flooding in the Rhondda
- SUDS - new and retrofitting
- DCWW is doing this now in Wales
- Share funding
- Ecosystem services approach in Wales
- CBA - England - catchment partnerships
- Education - working in partnership
- Hedgerow restoration and tree planting
- Improved land management needs to engage landowners and farmers.
- Larch removal - if large blocks felled at once issues for water runoff/flooding, debris and culvert-blocking
- Peat bog restoration - opportunities wind farm restoration of peat bogs - long term management by conservation grazing
- Land management for farmers - change subsidy regime to reduce stocking levels, improve soil quality



THEME 4 A Restored Hydrology in the Rhondda. How do we achieve this?

Q1. What would help you and NRW to deliver for this theme? Q2. Based on your discussions for question 1, what are the best 2 ways to take this forward?

- Shout loud how good area is.
- Austerity and risk/need to join up
- Engage communities - engage landowners
- recreational improvement opportunities
- Block drains - slow water down
- De-forest conifers - replace with broad-leafed cover in right areas
- Grant scheme for farms and landowners
 - habitat management
 - improved soil and water management
 - hedgerow restoration
- Partnerships - Wye and Usk, Coed Cymru (Pontbren), NRW, WG, LAs

Q3. Who do think you (and your organisation) could work more closely with to help better deliver the 7 themes?

- Housing
- Education (LEA?)
- Need the decision makers present - key projects or issues can be agreed on the day
- Awareness of what is already there and working - develop rather than reinvent - find the gaps and plan to fill them.
- Cynefin - Everyone
- Cwm Taf - NRW - staff swap over (informal secondment)
- Fed of C.F.&G. - links to Cwm Taf
- Vattenfall, Education, Universities
- Missing: Space Savers, Housing Associations, Network Rail
- Clean and Clun
- What do the public want?
- Salmon in the classroom - river schools
- School/college field trips
- River restoration qualification - Agored Cymru Level 1
- Preventative work is important!!! Saves emergency spending
- Universities - Researchers
- Schools
- Funding
- Elected Representatives
- Need to make the rivers valuable to people
- Shout about the good - media inc. social media
- What does the public want?
- What does hydrology mean to them?
- The Public
- Statutory Agencies
- Outdoor Visitor Centres
- Training and Education
- Community Groups
- Community engagement
- The heads with the power



THEME 5 Improving Access to the countryside

Q1. What would help you and NRW to deliver for this theme? Q2. Based on your discussions for question 1, what are the best 2 ways to take this forward?

Group: Andy Robinson, John Spanswick, Gwyn Smith, Stacey Delbridge, Ray Edwards, Ceri Lloyd, Arry Beresford-Webb

- Destination management hubs
- Community adopted informal routes - difficult to promote
- Signage locally agreed location, but inconsistent colours etc.
- Work together - destination plan/Active travel - Long routes, community routes. signage, web, money, etc.
- Need to consider access for buggies, disabled, etc.
- Reinvigorated local access forum
- Rights of way - Ramblers and RCT & NRW work together
- Promote trails
- Share new trails with RCT - Ceri Lloyd
- Dark Sky initiative - H&S can be a barrier
- Issue with loops and links no longer being maintained
- Access for dog walkers
- Sharing Data
- NRW contacts and coordination - rights of way, forestry land
- Web access to all routes/trails, formal and informal
- Ramblers surveys of all paths/routes etc across Wales
- LAF. could be utilized better to help coordinate 'access' issues.
- Pathwatch - Ramblers GB
- Waymarking - needs to be done by people who are not familiar with the route
- Link with Let's Walk Cymru (contact - Melanie Jones) and Ramblers Cymru re: recommended trails, both identifying and promoting (cerddwyr@ramblers.org.uk)
- Potential links with Ramblers volunteers - path maintenance, recommended routes, Waymarking, promoting
- NRW internal communication tends to be a barrier to progress
- Forestry informing of operations to PROW
- Smaller local access groups, because current LAF too big - issues too general
- Organisations/communities taking ownership over routes - not necessarily PROW
- Key contacts in organisations - need list
- Restore ROW on NRW land - historic issues of forestry land
- Health and Safety - excess paperwork - too many hurdles
- Working with Ramblers Cymru
- Pull all trails together into one place for the public to access
- CVBP route (Church Village ByPass) = success story
- Renew ROWIP
- More dog poo bins or improved education/fines
- Healthy routes linked to doctors/hospitals
- One place to promote trails and improve consistency
- Add information re. history and heritage, local flora and fauna, famous people etc.
- Improve access barriers - consider dogs, prams etc.
- Shared data RCT, NRW, Sustrans
- NRW - Harvesting v. Recreation
- Strict guidelines on signing
- NRW to come up with strict signing guidelines
- changing decision and information
- Make it easy to find the correct people
- Improved working together and practice
- Barrier to Support organisation
- Changing staff
- providing information, PROW's, picnic sites etc
- Show where local amenities and facilities are and look at safe access
- Use Ramblers data to improve maintenance
- LAF - re-invent
- Need ROWIP V.2
- National Path Maintenance Volunteers



THEME 5 Improving Access to the countryside

Q3. Who do think you (and your organisation) could work more closely with to help better deliver the 7 themes?

- Who?
 - Welsh health impact assessment support unit Liz Green
 - RCT - NRW - Ramblers Cymru - Sustrans
 - Keep Wales Tidy
 - Sustrans
 - RCT Row
 - Communities First
 - RCT Tourism
 - Planning Dept
 - Local Planning Authority
 - Local Knowledge
 - Groundwork? - when referred
 - RCT Regeneration
 - Neighbouring authorities
 - Tread lightly
 - British Horse Society
 - Destination Management Hub
 - What ?
 - Planning Enforcement
 - Promotion
- Agree priority routes and develop a joint action plan
 - Mapping - consistent approach - one stop shop
 - Start small - partnership group - SLA Needed
 - Communities - local volunteers
 - NRW



THEME 6 Changing Perceptions of the Rhondda – Economic regeneration, tourism

Q1. What would help you and NRW to deliver for this theme? Q2. Based on your discussions for question 1, what are the best 2 ways to take this forward?

Group: Heledd Morgan, John Jenkins, Ian Thomas, Kay Galvin, Calum MacIntosh, Rachel Price

- Organisations need visionary people, a new message is needed
- Get more people on the ground, working in the communities we're talking about
- Work in communities to fix small things, people see change and then help professionals - senior managers in many organisations need to recognise this
- Profit is not a swear word
- NRW and partners need to consider this
- NRW need to move away from regulatory/enforcement and more to management of natural resources
- NRW need to be mandated by Welsh Govt to lead on management of natural resources - BE CLEAR

- Engagement with local people - People feel alienated from their natural assets,
- You have to give something back - we're asking communities to fulfil statutory duties - Involve community connectors
- What are the economic benefits to the community from this work? Money going back in?
- Social entrepreneurs, community energy, local business opening to complement our natural assets
- Doing with not to.
- Grant/fund handouts have not helped
- Asset based community Development - local associations need to be at the table not us
- Is there a perception change needed - or is it just about focussing on the positives?
- Media coverage - create a story/tourism - look at NZ tourism, employ local people and they benefit - be visionary
- Role models within organisations - take people around the valleys and show people
- Show CYP and they will tell their parents
- Council RCT together/voluntary sector - campaign - support what's already there e.g. bike doctor, social enterprise and business
- Build trust between large organisations and communities - get the legality sorted out.
- Employ local people - employment is empowerment
- Public Service boards need a joint statement based on social justice - All organisations signed up
- Helping to deliver this - we're the wrong people
- We're professionals.
- Get up there and speak to these communities
- Approach it in a different way.
- We err on the negatives - business closures, economic problems - we should focus on job creation and social justice - everyone needs to pay their bills
- Role models within organisations - take people around the valleys and show people
- Physical changes - simple task
- NRW - engage local groups, organisations, schools

- Community engagement and consultation = social marketing
- Control media - stop negative news - it encourages 'copycat' crimes and ASB
- Early Education - to encourage the use of natural resources
- Changes to the mandatory curriculum

This theme group did not discuss question 3.

THEME 7
Collecting what works-ideas, models, case studies. How can we do this and share learning?

This theme was not included as a table exercise and was incorporated instead within the Ideas Tree (see page 9).



PARTICIPANTS

NAME	ORGANISATION	JOB TITLE
Fran O'Hara	Scarlet Design / Working With Not To	Lead Facilitator
Kay Galvin	S Wales Fire & Rescue Service	Youth Services Manager
Shaun Moody	S Wales Fire & Rescue Service	Group Manager
John Jenkins	S Wales Fire & Rescue Service	Station Commander
Dr David Llewellyn	Blaengad	Research Associate
Liz Dean	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Environmental Planner
Heledd Morgan	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Partnerships Manager
Ian Woodland	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Emergency Response
Richard Wistow	Rhondda Cynon Taf	County Ecologist
Michelle Gibbs	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Community Sports Officer
Julie Price	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Sport
Lee Davies	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Sport
John Spanswick	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Parks & Countryside Manager
Ceri Lloyd	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Destination Management
Ray Edwards	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Landscape Architect
Stacey Delbridge	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Public Rights of Way Officer
Jonathan Mead	South East Wales Rivers Trust	Operations Director
Gwyn Smith	Sustrans	SE Wales Area Manager
Gareth Henson	Coed Cymru	SE Wales Officer
Victoria Norman	Cwm Taf Health Board	Senior Health Promotion Practitioner
Ken Moon	Interlink	Community Advice & Support
Caryn Le Roux	Welsh Government	Biodiversity Policy Team Leader
Gabi Torkington	Cynefin (Rhondda Cynon Taf)	Place based Coordinator
Norma Greene	Cynefin (Merthyr Tydfil)	Place based Coordinator



PARTICIPANTS

NAME	ORGANISATION	JOB TITLE
Michelle Russ	Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water	Rainscape Regulation Manager
Rosalind Davis	Communities First	Cluster Manager
Martyn Broughton	Sports Nutrition	Based in RCT
Joanne Nicholas	Merthyr Tydfil CBC	Rural Action Programme Coordinator
Sam Holt	Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens	SE Wales Development Officer
Charlene Davis	SEWBRcC	Biodiversity Information Assistant
Hywel Abbott	Groundwork	Healthy Rivers Project Officer
Arry Beresford-Webb	Ramblers	Wales Development Manager
Ian Thomas	Welcome to our Woods	Project Officer
Calum MacIntosh	Welcome to our Woods	Chair, Cwmsaebren Steering Group
Mike Ash	RCT Local Access Forum	Forum member
Jamie Rowland	The Bicycle Doctor, Porth	Local business owner
Darren Bowden	Bicycle Doctor Cycling Club Treasurer	Club Treasurer
Jill Price	Daerwynno Outdoor Centre	Director
Wynford Price	Daerwynno Outdoor Centre	Director
Gary Evans	Fly Tipping Action Wales	Programme Manager
Christian Servini	Natural Resources Wales	Rhondda NRM Trial Lead Officer
Becky Davies	Natural Resources Wales	Rhondda NRM Trial Lead Officer
Andy Robinson	Natural Resources Wales	Natural Resources Planning Manager
Adell Bridges	Natural Resources Wales	Come Outside! Officer
Daniel Lewis	Natural Resources Wales	Water Framework Directive
Nigel Pugh	Nigel Pugh Photography	Photographer



SOME FEEDBACK FROM THE EVENT

“Delivered well, very organised - good time keeping!”

“Very good. Many links established.”

“Very interesting topics and lots of good opportunities to chat and share info. and ideas.”

“General format was very good and facilitated discussion.”

“Presentations informative and good intro to workshop sessions.”

“Plenty of workshops and opportunity to network.”

What worked for you today?

“Great venue. Questions focussed more on Who / How / When and next steps.”

“Efficiently run.”

“Good chance to network and discuss ideas.”

“Good speakers, liked the graphic boards.”

“Generated good ideas.”

“Very good, set action plans and mandates.”

“Ability to discuss the theme that was most appropriate to me.”

“Plenty of chance to talk and share.”



FRAN O'HARA - LEAD FACILITATOR

SCARLET DESIGN & 'WORKING WITH NOT TO'

Fran O'Hara is the founder and MD of Scarlet Design Int. Ltd, a strategic design, training and visual facilitation company based in Cardiff. Fran brings a wealth of expertise, gained from 4 years at Disney in Hong Kong and Los Angeles and 16+ years working with multi-sector clients. These range from global giants such as Walt Disney Company, Shell and Vodafone, to the Welsh Government, NHS Wales, 1000 Lives Improvement, local authorities, Wales Audit Office, CHC and South Wales Fire & Rescue Service.

Fran is an IFVP member, and experienced in using her expert skills to facilitate and lead events, world cafés, conferences, focus groups, workshops, meetings, planning and staff days to develop strategies and stories to share messages and engage.

She works with organisations to identify their stories and to co-create the most effective, accessible communication tools to engage with their audience - both on and off-line. This could be a strategic vision map... an engagement toolkit... a hand-drawn video or live large scale 'visual minutes'.

www.franohara.com ohara@scarletdesign.com @fran_ohara

Fran is also director of the 'Working With Not To' a social enterprise which work across Wales to grow co-production from 'grassroots' up, to create resilient and self-empowered people, communities and organisations.

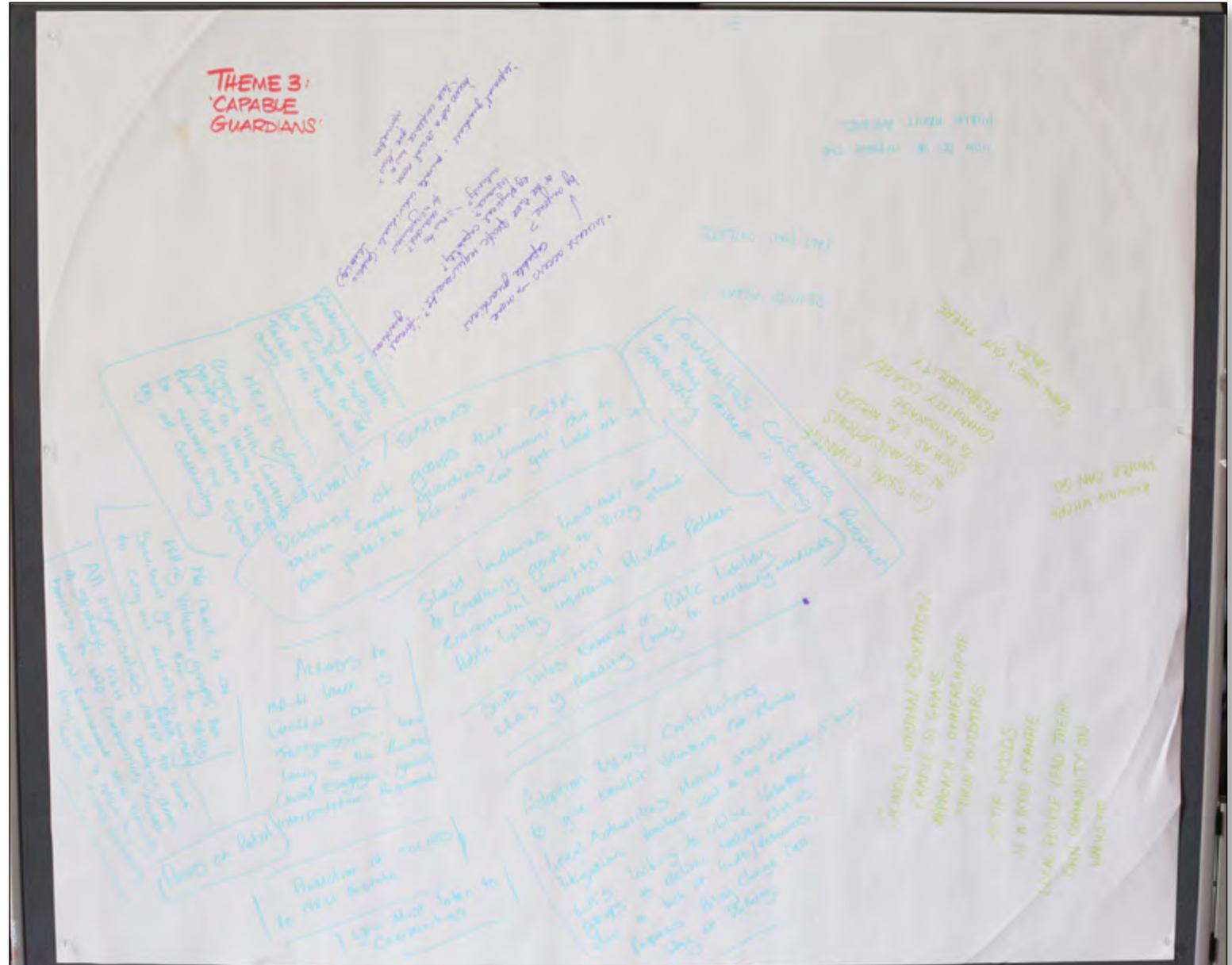
www.workingwithnotto.com @workingwithnot2



APPENDIX 1

TABLE EXERCISES (WORLD CAFÉ):

What will a healthy and vibrant Rhondda look like, which uses all our assets and makes the most of everything we've got here?



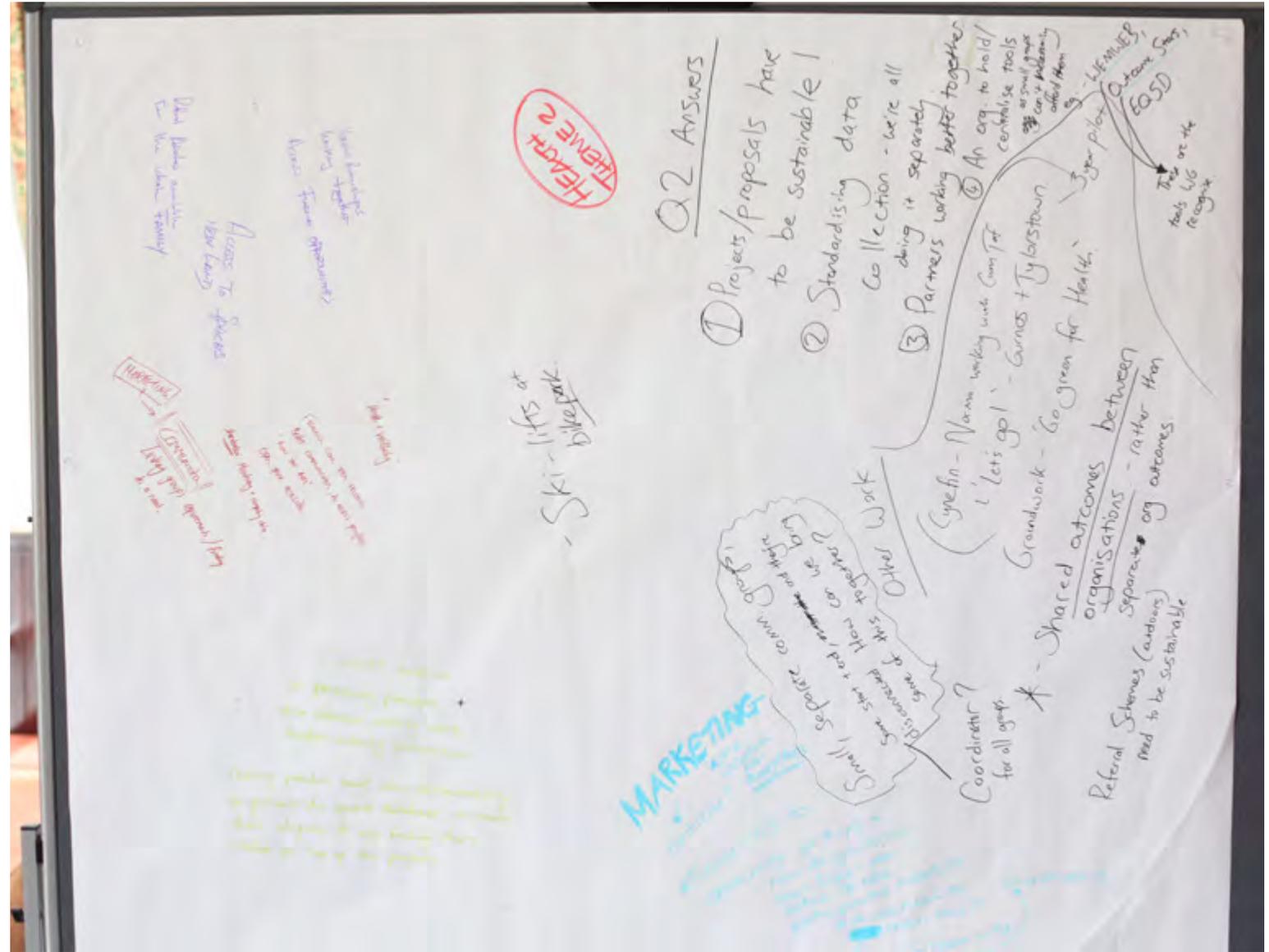
THEME 2 Creating “Capable Guardians” – involving local people in the places around them.



APPENDIX 1

TABLE EXERCISES (WORLD CAFÉ):

What will a healthy and vibrant Rhondda look like, which uses all our assets and makes the most of everything we've got here?



THEME 5 Improving Access to the countryside



APPENDIX 2



Summary of public engagement events in the Rhondda Summer 2015

Rhondda natural resource management trial
September 2015



1 Introduction

To help us prepare and deliver a trial Area Statement for the natural resource management trial in the Rhondda, we continue to engage with partners and communities for their views.

In spring 2015, we held two formal stakeholder engagement workshops in the Rhondda for partners and community groups to attend. The aim of these events was to help identify potential priorities and opportunities for managing the area's natural resources that could deliver multiple benefits for the people, economy and environment. We also wanted to explore better ways of working between partners to help deliver the emerging priorities and opportunities.

In the summer of 2015, we shifted our focus to the people who live, work and play in the Rhondda to find out their views. The views of the public are critical to help us identify the social, economic and environmental needs of the area. To do this, we attended a variety of community events which helped us gather information relating to energy (past, present and future), skills / jobs, what people most like / love about their area, how they use the outdoors and what their aspirations for their communities are.

This document is a summary of the public events we attended, the methods and materials we used to engage, and the main findings.

Summary of public engagement events in the Rhondda, summer 2015



Residents completing the Rhondda A5 flyers

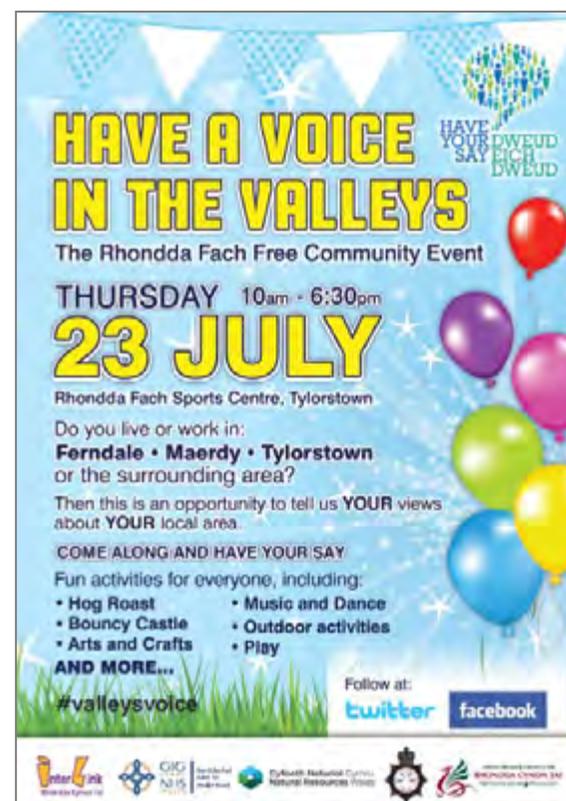
2 Community events: summer 2015

To complement our ongoing engagement work with professional organisations, we worked with the local authority and other partners to plan and attend a variety of community events held in the summer of 2015. We chose to take part in community events already planned for the area to avoid duplication, and help ourselves and partners save time / money. We attended the events highlighted below in July and August 2015 to help gather people’s views on a healthy and vibrant Rhondda:

- **Youth Wellbeing Day at Ferndale Comprehensive, Rhondda (22 August)**
Attended by children and teenagers from the 5 main comprehensive schools in the Rhondda.
- **‘Have a voice in the Valleys’ at Rhondda Fach Sports Centre, Rhondda (23 July) *see below for further information**
A co-organised community engagement event between ourselves (NRW) and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough council, who are also trialling an area based approach to how they deliver their services.

Attended by children, parents and local users of the sports centre. Approximately 180 people attended with 65 people completing the Snap Survey.

The main themes discussed were jobs / training / skills, with information gathered via snap survey, post-it notes and our own A5 flyers.



Flyer for the NRW / RCT organised event, ‘Have a voice in the Valleys’.

Summary of public engagement events in the Rhondda, summer 2015

- **‘Stories of Change’ at Treherbert Library, Rhondda (28 July – 4 August)**

A unique, nostalgic and successful two week event held in the disused Treherbert Library. The event was led by Blaengad, Storyworks and Welcome to our Woods, with nearly 700 members of the community attending over the 2 weeks. The main themes at this event were energy (past, present and future), the upper Rhondda, recreation and anything else visitors wanted to chat about.

- **Big Welsh Bite at Ynysangharad Park, Pontypridd (1-2 August)**

The Welsh food and agriculture show is a two day food festival featuring locally grown produce. Toolkit (see section 4) used by our colleagues in the Taff Natural Resource Management team. 44 flyers were completed by festival goers.



Pic 1) At the NRW / RCT co-organised Voice in the Valleys event; Pic 2) Visitor at the Big Welsh Bite Festival completing an A5 flyer; Pic 3) Chatting with Treherbert residents

Summary of public engagement events in the Rhondda, summer 2015

3 Engagement materials

To meet and talk with the community, we worked with our facilitator to create a visually striking toolkit which we could take to a range of places. Our bilingual and modular community engagement toolkit shown below, is designed to be used either with a person present, or as a standalone poster / leaflet / ideas box. The Rhondda landscape visual shows some of the different ways people can use their local environment.



Summary of public engagement events in the Rhondda, summer 2015

4 Methodology

A5 flyer questionnaires

Our engagement with the public took place through informal conversations at the various events we attended. To capture the views of the public, we asked people to complete one of our A5 flyers (as shown in the toolkit in section 4).

The flyers have a tickbox for 'place / postcode' and age category to capture a simple demographic, and includes 3 questions for people to answer:

1. What do you most like / love about your area?
2. How do you use the outdoors in your local area?
3. What are your ideas for improving your local area?

Over 100 people completed the A5 flyers.

Snap survey

For the co-organised 'Have a voice in the Valleys' event in the Rhondda Fach Sports Centre, snap survey questionnaires (tablet and paper) and community asset mapping techniques were used to record responses. A videographer was used to record the event, and carried out a series of on camera interviews with attendees. 65 people completed the Snap Survey.

Maps

We took enlarged maps of local areas to two of the public events to enable people to write, draw and scribble any information they wanted. The maps work well and have provided us with a wide range of information including: crime and anti-social behaviour spots, common areas for walking, spots of nature interest, and other information relating to local flooding issues etc.

Summary of public engagement events in the Rhondda, summer 2015



5 Summary of findings

We asked people in the Rhondda the following 3 questions:

1 What do you most like / love about your area?

- 46% love the Rhondda's countryside (mountains, woods, rivers)
- 15% love the community spirit of the Rhondda
- 14% love the scenery and views
- 12% love the parks and urban green space
- 5% love the wildlife, 2% the tranquillity, and 6% were other aspects.

2 How do you use the outdoors in your local area?

- 58% use the outdoors for walking
- 14% cycle and use bike trails
- 10% like to both walk and cycle
- 16% participate in other sports including climbing, golf, cricket, rugby and football, 2% use their local rivers to fish

3 What are your ideas for improving your local area?

- 26% of the community want crime and anti-social behaviour to be addressed
- 20% want more activities / things to do for children and teenagers
- 17% want improved access to recreation
- 16% want more jobs and skills training
- 6% want their local environment improved for wildlife
- 5% want traffic congestion reduced and 5% want empty buildings to be used
- 3% want greater promotion of the South Wales Valleys and 2% had other suggestions, including community food growing

Of the respondents, 22% were under 18 years of age, 30% were aged between 18-40, 32% were aged between 40-65 and 16% were over 65 years of age.

Summary of public engagement events in the Rhondda, summer 2015



Overview of question 1

46% of the people who responded stated that the hills, countryside and woodlands are what they most love about their area. 26% of people responded to say how much they love their local parks and green spaces (including sports pitches) and the scenery. Together, this represents **72%** of all responses where people refer to green spaces and the surrounding countryside as the reason they most love where they live. The other significant response was the sense of community spirit in the Rhondda.

'I love the trails and countryside'

'We have some of the most beautiful scenery and love seeing the greenery change colour through the seasons'

'I love the people and community'

Overview of question 2

Walking and cycling are by far the most common uses of the outdoors in the Rhondda. **58%** of the people who responded use the outdoors for walking (including walking their dogs), 14% cycle and use bike trails, 10% like to both walk and cycle. Together, this means **82%** of respondents either like to walk or cycle in the Rhondda. The remainder includes participation in other sports including climbing, golf, cricket, rugby and football, and fishing.

'I love walking, enjoying the scenery, picking winberries'

'I'm 14 and love walking up the mountain with my dad'

'I walk the mountains and often take my grandchildren on nature walks'

Summary of public engagement events in the Rhondda, summer 2015



Overview of question 3

The largest response to what could help people's local area is to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour (**26%**). Other significant responses include more activities for children and teenagers (20%), improving access for recreation (17%), and bringing jobs / education and training to the Rhondda (16%). Other answers related to improving the local environment (6%), reducing traffic congestion (5%), using disused / empty buildings (5%), promoting the valleys (3%), as well as other comments including community food growing.

'I'd like to see more recreation to make the most of the open spaces, e.g. horse riding, hiking clubs, and cycle tracks'

'Install proper cycle lanes on the roads and raise awareness of the benefits of cycling'

'We need dedicated green areas for adventure, and free to access'

'We need a crackdown on anti-social behaviour'

'Community ownership and better access to our natural resources'

'We need cleaner rivers and more ways for people to get involved'

'Getting the community to work together to tidy up their area'

'We need more things for kids to do to keep them busy'

Summary of public engagement events in the Rhondda, summer 2015



Snap Survey results

The information above highlights people's responses to the 3 questions asked on our A5 flyers (further information about our engagement toolkit is in Section 4). In addition to this, 65 people completed a Snap Survey at the 'Have a voice in the Valleys' event organised by NRW and Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC in the Rhondda Fach Sports Centre on 23 July 2015.

From the Snap Survey questions, 63% of respondents highlighted their desire to see more jobs and learning opportunities to improve the area. After this, 30% of respondents wanted a nicer environment with 6.5% highlighting improved health services. With regard to who people perceive to be responsible for bringing improvements to the area, 28% of responses identified the government as being responsible, with another 28% identifying the Council as the lead authority for improvements. However, a reassuring number (28%) made specific reference to improvement being the combined responsibility of organisations, communities and individuals. Just 1.7% of responses put the onus on themselves to facilitate change in the area.

In response to being asked about what they most love about their area, the majority of respondents highlighted the people and community spirit, followed by the natural and outdoor environment. Attendees identified the Rhondda as a good place for outdoor activities such as walking, bike riding and walking their dogs, and the natural environment was commonly highlighted as something people love about their area.

There were both positive and negative feelings recorded about the future of the area. Negative responses were more focussed and highlighted people's concerns over the lack of funding in the area, a perceived lack of political interest, a lack of jobs / prospects, as well as concerns over the increase in crime and anti-social behaviour. Despite this, many attendees were positive about what they felt they could give to the area, e.g. skills, time and volunteering.

Summary of public engagement events in the Rhondda, summer 2015



6 Summary of key messages

From all the responses we collected in the summer of 2015, several clear messages emerged which highlight that many people in the Rhondda:

- Love their surrounding countryside, local parks, and scenery and are proud of the strong sense of community spirit
- Enjoy using the outdoors for walking, dog walking, cycling etc but would like to see better provision for walkers and cyclists
- Don't venture into surrounding countryside, despite their relative close proximity to outdoors spaces
- Would like to see more jobs / opportunities in the area and address the constant threat of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Are concerned about a lack of activities / things to do for children and teenagers in the area.

The results of the 3 questions are illustrated in charts below.

Next steps

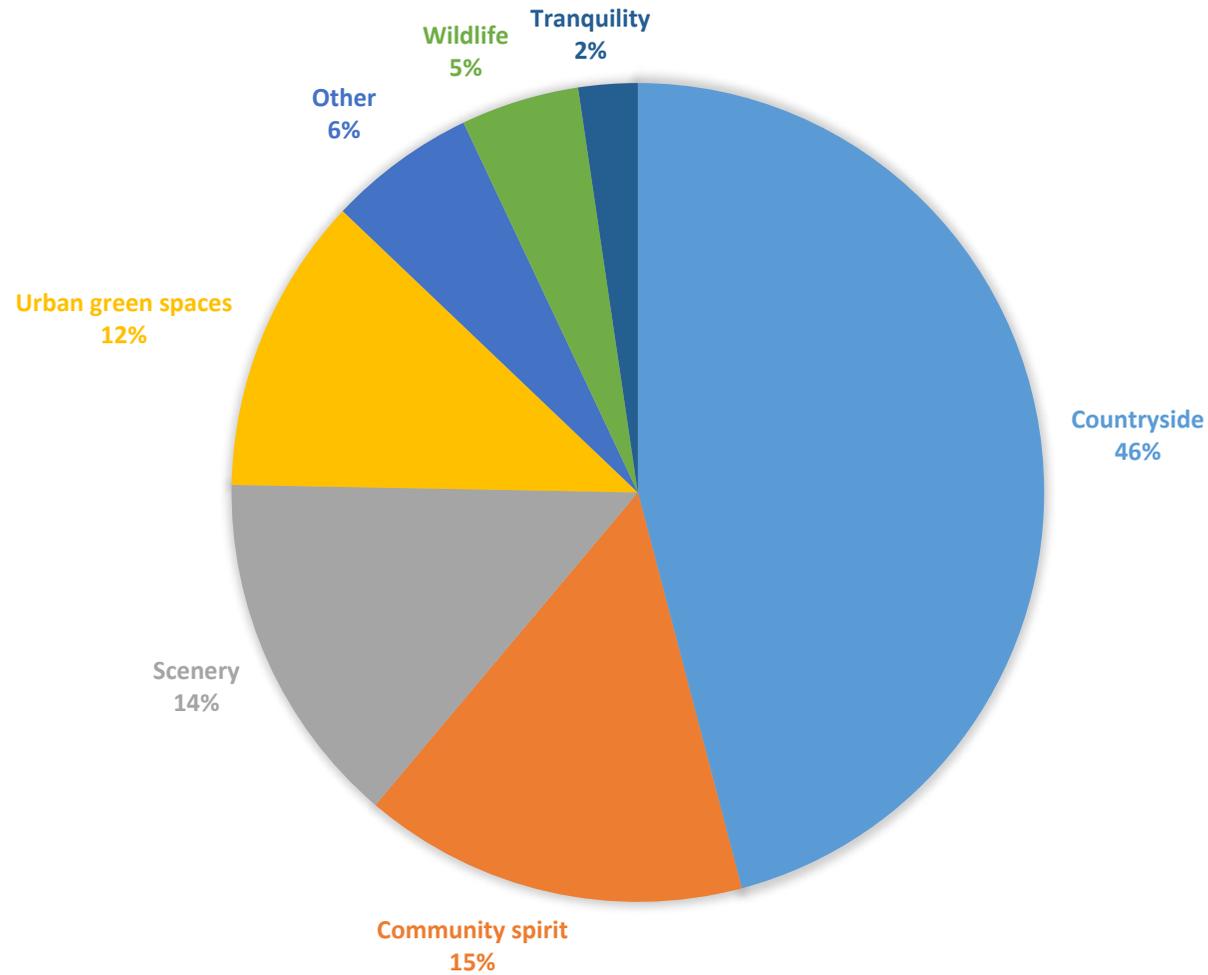
The information we've gathered from the public so far will form part of our supporting information to help us prepare and deliver a trial Area Statement for the Rhondda. Combined with the views of our partners, this evidence will help us to identify the priorities and opportunities for how we manage the Rhondda's natural resources.

In the coming months, we will continue to seek the views of the public. Adopting the same approach we used in the summer of 2015, we will work together with partners to focus on participating at community events that are already planned for the area.

Summary of public engagement events in the Rhondda, summer 2015

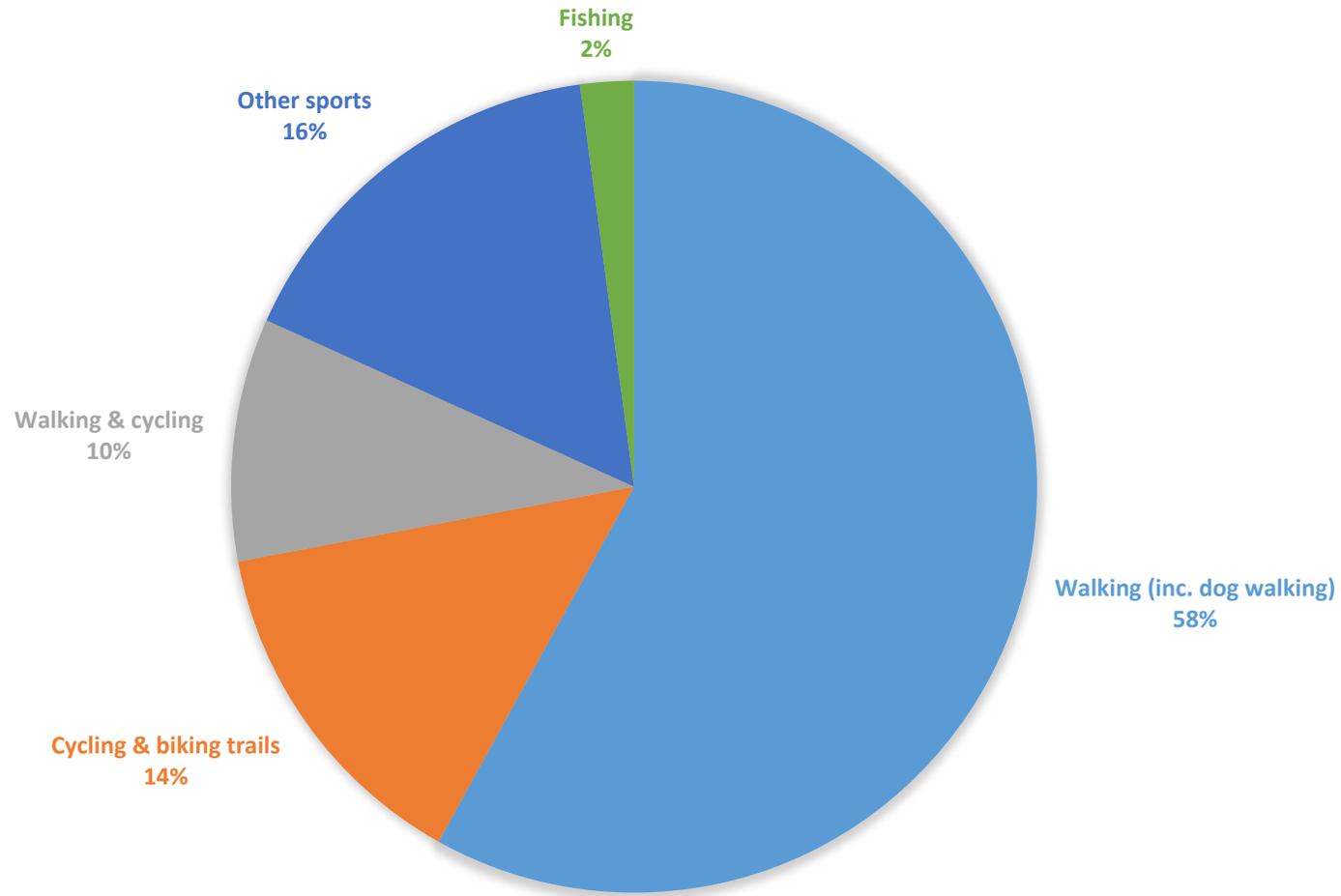


Question 1: What do you most like / love about your area?



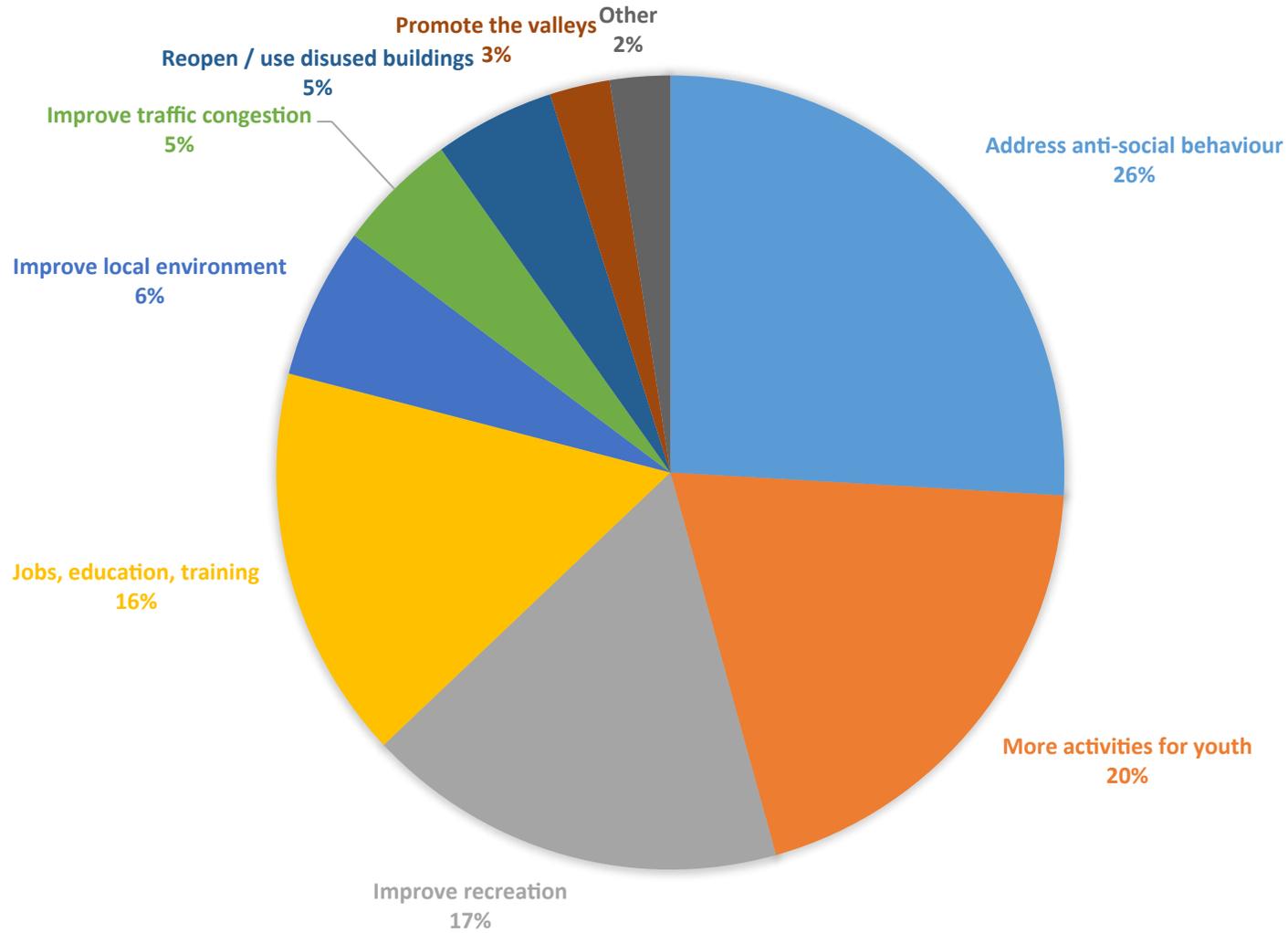
Summary of public engagement events in the Rhondda, summer 2015

Question 2: How do you use the outdoors in your local area?



Summary of public engagement events in the Rhondda, summer 2015

Question 3: What are your ideas for improving your local area?



Summary of public engagement events in the Rhondda, summer 2015

Thank you to everyone who has filled out a flyer so far! We'll continue to gather the views of partners and the public over the coming months.



If you would like to find out more, please email us on: rhondda@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

w www.naturalresources.wales

e enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

twitter @NatResWales

t Customer Care Centre 0300 065 3000 (Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm)

Summary of public engagement events in the Rhondda, summer 2015

