

Dinas Powys Community Council

Community Mapping

January 2024 update



A reminder of the background:

Dinas Powys Community Council (DPCC) is running a “community mapping” exercise to help shape future developments in the community. Focus groups were run in October 2023, to which local businesses and voluntary groups were invited; 28 people attended across the 4 sessions. The sessions focused on mapping the assets in our community and imagining what its future could be like. This is what we heard...

What do we have and what do we love?

Dinas Powys is:

- An active and engaged community, where people are ready to get involved and willing to give their time to lead activities.
- An appreciative community, that values what it has and especially its people (e.g. the volunteers, the parents who support the school).
- A friendly community, where people take the time to connect and have conversations.
- A stable community, where people come to stay and live here a long time.
- A helpful community, where people rally together when need arises (e.g. flood group, Covid volunteers).
- A safe community, with low anti-social behaviour.
- A connected community, where the older generation is leading many activities and where young people are encouraged to develop and take part.
- A confident community, with a village feel and identity, and a readiness to embrace change.

The feeling in Dinas Powys is calm and peaceful, close-knit yet open and welcoming, friendly, helpful, inclusive, safe. There is community spirit, and in one participant’s words, *“When I was away for a while I felt like I was coming home.”*

What we like about its environment and facilities:

- A rural location (and therefore quiet) with excellent access to countryside and open spaces, woodland and walks, seaside and beaches, city and history.
- The Common, green spaces and woodland make the outdoor environment accessible to all.
- A number of community spaces, halls, and venues (including the Parish Hall and Lee Hall which are an asset for the village).
- A variety of sports facilities.

- Allotments and growing spaces.
- Good schools (and links with secondaries in walking distance).
- A village feel to the Village Square (the Twyn) - greenery, pubs, atmosphere.
- Most facilities are walkable for most people, there are good footpaths, and cycle links to Penarth.
- It is possible to work locally.

What we like about its groups & activities:

- A wide variety of organisations and activities are based in the village, so many societies are available if you want to be involved.
- Community groups reach out to each other and help each other, and also link with other groups outside Dinas.
- Arts and culture: AmDram, Dinas Powys Players, Probus, Library, music & arts festivals.
- Faith: churches and chapels feel strong, and a part of the community, local groups use the buildings.
- Sports: bowls club (in a beautiful and secret setting!), football, rugby, tennis club (beautiful setting, good courts), wide range of sporting activities of all types for all ages.
- Events: Village Show, Dickensian, a variety of entertainment.
- Children: free events for children, lots of sporting activities, Scouts and Guides movement (for all ages!)
- Community: the Library is a community hub that offers different things for the community; DPVC provides facilities for older people; community walks.

We like that the local businesses are a range of local independent businesses (shops, pubs and restaurants), that support and help each other out (not competitive), and are always supportive of the community (e.g. raffle prizes).

We like that there are good transport links and connectivity (train, bus), including two local railway stations connected to Cardiff Central and Cardiff city centre, which all allows for commuting and career development.

We like that information is shared through an active social media presence through Facebook pages (Re-use, Chat, etc) which are helpful and enhance the community, enabling it to share information, resources, skills, time.

What could the future look like?

We imagined that a shift happened overnight, making Dinas Powys a better and happier place - and we shared what that would feel, sound, and look like.

We wake up and it is quieter... there is less traffic. The air is cleaner, and we can hear birdsong and children's voices. The quality of life in Dinas Powys is subtly different.

We walk to the closest shops - there are two vibrant shopping areas that are easy and safe to walk or cycle to wherever you live. We see parents and children walking and cycling to the local schools together. While we're at the shops we bump into friends and neighbours; we stop to talk, and someone we know shouts a friendly greeting as they cycle past.

We are considerate and respectful of others and of the place we live; it shows in our everyday environment - less or no litter, no dog messes (especially on the playing fields), and less stress and disruption around the schools at drop off and pickup times.

Vehicle traffic is lighter because it is mainly community traffic, instead of through traffic; as a result the roads are in a better state of maintenance with fewer pot holes. On the main road, adjustments to the lights have made the flow of traffic smoother, so it's safer and easier for drivers too, as the streets are less congested. Electric buses circulate through the village and connect it with neighbouring places. Some areas are pedestrianised or shared use spaces, with a very low speed limit which enables cars to coexist with cyclists and pedestrians.

This is an active and engaged community - people of all ages can connect into it and play a part, whether it's by walking children to school in a walking bus, contributing through volunteering and organising in the various groups and societies, taking part in activities and attending community events. Older people feel supported and younger people feel involved. There are volunteering opportunities suitable and relevant for different ages and levels of commitment. We have a number and range of community spaces that are well used, and new spaces enable additional events and activities to be created. The football club now has a clubhouse for its members. We also have school buildings that are up-to-date and allow the children of Dinas Powys to attend schools locally to them, growing in line with our population.

There are even more green spaces than before, and nature is within reach for everyone, which is good for our well-being. As a community we care about preserving our natural world, and understand what a gift it is to us humans; we work together to mitigate the effects of climate change wherever we can. We know that there is an unavoidable flood risk for example; it is managed as well as it can be with a natural flood scheme, but the community and residents in the flood zones also understand the implications, and we are well prepared as individuals and as a supportive community - able to mobilise when needed to help each other.

We have a collective voice as a community, whether it's about flood risk management measures, or having a say about our woodland and historical sites like Dinas Powys' Castle - we are involved in decisions by organisations that have an impact on our environment and daily lives, so we can make the most of our historical and natural assets and benefit fully from them being part of our village.

This is a happy, connected and close-knit community, and yet it is also open and inclusive. We care about welcoming in the new families moving onto the new housing estates, and helping them discover the richness of our village and become an integral part of our community.

What happens next?

The questionnaire to gather views about Dinas Powys has been running from September to December, so our next step will be to analyse the data and identify emerging themes. We will then hold further conversations, to start delving into the findings from the focus groups and the questionnaires, and develop some ideas for future improvements.

Contact information

If you are interested in the process, please drop us a line and let us know - we will be in touch with updates, and invitations to further conversations and events! In the meantime if you have any questions or comments, you can reach us via the Community Council office:

theclerk@dinaspowys.org or 029 2051 3114.

We are the community mapping working group:

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