

Listening to Dinas Powys

A community survey from Dinas Powys Community Council interim report to council

Executive Summary

Dinas Powys Community Council, launched a community survey at the village show in 2023 and the survey ran for 75 days. Copies of the survey were delivered to all houses in Dinas Powys and Councillors attended local events to explain the survey and encourage uptake. The questionnaire was anonymous, so responses could be written candidly and allowing recipients to answer as many or as few questions as chosen. Completed surveys could be returned to 2 locations in the village or on line.

The aim is to build a “community map” of our community: a picture of what great places and spaces, groups and organisations, activities and people we already have. But also to look at the gaps in community need and improvements the respondents would like made.

Three hundred and ten responses were received in total. The data showed that 84% of the respondents had lived in Dinas Powys for over 5 years, 55% for over 20 years. Responses were received from all age groups, including 8% from school age children and 65% of respondents being over 65 years of age. The age group 18-30 was the smallest group.

The respondents were mostly positive about the area with 88% recommending Dinas as a place to live. There were positive comments about transport links but concerns about overcrowding on trains at peak times 13%, limited bus services 31% and traffic congestion 38%. People enjoyed many Dinas Powys open spaces with walks being enjoyed by 74%, night life 57% and art and culture 53%. People enjoyed visiting the Common, local pubs, the medical centre, the community centre and the halls.

People mentioned a strong sense of community, people looking out for each other, the Community Councils efforts to light paths and that the village was ‘pretty safe normally’. There was some concern about antisocial behaviour and ‘young people causing havoc’. The state of the pavements were mentioned by 3% of people, cycle routes were needed and lighting was needed on the ash path. There seems to be a lack of things to do for young people which was raised by a range of age groups.

Somebody commented *“A true country village on the edge of our Capital City, surrounded by ancient countryside and woodlands. The area and its village community must be protected and preserved; long may it continue. It is a treasure; a pleasure and privilege to be part of.”*

From achieving the baseline aims of delivering this survey and using the results as evidence to capture what is working well, where the gaps are, and what we all care about – we will review and think about possible ideas for the future and discuss the next steps in planning how to go about this.

Results

Below is the list of questions (**marked up in red**) and outcomes from the survey.

Dinas Powys and you

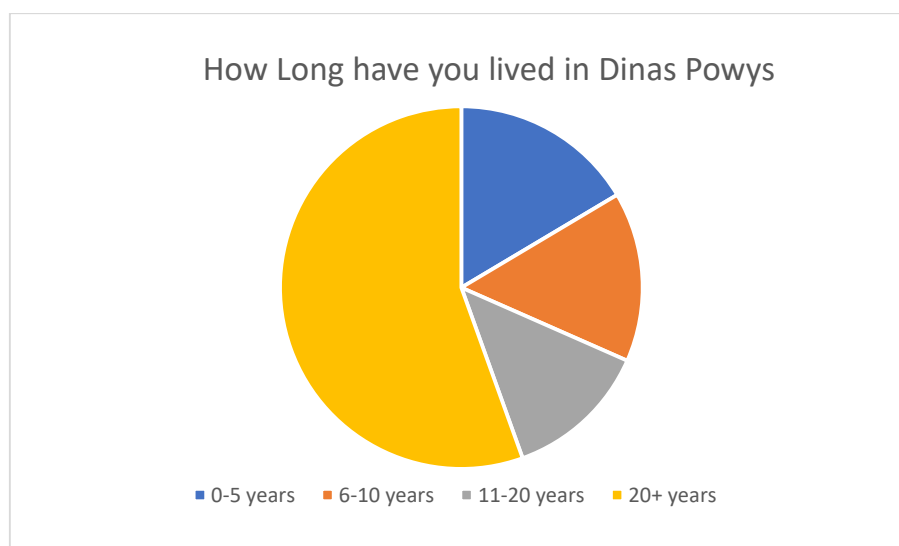
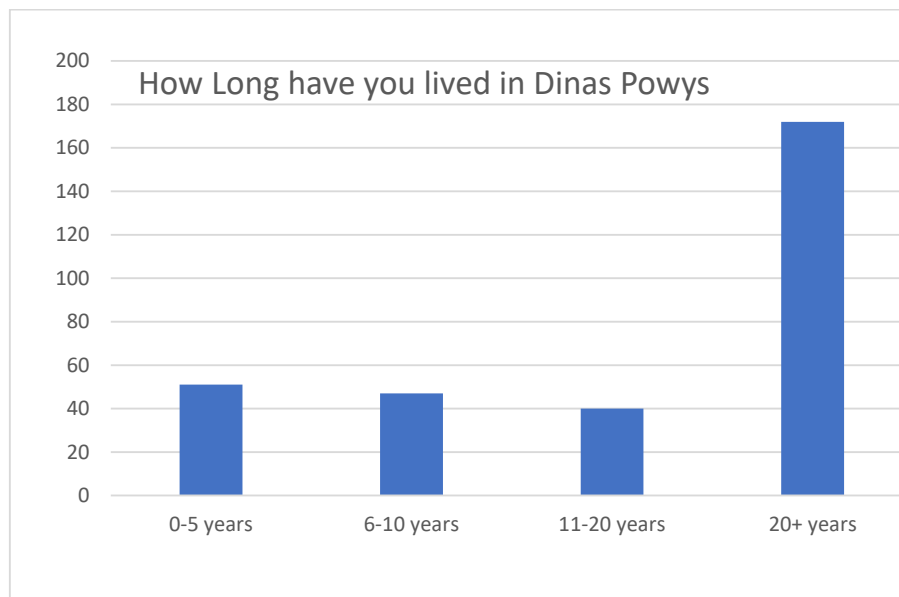
1. How long have you lived in Dinas Powys?

(If you've moved away then back, please respond with the total count of years.)

- ☐ 0-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years
- ☐ 11-20 years
- ☐ 20+ years

Of the 310 responses received, most people had lived in Dinas Powys for over 5 years at 84% over 5 years with 55% respondents having lived in Dinas Powys for over 20 years.

How Long have you lived in Dinas Powys	Number of Responses	Percentage
0-5 years	51	16%
6-10 years	47	15%
11-20 years	40	13%
20+ years	172	55%
Grand Total	310	100%

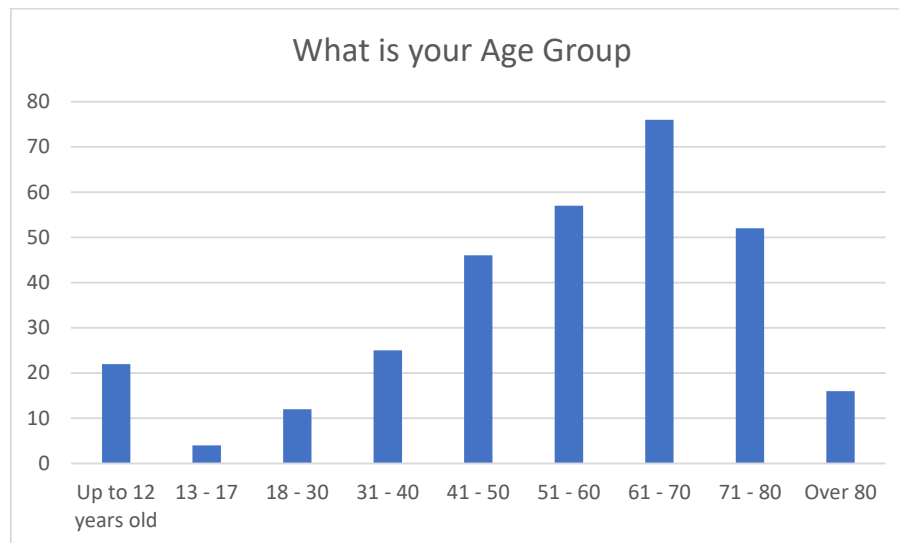


2. What is your age?

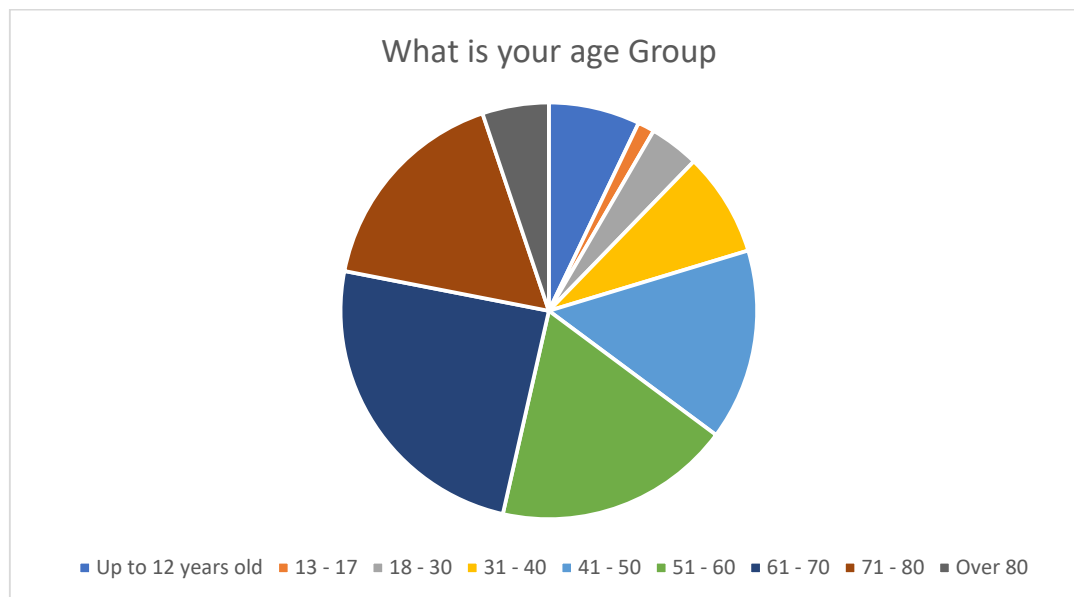
- ☐ Up to 12 years old
- ☐ 13 – 17
- ☐ 18 – 30
- ☐ 31 – 40
- ☐ 41 – 50
- ☐ 51 – 60
- ☐ 61 – 70
- ☐ 71 – 80
- ☐ Over 80

There was a good range of age groups responding to the survey. The majority of responses came from the over 50 year olds with 65% of the completed forms. Some responses came from school age children (8%). The age group sadly lacking in response was the 18-30 year bracket, of this group, there were 12 completed forms.

What is your Age	Number of Responses	Percentage
Up to 12 years old	22	7%
13 - 17	4	1%
18 - 30	12	4%
31 - 40	25	8%
41 - 50	46	15%
51 - 60	57	18%
61 - 70	76	25%
71 - 80	52	17%
Over 80	16	5%
Grand Total	310	100%



The highest proportion of the respondents (just under 25%) comprised of the age group between 61 and 70



3. Please share your postcode:

(This tells us which part of Dinas Powys you live in.)

All respondents gave an indication of the location that they lived. From these postcodes and area's shared, only 3 were from out of Dinas Powys from the local surroundings of nearby Barry. This meant that over 99% of those replying to the survey lived in Dinas Powys.

4. Would you recommend Dinas Powys to friends or family as a place they should live?

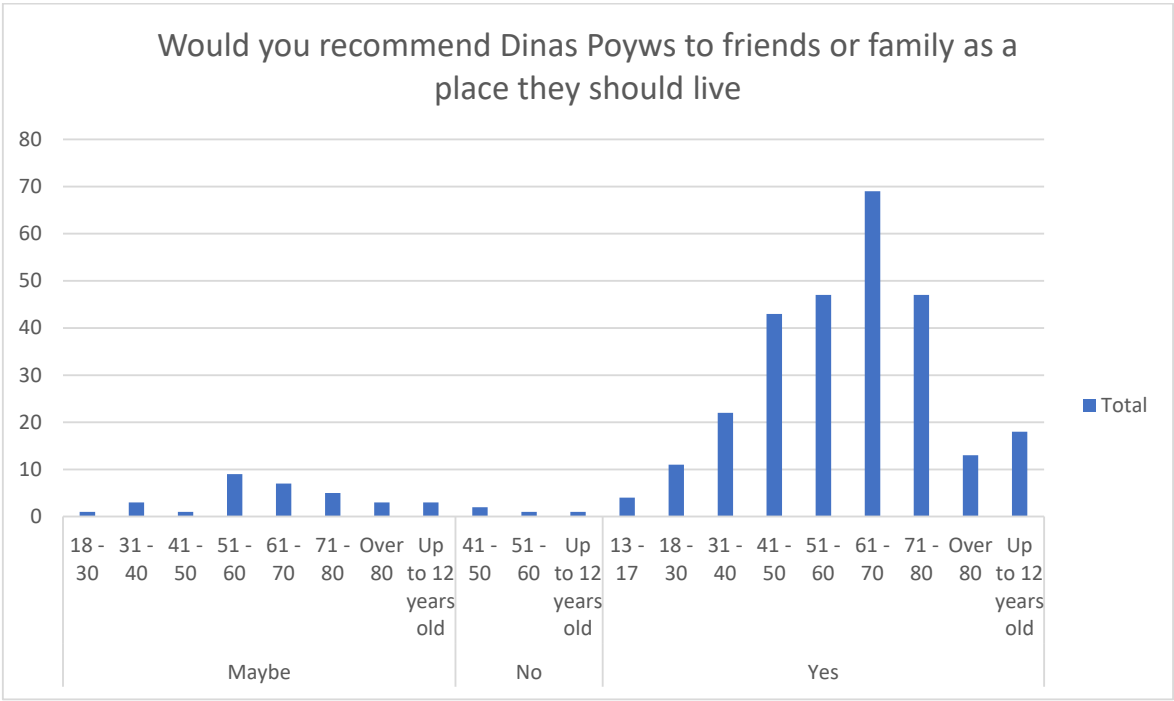
☐ Yes

☐ Maybe

☐ No

This question was completed with all respondents. The majority (over 88%) agreeing that they would recommend this as a place they should live. Only 1% saying no.

Row Labels	Sum of Eligible Sample
Maybe	32
18 - 30	1
31 - 40	3
41 - 50	1
51 - 60	9
61 - 70	7
71 - 80	5
Over 80	3
Up to 12 years old	3
No	4
41 - 50	2
51 - 60	1
Up to 12 years old	1
Yes	274
13 - 17	4
18 - 30	11
31 - 40	22
41 - 50	43
51 - 60	47
61 - 70	69
71 - 80	47
Over 80	13
Up to 12 years old	18
Grand Total	310



Transport in Dinas Powys

5. What aspects of transport do you like in Dinas Powys?

(Tick all that apply.)

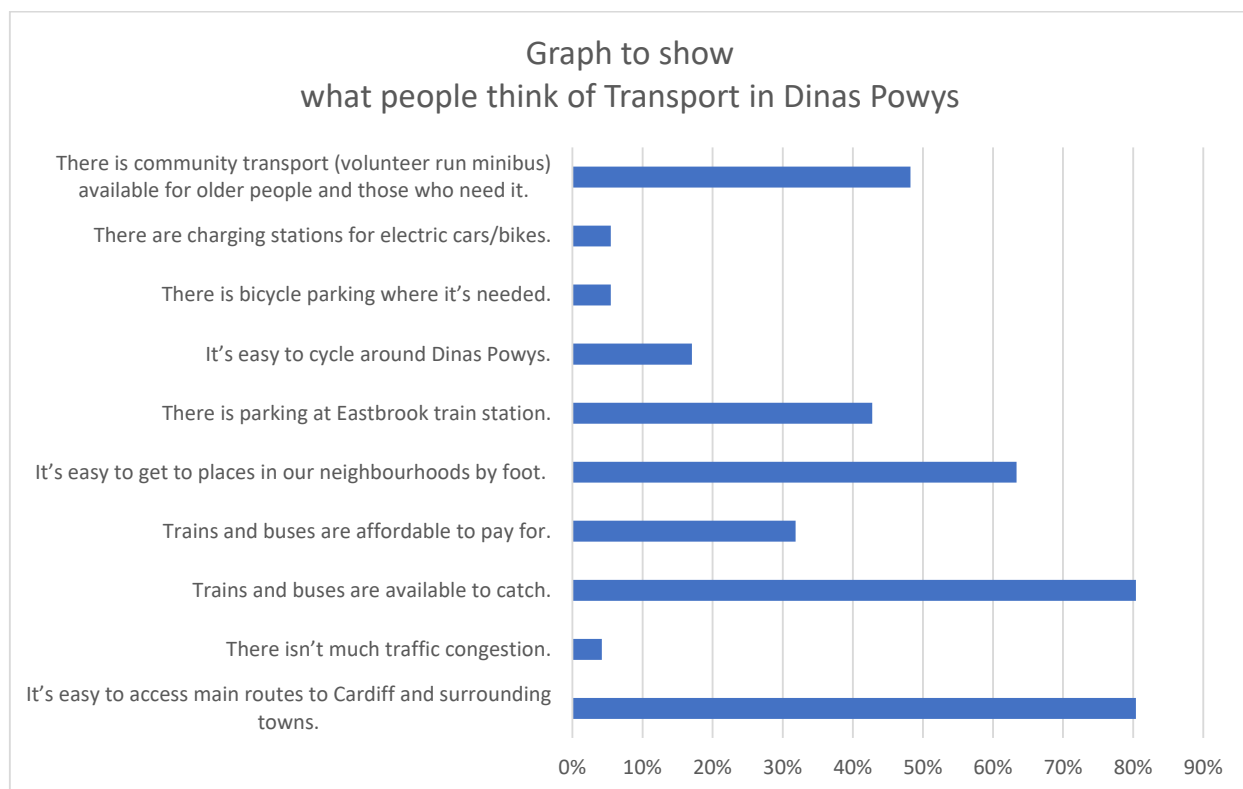
- [a] It's easy to access main routes to Cardiff and surrounding towns.
- [b] There isn't much traffic congestion.
- [c] Trains and buses are available to catch.
- [d] Trains and buses are affordable to pay for.
- [e] It's easy to get to places in our neighbourhoods by foot.
- [f] There is parking at Eastbrook train station.
- [g] It's easy to cycle around Dinas Powys.
- [h] There is bicycle parking where it's needed.
- [i] There are charging stations for electric cars/bikes.
- [j] There is community transport (volunteer run minibus) available for older people and those who need it.

a	It's easy to access main routes to Cardiff and surrounding towns.	80%
b	There isn't much traffic congestion.	4%
c	Trains and buses are available to catch.	80%
d	Trains and buses are affordable to pay for.	32%
e	It's easy to get to places in our neighbourhoods by foot.	63%
f	There is parking at Eastbrook train station.	43%
g	It's easy to cycle around Dinas Powys.	17%
h	There is bicycle parking where it's needed.	5%
i	There are charging stations for electric cars/bikes.	5%
j	There is community transport (volunteer run minibus) available for older people and those who need it.	48%

Over 98% of the respondents, answered this question. There are many aspects of transport that people do like regarding living in Dinas Powys. The key ones being that it's easy to access main routes to Cardiff and surrounding towns, there are buses and trains available to catch and it's easy to get to places in our neighbourhoods by foot. You will have to bear in mind that there were caveats and thoughts that they shared about the transport with these simple tick boxes in Question 5 which were further qualified in Question 6.

Nearly half (48%) recognised that there is community transport in the way of a volunteer run minibus for older people who need it by ticking this box. This was mostly made up of those people (71%) who were in the age bracket over 61 years old.

Only 4% said that there isn't much traffic congestion.



6. Is there anything else you would add to this list?

What thoughts would you like to share about transport in Dinas Powys?

Sum of Eligible Sample	310	
		66%
Number of recipients giving a comment relating to transport issues and concerns	204	Issues as a percentage of those who made a comment
Road Congestion/ dangerous or too busy used as shortcuts and speeding	77	38%
Of the traffic issues the number of time Speeding along roads mentioned	15	7%
Bypass requested	9	4%
Comments relating to limited bus services	64	31%
Comments regarding crowded trains	26	13%
Comments on concerns of train access for wheelchairs, disabled people and those with buggies	5	2%
Comments requesting Better Footpaths/ Maintenance of footpaths	15	7%
Better Cycle paths needed and safety concerns of cycling in Dinas Powys	44	22%

Over 66% of those people responding to the survey had a comment to make about transport in Dinas Powys

Comments relating to traffic and use of cars – Congestion was mentioned 38%

- Nearly all comments on use of car related to road congestion
- A number of people pointed out that it was necessary to have a car
- Traffic management and control is needed in the village
- Congestion is particularly bad during busy times but it was also mentioned by a number of recipients that congestion could be an issue at all times of the day.
- Respondents commented that they would only use their own transport as public transport is unreliable and limited
- One person suggested introducing a congestion charge
- 19% of people mentioning cars also related to the number of speeding cars using the roads in Dinas Powys and the Pen-yr Turnpike and surrounding lanes of Dinas Powys being used as a rat run to race and avoid the congestion.
- Travelling by car is particularly challenging at peak times
- Better signage is needed for speed limits
- Parking has also been mentioned as an issue

Comments on Buses – Limited bus services totalled 31%

- Without a doubt, nearly all comments on buses mentioned the limited and infrequent bus service being an issue.
- In particular the lack of services in the evening and weekends.
- Getting to and from the Heath Hospital from Dinas Powys is a particular issue for people who don't use cars. This could take a couple of hours once a bus for the journey and the limited number of buses making the journey a difficult and problematic issue. "A better bus service, more frequent is needed. Also running the bus service from Dinas Powys to the Heath hospital again is necessary for the older generation" was one example of a comment made.
- Higher frequency of buses and more bus routes were requested
- There are gaps in the bus times.
- Reliability an issue
- Some people mentioned that they would continue to use their cars until public transport improvements are made in particular to the frequency and reliability of the service. "Bus service is poor because of congestion but people won't leave their cars at home until public transport improves" is one example of a comment made

Comments on Trains – Crowded train comments totalled 13%

- It should be noted that 8 people commented positively on train transport including the availability, regular services, and an excellent train service – this figure is not included in the 13% above
- Many people requested more carriages were needed
- 26 people commented that trains were over crowded, with some qualifying their comments by mentioning that this was at peak times
- Comments relating to delays and cancellations meant that people won't use the trains
- Parking at Eastbrook station is full on times and therefore unavailable.
- No direct train to Penarth. Trains to Penarth require a change at Grangetown so are not really a suitable means of transport.
- 5 people had concerns about accessibility to the stations. In particular for those with disabilities, mobility issues, those with buggies or suitcases and the slipperiness of the steps in wet conditions
- Train tickets to England are expensive and unaffordable
- At least 3 people mentioned that there is no late transport back from Cardiff City Centre

Requests for better Cycle Paths needed - 22%

- Requests were made for a proper cycle route from Barry to Dinas Powys
- Better Cycle paths were need
- Cycle network is non existent
- Safety is an issue "Please don't tell me a cycle route will solve this. I wouldn't feel safe on a bike.",
- Generally unsafe and poor cycle path availability. Therefore, not a place for children to cycle – "The cycle network is non-existent, very difficult to allow children out on bikes, even as a confident adult cycling you feel the pressure from sharing such a busy road"

Request for better footpaths and maintenance – 7%

- Requests for safe routes for children by foot and by bike were made
- Safe walking routes for children to get to school were made
- Dry footpaths
- It was mentioned that you "can't get to Barry by foot"
- Pavements were in a "very bad state"
- Routes to school need to be "lit and hedges cut back"
- Clear footpaths were needed as they were "overgrown"
- There is a need for a "safe, active travel (walking) route to Barry"
- Millbrook Road is difficult to cross.
- "Safe crossing from Bryn-yr-don from the end of Cross Common Road Junction" requested.

Things to do in Dinas Powys

7. What types of community activities do you enjoy in Dinas Powys?

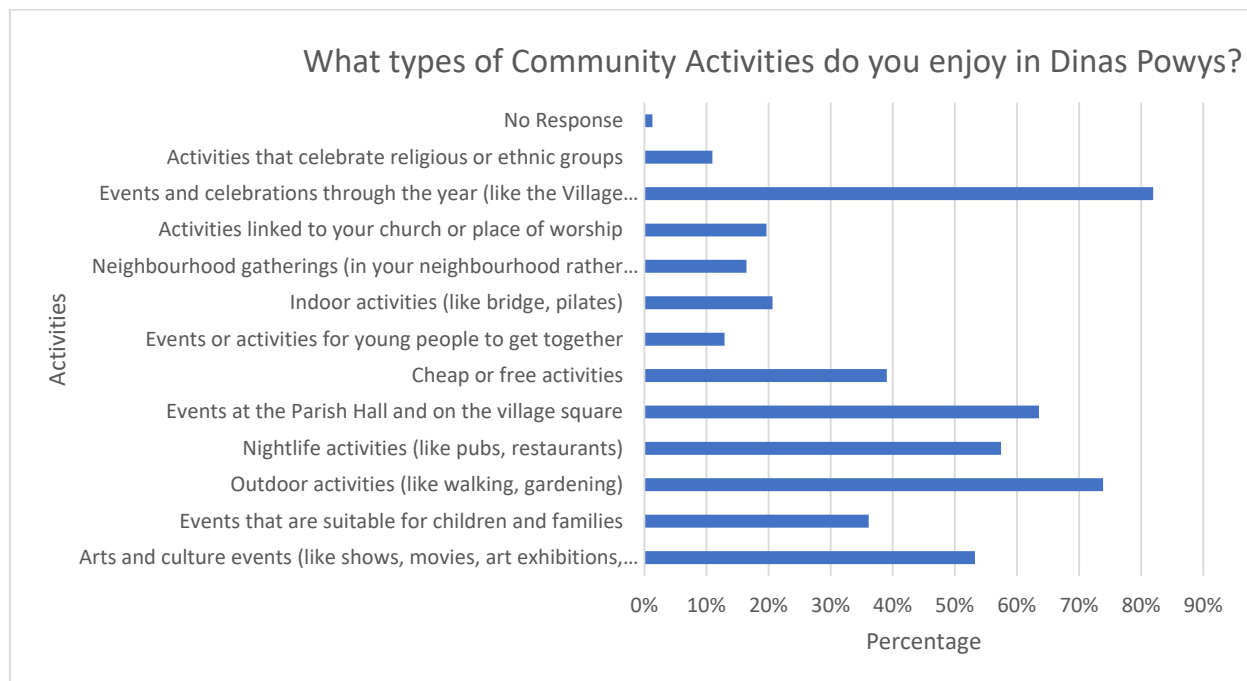
(Tick all that apply.)

- [a] Arts and culture events (like shows, movies, art exhibitions, music festival)
- [b] Events that are suitable for children and families
- [c] Outdoor activities (like walking, gardening)
- [d] Nightlife activities (like pubs, restaurants)
- [e] Events at the Parish Hall and on the village square
- [f] Cheap or free activities
- [g] Events or activities for young people to get together
- [h] Indoor activities (like bridge, pilates)
- [i] Neighbourhood gatherings (in your neighbourhood rather than in the village)
- [j] Activities linked to your church or place of worship
- [k] Events and celebrations through the year (like the Village Show, the Dickensian Fayre)
- [l] Activities that celebrate religious or ethnic groups

99% of the respondents answered this question with 82% enjoying the celebration events and celebrations through the year. There annual events like the Village Show and the Dickensian evening are examples of these. Outdoor activities like walking and gardening are another popular pastime with 74% agreeing to this. Activities that could be recognised under the arts and culture events are also enjoyed by more than half the respondents.

What types of community activities do you enjoy in Dinas Powys?

	Percentage	Number
Arts and culture events (like shows, movies, art exhibitions, music festival)	53%	165
Events that are suitable for children and families	36%	112
Outdoor activities (like walking, gardening)	74%	229
Nightlife activities (like pubs, restaurants)	57%	178
Events at the Parish Hall and on the village square	64%	197
Cheap or free activities	39%	121
Events or activities for young people to get together	13%	40
Indoor activities (like bridge, pilates)	21%	64
Neighbourhood gatherings (in your neighbourhood rather than in the village)	16%	51
Activities linked to your church or place of worship	20%	61
Events and celebrations through the year (like the Village Show, the Dickensian Fayre)	82%	254
Activities that celebrate religious or ethnic groups	11%	34
No Response	1%	4
Total number eligible respondents		310



8. Is there anything else you would add to this list?

What thoughts would you like to share about things to do in Dinas Powys?

Over a 100 people made additional comments, with really positive feedback such as

- Good variety of activities within the village and great volunteer base
- Vibrant village with a lot of groups
- Always something going on
- For a small village - unbelievable opportunities.
- I like living in a place that has lots of community events
- I play tennis in Dinas Powys tennis club and play golf with football as well and the coaches everywhere over Dinas Powys are brilliant

However, it was noted that 6% commented on the lack of facilities or activities for youths and teenagers. Of the 17 people requesting a Youth Club or something similar only 2 people fell into this age group. The figure of 17 is far bigger than the number of people in this age group. So it can be deduced that a Youth Club or activity would be supported and encouraged by other age groups.

A couple of interesting comments came from 5 people with the request for a carnival or a summer festival. Going back 30 years or so, a summer festival/Carnival was held on the Common each year.

The few negative comments referred to the transport issues and some antisocial behaviour

Places to go in Dinas Powys

9. What places do you enjoy using or visiting in Dinas Powys?

(Tick all that apply.)

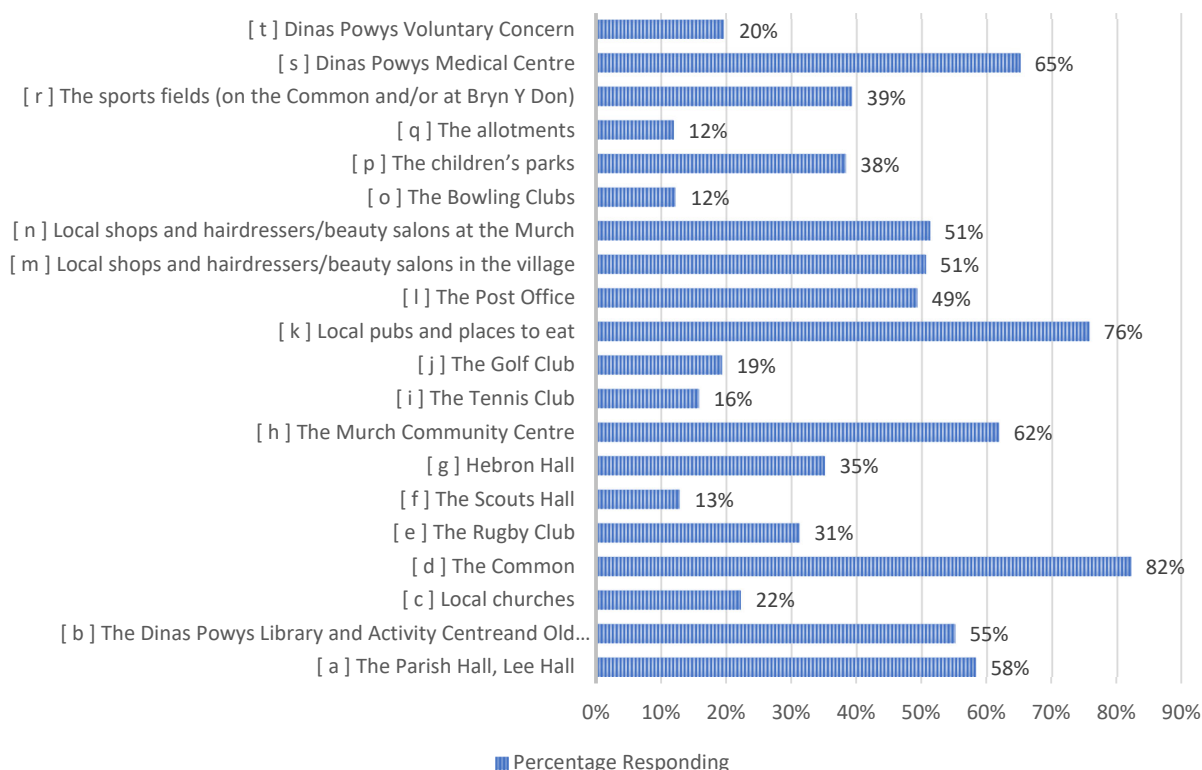
- [a] The Parish Hall, Lee Hall and Old Library in the village
- [b] The Dinas Powys Library and Activity Centre
- [c] Local churches
- [d] The Common
- [e] The Rugby Club
- [f] The Scouts Hall
- [g] Hebron Hall
- [h] The Murch Community Centre
- [i] The Tennis Club
- [j] The Golf Club
- [k] Local pubs and places to eat
- [l] The Post Office
- [m] Local shops and hairdressers/beauty salons in the village
- [n] Local shops and hairdressers/beauty salons at the Murch
- [o] The Bowling Clubs
- [p] The children's parks
- [q] The allotments
- [r] The sports fields (on the Common and/or at Bryn Y Don)
- [s] Dinas Powys Medical Centre
- [t] Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern

Everyone responded to one or more of this category. One person complained that the response "(s) Dinas Powys Medical Centre" was not a place you would enjoy visiting and should not have been included under this question from the survey. This may be an error in the questionnaire. However, 65% of respondents ticked this category in the question selection and ranked 3rd highest in percentage in this category.

The highest ranking place that people enjoyed using or visiting in Dinas Powys is the Community Council owned Common with 255 people with this. An asset of the Community. The Parish Hall and Lee Hall ranked 5th out of the 20 places listed.

What places do you enjoy using or visiting in Dinas Powys	
Order of ranking	
1	[d] The Common
2	[k] Local pubs and places to eat
3	[s] Dinas Powys Medical Centre
4	[h] The Murch Community Centre
5	[a] The Parish Hall, Lee Hall

WHAT PLACES DO YOU ENJOY USING OR VISITING IN DINAS POWYS



What places do you enjoy using or visiting in Dinas Powys

	Percentage Responding	Number of responses
[a] The Parish Hall, Lee Hall	58%	181
[b] The Dinas Powys Library and Activity Centre and Old Library in the village	55%	171
[c] Local churches	22%	69
[d] The Common	82%	255
[e] The Rugby Club	31%	97
[f] The Scouts Hall	13%	40
[g] Hebron Hall	35%	109
[h] The Murch Community Centre	62%	192
[i] The Tennis Club	16%	49
[j] The Golf Club	19%	60
[k] Local pubs and places to eat	76%	235
[l] The Post Office	49%	153
[m] Local shops and hairdressers/beauty salons in the village	51%	157
[n] Local shops and hairdressers/beauty salons at the Murch	51%	159
[o] The Bowling Clubs	12%	38
[p] The children's parks	38%	119
[q] The allotments	12%	37
[r] The sports fields (on the Common and/or at Bryn Y Don)	39%	122
[s] Dinas Powys Medical Centre	65%	202
[t] Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern	20%	61

Sum of Eligible Sample

310

10. Is there anything else you would add to this list?

What thoughts would you like to share about places to go in Dinas Powys?

Of the 310 returned surveys 87 people made an additional comment in this list of which 51 people had something positive to say. The county side and walks being particularly well mentioned and a favourite amongst these comments. The village is well serviced by pubs, restaurants and local businesses with The O’Clock Gate , the local pubs and Glen the Butchers singled out for complements in this list.

The negative comments again mentioned the fact that there is not much for teenagers to do and more activities were needed. The Old SPAR supermarket picked up a couple of comments as an “eyesore”. Suggested development of this or an alternative usage were made.

Access to medical facilities was also mentioned as an issue by 4 respondents.

Outdoor spaces in Dinas Powys

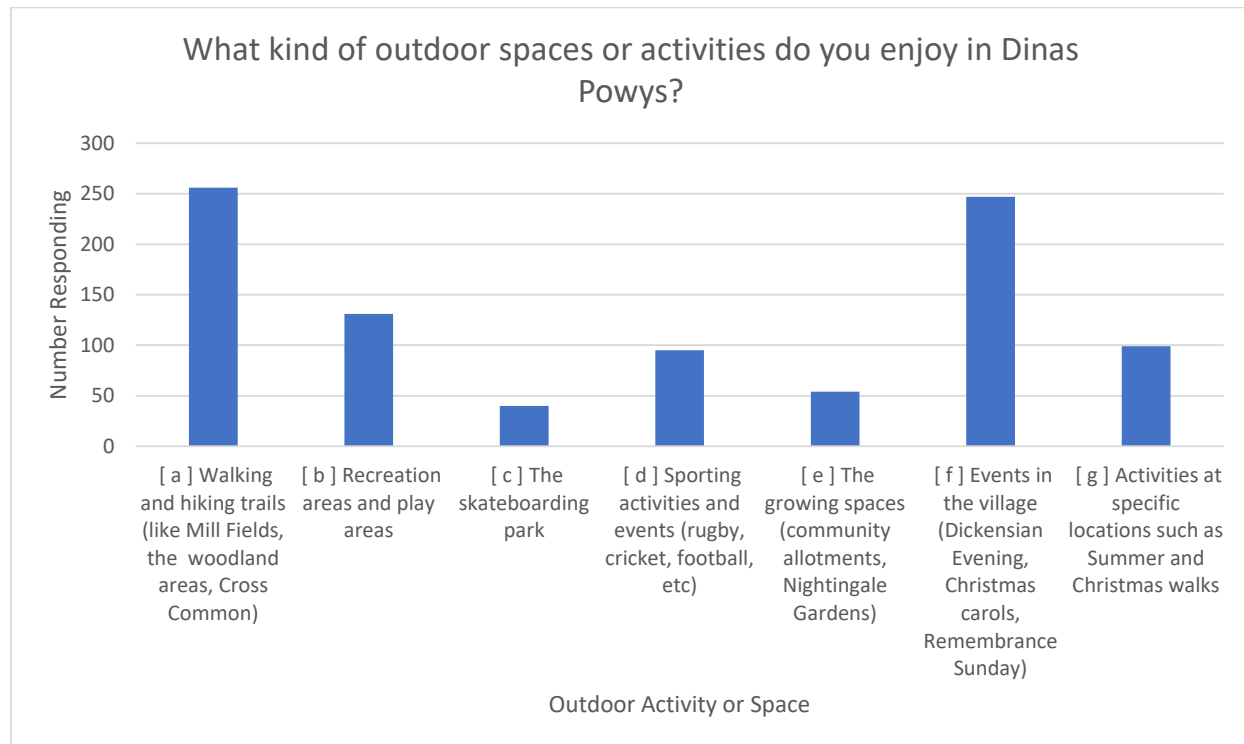
11. What kind of outdoor spaces or activities do you enjoy in Dinas Powys?

(Tick all that apply.)

- [a] Walking and hiking trails (like Mill Fields, the woodland areas, Cross Common)
- [b] Recreation areas and play areas
- [c] The skateboarding park
- [d] Sporting activities and events (rugby, cricket, football, etc)
- [e] The growing spaces (community allotments, Nightingale Gardens)
- [f] Events in the village (Dickensian Evening, Christmas carols, Remembrance Sunday)
- [g] Activities at specific locations such as Summer and Christmas walks

In this category 11 people did not tick any activities from the list. Eight of these were in the age groups over 70.

Of the under 17 year olds 92% enjoyed the events in the village and 85% enjoyed sporting activities. The Events in the village like the Dickensian Evening, Christmas Carols and Remembrance Sunday was also popular at the opposite end of the age spectrum with 75% ticking this category. Walking and hiking, and the events in the village both received over 80% of the total responses to this question



12. Is there anything else you would add to this list?

What thoughts would you like to share about outdoor spaces and events in Dinas Powys?

Only 23% added additional thoughts that they would like to share about outdoor spaces and events in Dinas Powys. Of these responses, many commented again with very positive narratives such as it being “a great place to live” and that it was “Definitely an important part of why I like living here”. Complements on the improvement to the children’s playgrounds were noted with support of the local community councillors and community groups such as “Friends of Seel Park”. The Open Gardens and Art Trail were mentioned as was events held by “Wild About Nature” group are appreciated.

With such a high percentage of people enjoying walking it would not be surprising to find in the area a large number of dog walkers. Dinas Powys is a popular place with many footpaths and open spaces. “Dog poop” and fowling was mentioned in 4 of the comments and also the lack of bins has had a mention in both outdoor activities and places.

Feeling safe in Dinas Powys

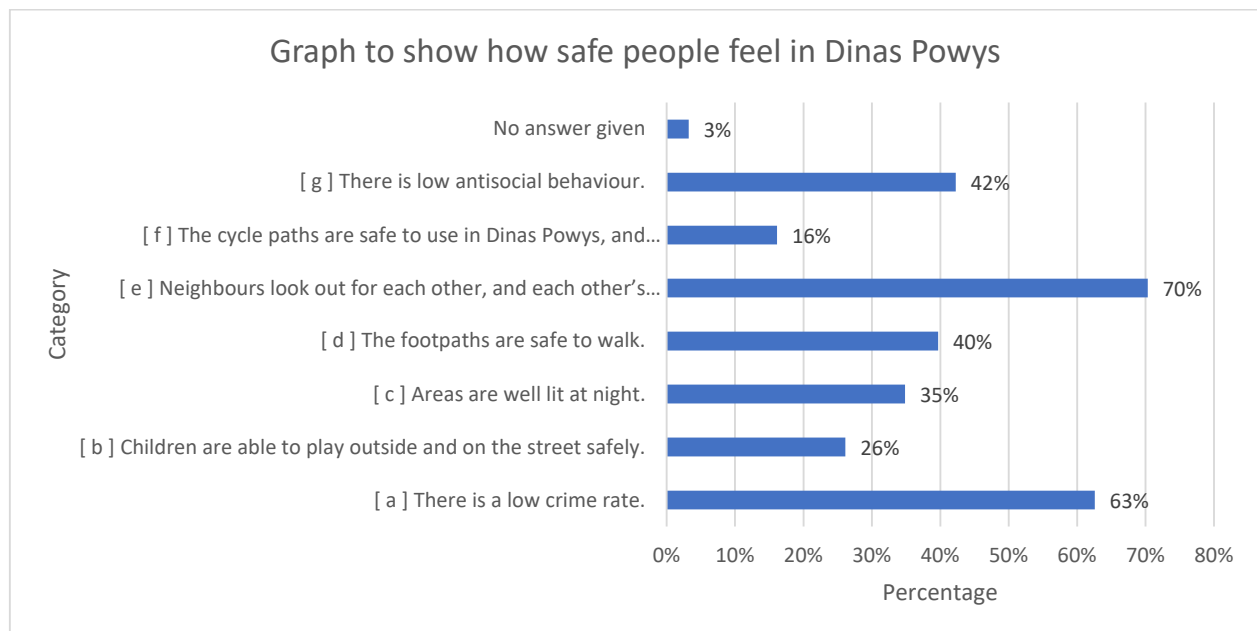
13. What are the things that help you feel safe in Dinas Powys?

(Tick all that apply.)

- [a] There is a low crime rate.
- [b] Children are able to play outside and on the street safely.
- [c] Areas are well lit at night.
- [d] The footpaths are safe to walk.
- [e] Neighbours look out for each other, and each other’s property.
- [f] The cycle paths are safe to use in Dinas Powys, and to/from local areas around Dinas Powys.
- [g] There is low antisocial behaviour.

300 people responded to this question. 10 people did not select any of the above choices, However, of the ten people not making any selection, 4 did go on to make comments in Q14 about safety. The general evidence suggest that crime rates are considered low (63%) , neighbours look out for each other (70%)

Although 108 people agreed (35%) that areas are well lit at night the question does not refer to any particular area and it is this that is picked up in particular in the thoughts on safety in Dinas Powys.



14. Is there anything else you would add to this list?

What thoughts would you like to share about feeling safe in Dinas Powys?

A high response to this question with 40% making an additional qualifying comment. A real mix of both positive and negative was given. Some comments on suggested improvements such as “better PCSO presence in hotspots at hotspot times” or “Would like to see an non-religious youth centre” but generally the ratio given to at nearly 3 negative to 1 positive.

Of the positive responses, typical comments ranged from

- “A strong sense of Community”
- “People look out for each other”
- “The community council efforts to light the path from Dinas Powys station have been excellent”
- “Feel pretty safe normally”

The stand out negative comments centralised round not enough lighting in some areas (9% of the total or 21% of those who made a comment) , young people with antisocial behaviour being a problem, the poor state of the pavements (3% of total sample population or 8% of those who made a comment) and traffic problems mentioned earlier. This included the lack of cycle routes and speeding traffic. Some comments are given below as examples

- “could do with lighting such as around the stations and The Ash Path”
- “young people causing havoc”
- “The pavements are terrible throughout Dinas Powys particularly for people with disabilities and the elderly”
- “I would never cycle in Dinas, it's far too dangerous”
- “The pavement in some area very uneven, full of cracks. I have fallen a couple of times.”

- “Anti-social behaviour seems to have slightly increased”
- “Children playing outside, not safe with traffic”
- “I tried cycling to work in Cardiff but found cycling on Cardiff Road scary and so I stopped”

What else would you like to tell us?

15. Is there anything else you would like to share, about what living in Dinas Powys is like for you?

There was very good feedback of what it is like to live in Dinas Powys. Of the 40% responses made generally most were very positive about the community.

Without repeating comments previously made or including information captured in the questionnaire, below are some comments for consideration

- Cross Common is an area that is overlooked
- Better publicise public events within the village
- Traffic speed calming measures need to be implemented
- Dinas should be protected from further house building
- If we are to lower CO2 emissions we need to encourage cycling, more safe cycle routes
- Please can a way be found to stop people denying access to common ground – eg gate on track half way down Westra stopping local sheep farmer access to fields just not right
- A by-pass
- Hopefully the large scale house building is now finished as Dinas Powys is beginning to lose its appeal as a quiet desirable village to live in
- Everyone seems to overlook the drug dealing, its rife and so blatant especially in alleyways, back of Tesco and Bryn y don carpark
- Could do with a wide path across the field east of the park on the common. It would be nice to walk the kids to and from school but I have to drive every day because there are not safe paths wide enough for the pram between Cardiff road and St Andrews school

However, most comments talked about how they loved living in Dinas Powys and this is summed up by 3 of those comments below

“It feels like a slice of countryside on the edge of the city.”

“Dinas Powys is the first place I have lived in where I became aware of a functioning community.”

“A true country village on the edge of our Capital City, surrounded by ancient countryside and woodlands. The area and its village community must be protected and preserved; long may it continue. It is a treasure; a pleasure and privilege to be part of.”

