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GWYRDDAI

COMMUNITY • CLIMATE • ACTION

Community Assembly on the Climate: Pen Llŷn Report 1

Dafydd Rhys Pen Llŷn Community Facilitator



Overview

On Saturday 2nd July 2022, 34 members came together at Ysgol Botwnnog to establish Pen Llŷn's Community Assembly. This followed an invitation to attend to 50 of the 90 that registered an interest. They were originally selected by a computer programme to be representative of the local demography. It should be noted that a wave of the Covid pandemic affected the numbers attending. The purpose of the series of four assemblies is to address the question **"How can we in Pen Llŷn respond locally to climate change"**

The aims of the first assembly was to:

- Get to know each other
- Understand more about the process
- Learn and share experiences about climate change
- Learn and share experiences about community action
- Prioritise areas that need our attention
- Consider a programme of activities between assemblies

10:00 What is GwyrddNi and a Community Assembly?

Casia Wiliam (GwyrddNi) Siôn Aled (Translator) a Wil Parry (Ynni Llŷn)

After the Assembly Members registered and had refreshments, Casia Wiliam welcomed everybody on behalf of GwyrddNi and Wil Parry on behalf of Ynni Llŷn. Siôn Aled (Translator) explained the translation procederes. Casia went on to explain that GwyrddNi was funded by the Lottery's Climate Action Fund, that the assembly was accountable to its members and that the process of developing a response plan for Pen Llŷn would take four assembly meetings. She presented the following slides:

**“Os hoffech fynd yn sydyn, ewch eich hun.
Os hoffech fynd ymhell, ewch ynghyd.”
Dihareb Affricanaidd**

“If you want to go quickly, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together.”
African Proverb

**“Ara deg mae dal iar.”
Dihareb Gymraeg**

“Slowly, slowly is how you catch a chicken.”

Welsh proverb

**“Rydan ni mewn cyfnod o frys;
gadewch i ni arafu’**

‘The times are urgent; let us slow down.’

Bayo Akomolafe

Proses y Cynulliad

Pwrpas y cynulliad yw i ateb y cwestiwn

“Sut allwn ni ym Mhen Llŷn ymateb yn lleol i newid hinsawdd?”

Byddwn yn gwneud hyn dros 4 sesiwn.

Sesiwn 1 - Gorffennaf 2022:

- Dod i adnabod ein gilydd
- Dod i ddeall mwy am y broses
- Dysgu a rhannu profiadau am yr argyfwng hinsawdd
- Dysgu a rhannu profiadau am weithredu cymunedol
 - Blaenoriaethu meysydd sydd angen ein sylw
- Ystyried rhaglen o weithgareddau rhwng y cynulliadau

The Assembly Process

The purpose of the Assembly is to answer the question

“How can we in Pen Llŷn respond locally to climate change?”

We will be doing this over 4 sessions.

Session 1 - May 2022:

- Get to know each other
- Understand more about the process
- Learn and share experiences of climate change
- Learn and share experiences of community action
 - Prioritise areas that need our attention
- Consider a programme of activities between assemblies

Sesiynau 2 a 3 - Hydref/Gaeaf 2022: • Dysgu mwy am bynicau penodol • Adnabod rhwystrau a chymhellion • Cyd-ddychmygu'r dyfodol sydd ei angen a chychwyn cynnig atebion a chynllun gweithredu ar sut i'w gyrraedd. • Clywed gan ysgolion lleol Sesiynau 4 - Gaeaf 2023 • Creu cynllun gweithredu cymunedol Wedyn.. • Aelodau'r Cynulliad (Os ydynt eisiau), a'r gymuned yn ehangach yn gweithredu ar y cynllun gyda cefnogaeth gan GwyrddNi.	Sessions 2 a 3 - Autumn/Winter 2022: • Learn more about specific subjects • Identify barriers and incentives • Co-imagine a future, and start developing solutions and an action plan that will get us there • Hear from local schools Sessions 4 - Gaeaf 2023 • Create a community action plan Then.. • Assembly Members (if they want to), and the wider community to act on the plan with the support of GwyrddNi.
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10:20 Discussion on principles and guidelines (Groups)

Dafydd Rhys (Pen Llŷn Community Facilitator) presented the first activity:

1. Canllawiau ac egwyrorion / Guidelines and Principles

Pwrpas: *Cychwyn trafodaeth ar sefydlu cyd-berchnogaeth ar egwyddorion, rheolau a chanllawiau i'r cynulliad.*

1. Pawb (yn eu grwpiau) i gyflwyno eu hunain - un gobaith + 1 pryder am y Cynulliad. ((10m)
2. Pawb i nodi geiriau cysylltiedig ar eich taflen A4 phasio'r daflen ymlaen (bob 30 eiliad). (5m)
3. Pawb i ddefnyddio eu ffonau symudol i drosglwyddo geiriau i'r Cwmwl Geiriau ar y sgrin fawr. (10m)
4. Cytuno dau neu dri egwyddor/canllaw yn dilyn trafodaeth (10m)
5. Grwpiau i adrodd i'r Cynulliad llawn. (10m)

Purpose: *Begin discussion on establishing co-ownership of Assembly principles and guidelines*

1. In groups, all to present themselves, mentioning one hope and one fear (10m)
2. All to note linked words on your A4 paper and pass it on every 30 seconds (5m)
3. Use mobile phones etc. to transfer words on to Word Cloud on big screen. (10m)
4. Agree two or three principles following discussion (10m)
5. Groups to report to full Assembly

Here is a selection of the ‘hopes’ noted by the five discussion groups:

- That we achieve something
- To be engaged and supportive
- Begin to learn about adaptive measures
- Bring the community together
- Discover a better way to live with nature
- Learn more and see what we can achieve as a group
- Deal with litter waste
- Improve public transport - that is practical to those with disabilities
- Increase charging points
- Benefits to stay local
- Find ways to develop green practices and protect the environment
- Localise and do the small things
- Agree a solid plan on what is possible locally
- Agree actions for the local agricultural community
- Devolution
- That we achieve
- That the community supports us
- Hope to teach and influence others
- Secure that there is Sicrhau fod teithio cynaliadwy a gweithredol ar yr agenda
- Plastic-free Pwllheli
- Do something for our children’s future - slow down climate change
- Agree one practical action
- Get people to cooperate
- Highlight things that I can do
- Community projects - we don’t need to do them ourselves
- Do something about fuel dependency
- Achieve something positive

Concerns noted by the five discussion groups:

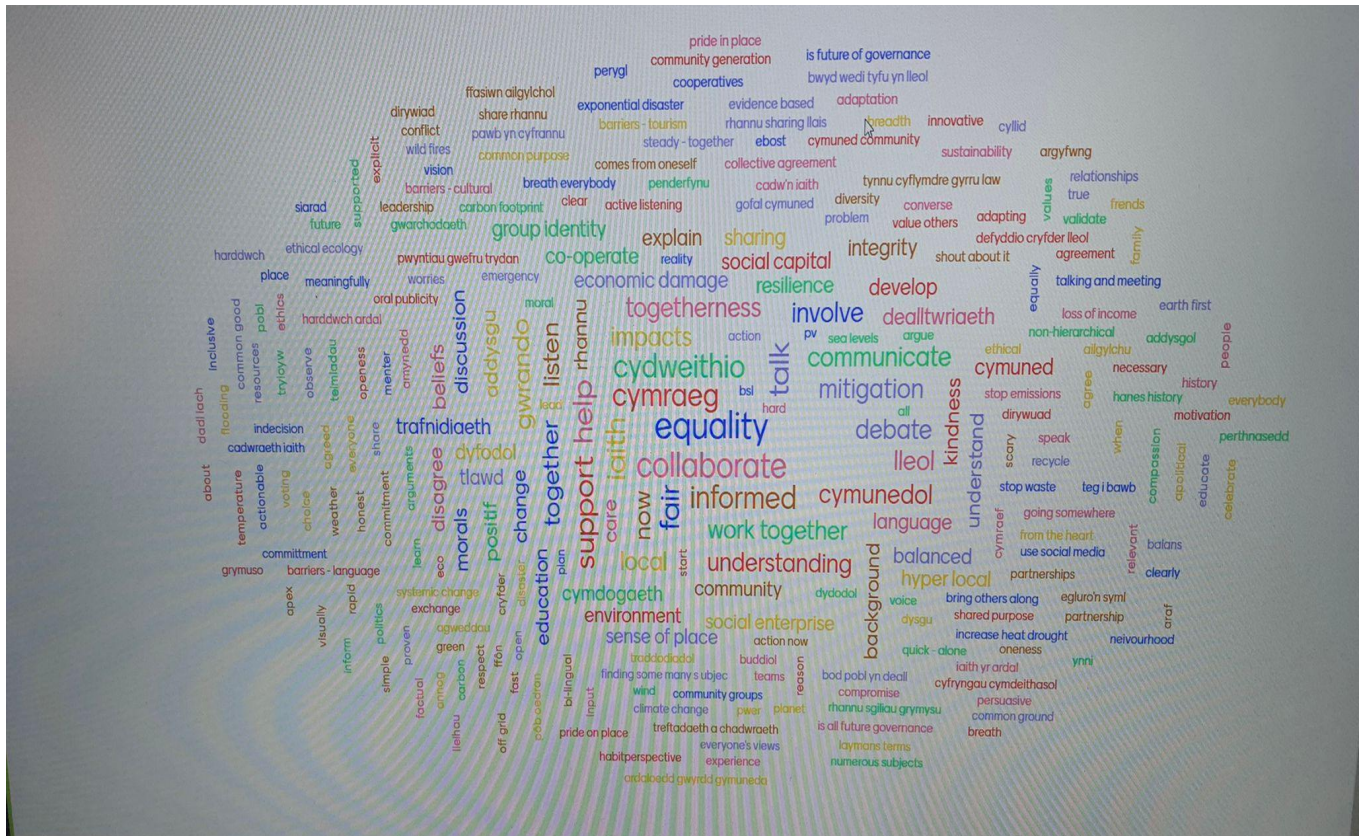
- Non-achieving talking shop
- Much talk by public bodies but no change in means of action

- Lack of funds to take action
- No young people here
- I will not understand if there will be too much in Welsh
- How to get an affordable green life
- Scale and speed not sufficient
- Minor tensions and local politics
- Arguing and not able to find common ground
- That our plan is rejected by local or central government
- Irrelevance because of government agenda
- Planning guidelines refrain plans
- Wider community don't understand
- We have left it too late
- Cost of individual action is a barrier
- New to this kind of contributing
- Unsure of my understanding of climate change
- 'Green' ventures that are too big and benefit other areas
- Local people see this as a problem for others and not themselves
- 'Lowest common denominator'
- Difficult to make progress across a large
- That we give others the responsibility

Word Cloud - principles:

As a step towards forming sentences defining the principles and guidelines of the assembly, key words were identified through a word connection activity. They were

then fed digitally to create a word cloud:



Principles and guidelines:

The groups formed several principles and guidelines and presented them to a plenary session:

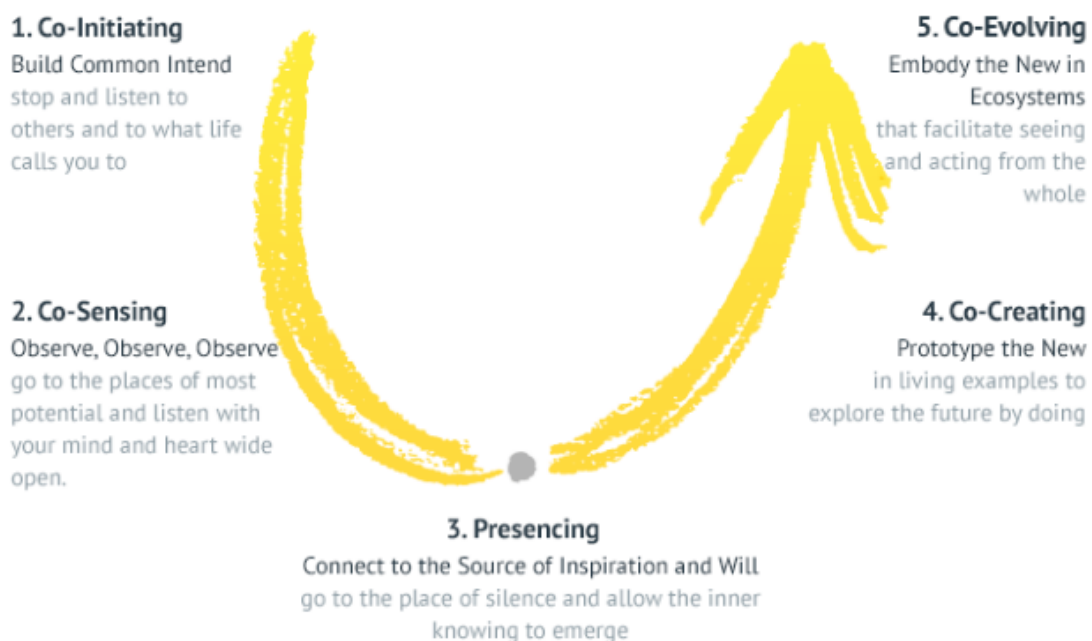
- Any plan to concentrate on the unique language and culture of the area
- Invest locally in projects (e.g. jobs, housing etc.)
- Develop plans that concentrate on natural resources
- Encourage green and heritage tourism
- Develop projects on a local and micro-local level (e.g. Project that would be suitable for Aberdaron not necessarily suitable for Pwllheli)
- Inclusivity - voice for all, find common ground and positivity
- Clarity - secure that everybody understands, explain purpose, honesty, and present correct information and evidence in its context
- Work towards priority actions
- Consider how different themes affect each other and develop crosscutting themes
- The local and global are inter-connected

- Respect the land, biodiversity and ecosystems
- Think creatively, and open-minded
- It's ok not to agree
- Commit to communicate extensively in a variety of ways to include everyone in the community
- Concentrate and be as specific as possible in our messages and discussions
- No 'jargon'
- Cooperate with kindness towards a common goal
- Realistic and relevant aim
- Co-operate in interest-groups in a co-operative and community-focused way

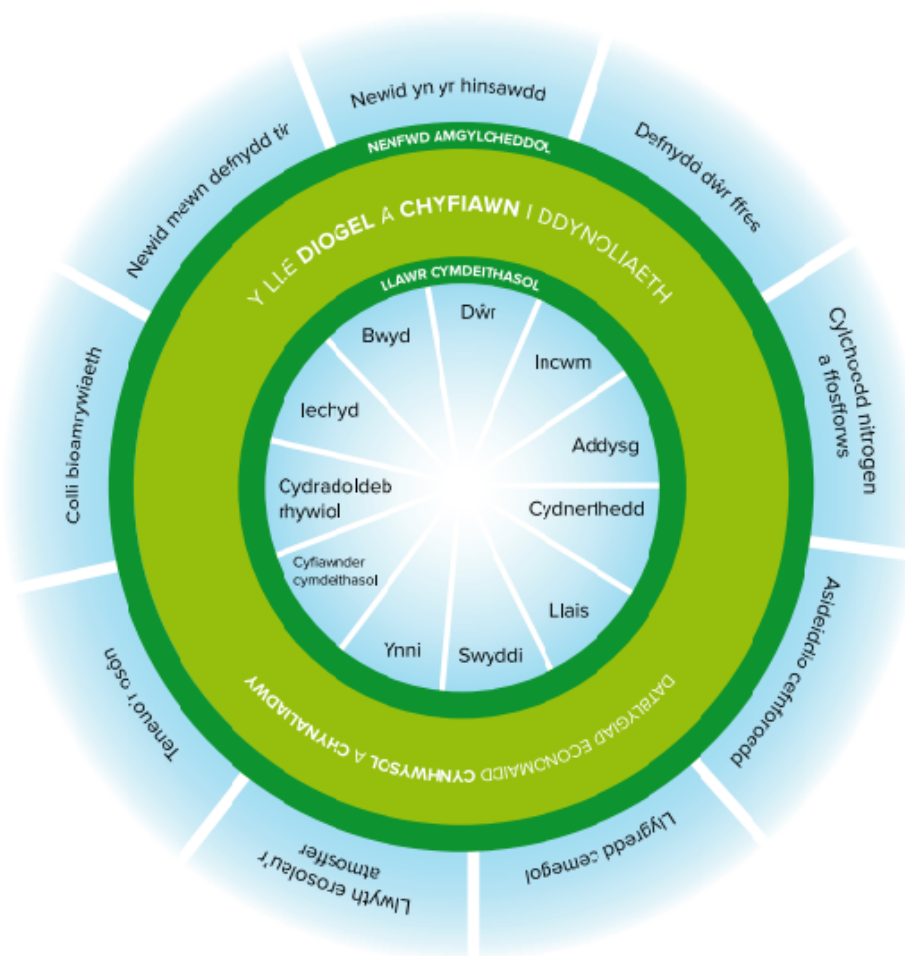
Scharmer's 'U' Theory and Raworth's Donut of Planetary Boundaries

Before the break Dafydd Rhys presented the two above concepts, explaining that they could give theoretical and practical context to the work of the Assembly.

Damcaniaeth 'U'



Donut of Planetary Boundaries



11:10 Break - paned and GwyrddNi Donut

11:25 Characteristics and themes of the Climate Change Crisis Presentation by Dr Einir Young (Former Director of Sustainability at Bangor University / Eco Museum)

Einir Young gave a short video presentation explaining the breadth of considerations and characteristics which is part of the discussion on responding to climate change. See the presentation (along with presentations from all other gatherings) on the GwyrddNi YouTube channel: [YouTube GwyrddNi](#) and you can read an English transcript of the presentation [here](#).

Group excersise: 'Mental Maps' and identifying features (Dafydd Rhys)

2. Ymarfer Mapiau Meddwl / Mental Maps

Pwrpas: *Canfod perspectif unigol pawb, cychwyn adnabod nodweddion Newid Hinsawdd Pen Llyn a sylweddoli fod canfyddiad a phrofiad pawb yn wahanol ac i'w werthfawrogi.*

1. Pawb i ddylunio map meddwl personol o Ben Llyn (ar y papur A3) gan nodi nifer o nodweddion cymunedol, daearyddol a newid hinsawdd ayb. sy'n bwysig i chi.(10m)
2. Aelodau grwpiau i gymharu eu mapiau a throsglwyddo nodweddion i'r map mawr ar y papurau gludog(dros ginio?) (5m).

Purpose: *Find personal perspectives, start identifying Pen Llyn's Climate Change features and realise that everybody's perception and experience is different and to be respected.*

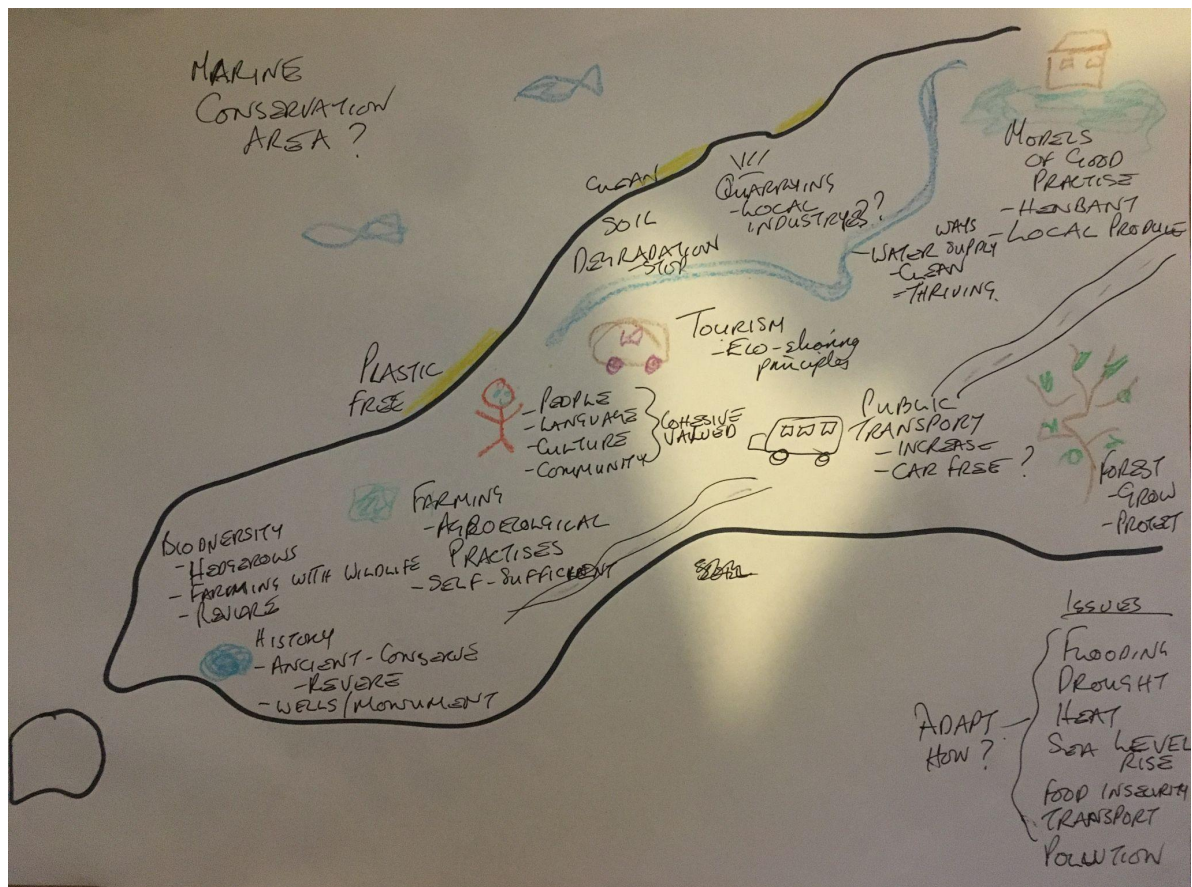
1. Create a personal mental map of Pen Llyn (on the A3 paper), noting several community, geographical and climate change features that are important to you (10m)
2. Group members to compare maps and transfer features to 'big map' on post-it notes etc. (over lunch) (5m)

The members of the assembly produced diverse and unique individual mind maps which will be the basis for mutual understanding and understanding of the variety of characteristics that are seen as relevant.



Handwritten notes and diagrams:

- Top Left:** Hanes Gwladoddy ei hystreflydd y Chwareli
- Top Center:** Ychydig bach o bŵl lin o'r affordir i Ben Gwm, Yn Eifl. Gwm: Bodworn
- Top Right:** Pen hŷn y dyfodol
- Middle Left:** Huanan gynhaliol ~ wya twim -
- Mae'r trymrau wedi ei gyrru allan.
- Middle Right:** 50 Ceir yn gyrru ar gyffwrdd uchaf o 50 myr awr
- Bottom Left:** Siediau ffermydd - solar panels
Marchnata dwr Cwmstrall yn er mwyn cael llai o bŵl plastic dwr
- Bottom Center:** Cudiart cyhoeddus amlach/hwyrach
- Bottom Right:** Plannu coed ar gladdia ffermydd.
Y Ffor Efail Alwybran Beicio o'r hoddod i gyflawn tasgau dyddiol.
Huanan Pwllheli



12:15 Lunch

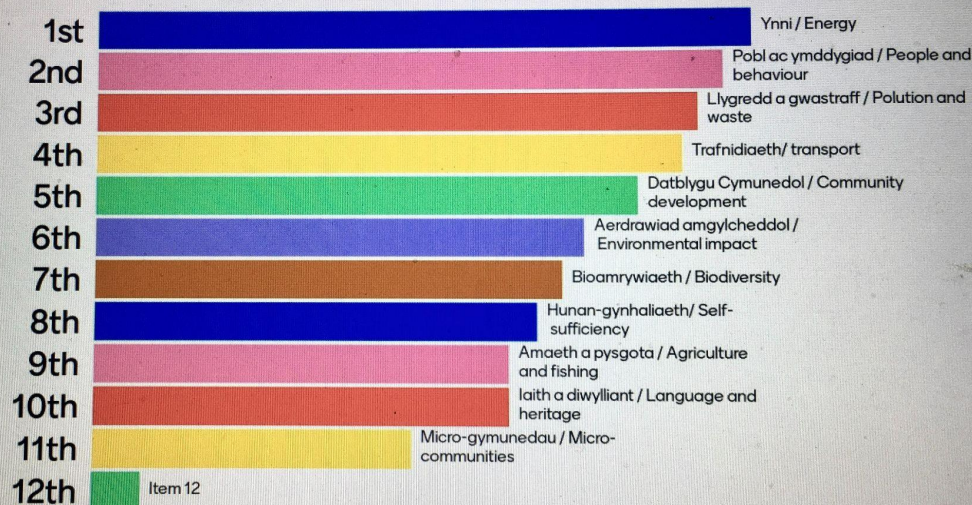
13:00 Prioritizing Climate Change themes?

Agreeing on 6/7 areas to discuss and investigate further

The members of the groups identified around 350 climate change characteristics on the cards before playing a snap game which grouped them into common themes.

The themes were fed into the Mentimeter software and were prioritized by members of the assembly using their mobile phones. This was the result:

Rhowch y themau yn eu trefn



Following the prioritisation exercise there was a discussion session by the Full Assembly to decide on a way forward. It should be noted that the Mentimeter activity was an exercise to crystallise the general perception of the members, provoke discussion and facilitate reaching a decision. It could be seen that all the themes have received considerable support and that there is justification in considering them further. The challenge that afternoon was to agree on areas for further investigation in 5 discussion groups (see below). It was decided to combine a number of the themes also bearing in mind that they are interconnected when looking at the big picture. It was also decided on two cross-cutting themes that should receive specific consideration in the discussion round, namely 'Language and culture' and 'Micro-communities'.

14:15 What do we know, what don't we know and what next?

Assembly Members chose to join one of the five discussion groups below to answer the questions above. In Assembly 2, there will be a 'carousel' exercise to enable everyone to give input and own the results.

1. Energy, transport and micro-communities

What do we know?

Old houses, low efficiency, not eco-friendly

Little (expensive) renewable energy - marine, wind, solar
Dependence on oil
Poor transport infrastructure for - tourism car-free, active travel (walking, cycling), public transport (rarely floods on the train line)
Good connections with nodal destinations such as Pwllheli only
Food waste for 'biomass'
'EVCP' is limited
Door to Door - community transport
Lots of transport vans - uncoordinated in terms of efficiency
Dependence on cars
Centralized energy production
Variable and seasonal

What don't we know?

How clean is hydrogen?
What is the appropriate energy mix for Llŷn?
Contact with Green Gwynedd and Ynni Llŷn?
If everyone supported one plan, what would it be (and what would be the effects on the environment, CO2 and mining globally)?
What is the government's plan for nuclear energy?
How many people locally are committed to self-sufficiency?
Which energy schemes are community and locally owned?
What funding is easy to get?

What next?

We need wider research on connections - not just social
A mini-centre for CAT (Centre for Alternative Technology) in Llŷn
More education about energy in the curriculum for the young
How do we go about taking action?

2. Agriculture, fishing and biodiversity

What do we know?

Sion Williams - climate change affecting the catch, species etc.

Agriculture contributing to climate change globally - need to adapt techniques

eg What is grown

Lack of facilities eg abattoirs etc

Lack of diversification grants perhaps?

Limited and intensive farming

Seasonal nature

Town markets

Allotments

What don't we know?

What is the biodiversity situation today - 'base-line'?

Would farmers be willing to make small changes?

Need to know who the leaders of the industries are and get them in the assembly

What will be the (EU) grants next year

What does the Llŷn community want - organic x cheap etc.

What next?

Is it necessary to set up something else like a group or sub-group to each theme to drive things forward?

Sharing information with the community after the full Assembly meeting.

Introducing growing food in schools to educate children

Invite experts in the field to advise

Community Councils - bring them into the discussion

3. Waste

What do we know?

'Wheelie' bins

Disciplined recycling - clear routes to handle waste

Recycling centers for large items

A 'zero waste' shop in Pwllheli

Spar - plastic free vegetables

Farmgate - negative carbon and less waste

Asda - everything is plastic
Tŷ Coch - plastic glasses
24 hour milk machine in Pwllheli

What don't we know?

Is everything that is recyclable recycled?
Need more advice eg Cleaning waste for recycling
Is it easy enough to know when different waste is collected?
What is the position of local businesses in terms of recycling?
How much surage escapes under the care of water companies?
Marina waste?
What happens to shop / school waste?
Are there food banks and fridges in Pen Llŷn?
Is visitor waste a problem on beaches - enough bins etc?
What is the situation regarding local construction waste?
Is there a lot of 'rubbish tipping' in Pen Llŷn?

What next?

Taking children/school groups to investigate and learn about recycling centers
Documentary about waste from a local perspective eg On Facebook
Clarity about the logic of different recycling rules
Look at the rules about booking recycling appointments
'Surfers against plastic' - 'Plastic-free prize' .
Eg plastic-free Pwllheli
y Petha' Library - Catrin Wager - loan
A food sharing scheme of some kind?
Repair
'Things to rent' shops
Car sharing
Recycling bins on the street
Fine big companies for waste

4. Community development, people and behaviour

What do we know?

Mantell Gwynedd has a record of previous projects

Llanbedrog + Yr Heliwr beach clearance scheme solutions

Garden outside Porthmadog and Pwllheli leisure centers

Education, eco-schools and harmonious communities will foster development

Important to bring people into contact with initiatives that already exist eg

Maritime Museum

Each community will have different needs

A glasshouse made from plastic bottles

What don't we know?

Need a list of local organisations involved in the field

Is there accessibility for everyone - disabilities sometimes make it difficult to make the green choice

Need more charging points?

What can we do about beaches full of litter in the summer?

Can we talk to the Council and the Welsh government

Benefits to mental health and nature - guest speaker?

Could we have a greenest town / garden competition?

Eco-psychology / 'Prescribing nature' - Natural Resources Wales Speaker?

Information about the inclusion of green systems in public buildings

What next?

To do Community projects eg Recycling on a community scale

Encourage green electric tourism in the area

More trains including Bangor to Pwllheli

The planning process should include looking at green spaces

Involve the young eg Picking up rubbish

Valuing personal responsibility

Art competitions and greenest town - including children

Recycling

Car pooling
More green spaces for people
Organizing visits for local residents to experience the natural world
Mapping communities
Building on a sense of local pride
Art and nature
Contacting representatives of the University's Community Development course
Community Development Officer in the Council

5. Biodiversity and self-sufficiency

What do we know?

Invasive species
Inspections 'Farming Link'
Gors Geirch
Growing vegetables at
Edward Llwyd Society
Dolydd Llŷn (Llŷn Meadows) = Jo Porter
Development of barns = loss of habitat
Community gardens and farms
North Wales Wildlife Trust - Pistyll
Farmers have established 'joint grazing' ' near Rhydyclafdy
Council managing bushes and hedgerows on the edge of lanes
Gwynedd nature partnership
Heliwr Nefyn Allotments
'We know someone who will know'
Llangwnadl - preserving the seeds
of Heritage + Nature Llŷn - Center for Biodiversity
Area of Natural Beauty Peb Llŷn
National Trust
Rhoshirwaun- Dolydd Y Gorlan - traditional hay harvest and biodiversity
Pwllheli Town Council looking for green spaces to develop
Pwllheli Community Garden

What don't we know?

Insufficient and ineffective surveys

Economy and alternative involvement to facilitate self-sufficiency:

How to grow food, composting, save water, no-tilling, bonding

Links with the Young Farmers

The extent of the use of local materials for construction etc

Welsh names of places, species , the natural heritage link and the desire to protect it

No indigenous seed bank Pen Llŷn

'Food miles' - the food we eat

Perspective on Pen Llŷn

During the afternoon there was a chat via zoom with Siôn Williams from his fishing boat : He explained many of the climate and biodiversity changes he had seen over the past decades.

There was also a video presentation (recorded by Dr Prysor Williams - Bangor University talking about agriculture and climate change.

See the presentations (along with presentations from all the other gatherings) on the GwyrddNi YouTube channel: [YouTube GwyrddNi](#). You can also read an English transcript of Siôn's presentation [here](#) and Prysor's presentation [here](#).

15.15

15.30 Summary , look forward and evaluate

Casia Wiliam gave an overview of what was achieved during the day and a preview of what to expect in the next gatherings. The members were thanked for their work and the GwyrddNi staff and the volunteers who supported the process. On leaving, members gave feedback on a chart which was generally positive. We also consulted about possible dates for Assembly 2 (which will be on the 8th of October). Everyone was also asked to note where we had arrived on the 'Theory U' journey. The majority indicated that we had started the journey down the left side of the 'U' and some put a cross as far down as the bottom of the 'U' (where we would 'present / be able to imagine and create a future together). Here are some comments and ideas noted:

Mixing groups should be considered

Lots to do in a short time

Consider moving the location of the screen - too far away

Difficult to see and hear sometimes

Next meeting too far away

What about a 'Facebook' group

16.00 Finish



www.gwyrddni.cymru



www.facebook.com/gwyrddni



www.twitter.com/gwyrddni



www.instagram.com/gwyrddni/



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