

HENGOED (FURNACE AND MAENGWYNNE, PWLL, SANDY, STRADEY)



Hengoed covers a large part of the Rural area combining urban and semi-rural settlements. With a population of 3,683 the area spans as wide a cross-section of ages and levels of relative affluence and deprivation. Again, some significant employers are located literally on the doorstep of local communities offering employment prospects and seeking to be part of the local community. Areas such as Stradey and Sandy have seen major new house building with more planned presenting challenges for community cohesion. The area is identified as presenting significant flood risk and experiences regular traffic congestion. The coastal part of Hengoed located adjacent to the magnificent Millennium Coastal Park is a major attraction and presents opportunities for further local business development and employment. The Maengwynne area in the north of the ward is a partly isolated residential area lacking a physical focus for the community and providing opportunity for potential further housing development.

Furnace Issues

- Flooding – capacity of the drainage system a real concern, inadequate given the topography and river – focus on remediation for new houses at Stradey but changes to culverts, lack of regular inspection and maintenance means previous flooding will happen again
- Traffic around the square at busy times
- Speeding on Pentrepoeth Road
- Litter on road from Square to Maengwynne – only 1 bin in village
- Air quality – ready mix plant relocated but still a problem – poor loading practices at cement works
- Furnace heritage site needs preservation, restoration, interpretation
- Lane behind Stradey Road – litter and dog mess
- Use of valley as an area of biodiversity and natural beauty

Pwll /Maengwynne issues

- No mother and toddler group – only flying start – result local schools losing numbers – check statistics*
- Loss of facilities –library, community centre(daytime), playground, youth club, after school club
- No junior sport despite good local cricket and football – CCC charges for maintenance
- No daytime facilities for older residents
- Post office closed 9/4/15
- Loss of community facilities mean increasing isolation for newcomers and long-term residents
- More volunteers needed
- Condition/repairs at Pwll pavilion - tiles, mould, security

- Crime – no neighbourhood watch or PACT
- Drugs problem – increase in incidents
- ‘Behave or be banned’ not operated in village
- No funding from Rural Council for Christmas tree/flowers
- Lack of financial support for community events
- Local groups operate in isolation and membership can be mutually exclusive
- Transparency of local government - no Councillor surgeries, where does community chest funding go?

Furnace ideas

1st priority – Flooding – new egress point between Stradey Arms and first terrace needed – get water to run across Penyfai Lane - drain and culvert inspections needed.

2nd priority – Furnace preservation – resurrect previous proposal to restore and make most of historic Furnace site.

3rd priority –Litter – Community payback to target grotspots in liaison with local residents – Sustrans considering bins on national cycle route.

- Safer crossing on Old Road at Furnace bridge
- Stop Pentrepoeth Road being used as a through road
- Marketing of community centre
- Tie area with the St Illtyd’s walk –pilgrimage route to Margam Abbey
- Take on PACT/neighbourhood watch – canvass to gauge support
- Clarification from Rural Council – what can Furnace claim for community projects
- Community news – The Star
- Develop new community event – winter fayre to bring groups together

- More pride in the area tackling dog fouling – withdrawal of bins – keep outside home free from litter
- Better lighting might discourage littering at night
- Absence of local elderly downsize accommodation
- Volume and speed of traffic – impact of roadworks – constant
- Poor public transport – less frequent, no late service and no Sunday service
- Tatty/unsafe bus shelters

Pwll/Maengwynne Ideas

1st priority – Rural Council to take over park - highlight the overall benefits/potential to the community of doing this.

2nd priority – Conversation/dialogue with bus companies.

3rd priority – Greening /flowering of Pwll.

- Re-open play area in better location nearer pavilion
- Employment potential of harnessing tourism, encourage people to stop and spend
- Move post office to another location or mobile option?
- Best communities first provision for toddlers extended to other people
- Community events to foster greater sense of community, wider participation
- Time Credits – article in Pwll Magazine to encourage more community involvement
- Location for new mother/toddler group – Bethlehem vestry?
- Lighting on cycle track and around pavilion/open up lake for water sports
- Identifying potential sites for sheltered accommodation/elderly housing
- Average speed cameras at either end of the village, mini roundabout at entry to Pavilion
- Community facility re-open and community growing – Maengwynne