

Place Plan for Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor Community

Introduction

A Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor Community Development Plan was originally conceived during 2013 when the Community Council saw the need to set out a vision for the future of the two communities of Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor. This required a fundamental change within the Community Council in developing a proactive approach to determine the future of the community. A document that would be recognised by local residents and Flintshire County Council was needed to influence local government processes and energise the local community to lobby for what it wants to achieve.

Central to the process of developing the plan was consultation and involvement with the residents of Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor and a regular dialogue with Flintshire County Council Officers. The initial Development Plan Steering Group consisted of members of the Community Council and co-opted members of the community who contributed knowledge and experience to the undertaking. Flintshire County Council (FCC) is developing a Local Development Plan (LDP) for the county. The adoption of our plan as part of that LDP will be important. Many people have become involved in developing our plan in a spirit of partnership within the village.

This version has involved Community Councillors reviewing the earlier documentation to draw up a list of action points based on the perceived needs and wishes of the community. The implementation of the recommendations represents a considerable challenge for the Community Council and will need to be regularly reviewed by councillors and residents.

The Community Council would like to thank all who participated in the development of this plan.

Summary of Plan

Aims

- 1. To ensure the safety of residents and visitors to the area.**
- 2. To provide amenities that will enable residents to live comfortably in their surroundings.**
- 3. To enable residents to access all the services they require within the area or beyond.**
- 4. To protect the character of the area in terms of the landscape, history and community spirit.**
- 5. To allow residents to access information and communicate effectively.**
- 6. To ensure developments meet planning requirements and fit into the community.**
- 7. To produce a s6 report and plan setting out how it will comply with the duty to Maintain and Enhance Biodiversity within current work areas. (Environment Wales Act 2016 Section 6)**

Community Place Plan

What is it?

A document that takes views and information from a variety of sources, including the local people, to plan for the future of this community. For the purpose of this document, the community refers to the villages of Gwaenysgor and Trelawnyd plus all hamlets and properties as well as land within the defined area. This document will provide a framework which the Community Council can follow and which will provide supplementary planning guidance if needed to outside organisations including the County Council.

Why do we need one?

To provide guidance when planning how much money we need to raise each year as a community council and to ensure that the public influence the decisions made, particularly in relation to changes in the community. Flintshire County Council has produced a Local Development Plan that categorises the two villages in terms of potential planning applications. *

How will it work?

A copy of the approved document will be sent to FCC (Flintshire County Council) to accompany the Supplementary Planning Guidance Note produced by AONB# (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and approved by FCC. Any plans that do not fit with either document will be opposed or questioned by the Community Council. The public will be able to scrutinise this document and monitor the performance of the Community Council based on its achievements towards set goals.

Who is it for?

The people living in the Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor community area as well as the Community Council and Flintshire County Councillors.

When is it used?

To plan future expenditure by the Community Council, to monitor how far it is achieving its goals and to regulate planning that impacts on this community.

* Notes from Local Development Plan located in Flintshire County Council's *2017 Preferred Strategy Consultation Document Background Paper*. NB The Local Development Plan is still not complete.

The Community Council will work towards the following goals:

Safety (Appendix 3)

- developing a partnership approach with other agencies to reduce traffic problems within the area. A multiagency approach will have a greater impact in reducing problems in a cost-effective way.
- providing safe footpaths within both villages, continuous where possible to link up residential areas with amenities such as the local school, shop and community facilities.
- enabling sufficient off-road parking to ensure vehicles to not create hazardous situations.
- supplying cost effective and efficient footpath lighting where and when it is needed.
- ensuring the Community Resilience Plan is updated annually.

Amenities (Appendix 4)

- supporting and encouraging initiatives aimed at developing organised social activities within the villages.
- strengthening the role of community providers that facilitate social activities in the community through identifying need and offering links to financial support etc.
- supporting any initiatives aimed at providing local amenities such as member co-operatives or facilities run from local businesses such as pubs.
- monitoring the playgrounds of both villages with a view to enhancing and ensuring the safety of the equipment.
- enabling the provision of community activities to ensure they are accessible and equitable for different age groups and interest groups.
- Managing and maintaining Trelawnyd Memorial Village Hall in time periods where there is no secured tenant to undertake this activity. Supporting any prospective tenant leaseholders through the appointment process and in managing the Hall and all associated activities.

Services (Appendix 4)

- identifying alternative ways to work with partners to improve local transport.
- exploring possible grant aid and opportunities for a Community style minibus service to serve both villages which may involve the use of volunteers.
- identifying services required by the community, such as post office/banking, and helping to establish them, where possible, or gain access to them.
- identifying any specific health needs of the community and supporting the implementation of solutions e.g. visiting chiropodist, GP, dentist and chemist.
- monitoring whether any residents are suffering from fuel poverty and, where necessary, supporting alternative energy sources etc.

Character (Appendix 5)

- supporting activities that encourage greater awareness of the history and environment for locals, visitors, and tourists through positive action with local organisations and businesses.
- helping to maintain and enhance the network of footpaths and bridleways, including the long-distance trails which cut through the area.
- adopting the Gwaenysgor Conservation Plan, prepared by local residents in conjunction with statutory agencies, and helping to implement the recommendations of the plan.
- developing a conservation plan for Trelawnyd that will help to preserve some of our historic sites.
- providing signage and public space furniture that is appropriate and takes account of the villages being within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- ensuring all structural developments and landscaping meet the guidelines embodied within the AONB's *Supplementary Planning Guidance Note*. #

Communication (Appendix 6)

- being a collective and responsible voice for the majority of the community.
- holding quarterly open meetings to answer questions and collect views on local matters.
- improving the transparency of the council's activity including posting all relevant documents and minutes on the website and displaying agendas of meetings on local notice boards.
- raising the awareness, in the community, of each individual's entitlement to attend any council meeting as an observer and to contribute ideas and comments through the clerk or individual councillors outside meetings.
- developing the website as the future primary means of correspondence. A member of the Council and the clerk act as co-ordinators to promote this potential.
- taking account of any residents who cannot use the internet by providing alternative media such as an annual leaflet for residents and posters on noticeboards.
- encouraging communication with existing or alternative broadband providers to improve quality of internet service throughout the area.
- exploring the possibility of promoting informal and local community training in the use of the internet.
- recognising the significance and importance of the Welsh Language by encouraging Welsh speakers within the villages to assist them in promoting its use, both in the field of council affairs and in raising the proportion and confidence of Welsh speakers in the community. The council would like to provide Welsh language copies of its papers via the website in the future when resources are available.

New Developments (Appendix 7)

- developing clear guidance on acceptable development for use as supplementary planning guidance by Flintshire County Council. The Community Council can comment on any local developments within a meeting or, if that is not possible due to time constraints, individual councillors can send comments to the Clerk who will circulate them to other councillors and forward them within the consultation period. This delegated authority will follow clear guidelines agreed by the community council, these guidelines will be available on the council's website.
- monitoring any developments within the community to ensure that relevant practices are being followed in relation to planning and ensuring all structural developments and landscaping meet the guidelines embodied within the AONB's *Supplementary Planning Guidance Note*. #
- reviewing annually the policies and plans on community development to ensure they remain valid and reflect the views of the community gathered in public consultation meetings, correspondence, and feedback via the website.
- monitoring all Community Council policies and procedures and reporting the results at each AGM.
- offering and undertaking relevant training to ensure that each councillor and the clerk are able to perform their duties effectively.

Bio diversity and S6 Plan (Appendix 8)

- Engaging and supporting participation and understanding to embed biodiversity through decision making at all levels.
- Safeguarding species and habitats of principal importance and improving their management.
- Increasing the resilience* of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation. (*diversity, connectivity, scale and extent, condition and adaptability).
- Tackling key pressures on species and habitats.
- Improving our evidence, understanding and monitoring systems.
- Putting in place a framework of governance and support for delivery.

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Appendix 1

Trelawnyd

Trelawnyd is situated on the A5151 at the western limit of the Flintshire County Council area and is partly within the area of the Flintshire Rural Development Plan, the AONB, and has part of the village designated as a Conservation Area, and is situated close by Gop Hill, an ancient monument of international significance.

Trelawnyd is a medium sized working-class village, with an extensive elderly retired population that depend on the state pension. Although there are extensive newer housing developments, these are partially occupied by first time buyers with young families and retirees.

Trelawnyd is isolated from all the normal community and council services, and suffers from very poor public transport links. The distance from normal service provision for young families is an obvious difficulty. Trelawnyd is not typical of surrounding dormitory villages, which have sizeable numbers of professional inhabitants.

Perhaps due to its traditions as an ex-coal mining village, there is a very strong community spirit in the village with numerous social and cultural organisations that are extremely active. These involve the newcomers to the village, with good integration between all groups the majority of the community activities are centred on the Memorial Hall, which acts as the nexus of the community. The hall is of historical interest as it was funded as a self-help project for the village by the Greek Consul in Liverpool at the turn of the century, being built by local people, being paid for their time as an alleviative to the widespread effects of unemployment current at that time. The Memorial Hall has been passed to the control of the Trelawnyd Community Association with a 27 year lease in place. The Community Council retain ownership of the building and will work with the TCA to benefit the Hall and residents. It is available for hire and is used for the choir, youth club, Tai Chi, yoga, coffee mornings, retired groups etc.

The village also sits on the Pilgrims Way – a long distance walking path from Holywell to Bardsey Island. This pathway is becoming more popular with tourists. There are also other local bridal ways and footpaths (e.g. Clwydian Way) which are important to the community horse riders and ramblers. A Millennium Trail pathway and the Mynnd Benja interpretive viewpoint resulted from previous Community Council projects.

There is a strongly supported male voice choir of international renown “Coir Meibion Trelawnyd” based in the hall since its formation early in the 20th century, and with many community members as choristers.

The village has a school, Trelawnyd VA school, which is supported by the Church in Wales and caters for infant and juniors. It is integral to the village and has survived attempts to close it in the past but has prospered and been extended.

There is one public house in the village, The Crown, a tied house which has seen periods of closure in the past.

There are two chapels in the village, one of which, Ebenezer is the oldest independent chapel in Wales. The only church in the village is St. Michaels Church. All three are no longer in use.

There is a small industrial estate at the eastern end of the village based at a former council depot, with a number of small businesses, and there are a number of well-integrated caravan sites which have minimal impact on the local environment.

Access for people to the outside community, especially for the retired or those without private transport, is extremely poor. Although there is a bus service, it is minimal, and is not very accessible in terms of timetable or routing to enable short term visits out of the village for shopping or hospital/clinics and so forth. In addition, as the route is between Holywell and the neighbouring county of Denbighshire, access to Flintshire council offices and services is not easy using public transport. There is thus a substantial problem of rural isolation for many inhabitants of the village.

Appendix 2

Gwaenysgor

Gwaenysgor is situated one mile to the south of Prestatyn and 600 feet above it at the top of the coastal scarp. The difficult road access has resulted in isolation for many residents. Around a third of the population are retired and live in single or two-person homes, and a third of the population are children or young people. The total population is a little over 200.

The village is a Conservation Area and is within the AONB with the Offa's Dyke path running along its edge. The church in the village, St Mary Magdalene's, has the most complete set of church records to be found in Wales, the originals being kept by the National Library. Gwaenysgor also had the first Appraisal and Development Conservation Plan in Flintshire and the first Village Sign in North and Central Wales.

There is a village hall which was formerly the village school and was taken over and refurbished by a local committee. A number of active community groups meet there including the Conservation Group (instrumental in opening pathways and maintaining the status of the village as a conservation area) an art group and a choir.

Traffic and its impact are a major concern within the village which is used as a rat run between the coastal towns and the A55 with levels of traffic at rush hour being out of proportion to the roads and village.

There is one public house in the village, The Eagle and Child, which is actively supported by villagers.

Both villages have lost their shops and post offices which has galvanised community interest in remaining village amenities, and focussed attention on planning matters. Recent applications for low cost housing outside of the village envelope in Trelawnyd and for a slurry pool in Gwaenysgor generated intense interest; the slurry pool later being granted planning permission.

A survey of both villages by Pennaf indicated that there was no requirement for low cost housing in the ward, and plans to pursue such a development by Pennaf were dropped.

Appendix 3

Safety

Trelawnyd Traffic Management

The main road (A5151) through Trelawnyd has in the last 40 years changed dramatically from being a country lane to become one of the busiest of feeder roads to the A55. The road brings obvious disadvantages principally around safety, noise and pollution. But it also brings convenience in that, rather than having to wind their way through country lanes or slow urban streets, residents who are motorists can be onto a main road and then away to the shops or job in a matter of minutes from leaving their home.

Control of the main road is the concern of the (Flintshire County Council – A5151 is no longer a trunk road) North Wales Trunk Road Agency (NWTRA). Road widening in the early 1970's caused traffic speed to increase substantially. In the last few years, traffic management schemes have failed to address the problems of speeding within the village. Road safety problems are compounded by incomplete footpaths on the A5151 which force pedestrians to walk in the road on one stretch within the 30mph limit and on grass verges beyond the housing line. The 40mph buffer zone is now installed but there are still issues of speeding. A 20mph limit is expected to replace the 30mph speed limit in 2023 (Senedd plans). There is also a request to have a continuous cycle/footpath through the village although the priority is to create a footpath past the Crown Inn for which a plan has been submitted to Highways. Alternative plans have included removing the wall between the pub and the first house on London Road (for which permission had been received from Punch Taverns previously) and paying for the new wall, any legal fees, and the re-siting of the pole. Although this would not create a path of 1.5metres, it would be wide enough for single file pedestrians and would prevent accidents and enable safer access around the village. Flintshire CC have requested that the Community Council undertake consultation with relevant groups/individuals to present a case for support to improve the road safety.

The weight and speed of traffic passing through Trelawnyd is a concern, particularly in the area of the school. The Council will work with Flintshire County Council in developing a traffic management plan for the village. A pedestrian controlled crossing outside the school has been implemented but other restrictions to improve safety include the possibility of a new recommended HGV route for goods vehicles travelling from the A55 to Prestatyn using the A55.

Gwaenysgor Traffic Management

The road through Gwaenysgor has, in the last 30 years, changed dramatically from being an almost impassable country lane to vehicles, to become one of the busiest of feeder routes to the A55 by people from the Prestatyn and Meliden areas. This has resulted in high levels of inappropriate speed and traffic flow in the village. Traffic management schemes have been tried within Gwaenysgor by Flintshire County Council but they are now inappropriate to the village's

status as a conservation village; levels of traffic are damaging the local environment. Traffic management therefore needs to be updated to be both effective and sympathetic to this conservation area. Legislation coming into force in September 2023 will make all 30 limits into 20mph limits with a few exceptions which could improve the situation for both villages but additional measures will need to be put in place to ensure this limit is enforced. There is little to no off road parking in the village and the roads do not lend themselves to street parking, although a recent planning application to use the field by the Public house may ease this.

The dangerously steep and winding nature of the road to the north of Gwaenysgor results in numerous accidents and injuries in winter. Unsuitable vehicles that are driven on this road - ignoring warning signs - regularly becoming jammed on the steep hill and its approaches. This route requires substantially better traffic management than is presently in place, a problem exacerbated by the road crossing county boundaries. The Community Council has agreed to a scheme organised by Denbighshire County Council to fit electronically operated gates be fitted at the top and bottom of the road to enable the road to be closed in inclement weather.

The community council has requested a survey by FCC to assess if a “Poynton” type scheme could be implemented within the village. The Community Council will encourage local consultation with FCC to try and ensure an efficient and cost-effective self -policing traffic management plan is developed. The Community council are awaiting feedback from FCC regarding this. At this time it might not be relevant with the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit, however speeding is an issue within Trelawnyd and does need to be addressed

Footpath Lighting.

The Community Council is the Lighting Authority responsible for providing footpath lighting in some areas of the community. The lighting which is the responsibility of the Community Council is serviceable, but out of date and will need to be modified in the future. The Community Council plans to continue to modernise the lighting system on a staged basis over the coming years. Reducing the hours of lighting through the use of timers and taking out lights in low populated areas, in line with the AONB dark Sky status, is also being considered. The Community Council is in talks with AONB and hopes that a Lighting Survey will be funded by them.

Appendix 4

Amenities and Services

The village pubs and churches have played an important role in developing and maintaining social links. Most organised activities are centred on the two village halls which both have extensive local user groups including conservation groups, an arts and crafts group, a WI, a Friendship Club for the older residents, regular table top sales, flower shows, folk nights and concerts. Trelawnyd Community Association is planning and running regular activities for all age groups living in the wider community as well as holding regular fund raising events to invest in improvements and additional activities in the hall.

Public Transport

Public transport within Trelawnyd is extremely limited and provides only small windows of opportunity for accessing shops or services outside of the village for residents, and virtually no opportunity to access employment. There is no public transport in Gwaenysgor. The council will explore Community Bus schemes used in other rural areas and any grants available to establish a Community Bus in our area.

Public Footpaths

There is a well-established network of public footpaths around the villages and the Community Council is keen to see them well used and accessible. A book “Walking with History” describes them. The council is part of the Flintshire Local Access initiative to include its pathways on the Visit Flintshire website. Funding from Awards for All has allowed the Biodiversity Group to plant two rings of trees to commemorate the Queens jubilee, one in Gwaenysgor and one in Trelawnyd, consisting of seven indigenous trees in each village. This project is currently underway. The Council will also work with AONB and will help develop the long-distance footpaths passing through or near the villages to increase tourism.

Appendix 5

Character

Environment

The Community Council feel that there is potential to expand the provision of facilities such as information and access signs, cycle routes and benches to encourage visitors to stop and explore our area, and for it to become perhaps a more recognised destination for family days out in the countryside. Both villages have the potential to develop tourism from ramblers and long-distance walkers in the same way as has been achieved in other areas of the UK. As well as enhancing the identity of Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor, this would improve trade for the local pubs and hotels and even possibly encourage the setting up of other tourist related business ventures such as Bed and Breakfast accommodation and Touring Caravan Parks locally.

It is recognised that any increase in visitor numbers would have to be properly managed, particularly in respect of car-parking, but Trelawnyd already has a reasonable sized public car park suitable for such needs. Gwaenysgor, however, has no public parking place and this causes problems owing to dangers such as parking on blind corners e.g. by the village hall. Traffic management

Both villages have interesting histories, buildings, and historic sites. Gwaenysgor has an established Conservation Group which is working to protect the village environment and conservation area. Trelawnyd will hopefully also develop and expand the activities of a Conservation Group to protect its conservation area and historic sites, some of which have not been fully explored/researched.

Appendix 6

Communication

Welsh language

Welsh is generally used by the older members of the community on a day to day basis, but its usage is not general and is in decline in the community.

The Community Council presently conducts business in English – the public minutes are produced in English as is the website. Currently there is no access to translation services or finance to produce Welsh language hard copies but it is hoped to provide some Welsh language information to comply with the Welsh Language Act.

Web Site

The Community Council feel that there is great potential for continued development of the website where council documents are available for public use. Any organisation in the community can approach the Council Clerk to put information on the website.

Internet and Computer Access

The Community Council is aware that parts of the area suffer from poor internet access, however, both village halls have Wi-Fi access and plans to offer IT training have been discussed by Trelawnyd Community Association.

Appendix 7

New Developments

Planning

Trelawnyd (Appendix 1) is a defined village. In Defined Villages housing development will only be permitted related to the scale, character and role of the settlement and which delivers local needs affordable housing. Provision will include:

- i. Windfall market housing (only when essential to delivering affordable housing)
- ii. Local needs affordable housing
- iii. Small Scale Rural Exceptions Schemes for Affordable Housing

According to FCC's *2017 Preferred Strategy Consultation Document Background Paper*, in Trelawnyd, the following sites will be assessed as to a possible settlement boundary change (see map below):

TLD001 Land opposite Ery Wen, London Road, 0.72 Housing

TLD002 Land south of Faenol Fach, Rhodfa Arthur, 0.54 Housing

TLD003 Land east of Parc Offa, London Road, 2.31 Housing

TLD004 Land east of Parc Offa, London Road, 1.37 Housing

TLD005 Land at Ochr y Gop, 6.93

TLD006 Trelawnyd VP School 0.46 (Settlement Boundary) *NB This is disputed land gifted to the village.*

Gwaenysgor (Appendix 2) is described as an undefined village i.e. a settlement with few or no services and facilities and which is not of a size or character to warrant a settlement boundary.

GWAE001 Land at Cae Gwyn, Gwaenysgor 1.72 Housing (The site does not comply with the Council's Preferred Strategy due to the position of the settlement in the settlement hierarchy.)

Notes from Supplementary Planning Guidance Note produced by AONB

8.01 ...**As a point of principle, new developments should firstly seek to avoid any adverse impacts on the AONB before investigating mitigation measures.** It is crucial that new development proposals are informed by a thorough assessment of the site surroundings and its setting.

8.14 **It's a question of scale and siting**

- Is the scale of the development commensurate with its functional need?
- Is it in scale with the size and mass of surrounding buildings and structures?
- Is the scale relative to plot size and close to established development?
- Well the development impact on neighbouring properties?
- Is the siting appropriate and takes advantage of natural screening and local, topographic features avoiding natural skylines?
- Can the development be re-located to a more suitable site?

8.26 It's a question of design

- Is the design compatible with existing building character?
- If an extension, is it subservient to the original building?
- Does a modern design echo or compliment more traditional designs in the area and retain or enhance local distinctiveness?
- Does the scheme avoid details which “urbanise” the rural scene with inappropriate windows, gates, kerbs or fencing?
- Can existing buildings be re-used and converted?
- Will it stand the test of time?

8.36 It's a question of using the right materials

- Are the materials appropriate for the area?
- Can material be re-cycled or sourced locally?
- Are the materials being applied in the correct manner?
- Can modern materials be applied in a sympathetic and innovative way?
- Does the colouring of materials harmonise with surrounding landscape and development?
- Will materials stand the test of time?

8.45 It's a question of setting

- Is the site visible from a wider surrounding area and is it visually prominent in the landscape?
- Can a building be sited in the fold of the landscape and screened by natural vegetation?
- Will the development spoil important views from within or outside the AONB and impact on its wider setting?
- Does a proposal outside but close to the boundary of the AONB impact on its setting and special qualities?

8.56 It's a question of landscaping

- Has landscaping been considered at the outset?
- Can a building be located within existing natural screening?
- Are plants and materials compatible to the area proposed with the avoidance of hard landscaping?
- Is the means of enclosure appropriate and not introducing urban elements such as grand entrances?
- Is the lighting scheme properly designed to avoid excessive light and light trespass outside the site?
- Will the landscaping contribute to the natural beauty of the AONB?
- Are existing landscape features retained and restored?

It is important to note that the Community Council is not responsible for making decisions at any stage of the planning process. It is routinely informed by Flintshire of planning applications but, following legislation in 2015, the time limit on local consultation is 21 days. The Community Council's role is restricted to that of passing comment - in a very limited time period - which is reinforced where necessary, by attending Flintshire planning committee meetings and any local appeal enquiries.

Planning applications are considered within a "strategic" planning framework. This looks more broadly at developments over the county, as a whole, for the next 15 or so years. It determines for example what land should be allocated for future housing, shopping, employment etc. and what road and transport improvements will be needed.

Rather than take a "top down" approach to their strategic plan, the Community decided to work towards producing a plan (the document you are now reading) that represents the views of the residents and local housing need. It also takes account of the policies and position of the County Council and national guidance. The aim of this chapter is therefore to provide Flintshire with guidance on what Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor residents would like to see included in their future strategic planning policies. The challenge in writing this chapter has been to reflect as accurately as possible the views of residents in what is often the most hotly debated aspect of Community Council activity. The most recent feedback from residents opposes large scale development in both villages which would alter the character of the area.

Flintshire's planned, current and previous policies

Since the main housing estates were built in the 1950's and 60's, there has been very little further housing development in the open countryside surrounding Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor. This is because, on the various council land-use plans, there has been a defined "Settlement Boundary" around the village. In addition, part of the surrounding countryside is further protected by having AONB ("Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty") status (see above). Development in Gwaenysgor and part of Trelawnyd is further restricted by its designation as a Conservation Area (see below).

Another important change affecting housing occurred in the 1980's and 1990's when, under UK government policy, the majority of publicly owned property in the village was sold off. Up until that time, the stock of "council housing" made it possible for some of the younger local residents to remain in the village when the time came for them to set up their own home. Although local people were never "guaranteed" local council housing, the council operated a needs-based system for housing allocations, and local connections did give the applicant more points in this assessment. However, a recent survey conducted by Pennaf in support of a low-cost housing development in the ward clearly demonstrated that there was not a sufficient demand for low cost housing in the ward to proceed with the development.

Flintshire County Council are preparing the Local Development Plan (LDP) for the County. As in all other Welsh counties, part of the standard LDP process is to invite owners of land

throughout the County to register any interest they might have in releasing land for future development purposes. This will include land outside of any areas currently zoned for development. It is called the Strategic Housing Land Availability survey (or SHLA).

This council has provided feedback to Flintshire on the suitability of appropriate development on the candidate sites put forward by landowners. The feedback recognises that there may be a need for a small scale mixed domestic development within the next 10 years but that any applications for development should take into account the need to improve public services and transport infrastructure first. Increasing development and traffic flow in either village without improvements to road junctions, pedestrian crossings, sewage treatment, road lighting, and broadband etc. would not be acceptable to either community. There are no shops in Gwaenysgor but there is a Garage with a Spar shop in Trelawnyd and no public transport. The nearest doctors' surgery is five miles away in a neighbouring village.

In an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – with ancient sites - large scale development that extends the settlement boundaries in an inappropriate and unsympathetic way would not be acceptable to the local communities.

The council note that the Trelawnyd School Playing Field is recorded as a nominal candidate site, but are determined to protect this as a resource for the school and the community, and further note that they have information that this land was presented to the village by the land owner of Gop Farm for the benefit of the village.

Determining public opinion.

This and future plans will be the subject of public consultation and regular reviews to ensure they remain appropriate to changes in the community and in community opinion. There will also be a need to update plans if there is a change in housing needs within the two villages.

Appendix 8 S6 Report and Plan on Bio-diversity within the community

- Engaging and supporting participation and understanding to embed biodiversity through decision making at all levels.
- Safeguarding species and habitats of principal importance and improving their management.
- Increasing the resilience* of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation. (*diversity, connectivity, scale and extent, condition and adaptability).
- Tackling key pressures on species and habitats.
- Improving our evidence, understanding and monitoring systems.
- Putting in place a framework of governance and support for delivery.

Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor Community Council is a rural area of two villages, small hamlets and agricultural land, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, part of which is in the AONB. The farmland is covered by Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ) designed to protect waters against nitrate pollution from agricultural sources, and the Glastir sustainable land management schemes.

Actions to be carried out include:

1. Embedding biodiversity into decision making and procurement
 - a. Produce a plan which is reviewed and amended annually if necessary.
2. Raising awareness of biodiversity and its importance
 - a. Engage with stakeholders e.g. Conservation Groups, School, WI, Youth Club etc to carry out surveys, deliver education and arrange/facilitate public events such as talks on growing vegetables, recycling, energy saving etc.
3. Safeguarding principal species and habitats
 - a. Undertake surveys to identify risk species and habitats. A butterfly survey of the Gop was undertaken in 2018 (see Website)
4. Restoring and creating habitats and resilient ecological networks
 - a. Planting wildflowers and daffodils on verges; restoring hedgerows, planting trees, clearing ponds and producing wildlife corridors to encourage bees and other species of insect/animal life.
5. Tackling negative factors e.g. reducing pollution, using nature-based solutions
 - a. Widening use of public and community transport systems e.g. Dial a Ride and Community Bus (arranged with Prestatyn Sea Cadets); extending path/cycle-route along A5151, reducing paper/ink through IT based communications; encouraging use of renewable energy and insulation; tackling littering and fly tipping etc.
6. Using, improving and sharing evidence
 - a. Identifying good practice from other public bodies e.g. Llanasa CC for Bee Friendly activities and Keep Wales Tidy; sharing local good practice through website and newsletter and through One Voice Wales and County Forum.
7. Supporting capacity and/or other organisations

- a. Providing a budget to enable actions to be undertaken by the Community Council or by other stakeholders e.g. providing resources to pick up litter on highways and lanes in the community, identifying grants or offering funding from budget to stakeholders to undertake other actions e.g. surveys/planting.
8. Identify key outcomes and review points e.g. the enablers and barriers to action to help improve the planning process.
- a. Producing a budget against each planned outcome and noting who/when* action will take place and the potential barriers.
 - b. All actions will be monitored by the Community Council and stakeholders where possible.
 - c. *Timescales should be short term (within a year), medium term (2 -3 years) or long term (10 years)

Notes on Demographic Trends Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor.

Because some of the data is based on the ward rather than the village it isn't possible to separate the two villages. The data does however give a picture of the area. Where possible the data is drawn from the last Census, but corrections have been applied from other sources where there is separate information such as FCC; Electoral Calculus;Varbes; and general internet. There are going to be errors in the data as Census have rounded data up in some cases; other sources may have used different descriptions or data capture methods using slightly different criteria. Where the data is Trelawnyd specific it is shown. All data relies on the number and veracity of the original respondents.

2023 Census:-

Trelawnyd Residents 786

In full time partnerships or marriage 675

Male residents 373 - Female 412

Households 382 - one person households 143 - one person households over 66 yrs 77

Single parent families with dependent children at home 10

Single parent families with non dependent children at home 11

Households defined as deprived in one dimension 136

Households defined as deprived in 2 dimensions 59

Households defined as deprived in 3 dimensions 6

Not deprived households 181

Migrants from within UK (1yr) 48

Migrants from outside UK (1 yr) 4

Residents born in UK and EU 757

Population with Level 4 education or above 235

Population with level 3 113

Population with Level 2 102

Population with Level 1 47

No qualifications 108

Population in very good health 338

Good health 112

Fair health 101

Poor health 44

Very bad health 18

Housing detached 182

SEmi detached 150

Terrace	43
Other	6

Owned Houses	276
Social rented	49
Social rented Local Authority	47
Rented other	55
Tied	2

Welsh Speaker able to read, write and speak Welsh 116

Speak only	31
Non welsh speaker	530

Commuting

Work from Home	77
Over 60k	7
30 to 60 kilometre	24
20 to 30 k	41
10 to 20 k	36
0 to 10 k	98

Commute by car 245 - Average salary £33,000 - Average rents £588

General stats -(this includes Gwaenysgor.)

1492 electors registered. **EU referendum** between 57% and 60% voted leave.

Population change between 2011 and 2021

4.2 %decrease in age under 15yrs
 3.0% decrease in 15 to 64 yrs
 23% increase in age 65yrs and above
 Growth rate is now Minus 1.13% (1.66% lower than Welsh average)

Summary

Flintshire is 4.9% of the Welsh population and is ranked 7th for size of population in Wales (down 1 place in the last decade) It is however the 11th most densely populated county (UK Gov fig - 3 people for each football pitch size piece of land)

Trelawnyd is classed in the FCC LDP as a village with a defined boundary surrounded by inhabited countryside. Trelawnyd is situated within the Clwydian range AONB and has the second largest bronze age burial mound found within the UK. The Village has a number of historic feature the most notably the Memorial Hall and St Michael's Church (the latter now closed and the former in need of repair - both are listed)

Our area's growth rate is declining and the age range of residents is changing - we have more older people, some of whom are living alone. A large number of residents are economically inactive - 316 this cannot break this down into age ranges.. This is as opposed to 352 who are economically active residents. 201 households are defined as deprived in dimensions 1 to 4 in poverty with 3.6 % to 4.7% of total households claiming some form of benefit (House of commons Library)

Sources used:- Electoral Calculus; 2023 census data report; internet searches; FCC data; UK Gov data; and Senydd data.