

Talybont community Forum 14/11/24

Report of tourism group

The discussion talked about the different kinds of tourism, about Talybont being a honey pot tourism site that gets bikers, cyclists, barges, canoeists, walkers and day trippers and people coming for a holiday. It is recognised that this is in most ways desirable for the area however it does cause some problems for local people, most obviously congestion, traffic and parking issues mainly at weekends in the summer months. It is questionable how much benefit this tourism brings to village residents. There is no doubt that the businesses of the village need and benefit from tourism.

The comment was made that some tourists bring more benefits than others to the village. Trying to encourage tourists to spend in the village and the promotion of sustainable active tourism were both seen as worthwhile goals.

Concern was expressed about the impact on tourism in terms of a loss of housing available for local people. The impact of second homes and "Air B and B" lets were mentioned.

We need to plan tourism so that it benefits all of us. It costs local people quite a lot to provide some of these tourist benefits. There's already a big conversation about the toilets at the hall which costs about £10,000 per annum. These facilities are not paid for by Powys County Council or the National Park, essentially at present they are being paid for by donations topped up with money from the Hall funds. The local churches similarly attract visitors, are tourists contributing sufficiently to their upkeep? There is a view that the community is getting less support across the board in maintaining the facilities in the area and that tourism is not "paying its way" as it should. It seems likely that in future years pressure on local facilities are only likely to increase hence vital to address these issues now to ensure that both tourists and local people are comfortable with the balance that is struck. There was discussion around the reasons why different groups of tourists come to the area, are we attracting enough young people, do the more elderly come for different reasons? what do they want when they get here? The group felt the village has a lot to offer but are we presenting it in the correct way, is it what tourists want? It was felt important to tie local people into the benefits of any initiatives, eg around local history or wildlife as the assumption that local people are aware of such things may not be correct.

It is clear that Powys council is giving less day to day support, there was discussion about a village initiative involving volunteers helping to keep the village tidy? not just the existing litter picking, but extending this to perhaps weeding, clearing leaves, keeping signage clean, and possibly other small jobs. The downside of such initiatives being one suspects that once undertaken they will forever fall upon the shoulders of the community.

There was a discussion about what do we do about the parking? This was also mentioned in the Transport group and is a major issue over summer weekends. It has been a regular topic for discussion over many years. One possibility is a more regular arrangement with the cattle market which is little used over summer weekends, this certainly would relieve pressure.

Action points ;

There used to be a tourism group, should this be reinvented at least for a period of time. There is a need for up to date information about our visitors, why they come here, how they get here, what to they do, what do they spend and where, what is good what is not. A survey over the summer should be considered.

This could be undertaken in conjunction with adjacent Community Councils and a more comprehensive picture obtained, such data should inform a comprehensive tourism plan.

Car parking, look at Cattle market, look at other alternative, a perennial problem that certainly could be improved if not entirely solved.