

Ystalyfera & Godre'rgraig Communities First



Ystalyfera Action Plan 2006



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Ystalyfera & Godre'rgraig Communities First Cymunedau yn gyntaf Ystalyfera a Godre'rgraig



The Welsh Assembly Governments Communities First Program is aimed at tackling poverty and disadvantage in the 100 most deprived communities in Wales as identified in the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000.

The electoral division of Ystalyfera and the sub ward of Pantyffynnon in the electoral division of Godre'rgraig were designated Communities first areas.

The objective of the Ystalyfera and Godre'rgraig Action Plan is to identify the needs of the communities of Ystalyfera and Godre 'r graig with a view to establishing a realistic community based infrastructure that will create regeneration by combating social exclusion and improving the quality of life of the communities. Issues are integrally linked into the dynamics of the communities and the Action Plan will work in the wider context of Neath Port Talbot Community Plan 2005-2015 and the Valleys Strategy programme, and will therefore necessitate reference to a wider range of socio-economic indicators.

The Action Plan has been collected and collated to create a profile of Ystalyfera and with reference to issues that relate to the wider County Borough of Neath Port Talbot. The importance of setting the wards of Ystalyfera and Godre 'r graig within the context of the Unitary Authority is important because it needs be aware of current strategies or initiatives at local, regional and national levels.

The socio-economic decline of former mining areas such as Ystalyfera has resulted in multiple problems caused by low levels of economic activity and subsequent high levels of unemployment. Young people living in these communities are at increased risk of becoming socially and economically disaffected. The Welsh Assemble Government and Neath Port Talbot CBC acknowledge the extent of these problems and have initiated a number of strategies to counteract them.

Many of the strategies involve voluntary agencies working in partnership to deliver services at community level.

The Ystalyfera Action plan commits the Communities First partnership to work in partnership with other agencies to deliver an integrated programme of action to address issues of concern highlighted by the community.

Due to the location of Ystalyfera and Godre 'r graig and their proximity to the Communities First area of Ystradgynlais in Powys, there will be issues highlighted in the plan which will benefit from extensive cross border cooperation between both the Communities First partnerships and the wider communities so that opportunities to improve the economic and social prospects for the whole of the Upper Swansea Valley are maximised.

Copies of this Action Plan will be available via email, CD Rom or printed hard copies; Large Print copies are also available.

Community Strengths and Weaknesses

While Ystalyfera and Godre' graig may be among the top 50 most deprived local government wards in Wales, the communities have many strengths which it is important to note, and to build upon when drawing up an action plan for future action. Some of the strengths and advantages are noted below;

1. There is a positive commitment by residents to the future of Ystalyfera and Godre' graig and this is evidenced by a strong sense of civil pride.
2. There is a strong community and voluntary sector within the community; the community has nearly 40 voluntary sector associations including several residents associations, a community safety partnership and several sports clubs.
3. The presence of a Development Trust within the community provides an obvious focus for regeneration activities.
4. The extent and diversity of the natural environment of the Upper Swansea Valley is a tremendous resource for the community; much of the local environment is underused and under sold as a resource for the community.
5. Housing within the Communities First area is generally of good stock with the majority (63%) being owner occupied. The lack of new housing development until recently has allowed the development of strong & stable communities.

Despite these strengths, the decline of the traditional heavy industries which provided the main sources of local

employment have led to a rise in social problems often associated with post industrial communities. The problems faced by communities such as Ystalyfera and Godre graig are long term and multifaceted; there are many issues which undermine the lives of local people. They may be summarised as:

1. **High levels of economic inactivity.** There is evidence from a variety of sources that indicate a large number of people in the community are economically inactive. Claimant figures for long term sickness benefits are 40% above the Neath Port Talbot average. Economic inactivity tends to be concentrated among certain sections of the population including young single mothers, men over 50 and young people (ages 16-25)
2. **Lack of skilled, high waged employment:** what new employment has been created within the local area tends to be low skilled and low waged employment. Poor transport links with larger employment hubs means that local people find it hard to find high skill, high waged employment
3. **Lack of services in the local community:** Over the years services have been centralised in larger population hubs and people have to travel out of the area to access these services. For example, there is no bank in the community, and access to free cash withdrawal facilities is very difficult.
4. **Poor transport links:** Local bus services have been highlighted as a major concern which affects many areas of community Life
5. **Lack of services and facilities for Young People:** Ystalyfera and Godre 'r graig have no specific facilities available for young people. This inhibits other projects that would support and provide advice for local young people from working within the area.

The aim of the action plan is to draw on the strengths of the community in order to work in partnership with statutory and voluntary sector agencies to address the issues identified by the community during various consultations.

Consultations

Consultations undertaken have included:

Public Suggestions
2002



Community Appraisal
2003



Young People's Consultations
2003/2004



Planning for Real
2004



Community Questionnaire
2005

Part one: Jobs and Business

Over all aim -

To create a strong, sustainable, self-reliant local economy where prosperity is shared by all.

The communities of Ystalyfera and Godre'r graig have suffered from the decline of heavy industries which provided the stable economic prosperity the communities enjoyed in the past. This has had a long term effect on both communities. Non participation in the labour market as defined by Job seeker allowance claimant figures often under represents the economic inactivity within a community. Both have economic inactivity levels well above the Neath Port Talbot average.



The majority of people living in Ystalyfera and Godre'r graig travel to work out of the area. The local economy is made up of either retail outlets or small traders. There are small industrial units in Godre'r graig; under recent local government boundary changes industrial units previously located in Ystalyfera are now located within the Powys local authority boundary.

There is one social enterprise operating in the community (Tiddlywinks) and one located on the industrial estate recently transferred to Powys. There is also an emerging social enterprise in the form of the Healthy Living Centre which will be opening in 2008.

Access to training has been identified as an issue in resident's surveys. Due to the location of the communities local people often have to travel considerable distances to access technical vocational training. Another barrier to accessing training is the poor local bus links with Neath which make it difficult to access training in either Neath or Margam colleges.

As with many valley communities, long term sickness benefit claimant numbers are well above both the Neath Port Talbot and Welsh National Average. Respondents to questionnaires in this category have indicated that they would be interested in re-entering the job market providing appropriate training and child care facilities were available

The same issues affect other areas of the Upper Swansea Valley and the development of a vibrant local economy will be best served if some issues are approached in partnership with other areas so as to maximise the potential for growth and inward investment. Partnership working has already been undertaken with organisations in Powys; this work needs to be developed further to maximise opportunities.

Aims	Measures to achieve aims	Partners
To increase economic activity within Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for economically inactive people to acquire new skills and training (JB1) • Provide support for people seeking employment through working with Job Centre Plus (JB2) • Target services at specific groups within community(JB3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job Centre Plus • Neath Port Talbot CBC Life Long Learning • Neath Port Talbot College • Neath Port Talbot CBC Valleys Strategy Team
Promote an entrepreneurial culture within both the private and community business sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that local business have access to business advice services (JB4) • Promote opportunities for social enterprise (JB5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Eye • Business Connect • Ystradgynlais Community First
Promotion of local business to ensure people support local business and spending is retained within the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of local business through a directory so people know what is available locally 	

Measuring Progress -

To measure progress in implementing the measures outlines above the following indicators will be appropriate for this theme -

- Reduce in the number unemployed claimants as a percentage of the economically active population.
- Reduce the percentage of the population who are economically inactive and move this figure towards the NPT average
- Raise skill levels within local community through an increase in the number of people gaining qualifications and attending courses at Ystalyfera LAC

Increase number of social enterprise within the community

Part two: Education and Life Long Learning

Overall aim -

To provide education and training for all who wish to access it irrespective of age or abilities

Current access (December 2006) to and provision to Life Long Learning opportunities are undersold and not necessarily geared towards the needs of individuals or socially excluded groups. There needs to be a co-ordinated response from FE/HE bodies, Workers Education Association or Adult Education providers based on a training needs analysis of the community, to provide Life Long Learning Opportunities to meet the needs of individuals, societies/clubs, businesses or the socially excluded. The Partnership is actively seeking to bridge the "skills gap" by providing an inclusive programme of education that is an exciting provision of learning for the local community.



Within Ystalyfera and Godre'rgraig there are two junior schools and one welsh language comprehensive schools; non welsh speaking children attend Cwm Tawe Comprehensive school in Pontardawe. Both junior schools have faced falling pupil numbers in recent years, and it will be a major challenge in the coming years to see that people moving in to the area,

especially into the new housing developments proposed for Godre'rgraig and the site of the Dewhurst factory enrol their children within the local schools.

Lack of affordable Childcare is often cited as a major barrier which prevents parents from returning to employment or training. Ystalyfera is fortunate to have a childcare facility within the community that provides this vital service. On top of this, Ystalyfera has an integrated children's centre which will provide the focus for children's services within the area.

Aim	Measures to achieve aim	• Partners
<p>To create an inclusive community where everyone has opportunity of access to fulfil their potential regardless of academic ability, race, gender, age or disability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Community Learning Programme to meet the needs of the people of Ystalyfera. (E1) • Improve access to learning resources through expanded and modernized facilities. (E2) • Remove barriers to learning through access to Information Technology. (E3) • Enrich the community by expanding access and opportunity to creative experience and ways of thinking through an Arts Development Programme. (E4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ystalyfera Development Trust • Neath Port Talbot Life Long learning service • New Learning Network • Neath Port Talbot College • Neath Port Talbot CBC Valleys Strategy Team • Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera • Ysgol Y Wern • Godre 'r graig primary school. • Ystalyfera Integrated Childcare Centre. • Ystalyfera Community Council

<p>To support schools and families in providing a positive learning environment for local school children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local partners to ensure that local children attend the local village schools. (E5) • Work with Ysgol y Wern to address lack of transport for the school (E6) • Work in partnership with schools to improve parental involvement in schools through PTAs. (E7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera • Ysgol Y Wern • Godre 'r graig primary school. • Ystalyfera Integrated Childcare Centre. • Neath Port Talbot Council • School PTAs.
<p>Work with partners to ensure that childcare facilities continue to be available within the community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Ystalyfera Integrated Children's Centre and Tiddlywinks to ensure long term sustainability and development of existing provision. (E8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ystalyfera Integrated Children's centre. • Tiddlywinks • Neath Port Talbot CBC Valleys Strategy and play work teams

Measuring Progress

- Within this section relevant indicators will be -
- Increased participation in formal and informal learning opportunities within the community at venues such as Ystalyfera LAC
- Increased roll numbers at local schools
- Increased membership of school PTAs

Part Three: Transport

Ystalyfera and Godre 'r graig are communities which lie at the top of the Swansea Valley and which form the North Eastern boundary of Neath - Port Talbot. The communities are 4 miles from Pontardawe, 9 miles from Neath and 16 miles from Port Talbot. Transport is an issue which has been highlighted as a main priority in a variety of community consultations held in recent years. The issue cuts across all of the Communities First themes and impacts on all members of the Community.

Ystalyfera and Godre 'r graig are communities with few health and recreational facilities, limited employment opportunities and limited public transport links and to access most of these services and facilities people have to travel out of the area.



34% of the residents in the CF area have no access to a car and are dependent on public transport.

Bus services focus on the main Swansea Valley route, linking in to other services at Pontardawe. However there is a very limited evening and Sunday service. Although there are facilities such as a theatre and cinema only 4 miles away in Pontardawe, these facilities are completely inaccessible to people from Ystalyfera who do not have access to a car as evening and weekend bus services are so poor.

Employment opportunities for local people are also curtailed by poor timetabling of services which for example do not allow local people to easily access Swansea Enterprise Park, despite an express service going from Ystalyfera to Swansea along the boundary of the enterprise park without stopping.

A further complication affecting transport in the Swansea Valley is that the local authority area of Neath -Port Talbot is a political creation rather than a natural community and bus services in particular have been slow to change their services to



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reflect the new community and the need for cross valley services; 10 years after the local government reorganization, Ystalyfera still has no direct bus link to Neath, with residents having to change in Pontardawe or Ystradgynlais.

Ystalyfera forms part of the boundary between Neath-Port Talbot and Powys and the provision of bus services which serve the communities of Ystalyfera and Godre 'r graig are provided mainly from services originating in the Neath Port Talbot or Swansea areas, but a percentage are provided by services originating in Powys. This is an area where lack of consultation in previous years has caused great problems on both sides of the border and is an area where cross border cooperation will be of great benefit to the communities on both sides of the Neath Port Talbot - Powys border.

Taking the previous information in to account the provision of accessible public transport will be essential to maintaining the existing community and to achieving other parts of this action plan. It is likely that a diverse range of transport options will be required to meet the needs of the communities and outlined below are details of ideas aimed to meet these diverse requirements.

Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures to achieve aims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> partners
To ensure the communities are served by bus services responsive to local need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local bus service providers to ensure that local needs are taken in to account when bus services are timetabled (T1) Work with local transport providers to examine viability for dial and ride type services(T2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Cymru Shamrock Neath Port Talbot Council Powys County Council Communities First Ystradgynlais Longs coaches
To enable local residents to access local and affordable community transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to maintain and develop existing community car scheme to ensure sustainability and long term viability (T3) Develop links with other community transport providers to enable local residents to access community transport (T4) To work with Community Transport schemes to provide innovative transport solutions to local needs -e.g. timetabled services provided by Community Transport operators. (T5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ystalyfera Community Car Scheme Neath Port Talbot Community Transport Dulais Valley Community Transport Ystradgynlais Community Car Scheme
To enable elderly and disabled people to access free transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local transport providers to enable people unable to use their concessionary passes due to issues of illness, disability and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neath Port Talbot Community Transport Neath Port Talbot Council Valleys

	<p>lack of access to bus services, to access free transport services. (T6)</p>	<p>Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dulais Valley Community Transport • Ystradgynlais Community car scheme • Ystalyfera Community Car scheme.
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Measuring Progress

Increase in availability of accessible transport within the communities

Part Four: Environment

Overall aim -

To Encourage a sense of pride in Ystalyfera and Godre'r graig; to raise responsibility for its appearance amongst those who live, work or visit by recognising and improving the quality of its natural beauty, bio-diversity, heritage, streetscape, infrastructure, accessibility, buildings and open spaces.

Ystalyfera and Godre 'r graig lie at the top of the Swansea Valley, very close to the Brecon Beacons National Park. The local natural environment provides a vast resource for the local community both in terms of offering opportunities to make the communities more attractive places in which to live, and as a potential tourist destination.

An environment group has been formed to encourage local people to become involved in environmental work. Projects undertaken so far include litter picks along the old canal bank, and more recently, a spring bulb planting programme at various locations around the village. The latter project brought together local schools and voluntary sector groups to plant over 5,000 bulbs which will flower in spring 2007.

There are several other voluntary sector groups (such as Tawe Anglers) operating in the area which are indirectly involved in environmental work



Local Need

Due to the essentially linear spread of development within the community along the A467 road, the area covered by the wards of Ystalyfera and Godre 'r graig is quite large and the work already undertaken by the environment group will need to be built on so that the whole area benefits from its work.

Work needs to be carried out to improve the appearance of the buildings (both community and business) within the community to ensure that the area projects a positive image.

The potential for the area to market itself as a tourist destination is largely underdeveloped. At the time of writing (December 2006) The New Swan Hotel has recently become the only place in Ystalyfera offering accommodation to visitors; when the recent Wales GB rally took place in the Neath Valley, all 6 rooms were let and other potential guests were turned away. It is important for Ystalyfera to develop facilities which will allow it to be part of wider efforts to promote the Swansea Valley as a tourist destination.

Another untapped resource within the community is the heritage of the area; the Upper Swansea Valley is in the eyes of many the birth place of the industrial revolution, due to the development of industrial techniques which were replicated throughout the world. Little if any of this heritage is tapped into as a resource for the community either for the benefit of local people or as part of the wider tourism agenda.



Aims	Measures to achieve aims	Partners
<p>Encourage local people to become involved in environmental work within the community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support existing groups working in Environmental field (E1) • Promote schemes such as rubbish amnesties and little clean ups (E2) • Landscape improvements to communal areas of the community; to include Street enhancement (Commercial St) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ystalyfera Environment Group • Keep Wales Tidy • BTCV • Groundwork Wales • Neath Port Talbot Council • Neath Port Talbot CVS Environment Forum • Workways • Neath Port Talbot CBC Valleys Strategy Team

	<p>including improving derelict & empty shops, improvements to pavements, road surface, disabled access, street cleaning, litter bins and refuse collection. (E3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally promote the WAG Environment Strategy for Wales (E4) 	
<p>Market area to capitalise on potential for developing tourism within the area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with NPT CBC Tourism team to develop marketing strategy for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPT Council • Wales Tourist Board • Ystradgynlais Communities First

	<p>area (E6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop local facilities to encourage visitors to the area; to include development of hotel and b&b accommodation (E7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleeping Giant Foundation
<p>Develop programmes to highlight heritage of area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to promote heritage within the local area and in the Upper Swansea Valley as a whole (E8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPT Council • Wales Tourist Board • Ystradgynlais Communities First • Sleeping Giant Foundation • Ystalyfera Heritage Society

Measuring Progress

Indicators within this theme will be -

- Increased number of people involved in community projects
- Increase in number of beds available for tourists

Decrease in number of empty shops on the main streets

Part Five: Health & Well-being

Overall aim -

Work towards creating a healthy caring community providing protection and support to the most needy, and active community for all through sport, leisure and play.

Research has highlighted key issues that are relevant to the health and wellbeing of the residents of Ystalyfera and Godre'rgraig

- 33.4% of the population have limiting long term illness
- An above average number of senior citizens 30% above the all Wales Average
- 19% of the community do not have good health
- 5.25% of the population suffer from long term respiratory disease
- 46% of the economically active population are long term unemployed.
- Ystalyfera has one of the highest averages of any local government ward in Neath Port Talbot of people suffering from long-term illness.

(Source 2001 census)

Of the top ten wards in Neath Port Talbot County Borough of people with limiting long term illness, disability or health problems, Ystalyfera lies seventh.

The 2001 Census asked people to describe their health, over the preceding 12 months as 'good', 'fairly good' or 'not good'.

Resident population (percentage)

	Ystalyfera	Godre'rgraig	Neath Port Talbot	England and Wales
Good	56.0	58.2	59.7	68.6
Fairly good	25.0	24.0	24.0	22.2
Not good	19.0	17.8	16.4	9.2

Source: 2001 Census, ONS

The 2001 census also asked questions about any limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability which limited people's daily activities or the work they could do.

Resident population (percentage)	Ystalyfera	Godre'rgraig	Neath Port Talbot	England and Wales
With a limiting long term illness	33.4	29.8	29.4	18.2

Source: 2001 Census

Further statistics which influence the health statistics for Ystalyfera and Godre'rgraig include;

- 33.5% of Adult Males Smoke
- 29.4% of Adult Females Smoke

- 53.2% of Adult Males are Over Weight or Obese
- 51.1% of Adult Females are Over Weight or Obese

- 66% of Adult Males take no Regular Exercise
- 84% of Adult Females take no Regular Exercise

(Source Health Statistics Wales 2003 Welsh Assemble Government)

Priority Need	Actions to Address Need	Partner Agencies
To ensure local residents have access to high quality and easily accessible health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that different agencies work in partnership to meet the needs of local residents. (HWB1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPT Public Health Team • NPT Local Health Board • NPT Youth Health Team • Health & Wellbeing Centre
Reduce percentage of local residents who smoke and bring relevant statistics to NPT average.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of smoking cessation classes (HWB2) • Information for young people on dangers of smoking - young people mentoring (HWB3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPT local Health Board • Local GP surgeries • Local Schools • Ystalyfera Health and Well Being Centre
To promote healthy lifestyle through diet and exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work in partnership with key agencies and local groups to deliver programs to marginalized residents in the community (HWB5) • Education on healthy diets • Promote access to cheap healthy local produce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPT local Health Board • Local GP surgeries • Local Schools • Ystalyfera Health and Well Being Centre • Ystalyfera Community Sports Hall
Promote participation in healthy life	Promote local sports clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPT local Health Board

style activities	Promote classes held at Community Sports Hall (HWP6) Encourage new ways of participating in healthy life style e.g local walks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local GP surgeries • Local Schools • Ystalyfera Health and Well Being Centre
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Measuring Progress

Indicators measuring progress in this area will be

- Reducing the percentage of the population who smoke to the Neath -Port Talbot average
- Reduce figures for obesity levels within the community to the Neath Port Talbot average
- Increase percentage of people taking part in regular exercise

Part Six: Crime and Community Safety

Overall aim -

Make Ystalyfera and Godre 'r graig a safer place to live, work and visit, by reducing the fear and social effects of crime and disorder"

Crime is an issue which appears high in any resident's consultations in Ystalyfera and Godre 'r graig. The crime figures suggest that there is little violent crime in the area, and that lower level crimes such as Car theft are only slightly above the Neath-Port Talbot average. The perception within the community however is that fear of crime is a major issue.

Lack of policing within the community is highlighted as a major concern in all surveys and consultations. One police constable and one community support officer are allocated to the Ystalyfera and Godre 'r graig area (they also cover a larger area from Pontardawe to Cwmllynfell. A large number of people within the community including local elected representatives feel that this does not meet the expectations of the residents.

The resident's survey and other consultations reveal that 46% of respondents feel unsafe walking in the area at night.

Surveys reveal that problems with off road motor bikes, young people hanging around on street corners and car crime/ joy riding are the main issues highlighted. . Off road motor bike is a particular concern with two separate areas being used by the motor cyclists, who also drive through the village between the two areas often at excessive speed and on unregistered bikes. Projects are underway to address these issues.

Community safety issues also feature strongly in residents surveys. Local people have expressed a desire for CCTV cameras to monitor areas of the village which are affected by issues such as young people congregating on street corners, or car park areas. Poor Street lighting in some areas including near the Subway and car park at the back of Commercial Street have also been highlighted



There is a commitment within the community to work towards providing local solutions to some of these issues. There is a crime and community safety forum which brings together local residents with representatives of statutory agencies operating in the crime and disorder field. There are 6 local residents' associations/neighborhood watch schemes which represent the views of residents of specific areas of the community; there are also two neighborhood watch schemes. The measures outlined below will aim to build on the already established network of organizations working in this field.

Aims	Measures to achieve aim	• Partners
To improve the visibility of local policing to provide effective deterrence to crime and a sense of security within the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local police representatives to improve visibility of policing in the area. (CCS 1) • Encourage local people to make use of the community police station (CCS 2) • Publicize local crime figures and out come of police actions (CCS 3) • Promote closer links between local community groups and the local police representatives (CCS 4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Wales Police • Crime and Community Safety Forum
To Reduce joy riding and explain impact of joy riding on young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with statutory services to highlight negative effects of joy riding(CCS5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Wales Police • Mid and West Wales fire service
To reduce incidents of off road motor cycles being used on public roads and address other issues regarding misuse of such vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish project for under 16s to learn how to ride off road bikes within a safe environment(CCS6) • Work with South Wales Police off road cycle team to address concerns of community and ensure visible presence (CCS7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BTCV
To reduce crime and raise public confidence regarding public safety within the village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with community and relevant partners to install CCTV cameras at specified locations within the community (CCS8) • Work with neighborhood watch schemes to increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Wales Police • Crime and Community

	<p>resident's participation. (CCS9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reestablish community watch within the community to provide link between local police and local publicans and shop keepers. (CCS10) 	<p>Safety Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhood watch groups • Residents associations • Local publicans
To improve home safety and security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local services to ensure home safety audits are conducted (CCS11) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service • South Wales Police Crime Prevention officers
To ensure that young people have options and opportunities so that they have less reason to hang around streets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local schools and Neath Port Talbot youth service to ensure that there is adequate youth provision within the community, and that the young people have a facility which is a designated youth facility with allocated youth workers. (CCS12) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neath Port Talbot CBC Youth Service
To address issues of speeding vehicles at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with South Wales Police Traffic section to establish if the area meets the criteria for regular speed camera 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Wales Police

specified locations in the community including Commercial Street and A467 by pass.	<p>patrols (CCS13)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with South Wales Police to see if other traffic calming measures would be appropriate for Commercial Street (CCS14) 	
To ensure local people are able to access drug and alcohol advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with WGCADA to reestablish local out reach service (CCS15) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WGCADA
To ensure local people are able to access domestic abuse services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with relevant agencies to ensure local people know how to access relevant services (CCS16) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities First Domestic abuse Partnership

Measuring Progress

Indicators used to monitor progress

Reduction in Crime Figures

Reduction in the use of off road bikes on public roads

Part seven: Active Communities

With the Ystalyfera and Godre r'graig communities there are 37 voluntary sector groups covering a wide variety of activities from Hawking (Glan Tawe Hawkers) to Rugby, Cricket and Football clubs, to performing arts. Some of the groups such as the Cricket and Rugby clubs have been in existence for over a hundred years while others such as Ystalyfera Heritage Society which has been established within the last year.



Long term sustainability is an issue for many of the groups operating within the community, particularly groups which operate on a very small scale; often it is the case that the groups which require relatively small amounts of funding to operate find it most difficult to access funding. The need for regular advice on funding for small community groups has been highlighted in several consultations. Allied to the need for funding advice is the need to ensure that training in relevant skills is available to officers of the voluntary sector groups.

The community audit carried out by Communities First staff revealed that although Ystalyfera has relatively high numbers of residents who are economically inactive, there is a low participation rate within local voluntary sector groups. The team looked at barriers to participation and several points were highlighted:

- Lack of knowledge of what activities and groups were available within the community
- Lack of transport to and from venues where activities take place - especially for evening and weekend activities
- Lack of child care facilities available at times which correspond with voluntary group activities.



Aims	Measure to achieve aims	partners
To ensure that residents are well informed about voluntary sector events and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish an annual directory listing activities, venues and contact phone numbers (AC1) • Publish regular newsletter highlighting voluntary sector group activities (AC2) 	
To provide high quality funding advice to local groups Provide information regarding training opportunities for officers of voluntary sector groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold funding surgeries • Inform local groups of funding opportunities via newsletters and mail shots (AC3) • Provide information of NPT CVS training courses. (AC4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neath Port Talbot CVS • WCVA • Welsh Funders Forum
Ensure that people who do not have cars are able to access community transport to enable them to attend voluntary sector groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote local community transport options (AC5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ystalyfera Community Car scheme • Neath Port Talbot Community Transport

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dulais Valley Community Transport Ystradgynlais Community Car scheme.
To promote child care facilities which will allow people to become involved in local activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote existing child care facilities (AC6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tiddlywinks

Measuring Progress

Indicators used to measure progress within this theme will include -

- Increased access to funding for voluntary sector groups
- Increased participation in voluntary sector groups

Part Eight: Youth

Overall aim:

To provide young people with the opportunities and services that will enable them to fulfil their individual potential and become valuable contributors to their community

Until the formation of Communities First, there had been no formal Youth Provision in the communities for many years. The Community Audit raised concerns about the lack of provision, facilities and opportunities for young people. Problems related to drug and alcohol abuse and community safety were highlighted as was the need for access to relevant services and advice.

Lack of funding and lack of a dedicated base were highlighted by groups who provide services to young people as barriers for them working in the community.




Youth Provision - "The Cellars"

Young people in Ystalyfera need consistency and stability in their provision, this project will aim to deliver that, as a project that seeks to bring co-ordination to the different forms of youth provision available in Ystalyfera today. The project will directly support an innovative programme of work; a drop in provision aimed at getting young people in to education, training or employment into work, and will plan and deliver a number of different projects in partnership with other existing providers. Young people will play a central role in evaluating the project. The project will seek to build on recent research and current provision and will co-ordinate a joined up approach to work with young people in Ystalyfera. This project will be based in the old Public House Cellars "the Railway", today known as Ystalyfera Development Trust - the focal point of Ystalyfera.

The economic activities that will be included are an innovative Childcare Centre, Community Information Centre, Telecentre / Learn Direct Centre, community needs and a Civic Entrepreneurship strategy.



Individuals who are interested in the "Cellars" will be given tuition in presentational skills. This will give the students the opportunity to expand and develop their own ideas of different employment opportunities, from customer care, trainers, electricians, system technicians, tutors, maintenance engineers, planners etc. The additional skills that can be gained through this programme should not be underestimated. There is an untapped client base in and around the Ystalyfera area and further partnership working with developments such as Action Team for Jobs and flexible learning from providers such as Learn Direct, Lifelong Learning, Workers Education Association and the Community Access Programme provide a proactive environment for further growth and development on a local, regional, national basis. The project also falls under the development of Neath Port Talbot Health, Social Care and Well-Being Strategy 2005 - 2008.

"Learning participation and educational achievement - 'we will support the objectives of the community plan and communities first 2 enhance the quality of life for all through Education, Life Long Learning, Culture and Leisure , and experiences by:

-  Encouraging healthy life styles, in supporting all our schools to participate in the Neath Port Talbot Healthy Schools programme.
-  Ensuring al our community and youth work establishes social links with Life Long Learning and leisure services.
-  Improving chances for disadvantaged citizens particularly for the socially excluded and young people, to maximize access to learning by addressing economic and practical support.

Sustainability of a good quality, responsive youth programme is what this project is all about.

Benefits of a drop in facility -"The Cellars"- for Young People:

-  A place to go and meet that is non-confrontational
-  Facilitates young people's development by learning about independence and socialising

- 🖼️ Develops involvement and pride in their neighbourhood
- 🖼️ Is a constructive rather than destructive experience
- 🖼️ Reduces boredom if associated with a facility
- 🖼️ Removes a possible first step towards crime
- 🖼️ Team games provide a physical outlet for emotions and energy
- 🖼️ Improves the employability of project team
- 🖼️ Reduced damage, graffiti, crime and fear of crime
- 🖼️ Enhanced community harmony

Until recently Ystalyfera did not enjoy a dedicated youth provision from NPT CBC Youth service. The detached youth teams have provided staff for 2 evenings a week and they hope to be taking over the above project

Aims	Measures to achieve aims	Partners
To provide a dedicated youth facility within Ystalyfera	Work with partners to obtain funding for a dedicated youth facility within the area.	Ystalyfera Development Trust Ystalyfera Community Council Neath Port Talbot council Youth Service Communities' First youth team.
To provide dedicated youth workers to work in the community	Work with partners to obtain funding for dedicated youth workers	Neath Port Talbot council Youth service

Measuring Progress

- Indicators used to measure progress within this theme will be -
- Increased participation in activities provided by NPT Youth Service
- Numbers attending additional services eg RADS sessions.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

The Traffic lights system is an easy visual way of seeing how the action plan is progressing. The Red Column represents measures that we would like to happen, but we do not know when they will occur; the yellow column represents measures we anticipate commencing within 3-6 months and the Green column represents measures already live and in place. As the year progresses, measures should move across the page from red, to amber then to green.

Promotion of smoking cessation classes (HWB3)	Target services at specific groups within community(JB3)	Support for economically inactive people to acquire new skills and training (JB1)
Information for young people on dangers of smoking - young people mentoring(HWB4)	Create a Community Learning Programme to meet the needs of the people of Ystalyfera. (E1)	Provide support for people seeking employment through working with Job Centre Plus (JB2)
Work with local transport providers to examine viability for dial and ride type services(T2)	Improve access to learning resources through expanded and modernized facilities. (E2)	Ensure that local business have access to business advice services (JB4)
To work with Community Transport schemes to provide innovative transport solutions to local needs -	Remove barriers to learning through access to Information Technology. (E3)	Promote opportunities for social enterprise (JB5)

<p>e.g. timetabled services provided by Community Transport operators. (T5)</p>		
<p>Work with local transport providers to enable people unable to use their concessionary passes due to issues of illness, disability and lack of access to bus services, to access free transport services. (T6)</p>	<p>Enrich the community by expanding access and opportunity to creative experience and ways of thinking through an Arts Development Programme. (E4)</p>	<p>Promotion of local business through a directory so people know what is available locally</p>
<p>Work with South Wales Police off road cycle team to address concerns of community and ensure visible presence (CCS7)</p>	<p>To work in partnership with key agencies and local groups to deliver programs relating to health life styles to marginalized residents in the community (HWB5)</p>	<p>Ensure that different agencies work in partnership to meet the needs of local residents. (HWB1)</p>
<p>Work with community and relevant partners to install CCTV cameras at specified locations within the community (CCS8)</p>	<p>Develop links with other community transport providers to enable local residents to access community transport (T4)</p>	<p>Ensure that people can access local health services(HWB2)</p>
<p>Reestablish community watch within the community to provide link between local police and local publicans and shop</p>	<p>Encourage local people to make use of the community police station (CCS 2)</p>	<p>Work with local bus service providers to ensure that local needs are taken in to account when bus services are</p>

keepers. (CCS10)		timetabled (T1)
<p>Work with South Wales Police Traffic section to establish if the area meets the criteria for regular speed camera patrols (CCS13)</p> <p>Work with South Wales Police to see if other traffic calming measures would be appropriate for Commercial Street (CCS14)</p>	<p>Publicize local crime figures and outcome of police actions (CCS 3)</p>	<p>Work to maintain and develop existing community car scheme to ensure sustainability and long term viability (T3)</p>
<p>Work with WGCADA to reestablish local outreach service (CCS15)</p>	<p>Work with local schools and Neath Port Talbot youth service to ensure that there is adequate youth provision within the community, and that the young people have a facility which is a designated youth facility with allocated youth workers. (CCS12)</p>	<p>Work with local police representatives to improve visibility of policing in the area. (CCS 1)</p>
<p>Work with relevant agencies to ensure local people know how to access relevant services (CCS16)</p>	<p>Promote closer links between local community groups and the local police representatives (CCS 4)</p>	<p>Work with statutory services to highlight negative effects of joy riding (CCS5)</p>
<p>Landscape improvements to communal areas of the community; to include Street enhancement (Commercial St) including improving derelict & empty</p>	<p>Further develop local facilities to encourage visitors to the area; to include development of hotel and b&b accommodation (E7)</p>	<p>Establish project for under 16s to learn how to ride off road bikes within a safe environment (CCS6)</p>

shops, improvements to pavements, road surface, disabled access, street cleaning, litter bins and refuse collection. (E3)		
Work with NPT CBC Tourism team to develop marketing strategy for area (E6)	Work with partners to promote heritage within the local area and in the Upper Swansea Valley as a whole (E8)	Work with neighborhood watch schemes to increase resident's participation. (CCS9)
	Promote local sports clubs Promote classes held at Community Sports Hall (HWB6) Encourage new ways of participating in healthy life style e.g local walks	Work with local services to ensure home safety audits are conducted (CCS11)
	Hold funding surgeries to Inform local groups of funding opportunities via newsletters and mail shots (AC3)	Work with local partners to ensure that local children attend the local village schools. (E5)
	Promote local community transport options (AC5)	Work with Ysgol y Wern to address lack of transport for the school (E6)
		Work with Ystalyfera Integrated Children's Centre and Tiddlywinks to

		ensure long term sustainability and development of existing provision. (E8)
		Work in partnership with schools to improve parental involvement in schools through PTAs. (E7)
		Support existing groups working in Environmental field (E1)
		Promote schemes such as rubbish amnesties and little clean ups (E2)
		Locally promote the WAG Environment Strategy for Wales (E4)
		Publish and annual directory listing activities, venues and contact phone numbers (AC1)
		Publish regular newsletter highlighting voluntary sector group activities (AC2)

		Provide information of NPT CVS training courses. (AC4)
		Promote existing child care facilities (AC6)