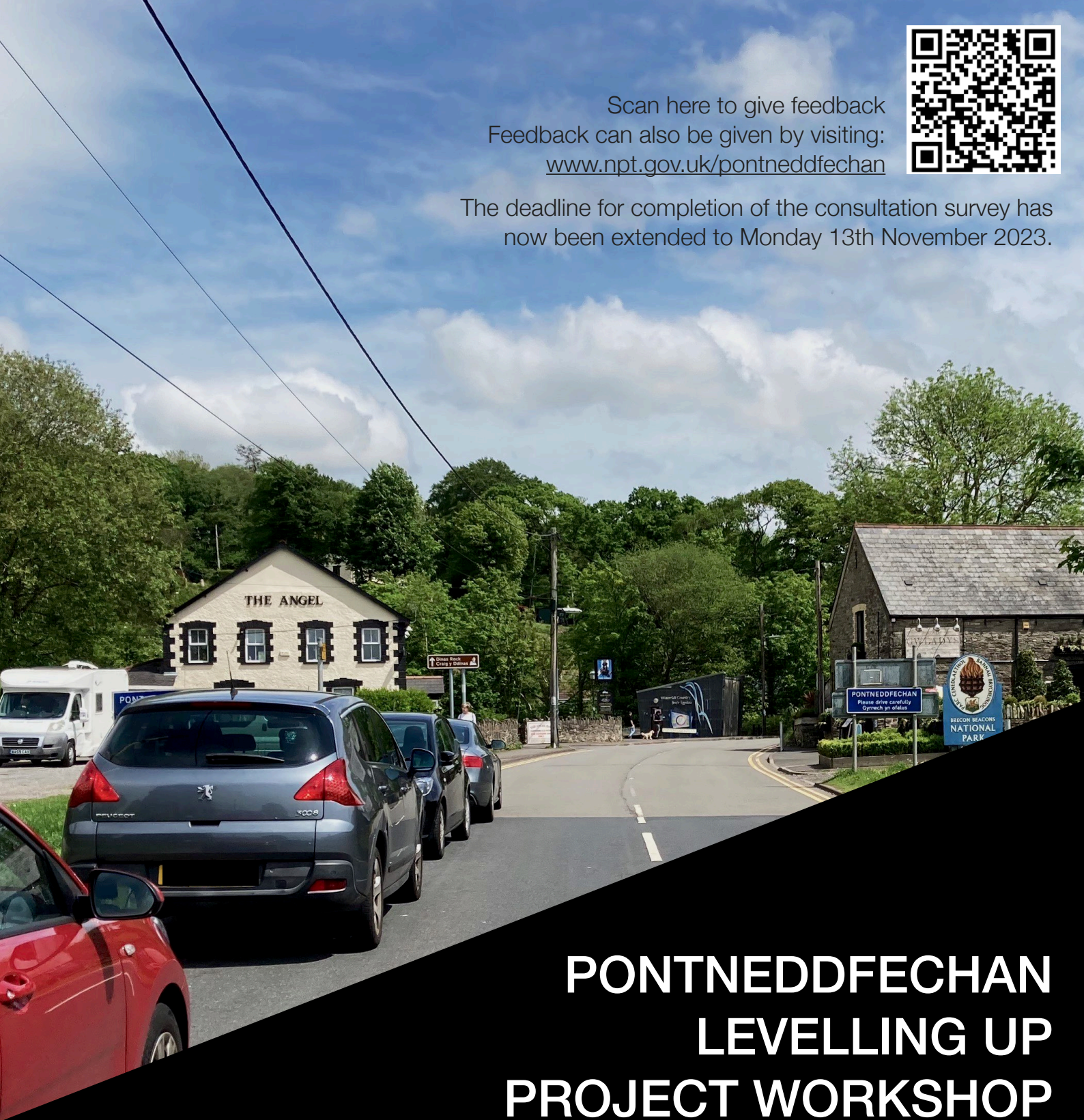




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The deadline for completion of the consultation survey has now been extended to Monday 13th November 2023.



# PONTNEDDFECHAN LEVELLING UP PROJECT WORKSHOP

Provide your input into the generation of ideas and potential solutions to develop the scheme going forwards

*08.11.2023 | 4.30 - 7.30pm | Pontneddfechan Village Hall*

In response to community feedback we now plan for this session be in the same format to the workshop held on the 23rd October to give further opportunity to help shape the scheme. Residents are invited to drop in at any time during the course of the evening, however workshops will commence approximately every 30-40 minutes depending on the numbers in attendance.

**Hiraeth.**



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# WHAT IS THE WORKSHOP ABOUT?

This is an opportunity to engage in the design development, including the opportunity to interact with what you would like to see in the village and to mould the outcome. This is a hands-on, activity based workshop, focused around design thinking - including identifying the problems and understanding users.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Please note that these questions represent a sample of those asked at the initial drop-in session. Following the workshop on the 8th November a feedback report will be produced, which will summarise the in-person workshop sessions and online feedback.

### **Why are we seeing people on site?**

Residents will see some activity on site over the coming months as surveys are being undertaken.

### **How can a contractor be appointed if the scheme isn't finalised?**

The work was tendered on a design and build basis which means detailed design happens after the contractor has been appointed.

### **What is the programme for the development?**

The draft delivery programme shows that post community consultation the scheme will be submitted for planning permission in April/ May 2024 with a view to commencing works on site in October 2024. Once the contractor is on site the works will take approximately 60 weeks to deliver.

### **What opportunities are there to engage in the process?**

In addition to the workshop on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 there will be a follow up feedback and discussion session in November 2023. As the project proposals develop there will subsequently be a Pre-Application Community Consultation and latterly the opportunity to comment on the formal planning application.

### **Why has consultation taken until now to happen?**

Consultation has been ongoing for over 10 years within the village in order to identify issues that are faced by the community. The initial outline scheme presented at the previous consultation was developed in order to attract funding from the Levelling Up Fund. This aims to invest in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK whilst delivering on economic outputs for communities. Without the allocation of the funding confirming that a scheme could meet the economic requirements, a potential project for the village did not exist.

### **Has the scheme been proposed with the community, not just visitors in mind?**

Easing the pressures felt by the local community is at the centre of this proposal. The negative impact of visitors on local residents has been increasing and the scheme is designed to act on the feedback of residents to manage these impacts more effectively through a permanent parking solution, improving the safety of the highway and encouraging visitors to act in a more responsible way. The scheme includes a community or farm shop in order to put in place provision which has been historically lost within the village and in a location where it is more visible to visitors. Visitor accommodation has been included in order to generate an economic output which will not only mean that visitors spend more money in the local economy but also create employment and business opportunities within the village.

### **What are the benefits of the proposals to tourists?**

Tourists will benefit from an informed and well signposted approach to the waterfalls that will assist in their safe experience of the area, together with highlighting local considerations. This will include clear and obvious car parking with capacity to manage the current demand, together with information boards regarding the waterfalls area and surrounding community.

### **Will the scheme increase visitors?**

The concerns of the local community that the scheme may increase visitors is understood, however as part of the submission to UK government for the Levelling Up Fund detailed visitor modelling was undertaken. This showed that a very modest increase would occur naturally without the scheme being delivered. The proposals do not intend to enhance this.

### **How many car parking spaces will be created?**

This will be confirmed once detailed designs are complete however it is estimated that the scheme will create an additional 150 to 230 parking spaces which includes motorbike, minibus and coach parking to take these vehicles away from the main road. The scheme will also include 13 electric vehicle charging points for use by the community and visitors.

### **Why are compulsory purchase orders necessary for the proposals?**

In considering options for the scheme a study was undertaken to review where the required car parking numbers could be accommodated on existing available land, importantly with good access to the entrance to the waterfalls walk. These options were further restricted to falling within the Neath Port Talbot boundary as the local authority making the funding application. Due to the quantity of the existing cars using the waterfalls, a suitable site was not available without incurring additional ongoing management costs. In order to meet the timescales of the Levelling Up Fund a Compulsory Purchase Order process has necessarily been initiated. The process is ongoing, however, a negotiated agreement is actively being pursued as a preferred option in the interim.

### **How will the farmer farm their land going forwards?**

Discussions are ongoing regarding the opportunity to negotiate the purchase of the farmland necessary for car parking, in order to alleviate the wider issues expressed by the village. The ongoing use of the farm is forming part of these conversations.

### **Why are economic benefits necessary?**

The Levelling Up Fund is aimed at local infrastructure projects that have a visible impact on people and their communities, and that will support economic recovery. Consequently the economic benefits are an inherent condition of the funding and are a required output of the proposals.

### **Will the proposals overwhelm the existing drainage system in the village?**

The drainage solution for the proposals will be designed in accordance with the legislative and regulatory requirements. This ensures that no additional strain will be placed on existing drainage if it cannot be accommodated. The exact detail of this will be developed as the project progresses, but this will be required to be demonstrated as part of any planning application.