

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

TEN TOWNS ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN – LLANYBYDDER

Re: SUMMARY – VIRTUAL MEETING – Research & Key issues

Follow on meeting from February 2020 at Old School, Llanybydder

DATE: 16 December 2020

Facilitators: David Jones/Owen Davies, Consultants commissioned by Carms CC

Rhian Furlong, Economic Development/Carms CC

Attendees: Cllr Ieuan Davies (County Councillor), Bev Pold (Llanybydder Community Council Member)

Stakeholders: Key local businesses identified by Consultants (no names circulated)

David Jones welcomed the stakeholders and explained the purpose of the meeting was to share the extensive research that had been carried out since the inaugural meeting at Old School in February. The Covid 19 pandemic has impacted significantly on progress of this initiative but the findings from the Old School meeting provided significant guidance on what local businesses identified and suggestions for economic growth.

Physical: At the first meeting, the absence of light industrial units in the Llanybydder area was identified as something which could be addressed;

The expanse of Llanybydder Car park and adjoining land could be developed or small starter units/co-working hubs for new and existing businesses, especially for those with aspirations for growth and currently working from home.

The re-use of existing premises in the village/re-configuration for business use.

Benefits: skills training/upskilling, supply chains especially to larger businesses eg Dunbia, agricultural sector, Brexit transition, diversification, higher productivity

Tourism: Promote Llanybydder as a tourism destination. The tourism opportunities in Llanybydder and catchment areas were identified for development with historic, walking and landscape attractions.

Need to maximise visitor economy, stay longer in the vicinity including camping and caravanning

Maximise Rambler routes, increase serviced/bed and breakfast accommodation to attract visitors etc

Cycle tourism – huge increase in this sector and could be maximised.

Greater use of Carmarthenshire Visitor website to promote Llanybydder

Connectivity: This was identified in both the February meeting and this meeting as **a major** issue for local businesses. It was reported that Carms CC was actively leading on digital connectivity.

Slow broadband speeds affecting business efficiency and opportunities, shared by many of the stakeholders participating in the virtual meeting

Town wi-fi presentation to Community Council was one opportunity for both businesses and community to benefit

Other issues identified:

Procurement – should be greater openings for smaller businesses to access public sector contracts

Community Energy schemes/renewable energy initiatives/Carmarthenshire Energy support for businesses (?)

Affordable housing and retention of young people in rural areas

Support available? Rhian Furlong reported for Carmarthenshire CC, some action and ideas:

Ten Towns project – two Market Towns officers will be appointed, working with towns/Llanybydder to take forward agreed strategy and source funding

Seed funding available via LEADER project to develop ideas, eg: Costs of premises, work spaces, business benefits, pop-up shops, tourism related projects, digital connectivity

Covid recovery

Grants available early January – 90% of project costs and difference can be in-kind (time/volunteers etc) to match capital costs less than £10k

Capital funding: Carmarthenshire CC have requested Welsh Gov support in delivering Growth Plans for County in particular start-up and growth space for businesses

Creating Cycle friendly area: environmental benefits, grant funding under review

Grants: Contact Rhian Furlong at Carms CC to find out further information including Rural Enterprise fund, start-up and growth grants

WEBSITE ideas and comments: <https://llanybydder.carmarthenshire-towns.info/>

NOTES: This web-site is inter-active and there is a specific page for Llanybydder area,as well as the other Ten Towns in this project.

Web-site is bi-lingual so observations, comments etc welcome in language of choice

Key issues and opportunities plus project ideas, in detail, will be included to support Growth Plan

Inter-active Google Map, drop pin on site and add/submit comments

Or, just leave Comments on line or get in touch with Consultants directly

Open web-site for businesses and public to access

PLEASE CAN YOU MAKE THE COMMUNITY AWARE of the Web-site so that Consultants can incorporate the wider community, especially in the absence of public for a due to Covid 19 pandemic

WEBSITE ADDRESS FOR FACE-BOOK OR COMMUNITY COUNCIL SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE:

<https://llanybydder.carmarthenshire-towns.info/>

CLOSING DATE FOR COMMENTS – Mid-February 2021