

Pontarddulais Report Urban Area

Final project report

June 2019



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About Sustrans

Sustrans is the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle. We are engineers and educators, experts and advocates. We connect people and places, create liveable neighbourhoods, transform the school run and deliver a happier, healthier commute. Sustrans works in partnership, bringing people together to find the right solutions. We make the case for walking and cycling by using robust evidence and showing what can be done. We are grounded in communities and believe that grassroots support combined with political leadership drives real change, fast. Join us on our journey. www.sustrans.org.uk

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1. Introduction



Workshop session

This report summarises the work Sustrans has conducted for the improvement of walking and cycling provisions in the town of Pontarddulais (Swansea Council). The work is connected with the development of a new traffic free path that will link Pontarddulais to the traffic free path in Grovesend, ultimately to join National Cycle Network Route 4 in Gowerton.

The report is addressed to Swansea Council and is aimed at supporting future works and funding applications for the delivery of these improvements.

Between 2016 and 2019, through RDP funding awarded by the Welsh Government, Sustrans has worked with the local group Friends of Coed Bach Park, Wheelrights, Swansea council and local residents to identify preferred options for the improvements.

The report presents the engagement process to date and the initial design solutions that will need to be further developed to deliver better walking and cycling infrastructure in town.

2. Aims and objectives

The overall aims of objectives of the project were:

- Collaborate with the local community to create a better environment for walking and cycling within Pontarddulais
- Improve the urban links to the future traffic free path that will link Pontarddulais to Grovesend and Gowerton
- Provide Swansea Council with evidence-based solutions to improve walking and cycling infrastructure into Pontarddulais, in line with the Welsh Government Active Travel Act Integrated Network Map issued for the town

Outputs:

- Identify desire lines and preferred routes for walking and cycling according to the feedback collected by the community
- Identify and prioritise preferred links to the future traffic free path to Grovesend
- Provide initial design solutions to improve walking and cycling provisions in town

3. Key achievements - outputs delivered to date



Exercise, fresh air, being out, communicating it is all part of that good life picture.



Workshop participant



Workshops

5 technical workshops delivered with the participation of local stakeholders (Friends of Coed Bach Park, Wheelrights, Swansea Council, local residents)



Community events

4 community events, open to the whole community



Attendees

162 attendees in total



Technical survey

1 technical survey (desire line analysis for the Station Road/Water Street Junction)

4. Activities

4.1 Initial scoping meeting

Date - 01/09/2017

Number of attendees: 13

The event

Project staff met with a number of local stakeholders including council officers, land owners, representatives of local groups, local residents and members of Swansea Bay cycling campaign group Wheelrights. Discussions were focused on initial options to link Pontarddulais to the traffic free path in Grovesend and to improve walking and cycling links into the town.

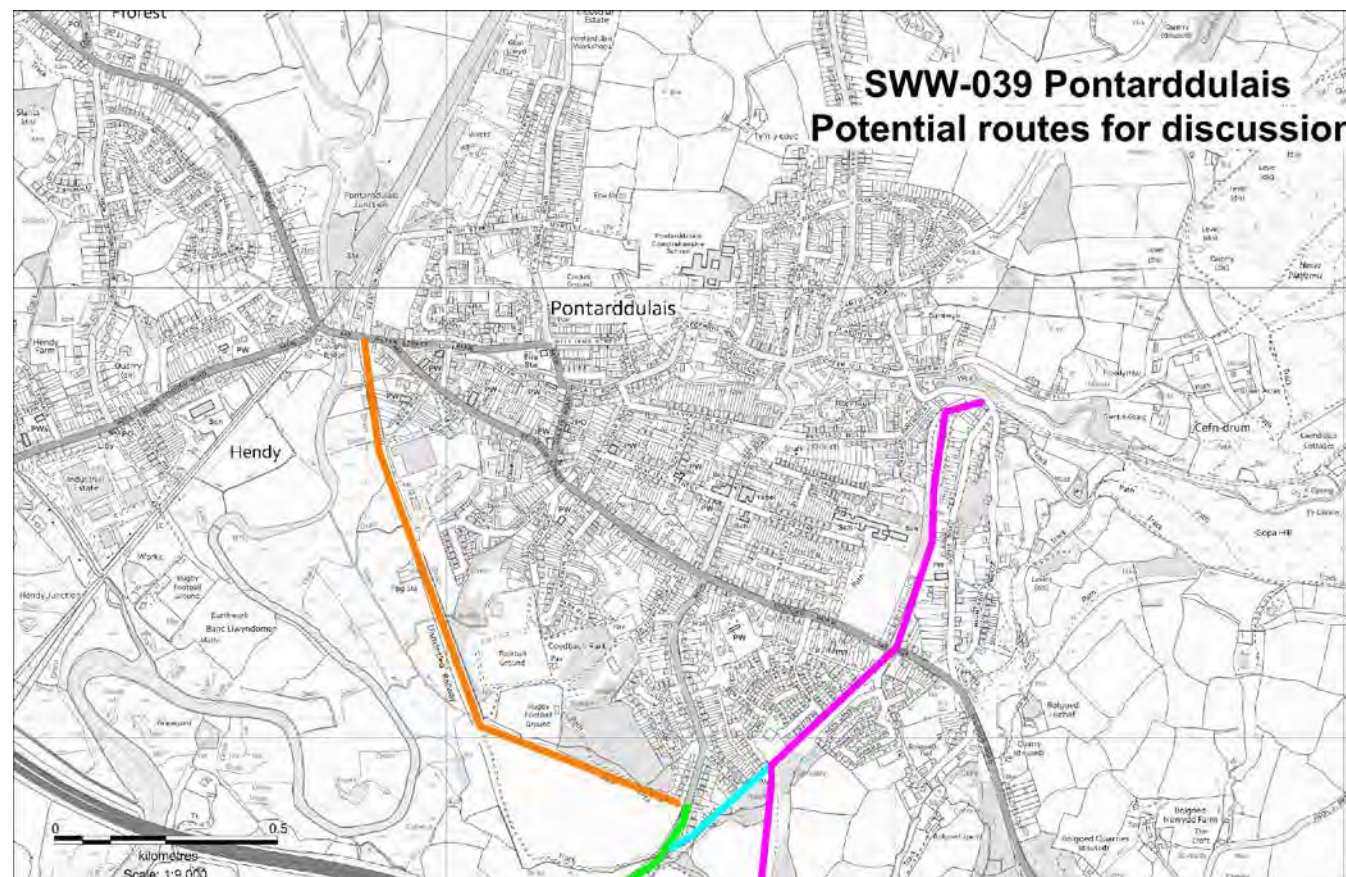
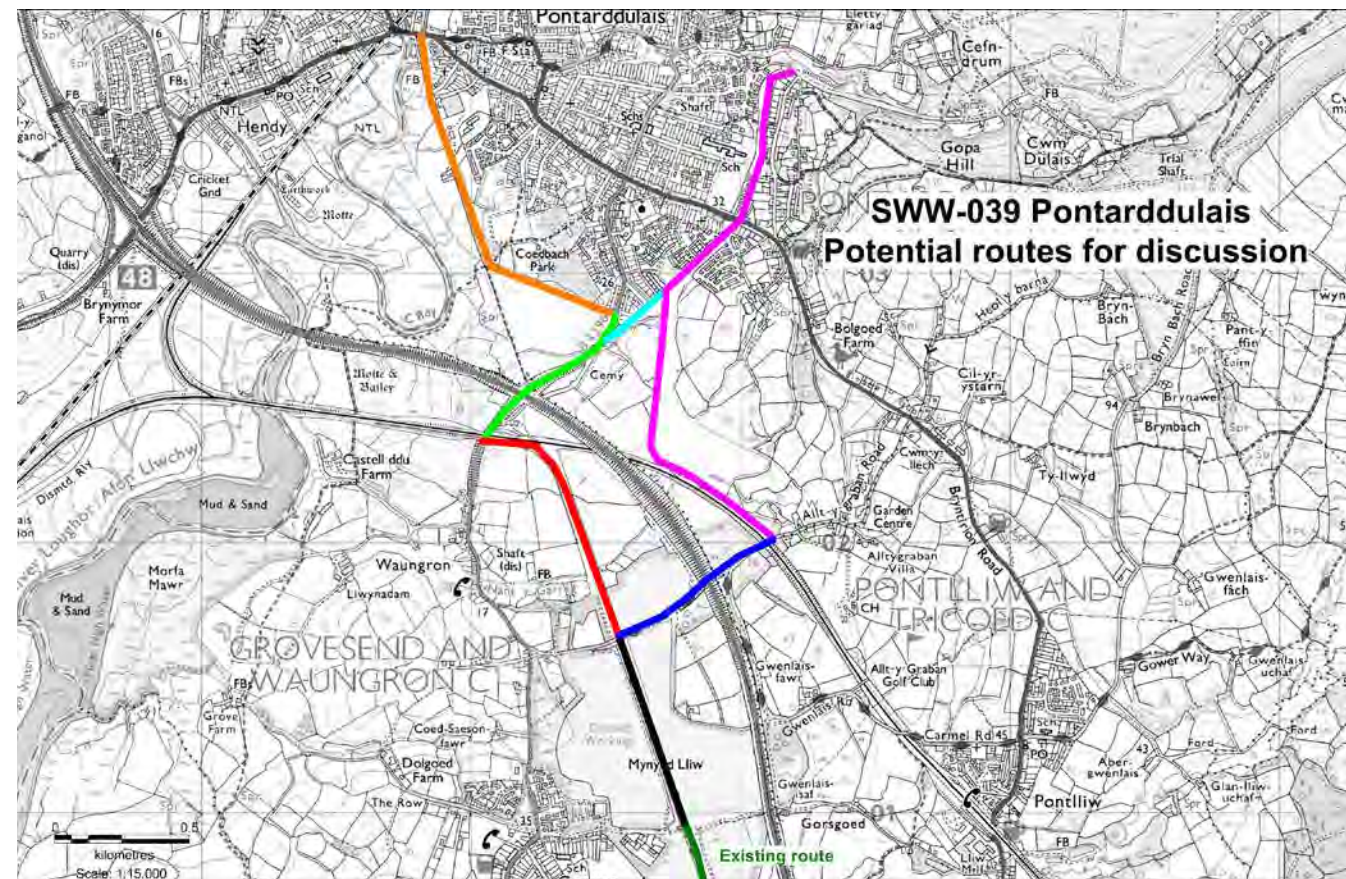
Approach

The purpose of this initial meeting was to clarify the scope of the Linking Up project and to identify with the stakeholders groups the expected outputs and outcomes generated by the project activities. The diversity of stakeholders present in the room allowed to have an initial conversation about additional stakeholders to involve, existing assets in the area (i.e. tourism destinations), possible funding pots available (i.e. Wind Farm funds), land issues etc.

Outputs

The meeting was really useful to initiate a conversation with the local group and to start planning for future activities. The following actions were agreed:

- Drop-in workshops open to the whole community would be planned
- Sustrans would conduct further feasibility work to look at preferred options, land ownership, etc.



Maps used to support the meeting

4.2 Drop-in workshops

Date - 11/10/2017 and 18/11/2017

Venues: Local Produce Market – Pontarddulais Miners' Institute and Tesco

Number of attendees: 70

The event

Following the suggestions of Pontarddulais' residents, we set up our stall at two popular sites in the town. We took advantage of the high footfall both at the Local Produce Market on a Wednesday morning and at Tesco's on a Saturday morning. We promoted the event mainly through the local Facebook pages "What's on in Bont". This allowed us to meet and talk with about 70 residents.

Approach

Initial options for the link between Pontarddulais and Grovesend were highlighted on an A0 map and participants were asked to comment on their preferred option as well as on existing walking and cycling provisions in town. Using sticky dots, coloured pens and questionnaires we captured demographic data, preferred modes of transport, preferred routes for walking and cycling in town, as well as perceived issues preventing adults and children from walking and cycling more in Pontarddulais.

Outputs

The feedback we collected during these events helped us to identify and prioritise roads and junctions that needs improvement to make them safer and more attractive for walking and cycling.



Participants at drop-in workshops

4.3 Inspirational walk around Pontarddulais

Date - 22/01/2018

Number of attendees: 9

The event

This event was organised as a stakeholders' meeting and a led walk. The good balance in the participation of Swansea Council technical officers, Wheelrights, Friends of Coed Bach Park group and local residents contributed to make the conversation very dynamic and consider several points of view.

Approach

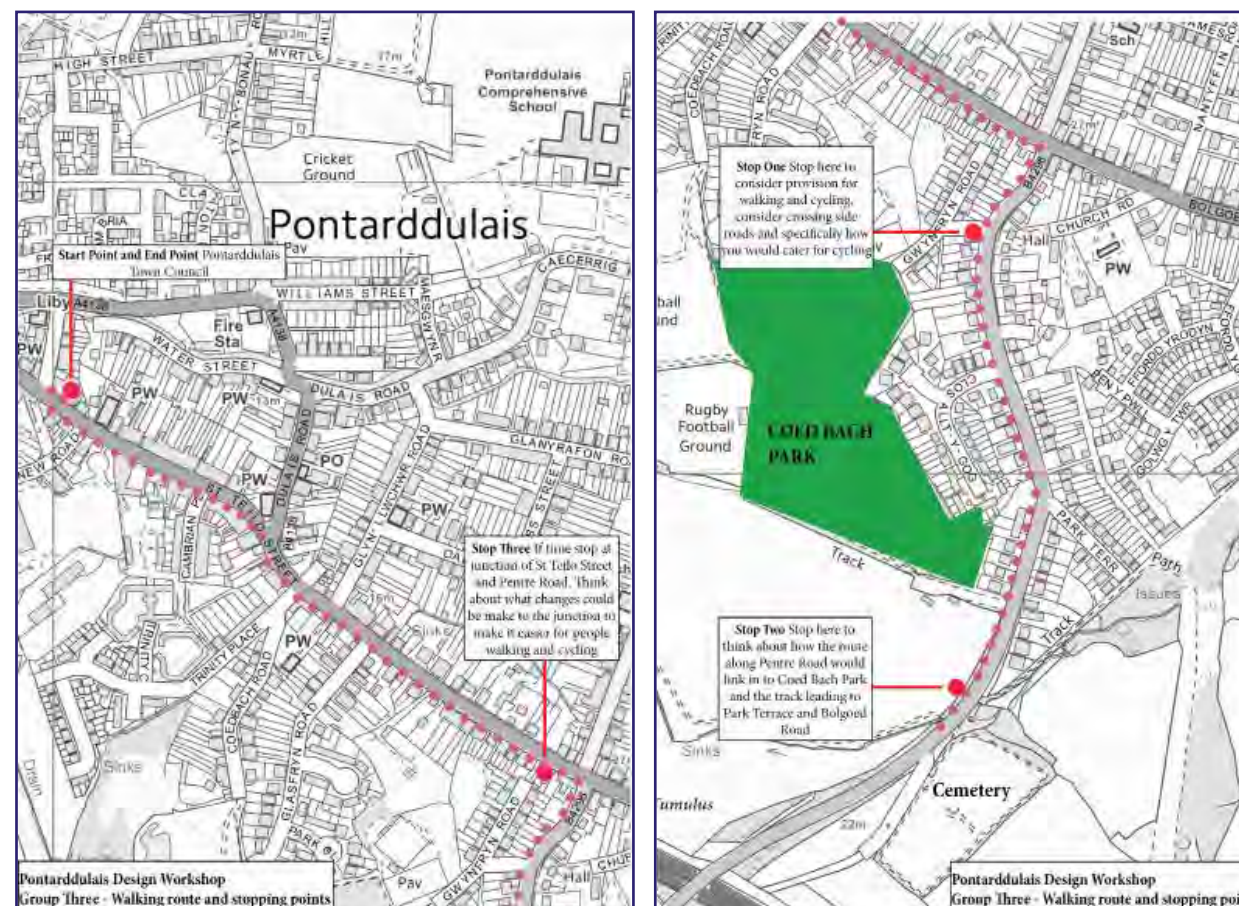
During the first part of the meeting, Sustrans staff summarised the outputs of the drop in events, providing visual feedback to the group. After that, participants were divided into two groups and taken out for a led walk around the town centre. Each group was given two or three problematic junctions or roads to look at, along with information about the way similar issues have been tackled in other similar towns and asked to suggest ways of tackling the issues.

At the end of the walk, participants were asked to feedback their ideas to the other wider group.

Outputs

During the led walk, participants identified route options to bring the route into town using a safe and pleasant alignment.

Furthermore, the junction between Station Road and Water Street was identified as needing additional technical surveys and measurements about traffic numbers and this was addressed in a desire line analysis funded by Sustrans.



Maps used to support the walk around Pontarddulais

4.4 Walkabout

Date - 18/06/2018

Number of attendees: 10

The event

Project staff met with a number of stakeholders including local authority officers, local residents and members of Swansea cycling campaign group Wheelright, to walk the site and discuss a number of potential route options.

Approach

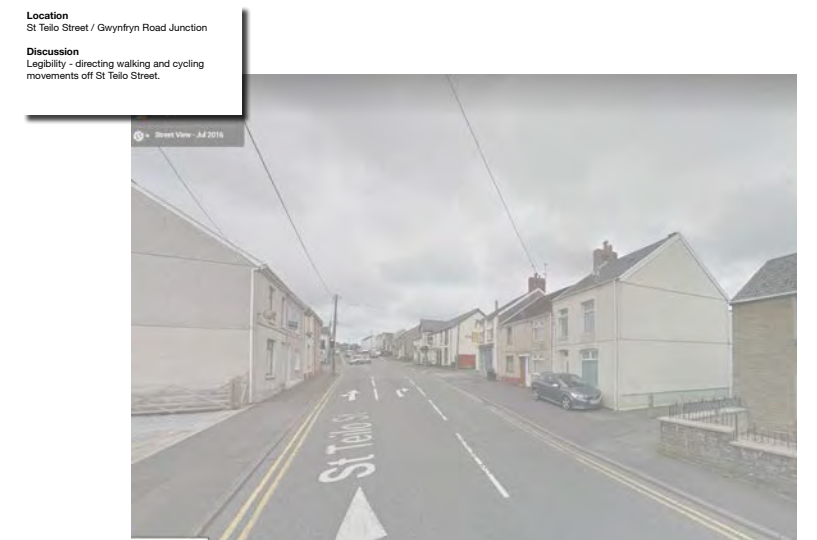
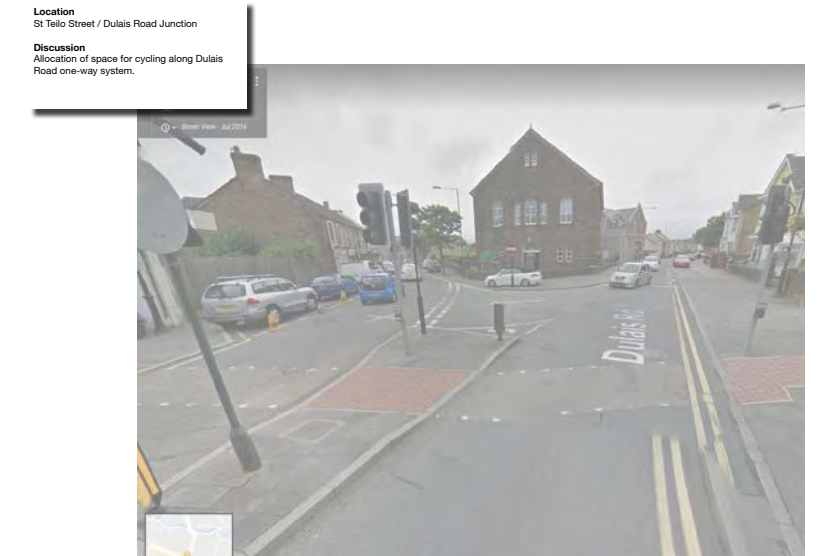
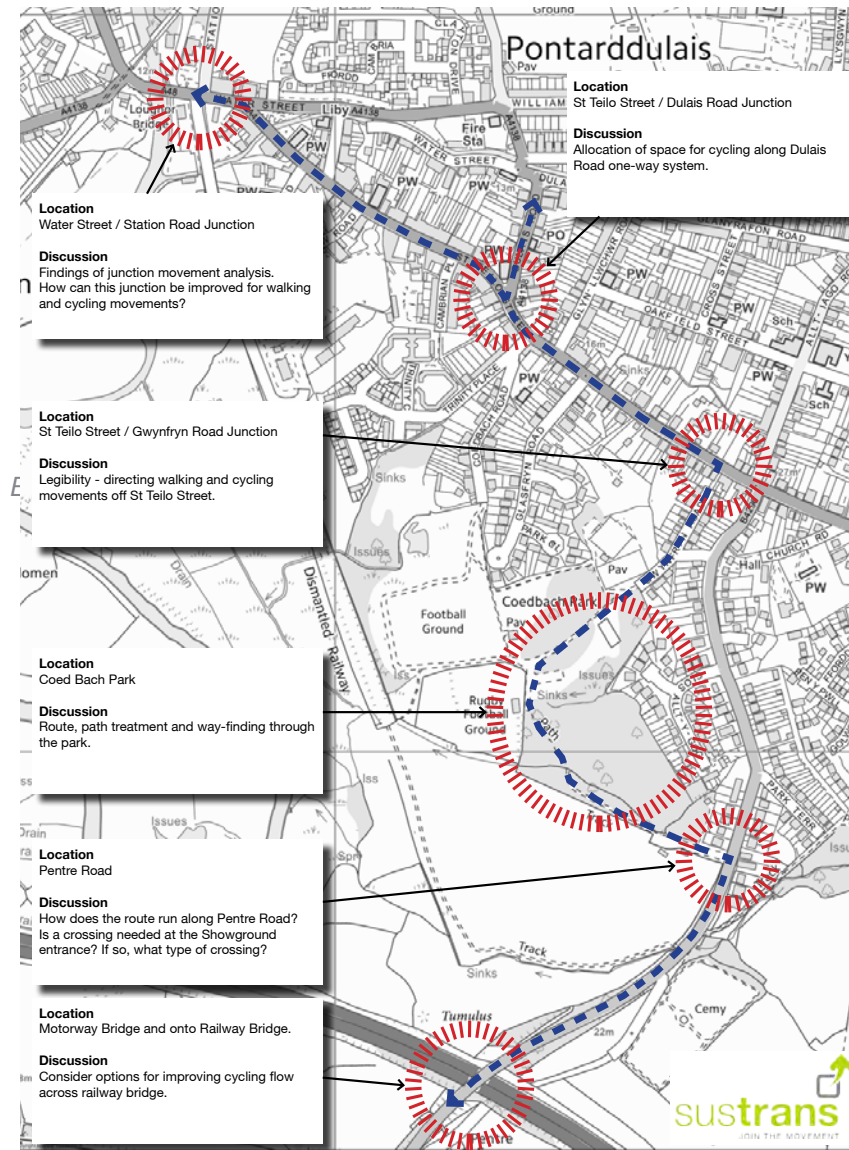
A number of route options had been considered during previous workshops. The broad purpose of the walk was to revisit and consider route development to date. Specifically the group visited the existing railway bridge on Pentre Road, to allow the local authority highways representatives to consider potential traffic management options. They discussed a number of challenges to the development of a quiet route through Pontarddulais town, and met with the owner of Pentre Farm to discuss the potential of routes crossing his land.

Outputs

The meeting highlighted a number of potential route options, each with a distinct set of challenges. There was no clear preferred route alignment, however 2 key actions came out of this meeting:

- Feasibility work should continue to resolve questions around route alignment options
- Further stakeholder engagement will focus on community priorities

Pontarddulais
Route walk and discussion
31st May 2018



Visual aids to support the meeting

4.5 Carnival workshop

Date - 23/06/2018

Number of attendees: 30

The event

The Pontarddulais Carnival is a popular annual event held at Coed Bach Park. Project staff took out a stall at the Carnival as an opportunity to take advantage of the high footfall and discuss the project with the local community.

Approach

Strategic route options suggested by project stakeholders, along with some more detailed design considerations relating to the strategic options, were marked on a large scale map. People were invited to comment on the options, indicating their preferred alignment and whether they agreed with a particular design approach. The purpose was to agree a prioritised route that would then become the focus of further development.

Outputs

The key output from this workshop was that the community would prefer to see a quick commuter route linking Pontarddulais to the wider network, rather than a series of traffic calmed quiet streets through the town. The route would link into Coed Bach Park, and then onto Grovesend via Pentre Road to the south.

LINKING UP PONTARDDULAIS

Routes through Pontarddulais

Using sticky dots, please vote for 1 of the following 2 options for local routes

Blue route

1 Quick commuter route
Fast convenient connections out of town and beyond.

Vote for 1 here

Green route

2 Quiet route through Pontarddulais
Serving local journeys, access to schools, town centre and other local destinations.

Vote for 2 here

Links to Grovesend

Using sticky dots, please vote for 1 of the following 2 options for local routes

Red route

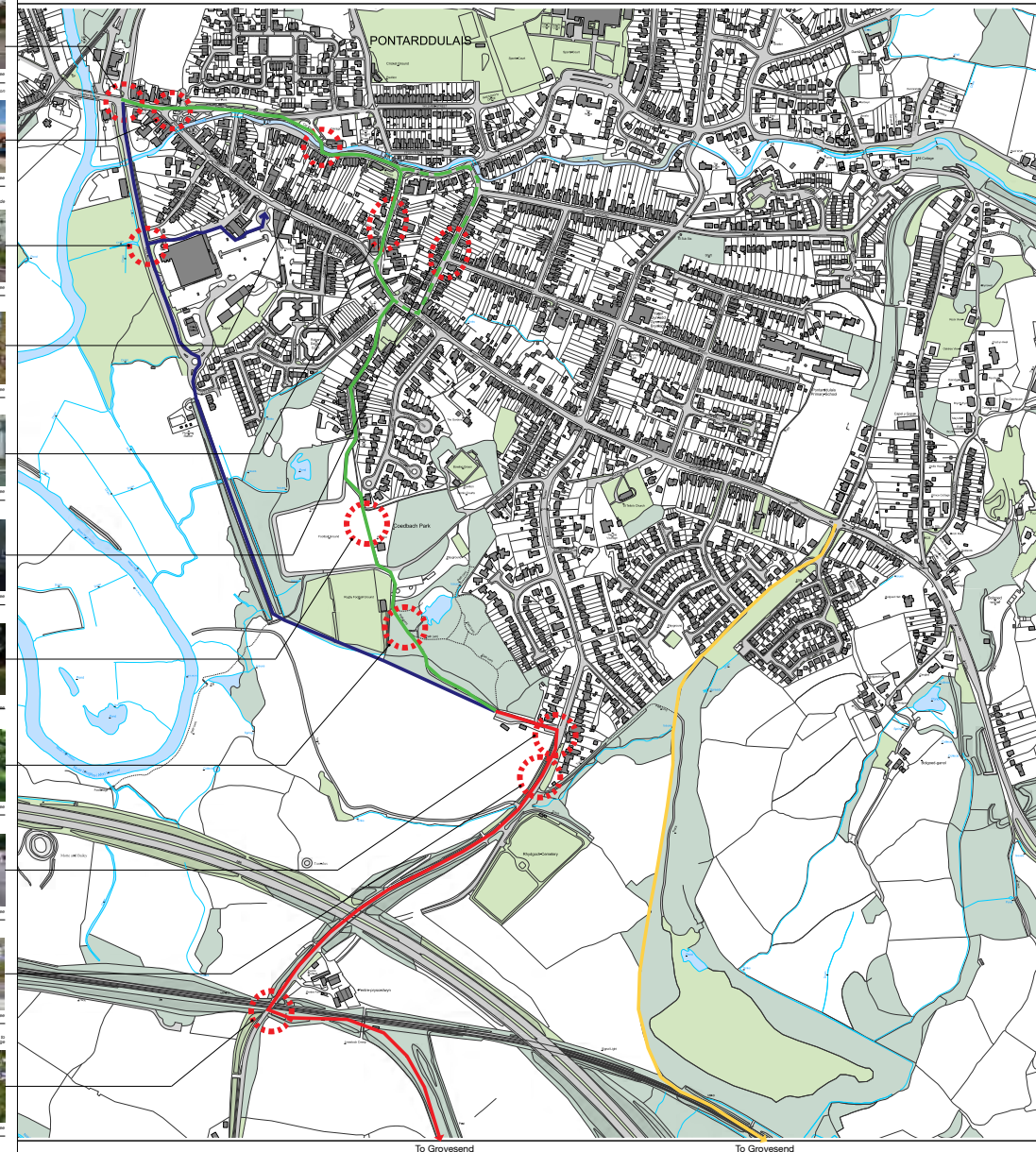
3 Pentre Road route (Recommended)
Accessible route, but with concerns relating to the existing road bridge crossing the railway line.

Vote for 3 here

Orange route

4 Allt-Y-Graban Road route
Uncertainties relating to access to land along the suggested route and final access into Pontarddulais along Bolgoed and St Teilo Road.

Vote for 4 here



Please give us your feedback using the sticky dots supplied

Some questions about you:

Sex
 Male Female

Age
 05-14 15-24 25-34

35-44 45-54 55-64

65+

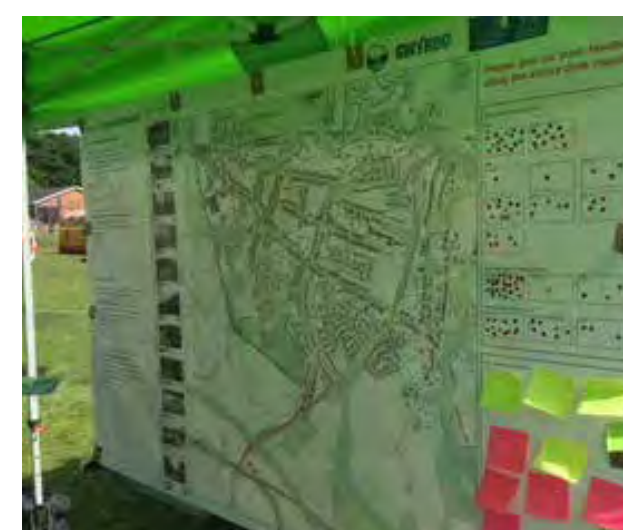
Relationship to Pontarddulais

Resident Homeless Visitor

How often do you cycle?

Frequently Less than once a month Never

Any other comments



Participants at the Carnival workshop

4.6 Coed Bach Park workshop

Date - 16/08/2018

Number of attendees: 20

The event

A mapping workshop was delivered in Coed Bach Park during the school summer holidays, with the purpose of engaging with users of the park to determine a preferred route alignment through the park.

Approach

Using a large scale vinyl map, the workshop aimed to capture preferences for a route alignment through Coed Bach Park. Participants were invited to highlight areas that a route should, and should not travel through, and were provided with pens to mark their preferred route options.

Outputs

Comments and suggestions from participants identified that the preferred alignment for the principle route followed the disused railway path along the edge of the park rather than through the park itself. There was evidence of strong support for signposting the park as a destination, with good access to the route, however questions were raised around issues such as conflict between pedestrians should the principle alignment run directly through the park.

LINKING UP PONTARDDULAIS COED BACH PARK

Choose a coloured & numbered dot

- The route should go here
- The route **not** should go here

Write your dot number & colour on a post-it & tell us about your choice:

Tell us about Coed Bach Park

What animals can you see?	What plants can you find?
What activities do you do?	What groups are active?

Connect the 2 areas - please **DRAW** your preferred route - connecting:
Tidal Reach via Coed Bach Park to Pentre Road



Some questions about you:

Sex

Age

Relationship to Pontarddulais

How often do you cycle?



Participants at the Coed Bach Park workshop



Urban design issues

4.7 Stakeholder workshop

Date - 08/11/2018

Number of attendees: 16

The event

Project staff met with a the local stakeholders group to discuss the outputs of the summer engagement events. The meeting was well participated and this allowed to confirm the local interest and support towards the project. During this meeting, both the link between Pontarddulais and Grovesend and the town centre options were discussed.

Approach

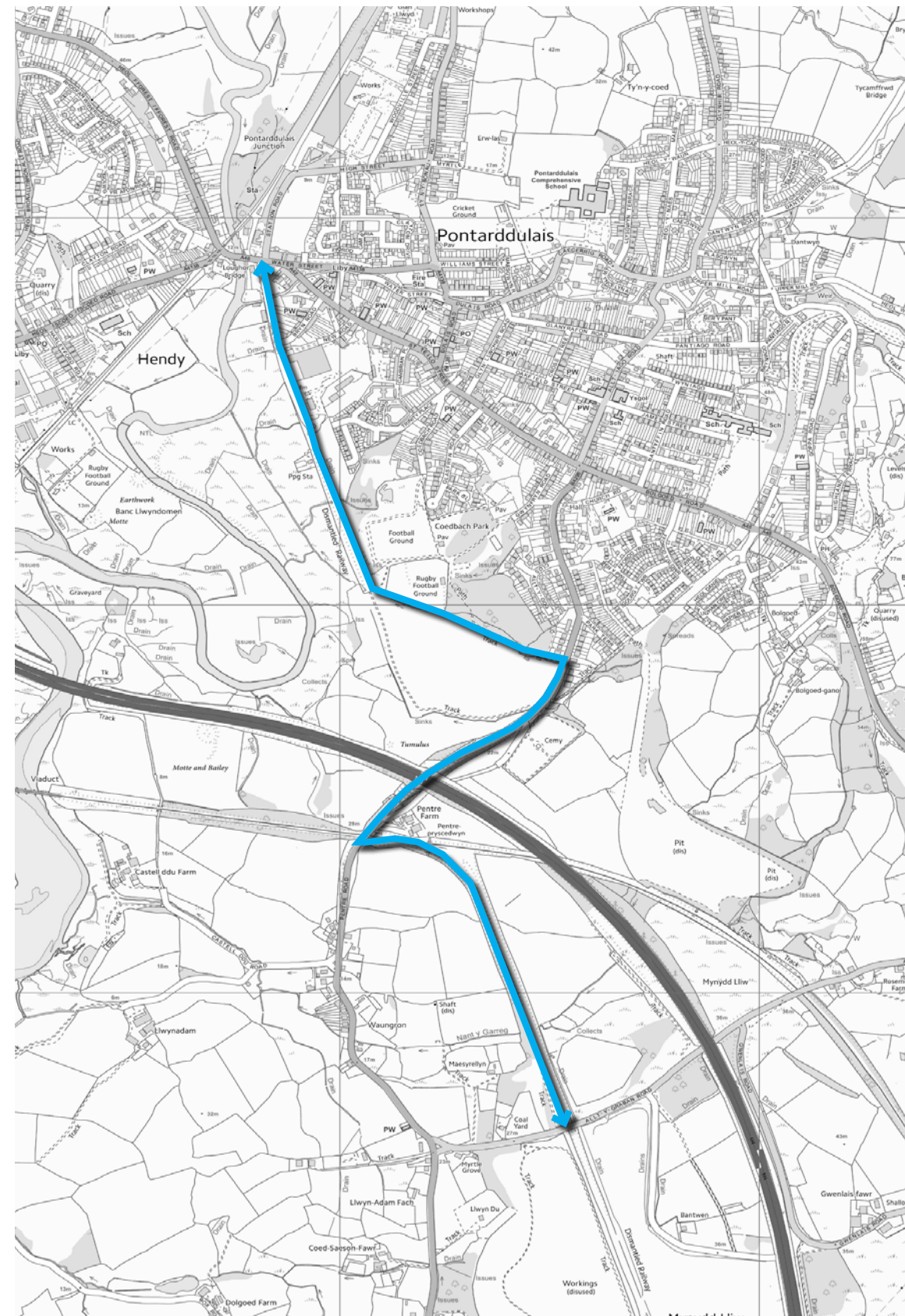
The purpose if this meeting was to summarise the outputs delivered until that point and to collect more detailed feedback in relation with the two town centre options emerged during the community engagement events in the summer.

A workshop activity was then held diving the participants in two groups to look at the purpose of the proposed routes and identify any conflicts and how to address them and any other stakeholders that should be involved as work progresses.

Outputs

Following feedback from the groups Sustrans committed to:

- Take the ideas generated back and start to identify work packages for the delivery of the route
- Look for funding opportunities to deliver the route



Strategy

5. Conclusions

“

It's a great way of staying healthy, as you do not only cycle on the cycle path but you can also walk .

”

Workshop participant



During the 3 years that this project has run, it has continued to develop and build strong relationships with the community of Pontarddlais, highlighting a demand for active travel routes, and developing specific network requirements that meet the need of the community.

Some of the key outputs produced by this project have included:

High levels of project awareness and support within the Pontarddlais community

- A strong feeling of ownership within key local and regional stakeholders, resulting in a sustainable structure that will enable the project to move forward past the end of the Rural Development Fund
- Evidenced community led need for route development and prioritised improvement within Pontarddlais
- An evidenced demand with specific route alignment for a strategic network linking Pontarddlais to Grovesend and the wider area
- Specific economic benefits resulting from investment in improved infrastructure and the resulting increased use of active travel routes to and through Pontarddlais both by visitors and residents

6. Recommendations and next steps



Access to green space with walking routes and cycling routes is vitally important.



Workshop participant



We would recommend that the following actions be prioritised to build on the work delivered through the RDP project, and take the project through feasibility, detailed design and towards a construction phase:

- Final route alignment, delivered through co-design process with key stakeholders
- A network feasibility study of all aspects of the agreed route including land ownership and ecological considerations
- Detailed route design
- Engagement with local schools capturing local travel behaviour, and a safer routes approach addressing specific community needs
- On-going engagement and support for key local stakeholders: Friends of Coed Bach Park group, Wheelrights, the town and County Council, building on the existing strong relationships and facilitating on-going relationships with Swansea City Council
- Prioritised funding applications to Welsh Government by Swansea City Council to support these activities