

Twyn Hywel Energy Park – Update



Twyn Hywel Energy Park

Project Overview

Twyn Hywel Energy Park

The application for Twyn Hywel has been submitted and validated by PEDW.

The examination process was paused in early September to allow responses to a list of queries from the Welsh Government's Planning and Environment Decisions Wales, issued to the Twyn Hywel Energy Park Team, NRW, Caerphilly County Borough Council. This is a common occurrence with Developments of National Significance Applications.

Stakeholders now have an opportunity to have their say on the responses to those queries, ahead of the period for representations closing on 18 December.



Project Overview

Twyn Hywel Energy Park

The project responds to the **Climate Emergency** and will help local communities live modern electric lives, while supporting the Welsh Government's target for electricity to be 100% renewable by 2035.

The Twyn Hywel Energy Park will include up to 14 wind turbines up to 200m total height, generating **92.4MW of clean, green energy, enough to power the equivalent of 81,000 households a year.**

The clean energy generated at Twyn Hywel will help **displace approximately 5.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide**, the equivalent to taking all cars off the road in Caerphilly County Borough Council each year.

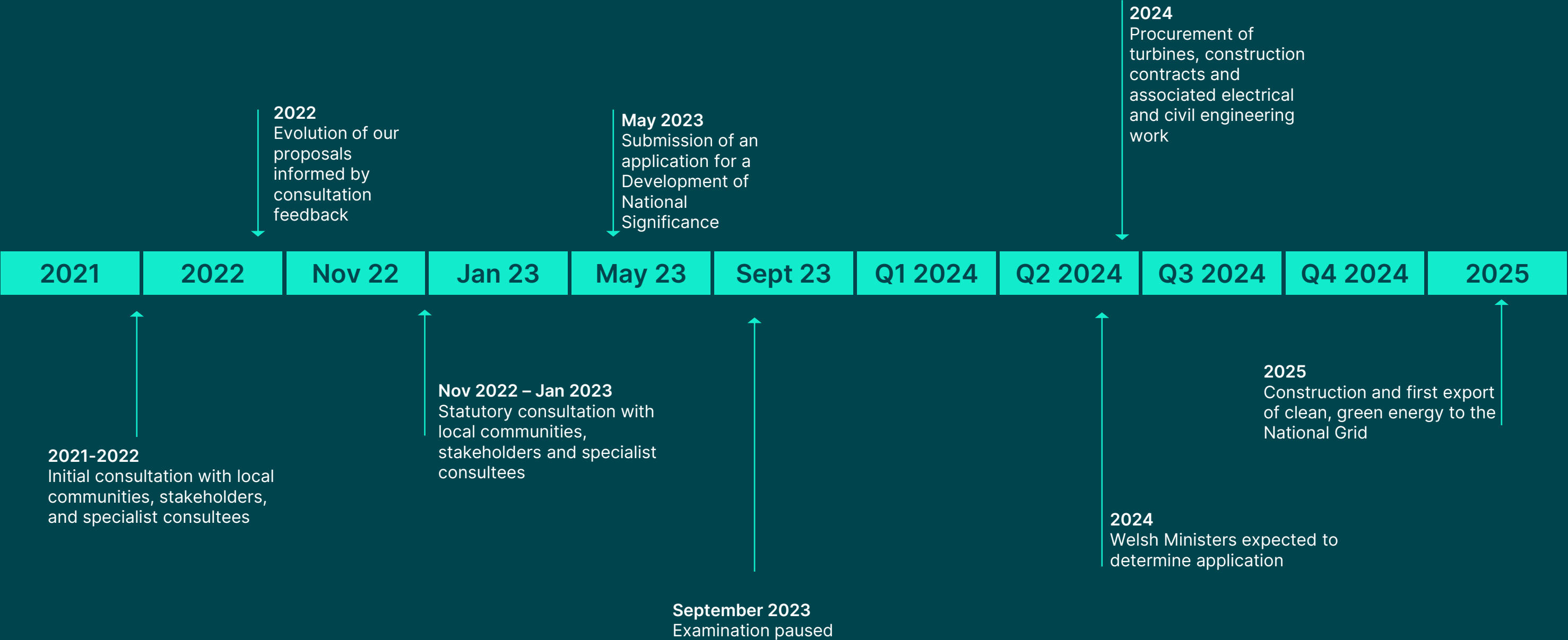
The majority of the proposed Energy Park site sits **within a Pre-Assessed Area for large-scale onshore wind energy** according to the Welsh Government's National Development Framework, Future Wales: The National Plan 2040.

The Twyn Hywel Energy Park will also deliver **significant benefits to the local community**, including an annual Community Benefit Fund in the region of £693,000 – totalling more than £30 million over the up to 45-year operational life of the project.

Our aim is to keep as much of our investment in Wales for the benefit of local communities. Procurement will focus on the local supply chain, and each contract awarded during development and construction will see partners sign up to the Bute Energy Social Value Standard.

Timeline

Twyn Hywel Energy Park



Consultation and engagement

We first consulted on our proposals to generate clean, green energy at Twyn Hywel in 2021 and early 2022.

Feedback received from local communities, stakeholders and specialist consultees helped evolve the proposals ahead of Statutory Consultation that ran from November 2022 to January 2023.

A consultation area was established for communication about the project which was tailored to include the communities closest to the site as well as those areas which could potentially be directly impacted by the project.

The initial and subsequent rounds of consultation events took place in communities including Senghenydd and the Aber Valley, Nelson, Llanbradach, Cilfynydd in Rhondda Cynon Taf, and were advertised throughout the wider area.

Communities could find out more, meet the team, and have their say online, or in person at drop-in sessions.

The design of the Energy Park has evolved through constructive feedback from the local community and other stakeholders, that has seen a reduction in the number of turbines, and a change in location of some of the turbines, to reduce the impact on nearby communities.



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Access from the A472 to North – a bespoke track from the main road, avoiding local road network. Traffic management will be in place throughout the construction period, and open lines of communication with communities surrounding the site.

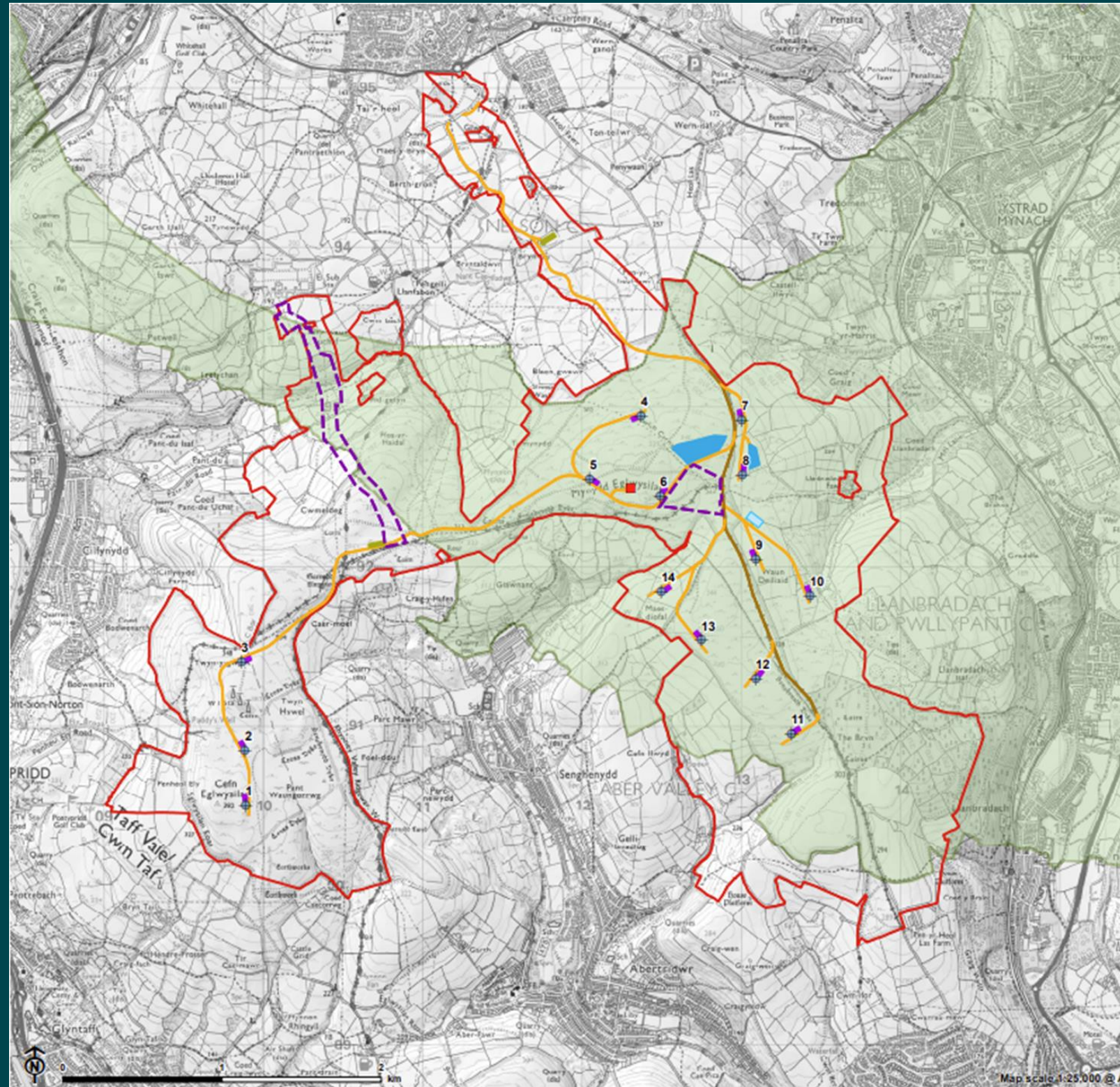
The operational lifetime of the Energy Park is up to 45 years with local teams monitoring and maintaining turbines throughout – the finally selected turbine model will determine final lifetime of the development.

Biodiversity will be enhanced through a Habitat Management Plan, based on site surveys to a 20% net benefit to biodiversity could be delivered on site. This includes benefits to the ffridd habitat, the Marsh Fritillary butterfly, and increasing connectivity of habitats through hedgerow planting.

If consented, the proposals will have a binding commitment to be decommissioned at end of life, and this will be done in the most sustainable way possible. The manufacture of turbine components including blades which can be recycled is increasingly common for modern turbines.

The proposed infrastructure is designed by several engineering teams under the Construction, Design and Management regulations. This includes avoidance of geotechnical features such as historic mine workings and a drainage design implemented which limits water runoff. This is reviewed and signed off by the local authorities.

Lifetime Carbon Footprint calculation includes for the use of the concrete and other materials imported to the site – this means a net CO₂ saving of 5.6 million tonnes of carbon over the lifetime of the development, and a carbon “payback” time of 1.5 years for the development to offset the amount of atmospheric carbon generated by its installation.



- Submission Boundary
- Turbine
- Grid Route Corridor
- Met Mast
- Substation
- Temporary Construction Compound
- Borrow Pit Search Area
- Crane Pad
- New Track
- Upgraded Track
- Pre Assessed Area for Wind Energy (Area 10)

Investing in Communities

Community Benefit Fund totalling £800mn over the lifetime of our projects.

The fund will be linked to the Consumer Price Index to allow for economic inflation and future proof the funding.

Maximising Social Value through focus on the local supply chain, while supporting our contract partners to invest jobs, time, resources and money into the communities near our projects.

Delivering Green Jobs & Skills by working with local education and training providers, the Welsh supply chain and our tier one contractors, to create pathways into the renewable energy industry and build a future green workforce for Wales

Staff Volunteering Policy, supporting our experienced team to volunteer with local organisations and groups matching their specific skills and interest to the needs of our partners.

Sponsorships & Charity Fundraising for partners including rural mental health charities and supporting hospice care, alongside supporting the FAW, Chwarae Teg, Brecon Mountain Rescue and other charities local to our projects.

Our Social Value Portal helping measure the impact of our work and the work of our wider partners both community and commercial.



**Bute Energy
Cymuned**

What are the Community Benefits Themes of focus?



Recreation & Health

To improve access to outdoor recreation, health & wellbeing activity available locally and scope opportunities and partnerships to encourage a diversity of use of our energy parks



Education

To inspire young people to be aware of Climate Change the challenges it presents and the opportunities available to make change for the world and for Wales.

Inspiring a future green workforce for Wales.



Environment & Culture

Identifying opportunities to engage the community in the natural environment, celebrating and promoting local culture, heritage sites and the biodiversity and wildlife locally



Employability

To work with local education, training and employability providers to create inclusive employment pathways and to develop a competent socially conscious Welsh supply chain



Cost of Living Support

To Partner with organisations working to support households affected by the cost of living crisis.

To use Bute Energy resources to explore community energy generation opportunities.



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How will the funding be structured?

- The Community Benefit Fund will be formed as an incorporated charitable entity (the “CBF”) regulated by the Charity Commission. The CBF will be separate to Bute Energy.
- The decision making will be led by a grants panel of individuals who live and or work near the projects, with lived experience of the local investment priorities.
- The CBF will enter into a legally binding and enforceable contract with each Energy Park to accept the commitment to deliver £7,500 per megawatt (index linked) of generating capacity for the life of each energy park.
- There would be a contractual term in any potential future sale agreement which would ensure that the buyer is legally bound to honour the terms of the CBF contract for the duration of the life of each Energy Park.



Community Benefit Fund Twyn Hywel

The £7,500 per MW of generating capacity, paid into the fund is **index linked** and will run for the operational life of the project. The total funding across the 40-year life span **exceeds £30 million**. We have undertaken a combination of Primary and Secondary research to map the needs of the community in great detail – a first of its kind in the UK. This is a live process, capturing the change in needs over time, enabling prioritized investment of this funding for the most prominent social challenges faced in the community.

The current top 5 place-based challenges in Twyn Hywel as an example, have been identified as:

1. Increasing job opportunities
2. Supporting broader opportunities for young people – including our volunteering and social activities
3. Responding to the cost-of-living crisis
4. Addressing loneliness and isolation
5. Historic De-industrialisation



Our approach to mapping

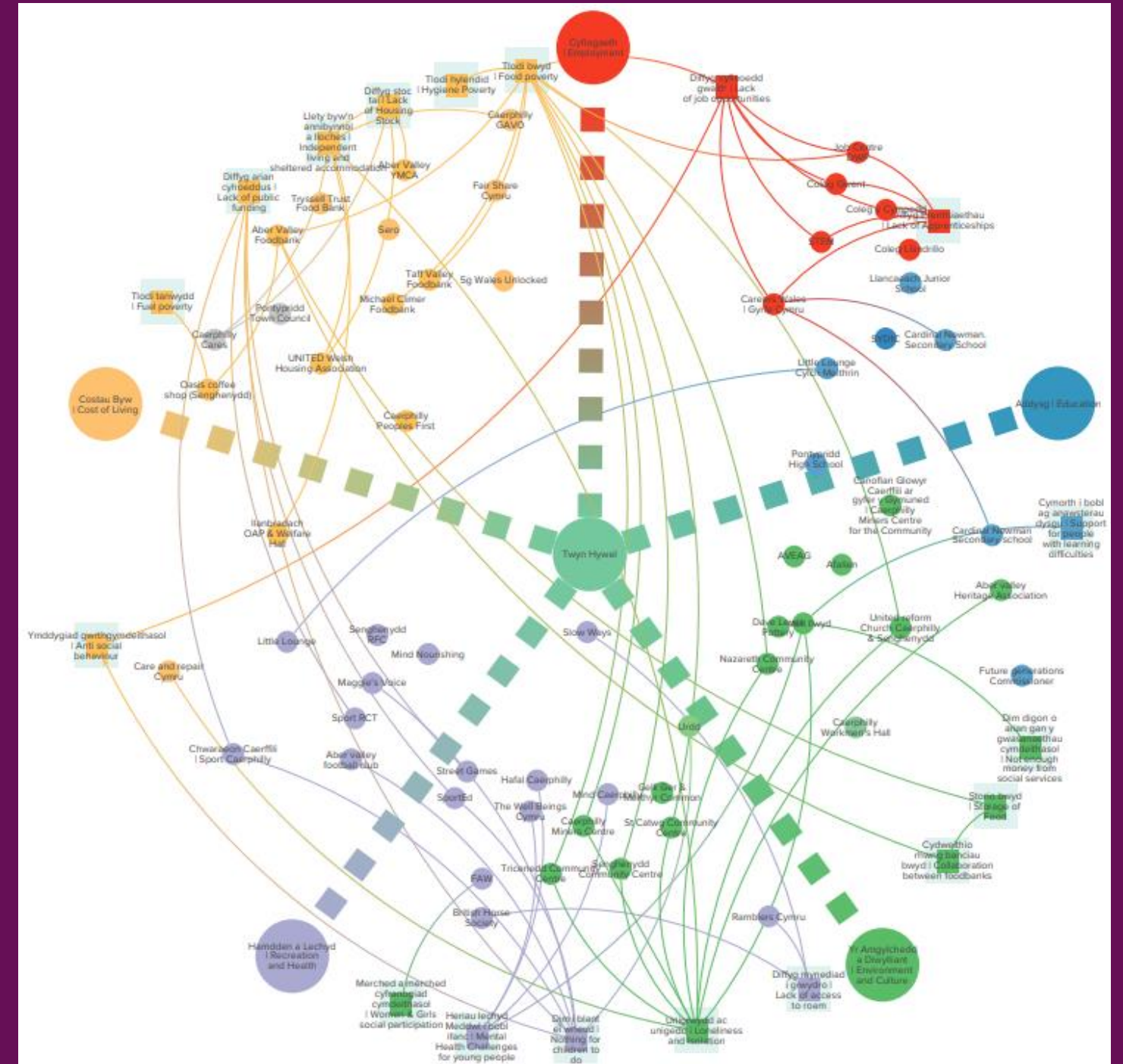
In any community we are engaging with, we need to understand it's needs and aspirations, to best do this we look at each community as a system.

When the community benefit team meets with organisations, we collect qualitative data that helps us to identify context-sensitive place-based challenges.

These challenges are aligned with each community benefit theme and placed on the map.

The team identify how these challenges are interdependent with one another by drawing direct connections between the challenges but also between the community groups whose work is aiming to address them.

Once we have this understanding, we can then ideate on places to intervene or invest in, to enable positive change - the "leverage points."



Diolch
Any questions?