

NOT AN APPROVED ENGAGEMENT PLAN

The ideas and proposals contained in this document are presented for discussion only. They have not been adopted by the Town Council as an engagement process, consultation framework, management plan or programme of work. Inclusion of an item in this document does not constitute approval, a funding commitment or authority to act. Any consultation, changes to the site, expenditure or management arrangements arising from these proposals would require separate formal consideration and approval by the Council.

Community Engagement Ideas

Cae Bodfach has been shaped over many years by a range of community groups and volunteers. It is valued both as a natural habitat and as a space for recreation, walking, play, and informal community activity.

The field was purchased with support from the National Lottery, whose grant outcomes emphasised:

- Increasing community activities and facilities
- Improving access, especially for people with mobility needs
- Expanding volunteering and skills opportunities

These commitments continue to inform how the field should be managed.

BRACE (Building Resilience and Community Engagement) has contributed significantly to environmental work, particularly through the Forest Garden and biodiversity projects. Other groups—including the Llanfyllin Community Initiative and Dog Walkers.

Current Discussion

Recent conversations have focused on how to balance:

- Environmental protection and biodiversity
- Recreational use and community wellbeing
- Access for all ages and abilities
- Historical commitments tied to Lottery funding

- Fair representation of all community groups

There is broad agreement that Cae Bodfach is a **community asset** and should serve multiple purposes. The challenge lies in determining how these purposes can coexist without one dominating the others.

Proposals Under Consideration

A range of ideas have been put forward. These include:

Access Improvements

- A circular accessible path around the field
- Extension of the Wetlands boardwalk
- Improved access to the beach area
- Improved signage and a map including other recreational facilities in town

Recreational and Community Facilities

- A natural-style play area in the dog-free zone
- Continued development of the pump track, which already has planning permission for further phases
- Informal football goals for children
- An interactive trail with educational features, picnic spots and outdoor gym equipment
- An environmentally designed small-scale crazy golf area

Site Management

Cae Bodfach is currently maintained through a combination of contracted mowing, volunteer mowing, and volunteer care of the fruit trees and willow areas. Early work has begun to identify sensitive ecological zones within the site, some of which may contain rare habitats requiring specialist management and protection.

We need to establish a planned, long-term approach that reflects both current demands and anticipated future needs.

Several proposals will require further investigation to understand the financial, practical and environmental implications. Any future developments must also be assessed for their impact on long-term maintenance and management, including mowing requirements, equipment upkeep, and health and safety considerations associated with play or recreational facilities.

BRACE's Position

- The field's value as a developed natural habitat
- The importance of sensitive mowing and protection sensitive ecological areas
- Support for several planned improvements, including the dog-free zone, boardwalk extension and improved access
- The need to respect both biodiversity and the work of volunteers who have shaped the field
- Ensuring any new recreational facilities are appropriately located