

# Porthcawl Town Council building and Community Hwb

grasshopper



BCBC and REACH are delivering a project to produce a feasibility study to show the need for a new Town Council building and community hwb in Porthcawl. This study can be used for a funding application if a site, and funds, become available to develop the plans for a new building.

In late September and early October, a consultation was run for local community groups and the Town Council asking what they would want to see from a new home for the Town Council with a community hwb. There is likely to be allocation within the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Project for community provision.

A summary of the feedback from the consultation is below:

## Porthcawl Today



We asked about Porthcawl today, what activities, amenities and services were currently missing in the town. People felt there was a lack of provision generally and in specific areas for example the provision of medical care, transportation, and education. The absence of specific facilities like swimming pools, secure consistent hire space, storage facilities for items like mobility scooters, splash park/lido, and women's only gym was also reported.

## Uses and Users



We asked about who would use a new hwb, and what the different uses of the space could be. It was suggested that the hwb would be used by a wide variety of groups across Porthcawl and that it should be a space for all. There were also suggestions that it should be used as a space for tourists as well.

In terms of the uses, there were a wide variety of suggestions, including using the hwb as a facility for educational workshops, providing activities that can be easily accessed by those with a disability, the elderly and younger people. It was also suggested that the hwb be used to help local businesses, and as a polling station.

## Access



When considering access, we looked at: the internal access, and the location of the hwb, including its accessibility from the town. Respondents thought the hwb should maintain an excellent standard of accessibility. Suggestions were also given that the facility should have accessible public conveniences and a "changing place", and storage facilities for mobility scooters.

In terms of location, a central location was desired by respondents, ideally near public transport and active travel routes, with parking spaces (including electric charging) provided.

## Design



When looking at design, we split this into feedback on four themes: features; aesthetics/atmosphere; sustainability, materials and build; and features required by Porthcawl Town Council.

In terms of the design of the building, a flexible space, comprised of a large hall surrounded by smaller offices was preferred. The provision of Wi-Fi and storage was also desired. To facilitate events, kitchen areas and large amounts of storage were mentioned. Outside the hwb, respondents requested facilities like a MUGA, an outdoor courtyard, a covered space, green spaces, and that the space is well lit.

In terms of atmosphere, the need for a welcoming space that was accessible to all was desired. Respondents emphasised that the community should feel a sense of ownership and pride in the building. Looking at sustainability, materials, and build, it was suggested that a local workforce should be used, with sustainable materials and eco practices used in construction. With regards to renewable energy, solar panels were mentioned alongside smaller, quiet, wind turbines.

The Town Council requires a Council chamber, as well as private and public offices, giving access to the public.

The final feasibility report will be ready in the New Year. Updates can be found on the REACH website:



[bit.ly/PorthcawlTownCouncil](https://bit.ly/PorthcawlTownCouncil)

