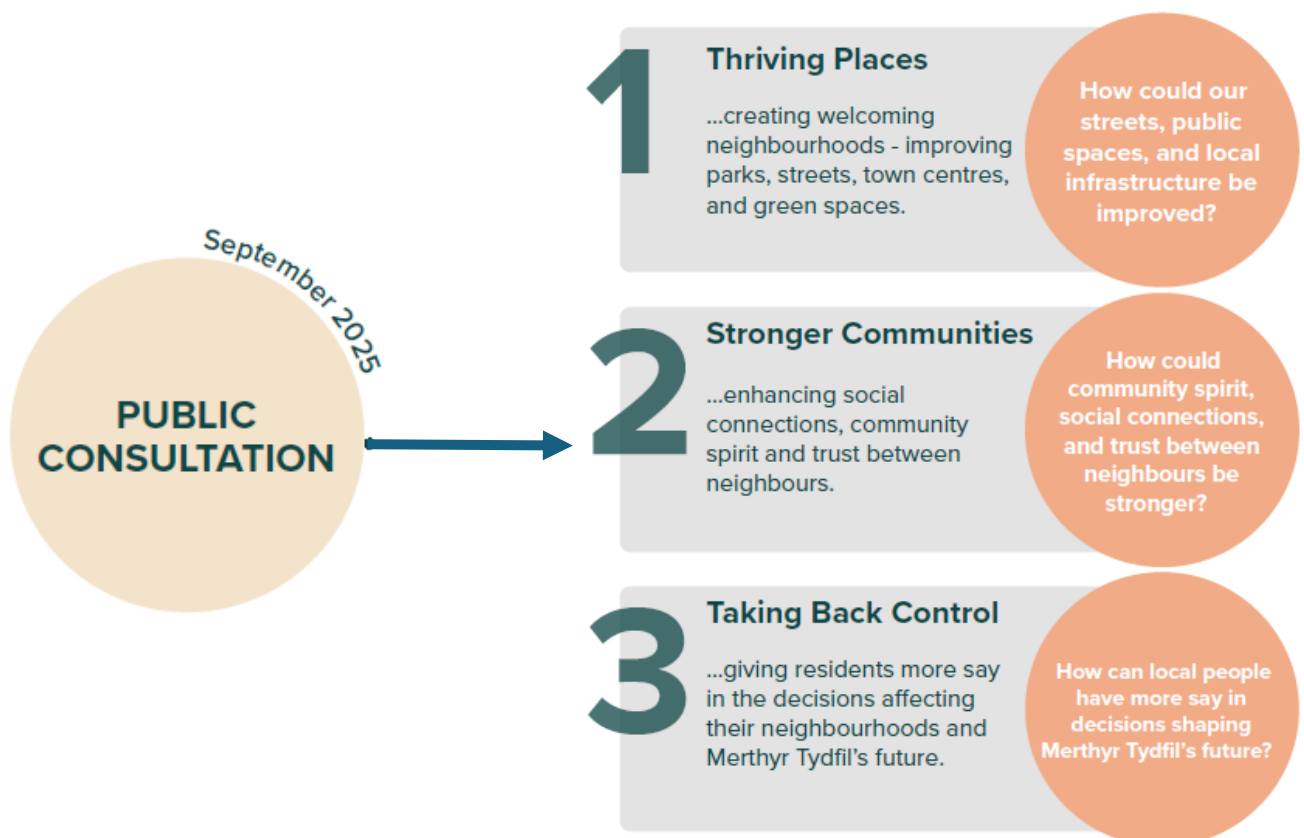




## Consultation Feedback Report:

### Plan for Neighbourhoods Programme

# Shaping the Future of Our Merthyr Tydfil Neighbourhood



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## 1. Introduction

To ensure the development of the 10-year vision is built on lived experience rather than 'top-down' assumptions, in September 2025 consultation roadshows were held within the various locations within the programmes area boundary.

The goal was simple but vital: to have honest, face-to-face conversations about what works in our neighbourhoods and, just as importantly, what doesn't. From the pride felt in local heritage to the daily frustrations regarding high street vacancies and transport links, every opinion shared has been a cornerstone in shaping this strategy. We haven't just gathered data; we have listened to the voices of the people who live, work, learn and raise families here, ensuring that the investment reflects the genuine priorities and aspirations of the Merthyr Tydfil community.

We received a total of 213 responses, demonstrating strong engagement from participants who live and work within the local boundary areas (predominantly CF47 and CF48 postcodes).

The feedback is comprehensive, providing a clear mandate for action across key areas, highlighting an urgent need to tackle economic hardship and security while empowering local people to shape their community's future. The following sections highlight the key findings from this initial, albeit one of many to follow public engagements.

## 2. Consultation Findings: Executive Summary

The community's feedback is synthesized into three core themes: The Crisis, The Vision, and The Delivery, which must form the foundation of the final Regeneration Plan.

### 1. **The Crisis:** Economic Pressure and Safety are Dominant Concerns

Respondents identified severe economic and social strain as the two most critical issues facing the community today:

- **Cost of Living:** The single biggest challenge identified was the continuing rise in the cost of living (64.32%), reflecting widespread financial hardship.
- **Safety and Crime:** Crime / anti-social behaviour (ASB) was the second highest concern (54.93%), closely followed by lack of employment opportunities (38.50%).

- **Core Services Failing:** This security and economic crisis is compounded by poor essential services, with public transport and the ability to get a doctor's appointment ranking as major barriers to quality of life.

## 2. **The Vision:** Regeneration, Heritage, and Empowerment

The community is not only focused on problems but has a clear, powerful vision for what success looks like, demanding a voice in how it is achieved.

- **Mandate for Empowerment:** The strongest mandate across the entire survey was for the public to have more say and influence in local decisions, with 71.36% rating this "Very Important".
- **Physical Transformation:** There is overwhelming support for physical change, with 93.90% rating the improvement of physical infrastructure and public spaces (e.g., parks, streets, town centre) as 'Important' or 'Very Important'.
- **Top Priorities:** When asked to choose their top three, respondents balanced safety and heritage: Maintaining Merthyr identity and heritage (37.26%) and a Vibrant High Street / Feeling Safe (tied at 33.96% each) were the top overall priorities.

## 3. **The Delivery:** Youth, Investment, and Local Hubs

Project ideas provided specific, actionable solutions, emphasizing investment in social infrastructure alongside physical assets:

- **Focus on Youth:** There is a critical demand for more youth provision (clubs, safe spaces, and educational programs) to tackle ASB and equip young people with life skills and support.
- **Regeneration Ideas:** Ideas concentrated on transforming the High Street into a social and economic hub, proposing projects like a food hall/market quarter and an open artist/creative studio to fill empty shops.
- **Support for the Third Sector:** A significant portion of respondents highlighted that key local charities and community hubs (e.g., Twyn Hub, local sports clubs) are operating under strain and require stable, long-term funding to sustain vital services for health and social cohesion.

The consultation was primarily completed by respondents (90.5%) who have lived / worked in the area for a long time, with the highest participation from the 35 to 64 age bracket (61.8%). The feedback largely represents the views of the Welsh/British national identity and the English language preference groups.

### 3. Section 1: Our Neighbourhood Today

The survey highlighted several areas where the community feels their neighbourhood performs well.

#### 3.1 Areas of Strength

The highest levels of agreement were found in areas relating to local services and community groups.

Area of Strength	Agreement Strongly /Agree)
Local community groups and charities provide a wide range of vital services	54.93% (117 respondents)
Our green and public spaces are well maintained and accessible	47.42% (101 respondents)
We have easy access to a wide range of sporting facilities	42.72% (91 respondents)
Walking and cycling routes to public transport e.g. Bus and Rail is good	41.78% (89 respondents)
There are plenty of opportunities to learn new skills that lead to employment	35.68% (76 respondents)

- **Community Support is Strong:** Over half of all respondents (54.93%) agreed that local community groups and charities are a vital asset, providing a wide range of services. This indicates a strong, active third sector.
- **Green Spaces are Valued:** Nearly half of respondents (47.42%) feel positive about the maintenance and accessibility of green and public spaces.
- **Sports Facilities are Good:** 42.72% of respondents agreed they have easy access to a wide range of sporting facilities.

### 3.2 Areas of Weakness

The consultation identified several critical areas where residents feel their neighbourhood is currently lacking. The most concerning results related to safety, public transport, and housing.

Area Needing Improvement	Disagreement (Disagree / Strongly Disagree)
Our communities are safe and secure	62.92% (134 respondents)
There are good public transport modes for travel within and around Merthyr	60.57% (129 respondents)
We have access to support, to reduce our energy costs and make our homes more climate resilient	51.64% (110 respondents)
We have easy access to a wide range of health and wellbeing services e.g. mental health, healthy living	49.77% (106 respondents)
We have access to a good range of shops and services	54.93% (117 respondents)

- Safety is a Major Concern:** This was the single biggest area of concern, with nearly two-thirds of all respondents (62.92%) disagreeing that their communities are safe and secure. Open comments frequently cited anti-social behaviour, drug use, lack of police presence, and the rise in crime as reasons for this feeling of insecurity.
- Public Transport is Inadequate:** Over 60% (60.57%) disagreed that public transport modes for travel within and around Merthyr are good. Comments highlighted unreliability, high fares, and a lack of evening and Sunday services as key issues, particularly for those living outside the main town centre.
- Cost of Living and Climate Support:** Over half of respondents (51.64%) feel they lack access to support for reducing energy costs and making their homes more climate resilient.
- Shops, Services, and Town Centre Decline:** 54.93% disagreed that they have access to a good range of shops and services. Comments frequently referred to the "dying" town centre, numerous empty shops, and the need for significant regeneration and better-quality businesses.

- **Housing Concerns:** A significant number of people disagreed that there is healthy and safe social housing (39.90% disagreement) or a range of market-rate housing (43.19% disagreement), suggesting a need for both affordable and quality housing options.

### 3.3 Key Themes from Resident Comments on Current Neighbourhood

The qualitative feedback from residents strongly reinforced the statistical findings and provided further detail on what is driving the dissatisfaction.

#### Safety and Policing

- **Anti-Social Behaviour:** The most consistent theme was the high level of anti-social behaviour, drug use, and violent crime, which is reportedly moving from the town centre into residential areas.
- **Lack of Police Presence:** Many residents reported never seeing police patrolling their communities or felt that reporting crime was ineffective, indicating a lack of trust in the authorities' ability to address the issues.

#### Transport Infrastructure

- **Unreliable Buses:** Bus services were repeatedly described as "atrocious," "unreliable," and "expensive." The lack of late evening and Sunday services severely restricts the ability of working people to access jobs, training, or leisure activities, leading to social injustice.
- **Inadequate Information:** The new bus station was criticised for a lack of real-time data and staff to provide information.
- **Walking/Cycling Safety:** While routes exist, some residents felt they were unsafe due to speeding cars and issues like litter and dog fouling.

#### Town Centre Regeneration and Economy

- **Empty High Street:** The decline of the town centre, with numerous boarded-up shops and a limited, poor-quality range of retailers, was a major concern.
- **Investment Focus:** Residents called for a greater focus on regenerating the high street by developing out-of-use buildings, increasing accommodation, and attracting better businesses.
- **Local Economy:** There was a desire to invest in a circular economy and support local businesses, rather than external private companies offering minimum-wage jobs.

### Support Services and Skills

- **Accessibility for Workers:** Many services, particularly those for training and support, are held during the day, making them inaccessible to working people, especially those in low-income jobs who need to upskill.
- **Health and Wellbeing:** Significant waiting lists were noted for NHS services, including GP, dental, and mental health.

### 3.4 Conclusion on Current Neighbourhood

The consultation reveals a neighbourhood with a strong foundation in community support, green spaces, and sporting facilities. However, it also highlights critical failures in public safety, public transport, and the state of the town centre.

Any future regeneration plan must prioritise restoring a feeling of safety and security through effective policing and addressing anti-social behaviour. Simultaneously, major investment is needed to make public transport reliable and affordable, and to kickstart the regeneration of the high street to attract both quality shops and new residents via physical improvements and events. Finally, support services and skills training must be made accessible to all, including those who are currently employed.

### 3.5 Biggest Challenges Facing Our Community

This question asked the public to identify the three most significant issues facing their community.

#### 3.5.1 Dominant Concerns

The findings clearly point to three dominant concerns:

Rank	Challenge / Issue	Response Percent	Response Total
1	Continuing rise in cost of living	64.32%	137
2	Crime / ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour)	54.93%	117
3	Lack of employment opportunities	38.50%	82

highlights that the primary concerns for residents are economic pressure, public safety, and local job availability.

### 3.5.2 Significant Secondary Concerns

Following the top three, the next tier of issues suggests deep-seated problems with local infrastructure and essential services:

Rank	Challenge / Issue	Response Percent	Response Total
4	Public transport	30.52%	65
5	Maintaining and growing our local economy	28.64%	61
6	Obesity and Poor health	21.60%	46

These issues demonstrate that poor public transport and the stagnation of the local economy are major barriers to community health and prosperity. The high response for *Obesity and Poor health* also indicates a concern for public well-being that connects to the availability of sporting and health services.

### 3.5.3 Lower-Ranked Issues

While still important, the following issues were selected by fewer than 20% of respondents, suggesting they are not perceived as the most *critical* three challenges:

- Inadequate infrastructure for growing communities: 19.25% (41 responses)
- Poor educational attainment: 15.96% (34 responses)
- Lack of local community led services: 8.45% (18 responses)
- Lack of Active Travel opportunity: 6.10% (13 responses)
- Climate related incidents e.g. flooding/carbon emissions: 6.10% (13 responses)

### 3.5.4 Key Themes from "Other" Comments

The written comments under "Other" reinforced and added nuance to the quantitative findings:

- **Health Access:** Access to mental health services was specifically noted as a significant challenge, reinforcing the earlier data on health service dissatisfaction.

- **Drug Issues:** The issue of drug usage and addictions was highlighted separately, underscoring the intensity of the Crime/ASB problem.
- **Housing and Regeneration:** Comments raised concerns about the impact of Air BnB and HMOs (Houses in Multiple Occupation) on housing availability and the need for affordable housing for young people. There was also a call for investment in cultural heritage buildings like the Red House and Cyfarthfa Castle.
- **Service Capacity:** Some residents expressed concern that immigration is putting a "huge pressure" on already struggling services like GPs and hospitals.
- **Governance:** A general sentiment of "Lack of effort by the council" suggests a need to rebuild trust and demonstrate effective local leadership.

#### 4 Section 2: Priorities for Future Action

Within this section, questions sought to understand respondents appetite for investment and local empowerment in their neighbourhood's future. The results indicate very strong support across all three areas, with a particular demand for increased local influence.

##### 4.1 Thriving Places: Importance of Improving Physical Infrastructure and Public Spaces

Residents overwhelmingly view improvements to the physical environment as critical for the neighbourhood's future.

Importance Level	Response Percent	Response Total
Very Important	65.26%	139
Important	28.64%	61
Neutral / Not Important	6.11%	13

A combined **93.90%** of respondents rated improving physical infrastructure (parks, streets, town centre, green spaces) as 'Important' or 'Very Important'. This aligns with earlier findings that cited the decline of the town centre and issues with the maintenance of some public spaces as major concerns. The message is clear: physical regeneration is a top priority for investment.

#### 4.2 Stronger Communities: Importance of Enhancing Social Connections and Community Spirit

There is significant, support for investing in social cohesion and community building.

Importance Level	Response Percent	Response Total
Very Important	50.70%	108
Important	36.15%	77
Neutral / Not Important	13.15%	28

A total of 86.85% of respondents rated enhancing social connections, community spirit, and trust as 'Important' or 'Very Important'. This indicates strong community appetite for initiatives like local groups, community events, and neighbourly support, which can help counteract the pervasive feelings of insecurity highlighted in section 1 (Crime/ASB).

#### 4.3 Taking Back Control: Importance of Local Influence in Decision-Making

This area received the strongest mandate, showing a powerful demand from residents to be directly involved in shaping the future of their neighbourhood.

Importance Level	Response Percent	Response Total
Very Important	71.36%	152
Important	21.60%	46
Neutral / Not Important	7.04%	15

An overwhelming 92.96% of respondents rated it 'Important' or 'Very Important' for local people to have more say and influence in decisions affecting their neighbourhood. This figure is the highest agreement rating across all importance questions and suggests that respondents feel disconnected from current decision-making processes. Any successful programme must include mechanisms for genuine, robust local empowerment and control.

#### 4.4 Overall Section 2 Conclusion

The results from these three questions establish the foundation for the Regeneration plan:

- **Regeneration is Essential:** Substantial investment in the physical environment is expected and necessary.
- **Community Building is Key:** Efforts to strengthen social bonds will be strongly supported and are crucial for improving the quality of life.
- **Empowerment is Non-Negotiable:** The most urgent requirement is to establish methods for residents to have greater influence and control over the decisions that impact their daily lives.

### 5 Section 3: Potential Interventions for Merthyr Tydfil

#### 5.1 Top 3 priorities for Merthyr

This question forced respondents to prioritise their vision for the future of Merthyr. The results underscore the critical importance of a **safe, economically vibrant, and unique** town.

Rank	Priority	Response Percent	Response Total
1	Maintaining Merthyr identity and heritage	37.26%	79
2	Vibrant High Street	33.96%	72
2	Feeling safe	33.96%	72
4	Being able to get a doctor's appointment	26.89%	57
5	More jobs	23.11%	49
6	Not having to worry about the cost of everyday stuff	21.70%	46

## 5.2 Key Takeaways:

- **Identity and Heritage are Core Values:** The single highest-ranking priority is "Maintaining Merthyr identity and heritage." This suggests that while regeneration is needed, it must be sensitive to and build upon the town's unique history and character.
- **Safety and Economy are Intertwined:** The equally high prioritisation of a "Vibrant High Street" and "Feeling safe" confirms the critical findings from earlier sections of the survey. Residents see the revitalisation of the town centre and a sense of security as foundational to Merthyr's future success.
- **Health and Economics Drive Quality of Life:** The next set of priorities: Access to a doctor, more jobs, and managing the cost of living, highlight fundamental quality-of-life needs that must be addressed alongside physical regeneration

## 5.3 Local Organisations or Groups in Merthyr Tydfil

This question gauged the role of the voluntary sector in delivering neighbourhood improvements and whether they could be better supported.

Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes	34.91%	74
I don't know	58.96%	125
No	6.13%	13

While a majority (58.96%) were unsure, a significant minority (34.91% - over one-third) believe local groups need better support. Given the earlier finding that local community groups are seen as a strength of the neighbourhood, this suggests that current successful groups are operating under stress and could be amplified with better, more sustainable funding.

57 of the 213 completed surveys provided specific targets for support for local groups and organisations, clustering around several themes:

- **Community Hubs and Centres:** Numerous comments specifically named local hubs (e.g., Twyn Hub, Dowlais Community Centre, Willows Centre) as vital organisations that are underfunded and struggling with short-term grants. These hubs are recognised as providing essential lifelines, social opportunities, and support services.
- **Youth and Children Services:** There is a strong, repeated demand for more investment in youth provision, including youth clubs, children's services, and groups like the Merthyr Youth Orchestra. Residents view this as critical to building active citizens and tackling anti-social behaviour.
- **Specialist Support and Charities:** Organisations providing crucial welfare services (e.g., Food Banks, Homeless charities, CAB, and those supporting mental health and ALN groups) are seen as essential but unstable. A call was made for longer-term, stable funding so they are not dependent on intermittent grants.
- **Sporting Clubs:** Local football, rugby, and other sports clubs were highlighted as needing better support and facilities (e.g., all-weather surfaces) to keep children healthy and engaged.
- **Culture and Heritage:** Groups supporting creative, cultural, and heritage sectors were specifically mentioned as needing resources to maintain Merthyr's identity and sense of place.

#### **5.4 Project Ideas and Vision for the Future**

The open-ended responses for project ideas (200 total) provided detailed, actionable insights that align perfectly with the priorities identified in the previous sections. The ideas strongly focus on Youth, Regeneration, Heritage, and Active Travel.

### 5.4.1 Key Themes from Project Ideas

The ideas can be grouped into five dominant themes, showing a clear, unified vision from the community:

<p><b>Youth and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Interventions (Highest Volume)</b></p>	<p>This is the most frequent theme, directly addressing the community's primary concern about safety and ASB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Civil enforcement officers</b> to undertake patrols relating to anti-social behaviour hotspots, enforcement of Public Space Protection Orders alongside car parking contraventions.</li> <li>• <b>Dedicated Youth Spaces:</b> Numerous calls for more support, places to go, and things to do for teenagers/youth to get them off the streets.</li> <li>• <b>Life Skills Education:</b> Specific ideas included youth clubs that teach life skills like financial literacy, budgeting, and responsibility to prepare them for the "real world."</li> <li>• <b>Mental Health Support:</b> Projects for providing essential health professionals in schools and more out-of-school activities for children with ALN and their families (e.g., Spectrum Support Hub).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Town Centre Regeneration and Economic Hubs</b></p>	<p>Investment must be strategic, focused on safeguarding buildings of heritage significance, yet also allowing for new fit for purpose developments and job creation, along with ensuring that the town is clean and has adequate street furniture and amenities.</p> <p>Residents offered specific, creative concepts to revitalise the High Street and local economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Food and Social Hubs:</b> Ideas for a food hall/market space (like Cardiff or Newport) with quality vendors, and a "brewery/food quarter" with a central plaza for socialising.</li> <li>• <b>Creative and Business Spaces:</b> Repurposing empty shop spaces into an Open Artist Studio/Creative Hub for local emerging artists, providing mentoring and a public space for exhibitions.</li> <li>• <b>Derelict Building Transformation:</b> Focus on refurbishing older and derelict buildings (e.g., old government buildings, Red House) for beneficial use rather than demolition.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Active Travel, Heritage, and Tourism</b></p>	<p>Ideas focus on leveraging Merthyr's natural environment and history for both locals and visitors:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Cycling Infrastructure:</b> Projects include a rentable cycle scheme and creating new, safe, car-free cycle/shared-use paths (e.g., Cefn Coed to Garwnant, Summit Centre to Bedlinog) to link the whole valley.</li><li>• <b>Heritage Promotion:</b> Developing a Visitors Information / Heritage Centre to promote tourism, and cultural events like a re-enactment of the Merthyr Riots (1831) linked to a heritage weekend.</li><li>• <b>Unique Attractions:</b> Strong support for the new ski development (Rhydycar West) as a major job creator and footfall attractor.</li><li>• <b>Events:</b> For fostering connections, driving economic growth and creating memorable experiences.</li></ul>
<b>Public Realm and Green Energy</b>	<p>Projects designed to make the town centre more attractive and sustainable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Green Technology Showcase:</b> Using open spaces for attractive "green renewable" show-case areas with solar trees, e-bike charging points, and digital displays.</li><li>• <b>Public Amenities:</b> Investment in basic amenities such as more accessible public toilets, benches, and better cleaning/maintenance of streets and drains.</li><li>• <b>Community Greenery and Watercourses:</b> Projects like planting a Town Orchard for community harvesting / pocket parks and forming local gardening/park maintenance groups.</li></ul>
<b>Tackling Unemployment and Poverty</b>	<p>Ideas for skills and job creation to address the high cost of living:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Real-Life Work Placement Scheme:</b> A real-life work placement programme with a salary subsidy for those struggling to enter the labour market, linking them with training and long-term jobs.</li><li>• <b>Incentives for Employers:</b> Attracting cutting-edge technology employers and supporting local small businesses with affordable units to encourage entrepreneurship.</li><li>• <b>Practical Support:</b> Ideas for healthy cooking skills programmes to help families eat well cheaply.</li></ul>

### 5.4.2 Overarching Section 3 Summary

This comprehensive consultation of 213 residents yields a clear blueprint for the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme in Merthyr Tydfil.

The overwhelming message is that the community wants to be central to the solution. The Plan for Neighbourhoods must empower local people and invest in projects that simultaneously tackle the town's safety and economic challenges while celebrating its unique heritage.

## 6 Section 4: Respondent Profile and Reach

This section summarises where responses came from and who responded, providing context for the feedback received.

### 6.1 Geographic Spread (Postcode)

Most responses came from the core postcode areas covering Merthyr Tydfil PfN Boundary area. However, there were responses from households living outside of the boundary area, yet whom use for example the town centre and or other areas within the eligible PfN boundary area. The distribution is as follows:

Postcode Sector (First Half)	Approximate % of Total	Core Areas
CF47	52.5% (105 responses)	Merthyr Tydfil Town, Dowlais, Abercanaid,
CF48	37.0% (74 responses)	Merthyr Vale, Troedyrhiw, Aberfan, Cefn-Coed-y-Cymmer
CF46	4.5% (9 responses)	Trelewis, Bedlinog
Other CF/SA	6.0% (12 responses)	e.g., CF44, CF37, CF41, SA2

### 6.2 Relationship to the Merthyr Tydfil Area

The overwhelming majority of respondents are directly connected to the area:

- **Residents: 90.50%** (181 respondents)
- **Work here: 33.00%** (66 respondents)
- **Run a business here: 5.50%** (11 respondents)

- **Attend school / college here: 9.00%** (18 respondents)

The consultation reflects the views of the local residential population first and foremost, with significant input from those who work in the borough.

### 6.3 Demographic Profile of Respondents

The demographic data helps identify which groups were most engaged in the consultation.

Demographic	Key Findings (Total Respondents:200)
<b>Age</b>	The 35 to 64 age bracket provided the most feedback, accounting for 61.81% (123 respondents) of all responses. The 45-54 group was the largest single bracket at 21.61% (43 respondents).
<b>Sex</b>	Female respondents formed the majority at 59.80% (119 responses), compared to Male at 38.19% (76 responses).
<b>Gender Identity</b>	95.98% (191 respondents) reported their gender identity as the same as their sex registered at birth.
<b>Ethnicity</b>	The consultation was highly dominated by the White ethnic group, specifically Welsh / English / Scottish / Northern Irish / British at 96.43% (189 responses).
<b>National Identity</b>	Welsh was the dominant national identity at 82.65% (162 responses), followed by British (7.14% or 14 responses) and English (6.63% or 13 responses).
<b>Religion</b>	The majority reported No religion at 56.77% (109 responses), while Christian (all denominations) accounted for 36.98% (71 responses).
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	Heterosexual or Straight accounted for 83.67% (164 responses). Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual individuals accounted for 8.16% (16 responses).
<b>Health Conditions</b>	36.22% (71 respondents) reported a physical or mental health condition lasting 12 months or more.

<b>Impact on Daily Life</b>	Of those with a condition, 35.42% (68 respondents) reported that it reduces their ability to carry out day-to-day activities (either "a lot" or "a little").
<b>Welsh Language</b>	67.19% (129 respondents) do not speak Welsh. Only 4.69% (9 respondents) reported being able to speak Welsh, and 91.62% (175 respondents) reported English as their preferred language.

## 7 Report Conclusions:

The feedback is a powerful and unified statement from the residents of Merthyr Tydfil.

The message for the Plan for Neighbourhoods is clear:

- 1. Immediate Action on Security and Cost of Living:** The most critical priorities are addressing the pervasive issues of Crime/ASB and economic stress (64.32% for Cost of Living, 54.93% for Crime/ASB).
- 2. Strategic Regeneration:** Residents demand physical investment (>93%) that is sensitive to Merthyr's Identity and Heritage (37.26% priority) and focused on creating a Vibrant High Street (33.96% priority).
- 3. Local Empowerment is Essential:** There is an overwhelming mandate for local people to have more control in decision-making (92.96% agree/strongly agree).
- 4. Invest in the Foundation:** Projects should focus on youth provision, local hubs, improved public transport, and job creation, which were consistently highlighted as both critical needs and actionable project ideas.

The feedback gathered through this consultation represents more than just a snapshot of public opinion; it is the starter upon which the regeneration plan is to be built. By going into our communities to hear firsthand what works and what doesn't, we have moved beyond traditional data to capture the lived reality of our residents. However, the Neighbourhood Board recognizes that for this investment to be truly transformative, engagement cannot be a one-time event. We are committed to a "living" strategy, one where the dialogue remains open, active, and influential throughout the entire 10-year lifecycle of the programme.

To ensure the success of Merthyr's programme we will embed a permanent feedback loop, ensuring what we are doing reflects community wants and needs. This ensures that every pound spent is directly tied to the evolving needs of our neighbourhoods, moving us from a model of "consultation" to one of genuine co-production. Our next steps will focus on turning these insights into the first four-year Investment Plan, ensuring that the "quick wins" identified by the public are delivered with transparency and pace. We are not just building a plan for Merthyr Tydfil; we are building a partnership with its people to ensure that this decade of investment delivers a legacy of pride, safety, and prosperity for every ward in the borough.

