

# PROJECT: COMMUNITY MILES IN THREE VILLAGES IN LLANGOLLEN RURAL

APPLICANT:

LLANGOLLEN RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL



STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED  
40



LOCATION  
LLANGOLLEN RURAL, WREXHAM



TOTAL PROJECT VALUE  
£43,183.56

## GREEN COMMUNITIES FUND OVERVIEW

The Green Communities fund, delivered by rural development agency Cadwyn Clwyd, aims to support improvements to outdoor community activities and infrastructure.

Supported through the Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing grant, 30 local areas in Denbighshire, Conwy, Flintshire, and Wrexham have been given support to transform their outdoor community spaces for wildlife to thrive and to create desirable places to live, work and play.

Some groups opted for funding for renewable energy systems, such as solar installations, to reduce carbon emissions and help reduce their fuel bills.

This project has received a contribution from the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) which provides aid for innovative, sustainable, environmental projects, that involve local communities in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).



## PROJECT SUMMARY

Cadwyn Clwyd has supported Llangollen Rural Community Council to improve the accessibility of footpaths in Froncysyllte, Garth, and Trevor, to encourage outdoor walking in the villages.

The council, which oversees approximately 800 homes, started working with Cadwyn Clwyd in October 2022, using its support to liaise with landowners and contractors to renew the paths.

## OBJECTIVES

The council aimed to enhance one trail in each village so residents could better make use of the walking routes in their communities, in addition to promoting the area to tourists visiting the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.

Council member Keith Sinclair, who has been working with local stakeholders to update the paths, said:

“Inclusivity for visitors and residents was front of mind in the planning process, particularly so we can bridge the gap with the older demographic, encouraging them to feel more included in their communities, and continue to be active.

“The aqueduct is already well visited, so we hope these improvements will allow more people to explore the local nature routes and the three villages.”



## ACTIVITY

Updates were made by replacing stiles with gates, fixing the steps on paths, and removing obstructions on the routes to accommodate varying abilities.

Significant improvements have been made to rights of way, including extending flights of steps on footpaths in both Garth and Froncysyllte.

Online and printed maps, known as Community Miles, were created as part of the scheme to detail each footpath, its level of difficulty, and nearby cafes.

They were based on a former template to showcase walks in Denbighshire and Wrexham and have been rolled out to promote outdoor leisure, as well as increase tourism in the villages.

In addition, to preserve the area's industrial past, bilingual information panels and audio posts have been installed to highlight local historic sites in both Trevor and Froncysyllte.

One location which has benefitted from these updates is the Cross Street aqueduct in Froncysyllte, bringing attention to a turning circle, which was used to turn horse-drawn trucks, carrying goods down to the canal.

Keith added: "The scheme has been a fantastic way to bring attention to these villages, their surrounding natural beauty, and the history which otherwise could be overlooked."

**"WE HOPE ENCOURAGING VISITORS TO TAKE PART IN THE WALKS WILL IN TURN, INCENTIVISE VISITS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES, WHILE ALSO PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR COMMUNITY."**

**- KEITH SINCLAIR**



## OUTCOMES

With the project in its final stages of completion, the community council has already received positive feedback for improving accessibility on the routes.

Keith added: "The support from Cadwyn Clwyd has brought our plans to life and through the organisation's guidance, we could further understand who we needed to approach for help with refurbishing the paths.

"The team outlined what expertise would be required for each stage of the upgrades, giving us insight and the funding to speak to the right people, which also saved us some time."

*This project has received funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.*