



**Invest Local
Maesgeirchen**

MaesNi

Driving Change

Plan 2

November 2021

Contents:

Section	Page number
1. Background - Community Profile	3-6
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction• Community buildings and facilities• Community groups and activities• Key facts about Maesgeirchen	
2. The story so far... what's happened? (Review)	6-11
3. Plan proposal and rationale	12-13
4. Budget	13-14
5. How will we measure if it's working? (Evaluation)	15
6. Appendix 1 – full MaesNi review	16-24
7. Appendix 2 – COVID-19 response	25-26
8. Appendix 3 – example update of the PRO-TECT hub pilot	27-28
9. Appendix 4 - Communications Plan	29-31

1. Community Profile: Maesgeirchen

Introduction

Maesgeirchen & Tan y Bryn is a large housing estate on the outskirts of the University City of Bangor, in the county of Gwynedd, North Wales. It is effectively a cul-de-sac – one way in and one way out, with a physical clearly defined boundary.

Community buildings and facilities

- Ysgol Glancegin
- PMP office
- MATRA office (home to MaesNi)
- Youth Centre
- Ty Cegin and garden
- Hive (Community) Garden
- Eglwys y Groes
- Tan y Bryn and Min Y Ddôl football pitches
- 3 x play parks (including new play park – Fun Zone)
- Allotments
- Afon Cegin
- 2 x newsagents, inc. Post Office
- Fish and Chip shop
- Launderette
- Deli
- Florist

Community groups and activities

Running out of these buildings are the following groups and activities:

- Maes y Bryn FC
- Eglwys Y Groes
- PMP
- Stitch and Bitch
- Boxing Club
- Majorettes
- Allotments
- Youth Club
- MATRA
- Fastrack
- Adra - housing association drop in sessions and 2 Wardens
- Local Councillor (NP) drop in at PMP offices
- Older People's Lunch Club
- Cylch Meithrin Ysgol Glancegin
- Ysgol Glancegin's school council
- Governors Board
- Flying Start – parent and baby and toddler groups
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Communities for Work
- Wild Elements
- Brownies and Rainbows
- Messy Play at the Church
- Show Zone (performing arts for children)
- Letters Grow (rap project with children and young people)
- Community football
- Hive caff
- MaesNi
- Community Environment and Gardening group
- Well-being walk group
- DWP back into work and benefits advice
- iCan – mental health and well-being support

Key facts about Maesgeirchen 2021

Population: 2,600; the age of people in Maesgeirchen is generally younger than the Welsh average.

Housing: There is less housing in disrepair compared to the Welsh average, although houses are more overcrowded. 33% of homes are privately owned (about half the Welsh average). Around half of homes are socially rented.

Transport: 41% of people have no access to a car.

Access to services: There is closer access to important services such as shops, post office, library, sport facilities, and the GP surgery compared to the Welsh average.

Poverty: Around 30% of people live in poverty (23% is Welsh average).

Child poverty: 35% of children live in poverty.

Availability of broadband: Unlike some parts of Wales, Maesgeirchen has full access to broadband.

Environment: The quality of the local environment is good, for example, with good access to green spaces.

Crime: Crime rates are higher than the Welsh average mainly due to anti-social behaviour and violent crime.

Health: The health of residents is poor with higher rates of cancer and mental health conditions compared to the Welsh average.

Education: Although attainment at primary school is similar to the Welsh average, the number of people who go on to higher education is far lower than the average in Wales and Gwynedd.

Employment: 32% of working age people are economically inactive in Maesgeirchen compared with 27% in Gwynedd. Many people in Maesgeirchen work in elementary occupations (cleaning, delivery and packing), around twice as many as the Welsh average.

Language: 50% of people in Maesgeirchen can speak Welsh; across Wales the figure is 19%.

2. The story so far... what's happened?

Between August and October 2016, a consultation process was held in Maesgeirchen. During this time and at additional events in June and November, the aim was to find out what mattered to people locally. Through this, approximately 120 questionnaires were completed by adults, and 90 child-friendly forms were produced for a Fun Day.

This included asking people what is important to them, what they already enjoy about Maesgeirchen and what they would like to improve.

We took all the individual responses to the questions and grouped people's comments into common categories. Below are the 5-6 strongest themes that came out of the consultation in order of priority.

What's good about living in MaesG?

- Community Spirit
- Access to Friends and Family
- Surrounding area
- Local Shops
- Events/activities/groups
- Unstaffed play provision

What would improve life in MaesG?

- Community Centre
- Events/activities/groups
- Facilities/Activities for Adults and Older People
- Provision for Children
- Provision for Teenagers
- Traffic Management

What's important to MaesG?

- Sense of safety
- Community Spirit
- Access to friends and family
- Community Centre
- Looking after the estate – green spaces, buildings, facilities

Using action planning sessions (based on the above consultation findings), the steering group then created a vision for the Invest Local programme and a set of priorities to form Maesgeirchen and Tan Y Bryn’s first Driving Change plan (see below).

It’s worth stating here that in terms of the below priorities, it was very clear from the initial meetings and consultation that the community were not happy about the recent loss of 2 community spaces. This included the use of Ty Cegin as a community centre-type facility that local groups and residents could use to meet and rent for parties etc., and the social club (which had been sold for development). As a result, existing groups (including sports clubs) were struggling to have an adequate, appropriate, and welcoming space to meet in, and space for the development of activities was very limited.

The other key message was a lack of trust and confidence, and some scepticism from residents to get involved and invest their time in the programme, hence priority 2 & 3 below.

VISION

Maesgeirchen & Tan Y Bryn will be a proud, confident, and more sustainable community. Maesgeirchen & Tan Y Bryn will work together towards a safer, healthier and more prosperous place to live for all, by creating a better environment where community spirit is strong.

Priorities	Linked to which part of the vision
1. Developing a community hub/centre	a) A proud, confident, and more sustainable community b) Creating a better environment where community spirit is strong
2. Developing community spirit (pride in the estate and activities to build and maintain interest and involvement)	a) A proud, confident, and more sustainable community b) A safer, healthier, and more prosperous place to live for all c) Creating a better environment where community spirit is strong
3. Communication and publicity	a) A proud, confident, and more sustainable community b) Working together

The steering group submitted the above as a 2-year plan in 2018, and subsequently added a 1-year extension in 2020 to be able to continue to employ the staff who were supporting lots of COVID response activities.

So what's happened during the three years of that Driving Change Plan?

Last July MaesNi held a review of their existing plan, to enable them to plan for what next in a second plan.

1. Developing a community hub/centre

Once the community development worker came into post, they were able to dedicate time to:

- Consult with residents – what the community wants/the 'wish list'
- Negotiate & consult with other stakeholders and partners (e.g. organisations and agencies) – what they want, what the community wants from them, and how it could all fit and work together
- Agree commitment from partners
- Agree a shared vision
- Agree ~£400,000 from MaesNi, ~£500,000 from Gwynedd Council
- Agree project management from Gwynedd Council, with MaesNi input and weekly check-ins
- Agree communications between steering group, residents, project board
- Draft a timeline for the project
- Include childcare/nursery possibility as part of the project
- Support the commissioning and delivery of an architectural feasibility study

A business feasibility study is now in the process of being commissioned which will further help inform decision-making on the centre/hub. This decision-making will involve further consultation with residents, and information sharing and discussions on governance models, options, and applying for match and other additional funding.

A big recent development is securing a temporary lease with the Local Authority to have keys to the Youth Centre building on the estate, for access for part of the week. This will provide an immediate space that groups can access. It's also one of the two potential sites for this development, and it's hoped that trying this out will help inform decisions about the new hub/centre.

2. Developing community spirit (pride in the estate and activities to build and maintain interest and involvement)

As mentioned previously, trust and engagement had been highlighted as challenges on the estate, along with a desire to improve and maintain the local environment. In response to this, the steering group included this priority with the following actions in their first plan:

- The employment of 2 staff to build trust, engagement, and ownership of the programme by facilitating and supporting community activity.

- Refurbishment of a central Play Park – with the aim of demonstrating to residents that they were being listened to and things would happen, and in turn build some trust, showing that Invest Local is a programme worth engaging with.
- Local community organisation Partneriaeth Maesgeirchen Partnership (PMP) has also been supported. The steering group has covered PMP’s core costs so they could continue and have some breathing space to look for and hopefully secure a sustainable funding source.

The last two bullet points (above) have been completed - PMP still has challenges in terms of securing a sustainable income but is still going, and the Play Park, despite long delays, has been built. Part of the hope with the Play Park project was that it would be a tangible project that could be done relatively quickly (in comparison to the much longer-term project of a community hub/centre), to help build trust that things were going to happen with the Invest Local programme. Unfortunately, there were a lot of delays with the Play Park project due to 4 organisations being involved in various aspects of ownership and maintenance of the Play Park (2 housing associations, the Local Authority, and the local city council), and the challenges of getting them together to agree and make decisions. However, with persistence from steering group members (council officer in particular) and local councillors, an agreement was finally agreed, and the Play Park was completed in Summer 2020. The park is well used and liked locally (local children were involved in its design). Maintenance issues are sometimes raised in steering group meetings which is to be expected due to high usage, but this is then resolved with the relevant responsible body as set out in the agreement.

In terms of the first bullet point - employment of staff to build trust and engagement - this has been very successful (see Annex 1 for further detail), and includes:

- an affordable fruit and veg scheme (started during lockdown and ongoing),
- a community nursery project,
- ‘Growing for Change’ Gardens (in partnership with North Wales Recovery Community at Penrhyn House),
- the Hive Caffi (self-support group),
- making and maintaining connections and links with agencies and organisations working on the estate,
- activities, training, and trips (as requested by residents),
- events and groups supported (financially and/or practically),
- support hub (PROTECT) pilot project in response to COVID-19 (emergency food, fuel, digital, financial, and mental health support in partnership with the Local Authority and Health Board)
- supporting the environment group to improve and maintain green spaces, this includes:

- Green space behind Ty Cegin to grow food
- Adopting grassed areas to develop herb/wildflower areas, hedges, and copses of trees
- Friendship benches
- Youth club garden
- Memorial Garden
- Improving access to the woodland
- Glantraeth entrance and entrance to the estate
- Plas Hedd dementia garden
- Wildflower meadow
- Pond clearing and restoring old raised flower beds with the allotment group
- School sessions and school ECO club

The challenges have included 3 changes of staff member in the environmental community development focused role, in part due to personal circumstance, impact of lockdown, and difficulty in recruiting. Thankfully this seems resolved for now with the current post holder having hit the ground running and establishing himself well in the community. The other main challenge of course has been coronavirus!

COVID-19 has of course put a halt to engagement activities, which had really started to build trust and engagement pre-pandemic. COVID-19 also meant a halt in the development of the community space as energies had to be focused elsewhere. However, the silver lining to this has been the community response to the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, which has been outstanding.

Maesgeirchen as a community and MaesNi as a point of co-ordination and support for volunteers, activities, and funding, really came into its own and shone during the height of the pandemic and high-level lockdowns.

The pre-existing links and relationships established (by volunteer residents and MaesNi staff) before the pandemic meant that Maesgeirchen was able to respond swiftly and effectively to support those in need with essentials, and some of this is still ongoing. This has included reaching the most vulnerable by working in a supportive and non-judgmental way that trusted residents to know what was needed. It has included (and see Appendix 2 for further detail):

- Helpline & matching volunteers (food, prescriptions, shopping, crash-fund)
- Supporting other ideas from residents (fun activity packs)
- Supporting groups & partners (Soup Squad, Penrhyn House, food boxes, boxing club, Hive Caffi)
- Secured funding to employ staff (Penrhyn House) to take on the food
- Funding for food etc. and food donations

- Sharing positive stories
- Engaging volunteers and residents & other partners
- Over £50,000 funds raised

As a group (overall), MaesNi has also adapted very well to meeting on Zoom, continuing to meet monthly as a group, with staff and working groups meeting more regularly. We have managed to have some face-to-face meetings and sessions when it has been possible, appropriate, and safe. Similarly, engagement activities are resuming as and when possible.

MaesNi is also, having been asked by the Local Authority, hosting the **PROTECT pilot project**. This is a support hub project in partnership with the Local Authority and the Health Board, funded by the Welsh Government, and is in response to the effects of COVID-19. The pilot is looking at how to continue the additional support that has been available during the health pandemic, and how to embed this and make it sustainable. It offers financial help with food, fuel, digital, financial, and mental health support, and covers 12 hours of the MaesNi's staff time each week.

MaesNi felt that the funding and aims of this project could support residents with support they've been asking for since before the pandemic, and also support building relationships, trust, and engagement with residents. Its 6 months will run until the end of the year, and it looks likely there will then be an extension. The pilot comes with its own evaluation structure with pilots in different areas adopting different approaches, but does allow MaesNi to feed in learning from the initial COVID-19 responses (see Appendix 3 page 29 for further detail). Their very successful response is in part why they have been asked to host this pilot, along with a strong working relationship with a specific key individual within the Local Authority who is open to new ways of working and is very keen to see things work in Maesgeirchen. The group are also hopeful that all this helps to support and encourage more residents to come forward to be more involved in the community centre/hub project.

3. **Communication and publicity**

With the highlighted lack of trust the steering group is very aware of the need for clear and transparent communication. Pre-pandemic the group had used the local community newsletter as a space to share updates, but this is yet to resume since coronavirus hit. Facebook (for those online) is popular as a form of communication and MaesNi has a well-used Facebook page since the employment of the community development worker, and this has been maintained during the pandemic.

The group are planning a newsletter now to share and celebrate what's been achieved during the time of the first Driving Change plan, and what's next. As part of the review process they have recently taken part in two communications sessions with the BCT

Communications Officer to develop a communications plan for the next stage of their journey. See Appendix 3 for Communication Plan.

3. Plan Proposal & Rationale

Having reviewed the existing vision and corresponding priorities, it was evident to the group that they are very much ongoing and relevant. As a result, MaesNi proposes a 3-year plan to continue the ongoing work on all 3 priorities:

1. Developing a community hub/centre

This work will continue for at least the next 3 years, and potentially longer. The group plan to take part in a sustainability session, which will focus in part on what happens with the hub/centre once built. The planned business feasibility study will obviously be key to this discussion. They are potentially 'ear-marking' most of the remaining budget (£400-450,000) for the hub/centre, whether this is for capital or revenue spend in regards the hub/centre but will come back to BCT with confirmation of this once they are further along with the process and need to start accessing these funds. To action the above they will continue to employ the community development worker to push forward this project.

2. Developing community spirit (pride in the estate and activities to build and maintain interest and involvement)

As evident from the review in July, a lot of engagement work had happened pre-COVID, and has begun to restart now with restrictions easing. MaesNi members feel very strongly that they want to see this continue, to continue to build engagement, involvement, volunteering, and ownership. The group is very conscious that this will be key to the success of any community hub/centre, and that at the moment there is a lack of confidence and trust from residents to come forward to be involved in any decision making and taking responsibility, for example as steering group members and/or the governance of a hub/centre.

They are very pleased with the progress that the staff have made in building a culture of community involvement and ownership and see it as essential to allow them more time to continue to build on this. For these reasons, they will continue to employ the staff, and have included a £50,000 budget for activities (with the caveat that if other funding streams are available to fund activities, these will always be accessed first if possible).

3. Communications – getting the message across – wider and better

MaesNi realise that clear communication on what they are doing is very important to building and maintaining trust and support from the rest of the community, hence their desire to continue to have this as a key priority and the recent communication workshops to formulate a clear plan of actions (see Appendix 3 for plan). They are putting in a budget of £9000 (£3000 per annum) to achieve these actions.

Reviewing the plan

We will review the plan yearly to monitor and evaluate progress and developments.

BUDGET (overall):

MaesNi Driving Change Plan 2	
Money left in the pot (inc. ~90,000 underspend)	705,114.30
Community development worker (Mantell Gwynedd)	83,382.76
Environmental community development worker (Wild Elements)	80,958.04
Community hub/centre - amount provisionally earmarked - tbc	400,000.00
Activities/events/projects	50000
Communications budget	9000
TOTAL	623,340.80
Fundholder fee @ 5%	31,167.04
TOTAL	654,507.84

Breakdown of staff costs:

Salary and Management Costs Part Time Project Worker @25 hours per week			
Community Development worker	Dec 2021-22	Dec 2022-23	Dec 2023-24
	Mantell Gwynedd		
Salary	18,292	18,841	19,406
NIC National Insurance Contributions	1,423	1,505	1,590
Pension	1,829	1,884	1,941
Travel and Miscellaneous Expenses	800	800	800
Line Management/Payroll/Admin	3000	3000	3000
Communications/Laptops/Mobiles/Software/Training	1000	1000	1000
Redundancy for existing staff member (3wks for over 41yrs of age)	-	-	2,272
Recruitment costs			
TOTAL PER ANNUM	26,343.73	27,030.25	30,008.78
TOTAL FOR 3 YEARS			83,382.76

Salary and Management Costs Part Time Project Worker @25 hours per week			
Environmental community development worker	Dec 2021-22	Dec 2022-23	Dec 2023-24
Year 4, 5 and 6	Wild Elements		
Salary	17,550	18,200	18,850
NIC National Insurance Contributions	1,311	1,409	1,507
Pension	1,755	1,820	1,885
Travel and Miscellaneous Expenses	800	800	800
Line Management/Payroll/Admin	3000	3000	3000
Communications/Laptops/Mobiles/Software/Training	1000	1000	1000
Redundancy for existing staff member (3wks for over 41yrs of age)	-	-	2,272
Recruitment costs			
TOTAL PER ANNUM	25,415.86	26,228.68	29,313.51
TOTAL FOR 3 YEARS			80,958.04

How will we measure if it's working?

Evaluating the Plan

When discussing evaluation with MaesNi, the importance of not using forms (e.g. surveys/questionnaires) was expressed strongly. The informal style of working the staff have adopted is key to building and maintaining relationship with residents.

Priorities	What can be measured?	How can it be measured?
1. Developing a community hub/centre	<p>Undertaking of business case feasibility study</p> <p>Development of clear plans for a hub/centre</p> <p>Engagement in decision making and ownership by residents</p>	<p>Feasibility study completed</p> <p>Decisions made on site, building, and governance structure</p> <p>Build commissioned</p> <p>Reports from staff</p> <p>Feedback from residents (further consultation planned)</p>
2. Developing community spirit (pride in the estate and activities to build and maintain interest and involvement)	<p>The number of activities and numbers of residents engaged in them - events, training, groups, trips etc., and including new groups started by resident volunteers</p> <p>Feedback from residents</p>	<p>Record kept by staff and volunteers</p> <p>Noted by staff and volunteers ... at the end of each activity (A4 sheet with prompt questions/notebook)</p> <p>Case studies/stories collected by staff/volunteers/external evaluators</p>
3. Communication and publicity	<p>Actions agreed from communications plan, reviewed at each steering group meeting (regular agenda item)</p>	<p>Records kept by staff and volunteers</p> <p>Newsletters and any other comms/publicity material created, including Facebook posts, polls, videos, events, and further consultations</p>

APPENDIX 1

MaesNi review

In July 2021 the MaesNi group held a review of progress against their three priorities. Below are the findings of the review.

1. Developing a community hub/centre

Completed	Current	Next
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial consultations with residents – what we want/the wish list Initial negotiations & consultations with stakeholders and partners – what they want, what we want from them, how we all fit and work together Commitment from partners Agreed shared vision Agreed ~£400,000 from MaesNi, ~£500,000 from Gwynedd Council Agreed project management from Gwynedd Council, with our input and weekly check-ins Agreed communications between steering group, residents, project board Draft timeline for the project Childcare/nursery possibility as part of this project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Architectural feasibility study – spatial diagrams, site and initial ideas about build costs Ongoing consultation with residents and partners Starting to look at governance structures – who runs it and how Looking at other funding opportunities Looking at using and access to existing spaces as part of this Childcare needs assessment Lease being drawn up for MaesNi to hold temporary lease for part the youth centre building for part of the week for community use. Church full – waiting on youth club to start other activities (training/classes with PROTECT pilot) Visit other community centres to look at their governance structures and how they run a bar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask residents to start making choices (site, what’s in it, how we want it to be run and by who) Get the project to within budget Business feasibility study Agree on a governance structure Apply for other funding Architectural feasibility study Choose final design Get building!

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support hub pilot being monitored and evaluated to try and help demonstrate value in funding anchor community groups from a space – help with further funding 	
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2. Developing community spirit (Pride in the estate and activities to build and maintain interest and involvement)

Completed	Current	Next
<p><u>Fruit and Veg affordable bag scheme</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kit, packing, collection and volunteer set-up • up to 45 each week in the Tier 4 lockdown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers have dwindled to ~10/week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue for now – has worked as a good way for staff to stay connected with residents during lockdowns, and some uncertainty going into Autumn/Winter
<p><u>Nursery project with local mums</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some relevant training: safeguarding, paediatric first aid, Makaton • 4 mums done L1/ L2 Child-care qualification • Involving AM Sian Gwenllian in pushing agenda and meeting mums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal needs assessment to scope size for nursery • Rolled into community centre agenda to secure site and funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business feasibility study • Bring mums in to conversation about vision and work with council and WG to see what it is possible to fund and how it meets the needs of this community and the crew of mums who pushed for it
<p><u>Ty Penrhyn House Growing for Change Gardens on Cae Tan-y-Bryn</u></p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported Growing for Change with writing formal business plan • Supported Growing for Change with planning application process • Supported with local consultations with residents, letters of support from residents, community groups, Maes-y-Bryn, school, organised viewings of current garden, • Involved other specialists to support for project (Social Farms & Gardens Wales) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage survey • In the planning application process (cleared by Bangor, awaiting Gwynedd Council) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further funding for the project • Ensure and enable access to opportunities through Growing for Change e.g. training, growing, produce for local residents and build relationship between community and Growing for Change
<p><u>Hive Caffi</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up weekly caffi • Grants for equipment secured and equipment purchased • Regular volunteers taken over the caffi – we just turned up to help out • Great turn-out (40-60), worked really well as a sounding board too • Cwmni Theatr Fran Wen did activities with the kids in the hall while the grown-ups chatted after food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On hold because of COVID 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer BBQ • Get food hygiene rating for kitchen? • Reopen? Church are willing, needs to be numbers limited
<p><u>Making and maintaining connections and links</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking lunch • Partners committed to community centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with PLUS schools' team • Bwyd Da Bangor scheme as a smaller part of the initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinstate walking lunch • Continue to expand support hub ideas

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children first and PLUS schools' team – agencies working here getting together • Community training representing at North Wales forums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Growing for Change (gardens), Penrhyn House (emergency food), PMP (support hub, space, funds for salary through support hub) • Visiting Ty Cegin staff for 'catch-ups' • Agency staff roped into football • Developing better links with the school and sharing spaces • Working with multiple support agencies to develop a relationship where we can work together in an appropriate way to meet our community's needs, sparked by the support hub (CAB, DWP, Adra (Housing Association), PMP, family support, mental health support, council, BCUHB, youth workers and mental health support, legal aid, tech angels, flying start, ICAN, GISDA (youth homelessness and social enterprise project) • Tempo Time Credits 	<p>and embed for the longer term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other workers back into the office and staff rotas to try and bring more people in to be present safely (CAB, DWP)
<p><u>Training/courses for resident volunteers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community first aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L2 Play

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health awareness • Literacy • IT • Paediatric first aid • Makaton • Childcare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting for groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food hygiene • Community nutrition and foodwise • Cooking for 1 • Mental health and well being
<p><u>Trips, activities, events and groups supported (financial and/or practical):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stitch & bitch to make CAD Christmas decorations at MSparc hub in Ogwen • 2 X busses of families to the bunny farm and Criccieth beach • Skate & scooter day for kids • 2 x Arts sessions with Bangor Arts Initiative (life-size self-portraits & box city) • Street Party • Cinema night • Weekly tea & crumpets • Tattoo shop animal party • 3 Letters Grow workshop series and group support with funding, space and running activities, bank account • Showzone events and group support with set-up, space, funding, bank account • 2 x Christmas Winter Wonderland – PMP • COVID Christmas • 2 x Funday - PMP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Letters Grow with funding and bank account • Kids Vs Adults football • First aid training for groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing programme of events and activities over coming 6 months • Hive Caffi BBQ • Football coaching training • L2 Play qualification for groups • Facilitate anyone and any group who asks to make their vision happen!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halloween Party - PMP • New park opening • Boxing club with kit and laptop for lockdown training online • Football club mower fixed • Allotment's fire-damage recovered • Fun packs to families • Weekly Hive Café kit and food • Garden Guardian • Weekly kids vs adults football • Bike maintenance workshops • Emergency food, PPE, fuel etc. during the pandemic • Workers 'walking lunch' – connecting agencies working here • Activities with kids out of school • Safeguarding and paediatric first aid training for groups and volunteers 		
<p><u>COVID-19 response</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helpline & matching volunteers (food, prescriptions, shopping, crash-fund) • Supporting other ideas from residents (fun activity packs) • Supporting groups & partners (Soup Squad, Penrhyn House, food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver food on a Monday • Continued support with funding for food and staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funded through support hub to continue emergency food and fuel support until December

<p>boxes, boxing club, Hive Caffi)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secured funding to employ staff (Penrhyn House) to take on the food • Funding for food etc. and food donations • Sharing positive stories • Engaging volunteers and residents & other partners • Over £50,000 funds 		
<p><u>SUPPORT HUB PILOT</u> (COVID-19 response partnership project)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified what support is asked for here • Set-up of space, who's involved, budgets, funding, buying and ordering kit, set up systems • Made initial contact with other support we can refer to on our terms • Started with support – lateral flow tests, financial, fuel and food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency food, fuel, digital and financial support • Recruiting for ICAN Connector mental health support worker • Monitoring, software training, feeding back to WG, CG & BCUHB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add mental health support and community training • ICAN Connector in post and working all together • Rapid-access counselling • Wellbeing programme of stuff to get involved with! • Adapting to changing needs

Completed	Current	Next
<p><u>Improving and maintaining green spaces:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapting the green space behind Ty Cegin to grow food to be used in the Hive 	<p>Ongoing sessions with garden/environment group maintaining and</p>	<p>Build Shelter for Enviro and Gardening group on site</p>

<p>Caffi/cook and eat projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop possible links with health/childcare providers in Ty Cegin re use of green space behind building • Negotiate with Adra/North Wales Housing re: adopting some grassed areas to develop herb/wildflower areas, hedges and copses of trees. • Research/cost feasibility of installing 'friendship' benches/planters at various locations around estate. • Youth club garden • Paul's garden • Access to the woodland-contact Gwynedd council • Glantraeth entrance • Plas Hedd dementia garden • Entrance to the estate • Wildflower meadow 	<p>managing the community garden and Paul Hockaday memorial garden, as well as clearing overgrown footpaths around Maesgeirchen.</p> <p>Maintaining the flower beds – assisting managing the Ty Cegin garden</p> <p>Ongoing – challenges with contacting the right person in Gwynedd Council regarding permission to adopt areas to plant. Continuing efforts to open discussion with the council.</p> <p>Costs for the planter benches calculated – money can come out of well-being budget (PROTECT pilot).</p> <p>Order for 3 benches placed with Wild Elements. One bench to potentially be placed at the entrance to the estate.</p>	<p>Further develop garden for wildlife habitat</p> <p>Re-wilding of large green area (2 tennis courts/1 football pitch)</p> <p>Will need ongoing maintenance as part of the work with the environment group, and possibly youth group.</p> <p>Tree packs from the Woodland Trust due to be delivered in November. Planting to be carried out by December.</p> <p>Discussing with youth worker to start sessions with youth group to restore the garden at the youth club and possibly involve the youth group in other community greening projects, such as tree planting.</p> <p>Memorial tree at Plas Hedd to be moved to different location due to building work.</p> <p>Access to Plas Hedd restricted due to covid so any other work not</p>
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		possible at the moment.
<u>Glancegin school sessions:</u> Supporting teachers delivering the curriculum – using the outside space in the school and around the estate	Ongoing discussions with Wild Elements regarding possible return to assisting with sessions in the school.	Work with Wild Elements and school staff to resume sessions.
<u>Clwb ECO:</u> Environmental after school club based in the school grounds	Ongoing discussions in conjunction with resuming sessions in the school post covid.	
<u>Anything else?</u>	<p>Link with Penrhyn House 'Growing for Change' project on old playing field at entrance to Maesgeirchen.</p> <p>Discussing possibility for groups from Maesgeirchen to be involved in the project when it starts.</p> <p>Link with allotment group to work on specific projects, such as pond clearing and restoring old raised flower beds.</p>	<p>Dependent on Growing for Change project start dates.</p> <p>Possible tree planting collaboration in November/December?</p> <p>Dates to be confirmed to start.</p>

Things we have done, are no longer doing and why:

- **Weekly Tea & Crumpets** - interest dwindled, 'sounding board' element replaced by Hive Caffi
- **Kids out of school** – they are back in school and still there
- **Supporting Showzone** – no longer needed (but we're still here if they ask)
- **Supporting Soup Squad** – lockdown only
- **Makaton L3** – council now running them for free online
- **Take it to the Street** – didn't get the funding

APPENDIX 2 – COVID-19 response:

What's been happening:

- 125 prescriptions delivered / people checked up on (all over 55)/ support offered
- £22,400 raised from 13 different sources – plus Penrhyn House have additional funding and crowd-funded
- 330 environmental activity and sunflowers growing packs to families
- 330 fun packs to families
- 330 art and creativity packs to families
- Over 1600 meals prepared and delivered to over 70s isolating (84 per week) by the Soup Squad (resident volunteers)
- Over 250 food boxes put together and distributed
- 4915 home-made ready meals prepared and delivered
- 217 lots of crash-fund support distributed (e.g. nappies, sanitary, baby formula, gas and electric top-up)
- 113 requests for help via the phone helpline fulfilled
- 50+ prescriptions collected
- Over 30 volunteers involved
- Bingo on almost every street, cakes, jig-saw swamps and more!
- Groups working with young people and older people adapted to do this online
- People gardening for each other
- Sharing of positive stories of the community coming together with the media
- 80 essentials packs delivered to over-70s (MaesNi funded), ongoing essentials delivered as needed (over-70s return a slip with needs when soups/meals are delivered) plus wordsearches etc.;
- 12 mobile phones provided for the substance misuse service so people could access emergency prescribing (via the crash fund and Penrhyn House volunteers)
- £4000+ in crash-fund raised and used to purchase necessities
- 36 households receiving food bag drops every other day
- 861kg of food equivalent to 2050 meals (and a saving of 2756kg of CO2) of surplus food collected from supermarkets and distributed between food bags, meals cooked by Penrhyn House and the Soup Squad
- Over 40 people matched with volunteers to pick up shopping/prescriptions/food bank bags/help with bills
- Many more had their shopping done for them (Penrhyn House)
- 96 homes received donated plants from B&Q
- 300 education packs delivered to homes (MaesNi, Wild Elements & Reaching Wider @ Bangor University)
- Boxing club training supported to get online

People we've supported:

- Over-70s in isolation
- Financially vulnerable – many newly so:

- People on 0-hours contracts who have had to self-isolate for a week or 2
 - People on 0-hours contracts who have lost their jobs and are now waiting for universal credit
 - Self-employed waiting for universal credit
 - Furloughed = 20% reduction in income
 - Many households were being supported by people themselves in the above situation and there has been a marked cascade effect. These groups include people for who there was little or no other support, e.g. those with substance problems who were not in recovery
 - Many households' wider support network (friends and family) now find themselves in the same situation, leaving people with nobody to turn to
- Those on Universal Credit (U.C.):
 - Increasingly, single parents, often on U.C. mostly mothers struggling with increasing bills and rising food prices
 - Those on U.C. unable to access services currently down like Discretionary Assistance Payment
- Those with substance misuse problems who need emergency prescriptions as income/supply chain is disrupted
 - People who were dependent on food banks but food banks closed including the food from the homeless hostel so that it was days before some homeless people could access food after lockdown started (you need an address for the food bank that was still open's referral form)
 - People who couldn't access food bank referral forms while things were being sorted out (people referring working from home). Referral no longer you still need an address and to be legal residents, to answer a few questions – this became more relaxed for a period, we worked together to help with people who don't fit the criteria
 - People dependent upon others in different households for mental health support
 - Those without phones or technology, those without good literacy or who struggle to access universal credit application process from home, so many young people and young families were in need of food and basic necessities
 - The crash-fund has been especially useful as the energy/water companies will only defer payments and that becomes a real worry with income loss
 - Older people whose day care plans have been withdrawn

APPENDIX 3 – example update of the PROTECT hub pilot

Numbers up to 20/6/21

- 26 LFT (lateral flow test);
- 1 CAB referral (fuel);
- 1 referral from JDWP;
- 2 fuel emergency fuel payment;
- 1 emergency food short-term;
- 53 weekly meals x 2 weeks
- 35 households receiving emergency food crates x 2 weeks
- 4 referrals for slow-cookers and ingredients
- 1 referral for nappies
- 1 referral to housing association warden support
- 1 wellbeing referral fulfilled (walking groups);
- 3 requests for mental health support we're not yet able to fulfil (therapy/counselling) – but this support is in development (divorce, covid trauma, dealing with major life change as a result of change in health)

Numbers 20/6/21 - 27/06/21

- 39 LFT
- 1 CAB budgeting referral
- 53 deliveries weeks' worth of meals
- 35 households receiving emergency food crates
- 2 new requests for emergency food support
- 1 emergency fuel
- 2 referrals for slow cookers & ingredients

Numbers 28/6/21 - 04/07/21

- 74 LFT
- 1 emergency fuel
- 1 referral for slow cookers & ingredients
- 52 deliveries weeks' worth of meals
- 35 households receiving emergency food crates
- 1 request for mental health support we're not yet able to fulfil (recovery following domestic violence)

Numbers 05/07/21 - 11/07/21

- 39 LFT
- 2 wellbeing referrals (volunteer opportunities – gardening club)
- 54 deliveries weeks' worth of meals
- 35 households receiving emergency food crates
- 1 food shop for someone self-isolating (paid self)
- 1 electric top-up for someone self-isolating (paid self)
- 1 referral for nappies

Numbers 12/07/21 - 18/07/21

- 32 LFT

- 54 deliveries weeks' worth of meals
- 35 households receiving emergency food crates
- 1 family support referral

Numbers 19/7/21 - 26/07/21

- 29 LFT
- 54 deliveries weeks' worth of meals
- 35 households receiving emergency food crates
- 1 checking-in referral
- 1 carers support referral
- 1 mental health ask we weren't yet able to meet

MaesNi reasoning on being involved, and learning from COVID-19 response work:

The response to the pandemic grew very quickly and organically from residents (weeks before the first lockdown) and led to a point, more recently, where volunteers can't sustain it alone and for so long. At the same time we were getting to see and know our community's needs better - they are increasingly around the impact of COVID-19 (well-being, mental health, low income, adjusting to lower income, poverty, changes in family and housing) alongside actual COVID (self-isolating, having COVID, the fallout of changes to health in family members or self); some of these are entangled with pre-existing socioeconomic structures that might express to us as e.g. the need for short-term or medium-term emergency food provision (housing and fuel costs, access to childcare, transport, work, zero-hours contracts etc.). A key principle all the way through for us has been the ability to self-refer and operate on a trust basis and this has been important in reaching individuals who have perhaps not previously had the support they need.

The support we're building (and this is early days!) is based on the asks from residents as we've gotten to know their needs with this community pulling together and building on its strengths. We are trying to offer meaningful support with financial inclusion, digital inclusion, lateral flow tests, fuel poverty, food poverty, work and employment, family support and wellbeing and mental health support. Critically, the support around family, children and mental health and wellbeing is offered on an anonymous basis – nobody has to give personal details to access advice and support – this has been a key part of residents' asks given a deep mistrust of agencies (especially e.g. social services, DWP). We're in the process of developing and deepening this support and expect it to evolve as time goes on, we build stronger relationships with trusted residents and support workers – already we can see how we could offer other support and make access to existing agency/body support more accessible. The funding for the Support Hub Pilot, like the Invest Local money we initially had access to, has been fantastic because it is flexible, allows for the time and resource to build a very localised support that addresses local needs at any moment in time (no small feat – and too big an ask of volunteers) as this situation changes so quickly.

APPENDIX 4

Maes Ni Communications Plan

Three Main Aims

- Raise awareness of MaesNi and the £1million and let people know what's happened so far, with a focus on the hub
- Get more local people involved, especially in the steering group.
- Promote MaesNi externally (e.g. for potential funders/partners)

Target Audiences and Messages

Target Audiences - Who?	Why do they matter?	What do they need to know?
MaesNi residents	They are the target audience – they are why we exist. They are the deliverers, beneficiaries, and potential volunteers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who we are (people know Jess and Paul, but not the project) • What we do • How to contact us • We need you to get involved and give us your ideas • Update on the hub – where we are, what is there to do, why we need the residents involved – need a strong focus on this • We need to gain the community's trust – it's taking a long time, need clear message that it takes a while • Extend the invitation to get involved to as many people as possible
Funders and Partners (e.g. council, health board, leisure housing association)	Because they can give you money!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work we have done so far • Plans for the future • The impact of the work • How we can work together more effectively

Themes	Activities	Who will do this?	Training/budget required?
<p>Raise awareness of MaesNi and the £1million and let people know what's happened so far.</p>	<p>Facebook group. Update regularly – think about scheduling posts to save time. (You currently have 2 groups – just have one)</p> <p>Noticeboard in a visible place, regularly updated and clearly branded 'MaesNi'. Digital too?</p> <p>Establish a simple, clear statement about 'Who We Are' and 'What We Do' – put it on Facebook page, on the noticeboard, on any leaflets. (You already have it there, make it a bit shorter and snappier)</p> <p>Produce some simple 'brand guidelines' so that MaesNi logo and branding is used consistently (and avoid logo-overload!). Think about a logo?</p> <p>Monthly events in the square – open mic? Stalls? Something to draw people in. Think about other engagement events?</p>		
<p>Get more local people involved, especially in the steering group.</p>	<p>Leaflet/video explaining who you are, what you do, achievements so far, future plans.</p> <p>Series of posts on Facebook about your volunteers/projects – put a human face to the project and show</p>		

	<p>local people getting involved. Mini interviews/quotes about why they are involved/what they get out of it.</p> <p>Create online surveys to get people to vote on project ideas</p> <p>Think about making the best use of face-to-face communications too!</p> <p>‘Street champions’ to knock on people’s doors and tell people what’s going on</p> <p>A ballot box, where people can post their ideas.</p>		
<p>Promote MaesNi externally (ego for potential funders/partners)</p>	<p>Better use of Twitter – lots of organisations use this more than Facebook. Tag people!</p> <p>Make a promotional document/video about what you’ve achieved from your first plan, and what your plans are for the next few years. Include case studies, and choose ones that show impact and the benefits of partnership working.</p> <p>Promote work through press releases – Bangor Aye/Daily Post/Chronicle</p>		