



CONNECTING TALGARTH



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The Centre for Collaboration
in Community Connectedness

Ariennir y prosiect hwn gan Lywodraeth y DU drwy Gronfa Ffyniant
Gyffredin y DU, a gefnogir gan Gyngor Sir Powys

The project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared
Prosperity Fund, supported by Powys County Council

Summary Report

Dr Vita Terry & Nick Pritchard

July 2026

Connecting Talgarth

Summary Report - July 2026



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Economic
and Social
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The Centre for Collaboration in Community Connectedness is funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) as part of its work to create opportunities and improve outcomes.

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Executive Summary

‘When we build relationships and nurture trust, we build stronger, more resilient societies. Make no mistake – connection is not just a nice idea. It is fundamental. It strengthens communities, fosters cooperation and creates opportunities. Without connection, we will not succeed in solving the problems facing us today – whether they are public health, economic growth or social stability.’

(World Health Organisation, 2025, pp. v)

As society faces increasingly complex pressures, it is important that everyone has the opportunity to live in a community where people can build relationships and strong connections, feel a sense of pride and belonging, and access opportunities that support their wellbeing. By communities recognising the wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise it holds this can help people to work together, share ideas, and use their combined strengths to create solutions that genuinely meet local needs. This not only promotes social cohesion but can also help communities develop strong networks and resources to effectively respond to unprecedented shocks and crisis.

This report presents findings and key insights from the Connecting Talgarth community event which took place on the 7th of June 2026 in Talgarth. The purpose of this event was to support local groups to build connections and provide a snap shot of what is currently happening in the community and voluntary sector in Talgarth. The report provides an overview of the rich community and voluntary action that is already underway in Talgarth, highlighting the communities’ strengths and assets, what could be improved, and potential for future opportunities and choices to be made by the community.

Taken together, the findings suggest that Talgarth is a community with considerable strengths, assets and civic energy. It highlighted opportunities to better understand, connect and build upon what already exists. Here is an overview of key insights from the event and potential questions for further

consideration. The findings presented in this report are not recommendations or agreed actions. Rather, they represent opportunities, ideas and considerations identified by participants. As the project concludes, ownership of these opportunities rests with the community itself. Different organisations, groups and individuals may choose to take forward different aspects depending on their interests, capacity and priorities, whether independently or through collaborative approaches.

1. Talgarth's defining characteristic is not a lack of activity, but the scale of activity that already exists

One of the strongest findings is the sheer breadth of community action taking place across the town. The mapping exercise identified 77 voluntary and community activities, groups and organisations, including both formally constituted organisations and a significant number of informal, volunteer-led groups. This suggests that Talgarth possesses substantial social capital, community leadership, local knowledge and civic commitment relative to its size.

The evidence points towards a community with considerable capacity to act, organise and respond to local issues. Participants consistently described a strong culture of volunteering, neighbourliness and collective responsibility, alongside a wide range of activities spanning social welfare, culture, sport, environment, education and community life.

Opportunity for exploration:

- How might Talgarth better understand, recognise and articulate the collective contribution already being made by volunteers, community groups and informal networks?
- What are the distinctive characteristics and strengths of community and voluntary action in Talgarth as a rural Welsh town?
- How can the expertise, knowledge, and impact generated through community and voluntary action in Talgarth be better recognised/ valued and meaningfully incorporated into local decision-making, helping to co-create solutions to local priorities and challenges?

2. Community strength exists alongside fragmentation

A recurring theme throughout the discussions is that many positive activities are already happening, but often in parallel rather than in partnership. Participants described a community sector that is vibrant and active, yet where activity can be difficult to see, access or understand from the outside. Groups frequently operate within separate networks, and opportunities for collaboration are not always fully realised.

This creates an interesting paradox: Talgarth appears highly connected through personal relationships, kindness and volunteer activity, while simultaneously experiencing challenges around visibility, coordination and shared awareness. There is a substantial amount of learning that could be shared between local groups (and to other rural areas), about what works, what doesn't work, when working with the local community. This would not only help enhance local community activity, by understanding the networks, resources and assets that could be further utilised and prepare and respond to future shocks or crisis, but this process of learning together would also contribute to building relationships based on trust.

Question for consideration:

- What processes and practices enable place-based community and voluntary activities to contribute to community spirit, belonging, and social cohesion?
- How can local groups and stakeholders share learning and build on effective practice to strengthen collaboration, connection, and collective action?
- What opportunities can Talgarth community build on to enhance community resilience and preparedness for future challenges?

3. Informal community activity is a significant but often unseen asset

Almost two-thirds of the identified activity sits within informal or "below the radar" groups rather than formal organisations. These activities often operate with limited resources, are volunteer-led, and may not appear in conventional datasets or community planning processes.

The findings suggest that much of Talgarth's community resilience may rest within these smaller networks and relationships. While they are less visible, they appear to play an important role in fostering belonging, social cohesion and mutual support.

Opportunity for exploration:

- How can ongoing community conversations help us better recognise, value and support informal community activity alongside the work of established organisations?
- What kind of shared infrastructure or support is needed to strengthen voluntary and community activity in Talgarth, and how can this be developed while respecting the diversity, independence and unique contributions of existing groups?
- How can we co-create a place-based strategy that brings together established organisations and informal community activity, identifies shared aspirations, and demonstrates the collective impact of community action across Talgarth?

4. Relationships are viewed as a core community asset

Participants repeatedly emphasised the importance of connection, trust and relationships. Existing collaborations were recognised as a major strength, with individuals and organisations often acting as bridges between different initiatives and sectors.

At the same time, participants identified stronger relationships, increased trust and better sharing of resources as areas where further progress may be possible. This suggests that social infrastructure - the relationships between people and organisations - is viewed as being just as important as physical infrastructure.

Choice for the community:

- What spaces, activities, and opportunities currently exist, or could be created, to help local people build meaningful connections and strengthen a sense of community in Talgarth? For example, community gardens, cultural celebrations, local conversations, and town meetings.

- How can local groups and organisations foster more relational ways of working, grounded in deep listening, empathy, trust, and genuine human connection?
- Where, when, and how can people come together to build trusted relationships, share learning, and work collaboratively towards common goals? How can we create the time and conditions needed for these relationships to develop, recognising that strong connections lead to more positive outcomes for the wider community?

5. Talgarth demonstrates a strong sense of place and identity

The findings reveal a deep attachment to place. Participants highlighted pride in Talgarth's environment, heritage, landscape and community character. Local assets such as the school, library, mill, visitor centre and community spaces were seen not only as facilities but as important anchors for community life.

This suggests that community connectedness in Talgarth is closely linked to place-based identity. The town's physical, cultural and environmental assets appear to provide a foundation around which community activity and belonging are built. While it is important to celebrate the successes, it is also important to understand the different stories of a place including what has been lost and mourned, what needs repair and healing, and those that capture the community spirit to act as a catalyst for collective action.

Question for consideration:

- What are the diverse stories, histories, and experiences that shape Talgarth, and how can these be better recognised, respected, and celebrated?
- How can we create opportunities for people from all parts of the community to share and celebrate their cultural heritage, values, identities, and connections to place?
- How do Talgarth's physical, cultural, and environmental assets contribute to community life, and where could greater collaboration, coordination, or shared action strengthen their impact?

6. Inclusion is a priority, but participation is uneven

Participants expressed a strong aspiration for Talgarth to be welcoming, inclusive and accessible, with opportunities for everyone to participate and contribute. There was evidence of ongoing efforts to involve newcomers, refugees, younger people and other under-represented groups.

However, the discussions also highlighted concerns around uneven participation, perceived barriers to involvement and the need to hear from people who are less engaged in community life. Particular attention was drawn to younger people and opportunities for greater intergenerational connection.

Opportunity for exploration:

- Which voices, experiences and perspectives are currently under-represented in community conversations and what might be learned from engaging them more fully?
- Are there opportunities for more intergenerational activities/ projects to take place?
- How to create inclusive spaces that welcome different experiences and perspectives, step into each other's shoes, and to find shared solidarity?

7. There is a growing desire for a shared sense of direction

Participants did not appear to be seeking a single project or initiative. Instead, discussions pointed towards a desire for greater understanding of shared priorities, clearer awareness of what others are doing, and a stronger collective picture of where Talgarth is heading.

Many of the ideas generated - whether focused on communication, volunteering, younger people, local assets, community events or economic opportunities - can be understood as different expressions of a broader question about how community effort is connected and aligned.

Choice for the community:

- How can we work together to develop a community-led strategy for Talgarth, grounded in local values, strengths and aspirations, that helps shape a shared vision and direction for collective action?
- How can we encourage a culture of learning and experimentation within the community, where people feel supported to try new ideas, reflect on what has and has not worked, and use those experiences to strengthen future community action?

Come and join us at a feedback session on the 15th July 7pm- 8.15pm at Ysgol Y Mynydd Du. This session is an important opportunity to: Share key insights from the Connecting Talgarth event, space to feedback and share ideas with the community, and explore next steps and how to stay involved. We hope to see you there!

Thank you to everyone that have been involved and contributed to this project including Talgarth and District Regeneration group, Centre for collaboration in community connectedness, Talgarth Town Council, PAVO, The Strand, Ysgol Y Mynydd Du and to all the brilliant local groups and activities that generously gave up their time to attend the event.

Background, development and project journey

Talgarth has a long history of community action, volunteering and local leadership. Across the town, a diverse range of community groups, organisations and individuals contribute to community life, providing opportunities that support wellbeing, culture, learning, the environment, recreation and social connection. This rich network of activity is one of Talgarth's greatest strengths and plays an important role in creating a vibrant and resilient community.

Earlier community conversations, facilitated by PAVO through the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund, explored local priorities, aspirations and opportunities for the future. Whilst these conversations highlighted the remarkable range of activity taking place across Talgarth, they also identified that much of this activity exists across separate groups and networks. As a result, many people were unaware of the full breadth of community activity or the opportunities that already existed to connect, collaborate and support one another.

From these conversations, the idea for Connecting Talgarth emerged. Rather than creating something entirely new, the ambition was to celebrate what already exists, strengthen relationships between groups and individuals, improve awareness of community activity and create space for conversations about Talgarth's future. The project adopted an asset-based approach, recognising that lasting community development begins by understanding and building upon the strengths, skills, relationships and resources that already exist within the community.

Funding was secured through the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund, and a volunteer-led working group (see Appendix Two) was established to design and deliver the project. Bringing together local residents alongside representatives from PAVO, Talgarth & District Regeneration Group, the Centre for Collaboration in Community Connectedness (C4), Black Mountains College and Talgarth Town Council, the group worked collaboratively over a six-month period to shape both the project and the event.

During this time, the working group undertook a programme of engagement to better understand Talgarth's community landscape. This included mapping community groups and activities, speaking with a wide range of local

organisations and stakeholders, and reviewing previous community engagement. We also publicised the event on social media and outreach (posters and flying across Talgarth) to engage with those that we might not have identified during the mapping process. These conversations informed every aspect of the event, ensuring that it reflected local priorities whilst creating an inclusive environment where people could learn from one another, celebrate existing achievements and explore future opportunities together.

On Sunday 7 June 2026, the Connecting Talgarth community event took place at Ysgol y Mynydd Du. Forty-eight participants representing thirty one community and voluntary organisations attended the event (see Appendix One), alongside representatives from Talgarth Town Council and the Welsh Government. Through facilitated discussions, creative activities, networking and visual recording, participants explored what makes Talgarth strong, what opportunities exist for the future and how existing community strengths might be further connected and supported.

The event deliberately focused on community groups, volunteers and local connectors. This reflected both the scope of the project and the practical capacity of the event. Whilst this report captures the perspectives of those participants, it also recognises that future community conversations could broaden engagement to include residents, businesses, younger people and surrounding communities, helping to build an even richer understanding of community connectedness within and around Talgarth.

Importantly, Connecting Talgarth was never intended to be a one-off event. From the outset, it was conceived as a catalyst for longer-term community conversation and collaboration. The findings presented within this report therefore represent a snapshot of the community at a particular moment in time and provide a foundation upon which future conversations, partnerships and opportunities may develop.

The next stage of this journey will be supported through the Centre for Collaboration in Community Connectedness (C4), working alongside Black Mountains College and community partners. Building on the relationships, evidence and momentum generated through this project, C4 will continue to create opportunities for community-led research, engagement and collaboration. Ultimately, however, the opportunities identified through this project belong to the community itself. The future direction will depend on the choices made by local people, organisations and partnerships as they continue to shape the future of Talgarth together.

CONNECTING TALGARTH

THE JOURNEY

A community-led journey to understand, celebrate and strengthen Talgarth.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

2023 - 2025

Community conversations highlighted the importance of community connectedness, participation and understanding local strengths.

WORKING GROUP FORMED

A volunteer working group was established bringing together local residents, Talgarth Regeneration Group, PAVO, C4 and partners.

PRE-EVENT ENGAGEMENT

Conversations with local groups helped to shape the event and identify key themes and opportunities.

FINDINGS & INSIGHTS

Community strengths, assets, opportunities and challenges were captured through facilitated discussion, visual recording and feedback.

LOOKING FORWARD

The project concludes, with future opportunities resting with community groups, organisations and residents. C4 and partners will continue wider community connectedness work.

PROJECT IDEA EMERGES

Late 2025 / Early 2026

The concept of Connecting Talgarth was developed to bring together community groups, volunteers and local organisations.

COMMUNITY MAPPING

77 groups and activities identified across Talgarth, revealing the scale and diversity of community action.

CONNECTING TALGARTH EVENT

7 June 2026

48 participants representing 31 organisations came together to share ideas, celebrate strengths and explore future opportunities.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK EVENT

15 July 2026

Findings shared back with the community to validate learning and explore future possibilities.



Connecting Talgarth was not a single event, but part of a wider journey to better understand, celebrate and strengthen community connectedness.

AT A GLANCE

48

Participants

31

Organisations
Represented

77

Groups &
Activities
Identified

Why and how the project was undertaken

Talgarth is a community rich in volunteering, local leadership, community activity and civic pride. However, much of this activity takes place within separate groups, networks and organisations and is not always visible or easily understood by the wider community. As a result, opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing and collective problem-solving can sometimes be missed.

Through earlier community conversations, it became clear that before undertaking wider community engagement, there would be value in first developing a better understanding of the organisations, groups, volunteers and activities that already contribute to community life. The project therefore sought to create a clearer picture of Talgarth's existing community assets, strengths and relationships, whilst providing an opportunity for people to connect with one another and celebrate what is already happening.

The project had four primary aims:

- To increase awareness of community groups, activities and opportunities within Talgarth.
- To celebrate and recognise the contribution of volunteers, community organisations and local leaders.
- To strengthen relationships and encourage greater collaboration between groups, organisations and individuals.
- To gather insight into community strengths, opportunities and aspirations that may help inform future community-led activity.

Rather than focusing on problems and deficiencies, the project adopted an asset-based approach. This approach recognises that every community possesses strengths, skills, knowledge, relationships and resources that can be built upon. By focusing on what is already working well, communities are often better placed to identify opportunities, develop solutions and build confidence in their collective ability to create positive change.

Over several months, the working group engaged with local groups, organisations

and community leaders to better understand the activities already taking place within Talgarth and to identify what would be most valuable from a community event. This engagement helped shape both the design and content of the event, ensuring it was grounded in local knowledge, local experience and community priorities.

The event was therefore designed to bring together community groups, organisations, volunteers and local connectors to celebrate existing activity, strengthen relationships, increase awareness of what is happening across the town and create opportunities for shared learning and understanding.

This phase of engagement deliberately focused on those already involved in community life and voluntary action. Whilst this provided valuable insight into the strengths, assets and opportunities that exist within Talgarth, future engagement could build on this foundation by exploring the perspectives of residents, businesses, younger people and surrounding communities, helping to develop an even fuller picture of community connectedness within and around Talgarth.



Event design and delivery

The Connecting Talgarth event was designed to create a welcoming, inclusive and engaging environment that would encourage participation, conversation and relationship building. Ysgol Y Mynydd Du was selected as the venue because it provided a neutral, accessible and familiar community space with appropriate facilities to support the event.

To maximise participation, the event was held on a Sunday afternoon outside normal working hours. Attendance was free and refreshments were provided throughout the event. Childcare facilities were also made available to help remove potential barriers to participation and ensure that as many people as possible could take part.

A key principle underpinning the event was the use of an asset-based approach. Rather than focusing primarily on problems or deficiencies, the event sought to identify and celebrate the strengths, knowledge, skills, resources and relationships that already exist within Talgarth. This approach recognises that communities are often best placed to build sustainable solutions when they understand and value the assets they already possess.

To support meaningful engagement, a combination of creative activities, facilitated discussions and networking opportunities were used throughout the afternoon. Activities such as networking bingo, visual prompts and small group conversations were designed to encourage participation from people with different experiences, communication styles and interests. Experienced facilitators supported discussions, helping participants to explore ideas, share perspectives and identify common themes.

The event was organised around three broad questions:

1. What does a thriving and well-connected Talgarth look like?
2. What is already working well within the community and what strengths can we build upon?
3. What opportunities and possibilities might help strengthen community connectedness in the future?

Alongside the facilitated discussions, participants were encouraged to network informally, share experiences and learn about the wide range of activity already taking place across the town. A visual artist captured key themes and conversations throughout the event, creating a creative record of the day that complements the written findings contained within this report.

CONNECTING TALGARTH

at a glance



48

PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED

People from across Talgarth came together to share ideas and experiences.



31

ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTED

Including community groups, local services, businesses, and public bodies.



77

COMMUNITY GROUPS & ACTIVITIES IDENTIFIED

A rich mix of formal organisations and informal, volunteer-led activities.



6+

MONTHS OF ENGAGEMENT

Conversations, mapping and engagement across the community.



COMMUNITY GROUPS, VOLUNTEERS & LOCAL CONNECTORS

Brought together to listen, learn and explore opportunities for Talgarth.



CREATIVE FACILITATION & LIVE VISUAL RECORDING

Ideas captured visually to reflect the voices and insights shared.



KEY MESSAGE

Talgarth has a remarkable level of community activity, volunteering and civic participation for a town of its size.

What we heard and what emerged from the discussions

The findings presented in this section are drawn from the pre-event engagement, mapping exercise, facilitated discussions, creative activities and feedback gathered during the Connecting Talgarth event. Together, these activities provide a snapshot of how participants understand community life in Talgarth, what they value, what is working well and what opportunities they believe exist for the future.

What does the voluntary and community sector look like in Talgarth?

Using a multi layered mapping technique we have created a snapshot of current voluntary and community activity in Talgarth. In total, we found 77 voluntary and community organisations taking place within Talgarth (see appendix three for a full list of these groups). 28 of which are voluntary organisations registered either with the Charity Commission or Companies House (see appendix four for full list of open and closed registered voluntary organisations in Talgarth). Through a process of micro mapping, we have found a further 49 small scale and less formal community groups and activities.



What is important to note here is that these informal groups tend to be characteristically small scale, volunteer led, have limited funding and tend to go 'uncounted' when describing voluntary action. These groups are well reported within wider literature (Soteri-Proctor, 2017) as being essential for local communities, providing unique activities and services which are crucial for social cohesion, and well-being and building community resilience in hard times (Norman, 2012).

What we heard before the event

As part of the project development phase, members of the working group spoke with a range of local organisations, community groups and stakeholders identified through the mapping exercise. These conversations helped build a picture of the activity already taking place in Talgarth and informed the design and focus of the Connecting Talgarth event. The following themes emerged from those discussions.

This is what we heard from the local groups:

The community and voluntary sector in Talgarth is vibrant and varied, with many groups supporting environmental work, social welfare, and community connection, often acting as a shared “third space” that brings people together informally.

What is working well is the range of existing activities and positive collaborations already happening, substantial amount of voluntary work, alongside a strong sense that these efforts help hold the community together.

What could be improved is building more trust and stronger relationships between groups, better use of shared resources, and clearer ways of working together despite past tensions and limited funding.

From the event, people want to connect more, put a face to a name, hear about local priorities, and begin shaping a shared vision that strengthens collaboration across the community.

We can see that the event was not starting from scratch but is building on what’s already happening and what’s happened before e.g. the Mayors Parlour in 2023. This event has demonstrated a rich tapestry of community and voluntary action currently taking place in Talgarth. However, the community and voluntary sector

Individual assets

- Strong community spirit and values: Talgarth is characterised by a warm, welcoming, and inclusive culture, where people look out for one another and take pride in their town. There is a strong sense of neighbourliness and shared responsibility, with many examples of residents supporting vulnerable people and creating spaces for connection and care. This collective ethos contributes to a resilient community with a “can-do” attitude.
- High levels of volunteering and community action: There is a remarkable volume of community groups and voluntary activity relative to the town’s size. Dedicated individuals and volunteers drive initiatives forward with passion and tenacity, from practical projects like repair cafés and food growing to social groups and events. This energy creates a “virtuous cycle,” encouraging further participation and sustaining momentum. One participant notes ‘I didn’t realise how much is going on in Talgarth- its brilliant!’

Community assets

- Diversity of groups, activities, and opportunities: Talgarth offers a wide variety of activities spanning sports, culture, environment, food, and social connection. Examples include markets, festivals, nature initiatives, arts and crafts groups, and youth activities. This diversity provides multiple entry points for people to get involved, develop skills, and progress within groups, enhancing overall community wellbeing.
- Interconnectedness and collaboration: Many groups and individuals work across different initiatives, creating cross-pollination of ideas and strengthening networks. A range of organisations, groups and individuals help connect people, share ideas and act as bridges between activities. This interconnected approach enhances knowledge-sharing and helps build a stronger and more cohesive community infrastructure.
- Inclusion, growth, and new participants: Efforts to include newcomers, refugees, young people, and diverse groups are evident and valued. Initiatives aim to remove barriers to participation and create more inclusive opportunities, particularly for younger people and underrepresented groups. Continued outreach and engagement are seen as vital to maintaining growth and vibrancy.

Institutional assets

- Important local assets - such as the school, library, visitor centre, community hall, sports clubs, and Talgarth Mill - play a central role in community life. These spaces enable gatherings, learning, and economic activity, although there are some concerns about accessibility and maximising their use. Strengthening links between these institutions and the wider community is seen as a key opportunity.

Cultural and physical assets

- Connection to place, environment, and heritage: There is a strong appreciation for Talgarth's physical environment, including its natural surroundings, biodiversity efforts, and well-kept appearance. Environmental and biodiversity initiatives demonstrate how connection to land and place can foster pride, wellbeing and sustainability. The town is also valued as a peaceful retreat and place of respite.

COMMUNITY STRENGTH & ASSETS

The foundations of a strong and connected Talgarth

INDIVIDUAL ASSETS

Community spirit
Local leadership
Volunteering
Skills and experience
Neighbourliness
Passion and commitment

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Groups and organisations
Festivals and events
Networks and connections
Collaboration
Shared activities
Mutual support

INSTITUTIONAL ASSETS

School
Library
Visitor Centre
Talgarth Mill
Community facilities
Local services
Faith organisations

CULTURAL & PHYSICAL ASSETS

Landscape and setting
Heritage and history
Biodiversity
Sense of place
Local identity
Buildings and spaces
Natural environment

Talgarth has a wide range of strengths, resources and assets that contribute to community life and wellbeing. These assets exist at different levels and are all important in building a thriving, inclusive and resilient community.

The assets are interconnected and strengthen each other. When we recognise, value and build on our assets, we create opportunities for everyone in Talgarth to thrive.

KEY MESSAGE

By working together and building on what exists, we can create a stronger, more connected community for current and future generations.

Part three: Future opportunities identified by participants



Participants generated a wide range of ideas, suggestions and opportunities during the event. These reflected both immediate practical actions and longer-term aspirations for Talgarth. The themes below summarise the main areas of interest raised during discussions. They are presented as ideas and opportunities identified by participants rather than recommendations or agreed actions.

Any future activity will require further discussion, engagement and consideration by the community and relevant organisations.

Themes	Description
Involving younger people	• Incentives for younger people under 40 • Addressing social anxiety experienced by young people • Greater involvement of younger people and skills • Develop Youth Club opportunities • More opportunities for children to learn and socialize • Collectively identify and remove barriers to participation • Listen to all the 'young' people • Bridging the generation gap and understanding • Youth representation in local decision-making • Community volunteering promoted through schools • Stronger school-community connections • Increase intergenerational interaction and inclusion

Themes	Description
Strengthening community partnerships	• Community to benefit from collective public sector procurement • More inclusive community place planning • Talgarth community recognising the valuable contribution made to the local area and having more influence over the decisions that impact their lives • Explore greater visibility, engagement, coordination and collaboration between community groups and key local institutions. • Establish community understanding to scale and impacts of volunteers • Develop annual Awards for volunteers
Skills, learning and economic opportunities	• More investment and encouragement in apprenticeships/ collaborative work to make this happen, build on new legislation • Working with employers -employee volunteering, offers from experiences, pro bono • Promote local producers/ businesses/ promote Talgarth cultures • Establish robust connection with all groups of volunteers to call on when needed • Community to work together over uncertain future of key local assets (e.g. empty shops) • Opportunities to grow local markets and economic activity

Themes	Description
Volunteering, support and community capacity	• Volunteer code of conduct and principles to protect and support all • Explore the creation of a central hub or focal point for information, volunteering and community activity • Community events and festivals could host community connection and promote each other • Volunteer coordinator to help continue connection and communication • More capacity/ support for overstretched volunteers- time banking, benefit, volunteer recognition
Communication and visibility	• Promote clubs and events - what is on and when? • What's on in Talgarth events calendar • Utilise local advertising assets such as TIC electronic board • Resolve limited visibility of activities and opportunities • Need for stronger, more inclusive engagement and events • Resolve low or uneven participation from residents
Community coordination and shared resources	• Community groups work more together- more coherent community plan, apply for funding together. • Better use of joint funding working together • Exploring shared Digital space for all groups

Themes	Description
Developing the infrastructure	Outreach • Streamlining onboarding for all groups with unified approach • Coordinator role (5 hours per week) to be supported by all • Sign up and promotion using a volunteer open day • Community skills and support exchange Physical infrastructure • Accessibility issues in public facilities and pavements; poor public transport provision
Community compost scheme	• Build on existing initiatives • Build on wood chopper in BMC and explore expansion • There is an existing group called Talgarth Rotters
Community events, culture and belonging	• Baking bread at Talgarth Mill • Develop Talgarth festival • Community street party, BBQ, informal • Welcome day/ event • Recognition party • Mayor's Parlour / events to connect people • More fun and live music for all ages

KEY INSIGHTS FROM CONNECTING TALGARTH



Talgarth has significant community capacity.

77 groups and activities were identified and 48 participants from 31 organisations came together to share ideas and explore the future.



Volunteers are one of the town's greatest assets.

Volunteers give their time, skills and energy across every part of community life and are vital to keeping Talgarth thriving.



Community activity is diverse and thriving.

From arts and culture to environment, wellbeing, heritage, youth, sport and events - there is an extraordinary range of activity and passion in our town.



Relationships matter as much as resources.

Strong relationships, trust and collaboration are the foundation of a resilient and connected community.



Communication and visibility could be improved.

Better sharing of information and celebrating what's happening will help more people get involved and reduce duplication.



Young people represent a major opportunity for the future.

There is a strong desire to listen to, involve and support young people to shape the future of Talgarth.



The greatest opportunity may be strengthening connectedness.

By working together and building on what already exists, we can create even more impact for our town and everyone who lives, works in and visits Talgarth.

The event demonstrated that Talgarth already possesses many of the ingredients needed for a thriving and connected community. The challenge and opportunity moving forward is how those strengths continue to be recognised, supported and connected.

Overall Reflection

The findings present a picture of Talgarth as a community with considerable strengths, strong local leadership, extensive volunteer commitment and a rich ecosystem of formal and informal activity. The central insight is not that new capacity needs to be created, but that existing capacity is substantial and sometimes dispersed across multiple networks, groups and initiatives.

Throughout the discussions, participants repeatedly highlighted the remarkable scale of volunteering, community action and civic participation taking place within the town. The event demonstrated that Talgarth benefits from a wide range of people, organisations and activities that are already making a positive contribution to community life.

A recurring theme was the opportunity to strengthen awareness, communication and collaboration between existing groups, organisations and individuals. Many of the ideas generated during the event focused not on creating entirely new initiatives, but on improving connectedness, visibility and coordination across what already exists. Participants also highlighted the importance of continuing to involve new voices, younger people, residents, businesses and underrepresented groups in future conversations about the town's future.

The event has already begun to create new connections, strengthen existing relationships and stimulate further conversations between groups and individuals. Whilst it is still early to assess the longer-term impact, there are encouraging signs that the project has helped build greater awareness of the breadth of activity taking place across Talgarth and the opportunities that may exist through increased collaboration.

What Next

The Connecting Talgarth project will conclude with the production and sharing of a detailed findings report, a summary briefing document, visual outputs from the event and the wider evidence gathered throughout the project. These outputs will be shared with participants and the wider community to support ongoing conversations and future decision-making.

A community feedback session will be held at Ysgol y Mynydd Du, Talgarth, on 15 July 2026 (7:00pm–8:15pm).

This session will provide an opportunity to share the findings, validate the key themes and insights, and explore the opportunities that have emerged through the project.

The findings presented in this report are not recommendations or agreed actions. Rather, they represent opportunities, ideas and considerations identified by participants. As the project concludes, ownership of these opportunities rests with the community itself. Different organisations, groups and individuals may choose to take forward different aspects depending on their interests, capacity and priorities, whether independently or through collaborative approaches.

The Centre for Collaboration in Community Connectedness (C4), in partnership with Black Mountains College, will continue supporting community engagement and connectedness work in Talgarth through a programme of future community events and activities. The first of these is expected to take place in October 2026 and will provide a further opportunity to build upon the relationships, learning and momentum generated through the Connecting Talgarth project.

Appendix

Appendix 1: List of Attendees

Connecting Talgarth attendee name	Community group represented at the event
Adam Brown	Talgarth & District Regeneration Group
Alison Beavins	Talgarth Community library
Ann Bailey	Community member
Anna Bestant	Black Mountains ministry area
Ben Shorthouse	Talgarth Town Council
Beni Baggaley	Connecting Talgarth facilitator
Beth Dale	Talgarth Festival
Brian Teviotdale	Chess club
Brian Kitson	Black Mountains Gliding Club
Carola Hoskins	Hay Brecon and Talgarth Sanctuary for Refugee Support
Charlotte Osborn	PAVO youth ambassador
Chris Owen/ Blue	Connecting Talgarth facilitator
Corinna Kenyon-Wade	Connecting Talgarth facilitator
Cynthia Argent	Talgarth Craft Group
Dorian Thomas	Talgarth Walking Festival
Gaia Rattazzi	Black Mountains College

Connecting Talgarth attendee name	Community group represented at the event
Gaynor Richards	Talgarth book club
Havard Prosser	Talgarth Walkers are Welcome Group
Heather Dickings	Craft cafe
Heather Somerfield	Talgarth visitor centre
Heather Wilde	Black Mountains College
Jan Atherton	Black Mountains Gliding Club
Jan Schivel	Hay Brecon and Talgarth Sanctuary for Refugee Support
Jane Dodds	Welsh Government
Jed Needs	Talgarth Community Woodland Group
Jenny Francis	Bronllys Health Wellbeing park
Jenny Jakeway	Connecting Talgarth facilitator
Jim Wright	Connecting Talgarth facilitator
Katie Hardy	The Big Eats
Katja Schwarz	Talgarth Farmers Market
Keith Hodgett	Our Tiny Veg Growers
Lelanie Smook	Dr Lelanie Smook Psychological Therapies
Letitia Calin	Connecting Talgarth facilitator
Lisa Pearce	Talgarth Repair Cafe
Lizzie Young	Talgarth Farmers Market
Louise Elston-Reeves	Talgarth Town Council/ Food share

Connecting Talgarth attendee name	Community group represented at the event
Magda Petford	Black Mountains College
Martin Draper	On The Verge/1 Metre Matters
Nick Pritchard	Three Cocks Community Group
Paul Smethurst	Breconshire Baptist Association/ Messy church
Peter Rowson	Talgarth Male Voice Choir
Rachel Shorthouse	Community member
Rashid BENOY	Flora Cultura
Robyn Smethurst	Breconshire Baptist Association/ Messy church
Rosie Williams	Grow for Talgarth
Sharon Mackender	Talgarth community library
Sian Cox	Talgarth Connecting Together
Tara Morgan	Ysgol Y Mynydd Du
Tim Joiner	Black Mountains ministry area
Vicky Fletcher	Talgarth community library
Vita Terry	Black Mountains College
Wayland Boulanger	Connecting Talgarth facilitator
William Powell	Talgarth Town Council
Yuliia Hulenok	Community member
Vladyslav Hulenok	Community member

Appendix 2: List of Connecting Talgarth Working Group Members

Name	Organisation
Adam Brown	Talgarth & District Regeneration Group
Havard Prosser	Talgarth Walkers are Welcome Group
Nick Pritchard	Three Cocks Matters
Sian Cox	Connecting Talgarth
Steve Woodward	Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations
Vita Terry	Centre for Collaboration into Community Connectedness/ Black Mountains College
William Powell	Talgarth Town Councillor

Appendix 3: List of 77 voluntary and community sector organisations identified in mapping exercise June 2026

Afonydd Cymru Cyfyngedig	Big Eats	Black Mountains College/ Beth Nawr and Talgarth Talks
Black Mountains Gliding Club	Black Mountains ministry area CIO	Brecknock Little Theatre
Breconshire Baptist Association/ Messy Church	Bronleyy's Green spaces	Bronllys Health and Wellbeing Park
Brownies	Cheerleader group	Chess club

Christmas lights group	Climbing group	Clothes swaps
Coleg Trefeca	Community wellbeing walk	Dial a ride
Drew Barker-Wright charity	Farm Cluster	Felin Talgarth Mill
Flora Cultura	Friends of Ysgol Y Mynydd Du	FRV (Final Rendezvous) CIC
Grow for Talgarth	Gwernyfed RFC Limited	Hay, Brecon and Talgarth Sanctuary for Refugees
Hosanna Support group	Incipient youth club	Knit and natter
Lights group	Loyal Hay Lodge Charity Trust	Muddy Care
Nature Child Forest school	On the verge/ Our tiny veg growers	On The Verge/1 Metre Matters
Parent and baby coffee mornings at The mill	Parent and toddler group	Scouts/Guides
TADSCA - Talgarth and district sports and community association	Talgarth & District Regeneration Group	Talgarth and district allotment association
Talgarth and District Energy Community Benefit Society Limited	Talgarth book club/ Between the covers book club	Talgarth bowling club
Talgarth community hall	Talgarth community library	Talgarth Community Woodland Group

Talgarth Community Woodland Group Limited	Talgarth Connecting Together	Talgarth Craft Group
Talgarth Farmers Market	Talgarth Festival	Talgarth Food Share
Talgarth lift share	Talgarth lunch club	Talgarth Male Voice Choir
Talgarth Old Post Office Museum	Talgarth Repair café	Talgarth Rotters
Talgarth Town Council	Talgarth Town Football club	Talgarth Visitors Centre
Talgarth Volunteer Centre	Talgarth Walkers are Welcome Group	Talgarth Walking Festival
Talk to the trees LTD	The Brecon University of the Third Age	The HIVE - busy for better lives
The International Guild of Knot Tyers	The Kingdom Hall Trust	Volunteering with the milling team
Woodland avenue play park regeneration group	Wye Usk Foundation	Y Gorlan
Ysgol Y Mynydd Du		

Appendix 4: List of Registered Organisations

These two tables outline registered organisations identified from regulatory authority databases including: Chairty Commission and Companies House.

Organisations in Talgarth

ID	Name	Registered	Categories
GB-CHC-1212056	BLACK MOUNTAINS MINISTRY AREA CIO	07/02/2025	Charity and VCS support, Religion
GB-CHC-1208362	COLEG TREFECA	22/05/2024	Religion, Leisure
GB-CHC-1203154	TALGARTH COMMUNITY HALL	19/05/2023	Religion, Facilities
GB-CHC-1187416	TALGARTH BOWLING CLUB	16/01/2020	Associations, Leisure
GB-CHC-1181389	BRECKNOCK LITTLE THEATRE	02/01/2019	Arts
GB-CHC-1180681	BLACK MOUNTAINS COLLEGE PROJECT	07/02/2018	Education
GB-CHC-1176680	THE DREW BARKER-WRIGHT CHARITY	16/01/2018	Health, Research, Education, Charitable activities
GB-CHC-1174156	FRIENDS OF YSGOL Y MYNYDD DU	07/08/2017	Charity and VCS support, Associations
GB-CHC-1173570	HAY,BRECON AND TALGARTH SANCTUARY FOR REFUGEES	26/06/2017	Community Development, Charitable activities, Charity and VCS support, Leisure, Housing, Social welfare
GB-CHC-1173089	Y GORLAN.	18/05/2017	Associations, Education, Childcare
GB-CHC-1145675	AFONYDD CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG	05/11/2008	Heritage, Charity and VCS support
GB-CHC-1120997	HOSANNA SUPPORT GROUP	27/09/2007	Social welfare, Education, Charitable activities

ID	Name	Registered	Categories
GB-CHC-1080319	THE WYE AND USK FOUNDATION	02/04/1997	Community Development, Animals
GB-CHC-1074288	THE BRECON UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE	23/02/1999	Education
GB-CHC-1035094	LOYAL HAY LODGE CHARITY TRUST	16/03/1994	Charitable activities
GB-CHC-802153	THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS	22/11/1989	Armed forces, Arts, Associations
GB-CHC-275946	THE KINGDOM HALL TRUST	28/07/1939	Religion
GB-CHC-258456	TREFECA COLLEGE	18/04/1969	Religion, Education
GB-MPR-8148	Talgarth and District Energy Community Benefit Society Limited	08/07/2019	Community Development
GB-MPR-8131	Talgarth Community Woodland Group Limited	03/06/2019	Environment
GB-COH-07283824	FELIN TALGARTH MILL LIMITED	14/06/2010	Heritage
GB-COH-09866136	GWERNYFED RFC LIMITED	10/11/2015	Leisure
GB-COH-11779592	MUDDY CARE CIC	21/01/2019	Health
GB-COH-13632231	NATURE CHILD CIC	20/09/2021	Education
GB-COH-14866544	TALK TO THE TREES LTD	12/05/2023	Health
GB-COH-03194847	BLACK MOUNTAINS GLIDING CLUB	03/05/1996	Leisure
GB-COH-16326290	THE HIVE - BUSY FOR BETTER LIVES C.I.C.	19/03/2025	Social welfare, Education, Social care
GB-COH-16577004	FRV (FINAL RENDEZVOUS) CIC	11/07/2025	Social welfare

Historic Organisations in Talgarth (Now Closed)

ID	Name	Registered	Deregistered	Categories
GB-COH-12690172	BREATHE IN NATURE COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY	22/06/2020	31/05/2022	
GB-COH-07728096	CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CONSORTIUM LTD	03/08/2011	07/06/2022	
GB-COH-07704075	THE BAKERS TABLE T/A BY THE RIVER CIC	13/07/2011	14/05/2024	
GB-CHC-1124220	THE PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION GWENT BRANCH	28/05/2008	09/08/2014	Armed forces, Associations
GB-COH-05837036	TALGARTH INVESTMENTS LIMITED	05/06/2006	22/01/2013	
GB-CHC-1109431	FRIENDS OF TALGARTH SCHOOL	11/05/2005	21/06/2019	Associations, Education
GB-CHC-1086963	KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD TALGARTH	08/06/2001	04/07/2007	Heritage, Leisure, Facilities
GB-CHC-1035292	TALGARTH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE	21/03/1994	28/04/2009	Health, Research, Community Development, Housing, Education, Society, Arts, Associations
GB-CHC-1034163	ALLSORTS COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP	02/03/1994	25/04/2023	Education, Childcare
GB-CHC-1026164	BRECON AND DISTRICT CONTACT ASSOCIATION	17/09/1993	26/04/2013	Health, Associations
GB-CHC-1024182	AGE CONCERN BRECKNOCK	27/07/1993	26/03/2008	

ID	Name	Registered	Deregistered	Categories
GB-CHC-1015836	CWMDU AND DISTRICT SHOW	18/12/1992	21/11/2020	Community Development, Leisure
GB-CHC-1014744	TALGARTH AND DISTRICT HOLIDAY PLAYScheme	13/10/1992	10/11/2010	Leisure
GB-CHC-288906	THE AQUILA TRUST	03/04/1984	21/11/2024	Religion
GB-CHC-525038	TALGARTH YOUNG FARMERS CLUB	17/11/1972	22/06/2000	Community Development, Housing, Leisure, Education, Arts, Associations
GB-CHC-525778	THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE ABERYSTWYTH	05/10/1967	13/04/2007	Religion, Education
GB-CHC-231633	THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION - TALGARTH BRANCH	26/11/1963	13/08/2001	Armed forces, Associations
GB-CHC-216293	TALGARTH UNITED CHARITIES	15/05/1963	21/02/2000	Charity and VCS support
GB-MPR-15613R	Talgarth Rabbit Clearance Society Limited		17/07/1984	

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