

Gorslas Community Parks



Survey Feedback Report

Summer 2013

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Gorslas Community Parks



Background: The Gorslas Community Council own and maintain 3 large parks which incorporate play areas, footpaths, open spaces and car parks. The combined area of land is approx 20 acres and serves around 5000 local residents and a large number of visitors from beyond the ward.

This proactive Community Council has ensured continuous investment in these green spaces and as a result, provide safe and accessible environments in which visitors can walk, cycle, relax and play.

The Project: The Sustainable Hubs Key Fund has enabled Gorslas Community Council to make further environmental and safety improvements to the parks at Drefach Cefneithin and Gorslas. Following the completion of the work, Ynni Da have been tasked with engaging with the community and visitors to the parks to consult regarding upgraded facilities and environmental enhancements and the delivery of future projects to ensure the Gorslas Community parks offer the very best services to the resident and visitors.



Drefach:
Traffic Management
Lighting for footpath
Safety features
Environmental enhancement
Improved gating



Cefneithin:
Traffic Management
Improved entrances
Enhanced footpaths
Environmental improvements
Safety features



Gorslas:
Traffic Management
Improved entrances
Enhanced footpaths
Environmental improvements
Safety features

Methodology

During the week of May 27th-31st, the week of July 22nd to 26th and the week of August 5th to 9th Ynni Da visited the 3 parks and conducted a snap shot survey of users of the facilities. This included calculating numbers of visitors, visitor age range, distance travelled to parks, frequency of visits, opinions of park facilities, opinions of the park improvements, use of toilet facilities, comparison with other county parks, future developments and any other comments. All participants were made to feel comfortable with the questions and reassured that all comments would be anonymous. Any comments/suggestions would be forwarded to the Community Council for consideration



The Survey

Ynni Da Consultants used face to face interviews at point of service to ascertain the required information. Each interview lasted a maximum of 10 minutes and interviews with under 18 were always in the company of parent/adult. Each participant was not asked for contact details, but given the Community Clerk's contact details, if they required further information. In addition to this, Ynni Da also conducted a visitor number survey for a period of 10 hrs on an average day. This included visiting the parks at every hour and counting visitors. The survey would last for 15 minutes per visit. This approach would give a general estimate of daily usage of the parks.

Visitors to the Parks

As part of the survey, Ynni Da made a number of visits to the parks to count the number of users at any given day.

Each park was visited at hourly intervals between the hours of 9.00am and 6.00pm.(8.00pm at Gorslas Park)Each visit lasted 15 minutes.

Drefach Park

9.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	Total
2	6	11	3	1	5	7	2	3	0	40

Cefneithin Park

9.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	Total
0	3	4	12	2	0	15	3	7	0	46

Gorslas Park

9.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	Total
8	14	16	31	25	33	51	20	17	12	15	8	253

DREFACH

During the survey, Ynni Da interviewed 37 park users.

1.Age range of participants

Participants were asked to state their age range

Age Range	Numbers	%
0-5	8	23
6-12	10	27
13-18	3	8
19 - 35	6	16
36-50	4	10
51-65	3	8
65+	3	8

2.Distance travelled to Park

Participants were asked “From where have you travelled to Drefach Park?”

LOCATION	Numbers	%
Drefach	30	81
Gorslas Community	5	14
Neighboring community	2	5
Carmarthenshire	0	0
Beyond the county	0	0

3. Frequency of visits to Drefach Park

Participants were asked, “How often do you use/visit Drefach Park?”

FREQUENCY	Numbers	%
Daily	20	54
More than once a week	10	27
Weekly	6	16
Monthly	1	3
Almost never	0	0

4. Opinions on Park facilities

Participants were asked “What is your opinion of the facilities at Drefach Park?”

OPINION	Numbers	%
Excellent	23	62
Good	9	24
Fair	4	11
Poor	1	3

5. Opinions on Park enhancements

Participants were asked to comment on the following statement
“Drefach park has improved due to the recent environmental and safety
enhancements work.” (Funded by Sustainable Hubs Key Fund)

OPINION	Numbers	%
Strongly Agree	23	62
Agree	8	22
Undecided	6	16
Disagree	0	0
Strongly Disagree	0	0

6. Reasons for using Park

Participants were asked to note the main reason that they use Drefach
Park

ACTIVITY	Numbers	%
Children’s area	20	54
Walking	7	19
Cycling	0	0
Ball games	3	8
Fitness	1	3
Route to other destination	6	16

7. Potential future developments at Park

Participants were asked to note any future developments they would like to see at Drefach Park

ACTIVITY	Numbers	%
More equipment at Children's area	24	65
Live music/ Carnival	34	91
Skate Park	6	16
MUGA	15	14
Fruit Tree planting/Local food	9	24
Toilets	9	24
Shelter	37	100

8. Further Comments

Below is a sample of the comments received by participants.

"The lighting in the park is good. I can walk through the park to get to the shop"

"New safety matts are great"

"It's brilliant that cars cant drive down anymore. Far safer"

"I feel safe bringing the children here"

"The kids are lucky to have such a nice play area. I hope that they will respect it."

Cefneithin

During the survey, Ynni Da interviewed 28 park users.

1. Age range of participants

Participants were asked to state their age range

Age Range	Numbers	%
0-5	4	14
6-12	7	25
13-18	3	11
19 - 35	7	25
36-50	4	14
51-65	1	4
65+	2	7

2. Distance travelled to Park

Participants were asked “From where have you travelled to Cefneithin Park?”

LOCATION	Numbers	%
Cefneithin	24	86
Gorslas Community	3	10
Neighboring community	1	4
Carmarthenshire	0	0
Beyond the county	0	0

3. Frequency of visits to Cefneithin Park

Participants were asked, “How often do you use/visit Cefneithin Park?”

FREQUENCY	Numbers	%
Daily	4	14
More than once a week	10	36
Weekly	11	40
Monthly	3	10
Almost never	0	0

4. Opinions on Park facilities

Participants were asked “What is your opinion of the facilities at Cefneithin Park?”

OPINION	Numbers	%
Excellent	9	32
Good	11	40
Fair	8	28
Poor	0	0

5. Opinions on Park enhancements

Participants were asked to comment on the following statement

“Cefneithin park has improved due to the recent environmental and safety enhancements work.” (Funded by Sustainable Hubs Key Fund)

OPINION	Numbers	%
Strongly Agree	22	80
Agree	3	10
Undecided	3	10
Disagree	0	0
Strongly Disagree	0	0

6. Reasons for using Park

Participants were asked to note the main reason that they use Cefneithin Park

ACTIVITY	Numbers	%
Children's area	15	54
Walking	4	14
Cycling	0	0
Ball games	8	28
Fitness	1	4
Route to other destination	0	0

7. Potential future developments at Park

Participants were asked to note any future developments they would like to see at Cefneithin Park

ACTIVITY	Numbers	%
Additional equipment in Children's area	12	43
Competitive Sports	8	29
MUGA	13	47
Food Growing / Fruit trees	2	7
Park Run events	2	7
Community events	10	35
Shelter	16	58

8. Further Comments

Below is a sample of the comments received by participants.

“It is great to see money being spent for the young people”

“New gate is fantastic, it is now much safer”

“We love walking around the park”

“Having the goalposts on the field is great.”

“Everything you need is here and quieter than Gorslas ”

“Cefneithin park is busier than ever and far more things on in the hall”

Gorslas

During the survey, Ynni Da interviewed 131 park users.

1. Age range of participants

Participants were asked to state their age range

Age Range	Numbers	%
0-5	33	25
6-12	30	23
13-18	18	14
19 - 35	17	13
36-50	15	11
51-65	10	8
65+	8	6

2. Distance travelled to Park

Participants were asked “From where have you travelled to Gorslas Park?”

LOCATION	Numbers	%
Gorslas	59	45
Gorslas Community	35	27
Neighboring community	22	17
Carmarthenshire	11	8
Beyond the county	4	3

3. Frequency of visits to Gorslas Park

Participants were asked, “How often do you use/visit Gorslas Park?”

FREQUENCY	Numbers	%
Daily	35	27
More than once a week	48	36
Weekly	29	22
Monthly	15	11
Almost never	4	3

4. Opinions on Park facilities

Participants were asked “What is your opinion of the facilities at Gorslas Park?”

OPINION	Numbers	%
Excellent	103	78
Good	28	22
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0

5. Opinions on Park enhancements

Participants were asked to comment on the following statement “Gorslas park has improved due to the recent environmental and safety enhancements work.” (Funded by Sustainable Hubs Key Fund)

OPINION	Numbers	%
Strongly Agree	80	60
Agree	35	28
Undecided	16	12
Disagree	0	0
Strongly Disagree	0	0

6. Reasons for using Park

Participants were asked to note the main reason that they use Gorslas Park

ACTIVITY	Numbers	%
Children's area	93	77
Walking	12	9
Cycling	7	0
Ball games	8	3
Fitness	1	2
Route to other destination	10	9

7. Potential future developments at Park

Participants were asked to note any future developments they would like to see at Gorslas Park

ACTIVITY	Numbers	%
More cradle swings	28	21
Splash pool / water activity	81	61
Skate park	26	20
MUGA	37	28
Sports Coaching	9	7
Goal netting/cage	22	17
Wheel chair access/rides	8	6
Large climbing activity	43	32
Seating in play area	52	40
Picnic tables	47	36

8. Use of Public Toilet

Participants were asked to state if they used Gorslas Public Toilet while visiting the Park

Yes	No
89%	11%

9. Use of village shop

Participants were asked if they used the village shop while visiting the park

Yes	No
95%	5%

10. Vehicles using the car park

During the survey, we noted the amount of vehicles using the car park during one hour. This did not however distinguish the shop customers.

Between 3.00pm and 4.00pm 32 vehicles used the car park

Further Comments

Below is a sample of the comments received by participants.

“Easily the best park in the county”

“Plenty of things to do for all ages”

“New bins will help keep the park cleaner”

“We always go to a local restaurant for Sunday lunch. The children insist that we stop in Gorslas Park on the way home”

“It is a very safe place to bring the children”

“I use the park as a shortcut to the shop. It is a safe place to be even at night”

Conclusion

This Snap Shot Survey of Gorslas Community Parks clearly shows that the Community Council have pledged to ensure the residents of Gorslas, Cefneithin and Drefach have the highest possible standard of green spaces to provide opportunities for health and well-being.

The survey suggests that the residents also value these areas and appreciate the work and funding invested in them.

The survey shows that the 3 parks attract both children and adults to participate in a broad range of different activities. The parks have a satisfaction rating of 93% - who believe their park is either of an excellent or good standard.

Considerations

Drefach

Visitors at Drefach park were happy with it's central location. The new path from Brynglas had meant more people used the park. Some residents had been concerned about the lack of activities for teenagers that may have caused recent antisocial behavior. Young people questioned also highlighted limited activities. It was noted by some, that there was a lack of shelter at the park within the play area.

Many visitors appreciated the low number of visitors to the park and considered Drefach Park a well resourced and funded park compared with many others.

Parents and children believed the restriction of cars into the park was a very good development.

Cefneithin

Visitors to the park were very happy with the play park and open green spaces. The fact that it is a quieter park than Gorslas, meant many chose to visit. The new gates were considered an improvement. Some visitors commented on the lack of a “bowl swing” such as in Gorslas and Drefach. Visitors at Cefneithin Park were very complementary of the walking facilities especially the wooded area at the rear of the park. However most felt that it was not maintained as regularly as other areas. During the survey period, much of the grass and natural growth was impacting on the footpath.

It was noted that the Hall Committee had created a very vibrant feel to the village and this clearly had an effect on visitor numbers to the park. Open air events had increased the sense of community within the village and an increased appreciation of the green spaces available to residents.

Gorslas

This was by far the most popular park in the community and attracted visitors from across the county. It has historically been considered a well maintained facility and has a reputation as one of the “best parks” within Carmarthen. The park offers a wide range of activities for all ages and has always developed to meet the needs of visitors. The toilet facilities have been a welcomed addition however many commented on cleanliness especially the smell.

From the feedback it was highlighted that there was a lack of seating within the children’s park with many parents choosing to sit in their cars. Many visitors however did bring their own seats. During the summer, many visit Gorslas Park for a picnic and commented that there were not sufficient picnic tables available for visitors.

Crime or the perception of crime did not arise much during the survey but a few commented on the facilities open to 12+ young people. During periods of the day, a minority of visitors felt slightly intimidated when large groups of young people would congregate at the park entrance or sometimes within the shelter. Some felt that future funding within the parks could be focused on facilities for young people 12 years+.

The introduction of a “Splash Pool / Water based activities” at nearby parks and the period of good weather led many visitors to suggest that these kinds of facilities would be a welcomed addition to Gorslas Park.

Gorslas Community Council are determined to continue this commitment to the parks and will consider knowledge gained from the in depth consultation to further strengthen their vision for a safe, healthy and vibrant community.



Funders



Carmarthenshire County Council



Neath Port Talbot County Council



The Valleys



Welsh Government



Communities First

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