

## **DOLWYDDELAN COMMUNITY HWB (BETHEL CHAPEL)**

Bethel chapel in the centre of the village, is an independent chapel which has become unviable. Those responsible for the building are in the process of listing the Chapel for sale.

The building is a large community space, occupying a central location on the main A470 in the village. It is likely there would be considerable interest in purchasing the property. A small group of Dolwyddelan residents are exploring the possibility of obtaining the building for community use, via some form of 'not for profit' enterprise, where future resources can be re-invested in the community.

In April, the group were successful in obtaining funding from the Perthyn small grants, administered by Cwmpass, to fund a consultant to undertake a community consultation and a feasibility study on the outcomes from these surveys in relation to Bethel chapel. The paper and online survey and initial feedback have now been completed.

Initial feedback indicated four 'headline' areas for consideration, that include; accommodation, transport, young people and a café. As a result of the survey, the local council housing enabler has agreed to undertake a full housing needs survey for Dolwyddelan. The other three topics will be included in a community plan, written by the consultant. This plan will be shared with village groups and organisations in order to help them effectively plan and support the community needs and wishes.

In addition, an early phase 3 feasibility study for the development of Bethel into a combined café and accommodation units will be outlined. Full information on these two documents will be presented at a meeting on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2-4pm** at the Pavilion. All are welcome to attend. Headline results will be shared on social media as and when we have them.

It is likely that future development of the project into a phase 3 will need to seek further funding to employ a project manager / community worker to oversee capital fundraising to purchase the building and / or develop projects identified as needed within the community plan. The continuation of this project will be dependent on sufficient people with the time and commitment to make this project happen, so if this is something you would like to see in the village, this is the time to show your support and commit time and energy to taking this forward.

*The project group.*