



Works in Cwmparc: Engagement with the local community

Date	12 March 2015
Venue	Cwmparc Community Centre
Time	5.30 – 7.00pm



Proposals for Cwmparc

Natural Resources Wales is proposing the following works in Cwmparc:

- The restoration of peatbog on NRW managed woodland (approx. 5ha peat, total area is 12ha)
- The installation of Large Woody Debris in the Nant Cwmparc
- The installation of river level monitoring points to monitor and evaluate the benefits of working with natural processes

Working with the community

On Thursday 12 March 2015 we held a community event and invited residents of Cwmparc to come and hear about our proposals, and to provide an opportunity for residents to talk about their local environment.

Our approach

The community event was planned and delivered with Gabi Torkington, Cynefin’s Place Based Coordinator for Rhondda Cynon Taf. To help enable a good turnout, Gabi distributed over 600 flyers about the event to the local community, predominantly via door knocking and chatting with residents in the street. Posters were put up in the Community Hall, and the event was advertised through social media.

Turnout

Despite heavy rain on the night, approximately 40 residents came to the event and discussions were generally positive about the proposals. Feedback and comments are captured below:

Feedback to proposals

Good idea	Very good proposals which would have a positive impact on flood issues.
Good idea	At last Cwmparc is being considered
Good idea	Lots of wonderful opportunities to consider
Good idea	Please get on with it!
Good idea	A symbiotic partnership between a man-made environment and nature
Good idea	Hopefully you will be able to involve local children in conservation of their area.
Good idea	Sounds great! Sooner the better!

Other	Hopefully there will be further meetings to discuss the proposals more thoroughly
Other	More insight necessary with regards to methane gases being omitted from the Parc Colliery site.
Other	Will there be local employment opportunities?

Criticism	Poor meeting. No comments about water table height and amount of water.
Criticism	More info needed, wasn't clear where funding is coming from, and should have included a presentation, rather than 1 to 1 discussions.

As the event was co-produced with Cynefin, we also captured a wide range of comments from residents about the Cwmparc area which is useful for our wider work. These are included in Annex 1.

Summary

The event attracted a good turnout from residents of Cwmparc to find out about our proposals and talk about their local environment. The majority of feedback was positive, but two residents gave us constructive criticism for how the event could have been better presented and managed.

We intend to take these comments into account for any future events. In particular, presenting an overview of proposals via a presentation as opposed to one on one discussions, including more information on funding and the area-based approach in the Rhondda, and expanding the potential audience by holding the event at an earlier time slot.

The application for consent for the Large Woody Debris is currently being considered by Rhondda Cynon Taf. Depending on the outcome of this, it is our intention to hold a second event (co-produced with Cynefin) in Cwmparc in Spring 2015.

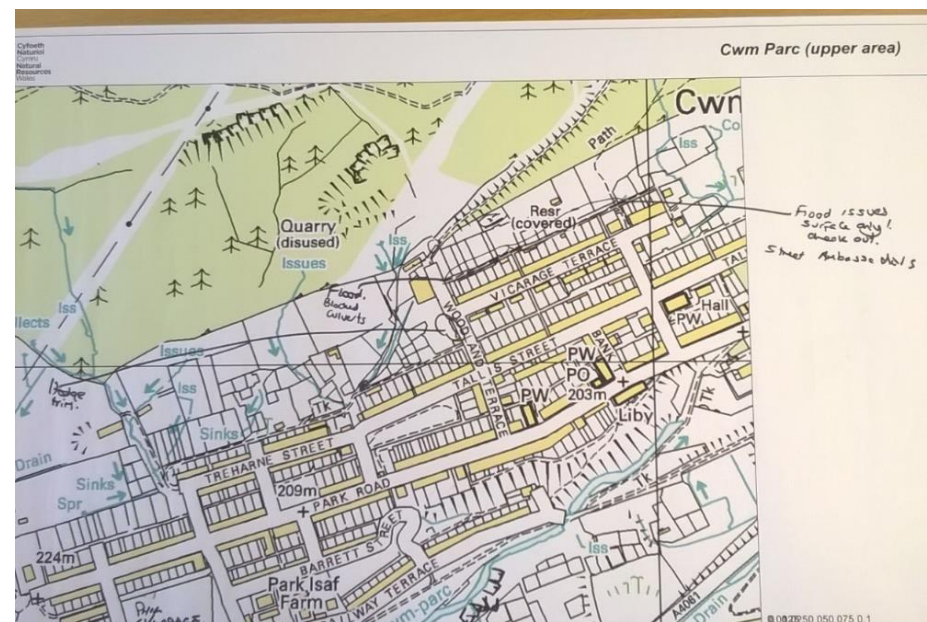
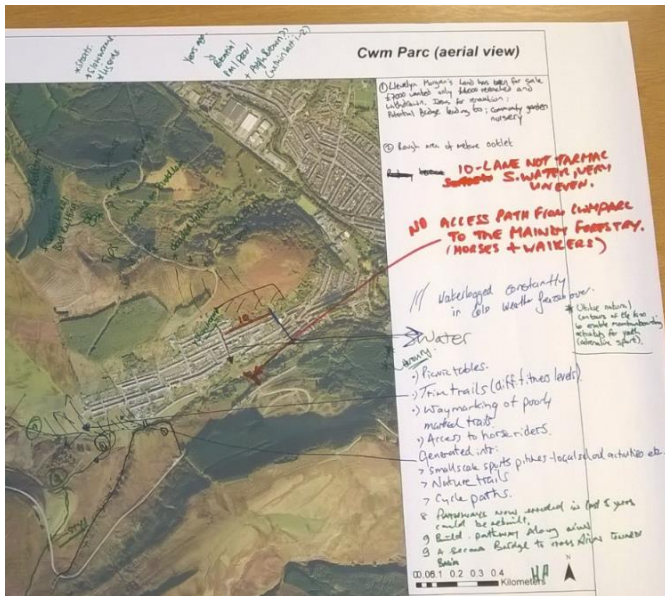
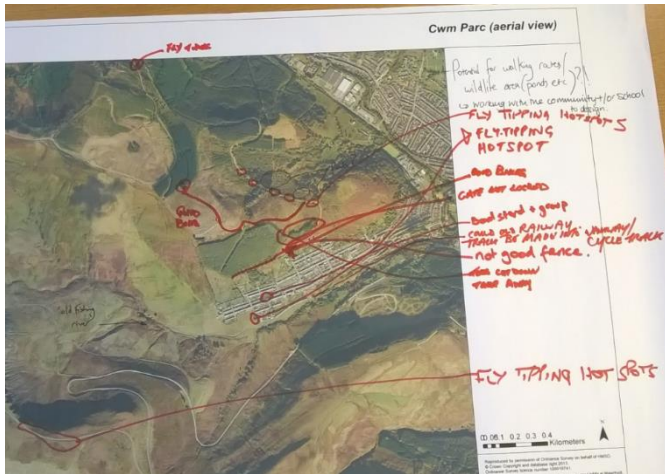
Annex 1: further information

General feedback and comments from residents about Cwm Parc

- Hopefully will also look at making better walkways in the area.
- A Memorial or garden area to be situated adjacent to 258 to 262 to remember people lost in the bombing of Cwmparc – even if only a plaque and daffodils.
- Lock [forest] gates
- Problems with quad bikes
- There is great potential for walking routes, better signage and a wildlife area, with ponds etc.
- Should work to develop wildlife area with community and the local school/children.
- Could the old railway track be made into a walkway or cycle track?
- Fly tipping!!! *Lots of fly tipping hotspots identified.*
- Quad bikes! *Quad bike routes identified*
- Nant Cwmparc used to be known as the “Old Fishing River”
- Series of ponds on the forest estate, have dried out and almost disappeared – they were a place with lots of biodiversity, but not now.
- Lots of surface water issues - *identified and pathways drawn on map*
- Area [between road and river] constantly waterlogged, in clod it freezes over.
- Utilise the natural contours of the land to enable mountain boarding activities for youth (adrenaline sport).
- Trim Trails (different levels)
- Way marking needed of poorly marked trails
- Access for horse riders.
- Area [between road and river] to be used as: local sports pitch, or local school activities, nature trails cycle paths.
- Pathways have now eroded in the last 5 years, could be rebuilt [paths across footbridge, along track into the basin]
- Build path along the river
- A second bridge to cross the river towards the basin [would be a good idea]
- Stiles needed [crossing the Bwlch road].
- Llewelyn Morgan’s land has been for sale, £7,000 wanted, only £4,000 reached and then withdrawn. [missed opportunity, land could be used by community] ideas for renovation: potential bridge leading to a community garden or nursery.
- Rough area with methane outlet.
- No access path from Cwmparc to the Maindy Forestry (for horses and walkers)
- Lane [rear of Tallis Street] not tarmacked, very uneven surface, surface water flooding.
- Blocked Culverts *location identified*

- Flood issues, surface water only! Check out!

Community comments captured on maps



Biodiversity Records captured:

- Small Pearl Border Fritillary
- High Brown Fritillary
- Clouded yellow
- Comma
- Frogs
- Common lizard
- Slow worms
- Redstarts
- Crossbills
- Heronry
- Bee Orchid
- Goshawk
- Fly Agaric
- Stoat
- Sparrow hawk

Background information

Integrated natural resource management

The Welsh Government's Environment Bill White Paper proposes new duties for NRW to develop and implement a proactive and more joined-up approach to planning and management of natural resources, and to ensure evidence from this process feeds into appropriate delivery plans.

To prepare for this, Natural Resources Wales is progressing three area-based trials in the Rhondda, the Tawe and the Dyfi. The main purpose of the trials is to explore how to embed an integrated approach to natural resource management within specific geographical areas, demonstrate how the proposed duties might be applied in practice, and to capture the learning along the way.

Proposals in Cwm Parc

Funding from Welsh Government was allocated to the three trial areas for activities / projects that deliver the widest possible benefits, and which help develop our understanding of the practical and operational aspects of natural resource management. One of the projects in the Rhondda is looking at working with natural processes to bring benefits to wildlife and help reduce flood risk.

