

Dissemination of the information

The write ups of each meeting were immediately circulated to each Corporate Director of the County Borough and to the appropriate officer for service delivery in each of the following organisations: South Wales Police, West Wales TEC, Iechyd Morgannwg Health, Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency, the Welsh Development Agency, the local M.P. and the Council for Voluntary Service. They were also sent to the appropriate Community Council.

Accompanying the write up was a request for feedback if action was taken to remedy any specific issue. Some of the issues could not be dealt with as immediate practical problems, this remaining data is intended to advise future strategies and sustainable service delivery plans for all interested parties in addition to forming a basis for the Agenda for the 21st Century.

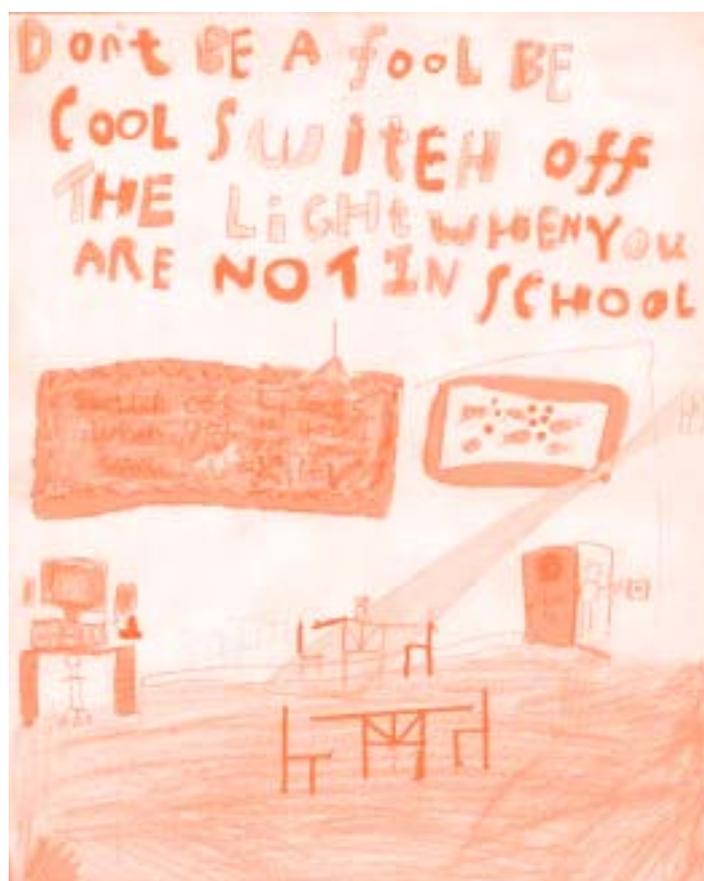




Figure 1
Breakdown of issues raised by the Community across the 29 Public Meetings

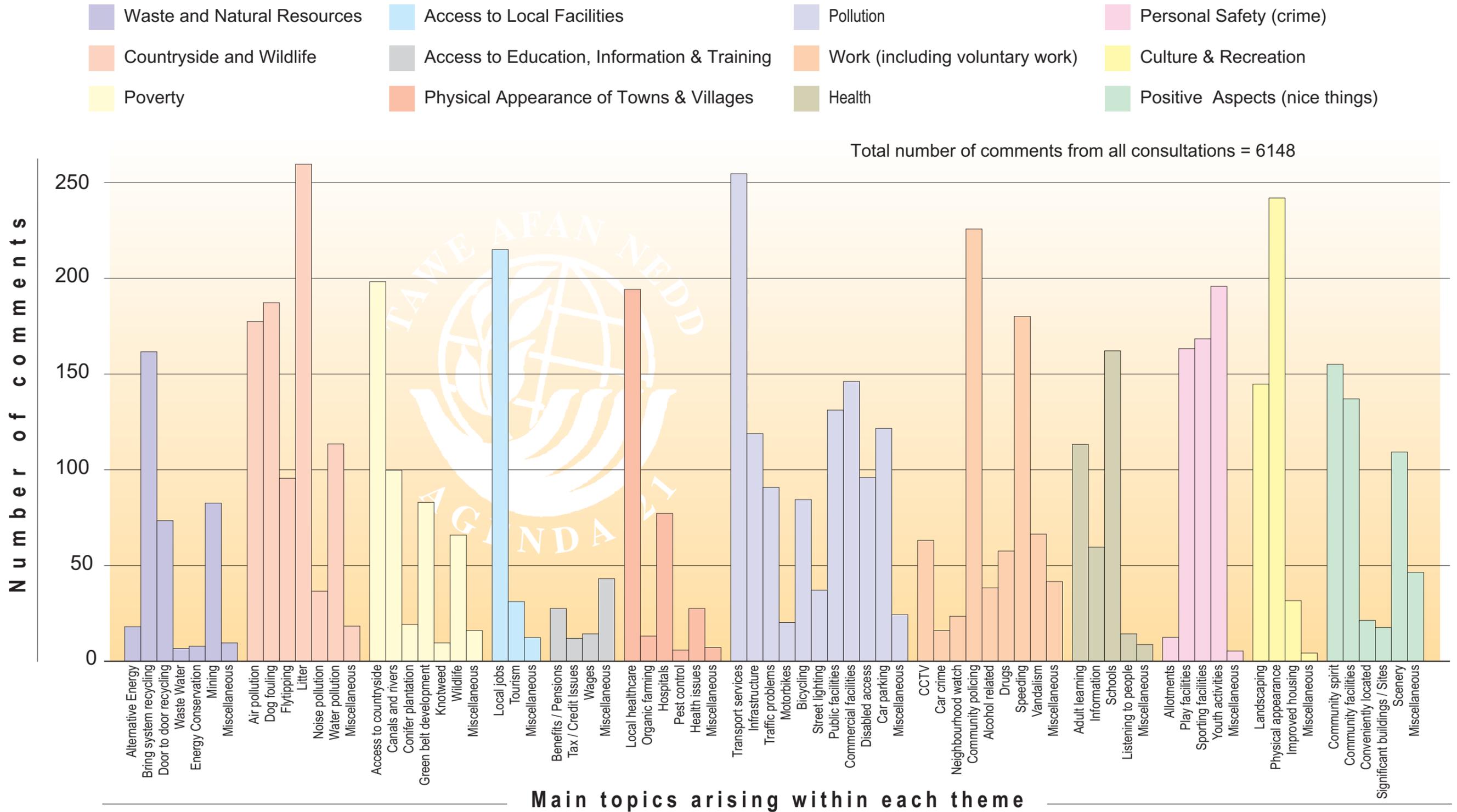
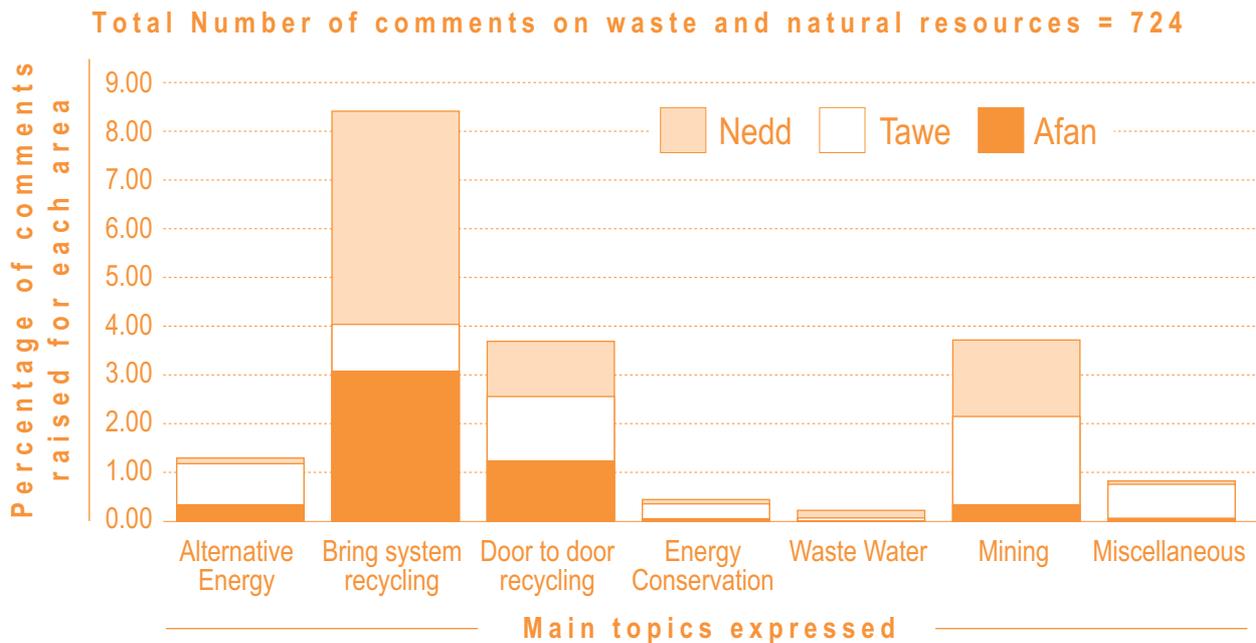


Figure 2 Waste and Natural Resources

The most commonly expressed topics of concern
(showing geographical differences by shading)



KEY

Alternative Energy - Greater emphasis on renewable energy schemes, especially wind, hydro and solar, local community schemes.

Bring System recycling - More widespread recycling facilities and greater variety of recycling schemes e.g. composting, textiles etc.

Door to door recycling - Calls for widespread use of recycle bins, most were happy with trial.

Conservation of energy - In response to the excessive use of energy, greater energy saving advice and information on the grants available is needed.

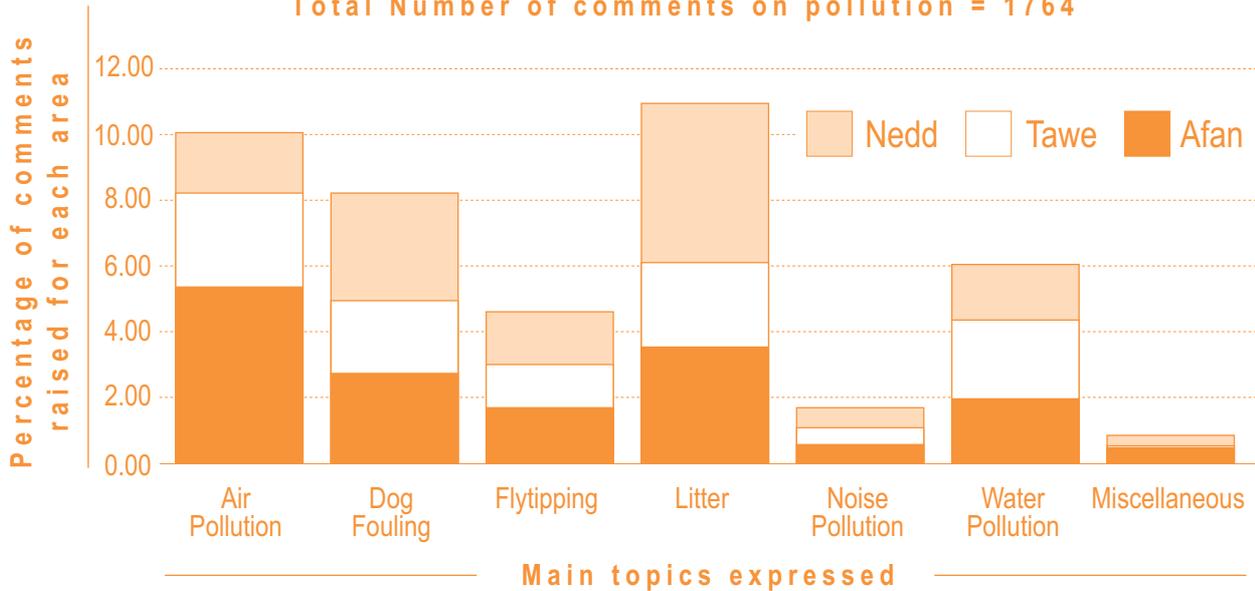
Mining - Opencast mining is destroying countryside, dust and noise pollution and heavy traffic problems.

Miscellaneous - Packaging, farm plastics and wasting your school dinner.

Figure 3 Pollution

The most commonly expressed topics of concern
(showing geographical differences by shading)

Total Number of comments on pollution = 1764



KEY

Air Pollution - Reduce car use and minimise pollution from industrial activities

Dog Fouling - Increase the number of bins. Fines for people who allow their dogs to foul and do not clean it up.

Fly Tipping - Door step collection services for bigger items e.g. mattresses should be free. More patrols to clean up fly tipping. Greater discipline for those caught fly tipping.

Litter - Litter is a big problem, more bins in certain places, more education and a litter clean up programme where necessary. Also on the spot fines.

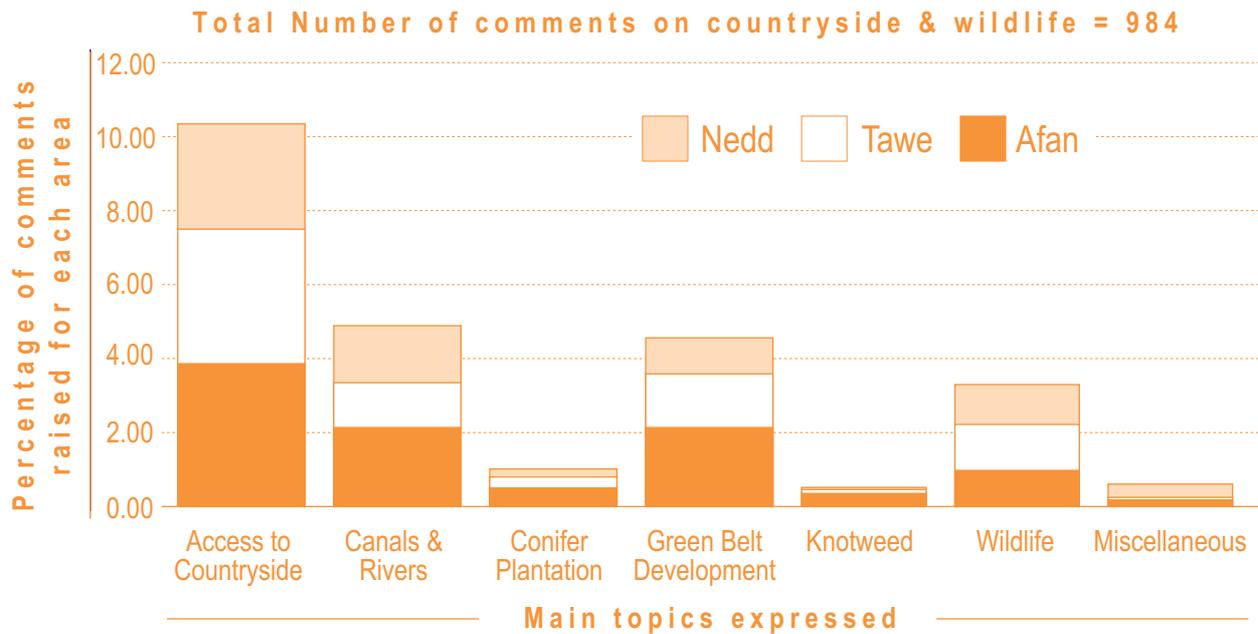
Noise Pollution - Traffic and industrial noise especially in or near small villages.

Water Pollution - More information on monitoring. Keep rivers, canals and sea cleaner mainly in relation to dumping rather than water quality. Monitor old mines and landfill to avoid leaching.

Miscellaneous - The polluter should pay, use of pesticides and horse fouling!

Figure 4 Countryside & Wildlife

The most commonly expressed topics of concern
(showing geographical differences by shading)



KEY

Access to local Countryside - More environmental centres, nature walks, signposts. Many enjoy the local countryside. Also countryside cycling

Canals and Rivers - Greater access to walkways along canals and rivers, clean them up too polluted. Tourism potential of canals.

Conifer Plantation - Movement away from planting conifers towards planting broadleaf.

Green Belt Development - Brown field sites should be utilised for development before green sites, more needs to be done to protect green sites.

Wildlife - Better education and environmental centres.

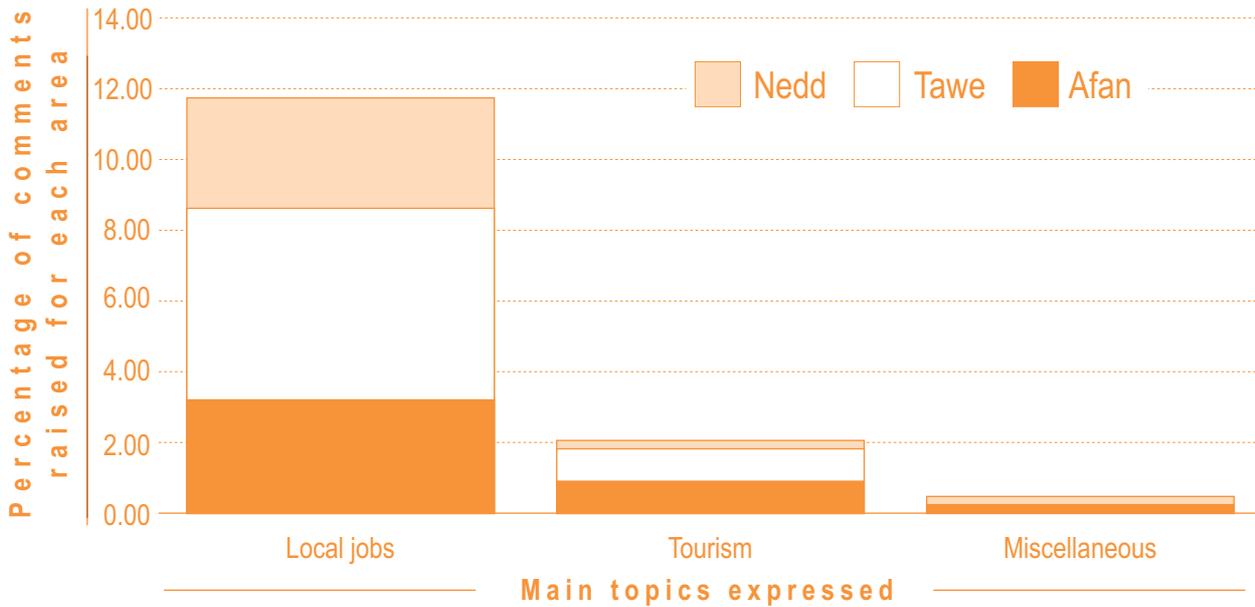
Miscellaneous -Straying sheep, protect SSSIs, sand dredging, hedgerow loss, damage from motorcycles.



Figure 5 Work (including voluntary work)

The most commonly expressed topics of concern
(showing geographical differences by shading)

Total Number of comments on local employment = 516



KEY

Local Jobs - Greater local employment opportunities provided by encouraging industry to the area, building more units. More voluntary / community employment.

Problems travelling to work places.

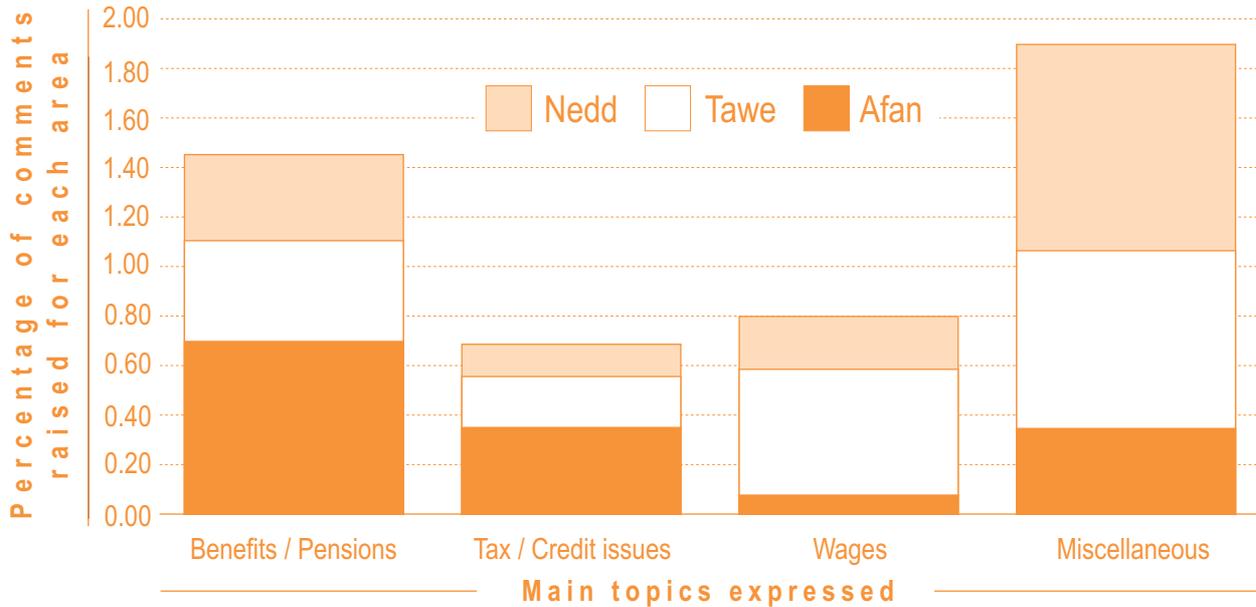
Tourism - Encourage tourism initiatives that will bring prosperity and employment, take advantage of the area to promote tourism.

Miscellaneous - Trade Union Rights, Incentives for setting up businesses, greener businesses, more start up units, bring down business rates.

Figure 6 Poverty

The most commonly expressed topics of concern
(showing geographical differences by shading)

Total Number of comments on poverty = 192



KEY

Benefits / Pensions - Pensions, unemployment, parent and housing benefits should be larger, more numerous and less restrictive.

Tax / Credit Issues - Reduced national and council tax rates and greater availability of credit unions.

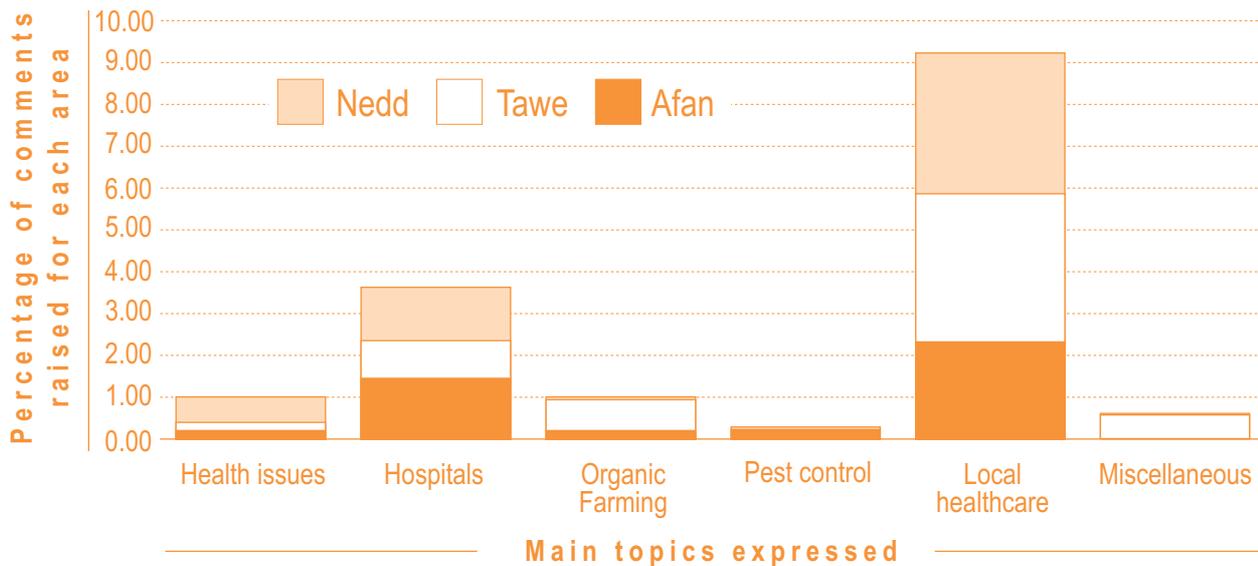
Wages - Concerns over, and consequences of low wages, including a desire for the minimum wage.

Miscellaneous - People should work their way out of poverty, free access, disenfranchised youth, sustainable development.

Figure 7 Health

The most commonly expressed topics of concern
(showing geographical differences by shading)

Total Number of comments on health = 648



KEY

Local Healthcare - Hard to get doctor out of hours, more surgeries, less waiting, more doctors etc. Chemists could do courier delivery.

Hospitals - Waiting lists, too far away - reliance on car, poor public transport to hospitals, local community hospitals, keep Neath General open.

Organic Farming - Local organic food market, more information for local farmers to participate.

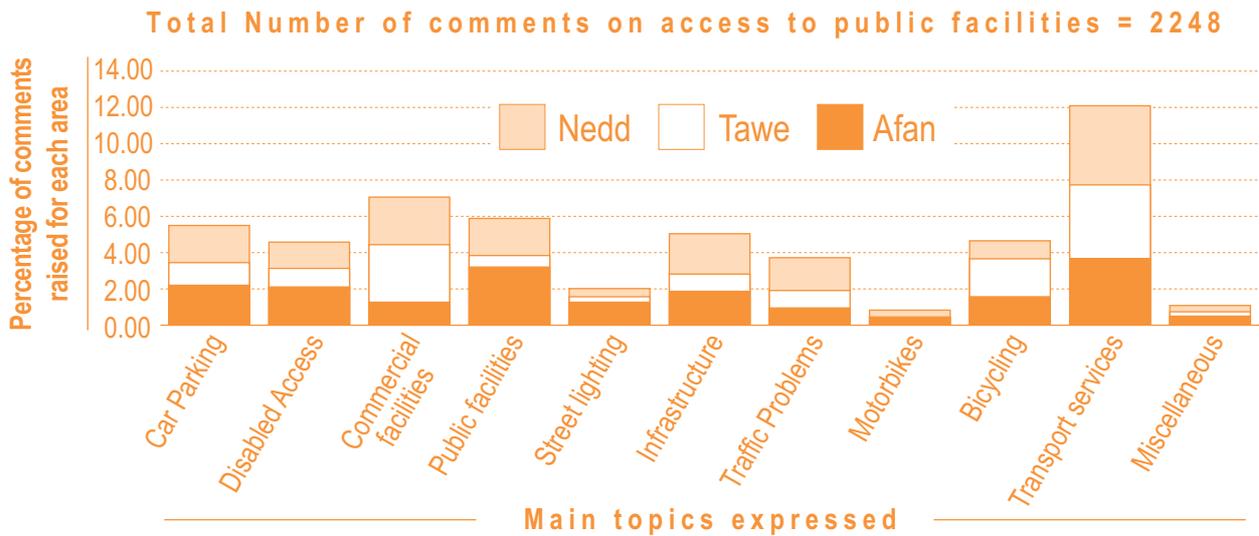
Pest Control -Fly tipping/litter causes pests clean it up.

Health Issues - Better education on smoking, diets, healthy living, exercise alcohol, drugs, air pollution.

Miscellaneous - Improve the appeals procedure, healthy lifestyles-more walks, need for first aid post and effects of traffic.

Figure 8 Access to Local facilities

The most commonly expressed topics of concern
(showing geographical differences by shading)



KEY

Car Parking - More car park spaces - priority for disabled.

Disabled Access - needed to all buildings, countryside, walks, better pavements for old and disabled.

Commercial Facilities - More places to eat out, more shops and banks in smaller villages. Small shops being ruined by supermarkets.

Public Facilities - Public toilets, better libraries, disabled access, community centres.

Street lighting - Inadequate in under passes.

Infrastructure - Improve pavements and road surfaces.

Traffic Problem - Too much traffic, heavy vehicles going through small villages.

Motorbikes - Motorcycles causing a nuisance - noisy, damaging footpaths, safety issue, build a designated area for use of motorbikes.

Bicycling - The need for more cycle tracks and designated lanes in towns to help promote cycling as a form of transport and not just leisure.

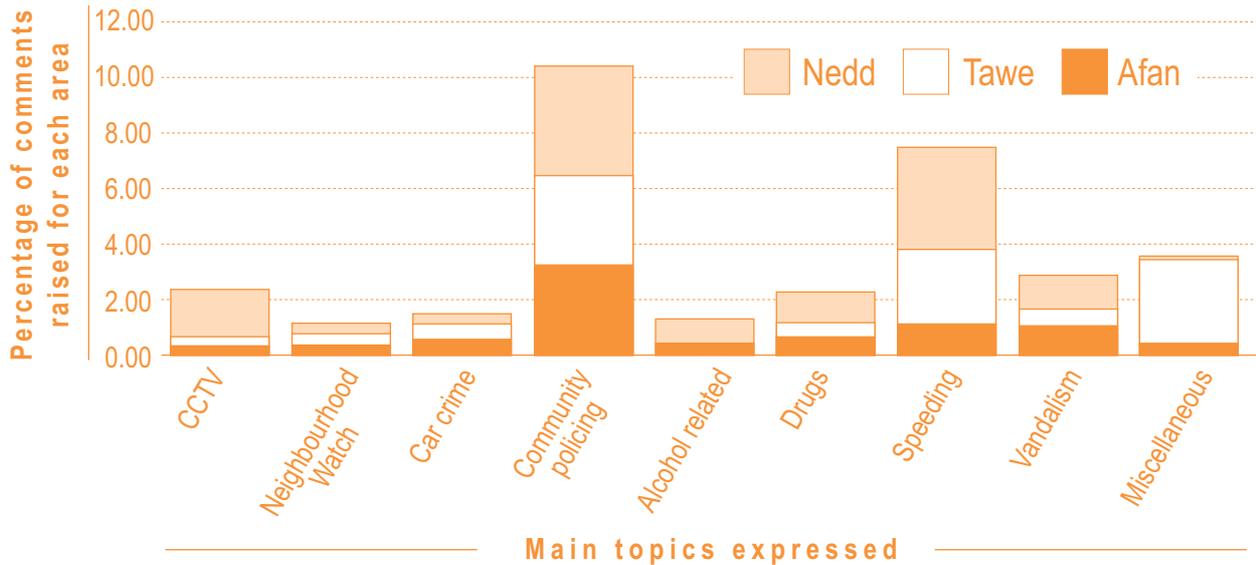
Transport Services - Better buses to connect rural communities, to aid commuting, to match hospital visiting times, to access leisure centres.

Miscellaneous - Alienation of rural communities by centralisation, distance to dog pound, keep community councils.

Figure 9 Personal Safety (Crime)

The most commonly expressed topics of concern
(showing geographical differences by shading)

Total Number of comments on personal safety = 1446



KEY

CCTV - Need more cameras in areas where crime occurs.

Car Crime - Too high - police not doing enough.

Community Policing - More police in the communities, hands on approach, local bobby.

Alcohol Related - The problems caused by the consumption of alcohol

Drugs - More education to prevent, but more policing to react.

Speeding - Speed restrictions

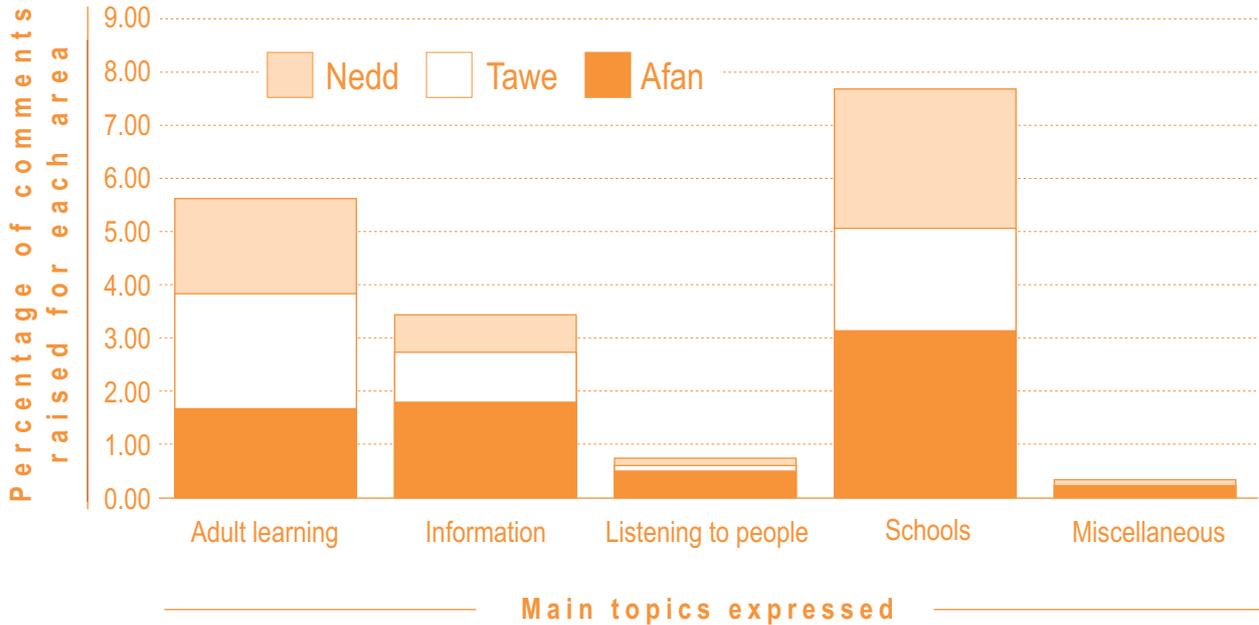
Vandalism - A problem caused by lack of entertainment, drugs, drink etc.
Solution: more police CCTV cameras

Miscellaneous - Railway lines and children, stronger penalties, nuisance neighbours, safety for old people, motorcycles off road and intimidating subways

Figure 10 Access to Education Information & Training

The most commonly expressed topics of concern
(showing geographical differences by shading)

Total Number of comments on education = 712



KEY

Adult Learning - More and cheaper night classes. More computer access. Open up schools in evening.

Information - On walks, on local authority, tourism, environment, community notice boards.

Listening to People - People unhappy not consulted, not listened to, not responded to by the service deliverers.

Schools - Happy with quality of schools. Open schools in evenings for community education. Transport issues e.g. free buses, safer roads to school.

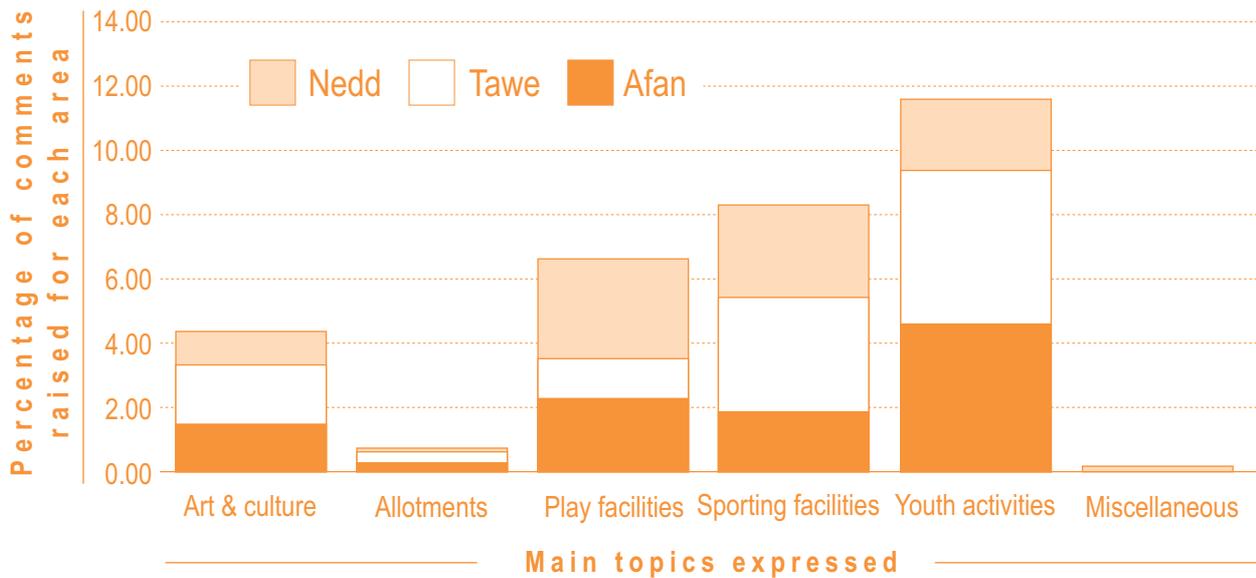
Miscellaneous - Need for environmental forum, child care facilities, outreach facilities for Inland Revenue, DHSS and CAB.



Figure 11 Culture & Recreation

The most commonly expressed topics of concern
(showing geographical differences by shading)

Total Number of comments on culture & recreation = 1248



KEY

Art and Culture - People happy with music festivals. Others want more exhibitions, festivals shows etc.

Allotments - Greater number and larger more centralised allotments.

Play Facilities - Need more playgrounds, untidy, dog muck, more things to do on them, better seating for mothers, fences to keep dog out.

Sporting Facilities - For football, swimming, rugby etc. not enough.

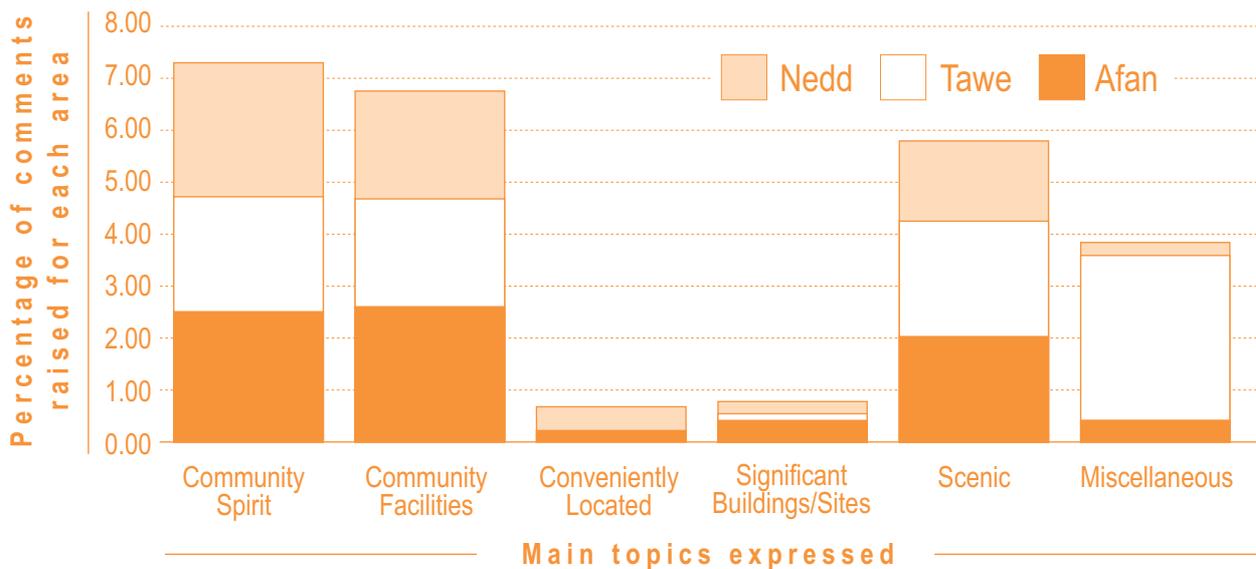
Youth Activities - Give youths more to do, places to go to, stop vandalism, drug abuse, crime intimidation.

Miscellaneous - A central Christmas tree for the village, a new historical society and a return to spiritualist ideals.

Figure 12 Physical Appearance of Towns & Villages

The most commonly expressed topics of concern
(showing geographical differences by shading)

Total Number of comments on positive aspects = 936



KEY

Landscaping - Landscape derelict land, buildings and surroundings.

Physical appearance - Of shops, new developments, derelict shops, shabby and dirty, graffiti, poor quality.

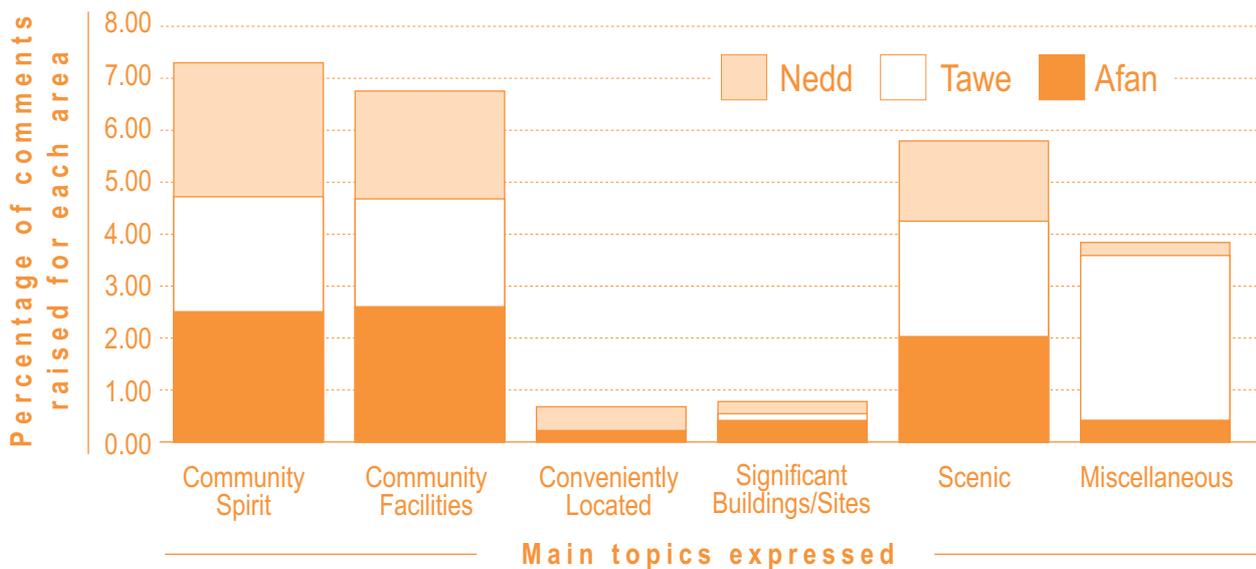
Improved Housing - More affordable quality housing

Miscellaneous - Pedestrianise more streets, unsightly streets.

Figure 13 Positive Aspects

The most commonly expressed topics of concern
(showing geographical differences by shading)

Total Number of comments on positive aspects = 936



KEY

Community Spirit - Positive response to the 'sense of community' and friendliness.

Community Facilities - Positive responses to the facilities each area offers, good shops, schools etc.

Conveniently Located - Positive response to the convenience of the location.

Significant Buildings / Sites - Particular buildings that were classed as good, nice, beautiful etc.

Scenic - Positive response to the scenery

Miscellaneous - Praise for particular places - Afan Argoed, seafront, shops, old age club, nice walks, Pedestrianisation of Neath, Arts Centre.

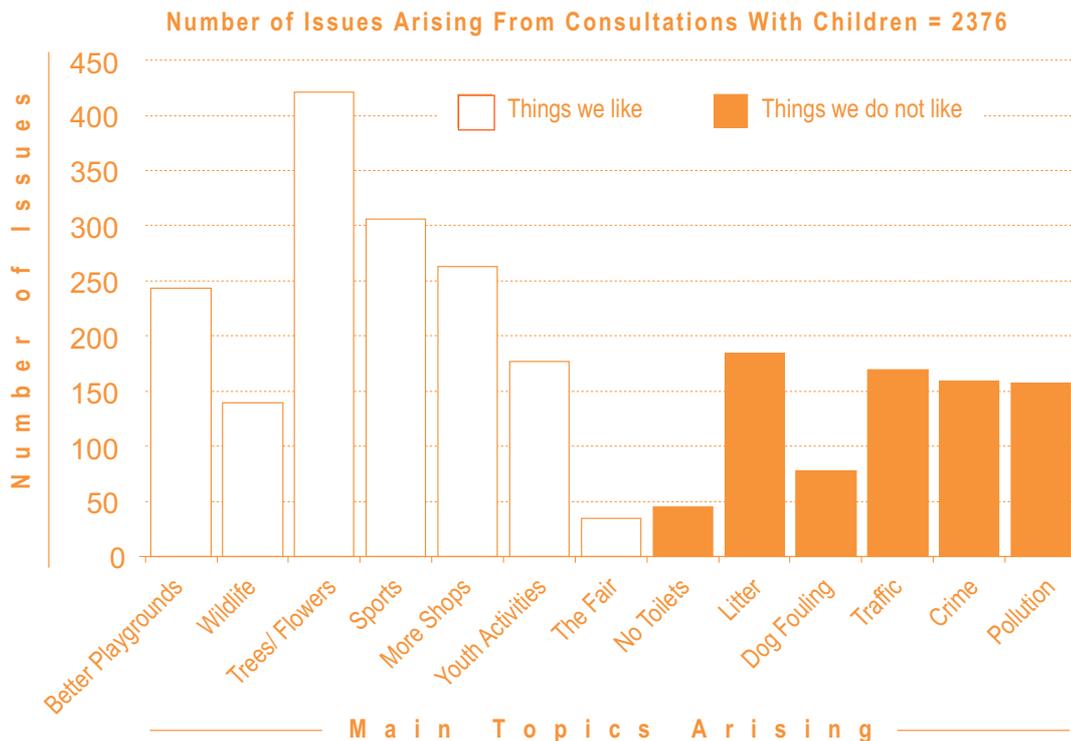
Children’s Agenda

The children’s work which was extremely varied and of incredibly high quality has already sparked activity in many of the schools and with several of the Community Councils. Their issues outlined in Fig. 14 are not unusual when you consider their day to day lives. The need for local public toilets for when they are out playing. The affects of car exhausts which are all around the entrances to their schools and nearer their level than ours. Their

wish for more sports and play facilities – we want them to stop sitting in front of TVs and computer games. They hate dog fouling, its usually children who step in it and also litter. What is pleasing is their wish to have more wildlife, trees and flowers.

All of the schools who participated in the consultation are listed in Appendix II.

Figure 14
Children’s Agenda - the most commonly expressed topics





Agenda 21

We, the Year 5/6 children of Blaengwrach Primary School have discussed the issue of Agenda 21 in detail and we want to improve our environment, for us, now and for future generations.

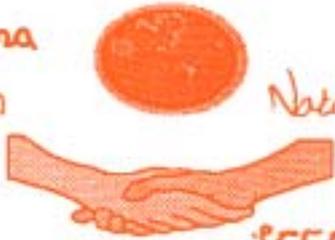
We don't think that we have asked for anything that is



unreasonable and our requests should cater for all members of the community.

If we are lucky enough to have some or all of the amenities/facilities that we have asked for, we want the Community Council and the community in general to know that we will do our best to respect and look after our environment.

We will try to raise awareness amongst other children, teenagers and young adults, that our environment is for us ALL and if things are spoiled or damaged, then the whole community loses out.

Kayleigh Gemma
 David. Gavin
 Lauren Hayley
 Marcus Cem
 Karyn Natasha
 Jessica Isaac
 Ian

 Kristian Natalie
 Jomos. Kylie
 Mark Dewi
 Hannah.
 Lindsay Karlie