

Llangollen 2020 - WIA - July 2021

Well-being Impact Assessment Report

This report summarises the likely impact of the proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	956
Brief description:	The Llangollen 2020 project involves the introduction of widened footways and raised junction tables, including enhanced pedestrian crossing opportunities, on Castle Street in Llangollen. The purpose of the project is to increase active travel levels and to improve access to a number of key destinations in the town, for both pedestrian and cyclists, including Ysgol Dinas Bran, Ysgol y Gwernant, Ysgol Bryn Collen, Llangollen International Pavilion, Llangollen Health Centre, Llangollen Town Centre, Llangollen Bus station and Llangollen Railway Station.
Date Completed:	07/07/2021 15:28:38 Version: 1
Completed by:	Ben Wilcox-Jones
Responsible Service:	Planning & Public Protection
Localities affected by the proposal:	Llangollen,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	The general public, including vulnerable road users, including children and other groups with protected characteristics, pedestrians, cyclists and business owners.
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	Yes

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

 (3 out of 4 stars) Actual score : 31 / 36.

Summary for each Sustainable Development principle

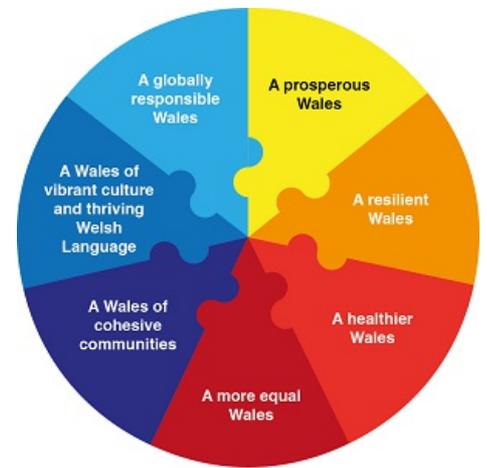
Long term	The Llangollen 2020 project has been developed to improve the pedestrian environment in Llangollen Town Centre and to reduce the number of local journeys that are made by car. The project aligns with the Welsh Governments new Transport Strategy, Llwybyr Newydd, which places a duty on all local authorities, to ensure that active travel is prioritised over motorised transport in all new highway schemes in Wales. Llwybyr Newydd seeks to reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, reduce obesity etc.
Prevention	The project promotes independence and resilience for children and groups with protected characteristics. There are road safety concerns in the vicinity of Llangollen's schools. Improving active travel facilities can reduce the number of car journeys that take place. Visually impaired citizens do not visit the town centre at busy times. The scheme can help to alleviate this. The project will also help to reduce the negative impact of climate change by prioritising local active journeys.
Integration	The project will contribute to WG's own Well-being goals, such as A Prosperous Wales and A Healthier Wales, to specific objectives from the joint Conwy and Denbighshire Well-being Plan like 'Better enabling people to travel to work and services', to DCC's own Corporate Priorities including Connected Communities and also to the priorities established in WG's Transport Plan 'Llwybyr Newydd', which prioritises sustainable transportation over motorised transport for environmental reasons.
Collaboration	The project was initially a community led with DCC providing support and advice. As we have moved towards the construction phase of the project, DCC have taken the lead. As the project has moved through the developmental process key partners such as WG, TFW & Sustrans have become involved. By prioritising active travel the project is directly contributing to DCC and WG's Net Carbon Zero ambitions.
Involvement	Public engagement and consultation has taken place throughout the development of the project. Initially the 'Llangollen 2020' group engaged on the principle of pedestrian improvements in the town centre area. During the design phase, DCC has undertaken public consultation on the design of the scheme and will be doing so again with respect to the Traffic Regulation Orders. The recent consultation which was both digital and face to face was done with expert advice from our Public Engagement team.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

A prosperous Denbighshire	Positive
A resilient Denbighshire	Positive
A healthier Denbighshire	Positive

A more equal Denbighshire	Positive
A Denbighshire of cohesive communities	Positive
A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Neutral
A globally responsible Denbighshire	Neutral



Main conclusions

This is the second iteration of this Well-being Impact Assessment, with the original version being undertaken as part of the grant funding application to WG in January 2021. It was apparent, following completion of the first iteration, that more stakeholder engagement was needed as the project was taken forward to the design/tender stage. This, second iteration, of the Well-being Impact Assessment has been completed after undertaking a significant amount of stakeholder/public engagement/consultation. The design of the scheme is/has been modified as a result of these stakeholder discussions.

The second iteration has reinforced the need to ensure that the projects supply chains is, wherever possible, sustainable, so that the positive, long-term, impacts of the project are not negatively offset by short term issues during the construction phase.

Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment

- We have consulted published research or guides that inform us about the likely impact of the proposal
- We have involved an expert / consulted a group who represent those who may affected by the proposal
- We have engaged with people who will be affected by the proposal

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	<p>An improved active travel network can enhance the physical appearance of an area, improving pedestrian access and perceived safety, thereby increasing the number and length of visits made by local residents and visitors. An improved pedestrian environment, together with enhanced traffic management improves the amenity of the area for all users, generating increased investment and income generation.</p> <p>Congestion along the Castle Street and the A5, negatively impacts local businesses and residents, delaying deliveries and commuting times and impacting on productivity within the area, particularly during peak season. The scheme will encourage modal shift from the car for local trips contributing to improved traffic flows.</p> <p>Evidence suggests that pedestrians and cyclists are better customers in terms of overall spend, time spent in the area and frequency of visits. Consumers who travel by car typically spend less time and therefore money due to time pressures from car parking.</p> <p>By procuring goods and services in ways that support the local economy and by addressing social, environmental and cultural well-being issues.</p> <p>We understand that the existing provision of active travel routes within the town and the high pedestrian footfall figures combine to reduce the number of local journeys that are made by foot and bike. By improving the provision of routes within the town centre area we will reduce the number of vehicular journeys that are made for local journeys and encourage modal shift.</p> <p>The Conwy and Denbighshire Well-being Plan has an objective to better enable people to travel to work and services. This scheme, and the associated review of Llangollen's Active Travel routes, will play a key role in fulfilling this objective, by providing improved access to the bus station, the Canal Towpath and other key destinations within the town and the surrounding area.</p>
Further actions required	The perceived and actual negatives will be managed and minimised through the public engagement process that we have in developed.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in local car journeys Reduction in carbon emissions Introduction of green infrastructure Supported by Active Travel training for residents Purpose of the scheme is modal shift Utilise local contractors Reducing vehicle speeds and reducing emissions
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased active travel (modal shift) Enhancing access to passenger transport facilities. Enhancing previously developed land The introduction of green infrastructure

Economic development	Reducing the reliance on car ownership. Enhancing access to services (Llangollen scores poorly in WIMD figures). Improving access to passenger transport Cyclists spend more per head than any other type of mode of transport. Enhancing access, by bike, to Wrexham and Chirk.
Quality skills for the long term	Cycle training is already provided for children in Llangollen's schools. We are also establishing a programme of family based cycle training as part of this project. This will give adults more confidence to cycle on the public highway and access services. The successful contractor will be asked to provide a number of community benefits including providing employment opportunities for local people.
Quality jobs for the long term	Employment through the construction phase of the project. Physical enhancement will ensure the viability and usability of the town centre area and will maximise opportunities for jobs in the retail and hospitality sector. The successful contractor will be asked to provide a number of community benefits including providing employment opportunities for local people.
Childcare	N/A

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	Construction phase Sourcing of products
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	N/A
Economic development	Concerns from local business about the loss of on-street parking and the potential negative impact on their businesses. This has been dispelled by a number of national studies which validate the positive outcomes of enhanced public realm schemes and their impact on businesses. Most notably pedestrians and cyclists are known to dwell for longer in town centres and spend more money.
Quality skills for the long term	N/A
Quality jobs for the long term	N/A
Childcare	N/A

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
-----------------------	----------

<p>Justification for impact</p>	<p>The Wellbeing of Future generation act states that local authorities should focus action on ensuring that places maximise physical and mental health and well-being. The provision of new and improved active travel routes, in conjunction with other softer measures e.g. promotion and education will have a significant and positive impact on the physical health of residents.</p> <p>This scheme will also be designed to comply with the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 Design Guidance and as such will be constructed utilising an innovative approach which complies to the highest possible standard ensuring that the severity and number of potential collisions is minimised.</p> <p>This application should also be considered in the wider context of Denbighshire County Council's ambition to develop an enhanced active travel network in Llangollen that engenders modal shift. As previously referenced in this document a proportion of our 2021/22 Core ATF allocation will be utilised to develop other active travel routes in Llangollen.</p> <p>This will align with the following wellbeing objectives that were identified in the Conwy and Denbighshire Well-being plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the environment to encourage mental well-being <p>By reducing vehicle speeds and congestion (through the removal of on-street parking) and through the introduction of Green infrastructure we are hopeful that air quality will improve on Castle Street.</p> <p>The Conwy and Denbighshire Well-being Plan has a priority to support good mental well-being for all ages. The well-being plan has identified, through a Well-being assessment, that improving access to services for those that live in isolation will play an important role in this. By enhancing the active travel routes in Llangollen we will contribute to this objective.</p> <p>The air quality levels on Berwyn Street (A5) which adjoins Castle Street at its southern end are very close to the limit that has been identified in the WHO guidelines. Increasing the level of active travel in Llangollen, for local trips, will reduce the number of vehicular journeys and positively impact on these concerning air quality levels.</p>
<p>Further actions required</p>	<p>Through further targeted public engagement</p>

Positive impacts identified:

<p>Biodiversity and the natural environment</p>	<p>Introduction of green infrastructure as part of the scheme Improvement in air quality caused by a reduction in vehicle journeys</p>
<p>Biodiversity in the built environment</p>	<p>Through the introduction of green infrastructure Improvement in air quality caused by a reduction in vehicle journeys</p>
<p>Reducing waste, reusing and recycling</p>	<p>Construction phase (managed by a Waste Management plan)</p>

Reduced energy/fuel consumption	<p>The design will be compliant with the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. We will also work closely with our own in-house biodiversity officers to ensure that the appropriate ecological surveys are conducted and that the findings are addressed with suitable mitigation measures.</p> <p>The following actions will be undertaken and incorporated into the construction phase plan in order to minimise the negative impact of the scheme during construction phase.</p> <p>Limit Fuel Usage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise haul distances • Reduce vehicle idling time <p>Reduce noise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work only during designated times • Communicate with residents throughout the duration of work <p>Avoid contamination by properly disposing of water and other materials</p> <p>Utilise re-useable technology</p> <p>Develop a robust and achievable programme of work prior to the scheme commencing and wherever possible use appropriate project management methods to ensure that the project is not subject to unnecessary delays.</p>
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	<p>The project will raise the profile of active travel, reduce the number of local trips that are made by car and improve air quality in Llangollen through the development of the scheme and the associated training that we propose to implement.</p>
Flood risk management	N/A

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	Construction phase (but managed by a Waste Management plan)
Biodiversity in the built environment	Construction phase (but managed by a Waste Management plan)
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	Construction phase (but managed by a Waste Management plan)
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Construction phase (but managed by a Waste Management plan)
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	N/A
Flood risk management	N/A

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
-----------------------	----------

<p>Justification for impact</p>	<p>The Wellbeing of Future generation act states that local authorities should focus action on ensuring that places maximise physical and mental health and well-being. The provision of new and improved active travel routes, in conjunction with other softer measures e.g. promotion and education will have a significant and positive impact on the physical health of residents.</p> <p>This scheme will also be designed to comply with the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 Design Guidance and as such will be constructed utilising an innovative approach which complies to the highest possible standard ensuring that the severity and number of potential collisions is minimised.</p> <p>This application should also be considered in the wider context of Denbighshire County Council's ambition to develop an enhanced active travel network in Llangollen that engenders modal shift. As previously referenced in this document a proportion of our 2021/22 Core ATF allocation will be utilised to develop other active travel routes in Llangollen.</p> <p>This will align with the following wellbeing objectives that were identified in the Conwy and Denbighshire Well-being plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the environment to encourage mental well-being <p>By reducing vehicle speeds and congestion (through the removal of on-street parking) and through the introduction of Green infrastructure we are hopeful that air quality will improve on Castle Street.</p> <p>The Conwy and Denbighshire Well-being Plan has a priority to support good mental well-being for all ages. The well-being plan has identified, through a Well-being assessment, that improving access to services for those that live in isolation will play an important role in this. By enhancing the active travel routes in Llangollen we will contribute to this objective.</p> <p>The air quality levels on Berwyn Street (A5) which adjoins Castle Street at its southern end are very close to the limit that has been identified in the WHO guidelines. Increasing the level of active travel in Llangollen, for local trips, will reduce the number of vehicular journeys and positively impact on these concerning air quality levels.</p>
<p>Further actions required</p>	<p>Through public engagement</p>

Positive impacts identified:

<p>A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being</p>	<p>Increased active travel levels for local journeys. Support physical and mental well-being.</p>
<p>Access to good quality, healthy food</p>	<p>According to the WIMD figures Llangollen suffers from poor access to services. This scheme will improve access to the town centre, Llangollen Health Centre and the public transport network.</p>
<p>People's emotional and mental well-being</p>	<p>Active travel schemes support physical and mental well-being.</p>
<p>Access to healthcare</p>	<p>This scheme will improve access to the Llangollen Health Centre.</p>
<p>Participation in leisure opportunities</p>	<p>The principle of active travel schemes, funded by Welsh Government, is to improve access for utility journeys. However an associated benefit will be the improvement in access to leisure walking and cycling opportunities for local people.</p>

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	N/A
Access to good quality, healthy food	N/A
People's emotional and mental well-being	N/A
Access to healthcare	N/A
Participation in leisure opportunities	N/A

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	<p>The scheme will reduce severance within Llangollen and it will help, in conjunction with the development work proposed in our associated Core ATF application, to reduce severance to neighbouring communities like Trevor, Llantysilio, and Cefn.</p> <p>The town of Llangollen is effectively split into thirds by the River Dee, because there is only one crossing, and by the A5. Therefore community severance exists within the town, with a number of barriers existing that prevent/reduce active journeys to key destinations, such as the three local schools and Llangollen Health Centre. This issue particularly affects the vulnerable road users that would typically wish to access these facilities.</p> <p>The proposed scheme, and the associated review of active travel routes within the town, will have a direct impact on this issue. The initial Llangollen 2020 scheme will widen the footways on the River Dee Bridge, widen the footways on Castle Street and will give enhanced prioritisation to active journeys. This will be achieved through improving key junctions, introducing raised junction tables and active travel priority crossings. The scheme development work, that will be undertaken with the Core Active Travel grant, will further serve to reduce severance within the town by improving access to the largest residential area in the town, Pengwern, and to other key destinations like the Llangollen Canal towpath.</p> <p>As part of this scheme we are working closely with colleagues in Welsh Governments Network Management team to introduce improvements to the A5/Castle Street junction to enhance the active travel provision, improve safety and reduce this community severance.</p> <p>The scheme development work, that will be undertaken with the Core ATF grant, will also enhance active travel facilities along the A5 corridor in Llangollen and across other key routes that cause community severance.</p>
Further actions required	The negatives will be mitigated against through continued communication with local businesses and the general public both during and after the construction phase.

Positive impacts identified:

<p>Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation</p>	<p>The significantly widened footways will make it easier for people with physical disabilities to navigate around the town centre area. The proposed scheme will improve active travel access to the three local schools and it will therefore make it easier for children to walk or cycle to school.</p>
<p>People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes</p>	<p>The WIMD figures demonstrate that Llangollen's residents suffer from poor access to services both locally and in the wider region. This scheme will make it easier for residents to undertake multi-modal journeys to key facilities, by foot/bike/bus in the wider area. It will also enhance access to services in Llangollen. By enhancing the town centre area it will be sustained as an important tourist destination and a viable area for the retail and hospitality industries.</p>
<p>Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage</p>	<p>The WIMD figures demonstrate that Llangollen's residents suffer from poor access to services both locally and in the wider region. This scheme will make it easier for residents to undertake multi-modal journeys to key facilities, by foot/bike/bus in the wider area. It will also enhance access to services in Llangollen. By enhancing the town centre area it will be sustained as an important tourist destination and a viable area for the retail and hospitality industries.</p>

Negative impacts identified:

<p>Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation</p>	<p>The removal of on-street parking on Castle Street could disbenefit people who currently, and frequently illegally, park there to access local shops, as a result of physical disabilities. Although this is somewhat offset by the availability of disabled parking spaces in the closely located Market Street and East Street car parks.</p>
<p>People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage</p>	<p>N/A</p>

People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes	N/A
Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage	N/A

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	<p>The scheme will reduce severance within Llangollen and it will help, in conjunction with the development work proposed in our associated Core ATF application, to reduce severance to neighbouring communities like Trevor, Llantysilio, and Cefn.</p> <p>The town of Llangollen is effectively split into thirds by the River Dee, because there is only one crossing, and by the A5. Therefore community severance exists within the town, with a number of barriers existing that prevent/reduce active journeys to key destinations, such as the three local schools and Llangollen Health Centre. This issue particularly affects the vulnerable road users that would typically wish to access these facilities.</p> <p>The proposed scheme, and the associated review of active travel routes within the town, will have a direct impact on this issue. The initial Llangollen 2020 scheme will widen the footways on the River Dee Bridge, widen the footways on Castle Street and will give enhanced prioritisation to active journeys. This will be achieved through improving key junctions, introducing raised junction tables and active travel priority crossings. The scheme development work, that will be undertaken with the Core Active Travel grant, will further serve to reduce severance within the town by improving access to the largest residential area in the town, Pengwern, and to other key destinations like the Llangollen Canal towpath.</p> <p>As part of this scheme we are working closely with colleagues in Welsh Governments Network Management team to introduce improvements to the A5/Castle Street junction to enhance the active travel provision, improve safety and reduce this community severance.</p> <p>The scheme development work, that will be undertaken with the Core ATF grant, will also enhance active travel facilities along the A5 corridor in Llangollen and across other key routes that cause community severance.</p>
Further actions required	The negatives will be mitigated against through strong communication with local businesses and the general public both during and after the construction phase.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	The improvements that will be introduced as part of this scheme will result in high footfall levels through the town and will ensure that there is a high degree of natural surveillance, which helps to minimise and safety issues.
Community participation and resilience	The scheme has been underpinned by an extensive public engagement exercise.
The attractiveness of the area	This scheme will enhance the public realm in the area.

Connected communities	The scheme will provide access for Llangollen's residents to the canal towpath and the wider region including Wrexham and Chirk.
Rural resilience	Enhanced access to the Llangollen Canal The project will ease the cost of travel for some residents by improving access to key public services, and the passenger transport network.

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	N/A
Community participation and resilience	The pandemic has necessitated an on-line engagement strategy in recent months. This may have resulted in some people being unable to participate.
The attractiveness of the area	N/A
Connected communities	N/A
Rural resilience	Disruption to local business during the construction phase.

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The scheme has little or impact on the Welsh Language, culture or heritage.
Further actions required	The scheme has little or impact on the Welsh Language, culture or heritage.

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	N/A
Promoting the Welsh language	N/A
Culture and heritage	N/A

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	N/A
Promoting the Welsh language	N/A
Culture and heritage	N/A

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
-----------------------	---------

<p>Justification for impact</p>	<p>We will follow Denbighshire County Council’s Contract Procedure Rules to ensure that all supply chains are fair, ethical and sustainable.</p> <p>Whenever possible we will utilise local suppliers and contractors to ensure we contribute to the economic wellbeing of the local community.</p> <p>Active Travel schemes, by their very nature, can have a significant positive impact on key environmental issues like noise reduction and the reduction of greenhouse gases. Given the existing and potential usage figures in this area we would anticipate that there are significant potential benefits associated with this scheme.</p> <p>The scheme has been designed to ensure the risk for polluting adjacent watercourses is minimal. Residual risk will be passed to the contractor to address in their Risk Assessment and Method Statements.</p> <p>This will align with the following wellbeing objectives that were identified in the Conwy and Denbighshire Well-being plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy in resources that are sustainable and locally produced <p>The Conwy and Denbighshire Well-being Plan has prioritised environmental resilience. This scheme will positively contribute towards this priority during the procurement and construction phase through, wherever possible, the use of local suppliers and products.</p>
<p>Further actions required</p>	<p>Wherever it is practically possible products will be sourced locally. All products will be sourced responsibly, even if it is not possible to source them locally.</p>

Positive impacts identified:

<p>Local, national, international supply chains</p>	<p>Wherever possible local products and local contractors will be utilised during the construction phase of the project</p>
<p>Human rights</p>	<p>By sourcing products locally we will not be promoting the negative impact that can occur with supply chains from other countries.</p>
<p>Broader service provision in the local area or the region</p>	<p>As part of the scheme enhancements will be made to the highway network to improve passenger transport facilities and access to them.</p>
<p>Reducing climate change</p>	<p>The principle ethos of active travel schemes is reduce car occupancy and have a significant positive impact on the climate.</p>

Negative impacts identified:

<p>Local, national, international supply chains</p>	<p>It may not be possible to source some projects locally.</p>
<p>Human rights</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Broader service provision in the local area or the region</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Reducing climate change</p>	<p>N/A</p>