

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY



Cronfa Gymunedol Fferm Wynt
PEN Y CYMOEDD
Wind Farm Community Fund CIC

The Pen y Cymoedd Community Fund represents direct **local community investment** from the Pen y Cymoedd Wind Energy Project into the area hosting the project in the upper Afan, Cynon, Neath and Rhondda Valleys. The fund is the largest wind energy community fund in the UK, making available around £1.8m annually for the operating life of the wind farm of around 20 years.

The 'Micro' Fund

This Fund is open to applications for one-off grants of up to £5,000 to support important aspects of community life. These could include, for example: buying small items of equipment; minor capital works; activities, events and projects; start-ups; training courses; pilot projects.

The 'Vision' Fund

The "Vision" Fund is focused on identifying and supporting projects that contribute to delivering the community's vision.

It is flexible, and encourages applicants to have considered **all** possibilities for funding a sustainable project. During local door to door surveys, there was a desire from the wider community for the fund to look beyond grant funding. Applicants will be expected to have considered exactly what type of funding they need and be able to justify it. Applicants will need to show their venture:

- benefits the community by helping to address over the long term, one or more of the priorities described in the vision
- is sustainable – planning for the long term, and for success, growth and maximising value and benefits.
- represents value for money
- has a clear and convincing business plan
- is the very best project it could be

It is a competitive process – only the best projects will get funded – projects that have planned, prepared, and can show how they are thinking to the future to deliver community needs as expressed in the community vision.

Opportunities are described under the following headings:

1. Local jobs and the economy
2. Transport and connections
3. Health & well-being getting active – mentally and physically
4. Safety and housing
5. Community spaces
6. Environment
7. Tourism
8. Culture
9. Schools and training

Long-term aims – what the community wants to see happen in the long term

Short term opportunities - things that could make a positive impact quite quickly.

Network/area wide opportunities - things that could be better delivered in a **networked** way, **across a larger / the whole area**. Issues or themes relevant to more than one community.

Flagship projects – big ideas that have been identified, probably capital investments, that will help to attract other projects, customers and spin-off services, and / or deliver multiple benefits. These types of projects have to show great benefit, because they are likely to require large sums of money.



1. LOCAL JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

1.1 DEVELOPING THE LOCAL RETAIL OFFER AND HIGH STREETS

Long Term Ambition	A. Well kept, attractive high streets/village centres, celebrating local heritage and providing a great environment for local development
	B. Self-sufficient communities – communities can satisfy all their basic needs locally, and make the most of local resources (including recycling and upcycling “waste” e.g. textiles, furniture)
Short Term Opportunity	C. Community planning, to agree actions for sustainable improvements
	D. Work with local business organisations to encourage the commercial and retail sector to invest in improved buildings and environment
Networked, area-wide potential	E. Create programmes of activities to encourage more exchange between valleys and bring in visitors from further afield, with infrastructure encouraging that – paths etc.

1.2 COMMUNITY REGENERATION

Long Term Ambition	A. Community assets are run in the most affordable way possible e.g. by bringing together groups and facilities to improve efficiency, using collective purchasing power etc.
Short Term Opportunity	B. Signpost community to advice and support to make facilities more efficient and sustainable
	C. Develop business models and training for important local community assets to see how they can self-sustain or grow into a business for the future
	D. A campaign to engage local people in developing the future and services in their area
Flagship Potential	E. Implement a time credit redeeming system for local people carrying out local improvement schemes (credits redeemable locally)

1.3 SENSE OF PLACE

Long Term Ambition	A. Build on the character of the place - value and celebrate it and make it a part of the way the community and area develops for the future
	B. Build any new design around the existing character and also in improving public spaces (greening, maintaining and restoring assets, valuing historic buildings and facilities)
	C. Make better use of historic assets and build skills and capacity so that a sense of place adds value to the experience of being here - working, living, visiting
Short Term Opportunity	D. Raising awareness locally of the value that the character and heritage that surrounds them offers so that the community connects with the local environment
Networked, area-wide potential	E. Recognise and value the shared heritage of the area and the role it can play in successful regeneration
	F. Make use of disused land e.g. for community allotments, gardens, “Gateways” to the area/villages
Flagship Potential	G. Link cultural activities/assets to the heritage of area for tourism e.g. flagship cultural centre for the area, events etc.
	H. Energy centre – spanning the long history of the area, right up to today and beyond.
	I. Celebrate the “fame” of the area – people and places – and build on this concept across the whole area

	J. A big “capital” project e.g. ski or zip across a valley, cycle through a mountain tunnel – develop a major attraction and facility around which other offers can develop.
1.4 WALKING AND CYCLING ROUTES AND SPACES THAT CONNECT COMMUNITIES	
Long Term Ambition	A. A complete, well used and maintained network of cycling and walking routes, linking communities and bringing tourism benefits
	B. Redeveloping tunnel and canal networks
	C. More active communities
Short Term Opportunity	D. Better marketing and advertising of existing networks to increase use
	E. Upgrade existing tracks
Networked, area-wide potential	F. Complete local networks, including looking at linked potential accommodation opportunities (e.g. camping)
	G. Bring benefits through routes to all communities
Flagship Potential	H. Disabled cycling centre of excellence and manufacturing of the cycling equipment, with technology and innovation opportunities linking to local university
	I. Use wind farm as a tourism and education asset
1.5 DEVELOPING PUBLIC SPACES AROUND THE AREA	
Long Term Ambition	A. Maintaining longer historic routes
	B. Linking communities and villages
	C. Developing tourism
	D. Developing a network of nature trails
	E. Make it easier to be healthy
Short Term Opportunity	F. Safety improvements/looking after the area
	G. Improving signage
Networked, area-wide potential	H. Looking at the opportunity to link communities and villages and improve their networking/cooperation (work and social, sharing facilities)
Flagship Potential	I. A big idea to attract new kinds of visitors
1.6 EMPLOYMENT FACILITIES, EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BUSINESSES	
Long Term Ambition	A. A range of quality, sustainable jobs
	B. Creating a different type of “hub” for the valleys (e.g. IT, creative industry, textiles, outdoor pursuits, environment, construction skills)
	C. A motivated, confident workforce, with good core skills
	D. Women and work – increasing the proportion of economically active women
	E. Getting older generation, disabled, vulnerable and young into work
	F. Better coordination of available training
Short Term Opportunity	G. Business and entrepreneurs making better use of the internet
	H. Improve IT skills
	I. Help businesses with cost of new employees
	J. Public service training programme in key services (environmental, social, health, housing, services) – potential to support growth of new local enterprises
	K. Campaign to promote the benefits of work to young people (e.g. paid holiday work schemes)
	L. Up-skilling people already in work / Up-cycling of local resources

	M. Map training and employment support offered locally and examine what gaps need to be addressed
	N. Develop sector based training opportunities
Networked, area-wide potential	O. Improving internet infrastructure in the area
	P. Creating more local and area wide jobs (social enterprise, private industry – a range of options)
	Q. Provide access/raise awareness of “Power Academy” support/effort
Flagship Potential	R. Build on local key assets (environment, energy)
	S. Skills and education programme across area to improve accessibility to education and training, linked with job market and practical application of those skills
1.7 BUSINESS INFRASTRUCTURE	
Long Term Ambition	A. Make the area more attractive to business investment, by tackling disused and derelict areas within communities and putting them to good use
Short Term Opportunity	B. Map areas within communities that need to be tackled to improve the impression of the area
	C. Pilot community and commercial sector planning to agree a development programme of the area, and how to make good use of local spaces (disused, derelict etc.)
Networked, area-wide potential	D. Establish a team to tackle derelict or neglected spaces within communities, creating jobs and training through the programme
	E. Improve transport connections
1.8 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
Long Term Ambition	A. Access to financial infrastructure, and have the tools and skills to use them
	B. Bring financial services locally up to date
Short Term Opportunity	C. Access to secure, favourable terms of funding
	D. Banking clubs run by credit union in schools
Networked, area-wide potential	E. Support development of a mobile banking service
1.9 EMPLOYMENT TRAINING	
Long Term Ambition	A. A more skilled and resilient workforce, business and social enterprise sector in the area
Short Term Opportunity	B. Establish needs of local enterprises and provisioning affordable training (e.g. IT, short term) to improve entrepreneurial activity, allowing businesses to diversify and grow
	C. Encouraging business to understand and better manage their resources (environmental – water, energy etc.)
Networked, area-wide potential	D. Engage and incentivise local businesses in local community learning pilots to develop a more skilled local workforce
1.10 SUPPORTING SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AND START-UPS	
Long Term Ambition	A. Develop more enterprising and entrepreneurial communities
	B. Provide an affordable and desirable range of premises for start-ups and more established businesses
	C. Make start-up funding more accessible
	D. Establish social enterprise zone making it easier to make the transition into employment (more local discretion with administration of benefits system) e.g. “benefits grace period”

Short Term Opportunity	E. Business Improvement Districts (BID) model
	F. Community asset transfer as a nucleus for start-ups
	G. Improving awareness of existing support mechanisms and models
Networked, area-wide potential	H. Quality one-stop shop business advice and mentoring services
	I. Use and grow community networks across the valleys for increasing inward investment
	J. Use and publicise assets and opportunities e.g. local radio, education and public sector, business, chambers of trade etc.
Flagship Potential	K. Business funding scheme across the valleys for social enterprises and start-ups
	L. Utilise existing energy networks to attract new IT companies
	M. Developing visitor payback schemes to build and grow business opportunities, and develop a strategy and exit strategy following EU investment in the area (merchandise, promotion, long term planning)

2. TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIONS

2.1 TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRAVEL LINKS

Long Term Ambition	A. Transport for all at all times (of day and year) across the area
	B. Create new train networks in the valleys
	C. Develop steam train tourism
Short Term Opportunity	D. Trial/pilot potential travel solutions (e.g. linking youth clubs across the area; community-led transport scheme / agency)
Networked, area-wide potential	E. Considering an area wide travel solution – linking to work
	F. Bus link to the National Park – link with tourism assets
Flagship Potential	G. Explore creative, flexible, community travel options (not just buses)
	H. Offering scholarship for transport to education
	I. A transport that sustains itself/covers its own costs
	J. Develop a W2W (wheels to work” type scheme, with supported moped hire) to encourage mobility of workforce

2.2 ONLINE PRESCENCE AND INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

Long Term Ambition	A. Benefit from the digital age – for economic development and social cohesion and connections
Short Term Opportunity	B. Up-skilling and maintaining IT skills
	C. Developing IT skills and confidence for practical application (shopping, tackling loneliness, business, accessing the “best deals”, banking)
Flagship Potential	D. Use of existing PyC infrastructure to provide enhanced wireless connectivity (use for apps, tourism, education)

3. HEALTH AND WELLBEING



3.1 PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Long Term Ambition	A. Communities that are healthier and more active
	B. “Sustainable” schemes that achieve lifestyle change in these communities
	C. More outdoor living

Short Term Opportunity	D. NHS referrals to private businesses to stimulate pilots of suggested initiatives
Networked, area-wide potential	E. Investment in stimulating new “activities” in the area e.g. weightlifting, boot camp, green gym
Flagship Potential	F. How do you make it sustainable?
	G. New partnerships between public services and business
3.2 MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT	
Long Term Ambition	A. Better mental health awareness and support within communities
Short Term Opportunity	B. Small scale trial of Glasgow steps model
Networked, area-wide potential	C. Investment in alternative services within communities – counselling, mindfulness, peer support,
	D. Training for key community persons in mental health training
3.3 ELDERLY CARE	
Long Term Ambition	A. Better integrated elderly population, allowing people to remain in their homes
	B. Carers are better supported to reduce the burden upon them
Short Term Opportunity	C. Luncheon clubs using school catering facilities
Networked, area-wide potential	D. Extend existing successful schemes across local authority borders to support successful social enterprises
	E. Make sure it is done in a way that supports local job retention and creation
3.4 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELBEING SUPPORT	
Long Term Ambition	A. Low level health and social issues can be dealt with locally – preventative support or rapid intervention. It contributes to resilient communities
	B. It is easier for the community to live healthy lifestyles
	C. Starting young to tackle long term issues
	D. Support cultural activity and community spirit
Short Term Opportunity	E. Support childcare in the area
	F. Network of community champions
	G. A wider range of opportunities locally to be healthy, active, and engaged
	H. Programme of outdoor activities for local groups to undertake in the local area (e.g. Beacons)
	I. Defibrillators and signage in local businesses (shops, pubs etc.)
Networked, area-wide potential	J. Local area coordination – network of people to signpost to existing offers and services – thinking beyond silos (e.g. local gyms working with schools, cultural activities linking to care homes and services for the elderly).
Flagship Potential	K. Better private, public and third sector collaboration to provide preventative and social services

4. SAFETY AND HOUSING



4.1 COSY HOMES

Long Term Ambition	A. Retrofit old housing stock to tackle fuel poverty and energy waste
	B. Use local fuel resource better (e.g. wood)
Short Term Opportunity	C. Use less energy – behaviour change
Networked, area-wide potential	D. Develop local manufacturing and business opportunities in energy efficiency

4.2 A SAFER ENVIRONMENT

Long Term Ambition	A. People feel safe to enjoy the assets in and around their community
Short Term Opportunity	B. A pilot solar lighting scheme in local gardens
Networked, area-wide potential	C. Action against fly tipping and off roading
Flagship Potential	D. Civic lighting powered by renewables

5. COMMUNITY SPACES

5.1 LOOKED AFTER COMMUNITY SPACES

Long Term Opportunity	A. Community spaces (indoor and outdoor) that align with community needs (space for young people, health hubs, usability for the disabled etc.)
	B. Fit for purpose buildings and spaces
	C. Future developments to be design with the right needs in mind – community planning
	D. Provide sustainable community facilities and transport for groups of all ages to meet
Short Term Opportunity	E. Making the area more visually attractive and useful (gardening etc.)
	F. Consider use of waste land in communities for the future
	G. Neighbourhood watch funding
	H. Map out groups and potential facilities in the area to understand the need
Networked, area-wide potential	I. Share resources and learning across communities and pool support available to do community planning
	J. Shared transport schemes
	K. Develop a network of maintenance experts

5.2 COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

Long Term Opportunity	A. A sustainable network of well used community buildings
	B. Promoting and restoring the area's historic buildings and historic context
	C. Multi-functional hubs
	D. Education centres (including outdoor education, libraries and community centres)
	E. Buildings powered by renewables

Short Term Opportunity	F. Survey of current community building stock, and potential historic building that could be restored
	G. Consider how the local building stock should be used as community assets (churches, centres, miners' halls etc.)
Networked, area-wide potential	H. What do the communities have in common, what's a sensible, sustainable solution
	I. Networked activities

5.3 FACILITIES AND TRAINING

Long Term Opportunity	A. Make existing facilities sustainable and develop for the future (making them sustainable assets)
	B. Develop facilities that complement existing facilities and activities that link with the appeal and character of the area
	C. Town centre – attracting people back in
	D. Designing for the future – a longer term lifespan in design and planning (assets that can evolve)
Short Term Opportunity	E. Book swaps
	F. Promoting viewpoints with interpretation
	G. Safety in local parks and spaces
Networked, area-wide potential	H. How to plan across the area to complement each other and avoid duplication
	I. Maintenance of important facilities
Flagship Potential	J. Restoring historic buildings – for community and visitor use
	K. Activity centres/multi-purpose facility for outdoor activity
	L. Welsh language hub/facility
	M. Regenerate old ironworks/gunpowder sites

6. ENVIRONMENT



6.1 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Long Term Opportunity	A. An environment free from fly tipping, dog fouling, grassland fires
	B. Better environmental management including path management, tackling invasive species, habitats for pollinators, better riparian management
	C. Develop an area wide concept for nature, historical, cultural walks to use and enhance the local environment
	D. Use the environment to educate
	E. Projects recognise climate adaptation
	F. Ensure local habitat and environmental enhancement considers tourism opportunities and potential
Short Term Opportunity	G. More bins
	H. Small grant scheme for local nature projects e.g. woodland management etc.
Networked, area-wide potential	I. Maintenance
	J. Restoring and recreating historic, native habitats
	K. Larger scale conservation/management projects involving landowners, community and conservation groups working together
Flagship Potential	L. Creative accommodation options – tree houses for example
	M. Bat hospital

	N. Species research project e.g. honey buzzards, bats etc.
	O. Waterwheels and fish pass exemplar in Dare Valley Park
6.2 PROMOTING LOCAL SUPPLY/HABITAT CREATION PROJECTS	
Long Term Opportunity	A. Develop a local food chain, including specialist food e.g. fungi and honey
	B. Improve education and understanding of food and its provenance (nature's role)
	C. Natural assets valued and developed across the area
	D. Future proofing the local environment e.g. native trees, wild flowers, habitats for key species
	E. Involve the community and visitors and engage them with the natural environment
	F. Put people in touch with their environment
Short Term Opportunity	G. Employ staff to enable more volunteering and kick start the work
	H. Build on existing work and develop
	I. Nature viewing platforms
Networked, area-wide potential	J. Programme of guided walks across the area annually
	K. Create education areas
Flagship Potential	L. Create network of varied habitat projects (forest farms, sensory gardens, canal habitats, tree planting), to bring job, recreation and education opportunities
6.3 DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING GREEN SPACES	
Long Term Opportunity	A. Recreation facilities within communities that are used by young, children and families, elderly and disabled – lifelong use
Short Term Opportunity	B. Community planning
	C. Small pot grants for safe, green space development
	D. Maintenance
Networked, area-wide potential	E. A network of allotments linked to buying and selling local produce
Flagship Potential	F. Every community develops a community plan for the future
6.4 ENERGY AND MICROGENERATION	
Long Term Opportunity	A. Make the valleys an energy efficient, low consumption, energy area, tackling the housing stock, installing renewable energy projects and reducing use through behaviour change
Short Term Opportunity	B. Educating about energy
	C. Re-use cooking oil (e.g. for fuel)
Networked, area-wide potential	D. Use community's energy purchasing power
	E. Consider how schemes to reduce bills could make community facilities more affordable (small scale hydro and solar etc.)
Flagship Potential	F. Community renewable energy projects
	G. Zero % financing for greening homes, including technology upgrades
	H. Develop a wood fuel economy
	I. Data centre, building on the area's energy infrastructure strength
6.5 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS TO ENJOY	
Long Term Opportunity	A. Create a sense of community ownership of their environment as an asset place to go for recreation, learning and enjoyment (e.g. eco-classrooms, woodland activities, cycle networks, nature walks and facilities for younger people)

Short Term Opportunity	B. Restore derelict or run-down existing parks and open spaces
Networked, area-wide potential	C. Cycle trails linking communities as a means of accessing services, jobs and leisure facilities
Flagship Potential	D. Outdoor learning programmes supporting the national curriculum

7. TOURISM



7.1 TOURISM AND LEISURE

Long Term Opportunity	A. A long-term tourism strategy for the area
	B. Create a range of accommodation and hospitality offers across the area to retain value of tourism to local economy
	C. Using local heritage to put local communities on the map (starting from local villages and points of interest)
	D. Using local facilities as “visitor centres” – consider this in design and planning
	E. Make use of close proximity to National Park
Short Term Opportunity	F. Better marketing of the whole area offer (integrated)
	G. A programme of activities across the area to attract new and return visitors
	H. Better signage and interpretation locally, and using multimedia technology (apps, film etc.)
	I. Creating a craft event or craft trail
Networked, area-wide potential	J. Local voucher scheme to encourage use of local facilities by local people
	K. Long distance walks and runs
Flagship Potential	L. Active Valleys concept – make the area an outdoor hub, making the most of its location (between Beacons and Coastal hubs) and building on existing success (cycling, running, walking etc.)
	M. Tell the area’s energy story and develop the tourism potential

7.2 TOURISM AND LEISURE BUSINESS

Long Term Opportunity	A. Better tourism accommodation options in the valleys, e.g. converting older buildings into B&Bs
	B. Engage businesses in finding solutions for local facilities
Short Term Opportunity	C. Art and craft trail across the valleys
	D. Brochure promoting craft and art produce from the valleys
	E. Provide funding to assist with local arts events, sustained by member fees
	F. Brochure promoting local produce
Networked, area-wide potential	G. Create a vibrant network of creative clubs and galleries to attract visitors and engage local people in arts and creative industries
	H. Coordinators to work across the area to join up provision

7.3 SPORTS AND LEISURE FOR LOCAL INDIVIDUALS

Long Term Opportunity	A. Communities with sporting facilities/play areas for all ages that are well used and maintained
	B. Creating a family-friendly environment
	C. Refurbish existing degraded facilities

Short Term Opportunity	D. Upgrade facilities to more innovative year-round surface that require less maintenance
Networked, area-wide potential	E. Implement a time banking scheme
Flagship Potential	F. Create a “valley summer camp”

8. CULTURE

8.1 CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Long Term Opportunity	A. Local, culture and heritage are valued as a local resource for education, self-expression and tourism
	B. Create opportunities for pre-school welsh medium activities
	C. Promoting welsh culture and heritage through education
Short Term Opportunity	D. Support residencies for artist to encourage local participation in creative artistic activities
	E. Support existing cultural and heritage events and activities
Networked, area-wide potential	F. Employ a Project Officer to coordinate collation of existing assets and manage a volunteer network of events
Flagship Potential	G. Extend the geo-park into the valleys

8.2 ARTS AND MUSIC

Long Term Opportunity	A. Create a range of sustainable, cultural opportunities in the area (e.g. Quilting, theatre groups, film, Eisteddfodau, choral tradition)
	B. Encourage participation in cultural activities
Short Term Opportunity	C. Upgrade/provide musical equipment for established groups
Networked, area-wide potential	D. Create a Heritage Officer to manage area-wide archives

8.3 EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

Long Term Opportunity	A. Calendar of events, well-advertised, across the area and year for locals and visitors
Short Term Opportunity	B. Coordinated online promotion of local events
Networked, area-wide potential	C. Purchase equipment through valley share mobile scheme to enable cheaper hosting of events across the area e.g. marquees, movable stalls, pop up potential
Flagship Potential	D. An area with the infrastructure and tools to enable the hosting of a full and varied calendar of events – from local markets to festivals, sports, music and food festivals.

8.4 SUPPORTING THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Long Term Opportunity	A. Turn area into a film hub, building on local talent and existing assets and connection to nearby expertise
Short Term Opportunity	B. Film local, authentic films of the area to develop local talent and give people an opportunity to get into the industry
	C. Raise awareness locally with local young people of opportunities to work in the sector on their doorstep
	D. Workshops for young people in film

Networked, area-wide potential	E. Create critical mass of local talent to service an area wide independent film sector
Flagship Potential	F. A local film/tv industry grows built on existing strengths in the sector

9.SCHOOLS AND TRAINING

9.1 EDUCATION SERVICES

Long Term Opportunity	A. Provide appropriate life-long learning opportunities that meet the community's needs and raise aspirations
Short Term Opportunity	B. Provide digital learning opportunities for all ages to be able to access key services
	C. Using Pen y Cymoedd funding to extend and enhance government schemes in the area (e.g. apprenticeships, "Flying Start", literacy and special needs)
Networked, area-wide potential	D. Provide a wider range of learning opportunities for all ages and needs within the community (different learning and skills development styles)

9.2 SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION

Long Term Opportunity	A. Engage and change behaviour around energy and sustainability through education
	B. Develop existing local outdoor education/training centres to develop a more varied offer
Short Term Opportunity	C. Support existing organisations to provide an offer in the area
Networked, area-wide potential	D. Develop pilots across of energy efficiency and behaviour change models
	E. Better outdoor education facilities in local schools e.g. gardens, grow boxes, canopies etc. – use leverage of bulk purchase?

9.3 DEVELOPING LIFE SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE

Long Term Opportunity	A. Sustainable youth facilities, well used, and affordable
Short Term Opportunity	B. Cross generational centres
	C. Peer mentoring
Networked, area-wide potential	D. Schemes to address self-esteem, mental health
Flagship Potential	E. Explore new solutions

