**Y Plas Community Garden**

**Dinas Mawddwy, Gwynedd March 2020**

**Background information / describe the area/ when & how the group started**

Y Plas is a 6 acre community garden situated in the village of Dinas Mawddwy. It was once a part of the gardens of “Y Plas” a stately home of the Buckley Family. The property burned down in 1960 and was bulldozed away. The grounds went wild and were owned by multiple owners. The community made their own paths through the wilds making it very popular for dog walkers. Then there came an opportunity to for the community council to buy the property for £1. The community council weren’t willing to take it on so a group of local people formed a group “Cymynod Glas” and brought the 6 acre site

**Group aims and how many members**

Cymynod Gas is a not for profit company (An Industrial and Provident Society.) It’s a small group with 6 people in at the moment. They do have a constitution. This is an article about them

[http://www.bala-today.couk/article.cfm?id=128893&headline=Woodland%20taken%20over%20by%20community%20organisation&sectionIs=news&searchyear=2019](http://www.bala-today.co.uk/article.cfm?id=128893&headline=Woodland%20taken%20over%20by%20community%20organisation&sectionIs=news&searchyear=2019)

**Main audience and volunteers**

Y Plas is a very popular site managed by a small group of dedicated volunteers and used regularly by a large section of the local residents for dog walking and strolling around in.

**What the project is achieving**

The site has had some considerable help from Coed Cymru: the local officer Adam Thorngood who has visited the site and advised the group as to the management of the ex formal garden that has reverted to woodland. Adam found some grant monies to pay for contractors to remove the considerable dominating overgrowth of Ponticum (Rhodendron.) from the site. Liz Mutch from the organisation Llais Y Goedwig has also been very helpful in helping them set up the group.

The removl of the Ponticum overgrowth this winter has opened up the area hugely and it is only now that the group can get to grips with full extent and plan the potential management operations for the site to be a clean, safe and well maintained community garden.

**How group got permission to be on the site/ was it difficult?**

Cartrefle Gwynedd Housing Association has given the group “Cymynod Glas” a 100yr lease to manage the community garden. The not for profit group also has its own Public Liability Insurance

**A quote from the group about how they enjoy managing the site/ working with people on the site/ Any support they have received, particularly if they have worked with the Community Land Advisory Service Cymru.**

“We want to do little to Y Plas in keeping with the communities’ wishes. We want to keep it low key in terms of facilities and renew its paths and manage its woods to bring it back to a well maintained open space for all to enjoy. We wish that the local community come together and take over its management form our small group Cymynod Glas.” Elwyn Jones : Group leader.

**What they hope to achieve in the future/ aspirations for a Green Flag Community Award**

The group has already cleared ground of overgrowth and established a number of raised planting beds. They hope to attract the teachers and children of the local primary school to use the garden for educational purposes as a growing project.

The group want to : Identify parts of the surviving formal garden, resurface and sort out the drains for the still existing old paths, control the knotweed stands on site, identify and manage the ancient woodland appropriately, they want to start a coppicing regime for some of the trees as they have been distorted by forcing their way to the light out from the dense cover of Ponticum and with further community help establish a path network and put in a few benches “and not much more\*” in line with the wishes of the local community. \*This quote is from the community consultation report that group carried out.

The group want to get a group from the village to take over. Together with a management plan for its future this would secure this community garden and a Green Flag Community Award.

**Insert Photo at an appropriate paragraph**