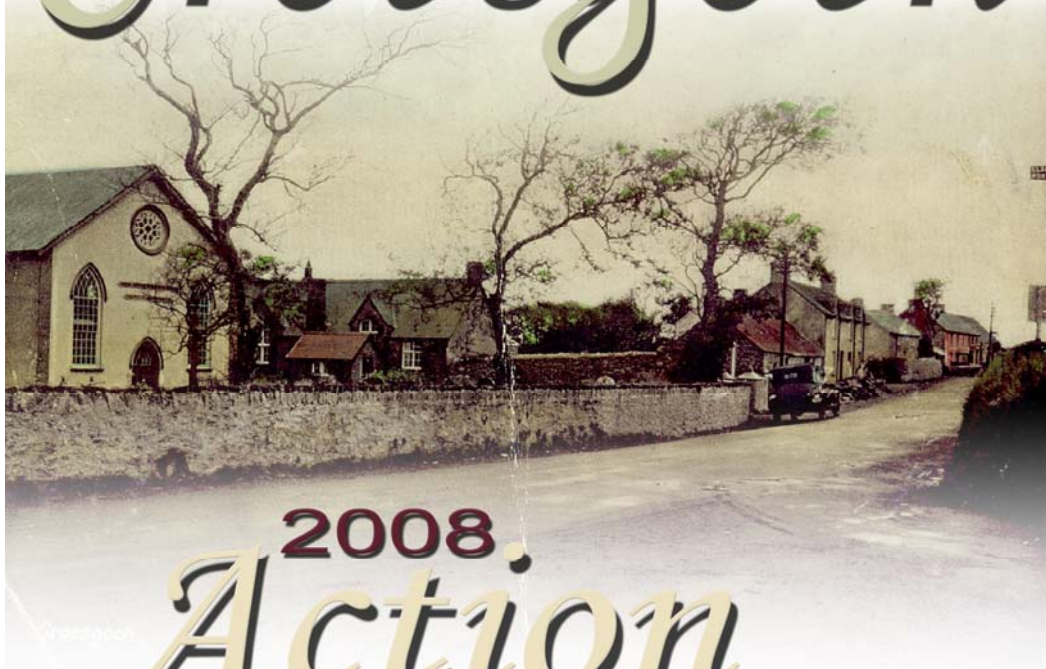


# Croesgoch



## 2008 Action Plan

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Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

# 2008 CROESGOCH ACTION PLAN

Prepared by Croesgoch Community  
in conjunction with



Pembrokeshire Local Action Network  
for Enterprise and Development

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This action plan was agreed at a public meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008 following circulation of the draft action plan to all households in the community. With thanks to all those who have provided photographs for this Action Plan

## Background To The Action Plan

In 2005 the Action Plan for the village of Croesgoch was produced as a result of two visioning workshops. All ages and representatives from the various sections of the community were invited to become involved in the preparation, adoption and subsequent implementation of the Plan.

In 2008, in consultation with Croesgoch Community Association it was agreed that a workshop would be arranged for the community. The aim of the workshop was to update and add new opportunities to the 2005 action plan and look at projects which would contribute to the long term sustainability of the community.

## The Action Plan Area

Croesgoch lies some 5 miles north east of St Davids on the junction of the A487 St Davids to Fishguard road with the B4330 Llanrhian to Haverfordwest. The village, which has a population of about 155, lies within Llanrhian Community Council area.

## History Of The Community

Croesgoch village is located on a cross roads on the A487 road from Fishguard to St Davids. It is 9 miles from Fishguard and 6 from St Davids. On an 1842 Tithe Map is shown only a small group of three or so cottages with a building designated as a Chapel. Similarly the 1841 census shows only 3 a small group of cottages.



The oldest archaeological remains that have been found in the village is a cist burial tomb carbon dated c 500 AD unearthed during building work. Over the years the village has grown with building mainly taking place on the Llanrhian, Abereidy and Trefeigan roads.

The village now has various amenities. There is a bilingual primary school involved in many cultural activities. The Chapel is still functioning with services on a fortnightly basis. There are two art galleries run by well known artists. There is a modern inn providing good food and meeting facilities. An Ysgol Feithrin is held in the Chapel vestry. There is a garage for vehicle maintenance and a large farm store. The post office is temporarily closed. with regular collections. There is a village general carpenter, metal worker and undertaker. Village people are employed in these activities and many travel further afield for their employment and others are employed in holiday and service industries in the locality. A construction company is based in the village and building work is carried out in the village also employing some local people.



## **Something Special**

During the workshop residents of Croesgoch identified the essential qualities of Croesgoch.

The community is “welcoming” and residents have pride in their cultural and linguistic heritage. The natural beauty of the area supports enjoyment of the countryside and of being close to the coast while the resources that Croesgoch offers all helps to provide a safe and pleasant environment to live in.

# Achievements from Croesgoch 2005 Action Plan

- Croesgoch Community Association constituted
- Heritage group formed
- Researched the history of Croesgoch.
- Several successful exhibitions of old pictures for display in and around the area organised.
- Designed and installed an information board describing the history of the area.
- A village leaflet produced.
- Area business directory completed.
- Community members worked together to complete the 'Safe Routes to School' project
- Traffic calming at the crossroads
- Plastic recycling privately run by local group and orange bag scheme

## Action Plan Proposals

The update of the Action Plan will give Croesgoch an agreed programme for sustainable community development, in terms of improvements to the infrastructure, the social life of its residents, whilst regarding its impact on the environment and future.

### 1. Community Facilities

#### Commentary

The principle facility in Croesgoch is Ysgol Croesgoch, the County Primary School which includes a junior football pitch within the grounds. About 150 children attend the school and Cylch



Meithrin. The school is seen as an important community resource and there is potential to extend its facilities for community use.

There is a Baptist chapel in the village and a church in the neighbouring village of Llanrhian and a church at Llanhywel. The Baptist chapel vestry is used everyday for Ysgol Feithrin. The Church Hall in Llanrhian is used every Thursday night for Youth Club and it is also the venue for Luncheon Club once a month.



Apart from the small green space and bench at the junction with the B4330 there is no central village green or square for people to meet, especially the older members of the community, nor is there a community hall. It is particularly difficult, therefore, to welcome new members into the community.

There is a meals on wheels service which calls in Croesgoch every Tuesday and Thursday. St Davids Peninsula Association for Care of the Elderly and Disabled runs a bus every Thursday and Friday to collect elderly and disabled people from the peninsula, including Croesgoch, and takes them to St Davids Red Cross Centre for a sit down meal. A minibus picks up locals to go to Wintern Day Centre.

There is no safe area for children to play; in fact there are few facilities or activities for children and young people within the village. Parents currently have no provision in the village for after school and early morning child care in the village. During 2004 a survey of parents of pupils at Ysgol Croesgoch identified a need for after-school child care as well as a breakfast club facility in order that parents can engage in employment activities.

The public toilets on the A487 junction with the B4330 to the north are only accessible via a flight of steps.

## **Proposals**

Investigate how best to increase the use of the School as a resource for the community. Discuss with the school managers (Pembrokeshire County Council and the Governors) the possibility of:

1. Extending existing community use of the school facilities, including:
  - Adult education classes, possibly from Aberystwyth University or Pembrokeshire C.C and with help from Menter Iaith develop language courses such as Welsh for adults, creative Welsh, Welsh literature.
  - Use of the hall for yoga, keep fit, gymnastics, etc.
  - Hosting a Luncheon Club (after school!) similar to the one in Llanrhian.
  - Contacting St Davids rugby club, the church, chapel and ysgol feithrin to see how the school could complement the activities they offer.
  - Offering the school as a venue to groups who already meet e.g. conversational Welsh groups.
  - Community use of the playing field.
  - Donation of part of Tre-Gynon field, which is next to the school site and owned by PCC, for the community.
  - Provision of after-school and early morning child care in Croesgoch school.
  
2. Designing a survey to develop further the use of the school as a community building.
  - Identify a site for a children's and young persons play area and / or a skate park.

- Identify a site for a sports field if the school is not available.
  - Identify a site for a community hall – if shared use of the school proves impractical.
  - Obtain information from advice and funding organisations including PCC, PAVS and PLANED on progressing Action Plan proposals.
  - Investigate the possibility of demand setting up provision of after-school and early morning childcare elsewhere in the village if the school is not a possibility.
3. Improve access to the public toilets.

## **2. Community Activities**

### **Commentary**

Local people from young to old make the community strong. They are good neighbours and friendly. The community works well together. Croesgoch is a safe and crime free environment.

Although there is local pride in the bi-lingual nature of the area and classes are available for parents to keep up with the children's education, there is a feeling that the use of the Welsh language is in decline. There is an annual Miri Medi festival which focuses on the Welsh language, offering social and cultural activities. The festival has won an award for its promotion of the Welsh language and culture in the community.

An Ysgol Feithrin meets at the chapel vestry in Croesgoch. A Whist drive is held once a month in Llanrhian Church Hall. There are a number of local youth groups, Urdd Aelwyd, Adran, Table Tennis Club Cymanfa Ganu, Dragon Sports, YFC (Brawdy) and the (Llanrhian) church youth club.

The Atramont Arms, with its darts team and monthly quiz nights, is a social centre. Learning Pembrokeshire also run (computer) classes in the Atramont Arms.



People participate in a number of local clubs and activities including the Miri Medi Festival (which is held in September), A variety of clubs are available to pupils of Ysgol Croesgoch throughout the year. he pottery club (which meets in Ysgol Croesgoch every other Tuesday after school) and the children's school orchestra.

The Croesgoch Garden Show committee organises the annual show which takes place at the school. This year will be the 63rd year! Other events include fireworks (which is organised by the pub in the field next to Felinwynt), carol singing, the nearby church fete in Llanrhian which takes place in August and Llanhywel Church Strawberry Fair and the school summer fete in July, and women come together to recite poetry. Every year in the month of June a vintage tractor run is held in Croesgoch and it attracts much local interest. There is a Cymanfa Ganu and Hel Calennig takes place at the New Year.

Some travel to nearby locations to pursue their hobbies, for example the youth club in Llanrhian and the Llanrhian cricket club at Llandigige, Merched y Wawr and short mat bowls at St Davids, outdoor bowls in Goodwick or Trefin and radio controlled planes at Haverfordwest. Further education classes at Fishguard and St Davids are also attended and members of mini rugby travel to St Davids for their training sessions. A number of villagers form part of the congregation at nearby Llanrhian and Llanhywel Churches. There is a

Sisterhood at Rehobeth and Berea. Others walk the local footpaths or cycle for recreation. There used to be a Homewatch scheme for the elderly but this no longer exists.

The Skills and Resources Audit undertaken as part of Workshop 2 revealed the variety of practical, artistic and organisational talents in the community and the recognition that additional training skills to fill gaps would be of benefit e.g. communication skills, knowledge about local history, organising events, timetables, agendas and meetings.

## Proposals

Support the Croesgoch Community Forum to meet on a regular basis and support the implementation of the Action Plan to focus the energies and skills of residents to maintain and develop the community.

- The Forum to design questionnaires to determine the degree of interest for:
  - ↳ Increasing the level of activities at the primary school.
  - ↳ Healthy living activities including yoga, keep fit, aerobics and a gym group.
  - ↳ Use of the playing field at the school for mini-rugby training sessions.
    - ↳ A crown green bowling club with pavilion/club house.
    - ↳ A cycling club.
    - ↳ A walking club/group.
    - ↳ Identifying a suitable location for a naturist beach.
    - ↳ A smoking cessation class/group.
  - ↳ Community trips to places of interest.
  - ↳ Introduce a dog show and/or ferret racing (reflecting existing interests).

- Identify a suitable site e.g. the school playing field and revive the carnival and sports activities as part of the Miri Medi Festival.
- Concentrate the energies of established local youth groups, including the revived Urdd Aelwyd, to provide improved opportunities for children and young people in Croesgoch.
- Discuss with Dyfed Powys Police the introduction of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the village of Croesgoch.

### **3. Communications**

#### **Commentary**

There is a community notice board at the post office, the chapel, and the Square & Compasses garage. An Interpretation panel has been placed by the and on the corner by the public toilets. Posters are displayed at the Atramont Arms, the School, at Ysgol Feithrin and the Llanrhian Church Hall. Broadband is available. The County Echo and The Western Telegraph are the local papers along with Llais Rhian. The Post Office is currently closed.

#### **Proposals**

Consider concentrating information at one central notice board and advertise existing and new facilities and services so that the whole community is aware of them.

- Provide information to support Llien Gwyn
- Form a communications group and prepare:
  - ✦ A community newsletter.
  - ✦ A Croesgoch web page.
  - ✦ A survey/questionnaire to determine what facilities/ services locals would like to see in Croesgoch.
- Increased awareness of local skills could lead to 'in kind'

- assistance being given within the community in the form of a skills exchange i.e. swapping favours.
- The Community Council to provide a 'suggestions box'.

#### **4. Environment Including Rights of Way, Energy & Recycling**

##### **Commentary**

Croesgoch lies within a quiet and beautiful area of the County. Extensive views over Cardigan Bay can be seen from the village.

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, which includes the island of Ramsey, lies to the north of Croesgoch. The Park boundary follows a network of minor roads that run parallel to the coast.

The natural beauty of the area includes the hedgerows which are full of wild flowers. The local footpaths join into the coast path providing opportunities for walking. One Tir Gofal scheme near Tre-yarched has included the creation of a new footpath.

The air is clean and fresh and the stars can be seen as there is little light pollution.

Small community gardens have been formed within the school grounds

- at the junction with the A487 / B4330.

Some residents undertake surveys for the National Trust which owns land in north-west Pembrokeshire and for the RSPB. Some farmers are interested in organic farming.

There is a concern for the environment in general and how the human race appears to be destroying it.

The orange bag, kerbside recycling scheme is now in Croesgoch and the residents have also created a strong plastics recycling scheme of their own that will continue to be supported where ever possible. The private scheme has also spread to surrounding areas and has been relocated to the Recycling Centre on the St David's road.

## **Proposals**

Support the development of an environment group, building on the successful work already carried out by the community improve and extend areas of planting and paving to make Croesgoch more attractive.

In discussion with local land owners and the rights of way authority (PCC and PCNPA)

- Raise the quality of existing footpaths by
  - ↳ Improving stiles for less able people and for dogs
  - ↳ Publishing leaflets showing routes
  - ↳ Improving direction markers on gates / stiles etc.
- Open additional footpaths, particularly circular routes e.g. the right of way through Tre-Gynon.
- Create cycle paths on the main A487.
- Approach owner of local pub to prohibit smoking in the local pub(s), or part of the local pub.
- Redo the small community garden at the junction with the A487 / B4330 on the side next to the toilets.
- Additional appropriate planting at the entrances to in the village.
- Supporting the Community Council to create a footpath to Mesur y Dorth

## 5. Heritage

### Commentary

There are a number of ancient burial mounds in the general vicinity and a previous site of a windmill. One of the old village An old private tollgate still stands and is now used as a holiday cottage.

Croesgoch lies on one of the pilgrimage routes to St Davids. The special carved stone, Mesur y Dorth, indicates a spot where people shared their bread before the last stage of their journey.

The name of the village is thought to originate from a battle which occurred near the village and resulted in a slaughter and a mythical river of blood that formed a cross - Croes-Goch.

The Baptist Chapel, which is situated near the village centre, was built in 1858 and played a crucial role in village life. Local churches include Llanrhian and Llanhywel.

An oral history DVD is due to be launched in February 2009, capturing the Many of the older residents have marvellous memories of the area of older residents about long passed traditional country



skills .when it was busy and they also have knowledge of dying skills which will be lost if they are not recorded.

The Welsh language is also very strong in Croesgoch. The language is evidence of its heritage and the village's community spirit. Locals feel that the language and

community spirit has survived as a result of generations of families living, working and staying in the village.

## **Proposals**

Support the local heritage group to:

- Continue to research the history of Croesgoch.
- Produce Croesgoch post cards for sale locally.
- Record an oral history and local recollections possibly involving children from the school.
- Develop a circular heritage trail which starts and ends in the village to encourage more people to visit Croesgoch.
- Create a Pilgrims trail using off road footpaths and bridleways as far as possible, opening new paths when feasible to encourage healthy lifestyles and tourism.
- Discuss with PCC erecting a marker for Mesur y Dorth carved stone.
- Produce a book, DVD, recording the history of the Croesgoch area.
- Rebuild the windmill to give heritage group a base and if feasible, reduce the village carbon footprint by supplying energy where appropriate, and also providing a facility for astronomy on upper storey.

## **6. Business, Employment & Tourism**

### **Commentary**

Business and services in or serving Croesgoch are the Atramont Arms in the village centre and the Square and Compass to the east. There is another small shop at Penparc between Trefin and the A487 and a larger shop associated with the petrol filling station about one mile to the east.

Local employment opportunities are limited to Ysgol Croesgoch County Primary School, caravan sites, two picture galleries, the post office, bed and breakfast establishments, car repair garages (including welding), farm stores and an

undertaker. The pub Atrumont Arms in Croesgoch and the Square and Compass to the east also offer employment. In addition the building industry is a local employer along with fishing and farming. However among the good local businesses, farming is going through hard times.

There is a lack of local produce available in the shops. Large supermarkets deliver pre ordered goods which has the effect of reducing local purchasing power. People were keen to look for local solutions, encouraging local production, including food and produce – providing local jobs, thus reducing associated mileage and improving local wealth. Residents would like to see a more sustainable approach to trade and a reduction in packaging in general.

Prescriptions from the Doctor's surgery at Rhoslan are collected in the village. The mobile library calls on a Thursday every three weeks and a hairdresser visits Croesgoch. A mobile green grocer calls every Thursday. There is a farm shop supplying fresh vegetables locally.

Over the years there has been a decline in the range of local jobs, services and activities and there are fears that the trend will continue. One particular concern is the closure of the post office, the opening hours of which have been reduced over the years and is now no longer trading. The small shop near Penparc is also becoming less of an attraction due to its distance from Croesgoch. A 'use it or lose it' philosophy is required.

Not only is there a shortage of local jobs, especially for the young, but many of the current opportunities are seasonal. As a result there is perceived to be a brain drain from the area.

Some new family businesses have recently started, these include a farm store, a construction company, a metal fabricator, bicycle hire and a vegetarian B&B. Some local people are self-employed and run businesses from home.

## Proposals

- Liaise with the owner of Croesgoch Post Office and other organisations to try to maximise use of the post office building by increasing the range of services and purchases available and vary the opening times to reflect customers' needs. Additional services could include a cyber café. A community "not for profit" organisation could rent the property from the postmaster - it has been done elsewhere.

This proposal is on hold at time of printing, as the post office is now closed but there may be the possibility to re-open in the future and this proposal will be re-activated.

- Promote Croesgoch and its services by
  - ↳ Erecting an information board. combining history and details of local services and showing local walks.
  - ↳ Printing a map/leaflet of local walks.
  - ↳ Designing and printing postcards.
  - ↳ Selling local produce, including local crabs and mackerel, new potatoes and local vegetables in the local shop.
  - ↳ Identifying a suitable location for a naturist beach.
  - ↳ Marketing 'The Rivers of blood' story to attract more tourists/visitors to the area.
  - ↳ Develop more business opportunities in Croesgoch.

## **7. Housing**

### **Commentary**

There is a lack of affordable housing and too many houses are being acquired as second homes or for outsiders moving in, though the village is welcoming to all. These trends are affecting the nature of the community and turning Croesgoch into a village of older people. Such changes, together with declining services and jobs, are likely to result in a reduction in the quality of the current community spirit as many young people leave the village to seek work and affordable housing elsewhere.

### **Proposals**

- Croesgoch Community Forum to work with the County Council and Community Council to undertake a local needs survey to determine the current demand for affordable housing for rent or sale.

## **8. Transport, Roads & Traffic**

### **Commentary**

There is a strong feeling that car transport is vital to the well being of the area, even though there are environmental implications to its continued use but it could be improved and become more environmentally friendly. An integrated transport system, including the car would be seen as a great benefit to the area.

The 411 service between Fishguard and Haverfordwest via St Davids runs through Croesgoch Monday to Saturday with the first service being 7.30 and the last 18.25. In the reverse direction the first bus from St Davids calls at 9.02 and the last 18.40. The 411 does not call at Penygroes Villas.

The 342 bus service connecting St Davids with Haverfordwest runs through Croesgoch on Tuesday and Friday at 9.50 and returns at 14.50 leaving 3.20 hours in Haverfordwest. Locals feel that the frequency of the bus service is insufficient.

Because the A487 is on a level and straight alignment traffic tends to exceed the 40mph limit through the village. Further east, after the de-restriction, there are 50mph sections. The existing traffic calming measures are not sufficiently effective.

There is neither a continuous pavement through Croesgoch nor a pavement between Croesgoch and Mesur y Dorth. It is not safe to walk or cycle along the A487 because cars do not keep to the speed limit.

Traffic congestion occurs around the school and play group and there are not enough car parking spaces in and around the village centre.

The continuous rise in fuel prices and in bus fares is keenly felt in Croesgoch as in many other rural communities.

## **Proposals**

Any transport, road and traffic proposals are to be progressed in conjunction with the County Council. The Forum to discuss with PCC:



- Increasing the frequency of the 411 service and
- Modifying the route to include Penygroes Villas.
- Operating 'accessible' buses particularly to assist those with less mobility.
- Increasing the provision of pupil transport as a way of reducing congestion around the school and playgroup.
- Improving the evening bus services
- Urge the Community Council and PCC to consider the

danger to pedestrians and schoolchildren walking to school and school transport, posed by articulated vehicles turning into Aberiddy Road.

Increase the effectiveness of traffic calming measures, including:

- Imposing a 30mph limit through Croesgoch.
- Installing "Please Drive Carefully" signs.
- Additional signs showing "school".
- Urge the Highway Authority to construct a pavement/ cycleway between Croesgoch and Mesur y Dorth to join up with the pavement in Penygroes Villas.
- Create cycle paths in the area.
- Start up a car-sharing scheme.
- Increase parking provision in the area of the pub, Post Office and gallery and near the school/playgroup.
- Continue working closely with the County Council to review the position of footpaths at Croesgoch.
- Any works to pavements to be of a quality that would enhance the appearance of the village.

# Implementation / Activity Groups

In order that the Action Plan can be progressed effectively it is proposed to form special interest Working Groups within the proposed Forum. The Groups would, in consultation with the relevant providers, for example the Rights of Way Authority, concentrate on preparing more detailed action programmes giving priority and focus to those proposals which are capable of early implementation.

The Groups could be centred on:

- Community Facilities / Community Activities
- Communications
- Environment (including rights of way) & Waste Disposal and Recycling
- Heritage
- Business & Services (including tourism)
- Housing / Transport, Roads and Traffic

It is important that the Groups would:

- Work within the agreed Action Plan and the Community Forum,
- Work with existing groups and organisations,
- Meet on a regular basis,
- Keep the broader community informed of progress.