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Proposal: Actif Llangefni Community Project – Parc Lon Las

**A Community-Led
Vision for Play, Art,
Wellbeing and Welsh
Culture**

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1. Summary

This proposal outlines a community-based solution to address key health and wellbeing challenges for residents of Llangefni, particularly the young people. Using a place-based approach, this project takes a currently under-utilised asset and leverages input and expertise from multiple stakeholders, innovative ideas, and data-driven insights to create a community space that delivers multiple benefits for a wide range of residents through art, culture and physical activity.

The vision is to create an inclusive, safe, vibrant, bilingual, and creative public space that promotes physical activity, nurtures wellbeing, celebrates Welsh culture, and strengthens community cohesion.

2. Introduction

Recent consultation with young people has made one message clear: they want better parks with more things to do, including safe, welcoming, active spaces where they can play, socialise, and stay healthy. In response, this project sets out an ambitious but achievable community-led plan to breathe new life into the underused tarmac and play area within Parc Lon Las, near the centre of town. This space, owned by Llangefni Town Council and already benefitting from the repainting of its multi-use court, has the potential to become a vibrant, inclusive hub of physical activity, creativity, and local pride.



This proposal reflects a collaboration between Llangefni Town Council, Anglesey County Council, Môn Actif, Basketball Wales, local schools, local residents, and the wider third sector. Other partners and stakeholders are encouraged to join the project.

Together, we can create a flagship space that supports wellbeing, culture, sport, learning, community identity and the Welsh language.

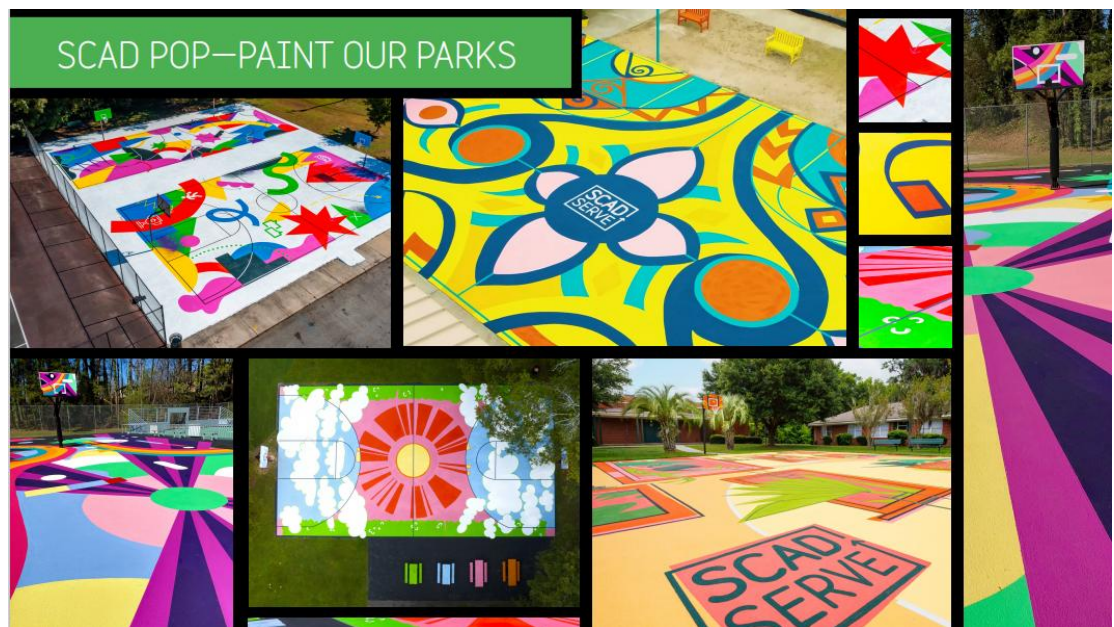
3. Summary of the Proposal

Taking the lead from a 'Paint our Parks' project by the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), the proposal is to create a community led project that results in a vibrant place for people to come together to be active around a piece of public art that reflects youth voice.

As illustrated by the award-winning 'SCAD POP' project, initiatives such as this not only enhance public spaces but also foster community engagement and pride through the collaborative creation of art. The SCAD initiative's success is evident from enthusiastic local feedback, with residents enjoying revitalised park spaces reflecting their shared vision.

See this video for further information about the SCAD POP project:

https://youtu.be/nVi_InA1rCM



Primary Project: Transforming the Underused Tarmac Area at Parc Lon Las

Existing play equipment from Parc Lôn Las will be enabling the space at Parc Lôn Las to be utilised for multiple activities, including a community basketball court and imaginative play area for younger children and those with additional needs.



1. Relocating existing play equipment
 - This allows the current tarmac area to be repurposed while ensuring children do not lose access to play.
2. Repairing and resurfacing the tarmac space
 - Address current safety issues and prepare the surface for redevelopment.
3. Creating a large-scale community mural
 - A bold, colourful mural inspired by successful initiatives like SCAD POP, painted across the tarmac.
 - Basketball court lines will be incorporated into the mural, providing a full-quality court within a visually striking artwork.
 - Final design choices will be produced by the project artist in response to feedback encouraged through collaboration with:
 - Local primary and secondary schools
 - Coleg Menai
 - Oriel Môn
 - Mencap Môn and Ysgol y Bont
 - Local community groups and residents
 - Regeneration teams and Môn Actif
 - The mural will incorporate UV-reflective paint, enabling special evening basketball and community events under UV lighting.
4. Basketball Activation

- Llangefni Town Council (with Môn Actif support) have been successful in an application to Basketball Wales for two Mega Slam outdoor hoops.
 - Young Ambassadors have been supported to complete Basketball Wales Activator Training, helping them create a safe, fun presence before/after school as young people walk through the area.
5. Child-friendly design features
- Painted shapes and trails can encourage:
 - Balance-bike skills
 - Running, hopping, chasing games
 - Imaginative movement for younger children during school hours
 - This ensures the space serves different age groups at different times of day.

Secondary Project: Community Activity Container

Although no longer suitable for competition level bowls, the maintained green can support alternative low-impact or small-team activity, adding a valuable secondary recreation zone in the heart of the park.

- A small secure container will be placed on-site, managed by Môn Actif, filled with a selection of equipment such as:
 - Low-cost sports equipment to reduce the barriers to participation by enabling local people to borrow equipment to make use of the court areas – basketballs, rackets, balls, softplay items etc
 - Balance bikes and helmets for younger users to play on the mural
 - Items suited for the former bowling green (e.g., croquet, petanque, futsal, small-sided soccer)
- This increases access to physical activity regardless of ability or income and encourages casual activity and intergenerational play.
- It also supports clubs, families, and groups wishing to make use of the under-utilised bowling green.



4. Why This Project Matters

A. Health & Wellbeing

- Creates free, accessible opportunities for physical activity for all ages.
- Encourages daily movement through walking routes, informal games and structured sessions.
- Supports positive mental health through creative arts, play and social interaction.
- Helps reduce antisocial behaviour by transforming a neglected area into a vibrant community asset.

B. Community Cohesion & Pride

- Delivered through a truly co-designed approach, drawing together schools, residents, artists, and community groups.
- Provides a visible symbol of Llangefni's creativity and community strength.
- Creates opportunities for intergenerational activity and volunteering.

C. Inclusion & Accessibility

- Input from Mencap Môn, Ysgol y Bont and disability specialists ensures designs are autism-friendly, physically accessible and welcoming to all.

- Offers adapted and low-barrier activities on the bowling green and tarmac.
- Promotes equality of opportunity across the town.

D. Youth Empowerment

- Young Ambassadors and local pupils will shape the design and delivery.
- Basketball Activator training builds leadership, confidence and lifelong skills.
- Provides a safe, positive gathering space for young people, reducing the likelihood of antisocial behaviour.

E. Welsh Language & Culture

- Mural themes can celebrate:
 - Local landscapes
 - Welsh heritage
 - Local stories and identity
 - The vibrancy of Ynys Môn
- The creative process supports Welsh-medium participation and strengthens cultural identity through community art.

F. Economic & Regeneration Benefits

- Enhances the attractiveness of the town centre and surrounding areas.
- Encourages footfall and positive perceptions of Llangefni.
- Supports future development opportunities in the park and across the town.

G. Crime Reduction & Community Safety

This project directly supports crime prevention and the reduction of antisocial behaviour by transforming a currently underused and poorly supervised space into a well-designed, well-used, and positively activated community asset.

At present, parts of the park—particularly the degraded tarmac area—are associated with low-level antisocial behaviour due to limited legitimate use, poor surfacing, and a lack of positive activity. Evidence from community safety and policing research consistently shows that spaces which are animated by regular, purposeful activity are significantly less likely to attract antisocial behaviour.

By introducing:

- High-quality basketball infrastructure and informal sport opportunities
- Youth-led activation through trained Young Ambassadors
- A visually striking community mural that encourages pride and ownership
- Daytime use by younger children and schools, and evening use by young people and families
- Inclusive design that welcomes a wide range of users

...the project creates a natural guardianship effect, increasing passive surveillance and positive presence throughout the day and into the evening.

The involvement of local young people in the design, creation, and activation of the space is particularly important. When young people help shape a place, they are far more likely to respect it, protect it, and challenge negative behaviour, shifting perceptions from “problem space” to “community space”.

In addition, structured and informal sporting opportunities—especially basketball—are well recognised as effective tools for diverting young people away from risky behaviour, building positive peer relationships, and strengthening links between youth services, community groups, and the police.

This project therefore aligns strongly with:

- Neighbourhood Policing and Early Intervention priorities
- Police and Crime Commissioner objectives around prevention, engagement, and community cohesion
- Safer Communities strategies at both town and county level

By proactively redesigning and activating this space, the project reduces the demand on enforcement-led responses and instead invests in prevention, pride, and positive use—delivering long-term community safety benefits for Llangefni.

5. Alignment with Funding Priorities

This project aligns strongly with the aims of local, regional and national funders, including grants supporting:

- **Physical activity and sport** – increasing participation, activating community facilities, reducing sedentary behaviour.
- **Mental health and wellbeing** – promoting social connection, resilience and outdoor activity.
- **Arts and culture** – delivering high-quality public art, youth engagement in creative practice, and Welsh cultural expression.
- **Children and young people** – improving play opportunities, supporting leadership, enhancing informal learning environments.
- **Community safety and regeneration** – transforming neglected spaces into valued community assets.
- **Inclusion and disability access** – co-designing environments with disabled participants and creating universal accessibility.
- **Welsh language initiatives** – embedding Welsh language and identity within public spaces and community participation.
- **Reducing antisocial behaviour** – through positive place activation, youth engagement, and inclusive design, aligned with neighbourhood policing, early intervention, and Designing Out Crime principles, supporting safer public spaces and stronger community ownership.

This diversity of outcomes makes the project suitable for blended funding.

6. Stakeholder Benefits

For Councillors

- Demonstrates responsiveness to public consultation, particularly the needs of young people.
- Contributes to key outcomes in wellbeing, culture, and local regeneration strategies.
- Low-cost, high-impact transformation of a town centre asset.

For Schools, Coleg Menai and Young People

- Creative learning opportunities through mural design and consultation.
- Volunteering and leadership roles (Young Ambassadors).
- A safe, active route to and from school.

For Community Organisations

- A high-quality space for events, sessions, outreach work and engagement.
- Opportunities for arts groups, disability organisations, and family support services.

For Residents

- A welcoming, beautiful, and accessible local resource.
- Improved safety and reduction in antisocial behaviour.
- More things to do locally, for free.

7. Conclusion

This project is an opportunity to deliver something truly special for Llangefni - an inclusive, creative, active community hub that reflects the pride and potential of our town. By transforming an underused space into a centrepiece of youth activity, public art and community wellbeing, we can meet the needs identified by young people and create a lasting legacy for generations to come.

With the support of Town and County councillors, the wider local authority, partner organisations and funders, this initiative will become a flagship example of community-driven regeneration – delivering lasting social, cultural and wellbeing benefits for the people of Llangefni.

Together, we can give Llangefni a vibrant new space that celebrates our culture, supports our wellbeing, and brings our community together.