



# Blaenau Ffestiniog

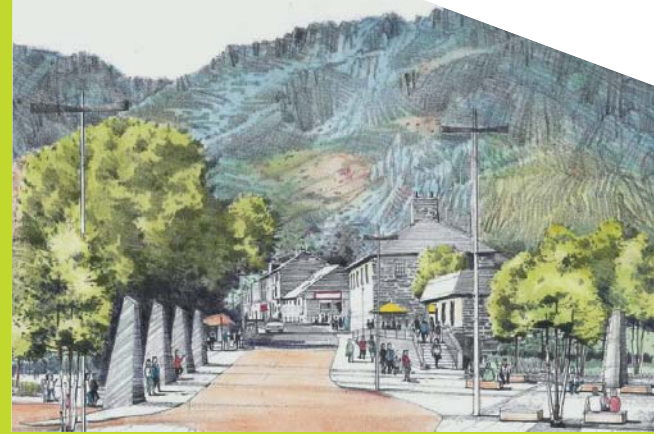
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## What is Blaenau Ymlaen?

Blaenau Ymlaen was formed as a voluntary group to bring various regeneration groups and plans together. It meets every two months and there's a warm welcome to everyone.

### Why the town centre?

Blaenau Ymlaen, Cyngor Gwynedd and the Welsh Government were successful in obtaining European ERDF funds for regenerating town centres, the money can not be used for anything else. We have a significant amount of empty shops. The area's population is reducing 2.5% every year with a lot of people moving away to work. The project links into the Antur Stiniog scheme to develop outdoor activities in the area. We also need to make the most of the visitors who arrive in Blaenau but return to Porthmadog without visiting the town.



Sketch by Macgregor Smith Landscape Architects.

### Town Centre Project – A long process!

We've held seven public consultation events as well as meetings with specific groups such as the school and local access groups - we are confident that the plans reflect the residents' ambitions.

### The Funding

£4.4m from European ERDF funds, the Welsh Government and Gwynedd Council. We must now ensure that the money makes a real difference to the town and its residents.



Consultation and on-going work - July 2011

### What's involved?

- A project to improve the town's shops – a 75% contribution towards improving the facade including doors, windows, painting or signage. We want to encourage canopies and colorful signage.
- We aim to develop a gateway feature to draw people into the town to spend time and money.
- We propose significant changes to the town centre including the Station and Diffwys Car Parks. The aim is to draw people into the town from the railway.
- We propose to improve the marketing of the town to include interpretation of local history and culture.
- We aim to encourage local businesses to tender for the building work and to renovate the shops.

### The Aim:

"to create an exciting, vibrant and attractive place to live, work and to visit, renowned for culture and the arts, our strong sense of community and the stunning environment. The town will build on these unique characteristics in a sustainable manner in order to achieve economic, social and environmental regeneration."

### When?

We'll tender for a company to undertake the work during the Summer of 2011, and aim to start the work in October before finishing the majority of the works by the summer of 2012.

## Information.

For more information please visit our website, [www.gwynedd.gov.uk/blaenauymlaen](http://www.gwynedd.gov.uk/blaenauymlaen)

Email: [blaenauymlaen@gwynedd.gov.uk](mailto:blaenauymlaen@gwynedd.gov.uk) or contact **Eifion Williams 07867945741** (locally) or the **Regeneration Officer** on **01766 512499**.

