

TRAWS-NEWID

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The community improvement group Traws-Newid follows three main principles: to improve the economy, environment and social life of Trawsfynydd. Over 150 local residents are members of the organisation of whom nine are Directors elected annually.

A community consultation was held, out of which came two main points. One was the feeling that more use should be made of Llyn Trawsfynydd as a tourist attraction, and also concern was shown about the decline of the old Co-op building in the village.

Discussions were held between BNFL (the company then responsible for running the power station) and Traws-Newid, following which the group were granted permission to develop the lake. The group now holds the Superior Licence for the lake, which gives it control on all activities there, and it also has a twenty-eight year lease.

As well as the above agreements, BNFL agreed to fund Traws-Newid initiatives up to £190,000 over five years, and also agreed to give the group first refusal on buildings which are outside the licensed nuclear site. Traws-Newid has since developed the old laboratories into 11 business units, of which half are already rented to a local company.

Another building which has been developed by Traws-Newid is the old Co-op shop in the village, which is now a Heritage Centre and hostel offering accommodation to walkers and bikers. The building also houses an auditorium so that Llys Ednowain is able to welcome school groups. The hostel facility ensures that an income is produced which helps meet the costs of running the building and supporting staff.