

## SIOP Y PENTREF, LLANFROTHEN

### *Contact*

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The Menter Llanfrothen group was formed when a number of villagers came together to try and ensure that the local village shop – an important service to the district – was not lost. The first step was preparing business plans and grant applications. The group successfully raised the necessary money to buy the property, and the location was then developed and a new building constructed. Now there are two workshops for small businesses and a shop and post office on the site. The workshops are rented out to new business enterprises in the area.

The plan has been of great benefit, it has ensured a service for the village, and has empowered the community, permitting local control of resources. It is an informal meeting place, and an excellent centre for sharing community information.

A local shop, with the enthusiastic support of the villagers, ensures that money is circulated within the local economy, and also creates opportunities for selling local produce. The new workshops have also created and protected jobs in the area.

The project also ensures that there is less need for people to travel to shop or visit the post office, and the building was planned according to environmental principles.

*Tips for others:* Problems may arise regarding co-ordination of some grants and the development of community projects. Also, it can be difficult to recruit members onto the committee following completion of the project's main aims. Difficulties were also experienced while searching for independent advice on specialist aspects, i.e., financial, building.

*Status:* Voluntary group

*Area:* Llanfrothen and Nantmor community