

## INVOLVEMENT

### Community

Extensive consultation has been undertaken with the Neath Port Talbot Council's Project Advisory Group throughout the project. This group has been chosen to represent the interests of the many staff and volunteers that input into the management and running of the Gnoll Estate Country Park. Consequently the proposed scheme is representative of their involvement and decision making and validation.

Wider consultation has also been undertaken with the surrounding community with the Community Council, neighbours and interested parties to explain the scheme and its wider benefits. This follows initial consultation with the community on the LUF developed scheme, the responses to which have been considered and incorporated into the proposals where possible. The outcomes of this consultation have been summarised by Planning Solutions Ltd. Overall, this consultation revealed some clear feedback, which has amended the overall park strategy (refer to Project Context document).

In relation to the visitor centre, 86% of respondents either strongly or slightly supported the development of the visitor centre to create a more welcoming and usable space for visitors to Gnoll Estate Country Park.

### Pre-Application Consultation Response

A comprehensive, positive and constructive pre-application consultation process has been undertaken with input from Cadw, Ecology and Arboricultural consultants proving to be particularly valuable to the scheme development. A more formal response has been collated by

Asbri Planning that accompanies this application, whilst subsequent discussions and development of the proposals, have looked to address the points raised. This has largely been accomplished, however, unfortunately the timescales driven by the funding of the scheme mean that a constructive and meaningful engagement with the Design Commission for Wales has not been possible prior to the formal planning application being submitted. We feel it is important to add that we recognise the importance of peer review during the development of our schemes. This has consequently been undertaken during the development process via in-house architectural advisors from Neath Port Talbot Council and through our internal processes.



*Photograph of the drop-in Community Consultation event. Additional online consultation was undertaken in parallel.*



*Photograph of the existing visitor centre in the context of the fishpond.*

### **Ongoing engagement**

#### **Cadw**

Given the sensitivity of the designated context as a grade II\* listed parkland, ongoing discussions have been held with Cadw, to ensure that the design development has been carried out in dialogue.

#### **Secured by Design**

Additional consultation has also been undertaken with representatives of South Wales Police in relation to the intention to achieve Secured By Design Gold Award. Advice was received regarding specification of glass, gating of external covered areas, lighting schemes, CCTV and the storage of site vehicles. This has been incorporated in the developed designs.