

# AGE-FRIENDLY MONMOUTHSHIRE BASELINE ASSESSMENT

2025



## CONTENTS PAGE

Contents	2
1. Introduction	3
1.1 50+ profile	4
1.2 Partner & 50+ involvement	6
2. Monmouthshire Baseline Assessment	8
2.1 Outdoor Spaces & Buildings	8
2.2 Transport	9
2.3 Housing	10
2.4 Social Participation	11
2.5 Respect & Social Inclusion	12
2.6 Civic Participation & Employment	13
2.7 Communication & Information	14
2.8 Community & Healthcare	15
3. Monmouthshire Age-Friendly Practice	17
4. Our Commitments & Next Steps	20
5. References & Other Information	21

## 1. Introduction

Located in south-east Wales, Monmouthshire occupies a strategic position between the major centres in south Wales and the south-west of England and the Midlands. The county covers an area of approximately 880 square kilometres, with an estimated population of 95,164. It is a predominantly rural county, with 53% of the total population living in wards defined as being in urban areas. The main settlements are Abergavenny, Chepstow, Monmouth, Caldicot, Usk and Magor/Undy. The county has a distinctive identity arising from its location in the borderlands between England and the former industrial heartlands of the South Wales valleys. An integral element of Monmouthshire's distinctive settlement pattern arises from its historic market towns and villages and their relationship with the surrounding rural areas.

The county has a low population density of 1.1 persons per hectare, significantly lower than the South East Wales average of 5.3 persons per hectare, with densities much higher in urban areas.

Monmouthshire has an ageing population. A quarter of Monmouthshire residents are aged 65 and over, with that proportion predicted to rise significantly in the years ahead. We want all its residents to live long and healthy lives, being as independent and active as possible for as long as possible. It is also important to recognise and celebrate the valuable contribution that older residents and visitors make to our communities and economy. The economic contribution of employment, informal caring, including childcare, and volunteering by people aged 65 or over is estimated at £160 billion.

The Welsh Government's Strategy for an Ageing Society commits to supporting people of all ages to live and age well, creating an Age-Friendly Wales where everyone looks forward to growing older. A Wales where individuals can take responsibility for their own health and well-being whilst feeling confident that support will be available and easily accessible if needed, where ageism does not limit potential or affect the quality of services older people receive, for Wales to be a nation that celebrates age and, in line with the UN Principles for Older Persons, a nation that upholds the independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity of older people at all times.

The global response to the world's ageing population has been a move towards age friendly communities and cities. The World Health Organisation (WHO) states that 'an age-friendly world enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities and treats everyone with respect, regardless of their age.' Achieving WHO Age Friendly Status is about recognising what is already happening within communities across Monmouthshire, bringing it more sharply into focus with an eye on how to address the specific gaps. It is not necessarily about new investment, more about knowing what and where the gaps are, how things can be done even better with the emphasis on the needs of older people.

Monmouthshire County Council has worked with its 50+ population, and its partners to create an application for Monmouthshire to join the World Health Organisation's Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities and Cities, showing its commitment to becoming more Age-Friendly.

Membership to the Network is not an accreditation for age-friendliness, it is a demonstration of the commitment of an area to listen to the needs of their ageing population, assess and monitor their age-friendliness and work collaboratively with older people and across sectors to create age-friendly physical and social environments.

## WHO Age-Friendly Domains

To assist communities becoming Age-Friendly WHO have provided a framework of 8 domains which can be addressed to improve structures and services to meet the needs of older people and ageing societies

Community & Health Care	Transportation
Housing	Social Participation
Outdoor Spaces & Buildings	Respect & Social Inclusion
Civic Participation & Employment	Communication & Information

Monmouthshire's baseline assessment is the beginning of our journey to measure how age friendly we are as a community, whilst supporting us to map current activities, services, and identify gaps when creating an Age-Friendly Monmouthshire.

### 1.1 50+ Profile

According to the 2021 census, there were 45,781 people aged 50+ living in Monmouthshire. This makes up 49% of the population.

Life expectancy in Monmouthshire is above that of the Welsh national average for both men and women based upon current ONS estimates. At birth, a female in Monmouthshire would be expected to live until the age of 83.9 (82.32 for Wales) and a male until 80.1 (78.52 for Wales)

2019 Estimate	Monmouthshire		Wales
	Number of people	% of total population	% of total population
55+	38,925	41%	34%
65+	24,340	26%	21%
75+	11,499	12%	10%
85+	3,363	3.5%	3%
90+	1,266	1%	1%

Behind the headline rates, there are notable variations, with those living in the least deprived areas of Monmouthshire expected to live longer than those in the most deprived, by on average 6.3 years for males and 3.6 years for females. Similarly, those in the least deprived parts of Monmouthshire are likely to live in good health for longer, by an average of 10.1 years for males and 11.1 years for females.

Population growth projections for Monmouthshire report that there will be a 41% increase in the number of people aged 65 and over, and a 96% increase of those aged 85 and over by 2043. This will also result in an increase of those who struggle with daily activities and an increase in those diagnosed with dementia.

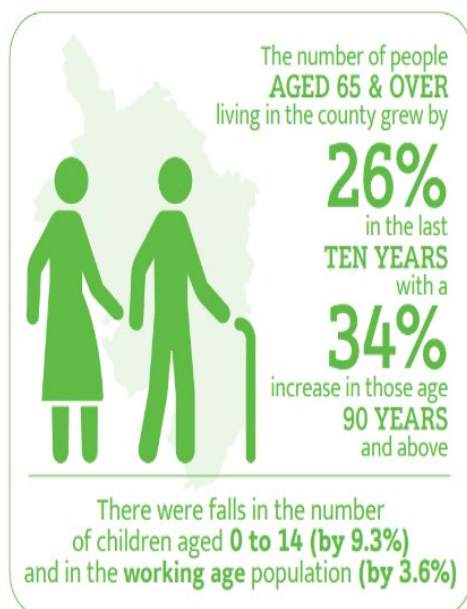
Table x: Number of people aged 65 and over who struggle with activities of daily living (Daffodil Cymru)

Age Group	2020	2035	2040	Monmouthshire % increase by 2040	Wales % increase 2040
65-69	1,234	1,530	1,372	11%	11%
70-74	1,157	1,373	1,369	18%	13%
75-79	1,307	1,612	1,935	48%	40%
80+	3,100	4,766	5,149	66%	50%
Total	6,798	9,281	9,825	44%	34%

Table x: Predicted number of people aged 65+ with dementia

	2021	2025	2030	2035	2040
Monmouthshire	1,775	1,998	2,335	2,693	2,964
Wales	48,487	53,852	61,484	69,964	76,544

Source: Social Care Wales Population Projections





## 1.2 Partner & 50+ involvement

Partner organisations and groups have always actively engaged with communities in Monmouthshire to find out their views and what's important to them regarding their lived environment, as well as the services available to them and will continue to do so, some of which include:

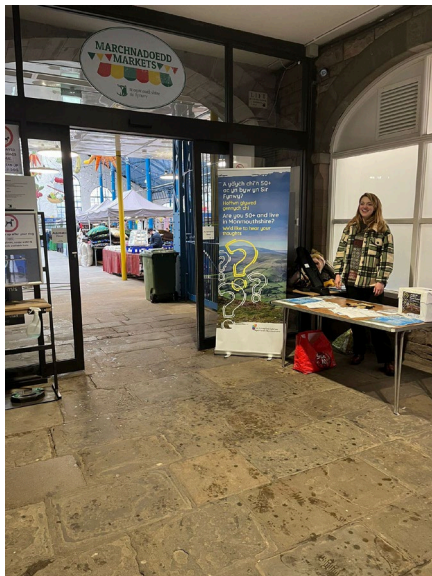
- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
- Gwent Police
- South Wales Fire & Rescue Service
- Registered Social Landlords – Monmouthshire Housing Association, Hedyn (previously Melin homes) Pobl
- Monmouthshire County Council
- Town & Community Councils
- GAVO (Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations)

As part of Monmouthshire's baseline assessment, we have focused on the views of the 50+ population in relation to the W.H.O's 8 Age-Friendly domains. Throughout 2023 and 2024, extensive time was spent building relationships with community groups, services and networks that support Monmouthshire's 50+ population. The value of building these trusted relationships was recognised, wanting to ensure that our communities felt involved and a reciprocal trust was built first, before conducting our Age-Friendly survey. The Partnership's Officer for Age Friendly Communities met, and built relationships, with the following partners:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Owls &amp; Acorns Intergenerational Project</li><li>• Community Focused School Lead – Monmouthshire County Council</li><li>• Integrated Wellbeing Network Lead</li><li>• MonLife Heritage Learning Manager</li><li>• Community Wellbeing Link Workers</li><li>• Monmouthshire Housing Association</li><li>• Severn View Park Care Home</li><li>• Gwent Dementia Friendly Communities</li><li>• Age Cymru – Scam Awareness Project Co-ordinator</li><li>• Neighbourhood Care Networks (NCN's)</li><li>• Creative Conversations - Caerwent</li><li>• Pobl</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Integrated Health &amp; Social Care Managers</li><li>• GAVO (Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations)</li><li>• Active 60+ Exercise Referral Scheme Lead</li><li>• U3A South Wales Network Chair</li><li>• Bridges Centre, Monmouth</li><li>• Palmer Centre, Chepstow</li><li>• Hedyn Homes (previously Melin)</li><li>• Day Services Team Lead</li><li>• Age Cymru – Hospital Discharge Service</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jackie's Revolution</li><li>• Monmouthshire Wellbeing Network - a network for organisations to share information about support services and build relationships with one another to help ensure people get the right help at the right time.</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cuppa &amp; Connect – Usk</li><li>• Penpergwm House Residential Care Home</li><li>• Gwent WI (Women's Institute) Federation Chairman</li><li>• Abergavenny 50+ forum</li><li>• Community Conversations (North &amp; South) - A monthly informal networking meeting for people who support people in Monmouthshire, discussing the services available. Different organisations are invited each month to discuss their services or community groups, providing an opportunity to network and build partnerships.</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DWP (Department for Work and Pensions) 50+ Champion</li><li>• Home Instead Domiciliary Care</li><li>• Together Works - Caldicot</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Age Cymru – Development &amp; Wellbeing Coordinator</li><li>• Home Instead Memory Cafe - Monmouth</li><li>• Dementia Adviser – Alzheimer's Society</li></ul>  |

- Lad's Lunch - Chepstow
- Bridges Community Car Scheme
- Singing for the brain
- Coffee & Computers – Raglan
- Repair Cafe Wales
- Monmouthshire Leisure Centres
- Abergavenny market
- Rogiet Community Cafe
- Community Development Team
- Grass Routes
- Social Circles – Bridges Centre
- Age Cymru – Carers Project
- Goytre Wellbeing Cafe
- Monmouthshire Community Hubs & Libraries
- Trellech Teas – St Nicholas Church
- Caerwent Community Cafe
- Community Cohesion Lead

Monmouthshire's Age-Friendly survey, which was conducted in 2024 received over 1200 responses. The survey was shared and promoted across Monmouthshire networks including, RSL's (Registered Social Landlords), Age Cymru, Community Hubs & Libraries, Integrated Health & Social Care facilities, Residential & Care homes, Community groups, 50+ forums, GP surgeries, local newspapers and magazines. Paper copies were available at various community venues; online versions were shared and promoted across social media channels. Members of the Partnerships team attended 30 different in-person groups/spaces to share and complete the survey. The survey was also completed over the phone with residents who were unable to use other formats, as well as sharing via trusted voices in the community who promoted and distributed the survey within their local areas.



*Engagement activity at a Monmouthshire Market*



*50+ forum*

Over 85% of respondents responded positively (agree or slightly agree) that “Generally speaking, Monmouthshire is a good place for older people to live,” with a further 80% of respondents agreeing, or slightly agreeing, that there are “plenty of opportunities in their community for older people to participate in leisure, social, cultural or spiritual activities.” Where people ‘disagreed’ within the survey, key areas for improvement identified from recipient's comments include:

- Transport
- Health Care
- Housing
- Communication & Information

Comments included access to public transport, reliability of services, accessing GP appointments, distance to hospital appointments, receiving information in an accessible way, as well as the need for more age-appropriate housing e.g. bungalows. These views will inform our Age-Friendly Monmouthshire Action Plan.

## 2. Monmouthshire Baseline Assessment

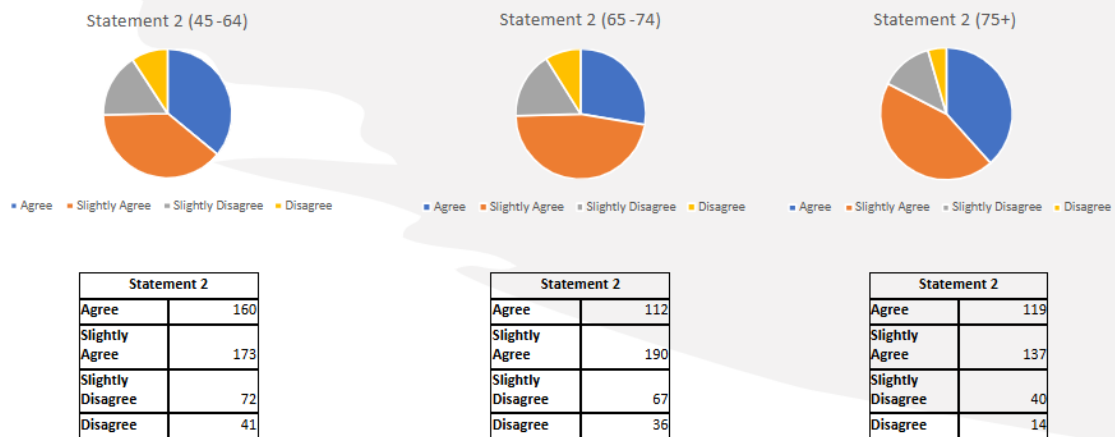
The following sections will detail the eight age-friendly domains, presenting the views and feedback gathered from the 50+ population across Monmouthshire.

### 1. Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

*The external environment is important to people's quality of life beyond the comfort of their homes. A clean place with well-maintained recreational areas, ample rest areas, well-developed and safe pedestrian and building infrastructure, and a secure environment provides an ideal living environment for people to age in.*

#### Feedback

### Outdoor spaces and buildings across Monmouthshire meet the needs of older people



- **Accessibility and Mobility:** Many respondents highlighted issues with accessibility, particularly for older people and those with disabilities. There were mentions of inaccessible buildings, poorly maintained pavements, and the need for more benches and rest areas. The lack of suitable parking and the condition of public footpaths were also concerns.
- **Maintenance and Cleanliness:** Respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the maintenance and cleanliness of public spaces. Issues such as litter, fly-tipping, and poorly maintained areas were mentioned. The need for more heating in public spaces and concerns about safety at night were also raised.
- **Public Facilities:** The lack of public toilets and the closure of town center facilities were significant concerns. The feedback suggests a need for more public restrooms, especially for older individuals with health conditions.
- **Transportation and Infrastructure:** Many comments addressed the need for better public transportation, safer pedestrian crossings, and improved road conditions. The lack of benches and rest areas along walking paths was also a theme.
- **Housing and Development:** There were concerns about the lack of suitable housing for the elderly, such as bungalows or sheltered accommodations. The feedback also mentioned the impact of new housing developments on the availability of open spaces and the local infrastructure.



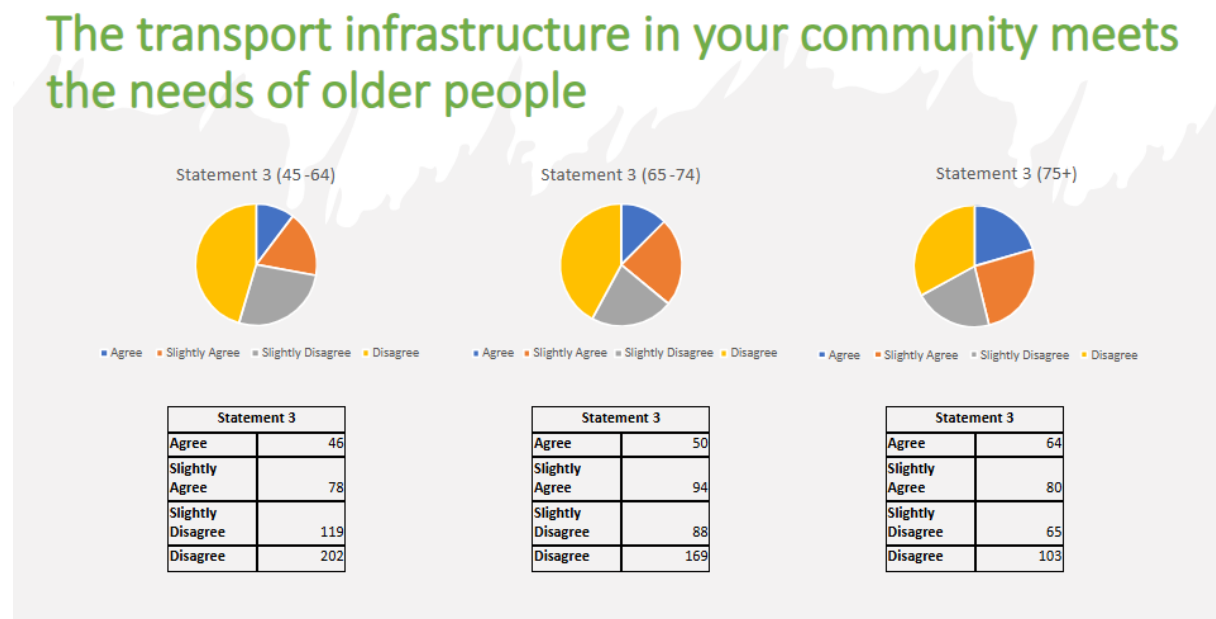
- **Community and Recreation:** The need for more community spaces and recreational areas was evident in the feedback. Respondents desired more activities and facilities for older individuals, as well as better promotion and utilization of historical and cultural assets.

## 2. Transport

*Accessible and affordable public transport is key to ensuring an older population is able to age actively and remain engaged with their community, with access to health and social facilities.*

*Driving conditions and parking facilities should also keep older drivers in mind.*

### Feedback



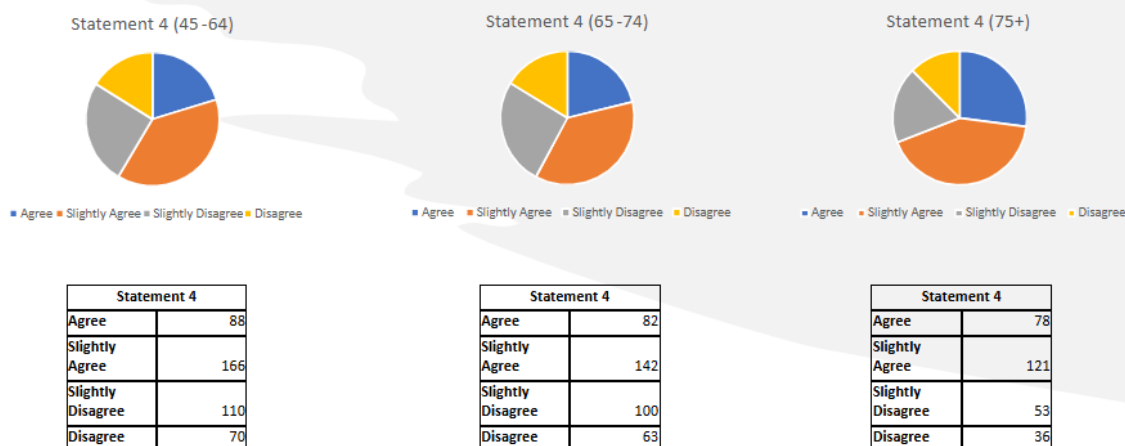
- **Accessibility and Availability:** Respondents frequently mentioned the lack of accessible parking spaces, particularly near essential services like shops and post offices. The availability of public transport is also a concern, with many areas having infrequent or no bus services, making it difficult for those without cars or with mobility issues to get around.
- **Infrastructure:** The transport infrastructure is described as inadequate, especially in rural areas. There are complaints about poor road conditions, such as potholes, and a lack of integration between different modes of transport, like buses and trains.
- **Service Reliability:** Many respondents expressed frustration with the unreliability of public transport, including buses not showing up or running late, which affects not only the older generation but also school children and those trying to get to work or appointments.
- **Cost and Economic Factors:** The cost of public transport and parking fees are mentioned as barriers, with some suggesting that more free or reduced-fare options could encourage the use of public transport and reduce car dependency.

### 3. Housing

*Good housing conditions determine how well people are able to age well, independently in their community. Appropriate housing design and its proximity to community and social services allow older residents to live comfortably and safely, while housing affordability gives them peace of mind.*

#### Feedback

## Housing across the county meets the needs of older people



#### **Accessibility and Suitability:**

- There is a notable concern about the lack of housing suitable for older people, with many respondents mentioning the scarcity of bungalows and single-level living options.
- Respondents also highlighted the need for housing that is accessible to amenities and services, emphasizing the importance of being able to downsize and stay within the community.

#### **Affordability:**

- The feedback indicates that housing is often too expensive, particularly for those looking to downsize or for older individuals on fixed incomes.
- There is a call for more affordable social housing, especially in rural areas, and for the older local community.

#### **Infrastructure and Planning:**

- Many comments pointed out that new housing developments lack the necessary infrastructure, such as medical facilities and transportation, to support the growing population.
- There is a perception that housing needs are being planned more for commuters and the working population rather than for the older demographic.

#### **Social and Community Support:**

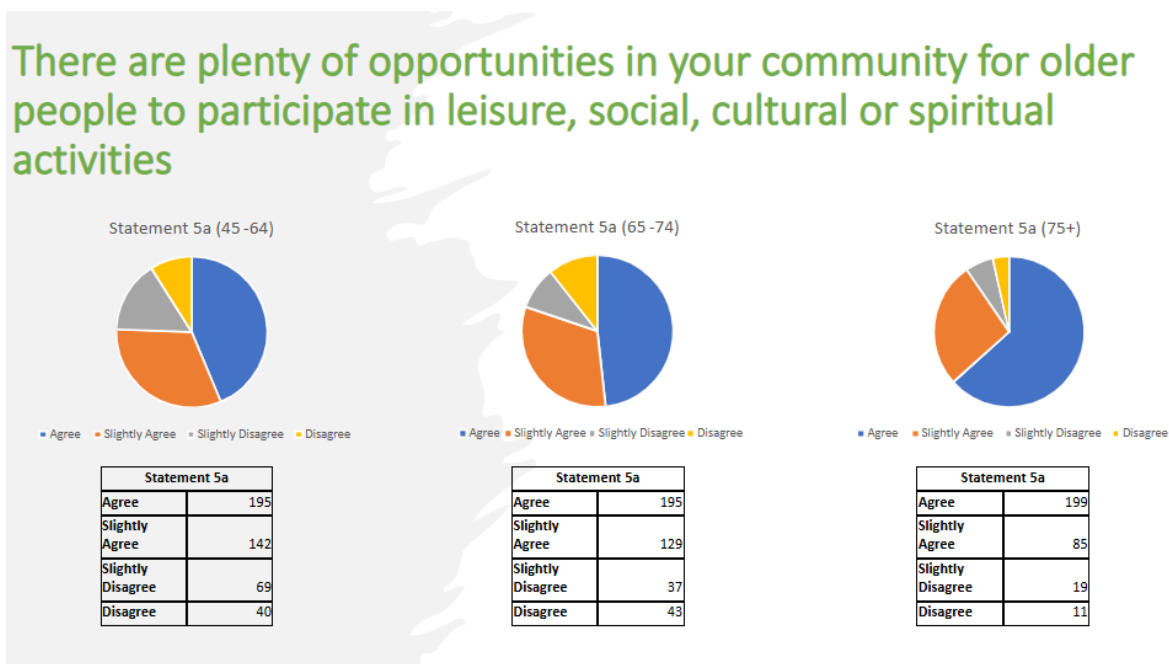
- Respondents expressed a desire for more community living areas and social housing designed to prevent loneliness and keep older individuals mobile and socialized.
- The lack of social and affordable housing for older people was mentioned, with a focus on the need for more retirement-specific community developments.

These themes reflect a need for more thoughtful housing policies that consider the diverse needs of older residents, ensuring they have access to suitable, affordable, and well-supported living environments.

#### 4. Social Participation

*Participating in leisure, social, cultural and spiritual activities in the community supports people's Wellbeing, helping people to stay engaged and informed.*

##### Feedback



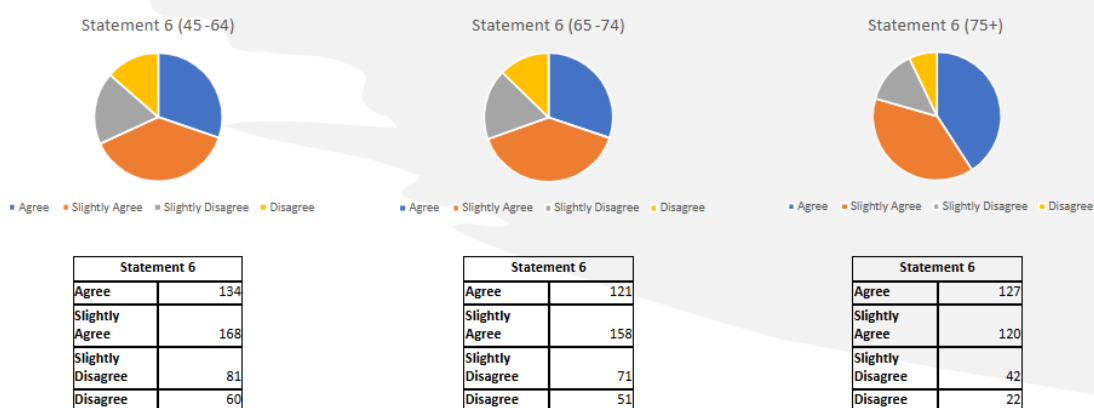
- **Accessibility and Transportation:** Many respondents highlighted the lack of public transport and the challenges faced by older people in accessing activities, especially in rural areas. There is a need for better transportation options to enable participation in community activities.
- **Awareness and Communication:** Respondents expressed that activities and services are not well-publicized, leading to a lack of awareness among older people. Improved advertising and communication channels are necessary to inform the community about available opportunities.
- **Inclusivity and Diversity:** Some activities are perceived as exclusive or targeted towards specific groups, leaving others feeling isolated. There is a call for more inclusive and diverse activities that cater to a broader range of interests and abilities.
- **Affordability and Cost:** The cost of participating in activities is a concern, with some respondents indicating that expenses can be prohibitive. More affordable or subsidized options could encourage greater participation.
- **Facilities and Infrastructure:** Suggestions include the need for more benches, handrails, and 'Dementia Friends' among shopkeepers and cafe staff. There is also a desire for more day centres and carers' hubs.
- **Technology and Digital Literacy:** The reliance on social media and online platforms for information can be a barrier for those who are not tech-savvy. There is a need for alternative methods of communication and support for older people to navigate digital platforms.

## 5. Respect & Social Inclusion

*Older people should always be consulted on decisions concerning them. An inclusive society encourages older people to participate more in social, civic and economic life. Everyone should have the opportunity to engage with their community and feel valued.*

### Feedback

Your community is inclusive of older people and older people are respected by people of all ages



### **Inclusivity and Respect:**

- Respondents expressed concerns about the inclusivity of older people in the community and the level of respect they receive from younger generations. There is a sentiment that older individuals are not always consulted or involved in decision-making processes, and some feel invisible or disrespected by the youth.

### **Digital Divide:**

- A recurring theme is the digital divide, where many older people find it difficult to engage with technology-related consultations and services. This leads to a feeling of exclusion and a need for more support or alternative methods of engagement.

### **Safety and Crime:**

- Safety concerns were mentioned, particularly in relation to crime rates and the fear of attacks, which can deter older people from going out. The lack of police presence was also noted as an issue.

### **Health and Social Care:**

- There were comments on the need for better training and attitudes towards older people within the health and social care sectors, as well as the importance of resolving issues in a reasonable timescale.

### **Transport and Accessibility:**

- The lack of public transport and accessibility issues were highlighted, which can limit participation in social and civic activities, especially in the evenings.

### **Communication and Information:**

- Many respondents feel that communication is a significant issue, with older people often not being made aware of available services or opportunities. The reliance on social media for information dissemination was seen as a barrier for those not using these platforms.

## General Sentiments:

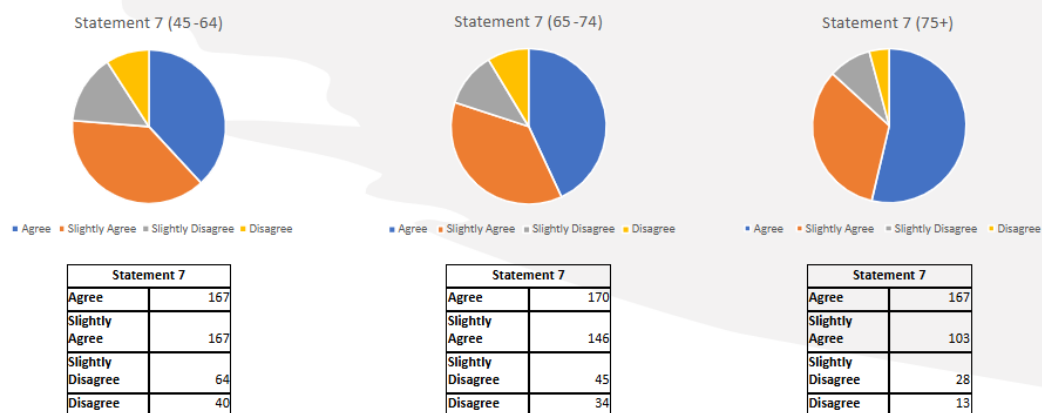
- Some respondents feel that the community is generally respectful and inclusive, while others believe there is a lack of respect for older people across the board. There is a call for more events and opportunities for intergenerational socializing.

## 6. Civic Participation & Employment

*Older people should always be consulted on decisions concerning them. An inclusive society encourages older people to participate more in social, civic and economic life. Everyone should have the opportunity to engage with their community and feel valued.*

### Feedback

Opportunities are available to older people in your community to continue to contribute to the community after retirement



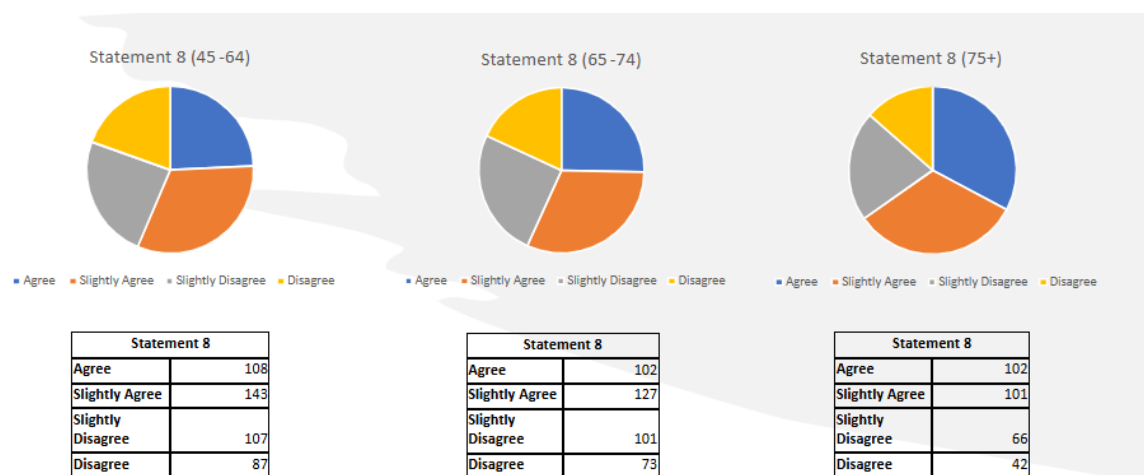
- Volunteer Opportunities:** There are mentions of opportunities to join volunteer groups, but these are not well-publicized, and some respondents are unaware of any such initiatives.
- Employment Challenges:** Several respondents feel that there are limited part-time or flexible employment opportunities for older individuals, especially those over 50.
- Community Engagement:** A common theme is the lack of awareness or information about how to get involved in community contributions, with many expressing a desire to participate but not knowing where to start.
- Transportation Barriers:** Access to transportation is a significant barrier for older people to participate in community activities, especially in rural areas.
- Valuing Experience:** Respondents believe that the experience and skills of older people are undervalued, and there should be more recognition of their potential contributions to the workforce and community.



## 7. Communication & Information

*Everyone must have access to information that is accessible and practical, helping communities to stay connected with events, news and activities.*

### Feedback

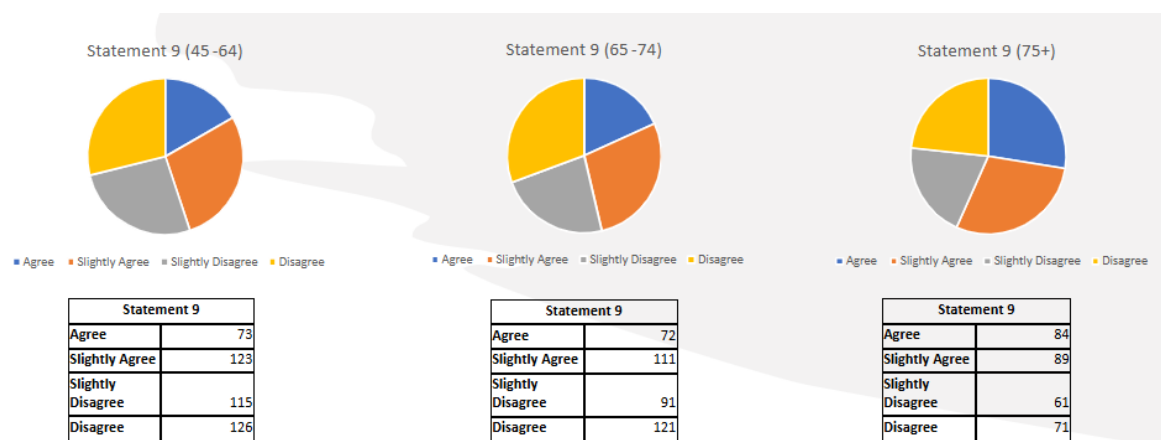


- **Accessibility of Information:** Many respondents feel that it is difficult for older people to access information, especially if they are not IT literate or do not use social media. There is a need for information to be available through more traditional means, such as newspapers or community notice boards, to ensure that everyone, including those without internet access, can stay informed.
- **Digital Divide:** There is a clear digital divide where older individuals who are not familiar with or do not have access to digital technology feel left out. This includes not only social media but also the use of smart devices and the internet in general.
- **Need for Support and Training:** There is a suggestion for more support and training for older people to become digitally literate, which could include free courses or tutorials on using the internet and social media.
- **Community Engagement:** Respondents also highlight the importance of community engagement and the role of local community groups in disseminating information and supporting older residents.

## 8. Community & Healthcare

*An appropriate supply of Community, Health and Wellbeing services, conveniently located close to where older people live, are crucial in keeping everyone healthy, independent and active.*

### Feedback



- **Accessibility and Availability of Healthcare Services:** Many respondents expressed concerns about the difficulty in accessing healthcare services, including GP appointments, dental care, and hospital services. There is a notable mention of the lack of NHS dentists and the long waiting times for doctor's appointments. The closure of local surgeries and the need to travel for healthcare services were also highlighted as significant issues.
- **Transportation and Infrastructure:** The lack of reliable and affordable public transportation was mentioned as a barrier to accessing healthcare facilities, especially for the elderly and those living in rural areas. Respondents also pointed out the challenges posed by the centralization of services and the inadequacy of hospital transport.
- **Inequality and Service Distribution:** Some respondents felt that services are overstretched and not evenly distributed, leading to a 'postcode lottery' where some areas are better served than others.
- **Awareness and Information:** There is a sense that while services may exist, there is a lack of awareness about how to access them. Respondents indicated a need for better advertisement and information dissemination about available services.
- **Financial Concerns:** The cost of services, such as fitness activities and healthcare treatments, was mentioned as a concern, particularly for those who are not working or have limited income.
- **Overstretched Services:** Respondents feel that the current services are barely meeting needs and are on their knees due to being overwhelmed and understaffed.

*In addition to the 8 domains, we asked respondents if there was anything else that they felt would help with Monmouthshire being an Age-Friendly Community*

### Feedback

Is there anything else you can think of that would make your community even better at being Age-Friendly?

- Dissatisfaction with the 20-mile speed limit.
- Need for better public transport, especially bus services, in rural areas and between towns.
- Need for more accessible and affordable dental care for older people.
- Need for more free or lower parking charges for short visits to shops and services.
- Need for more awareness and availability of Grass Roots minibus service and how to register for it.
- Need for more home help and carers.
- Need for more information and communication channels for older people, such as leaflets, newsletters, and local papers.

### 3. Monmouthshire Age-Friendly Practice

Within Monmouthshire, we already have incredible work taking place within each of these domains. At the commencement of this piece of work, the Age Friendly Communities Partnerships Officer spent their time initially building relationships with groups, organisations, and services across the county, recognising the importance of creating open, trusted, working relationships *first*, gaining privileged access to fantastic work taking place across the varying communities of Monmouthshire.

**Creative Conversations** Creative Conversations is an informal and free weekly programme of conversation and craft for people living with Dementia and their carers, delivered by Helen Henley and managed by Karin Molson of MonLife. With an ageing population, this service helps to provide place-based support in a large, rural county. This programme has had a tremendous impact, with some testimony received including:

Through attending this programme, I've had *"a great deal of fun, laughter and reduced stress.. reduction in anxiety, increased confidence, and learning to be more creative.. reduced feelings of isolation, something to look forward to in the week, learning new skills"* - Programme Attendee

*"Feel belonging, (benefit from being with) other people with similar problems"* - Programme Attendee

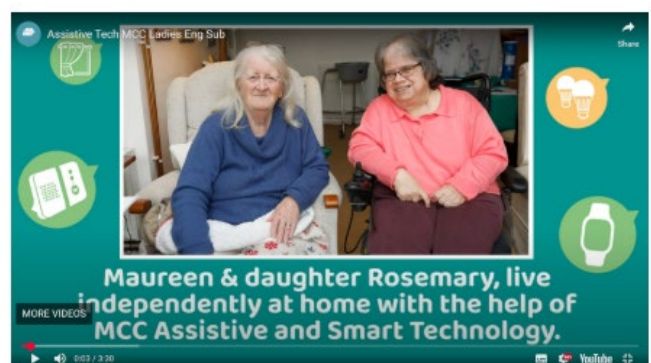
I've *"gained confidence, enjoyment... reduced my anxiety, helped to increase my confidence around other people... meeting people, making new friends"* - Programme Attendee



Caerwent Creative Conversations Group

**Assistive Tech** - The Assistive Technology Services provides technological solutions to support and enable people to live comfortably and securely in their own homes. An example of how this has enabled a mother and her daughter to continue living independently, in their own home, can be viewed here -

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ys\\_l16NDIOk&t=7s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ys_l16NDIOk&t=7s)



## Off-road wheeling in The Wye Valley - In

September 2024, Wye Valley National Landscape working with Craig Grimes from @experiencecommunity scouted suitable routes to make up a decent length off-road wheelchair rambles for their 3 days of events 27 – 29th September 2024. Through improving accessibility, this can ensure that as many people as possible are able to enjoy Monmouthshire - [Welcome to off-road wheeling in the Wye Valley - Wye Valley AONB](#)

Visit Monmouthshire is with Wye Valley National Landscape and 3 others.

9 September at 08:33 · 🌐

We want Monmouthshire to be enjoyed by as many people as possible, so it's great to see event organisers going out of their way to improve accessibility.

One of those improving accessibility is the Wye Valley National Landscape, who've been working with Craig Grimes from @experiencecommunity scouting to find suitable routes in the Wye Valley for off-road wheelchair rambles. You can enjoy three days of off-road wheelchair accessible events on the 27th - 29th September, starting with a try out day on the Friday, then two rambles at Whitestone and Ross-on-Wye over the weekend. Best of all, these events are completely free (but they do need to be booked).

There's more details on our website, and we'll put a link in the comments.



**Armed Forces Day Intergenerational Activity** – Monmouthshire recently hosted the 2025 National Armed Forces Day at Caldicot Castle. To celebrate Armed Forces Week, the Community Development Team hosted several community events across the county, including intergenerational activity. The community events brought schools and community groups together to share their stories and experiences.



## Severn View Park Residential Home

In March 2024, an innovative, brand-new care home was opened as part of a new housing development in the South of Monmouthshire. It was funded through a partnership between Monmouthshire County Council and the Gwent Regional Partnership Board via the Welsh Government's Integrated Care Fund and Housing with Care Fund. ***“Severn View Park Care Home will innovate how care is delivered to people with dementia, allowing them to live a life that matters to them. The care home brings a bespoke environmental design, based upon innovating best practice standards for people with dementia and a relationship-centred care model.”***

The home's design is based on 4 x households at ground floor level with the aim to reflect as closely as possible a domestic homelike feel. Overall, the design will support familiarity for people living with dementia. Instead of developing a care home for 32 people we have created 4 inter-dependant households for 8 people. The designs have home style entrances to each household that lead directly into the home and living areas. Within the design they wanted to promote the involvement of the residents in all aspects



of daily living. For example, catering kitchens are replaced with domestic household kitchens that enable residents to be a part of and around all activities associated with planning, preparing and cooking meals. This approach extends to people who may be advanced in the journey with dementia. It remains critical that these residents who may not be able to directly participate are surrounded by the sights, sounds and smells of a home.

[Innovative Severn View Park Care Home opens - Monmouthshire](#)

[Severn View Park Care Home wins MacEwen Award 2025 - Monmouthshire](#)

### **Over-60s Travelcard**

The Concessionary Travel card, administered by Transport for Wales, provides free or discounted travel on the buses and selected train routes with a free concessionary travel card if you're 60+ and live in Wales. The current uptake in Monmouthshire for this free scheme is 62% of our 60+ population.

### **Bridges Centre, Monmouth**

Bridges, an independent Monmouth charity, offers a variety of services at the heart of the community including several groups and activities for the local older population, including Social Circles, a Befriending Scheme and a Community Car Scheme - [Bridges Centre - Bridges Centre](#)

### **Over 55s Accommodation**

Across Monmouthshire there are 16 housing schemes for the 55+ population, provided by 4 Registered Social Landlords – Monmouthshire Housing Association, POBL, United Welsh & Hedyn. This accommodation aims to provide affordable, high-quality, comfortable housing options for rent that have been specifically designed for the older population to live independently. The accommodation on offer includes self-contained apartments and bungalows, offering communal spaces for residents to come together, as well as being conveniently located to nearby towns – Abergavenny, Monmouth, Usk, Chepstow, Caldicot. More information about each scheme can be found here - [55+ Housing Schemes Monmouthshire](#)

## 4. Our Commitments and Next Steps

Age-Friendly Monmouthshire is committed to listening to the needs of its 50+ population, assessing and monitoring its age-friendliness, working collaboratively with older people and across sectors to create age-friendly physical and social environments. We commit to supporting the 50+ population of Monmouthshire by:



providing accessible and appropriate Health & Wellbeing services, enabling people to keep healthy, independent and active.



enhancing and maintaining the transport infrastructure, striving to provide accessible and affordable options



providing affordable, well-designed and safe housing options, enabling people to live independently and actively.



promoting and sharing information about affordable and accessible leisure, social, cultural and spiritual activities in the community encouraging continued integration with society.



providing access to clean, well maintained, safe outdoor spaces and buildings, with appropriate recreation and leisure facilities, enhancing and maintaining the pedestrian and building infrastructure.



empowering the 50+ population to influence decisions, providing opportunities to take part in decision making processes, challenging ageism through intergenerational activities



recognising the value they bring to their communities, providing volunteering and employment opportunities, enabling their continued contribution.



disseminating information in accessible formats, recognising people's different needs, requirements and preferences.

### Next Steps:

- Create our Action Plan informed by what our communities have told us in the Baseline Assessment, working in partnership to deliver the actions, continuing to make Monmouthshire an Age-Friendly place to live.
- Continue to engage with and listen to the views of those aged 50+ living and working in Monmouthshire, using all engagement platforms available across partners, working together effectively to continue to make Monmouthshire an Age-Friendly Community.
- Monitor and report progress through the Age-Friendly Monmouthshire partnership, reporting to Monmouthshire's local delivery group.

## 5. References & Further Information

- [Monmouthshire County Council Community & Corporate Plan 2022-28](#)
- [Gwent Public Services Board Monmouthshire Wellbeing Assessment](#)
- [Gwent Regional Partnership Board Population Needs Assessment](#)
- [Gwent Regional Partnership Board Regional Area Plan 2023 – 2028](#)
- [Gwent Public Services Board Well-being Plan for Gwent](#)
- [Monmouthshire 2021 Census Profile](#)