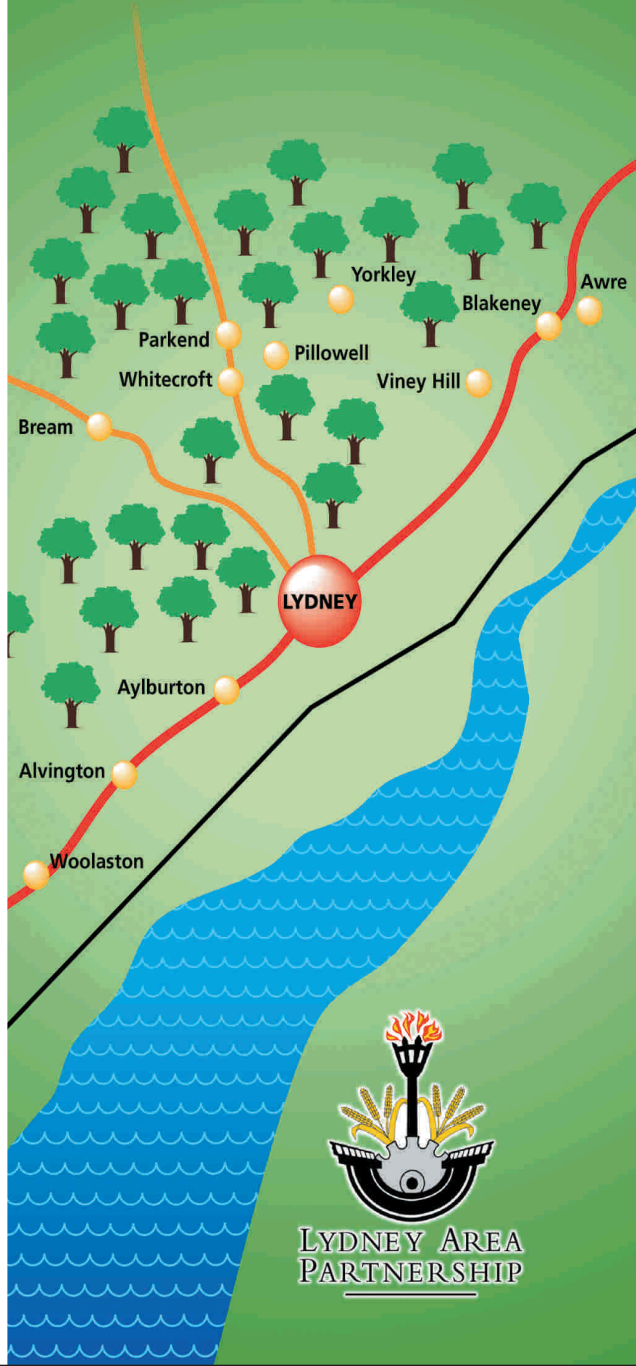


T U R N I N G T H E T I D E



# A COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN



LYDNEY AREA PARTNERSHIP

## Why turn the tide?

In 2001 a **Market and Coastal Towns Initiative (MCTi)** was launched to support communities in towns across the South West of England towards regeneration. The Lydney area was chosen as one of nine pilot projects in the region because a lack of community engagement and partnership working had been identified.

At the heart of this initiative was the preparation by each local community of a strategic action plan as a starting point. Communities were given some initial funding to help prepare the plan and achieve “quick win” projects. The strategic plan identifies a clear vision for the area’s future and suggests projects to help to achieve it.

The full plan, “Turning the Tide at Lydney”, was developed by a local steering group supported by consultants ‘Sustainable Futures’ and launched at a large community event in September 2002. A copy is posted on the website [www.lydney.org.uk](http://www.lydney.org.uk), or you can request one by calling 0845 4562513. This leaflet summarises aspects of the plan, and asks you to get involved in helping us achieve the community’s vision for the Lydney area as:

**"A high quality rural and urban environment celebrating its Severnside location and acting as a gateway to the Forest."**

To help develop the vision for the Lydney area, and in particular to decide which of the many projects in the plan you really wish to see happening, please send us back the questionnaire on the back. The current shadow board, which is in place until the first elections from our members in spring 2004, is now starting work on the Partnership’s future business plan. This includes setting priorities for delivering projects, so we can start making real progress in achieving your vision for the Lydney area.

We are also receiving support from the South West of England Regional Development Agency for further work on linking up with Lydney’s rural hinterland and discovering local business needs. What you tell us about your preferences and concerns through the questionnaire now, will be important in guiding the direction of our future work. Please let us know what you think!

**Kathrin Luddecke**

(Oxford, Swindon & Gloucester Co-op)

Chair, Lydney Area in Partnership

[chair@lydney.org.uk](mailto:chair@lydney.org.uk)

MCTi supported by



## What are our assets?

While producing 'Turning the Tide at Lydney' various strengths were acknowledged which can be developed further.

- Local landscape set between River Severn and Forest of Dean.
- Good road and rail links.
- Commitment to integrate benefits from the town's expansion into the whole town.
- Sports heritage eg. clubs and teams, Bathurst Pool & Park, Lydney Recreation Ground.

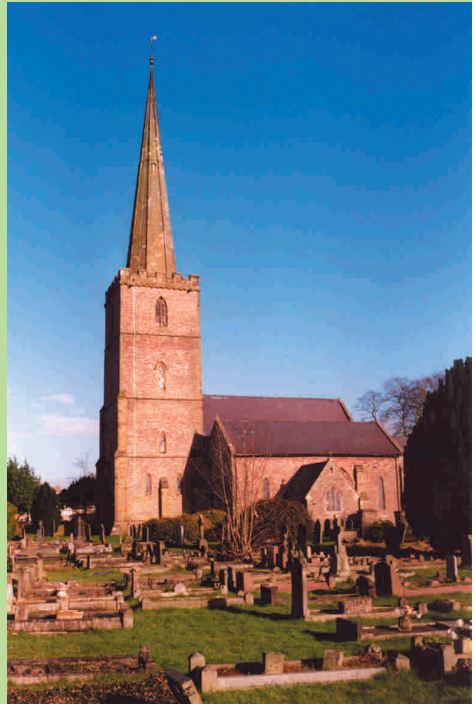


- Space within town to develop cycling and walking routes.
- Local arts and crafts community and activity.
- Parking in town centre.
- Lydney Local Power.
- Lydney local Hospital.
- Dean Forest Railway.
- Lydney Docks.
- Taurus Crafts.
- Lydney Park.



## Opportunities:

- Local desire to improve quality of life.
- Improvement of public transport, especially rail.
- Improvement of access to and enjoyment of water features eg. River Severn, River Lyd, Canal, Docks, Lydney Lake.
- Improvement of the shopping potential.



## What did you say?

During the process of developing “Turning the Tide at Lydney” the community in and around the town was asked what they wanted to see happening in the future. This is a flavour of what you said:

‘We need better youth facilities and more activities for children.’

‘Sensitive development of the docks. They are an asset to Lydney and part of the town’s heritage.’



‘Maintain the Naas Lane Youth and Community site for the community.’

‘We want a cinema and more entertainment.’

‘Reduce traffic in the town.’

‘Improve local transport.’

‘Tidy up the town and improve signposting.’



‘We value Lydney Hospital.’

‘Local jobs.’

‘The town has good sports facilities and Bathurst Swimming Baths are an asset.’

‘We want better shops.’

‘We want better provision for the arts.’

‘Clean up the canal, maintain the green areas and maintain the paths.’

‘Build a hotel and improve tourism.’

‘Maintain Lydney’s character.’



## What has been achieved so far?

As part of the Market and Coastal Towns initiative £18,800 was allocated towards supporting local projects as 'quick wins'. The basis of the funding was that the project should clearly be of strategic value to the Lydney area. This is how the money was spent:

**£1,925** towards establishing a Youth Café in Lydney.



**£2,500** for interpretation signboards at Lydney Docks.

**£3,000** towards a feasibility study into outpatients and physiotherapy facilities at Lydney Hospital.

**£4,275** towards a feasibility study into Naas Lane Youth and Community Centre and Lydney Town Hall.



**£5,100** towards improving Lydney's gateways.

**£2,000** towards establishing a farmers' market in Lydney.



## What is already underway?

“Turning the Tide” lays out a vision for the long-term future for the Lydney area, but it also includes many projects that are already being developed, often not by our new Partnership but by others. They have been taken into consideration when developing the strategic plan, and we are asking you for your views about them in a survey on the back of our joining form. Let us know what you think!

### Major developments Lydney Harbour



The Restoration of Lydney Docks, led by Lydney Docks Partnership, started in the summer of 2003. The plans include an extensive flood defence plan for the town, an 80 berth marina, a boat workshop and a two-storey harbourmaster's house. The redevelopment aims to protect the character of the area, in particular its historical and environmental significance and link the docks with the town through walking and cycle routes.

### New housing development

Land to the east of Lydney, inside the bypass, has been allocated for low and high density housing development. Some land has been set aside for employment use, including land outside the bypass. This will change the shape of Lydney dramatically. Current plans include provision of school facilities,

and a local neighbourhood centre. Entry to the new development would be from Highfield Road, the bypass and a connection to Naas Lane.

### Lydney Riverside Walk



The riverside walk will create a well designed pedestrian walkway along the River Lyd, linked to the improvements in the Newerne Street car park close by. It provides the opportunity for integration with other town centre developments and future arts projects. The project is led by the Forest of Dean District Council and the northern section is to be completed this year. The area in the vicinity of the Newerne Street bridge has been identified as a focal point on the walk which could possibly provide a site for a town centre square in the future.

### Railway Station

A masterplan for future developments in Lydney will include the improvements which the County Council has suggested for Lydney railway station. Public consultation meetings in 2002 endorsed the overdue improvements

and negotiations are being led by Lydney Town Council to ensure that an acceptable railway service is provided.



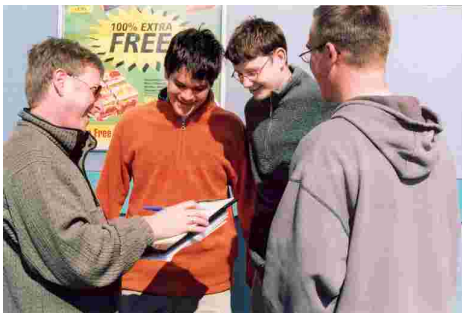
## Youth

### Youth Café

Work is finally taking place on premises at 25 Newerne Street which will result in a youth café solely for the town's young people.

### Youth Forum

The Youth Forum will provide opportunities for the young to be involved in local decision making. New activities will be devised, planned and delivered by young people for young people who will represent Lydney at District and County Forums.



## Skatepark

A skatepark on Lydney Recreation Trust Ground has been designed by young people. The skatepark includes half pipe and street course for skateboarders and bmx bikers with floodlighting provided. A basketball court, lies adjacent to it.

## Community Projects

### The Lydney Festival

The Lydney Festival is building on the success of Dancing through the Dean and Rock in the Park, both held in 2002 and includes many of the local talents to be found whilst linking with traditional annuals like the Aylburton Carnival and Lydney's Hospital Fete.

### Energy

Lydney Local Power is a community-driven renewable energy project for the people of Lydney, initiated by Severn Wye Energy Agency. Potential sources of renewable energy include wind, biomass and hydro-power. A community energy club has been established to look at energy efficiency initiatives. It is envisaged that in the long-term the project should be self-supporting through the sale of energy, generating income for the local economy.

### Naas Lane Community Centre and Town Hall

A feasibility study has been carried out into the possible futures of these two Victorian structures and their role in the community and public consultation will continue.

### Broadband

Broadband will offer commercial and domestic benefits, and this technology is an important aspect of the regeneration process, vital to current and new commercial ventures. Further information can be obtained at [www.broadband4lydney.co.uk](http://www.broadband4lydney.co.uk)



## What do you think?

Please take a few minutes to complete the following questionnaire to help us gauge public opinion on a number of proposed projects.

The form can be posted to: **Lydney Area in Partnership, Town Hall Chambers, High Street, Lydney, GL15 5DY** or can be handed in at the **Member Services Counter at the Oxford, Swindon & Gloucester Co-op County Store, Lydney, or Lydney Town Hall and Lydney Library**. Overleaf is the opportunity for you to join Lydney Area in Partnership, if you have not already done so.

Please tick appropriate box ✓

	Strongly against	Against	Not Bothered	In Favour	Strongly Support
Are you in favour of the plans to restore Lydney Docks?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Do you think a central town square would be important for Lydney's future?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you support a Riverside Walk linked to Lydney town centre?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Would you like to have a hotel in Lydney?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Would you like to see more use of the Town Hall?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you wish to see the Lydney community centre at Naas Lane replaced with a bigger, modern structure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Would you prefer a new community centre to be built around the existing school building at Naas Lane?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you support proposals to improve Lydney Railway Station and develop sustainable transport links around the site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you wish to have access to Broadband?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you support the development of local renewable energy, and a possible community owned power scheme in the future?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you pleased to have a festival programme of activities in and around Lydney?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Would you like to see more community art in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you think that more work needs to be done to integrate plans with the surrounding villages?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What other improvements would you like to see? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to become actively involved in some area of the Partnership work? (Please join the Partnership overleaf and we will pick up your details.)

I am interested in getting involved in the following (please tick):

- |                                     |                          |              |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Communications                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transport    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Festival                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sports       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Economic development/business needs | <input type="checkbox"/> | Arts/tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Additional comments or ideas: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Join Lydney Area in Partnership

Should you, or anyone you know, wish to join Lydney Area in Partnership please complete the following form and return to Members Services at the Co-op County Store in Newerne Street along with £1.

**Lydney Area in Partnership Ltd. was set up to give local people, businesses and other organisations a say in the future of their area. Membership is open to any individual or organisation active in Lydney and its surrounding rural area, on payment of a £1 share.**

The Community Strategic Plan published in September 2002 outlines the vision for Lydney and its villages, including projects to help achieve it.

YES, I want to join the Partnership to help regenerate Lydney and surrounding rural area economically, socially, environmentally and culturally!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post-code: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional: e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Optional: particular interest \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional: If you are interested in the community energy club, Lydney Local Power, please tick this box!**

Through Lydney Local Power you will be able to:

- learn how to cut your own energy bills and about the new government grants for solar systems
- discover for yourself the potential for wind, solar, hydro-electricity and biomass fuels in the Lydney area
- have your voice heard in the debate about the most suitable projects for Lydney.

for office use:  £1 paid  share certificate issued



**Lydney Area in Partnership Ltd.**  
Town Hall Chambers, High Street, Lydney GL15 5DY  
Tel/Fax 01594 840402 [www.lydney.org.uk](http://www.lydney.org.uk)  
email: [info@lydney.org.uk](mailto:info@lydney.org.uk)

## What is Lydney Area in Partnership?

Setting up a new community owned organisation to help deliver and develop the vision for the area has been a key project outlined in "Turning the Tide". The Partnership was launched at the same time as the strategic plan in September 2002, and 150 local people and organisations joined straight away.

It is owned by all members equally on the principle of one member one vote. Members can choose simply to be kept informed, to voice their opinions and attend public events and consultations, become more active on particular issues or projects, to help run the Partnership itself.

## How can I help?

While much work has been done already there is clearly a long way to go. We need to tackle issues such as local transport, commerce and industry, the environment, the arts and sports. We need to develop our membership base, our communications and democratic structure with board elections in 2004. We also want to do more to establish closer links with the villages and rural areas. You can contribute to developing the plan and projects, and help to make Lydney and surrounding area a vibrant and sustainable place in which to live and work.

**You can start by letting us know what you think of the projects already underway or proposed, and which others you would like to see developed. Just fill in and return the attached survey – thank you! You can also stay in touch with the Partnership by joining for just £1; more information on the form attached.**



**Lydney Area in Partnership Ltd.**  
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**email: [info@lydney.org.uk](mailto:info@lydney.org.uk)**  
**[www.lydney.org.uk](http://www.lydney.org.uk)**

Company Number: 29490 R

Design and Printing by Cascade Design tel: 01594 840007  
Photographs kindly supplied by: Steve Cassidy & Michael Bramwell.