



## Manifesto

Urban centres have historically been the focal point for trade and commerce, serving a residential hinterland, supporting local jobs and industry. This reliance on retail and consumption is no longer viable. The high street of the future needs to be a destination in its own right - a civic place to meet and congregate rather than endlessly consume.

Tredegar cannot hope to compete with large scale out of town retail and the convenience of online shopping. The traditional retail high street is dead, and it must therefore offer an alternative to suit the needs of today's community.

In our increasingly polarised society, the role of the public realm in facilitating public life and the opportunity to interact with a diverse mix of people is of ever greater importance. Tredegar town centre has an incredibly rich heritage from which to draw. Samuel Homfray Senior's placemaking legacy will be celebrated and intensified with the formation of a parallel layer of development, integrated through a network of connective green infrastructure.

### Re-populate

Tredegar cannot rely on the draw of its retail offer to increase footfall within the town centre, therefore, a critical mass of population should be created through the introduction of new residential and employment units. A diverse mix of built typologies will attract a diverse resident and worker population. The Gwent shopping centre is repurposed as an independent living scheme - placing time-rich people within the heart of the town centre. A nursery in close proximity brings children and families into the centre. Interactions between young and old reduce loneliness and increase wellbeing. More homes within the centre create street activity and a vibrant environment to address the issue of the perception of safety at night.

### Re-wild

Too much of the high street is given over to cars. Routes through the town will be re-prioritised, removing through traffic and limiting access to green public transport, walking and cycling. Space is freed up for rewilding. Vegetated landscape interventions encourage a greater diversity of wildlife, enabling a closer connection to nature. In our changing climate, street trees and urban planting can create a more resilient place, modulating temperatures, helping to purify the air, and managing and cleaning stormwater. The proposed landscape interventions will create a sensory experience that celebrates the natural environment of the Welsh valleys. The kinetic energy of rainfall landing and moving through the space, and absorbing into rain gardens; the play of light throughout the day, filtered through tree canopies; the distinctive colour palette of the landscape, and seasonal variation.

### Re-animate

Reinstate the public realm as the stage set for an urban life, which is less about consumerism and more about experience. To bring life back to the high street, town centre management should promote policy mechanisms to allow community groups to occupy vacant high street units, until such a time as a viable tenant becomes available. Spaces for creatives, artists, artisans and makers can catalyse transformation. Lobby spaces will be semi-private, spilling into the street and blurring the boundaries to create opportunities for communities to engage. Recognising new forms of remote working with co-working spaces, and flexible office facilities to foster enterprise. A high-quality stage will be provided allowing flexibility in the built form will enable the appropriation of the space by the community it serves.