

HOLYWELL - SETTLEMENT SERVICE AUDIT

Settlement Commentary

Holywell's built form consists of its attractive and historic town centre together with three distinct residential areas these being the Holyway, Pen y Maes and the Strand. Closely linked both historically and physically is the settlement of Greenfield which is located to the north east of the town on the B5121 road. The pedestrianised market town not only serves the shopping and other commercial needs of the its own residents but also those of the surrounding villages such as Brynford, Carmel, Gorsedd, Halkyn, Licswm, Lloc, Pentre Halkyn, Rhes-y-Cae, Whitford and Ysceifiog all of which are within a 10km radius of Holywell. According to the Town Council's website there are approximately 120 businesses in Holywell town centre of which about 50% are retail outlets with the remainder being commercial and or service businesses. Collectively, these businesses employ in the region of 800 full and part-time staff. Town centre businesses are a mix of several small businesses and some national stores such as Lidl, Peacocks and Tesco.

In addition there are also a wide variety of other businesses outside the town centre but within the town/settlement boundary. A group called the "Holywell Town Partnership" is made up of representatives from the town and county councils as well as local businesses and local organisations. The aim of the partnership, which has an ongoing programme of initiatives, is to work together to benefit the economy of the town. Holywell has a very good range of professional, financial/ commercial services and facilities. It is highly accessible to the primary and core highway network by private and public transport to other towns in Flintshire and beyond the County Boundary e.g Denbigh, Rhyl and Chester. Employment opportunities are available along the A 548 coast road at Greenfield Business Park and Bagillt e.g. the Manor Industrial Estate.

	Settlement No. of Dwellings
2000 UDP Baseline Figure	2,465
2014 Housing Land Study	2,666

	Settlement Population
2001 Census	5,816
2011 Census	5,998

Summary of Recorded Service Provision

The survey work was undertaken in November 2014 and has since been updated to take account of new information or feedback from Members / Town and Community Councils.

Education Facilities		Formal outdoor sports facility	Yes, Artificial turf, Bowling Green and Tennis Courts Fron Park Road. Holywell Town Football ground at Halkyn Road. Tennis Courts and all weather pitch at Holywell High School.	Civic offices / facility	Yes, Town Council offices – Bank Place. FCC office/Police Station/Job Club/Communities First at Flintshire Connects on the High Street Citizens Advice Bureau – The Old Library, Post Office Lane
Pre-School / Nursery Provision	Yes, Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Ysgol Perth y Terfyn & St Winefrides				
Primary school	Yes, Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Ysgol y Fron & St Winefrides				
Secondary school	Yes, Holywell High School	Formal outdoor play facility /area	Yes, 9 No equipped Children’s play areas at various locations throughout the town	Library	Yes, North Road
College	No			Hospital	Yes, Holywell Community Hospital (No A & E) – Halkyn Road
Other Education Facility	No			Doctors surgery	Yes, Bodowen Surgery - Halkyn Road, Panton Surgery - Community Hospital, Pendre Surgery – Coleshill Street, Pennant Surgery – Bagillt Street
Leisure & Recreation Facilities		Community & Health		Dentist surgery	Yes, Signature Smiles – Panton Place
Indoor leisure centre / sports facility	Yes, Holywell Leisure Centre, Gwenffrwd Road	Community centre / hall	Yes, At Moor Lane (Holway) and off North Road (Town Centre)		
Swimming pool	Yes, Holywell Leisure Centre, Gwenffrwd Road				

Pharmacy	Yes, Boots Pharmacy – 67 High Street, Rowlands Pharmacy – Coleshill Street, Rowlands Pharmacy – Bodowen Surgery, Halkyn Road	Convenience shop	Yes, Spar – opposite bus station, Bargain Booze – Halkyn Street, Co-op at Holway Garage, Cost cutter at Hillcrest Garage, Londis at Holway Road, Pen y Maes Stores Bryn y Gwynt, grocery store, Brynford Street	Café / Take away	Yes, Bells Café – High Street Dilshad Balti Indian – Whitford Street Hope Youth Shop – Tower Gardens Kassidy’s Tea Room – High Street 2 No Fish and Chip Shops – High Street & Pen y Ball Street Mill on the Hill Tea Rooms – Greenfield Street Holywell Kebab Shop/Cheeky Chicken/Talk of The Town, Chinese take-away, High Street
Place of worship	Yes, Bethel Chapel – Pen y Ball Street, Capel Penbryn – Whitford Street, Holywell Evangelical Church – Halkyn Road, St James’ Church – New Road, St Peter’s Church – Rose Hill, St Winefride’s Catholic Church – Lower Well Street	Other shops	Yes, A range of shops and services situated primarily on the High Street and Tower Gardens e.g. Peacocks, Ideal lighting, Bevans, Solicitors, Financial advisors and estate agents. Butchers at Tower Gardens and Pen Y Maes	Bank/Building Society	Yes, Barclays, HSBC, Natwest, Santander Building Society – all on High Street
Retail & Commercial Related				Free Standing of a Bank - Cashpoint	Yes, outside Tesco’s
Supermarket	Yes, Lidl – Coleshill Street, Tesco – Ffordd St Gregoire, Iceland – High Street			Public house / club / restaurant	Yes, Abbots Arms – Pen y Maes Road - Boars Head, High Street- Feathers Inn – Pen Y Ball Street, Old Wine Vaults, Red Lion – High Street, Stamford Gate Hotel – Halkyn Road, Talacre Arms – New Road, Victoria Hotel (Hotel only)
Non-food retail units	Yes, A number of shops e.g Florists, furniture shop, second hand furniture, super drug, News agents, predominantly along the High Street, Home Bargains			Post office	Yes, High Street

Post box	Yes, High Street and various locations	Employment	Yes, Opportunities available in the town centre and Business Park in nearby Greenfield	Bus service frequency	Yes, many bus services serve this settlement.
Petrol Filling Station	Yes, Holway Garage –Holway Road, Shell Garage – Halkyn Road, Hillcrest Garage	Transport		Cycle route	No
		Rail station	No	Access to main highway network	Yes, Direct access to A 5026 access to A 548 Coast Road via B 5121. Five minute drive to access the A 55
		Bus station / stop	Yes, Adjacent to Victoria Hotel		

Broadband Provision

According to the latest OFCOM data (2013) Holywell post codes (where data is available) have a median average broadband range of 6.5 – 19 mega bytes per second with the slowest speeds in Holway with the remainder of Holywell benefiting from an average of 14 mbps. Accordingly it is to be expected that broadband provision in Holywell is mixed with the majority of the settlement having reasonable broadband provision. Broadband provision is important even for a semi-urban town like this because of the impacts of slow speeds upon the ability of businesses to operate within the area and to provide investment and local employment.

Other Comments

A new school is presently being constructed in Holywell, with an estimated completion ready for September 2016, and this will replace the existing Ysgol y Fron, Perth y Terfyn and Holwell High School.

Previous Surveys of Service Provision

Holywell is a rural market town and serves a wider rural area and benefits from a town centre and local shopping facilities in the Holway, and at Pen y Maes. Information for the town centre goes back to the 1980's (see the town centre land use survey). Services and facilities within the town have changed particularly within the town centre which has been the subject of several regeneration schemes over the last two decades. In the last decade the town has seen the arrival of new large foodstores and the closure of the Kwik Save and the Co-Operative, the former now occupied by Home Bargains. It also has lost its court, registrar office and walk in police station. In addition the Ambulance Station has recently undergone refurbishment works.

Mapping Service Provision

Holywell benefits from an extensive range of services and facilities most of which are within the Town Centre, some of the service provision has been mapped for illustrative purposes and is presented overleaf. As the illustrative map of service provision suggests service provision in Holywell is excellent.

