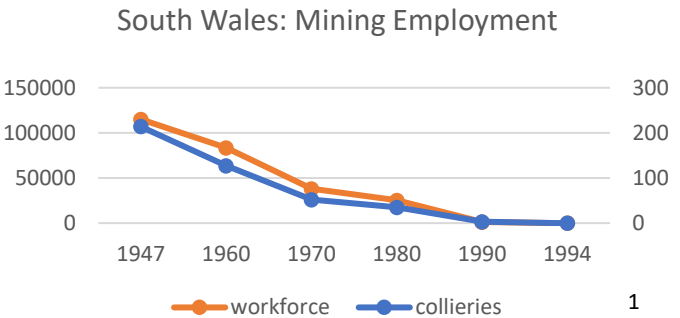


Supporting a Healthy and Prosperous Future for South Wales Coal Mining Communities

Background

- Coal mining was a very important industry in Wales and globalisation has contributed to its demise
- Rapid decline in the coal industry in 1980s



- More globalised energy market - move away from fossil fuels.
- Companies moving business to other countries with cheaper workforces
- Tower Colliery was the last colliery in Wales to close in 2008.

(Beatty *et al.*, 2019; Malaws, 2008; Bennett *et al.*, 2000; UN, 2015).

Impact

- Loss of mines stripped communities of jobs and the social, cultural and political heart of the villages – rupturing communities
- Destabilisation of social guidelines
- Immediate need for retraining and upskilling
- Impact on health and well being
- Need for regeneration
- Need to ‘regreen’ the environment

(Beatty *et al.*, 2019; Bennett *et al.*, 2000, Gov, 2019b).

Culture

Globalisation is often considered to have a negative impact on global diversity- with local economies , traditions and cultures being devalued and overridden by those of more dominant cultures. In rural areas such as the South Wales mining communities, people relied solely on the mines for work. Generations of families would often work in the mines and would lack the skills required to work elsewhere. A tremendous sense of loss was felt in South Wales mining communities and people grieved whilst trying to come to terms with the multiple impact of the rapid ending of their livelihood and culture.

(Merrill and Kitson, 2017; Bennett *et al.*, 2000; Sands, 2015)



Global and National Initiatives

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to tackle poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental issues, peace and justice.
- Global business investment in South Wales along the M4 corridor., in particular from America, Japan and Korea .
- Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- Funding from European Union.

(Gov, 2019a; Wellbeing of Futures Generations (Wales) Act, 2015; UN, 2015; Merrill & Kitson, 2017; Gov, 2019b).



Local Initiatives and Regeneration

- **Community University of the valleys** – easier access to education.
- **New transport links** – easier access to other areas as valleys are so remote.
- **Coal Fields task force** – aims to help coal mining communities find new beginnings focusing on education, training, jobs and health.
- **Greening the valleys** – land reclamation programme to attract more investment and tourism.
- **HAPI project** - help to gain new skills, promoting healthy eating and physical activites to reduce health inequalities and supporting mental health.

(Merrill and Kitson, 2017; Bennett *et al.*, 2000; University of Wales Trinity St David, 2020; Bridgend, 1998)

Blaenavon- The Way Forward?

- **Tourism** – Large investments in developing Blaenavon into a tourist attraction.
- **Outdoor recreation** – Promotion of landscapes with opening of woodlands, cycle routes, lakes and the leading iron mountain trail. Implementation of ‘Ranger Schemes’ allowing community involvement in looking after the local environment.
- **Physical regeneration** – Vast investments in improving the look of buildings.
- **Cultural regeneration** – engaging with local communities by putting on events like festivals involving traditional community social groups.

(Blaenavon World Heritage Site, 2020)

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- Image 2 – Available at: <<https://www.iisd.org/sites/default/files/publications/end-of-coal-mining-south-wales-lessons-learned.pdf>> (Accessed 20 April 2020).
- Image 3 – Available at: <https://dlpng.com/png/1726219> (Accessed 24 April 2020).