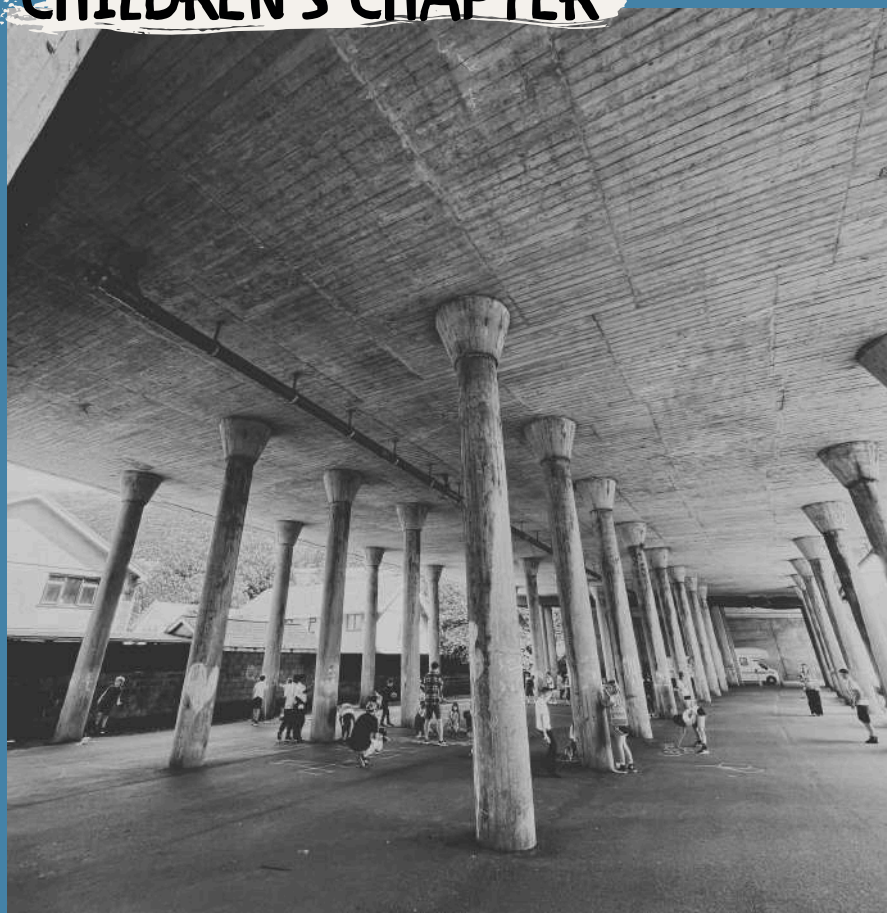


# STEELTOWN STORYBOOK

A project by the children and  
young people of Port Talbot.

## CHILDREN'S CHAPTER





Arts and  
Humanities  
Research Council



Prifysgol Abertawe  
Swansea University

For a long time, the story of Port Talbot has been told mostly by adults but what does the town look like if you're only ten years old? A team from Swansea University set out to find out, teaming up with 300 children aged 7–11 from local primary schools.

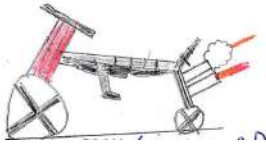
We wanted to make sure that as Port Talbot goes through big changes, the young people living here aren't just watching from the sidelines, but are the ones holding the pen. Through photography, podcasts, and messy brainstorming sessions, these co-researchers showed us their Port Talbot: a place of beaches, mountain adventures, and deep connections with family and friends.

This zine is a collection of that imagination. You'll find posters drawn by the children that capture everything from their pride in steeltown roots to their dreams of a greener, cleaner, and more "ecwul" (equal) future for everyone.

This is a celebration of what makes this town home and what it means to be from Port Talbot.



THIS IS WHY Motorbike clubs IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:  
Please can you make motor bike clubs  
so its easy for kids to ride bikes

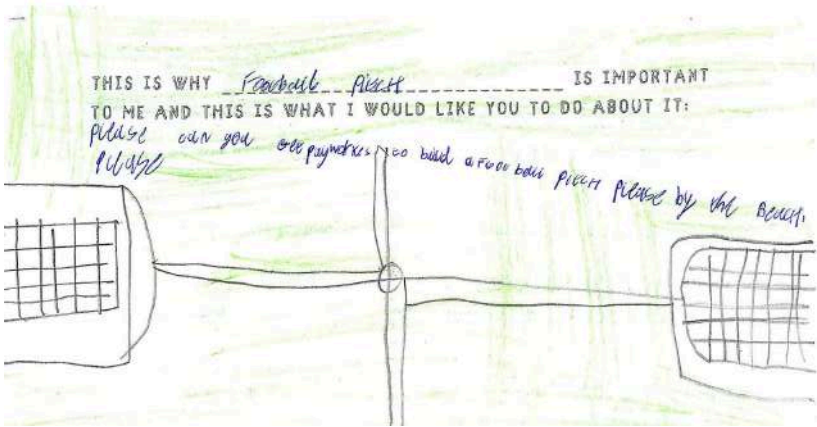


THIS IS WHY aquarium IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:  
Please suggest ~~to~~ ~~make~~ ~~by~~ my lake  
build a aquarium

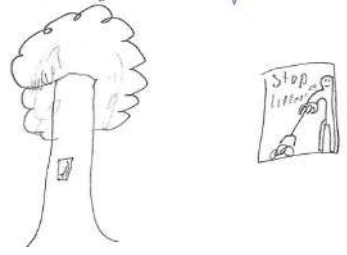


THIS IS WHY animals having a home IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:  
please can you open a home less  
shelter for animals Thank you.

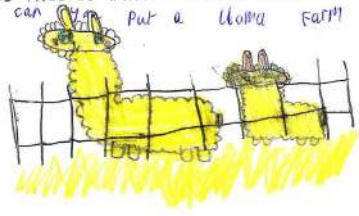




THIS IS WHY litter pickers IS IMPORTANT  
 TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:  
~~litter signs~~ please can you  
 put up litter signs in park tablet



THIS IS WHY Llama Farm IS IMPORTANT  
 TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:  
 please can you put a llama farm by my house please.



MOORE  
PAINTING

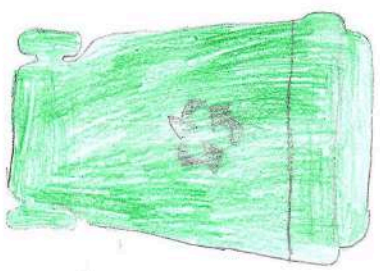
BETTER  
JOBS

MOORE

LOVE

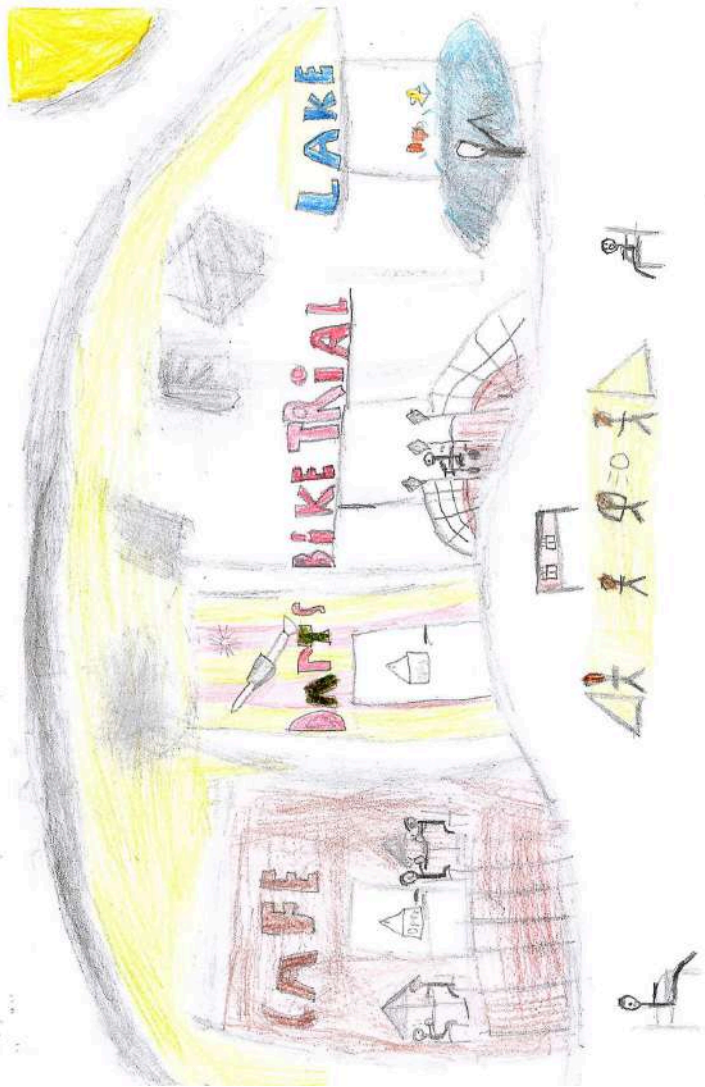
# PORT TALBOT NEEDS

LITTER LESS!



MTB!  
Park!





More clubs



Shelters  
for people in need as homeless

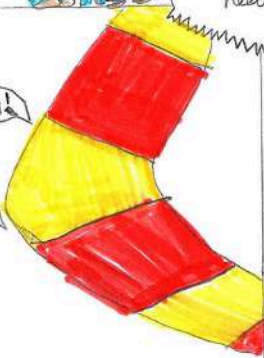


What port talbot needs

Water parks

AHA!

Stop!!



More vets and  
Doctors

Stay  
healthy  
♥️ 🐾 ♥️

yeah!

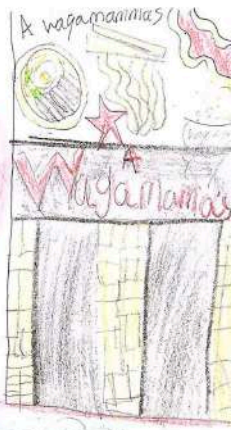
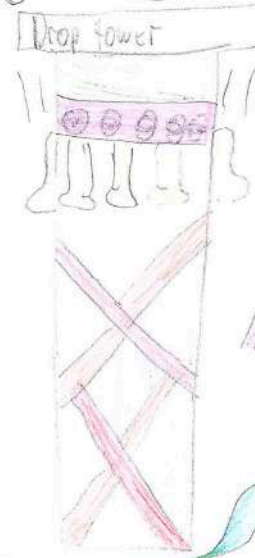
That was  
fun!



By Ruben Minally

# A Theme Park

A waganamias



POLL TALKBOT  
NEEDS!

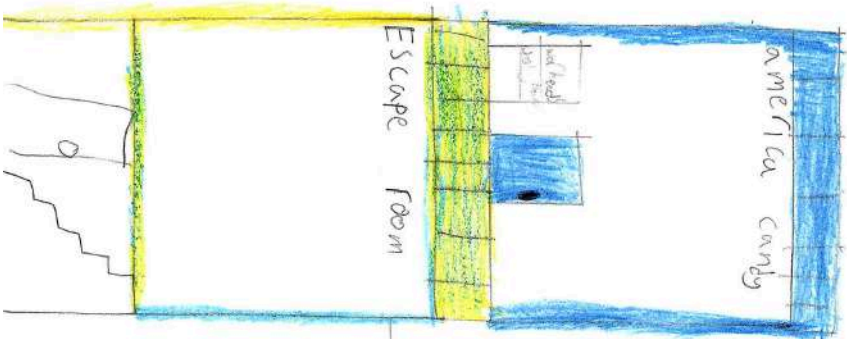
!Less litter!

more  
trees

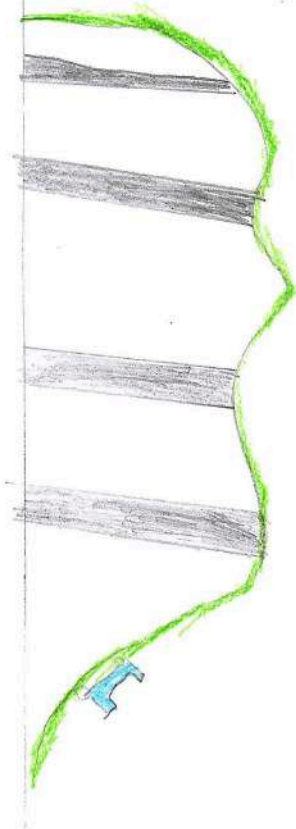


America candy

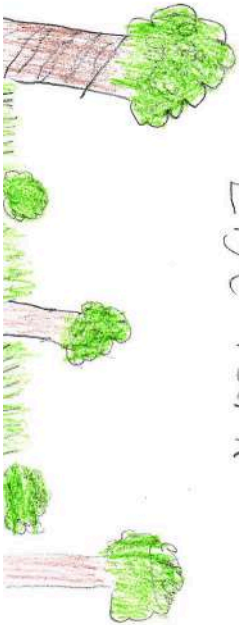
Escape Room



Rolaster



Lise Park





FUTURE  
FLAMA HO

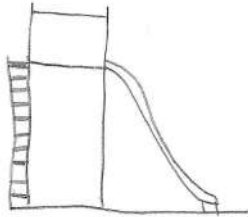


TO WIND  
PI!



THIS IS WHY Baylan park IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

Please can you put more slides in  
Baylan park.



THIS IS WHY homeless people need a IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

please can you use the churches  
that people don't use anymore and  
use them to make houses for  
the homeless.



THIS IS WHY litter pickers IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

~~If some one doesn't pick up the rubbish there will be a big pile of rubbish and  
if a picker lived come it will save the animals~~

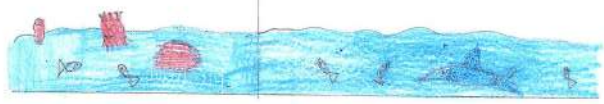
After



Before



THIS IS WHY the oceans are <sup>dirty</sup> ~~not~~ IS IMPORTANT  
 TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:  
 put more bins around and <sup>encourage</sup> ~~encourage~~ others to be  
 clean, before after



THIS IS WHY an letter-sketter slide IS IMPORTANT  
 TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

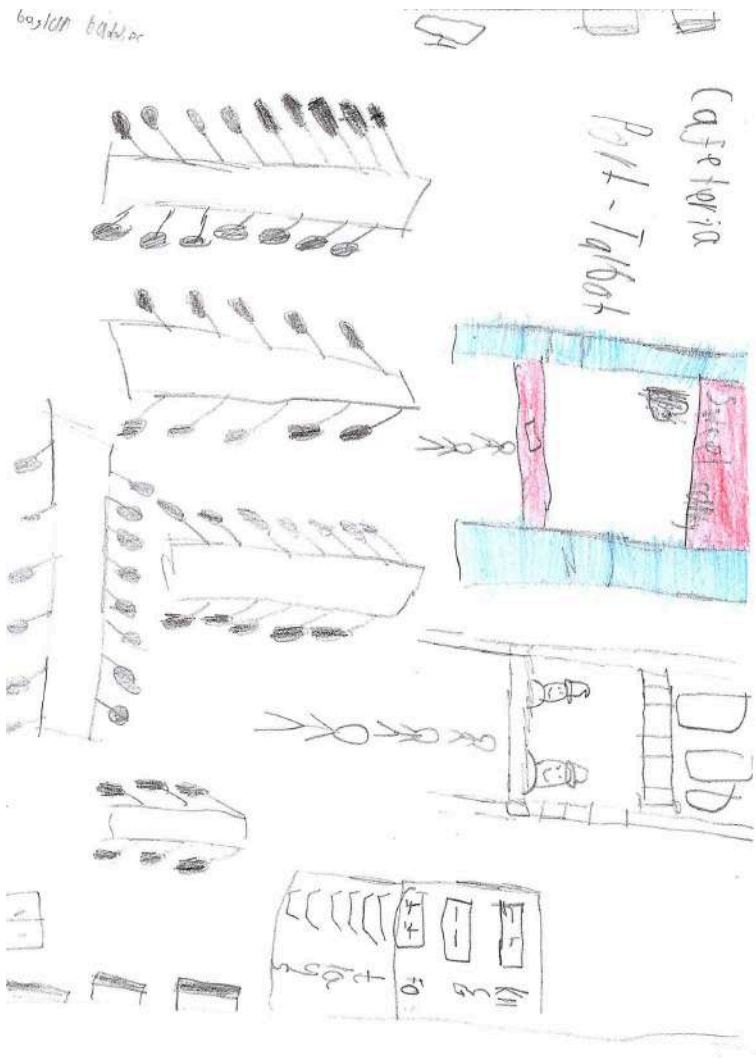


THIS IS WHY a water park at the beach IS IMPORTANT  
 TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:





basilisk editor



Canteen

P14-T/1004

Staff Room

Kitchen



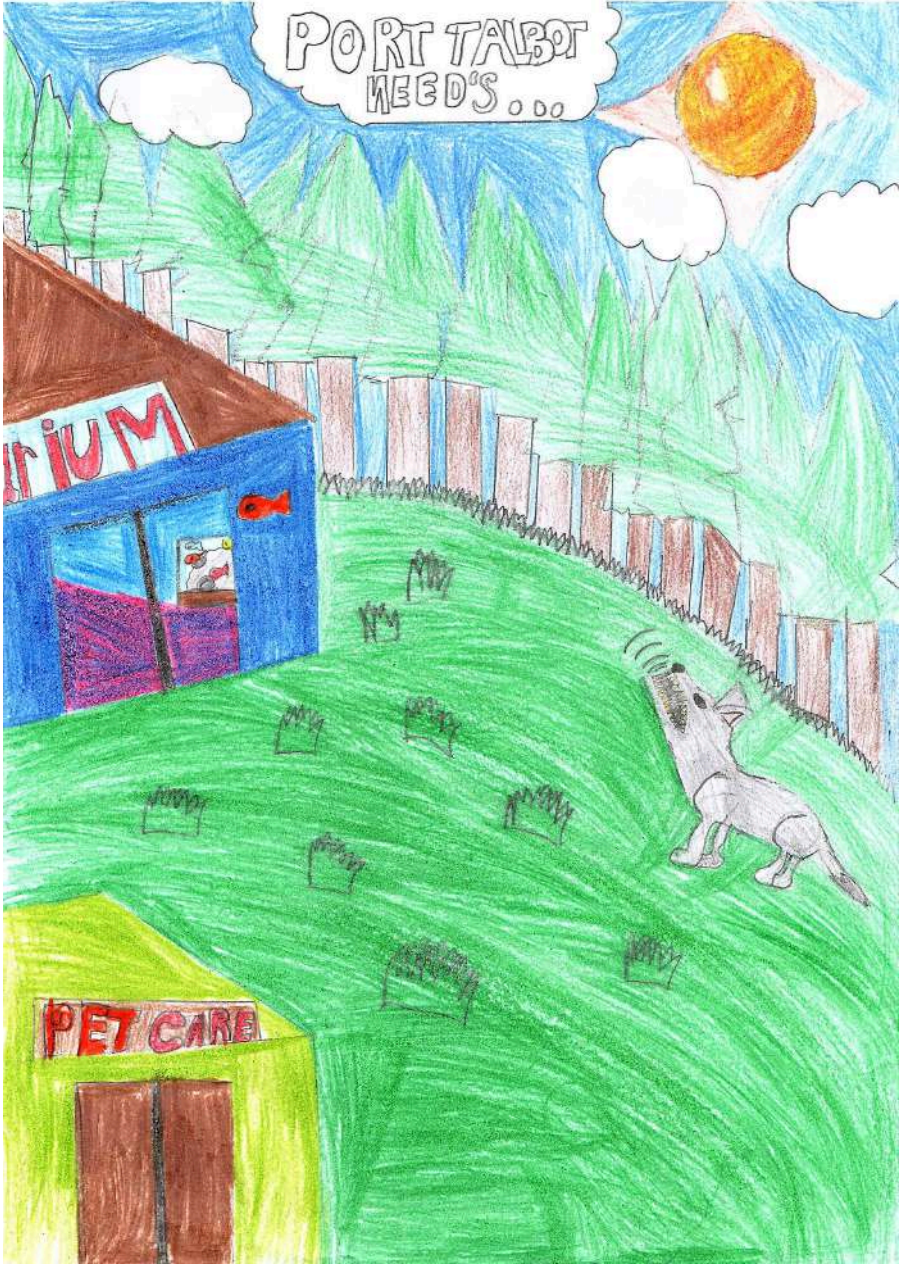
A world I want to live

World  
Have  
Rights

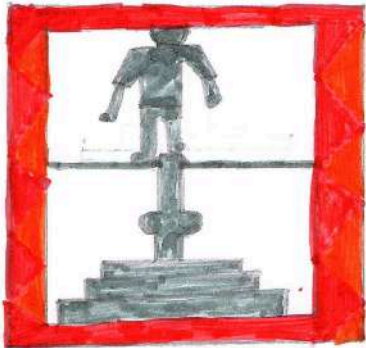
Stop  
Pollution



PORT TALBOT  
NEED'S

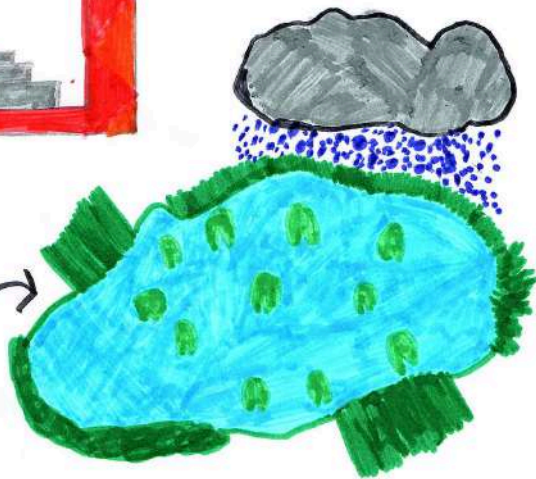


# Port Talbot Needs...



← More Statues  
of famous  
people.

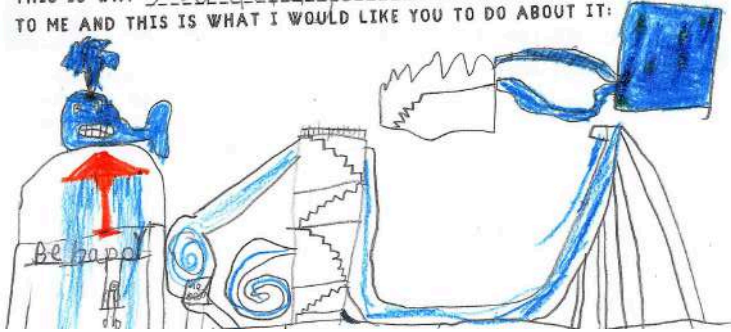
More Cool  
fishing ponds.



More  
fish



THIS IS WHY Swimming IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:



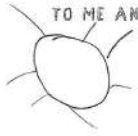
THIS IS WHY music lessons IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:



THIS IS WHY a park IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

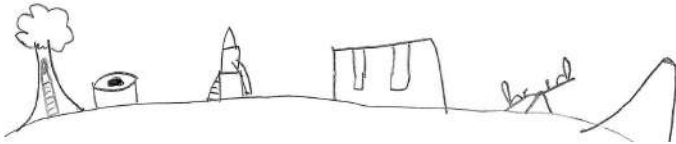


THIS IS WHY a sea beach IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:



THIS IS WHY a park IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

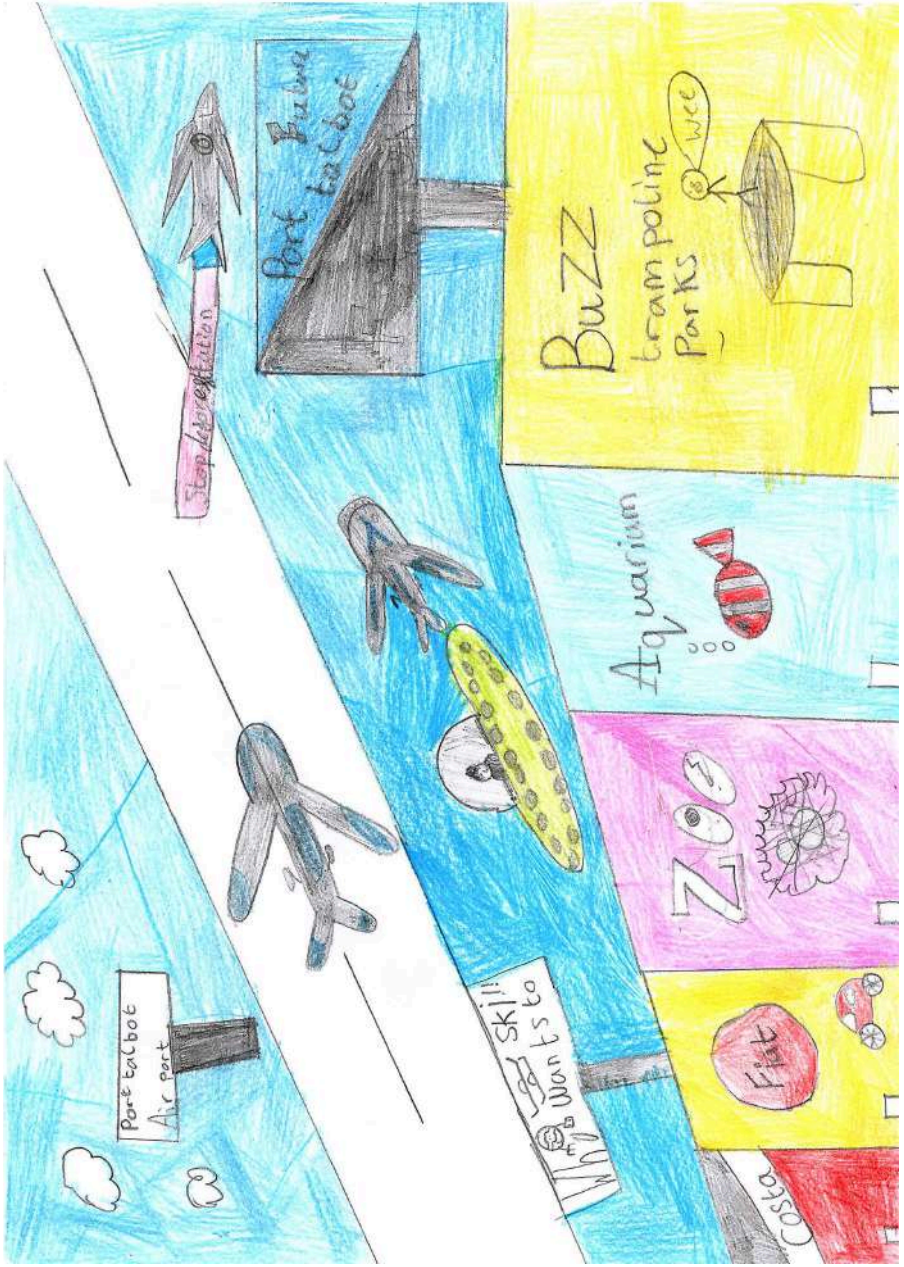
In my compound I would like a park  
with a slide, swings, sea saw, trampoline and a  
scare ramp and also a tree house.



THIS IS WHY a park IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

I would like a bigger slide and freemove.





PortaBot is beautiful  
PortaBot is the best









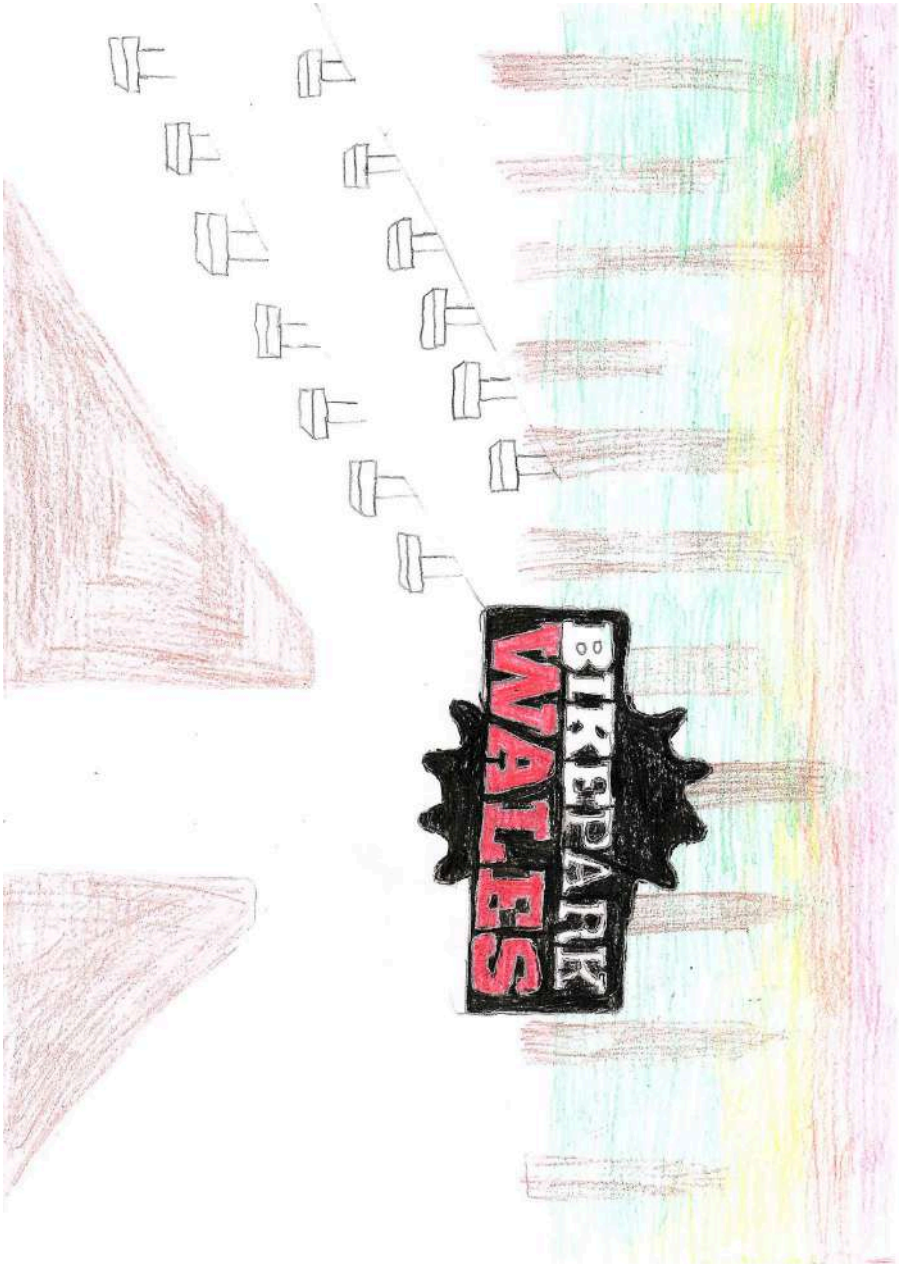
# TAKING TRASH OUT of SEA The



♥ PORT ♥  
TALBOT  
In the Future



I Love PORT  
TALBOT



BIRDPARK  
WAILES

THIS IS WHY Port talbot IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

I would like people to help echever  
When times are hard and  
help people how they needs it.  
thank you

THIS IS WHY a darts mountain IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

~~sent it~~ to raise money to build  
a darts, mountain biking and  
sailing club with a case

THIS IS WHY Having less litter IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

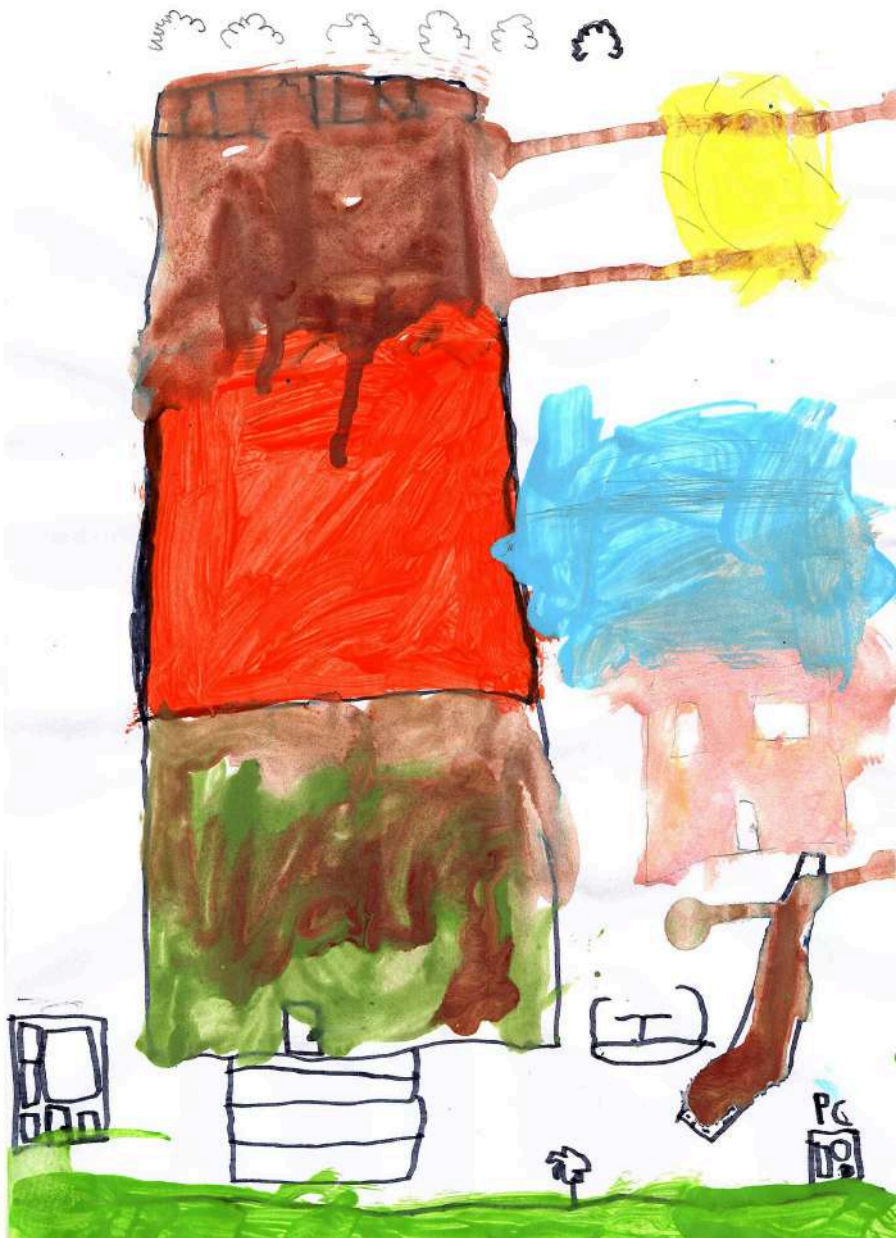
I would like you to try to make Port Talbot have less litter because ~~the~~ every time I go to the beach there's always so much litter making the beach very ugly and making less visitors visiting ~~beach~~ the beach I also would like a theme park because after Oakwood closed there's no theme park to go to in Wales. This would also give some people's jobs.

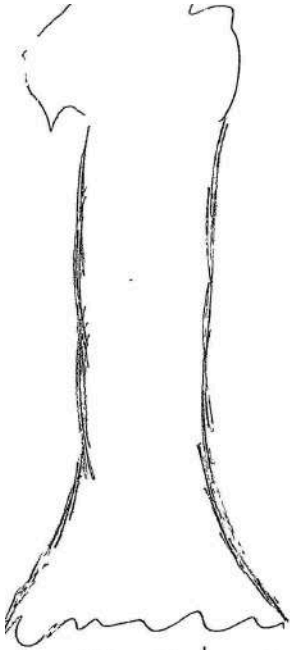
THIS IS WHY a bike park IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

The closest one to me is 20 minute away.



PTI





more trees

What Portallbot needs!

# JELLY CAT'S



MORE BINS



LESS LIER

its so sad to see ~~my~~ no,  
OUR favourite animals die!



orcas, Axolots and sharks are being  
affected with the rubbish WE are  
throwing away! and they're  
not even in our area! our rubbish  
travels across the SEA.

THINGS I WANT  
TO HAVE MORE OF IN  
PORT TALBOT



# PORT WALBOT

Recycle  
More!

## BRING THE

## GREY WOLF BACK!

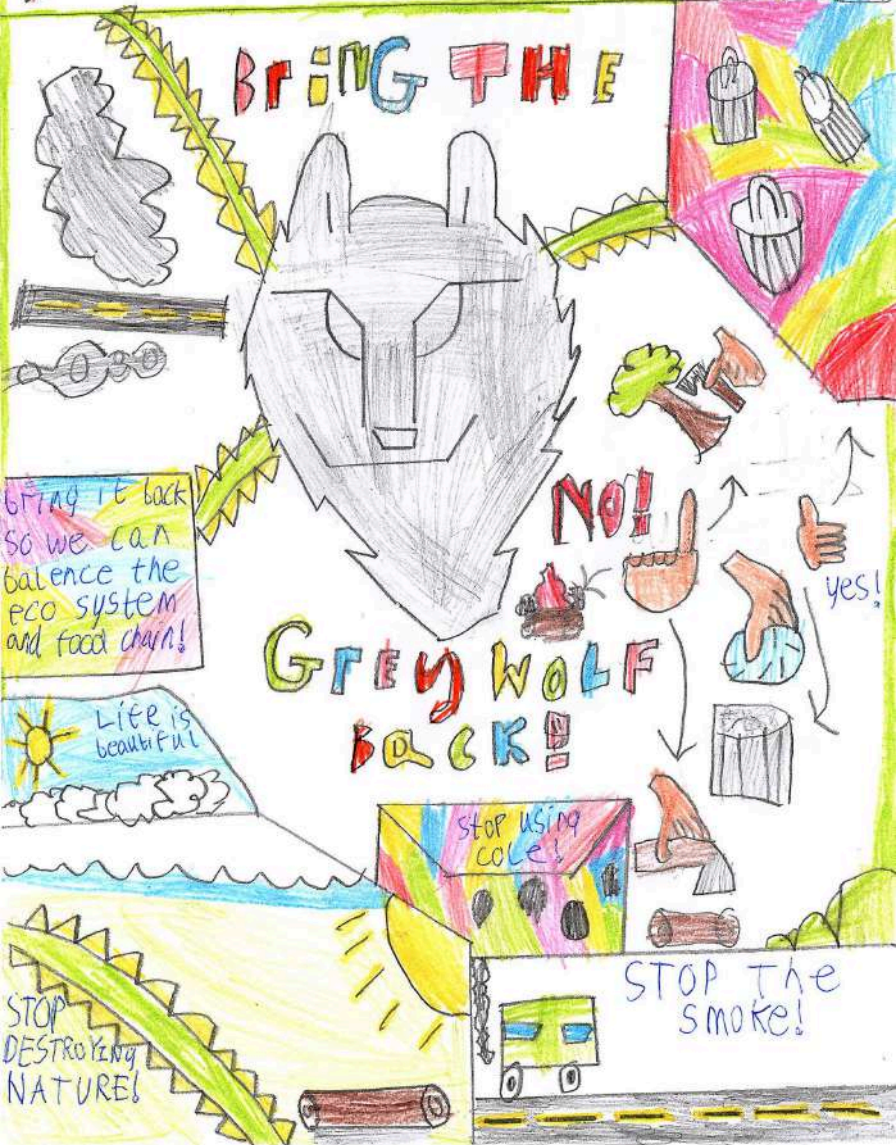
bring it back  
so we can  
balance the  
eco system  
and food chain!

Life is  
beautiful

STOP  
DESTROYING  
NATURE!

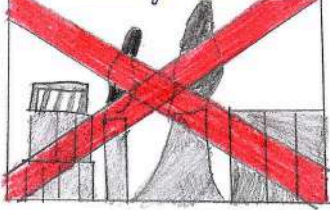
STOP USING  
COAL!

STOP THE  
SMOKE!

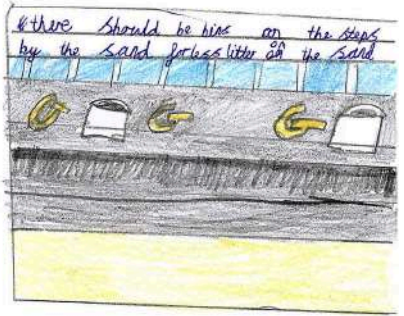


# Port Talbot

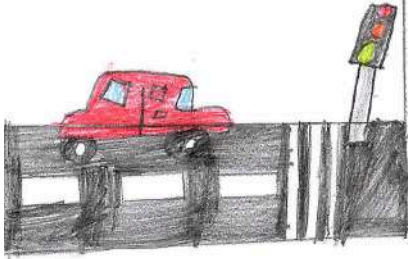
we need a more eco friendly  
steel works for less ~~pollution~~



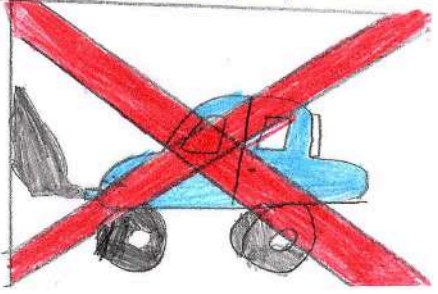
there should be bins on the steps  
by the sand for less litter on the sand



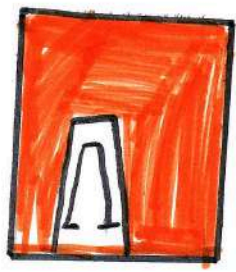
we need more trafficlights down the beach  
and more zebra crossings



we need more eco friendly cars



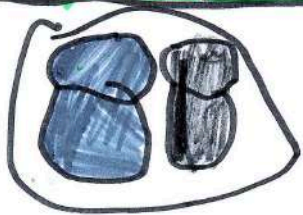
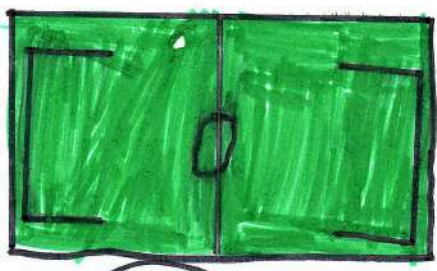
Port Talbot



More clubs



More parts



THIS IS WHY Port Talbot IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

It would be amazing for a  
bike park Wales in Port Talbot  
and I think loads of  
people will use it.

THIS IS WHY Port Talbot IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

New bike park because there is not many bike parks around  
port talbot because I really like mountain biking and its fun

THIS IS WHY Littering IS IMPORTANT

TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

I would like lots of people to pick up litter because right now there is lots of litter and I want to grow up in a place with no litter. Animals could eat litter and choke and we don't want that. Well I don't want that.

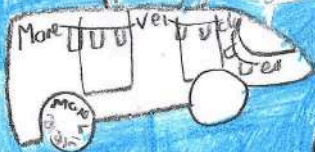
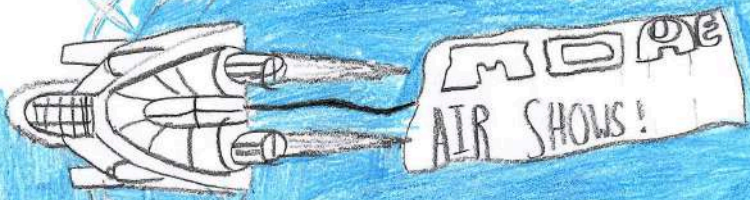
THIS IS WHY Port Talbot IS IMPORTANT

TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

I would like a water park, theme park, Jelly shop and clear beach water. I would like to have a water park and a theme park because there are none in port talbot and you have to travel for to one. I would like to have clear water on the beach because ours is brown. I would like a jelly cat shop because there are some jelly cat shops but in the shops there is not a big selection.

# PORT TALBO

## NEEDS:



# WTFE

# PORT TALBOT

Need's .....



More  
Art  
Clubs



More flower beds in  
Public Places in Port  
Talbot and Baglan For  
animals and bees.



port  
talbot

I think we should:

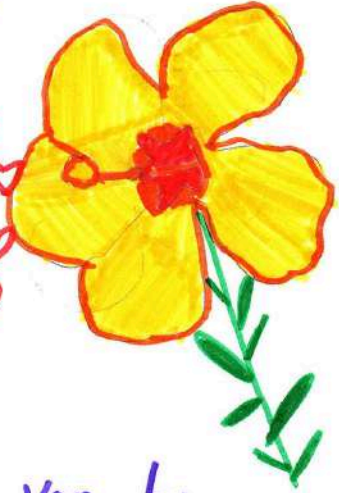
Anabelle  
Watkins  
Year 5/6





elsie evans  
Blaenbagan  
Year 5/6

PORT  
Talbot



an icecream van by  
the tree swing  
in Bagan.



# PORT TALBOT

Keep the beach clean - improve the environment



Open the school more but up



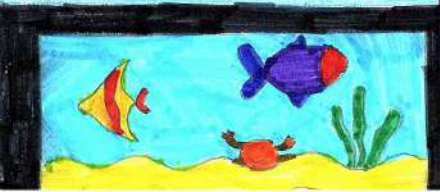
More bins around the area



more wildlife areas around the school area



more aquariums close to us



PORTALBOT Should

Be the CAPITAL  
of WALES

Street  
work

WALE'S



Cymru





THIS IS WHY Port Talbot IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

I would love a bike park in Baglan or maybe a couple of jumps or trails in Baglan Park. Or even a trail up Baglan mountain. I would like this because me and my friends need to travel a big distance to ride our bikes and bikes don't really fit in cars. If you can't get in Baglan then anywhere ~~close~~ close to Baglan. I will really appreciate it if you do.

THIS IS WHY \_\_\_\_\_ IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

More bike paths because lots of people in Port Talbot love mountain biking and have to travel far which causes global warming because of the gas and heat coming off them.

THIS IS WHY Port Talbot IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

Water park by port talbot because i think its will be nice in the summer  
theme park because there all closing down  
more benches because because they a all broken breaking  
Jellycat shop because they all in London and america  
bike trails because they are all getting destroyed:  
more bins because everyone is Littering  
mountain warehouse skingshop because there is none around  
because you cant ski in wales -

THIS IS WHY an outdoor water park IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

I would like you to build an outdoor  
~~water~~ water park because it is quite boring  
n the summer with out a waterpark.



future

or that Bot  
streaking  
hope

time as time



# PORTALBOTA

AND LESS  
RAINI!



MORE  
PUBLIC  
SPORT  
FACILITIES



MORE  
PUBLIC  
BINS

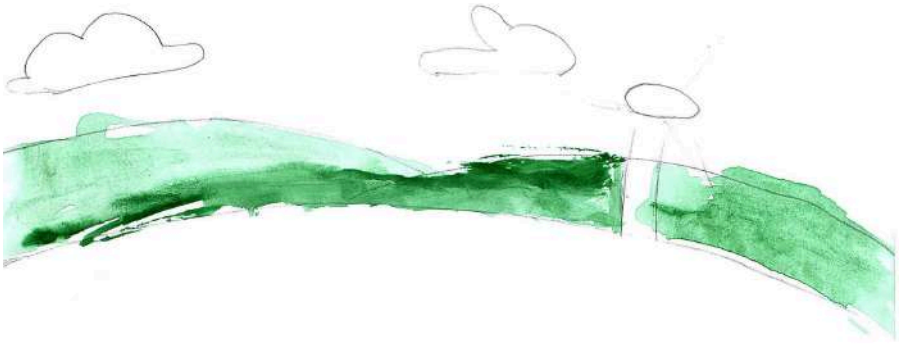


MORE  
WILDLIFE



IMPROVE AND  
MAKE MORE PUBLIC  
PARKS











# PORT TALBOT



COOL!



ROAR!  
-love!

IDEA



## WE COULD

ADD...

### EVEN MORE CLUBS!



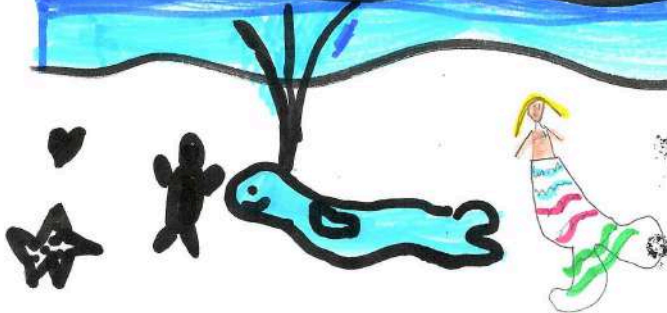
Yeah!

### MORE PARK FUNDING!



# The Future in Baglan

year 3



THIS IS WHY baglan port-cabot IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

It would be way funner and better if there was rais and cains, crumble cooki because they look really delicious and there aint many cookie shop and i really want to have a realy cat shop every ones obsesided with them they are very cute. I would like some more dog homeless shelters for people in need

THIS IS WHY port talbot IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

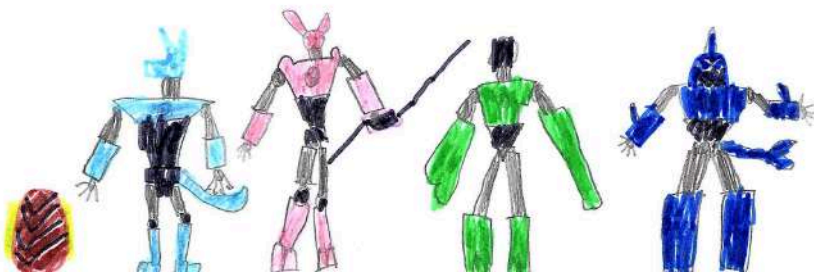
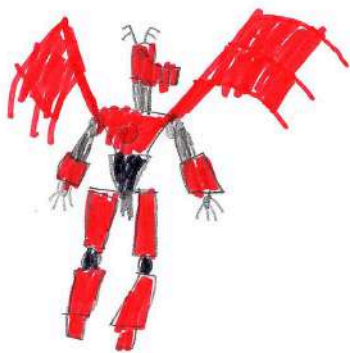
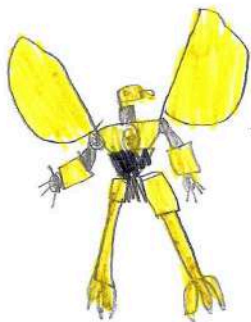
More parks around the area, more traffic for more kids to enjoy because the revent one to me is to reach to get a lake. lights dont see many around the area so people dont get ingeoured. and more <sup>pic</sup> <sup>area</sup> <sup>giving it</sup> on blank old walls to brighten up

THIS IS WHY Port Talbot IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

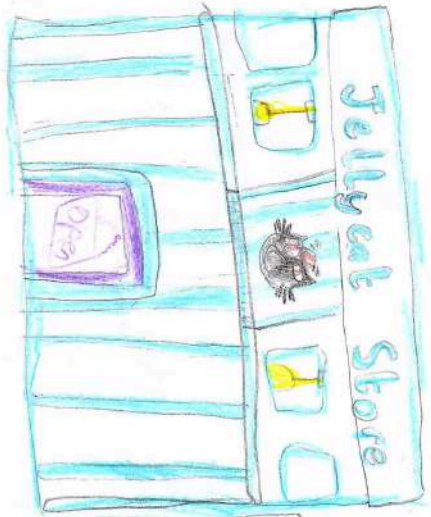
Have more bin's and jelly cat's  
Shop's with an out door  
Pool, because there is not ~~may~~ many  
many Shop's or out door  
Pools in Wales, Swimming

THIS IS WHY Port Talbot IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

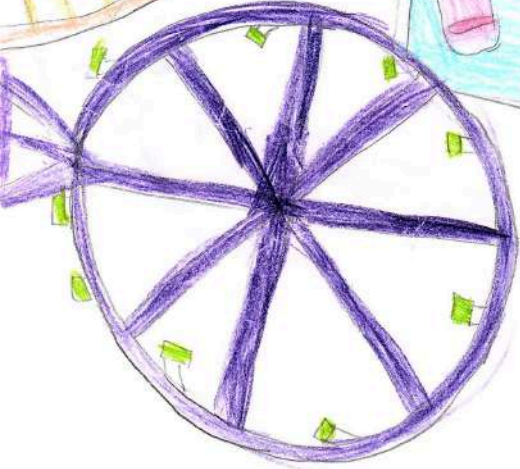
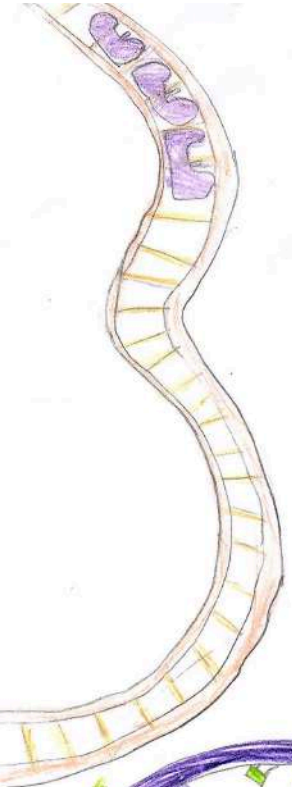
I would like a water park with slides  
and lots more I would like a theme  
park with roller coasters a food place  
called 'raisin cornes', crumble ~~cake~~ cookie  
a 'jelly cat shop' and a anime  
rescue center to help animals on  
the street and give them a warm  
and comfy home.



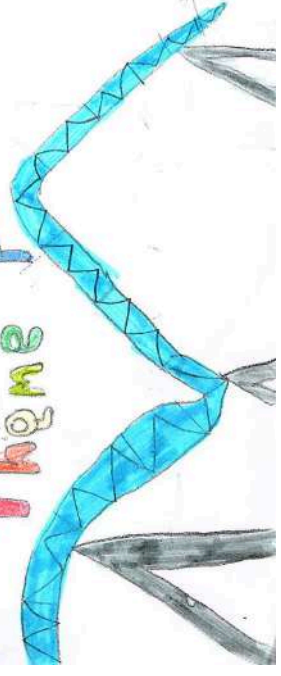
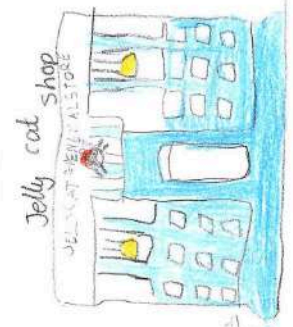
Port Talbot Needs



less water!!

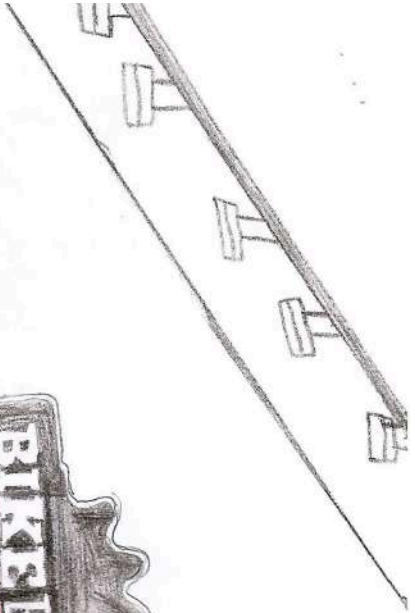


Clear Water in beaches in Water Park

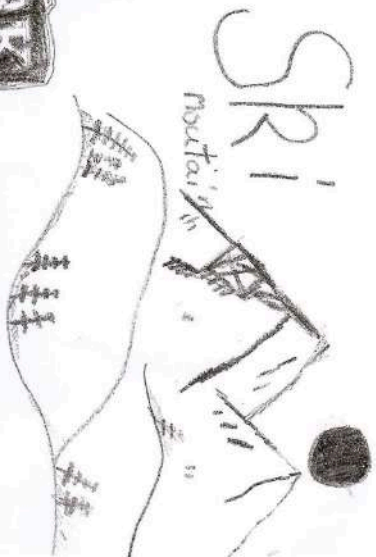




Blue Stone



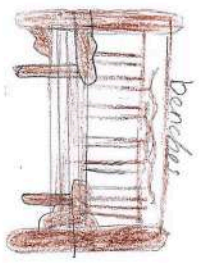
Port  
Talkot



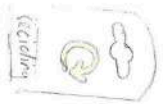
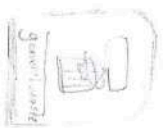
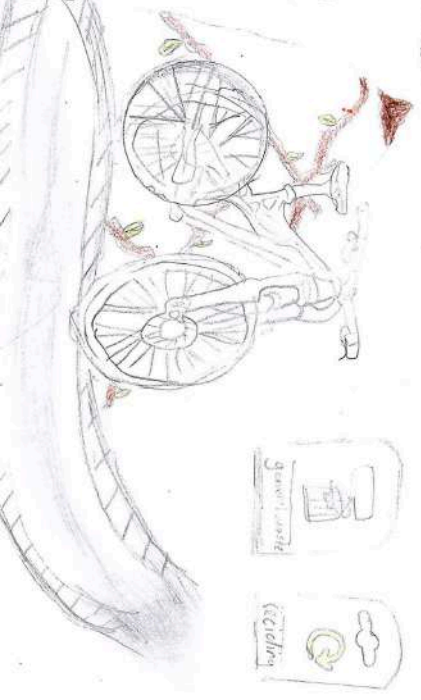
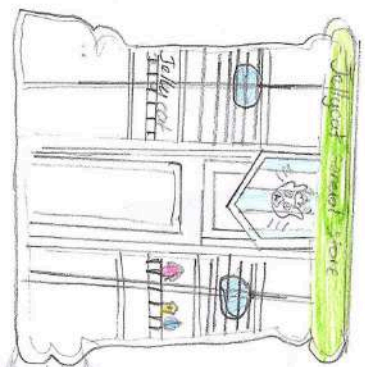
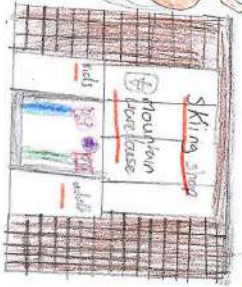
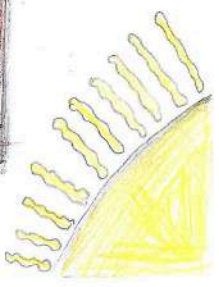
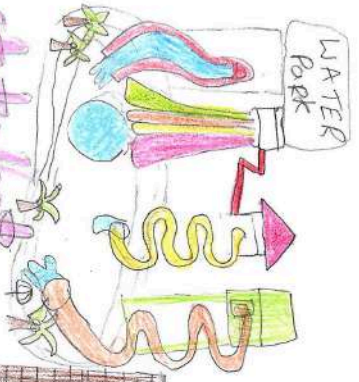
help the  
environment

# Less littering





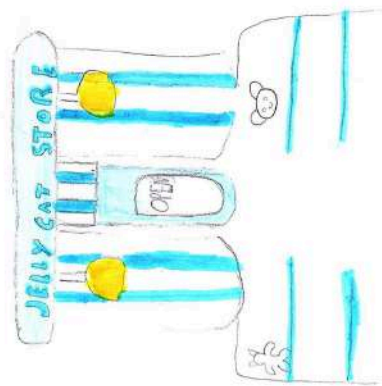
# Portfabot





# WHAT PORT TALBOT NEEDS

More rainbows



More Sun





THIS IS WHY port balhol IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

I would like a jellycat shop  
in port balhol and a water  
park. And not many in Wales

THIS IS WHY CHILDREN 4Y <sup>005</sup> IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

THEY BENEFIT FROM EXPLORING  
A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS & EXPERIENCES  
SO THEY DISCOVER WHAT THEY  
ENJOY & HOW TO LOVE LEARNING  
& APPLY IT /

THIS IS WHY not littering IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

If we stop littering it is not  
for us it is for the planet and  
if we stop littering then our  
world will be better

THANK YOU FROM

THIS IS WHY plastic pollution IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

BECAUSE IT CAN HURT  
SEA ANIMALS AND LOTS  
OF OTHER THINGS.

**PORTTALBOT**  
**SHOULD BE**  
**THE CAPITAL**  
**OF WALES**





Hafslund



POT ABOUT  
IS THE

BEST STEEL

WORKS

# EVERGLADES





Make it full of  
a better place



Please  
don't leave  
any plastic in  
the water  
sea.





no /  
HOME  
LESS



THIS IS WHY Smoking and vaping IS IMPORTANT

TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

yew can die from it, so  
yew should stop u lol

THIS IS WHY Democracy IS IMPORTANT

TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

I wish it was never  
invented - I want  
better decisions  
in the future

THIS IS WHY not Vapeing IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

Like get something to chew  
on because it makes  
you not Vape and after  
eat like a tictack.

THIS IS WHY NO 2 mockidaw IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

VAPPY. NO ALKOL.

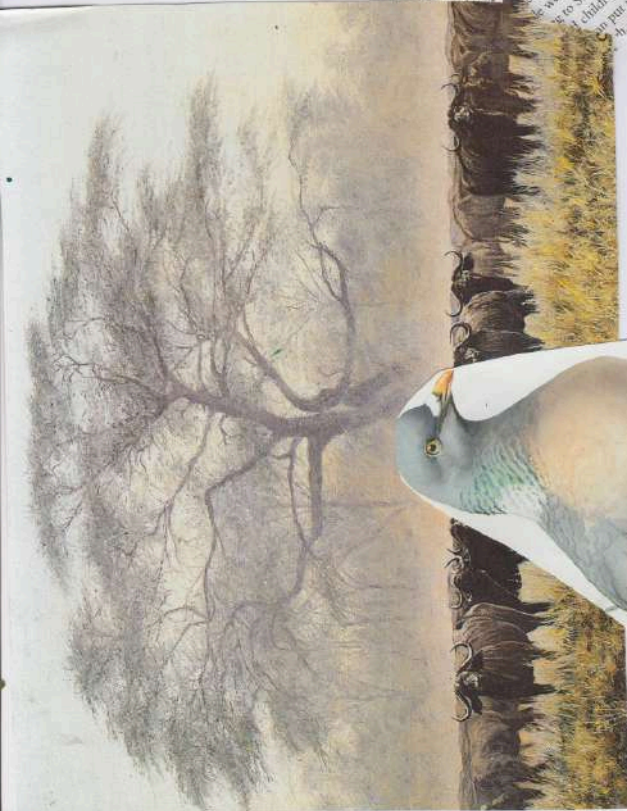




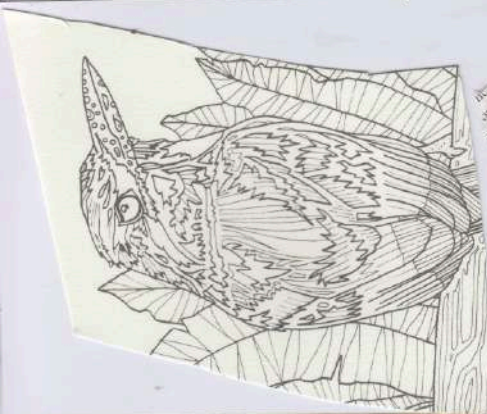
WELSH DEERS  
HUNDREDS OF  
DEERS ARE IN  
WALES, WHY?





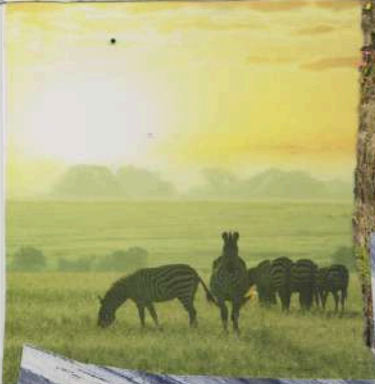


I think  
we need  
~~the~~  
more animals.



...and on a...  
...I don't enjoy...  
...Stone says, although...  
...she confesses "I think...  
...I will read things about us...  
...I'm convinced that every...  
...has even ventured into the co...  
...the time out of your life...  
...sense of humor with...  
...she says. "I k...  
...That's brilliant...  
...the calls a "mean" ...  
...very first date, I was so nervous...  
...afterward had thought, I should tea...  
...When I did he sexed back. Who's the...  
...to Stone, Williams isn't afraid of changing...  
...children's stories about in character voices...  
...can put me an Almost in hysterics...  
...I know now. I Am 30...  
...a husband, I'm young but I feel so old...  
...I've been able to...  
...I have anything else to wish for...  
...I've been on the verge of this whole time a

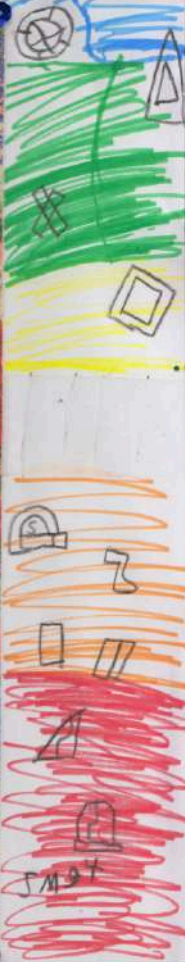
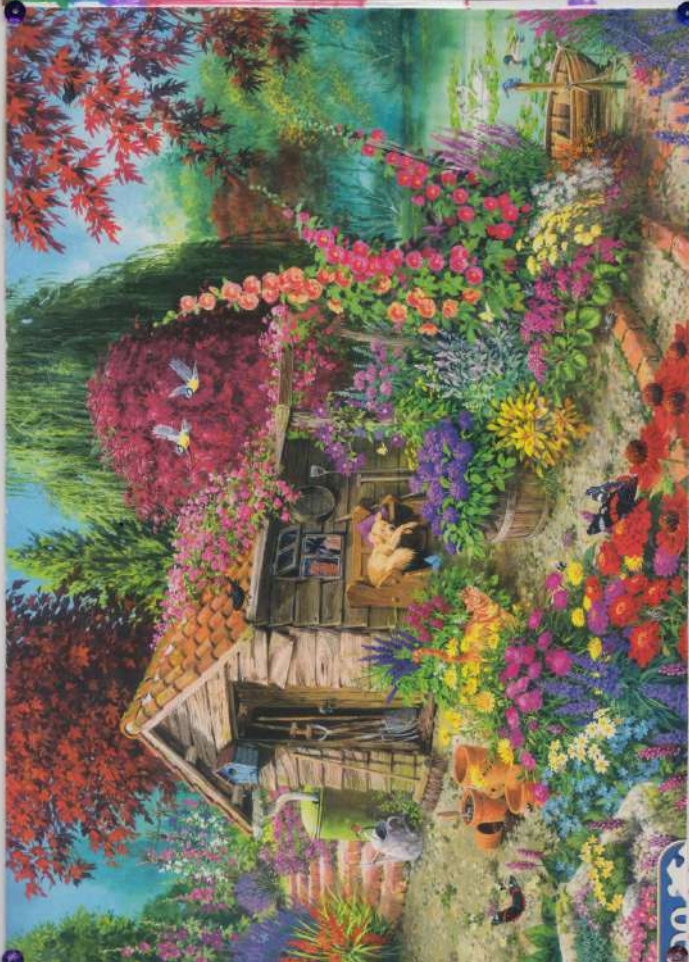






**STAR PHOTO**

"November to February is a special time here on the Norfolk Coast, as female grey seals come ashore to give birth. I encountered this pup just as the sun came up, giving a golden glow to the photo."



THIS IS WHY \_\_\_\_\_ IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

help  
homeless

THANK YOU, FROM \_\_\_\_\_

THIS IS WHY portal box IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

is the best

THIS IS WHY MY AVE IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

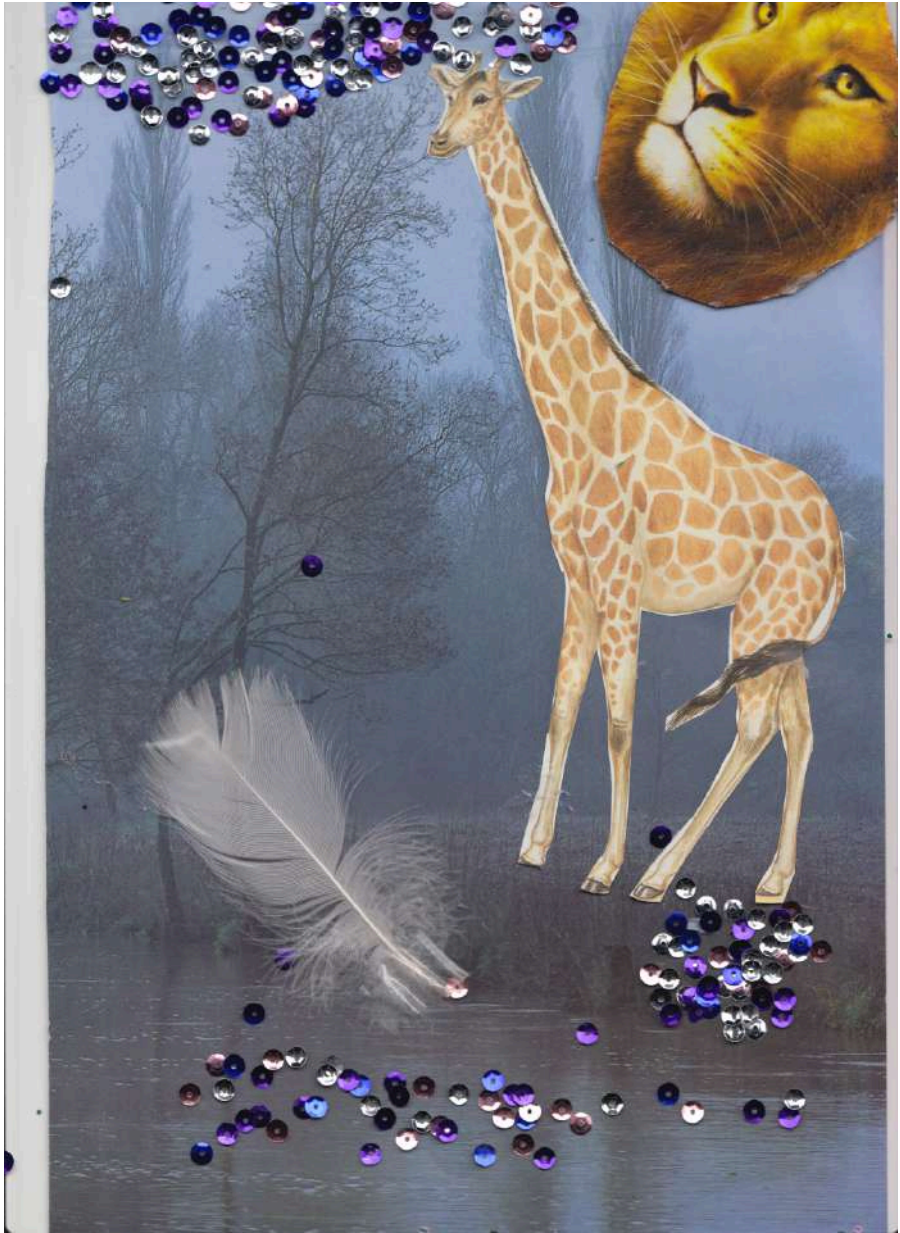
- MORE PICKERS.
- MORE DETCLE.
- MORE SPARKIES.
- SOME MORE FLOW P

THIS IS WHY Protecting green spaces IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

By having places that are  
clean + safe to play and  
relax, we improve our  
wellbeing and health









THIS IS WHY my art IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

- more pictures.
- more detail.
- more sparkles.
- some more more flowers.

THIS IS WHY flowers IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

I would like more flowers everywhere

THIS IS WHY more Animals IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

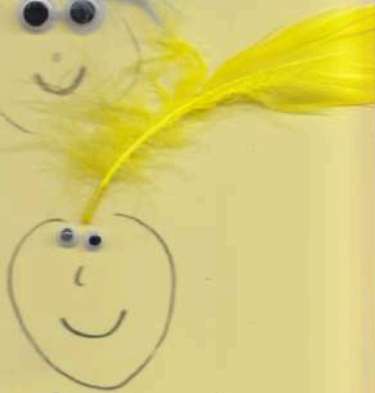
I would like to see a  
zoo in the field next  
to my house.

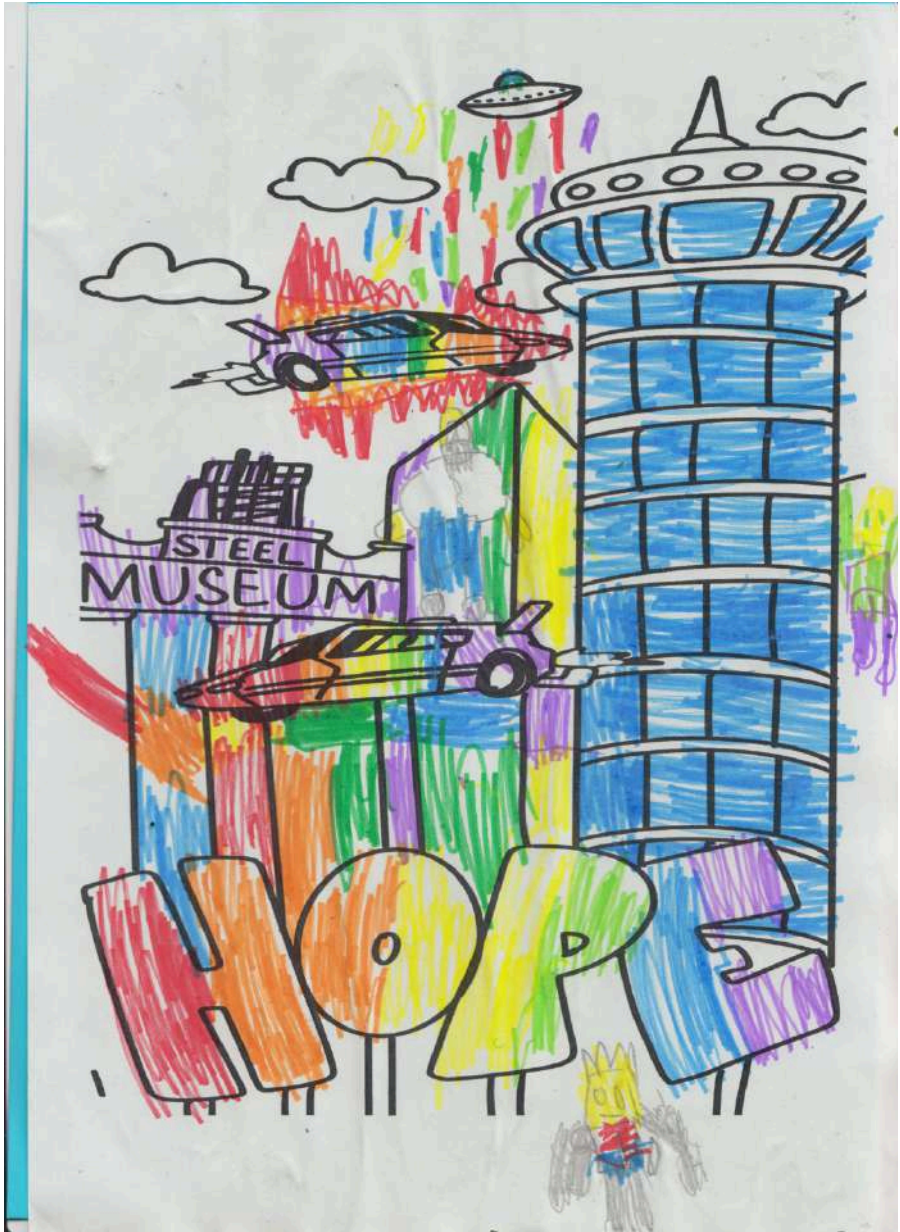
~~THIS IS WHY~~ not doing this ~~IS IMPORTANT~~  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

more Pet friendly Places



Naturally  
beautiful





THIS IS WHY Employment for Young People IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

Young people who wish to remain in the area need training & employment opportunities so they can have successful careers & enrich the life of the community.

THIS IS WHY ~~Employment for Young People~~ IS IMPORTANT  
TO ME AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO ABOUT IT:

I would like to see a  
new work program  
in the area  
THANK YOU, FROM STIMOKY

**Add your own poster for Port Talbot here!**

If there is one thing this project has proven, it is that the children of Port Talbot are so much more than just spectators of the town's history - they are the ones ready to lead its next chapter. Their visions for the future are bright, bold and hopeful.

By sharing these posters, we aren't just showing off some great artwork; we are highlighting a child-first approach for what communities can become if you listen to young people. These young co-researchers have reminded us that a thriving Port Talbot is one where they feel safe to explore, where nature is protected, and where their imaginations are taken seriously.

We would like to thank the Arts and Humanities Research Council's Impact Acceleration Award for the funding to be able to carry out this project.

If you travel through town to Ynys Street, you can see the biggest physical legacy of this project right above (and under) you on the motorway's pillars. The M4 underpass has long been seen as a symbol of division in Port Talbot, but the children were able to reclaim that space and turn it into something that represents them instead.

Using the ideas and stories gathered during our workshops, these murals were co-designed to represent a living, breathing narrative of Port Talbot through local children's eyes:

The designs reflect the children's active relationship with their environment, from the mountains and rivers to the beach. Rather than focusing only on the adult-centric past, these murals serve as a permanent, public archive of youth identity and aspirations.

These murals are a direct call to action and a reminder that the next generation shouldn't just have their history handed to them; they should be the ones painting it.





Arts and  
Humanities  
Research Council



Pŷllysof Abertawe  
Swansea University

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STEELTOWN STORYBOOK

