NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs V Williams - Town Clerk/RFO
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DRAFT MINUTES

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held on Tuesday 10th November 2026 at 17:30pm
At the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

A meeting to which members of the public were entitled to attend

Present: Cllr K Jones JP, Chair of Planning & Highways Committee, presiding
Councillors G Morven, L Emanual, A Fryer, S Howlett, E Singleton, L Higgins.

In attendance: Mrs V Williams, Town Clerk/RFO
Mr K Rowland, Assistant Officer

A meeting to which members of the public were entitled to attend.

To receive: Rachel Lawrence, Team Leader Open Access and ASB and Kristian Gay to give a presentation on Blaenau Gwent Youth Services.

1. Members were to receive the presentation.
2. Questions were to be invited at the end of the presentation.
3. Members were requested to ask only one question each – if time allows AND with permission of the Chair, a second question may be asked.

Members were reminded that there was to be no discussion or exchange of points of view between Members and that all dialogue was to be directed through the Chair.

Overview of Reach and Engagement

- Between April 2025 and March 2026, the detached youth work team engaged with 1,265 young people and recorded 346 additional anonymous contacts through outreach work.
- These figures demonstrate the significant reach of detached youth work and its ability to engage young people who may not access traditional services.

Examples of Work Delivered

- Deployment of the youth service van in local communities.

- Sports, cooking and open-access football activities.
- Safe spaces for young people and relationship building.

Targeted Projects

- Support for isolated young people to access music recording opportunities.
- Community sculpture project linked to the new youth centre.
- Identification and support of young people who are NEET or at risk of homelessness.
- Education and Early Intervention
- Workshops covering drugs and alcohol, bullying, healthy lifestyles, homelessness and knife crime awareness.

Community Safety Impact

- Targeted work in ASB hotspot areas alongside Gwent Police.
- Referrals into positive programme's and support services.
- Reduction in anti-social behavior and related calls reported in targeted areas.

Benefits for Blaina

- Potential to reduce anti-social behavior.
- Improved community confidence and safety.
- Early intervention for vulnerable young people.
- Stronger partnership working and positive activities for local young people.

After the presentation questions were invited from members.

Q. The figure of £65,000 was mentioned that Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council pay, but they have a much bigger precept than Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council do. With our more modest budget, what could we be looking at?
A. Each worker costs £10,000 per year, and we have to employ two so that they work in tandem as working alone is not an option. Everyone that works in the department is trained to the same level so everyone can deliver the service to where it is needed and are self sufficient. In Abertillery this is based over 3 nights, but for yourselves it could be one or two nights a week. It would depend on the needs for Blaina

Q. One hotspot in Brynmawr is actually in Nantyglo at the retail park.
A. There is a lot going on up there, especially in the darker months where youths go where there is lighting. We gather them all and take them to the Welfare Park in Brynmawr with the van, we're not 'moving' them to be a problem elsewhere but taking them somewhere meaningful where we can help.
Response from Councillor. It is worth mentioning that we are Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council, therefore the Winches and Lakeside are in our area.
A. We have done work in Bryn Heulog with Tai Calon. We have also done some work in Blaina with Alex Wiltshire who has a recording studio located nearby the Council Chambers, where we take

youths up to learn how to record for music. Mr Wiltshire is a big advocate for helping people in the area.
Q. In Blaina it feels like the issues are less in the evening but more daytime, with children perhaps avoiding school and riding around on e-bikes.
A. This would be a Police issue, We are in regular fortnightly Task Force meetings and can request Police presence in areas. If activities can be delivered in the daytime this could be a possible as we try to be flexible. Also, when we say youths the older youths are 16-25 and the younger youths are 10 ½ to 16.

Q. Were you involved in the graffiti workshop in Blaina last year?
A. We believe that was the Town Centre Manager Karen Williams.

Q. Do you work with Youth Probation?
A. We have worked with the Youth Offending service, however if we do see individuals in Probation and we do see them on the street we can help them find what they need.

Q. Is there a Youth Club in Blaina?
A. We did look to set one up however there isn't much room in terms of a venue.

Q. In Blaina there was a gang of youths on bikes but when they saw a police man they all startled off. There was between 7-8.
A We would refer these to the Play team. Anti-social behaviour with bikes has become an issue, there were also reports of bins being lit on fire. There is a lot of work needed to be done with youths to prevent this. We work with Tai Calon, the Play Team, Social Workers, and working in this way we can provide more help and assistance where needed. Through Community Alcohol Partnership there is the chance to apply for pots of money to invest in youth work, to provide more presence. We'd also like to mention we have won awards for our work.

Q. There seems to be opportunities for partnerships with other Town/Community Councils who we share boundaries with, what would be your preferred route to explore?
A. Whether day or evening, you would govern what options are taken. If we were to do an evening in one location it may increase anti-social behaviour at another location so we would balance things accordingly.

Declaration of Interest
Members were invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Members were reminded that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided.

1. Apologies for absence:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept. Apologies received from Councillors D Hillman, C Hillman, M Evans, D Finch, M Williams and L Harris.

Resolved to accept the apologies.

2. Questions from the public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda. There is a 10-minute allocation time for any questions from the public.

Resolved to note that no members of the public were in attendance.

Cllr E Singelton entered the Chamber at this juncture.

3. Correspondence:

Members were invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chair's permission, any urgent information that may well be received prior to the date of the meeting.

a) Steph Hopkins BGCBC Planning re: Planning Application P/2026/0191 – *(copy attached – for information):*

Resolved to note the information received.

4. Planning Applications:

Members were invited to consider the applications listed below and, with the permission of the Chair, any further applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting:

a) Steph Hopkins BGCBC Planning re: Planning Application P/2026/0191 – *(copy attached – for information):*

Full planning permission for three dwellings.

Resolved that no observations or comments were made.

b) Plan Application No. P/2026/0038 Bourneville Civic Amenity Site, Abertillery Road, Blaina, Abertillery

Application for variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) of planning permission P/2024/0038 (Residential development of 8 detached dwellings including amendments to existing road

access point. Change of use of land to residential) – variation of house type from 2 storey dwellings to bungalows and alterations to the levels.

Resolved that no observations or comments were made.

5. Licence Applications:

Members were invited to note the application(s) **for information only**:

Late application received:

Willow Tree, Lakeside Retail Park, Blaina, Nantyglo: Licensing Act 2003 – Vary Designated Premises Supervisor to Rebecca Cotter

Resolved to note the information received.

Meeting declared closed at 18:16pm

Signed by Town Mayor _____ .