

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

Mrs T Hughes Town Clerk/RFO

Council Offices, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina NP13 3BN  
Swyddfa'r r Cyngor, Sefydliad Blaenau, Y Stryd Fawr, Blaenau, NP13 3BN  
Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: [clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk)

Dear Member,

You are summoned to attend a remote meeting of the Town Council to be held via a remote meeting at **1.00pm on Tuesday 26th October 2021.**

Members of the Council have been provided with instructions on how to join the meeting.

If any member of the public wishes to attend (remotely) the meeting, please contact the Town Clerk at the above e-mail by 12 noon on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 for details of how to access the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

*N. Horner*

Town Clerk

## AGENDA

**A meeting to which members of the public are entitled to attend**

### Declaration of Interest

Members are invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Please note that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided.

1. **Apologies:**  
Members are invited to consider the apologies for absence received and to formally resolve to accept.
2. **Town Mayor's Communications:**  
The Town Mayor's communications for October 2021.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021 (pages 56 – 62)**  
Members are invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.
  - a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:
4. **Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (pages 63 - 66)**  
Members are invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.
  - a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

**5. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 (pages 67 - 69)**

Members are invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

- a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

**6. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 (pages 70 – 75)**

Members are invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

- a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

**7. Correspondence:**

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

- a) Older People's Commissioner for Wales (for information – Email attached)  
Taking Action Against Ageism Training for Stake Holders
- b) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council – For information – Copies attached  
Patients Voice News Bulletin
- c) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board – For information – Copies attached  
Spotlight On – Children's Healthcare Services
- i) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board - Blaenau Gwent - Integrated Wellbeing Network – For information – Copies attached  
Minutes of the IWN Collaboration Meeting
- ii) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board- Email for information – Copies attached  
Virtual Coffee Morning and resources on health/wellbeing
- iii) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board- Email for information – Copies attached  
Vaccination Updates – Weekly Progress 11<sup>th</sup> Oct – 17<sup>th</sup> Oct
- d) One Voice Wales – For information – Copies attached  
Module Local Resolution Protocol for Community and Town Councils
- i) One Voice Wales – For information – Copies attached  
Remote Training sessions taking place in October
- e) Melo – For information – Copies attached  
October Newsletter

**8. Town Council Vacancies:**

Members are invited to consider the attached application received in respect of a previously advertised vacancy in the Blaina Ward for co-option to the Town Council:

Members are reminded of the Council's Standing orders in respect of co-option.

- Kevin Rowland (*copy attached*).

**9. Application to the Community Grant Fund:**

Members are invited to consider the listed application(s). Members are also reminded that applications will need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

None received to date

**10. Licensing Applications:**

Members are invited to consider the listed application(s).

- a) Applicant: Alun Lewis 12 Clos Gwaith Der, Ebbw Vale, Gwent  
Details of application: Application for temporary events notice for sale of alcohol for 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021 (Licencing Act 2003)  
Premises: Blaina Cricket Club, The Pavilion, Central Park, Blaina

**11. Members Updates:**

Members are invited to inform and provide updates of any recent activities and / or concerns:

# NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

## CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs T Hughes Town Clerk/RFO

Item N° 3

Council Offices, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina NP13 3BN

Swyddfa'r r Cyngor, Sefydliad Blaenau, Y Stryd Fawr, Blaenau, NP13 3BN

Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: [clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk)

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held via a remote meeting at 1.05pm on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021

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

Present: Councillor D Hillman, Town Mayor, presiding  
Councillors G Morvan; C Hillman; L Harris; K Jenkins; K Jones & M Williams

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO  
Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Town Clerk confirmed that no members of the press or public were in attendance. **Resolved** to note the information received.

#### Declaration of Interest

Members were invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Please note that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that no such declarations were received.

#### 1. Apologies:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence received and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note that apologies were received from Councillor M Williams who stated that he might be late in attending the meeting due to work commitments.

**Further Resolved** to accept the apologies.

#### 2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor's communications for August & September 2021.

The Town Mayor informed that due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic there was no events etc although both he and the Mayoress had set up a stall at Brynmawr market for two weekends to raise funds for his Mayoral Appeal which proved quite successful. The Town Mayor additionally informed that he had recently taken part as a panel member for Mutual Gain for the past 8 weeks which included two weekends of voting.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

#### 3. Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (pages 36 – 42)

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Page 38 (3a) – should read ‘part of the action plan already implemented’.

Page 39 (6a) – amend ‘manner’ to ‘level’.

Page 39 (7a) – counter proposal ‘in the form of a long lease so that the building could be used as a place of worship and a community facility – Counter proposal failed.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved.

4. **Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (pages 43 - 46)**

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Page 45 (7) should read ‘members’.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved.

5. **Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (pages 47 - 50)**

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Pages 47, 48 & 49 – The Town Clerk informed that a copy of the presentation would be included on the agenda of the Planning Committee Meeting for October 2021.

Page 50 – add ‘Councillor Harris commented on the use of the summer house as living accommodation for guests’ and ‘that Councillor Harris would continue to monitor the situation’.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved.

6. **Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (pages 51 - 55)**

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Page 53 (3) – IT provisions. Members agreed to ratify this decision.

Page 54 (8) – Salem Chapel. Members agreed to ratify the report.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved.

7. **Correspondence:**

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

a) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (for information):

i Vaccination Update(s).

**Resolved** to note the information received.

- ii Information re: Spotlight on Diabetes.  
**Resolved** to note the information received.
- iii E-mail request on behalf of British Red Cross.  
**Resolved** to note the information received.
- iv E-mail informing of Valleys Regional Park Guardians scheme.  
**Resolved** to note the information received.
- b) Bowel Cancers UK (for information):  
E-mail re: Nowel Cancer Community Voices Cymru.  
**Resolved** to note the information received.
- c) Older People's Commissioner for Wales (for information):  
Commissioner's Newsletter – September 2021.  
**Resolved** to note the information received.
- d) Boundary Commission for Wales (for information):  
Information in respect of 2023 Parliamentary Review – Initial Proposals.  
It was clarified that the proposed changes to the boundaries was that the constituency would comprise of Blaenau Gwent and part of the Rhymney Valley.  
**Resolved** to note the information received.
- e) Councillor Thomas James (for information):  
Members were informed of the resignation of Councillor Thomas James for the Nantyglo Ward.  
The Town Clerk read out the e-mail received from Councillor James. Members were also informed that the declaration of vacancy had been advertised and Blaenau Gwent CBC notified.  
Members commented that Councillor James was a very capable councillor and that his resignation was accepted with regret.  
**Resolved** to note the information received.

*Councillor M Williams joined the meeting at this juncture.*

## **8. Meetings of the Town Council:**

Members were invited to consider the attached report in respect of meetings of the Town Council. Also included for information was a response from One Voice Wales in respect of the current legislation regarding meetings of Town / Community Councils.

Members were informed that at present there was no effective wi-fi in the Council Chamber to facilitate a remote meeting. This was being looked in to with Orbits IT to identify a workable system.

A lengthy discussion ensued which was summarised as:

- There had not been any response or attendance from the public to daytime meetings despite many people being out and about in the daytime. Daytime meetings had not resulted in additional members.
- Many people were busy during the daytimes.
- Many people do not have online facilities to join a remote meeting and others may not afford the phone charges to dial in to a remote meeting.
- Reduced efficiency in respect of officers as a result of evening meetings was understandable.
- Meetings of Blaenau Gwent CBC were held during the day for many reasons including mandatory attendance for directors etc.
- Only some evening meetings would 'clash'.
- In respect of recruitment of Members it was commented that the Council could advertise, possibly on BRfm. Members were informed that all vacancies were advertised on the Town Council's website as required.

**Proposed and Resolved** that the recommendation include 'to explore all other options'.

- It was re-iterated that the Council must ensure that its meetings remained lawful.
- There was a need for the Council to consider the needs of and to look after staff. Additionally, there was also a need to consider the impact of the times of meetings held on staff
- The legislation was clear in that all Town / Community Councils must hold meetings remotely until a hybrid meeting could be facilitated. When the IT & other technology etc was in place to hold hybrid meetings, meetings could take place face to face and remotely which would ensure that the Council continued to act lawfully.
- A number of different times were considered i.e. 1pm, 5pm, 5.30pm, 7pm and it was commented that no one particular time would suit everyone.
- In response to a query if there was anything specified in staff contracts the Town Clerk informed that she could not think of any times for meetings specified.
- In response to a query, the Assistant Officer stated that there was wi-fi available at the Community Centre and that room hire was £10 per hour but the room was unavailable on Tuesday evenings.

**Two proposals** were received: for meetings to take place at 11am or for meetings to take place at 6pm. **Resolved** that meetings to take place at 6pm. **Further Resolved** to note that It was clarified that meetings in person to take place at 6pm with remote meetings to take place at 1pm.

*Councillor Williams left the meeting at this juncture.*

## 9. **Review of the Remuneration Framework for Community & Town Councils:**

- a) Members were invited to consider the review of the current arrangements for the remuneration of Town / Community Councils by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

Members were informed that due to the current number of voters within Nantyglo and Blaina, the Town Council would be placed in group 3 under the proposals.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

- b) Members were also informed of the responses provided by One Voice was and Councillor D Hillman in respect of the review.

Councillor D Hillman read out his response to the review and drew Members' attention to the differences in applications applicable to group three compared to applications in group four and that the Councils placed within would be comparable.

Members were also notified of the response received from the IRPW in relation to Councillor D Hillman's comments of which Councillors Jones and Jenkins stated that they fully agreed with the comments made by Councillor D Hillman.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

#### 10. **Re-appointment of the Internal Auditor:**

Following the review of the Internal Audit service (June 2021), Members were invited to consider the re-appointment of the Town Council's Internal Auditor Mr Stuart Bees CPFA.

The Town Clerk informed that she would welcome the re-appoint of Mr Bees as the Town Council's Internal Auditor for his knowledge, expertise and appropriate advice. Councillor Morvan agreed with the statement and added that it was a testament to his good work that the Town Council had received clear external audits for a number of years. The Town Mayor also agreed with the comments made.

**Resolved** that Mr Stuart Bees CPFA be re-appointed as the Town Council's Internal Auditor.

#### 11. **Donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank:**

As resolved at the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting which took place on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021, Members were requested to consider providing further financial donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank in light of the continuing Covid 19 situation and the financial hardship as a result, for September 2021.

Members discussed the ongoing issues faced by local residents in light of Covid 19 and the ending of the weekly £20 Universal Credit and opined that the financial donation to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank was necessary.

**Resolved** that a financial donation of £200 be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank for September 2021 and **Further Resolved** that this issue continue to be considered by the Finance & general Purposes Committee on a monthly basis.

#### 12. **Application to the Community Grant Fund:**

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s). Members were also reminded that applications would need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

- a) Mr Michael Paul Knapp.

Members discussed the application and stated that Mr Knapp works hard at providing this facility for local residents together with funding it himself. The issue of a payment made to an individual was discussed and it was agreed that to comply with all audit requirements that any payments should be made upon production of receipts for expenses incurred.



**Resolved** that a financial donation of up to £100 be made to Mr Knapp upon production of receipts for relevant purchases.

**13. Salem Chapel:**

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection reports *(please note that this item was deferred from then Finance & General Purposes agenda September 2021:*

- July 2021:

Questions & comments were invited:

None received.

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

- August 2021:

Questions & comments were invited:

None received

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

**14. Planning Applications:**

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s).

a) Planning Application No: C/2021/0263 – 50 Brynawlon, Nantyglo:

Lean to storm porch to the front of the dwelling. Frames in white UPVC. Roof in double glazed units. Set on a rendered plinth at house floor level.

The Town Clerk informed that the application was presented to Full Council due to statutory time limits.

**Resolved** that no representations or objections be made.

**15. Confidential Information:**

The following item(s) may contain information that was of a confidential or personal nature and was therefore exclusive to Members of the Town Council only. (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960). **Resolved** that the motion be approved.



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Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: [clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk)

## **Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held directly meeting on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 via a remote meeting.**

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

**Present:** Councillor K Jenkins, Chair of Events Committee, presiding  
Councillors G Morvan; K Jones, D Hillman, C Hillman & L Harris

**In attendance:** Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO  
Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chair informed that a five-minute break would take place at the end of the Events Committee meetings and prior to the Meeting of the Town Council. The Chair advised all in attendance to end the call at that time and re-dial in.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

The Town Clerk informed that no members of the public were in attendance.  
**Resolved** accordingly.

### **Declaration of Interest**

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

**Resolved** to note that no declarations were recorded.

### **1. Apologies:**

Members are invited to consider the apologies for absence received and to formally resolve to accept.

**Resolved** to note that apologies were received from Councillor M Williams

## 2. Correspondence:

Members are invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chairman's permission, any urgent information that may be received prior to the date of the meeting:

- a) Councillor L Winnett – Blaenau Gwent CBC (for information – copy attached):  
E-mail request re: Baby Awareness Week October 2021.

Clerk suggested that Town Council could support the day by displaying pink and blue bows in the windows of Town Council Office and Chamber.

**Resolved** to note information received and further **Resolved** for Clerk to display pink and blue bows in the windows of office and chamber during the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> October.

## 3. Banners: The attached banners designs have been issued by Cllr M Williams for members to approve:

- a) Banner 2 – Nantyglo remembers
- b) Banner 17 – Cwmcelyn Pond
- c) Banner 18 – Trevor Rawson Park
- d) Banner 12 Rainbow of Hands or Banner 14 Thank you NHS & Key Workers.

Thank You banner unsure if it is Banner 12, Rainbow of Hands or Banner 14 Thank you NHS & Key Workers Clerk to clarify with Cllr Williams. Suggestion put forward to have the name of the school put on the Welsh banner to indicate where it has been designed from. Members all agreed to the design of banners and were also approved for them to be sent to printers.

**Resolved** to note information received and **Further Resolved** for the approved banners to send to printers and amendment to be made to the following banners Welsh School.

## 4. Grant Funding/ Mutual Gain Fund:

The project was successful in the first round of applications; a video has been submitted for the final round which will be available to vote for on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Sept. Please see the attached e-mail for details.

Chair gave his apologies for not being able to attend the funding event. Cllr Jones explained that he had tried to register to attend event, but it would not permit him as stated that event was closed, however, the closing date time on web was 4pm Saturday?

Cllr Hillman gave an update of both funding events for 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September, he read out the list of successful recipients and a total of £250k was distributed the successful projects. Nantyglo and Blaina Town were not successful on this occasion.

A discussion ensued regarding the video that was submitted to Mutual Gai was not shown in full and Cllr Hillman will follow up as to why it was not shown in full and he also thanked Clerk and Cllr Williams for hard work in putting the video together.

Chair thanked Cllr Hillman for all his hard work.

**Resolved** to note information.

**Resolved** to move.

## 5. In Bloom:

Members are requested to consider the attached report and resolve if appropriate (*copy attached*)

Clerk explained due to the Chair and Cllr Harris participating in the "In Bloom" competition that it would be good practise for them to leave meeting and return after discussion. Chair and Cllr Harris agreed and left the meeting at this juncture.

Clerk explained that with the 2 members now leaving the meeting that the meeting is no longer quorate, therefore meeting is only for discussion.

Winners that were recommended by Gavin Trinder from Abergavenny Garden Centre.

- Margaret Dutson – Individual House
- Junior Gardener – Ruby – Mae Bunning
- Michael Knapp – Open Space
- Julia Croc – Individual Allotment
- Blaen y Cwm School – School
- Holy Trinity St Anne's Church – Place of Worship
- Marilyn Lukings – Hanging Baskets / Window Boxes
- Janet Healy - Street

A discussion ensued regarding the winners and those who participated, and members all agreed that those who applied for the individual houses with high scores to be highly recommended.

**Resolved** to note information received and **further resolved** for the recommendations to be ratified at the next meeting.

Chair and Cllr Harris re-joined the meeting at this juncture.

## 6. Christmas Tree:

Members are informed of a response from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council in respect of land outlined for a proposed Christmas Tree, in that Blaenau Gwent CBC do NOT own the land (square opposite Blaina Institute) and that it is proving very difficult to confirm ownership of this land.

Clerk explained that she had received the following email from BGCBC explaining "The land was registered to Webb's brewery who owned the Red Lion Pub, but as Webb's is no longer exist the successors in title to Webb's could find no record of the area in 2006 when Blaina Communities First wanted to do a project on site with the Regeneration section". The land is not registered therefore the Land Registry Office would not have any information as to the owner.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the ownership and a practical arrangement as to the siting of a Christmas tree this year.

**Resolved** to note information received and further **resolved** to discuss possible solutions with the contractor.

## **7. Flagpoles:**

Town Clerk gave the following update. BGCBC confirmed that the flagpoles at Coop were not good enough to be relocated and therefore suggested to purchase new flagpoles to be sited at locations at Nantyglo and Blaina.

A discussion ensued regarding the state of flagpoles and a member had confirmed that he had inspected them, and his thoughts were that the flagpoles were all in tack.

Clerk to investigate costs and feasibility for new flagpoles

**Resolved** to note information received and further **Resolved** for Clerk to investigate costs and feasibility of new flagpoles.

## **8. Christmas events:**

Members are politely requested to consider appropriate events for Christmas that will take into account any future possible restrictions and resources.

Local school have been asked if they would like to participate in the Christmas Concerts this year and at present no school can commit to any event until after the half term, however, they have also stipulated that they think that it is very unlikely for any event to take place as the covid number are continuing to rise within schools.

A discussion ensued regarding Santa Sleigh, as Gwent Police are no longer supporting any steward roles, the Santa Sleigh will not be able to go ahead as previous years. The requirements are that if no support from police, stewards are to be positioned at every junction of the route under section 8. Training is required and that would involve a 4 day training course, but there is no training provider in Wales.

**Resolved** to note information received and further **Resolved** for item to be re-agenda for next meeting.

**Meeting declared closed at 15:23**

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

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO

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Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: [clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk)

**Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held via a remote Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 1.00pm A meeting to which members of the public were entitled to attend.**

**Present:** Councillor K Jones, Chair of Planning & Highways Committee, presiding  
Councillors G Morvan, D Hillman, K. Jenkins, C. Hillman and L Harris

**In attendance:** Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Town Clerk informed that there were no members of the public in attendance. **Resolved** to note the information received.

## **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.

## **Resolved.**

### **1. Apologies for absence:**

Members are invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept Cllr L Emanuel and Tracy Hughes.

Cllr L Harris explained that she will need to give her apologies if meeting goes beyond 14:00 as she has a Drs appointment.

**Resolved** to Accept.

### **2. Correspondence:**

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

#### **a) Cllr Lisa Winnett**

*Regarding ownership of land in Blaina Square – (Copy attached)*

A discussion ensued regarding the ownership of land, and it was thought that BGCBC at one time had the responsibility of the land. Cllr Hillman confirmed that the Town Council could carry out temporary works under the adverse conditions.

A discussion took place regarding a flagpole as there is no planning application required for upright flagpoles.

It was suggested that a letter to be sent to Cllr Winnett thanking her endeavours and inform her that Town Council will continue to follow through.

**Resolved** to note the information received

b) Pennant Walters (for information):

*Presentation slides from Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn Wind Farm Proposal – (copies attached).*

**Resolved** to note the information received

#### **4. Planning Applications:**

Members are invited to consider any further applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting.

Additional correspondence received:

Planning Application No: C/2021/0289 – 107 Lakeside Way, Nantyglo, NP23 4EN

First floor balcony to rear of house.

Members agreed that there was no objection with the application, however, there is a need to point out an anomaly that Mr. N Smith had marked himself down as No, to point 10. Authority Employee/Member and therefore, would like to bring this matter to the attention of BGCBC that Mr. N Smith is a Member (Labour MP for of BGCBC).

**Resolved** to note the information received

#### **5. Licence Applications:**

Members are invited to consider the application(s):

i Applicant: Balbir Kaur, 34 Hafod View Close, Brynmawr.

Details of application: Application to transfer a premises licence (Licencing Act 2003)

Premises: R & B Food & Wine, was Winchestown Store & Post Office) Waunfawr Road, Winchestown, Brynmawr.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to note there were no objections

ii Applicant: Paul Singh, 19 Panty Fforest, Ebbw Vale.

Details of application: Application for the variation of the designated premises supervisor (Licencing Act 2003)



Premises: Winchestown Store, Waunfawr Road, Winchestown, Brynmawr.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to note there were no objections

**Meeting declared closed at 13:25**

Item N<sup>o</sup> 6

# NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

## CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO  
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Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: [clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk)

**Minutes of the Finance and General-Purpose Committee Meeting held directly meeting on  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 via a remote meeting.**

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

Present: Councillor G Morvan, Chair of Finance & General-Purpose Committee,  
presiding Councillors K Jenkins; K Jones, D Hillman, C Hillman & L Harris

In attendance: Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer.

The Town Clerk informed that no members of the public were in attendance.  
**Resolved** accordingly.

### **Declaration of Interest**

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

**Resolved** to note that no declarations were recorded.

### **1. Apologies:**

Members are invited to consider the apologies for absence received and to formally resolve to accept.

**Resolved** to note that apologies were received and accepted from Councillor L Emanuel and Town Clerk – Tracy Hughes

### **2. Correspondence:**

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

a) One Voice Wales – (for information - copies attached)

i Remote Training Sessions for October 2021.

Cllr Hillman expressed that Cllr M Williams had shown an interest in some training and wondered if he had taken any up. Clerk confirmed that no request had been received to date from Cllr Williams.

**Resolved** to note the information received

- ii Agenda for the Gwent Valleys Area Committee Meeting to take place on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021; Minutes of the Gwent Valleys Area Committee (AGM) Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021; Minutes of the Gwent Valleys Area Committee Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021; Draft Minutes of the National Executive Committee Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021; Consultations / Information.

A discussion ensued under the minutes of the National Executive Committee points J & N. Cllr Hillman asked if he could have the approval that he could follow up point N for further clarification on unincorporated Organisation.

All members approved

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** for Cllr Hillman to query point at the next National Executive Committee meeting.

- b) Aneurin Bevan Health Council – (for information – copy attached):
  - i Notice of remote meeting to take place at 10.30am on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

**Resolved** to note the information received

- c) Audit Wales – (for information - copies attached):

E-mail informing of delays in respect of Audit Wales in providing the Audit Certificate to the Town Council. Also attached is the copy of the notice required for publication by the Town Council. Members are informed that this notice has been published on website as prescribed.

**Resolved** to note the information received

- d) Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council – (for information – copies attached):
  - i. Letter confirming that no demand for an election has been received in respect of the recent Declaration of Vacancy (Nantyglo Ward). Members are also informed that the vacancy has been advertised for co-option.

Chair confirmed that Town Council is actively looking for new members and Cllr Williams has put forward a friend to sit on Blaina ward.

Cllr Hillman confirmed that he is currently pursuing possibly 3 new members, 1 from Nantyglo and 2 from Blaina ward.

**Resolved** to note the information received

- ii. Notice of (remote) Consultation with Town & Community Councils to take place at 10am on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

Cllrs Des, Carole Hillman and Cllr K Jones are representatives at this meeting and asked if members could be contacted to see if they would like anything to be discussed.

Clerk confirmed that no agenda as been sent out as yet, but soon as one is received, she will send a copy out to members for their input.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** for Clerk to send out agenda to members.

e) Senedd Cymru – (for information – copy attached):

Letter informing of the second Welsh Youth Parliament election campaign. Members are informed that this information has been advertised on the Town Council's website.

**Resolved** to note the information received

f) Email: Phase 2 of Diversity in Democracy (For information only)  
Councillor Survey

**Resolved** to note information received.

g) Answer phone message

Message left from Jeanette Knapp explaining that she has receipts for items purchased relating to grant application.

Clerk to check that receipt is a shop and not a handwritten receipt and that it does not exceed the £100 agreed at previous meeting.

**Resolved** Members agreed. **Further Resolved** for Clerk to send out cheque with the above checks in place.

### 3. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales:

Members are invited to consider the attached report and information in respect of the IRPW's draft annual report and if appropriate make any comments. Members are informed that only the section of the report that relates to Town / Community Councils is included – *(copies attached)*.

Cllr Hillman explained that all comments must be made before 26<sup>th</sup> November and the following points were discussed:

- Group 3 of the framework – up to 3 members, but this does not balance?
- Payments to Members - 13.7 Members should apply for the payment the money is allocated to Town Council, if Members wish not to keep the money themselves, they could donate the payment to a charity of their choice.
- Payments towards costs and expenses - 13.15 document states £150 payment to each member, however, online it was discussed for a £200 payment to each Member.
- Compensation for financial loss - 13.22, Any Cllr that is in employment he or she could claim back up to £55.50 for each period if they lose time from work.
- Determination Number – 48, Attendance allowance payment, well supported and Town Council should look into this payment. Cllr Hillman

**Resolved** to note the information received

**4. S.137 donations (Local Government Act 1972 & Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:**

As previously resolved, Members are invited to consider making further financial donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist residents of Nantyglo and Blaina for the month of October 2021.

Members discussed if Town Council is getting the recognition for their contribution of donations every month to Blaenau Gwent Food Bank, Clerk will look on their website and will take any information and display on Council's website.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to continue supporting Blaenau Gwent Foodbank for the month of October and for Clerk to look for recognition of donation.

**5. Application to the Community Grant Fund:**

Members are invited to consider the listed application(s), plus with the Chairman's permission any additional applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting. Members are also reminded of those applications will need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

a) *None received to date.*

**6. Salem Chapel:**

Members are invited to consider the attached inspection report:

- September 2021 (*copy attached*).  
Clerk confirmed that a valuation request has been sent to a creditor valuation.

**Resolved** to note information received.

**7. Confidential Information:**

The following item(s) may contain information that is of a confidential or personal nature and is therefore exclusive to Members of the Town Council only. (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)



**Clerk**

Item 7a

**From:** Tracy Gilmartin <tgilmartin@onevoicewales.wales>  
**Sent:** 11 October 2021 16:22  
**To:** Tracy Gilmartin  
**Subject:** FW: HYFFORDDIANT AM DDIM - Gweithredu yn Erbyn Oedraniaeth (Am Randdeiliad) // FREE TRAINING - Taking Action Against Ageism (For Stakeholders)

For your information / Ar gyfer eich gwybodaeth

**From:** Ageing Well In Wales <Ageingwell@olderpeoplewales.com>  
**Sent:** 11 October 2021 15:18  
**Subject:** Hyfforddiant Gweithredu yn Erbyn Oedraniaeth (Am Randdeiliad) // Taking Action Against Ageism Training (For Stakeholders)

**Sgrolwch lawr ar gyfer y Saesneg / Please scroll down for English**



**Comisiynydd Pobl Hŷn Cymru**  
**Older People's Commissioner for Wales**

**Hyfforddiant Gweithredu yn Erbyn Oedraniaeth (Am Randdeiliad)**

Mae oedraniaeth yn sail i nifer o'r problemau mae pobl hŷn yn eu hwynebu ar hyn o bryd, ac mae'n arwain at stereoteipiau negyddol, at bobl hŷn yn cael eu trin yn annheg, ac at beidio â pharchu a chynnal eu hawliau.

Gall oedraniaeth hefyd olygu y gwahaniaethir yn erbyn pobl hŷn pan fyddant yn ceisio defnyddio'r gwasanaethau, y cyfleusterau a'r cyfleoedd y mae eu hangen arnynt i'w helpu i heneiddio'n dda.

Cyn pandemig Covid19, roedd Comisiynydd Pobl Hŷn Cymru yn darparu sesiynau hyfforddiant i bobl hŷn a'r rheini sy'n gweithio gyda nhw er mwyn helpu i ganfod a herio oedraniaeth a gwahaniaethau ar sail oed. Mae'r hyfforddiant wedi cael ei addasu i fod yn sesiwn ar-lein.

Bydd y sesiwn yn cael ei chynnal dros Zoom a bydd yn para am ddwy awr ac hanner yn cynnwys egwyl.

Mae'r Comisiynydd hefyd wedi datblygu taflen wybodaeth newydd - Gweithredu yn Erbyn Oedraniaeth - sy'n cynnwys ystod eang o wybodaeth am sut i adnabod a herio oedraniaeth a rhagfarn ar sail oedran. Os hoffech chi gael copïau o'r daflen, yna gadewch i ni wybod os gwelwch yn dda.

Hoffech archebu lle yn y sesiynau, defnyddiwch y ddolen isod:

<https://tocyn.cymru/event/fba98533-1817-41ee-8403-03c9adbd6b8b/s>



**Comisiynydd Pobl Hŷn Cymru**  
**Older People's Commissioner for Wales**





# Patients Voice News Bulletin

Issue 42  
Summer 2021

## Blended Working

All staff are now operating via the blended approach to working. We have adopted a mix of working from home and the office so we are continuing to support patients and the public.

All scheduled Committee meetings are continuing to be conducted via Microsoft Teams with some staff and members now opting to attend face to face via the office. All of our scheduled meetings, some of which are open to the public, can be found on our website [here](#).

## Welcome

We were very pleased to give a warm welcome to Ms Linda Joseph, who has recently joined our team as our newly appointed Deputy Chief Officer.

## Co-opted Membership

Want to make a difference, learn new skills and meet new people?

We are looking for enthusiastic people to act as the eyes and ears of patients and the public and encourage others to have their say about NHS services. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for us please contact the office on **01633 838516** for more details.

### Useful links:

The way you access NHS services has changed, here's what to expect from your GP Practice:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UhfEcNXb0c>

Welsh Government – guidance:



# Official Opening of The Grange University Hospital

We were delighted to have been invited to the official opening ceremony of the Grange University Hospital. The event took place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and the opening was attended by the First Minister of Wales – Rt. Hon Mark Drakeford MS.



On this special occasion, we would like to commend the hard work of all staff involved in opening the hospital and the continued hard work of all NHS staff to date.



## Return to Face to Face Engagement

The Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council members visited the Emergency Department at the Grange University Hospital recently, to hold face-to-face conversations with patients who were attending the department over a 7 day period.

This is the first time members have held face-to-face engagement with patients since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. A full report of the findings will be available soon.

**N.B.** All members undertook lateral flow Covid tests before carrying out this engagement exercise. Appropriate risk assessments were also undertaken in collaboration with the UHB.

### Website:

[www.aneurinbevanchc.wales.nhs](http://www.aneurinbevanchc.wales.nhs)



### Phone:

**01633 838516**



### Email:

[enquiries.aneurinbevanchc@waleschc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.aneurinbevanchc@waleschc.org.uk)





# CHC updates...

## Project Working with the Health Board

### Complex Care/Huntington's Project

Following the outstanding success of our FaceTime "Buddying" Project, the CHC worked with the Health Board to speak to patients who accessed care from the Complex Care/Huntington's teams. CHC members engaged with patients **in their own homes** via Face-Time. As promised in our Spring edition, a full report can be found [here](#).



### The Grange University Hospital in-patient Project

This project took place in March 2021 and enabled our members to talk to patients virtually on wards at The Grange University Hospital. As promised in our Spring newsletter, a full report on the project can be accessed [here](#).

### Virtual Appointments Project

In June, we published our report after hearing from **698** people about their experiences or views regarding the use of **virtual or "remote" appointments** in healthcare. People were generally supportive of virtual appointments continuing after the pandemic, but stated that remote appointments should not replace face-to-face approaches, but complement the appointment systems where appropriate. Please see the full report of our findings [here](#). You can continue to share **your** views with us about this topic [here](#).



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**Phone:**

**01633 838516**



**Email:**

[enquiries.aneurinbevanchc@waleschc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.aneurinbevanchc@waleschc.org.uk)



# Surveys to share your experiences and thoughts...

## NHS Care during the Coronavirus

**276** people shared their experiences of accessing NHS services during April – July 2021. Please find our public feedback briefings [here](#) to view a snap shot of the things people told us about each month. Please continue to share your experiences by completing our survey [here](#). We will share with the NHS what people and local communities are telling us. This is so the NHS can see what people think is working well and take action to improve care where this is needed - as soon as possible.



## Diabetes

Are you or someone you care for Diabetic? We would like to hear from anyone who accesses medical appointments or receives support from the diabetic team, both in the hospital and in the community. This piece of work will help us to better understand the themed concerns people shared with us about communication from the diabetes service since the start of the pandemic. Please share your experience with us by completing our survey [here](#).

## GP Access Survey

Over the last twelve months we have heard from **1320** individuals who wished to share their experiences with us by completing the online survey. This survey enabled us to have a better view of what the public are experiencing in accessing their GP services. Common themes emerged from the feedback were received - difficulty making appointments, problems getting through by telephone, availability of online services, call handling staff & communication, prescriptions and test results. As promised in our Spring newsletter, please see the full report [here](#). You can also still share your experience with us by completing our survey [here](#).

### Website:

[www.aneurinbevanchc.wales.nhs](http://www.aneurinbevanchc.wales.nhs)

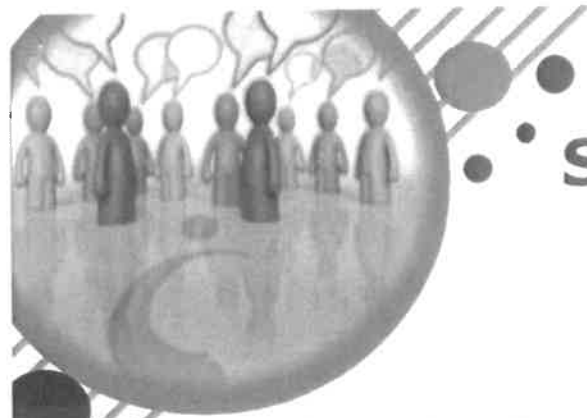
### Phone:

**01633 838516**

### Email:

[enquiries.aneurinbeva@nchc@waleschc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.aneurinbeva@nchc@waleschc.org.uk)





## Surveys to share your experiences and thoughts...

### How the deaf community access healthcare

We heard from **45** individuals who wished to share with us their experiences of accessing NHS care. In August, we published a report detailing what those individuals had to say about a range of NHS services from Audiology to children's appointments, you can access the full report [here](#).



This survey is still active so please continue to share your feedback [here](#).

### Rowan and Oak Ward, County Hospital Engagement

We carried out an initial engagement campaign at County Hospitals' Rowan Ward in October 2020 and Oak Ward in February 2021. At those times, issues were raised by people regarding staffing levels and the sharing of information about ward facilities to newly admitted patients.

During April and May 2021 we repeated the engagement campaign on both wards to monitor patient feedback and experience. As promised, in our Spring edition, please see the full report on our findings [here](#) that details some positive improvements.



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**01633 838516**



**Email:**  
[enquiries.aneurinbeva@nchc.waleschc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.aneurinbeva@nchc.waleschc.org.uk)

# CHC updates...

## CHC Advocacy Service

Between 1 May 2021 and 31 August 2021, **127** new complaints and enquiries were received. We currently have **131** open cases, which is an increase on open concerns since the last newsletter. The top enquiries theme is access to GPs via the telephone.

The top concern themes are:

- ❖ GP Primary Care
- ❖ Emergency Admission /Accident and Emergency
- ❖ Care of the Elderly



Visit our website [here](#)

We are on Social Media!

### Facebook!

Visit us on Facebook [here](#)  
or search "CIC Aneurin Bevan CHC"

### Twitter!

Visit us on Twitter [here](#) or search  
@bevanchc

### Accessible formats

If you would like this publication in an alternative format and/or language, please contact us. Our publications are also available to download and order from our website.

#### Website:

[www.aneurinbevanchc.wales.nhs](http://www.aneurinbevanchc.wales.nhs)

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Dyfodol Clinigol  
Clinical Futures



Item 7c

# Spotlight On...

## Children's Healthcare Services

ISSUE 6: 06/10/21



Throughout September, we've been shining a spotlight on Children's Healthcare Services. We've rounded up all the information below...

### Where do I go if my child has an injury?



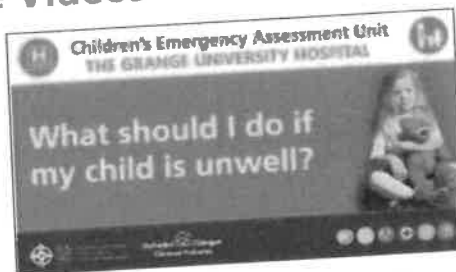
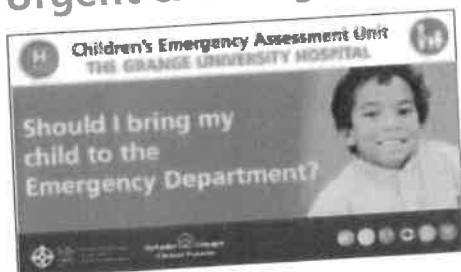
Children who require emergency treatment will need to go to The Grange University Hospital, where specialist children's doctors and nurses are centralised.

Local Minor Injury Units for children (aged over 1 year) are located at The Royal Gwent Hospital, Nevill Hall Hospital, Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr and Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan. All children aged under 1 year old will need to be seen at The Grange University Hospital.

If it is not a life-threatening emergency and you are unsure of where to go, please call 111 for help and advice.

For further information, please read our Children's Healthcare leaflet: <https://abuhb.nhs.wales/healthcare-services/childrens-healthcare-services/>

### Urgent & Emergency Care Videos



Our expert clinicians from different areas of urgent and emergency care have some very useful advice on where you should go for your urgent care. View these videos for more information: <https://abuhb.nhs.wales/healthcare-services/childrens-healthcare-services/>

At our Minor Injuries Units, children aged over 1 year can be treated for minor injuries, **NOT illnesses.**

If your child is unwell and you are unsure where to go Contact 111 first. If it's life-threatening or an emergency call 999, or go to the Emergency Department at The Grange University Hospital.

#HelpUsHelpYou



Adults and children over one year old can be treated at our Minor Injuries Units for:

- Limb injuries, which include broken bones (fractures) and minor joint dislocations
- Wounds, grazes and minor burns
- Head injuries provided there is no loss of consciousness or, taking blood thinning drugs
- Face injuries, provided there is no loss of consciousness
- Eye, ear and nose injuries and foreign bodies
- Rib injuries
- Minor neck or back injuries provided that the patient is mobile, has no pins and needles in arms and has not fallen from a height greater than 5 stairs or 1 metre
- Insect, animal and human bites

**Think 111 First if you have an urgent healthcare issue and are unsure what to do!**

Did you know that you can call 111 for free help and advice?

Your symptoms will be assessed and you will be signposted to the right place for your care.

You can also access the 111 online symptom checker [111.wales.nhs.uk](https://111.wales.nhs.uk) (people aged 5 and over only)



## GP Practices are open

If your child has a health concern, please don't leave it until you need urgent or emergency care. There are a number of ways you can contact your GP- by telephone, e-consult (via your GP's website) or by calling 111.

It is important that your child is registered with a GP practice to ensure their medical needs are addressed.

For further information, please visit our website at:  
<https://abuhb.nhs.wales/healthcare-services/childrens-healthcare-services/>

**The Common Ailments Scheme, which allows patients to be treated free of charge by their Pharmacist, covers lots of childhood ailments. These include:**  
head lice, nappy rash, teething, threadworm, oral thrush, verruca, chicken pox and conjunctivitis



Is your child suffering with a common problem such as head lice, nappy rash, teething, threadworm, oral thrush, verruca, chicken pox or conjunctivitis?

The Common Ailments Scheme offers patients access to free NHS advice and treatment for a number of common conditions and is available from all community pharmacies in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

Please note, children under the age of 2 may be ineligible for certain conditions

- please speak to your Pharmacist for details.

Read the full list of conditions included in the scheme.

<https://abuhb.nhs.wales/healthcare-services/gps-dentists-etc/pharmacies-chemists/>



## Dental Care for Children

You should start brushing as soon as your child's first tooth appears. Not all children like having their teeth brushed- the easiest way to brush a baby's teeth is to sit them on your knee, with their head resting against your chest. With an older child, stand behind them and tilt their head backwards.

<https://abuhb.nhs.wales/healthcare-services/childrens-healthcare-services/>

## abbHealthierTogether website

The abbHealthierTogether website has a wealth of healthcare information for parents, young people and pregnant women. Developed in partnership with parents and healthcare professionals, it contains accurate, localised information.



[abbHealthierTogether.cymru.nhs.uk](https://abbHealthierTogether.cymru.nhs.uk)



Healthier Together  
Iechyd Gyda'n Gilydd

Dyfedol Clinigol  
Clinical Futures

## Accidents & First Aid at Home

As part of our Spotlight On Children's Healthcare, we have highlighted the importance of being well equipped in the case of an accident at home.

For full details, visit:

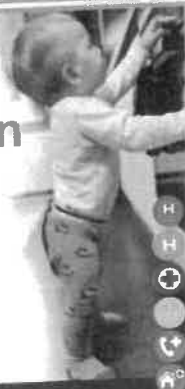
<https://abuhb.nhs.wales/healthcare-services/childrens-healthcare-services/>

## Accidents and first aid



Dyfedol Clinigol  
Clinical Futures

## Accidents to children in the home



Dyfedol Clinigol  
Clinical Futures

## Do I need a first aid kit?



Dyfedol Clinigol  
Clinical Futures





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## The Children's Unit at The Grange University Hospital

If children are injured or unwell and require a stay in hospital, or if they have scheduled surgery, they will spend time on the Children's Unit.

Depending on the care required, the patient's time on the unit can vary from a few hours, to longer periods of a number of weeks.

### The Children's Unit at The Grange University Hospital



There are mostly single rooms on the unit and a large, bright, 4 bed room for older children. The rooms are equipped with TVs and there are lots of games, DVDs and craft materials for the children to use.

Bev and Johnathan, the Health Play Specialists, ensure the patients have a positive experience whilst in hospital.

An animated gif giving a short tour of the Unit can be found at <https://abuhb.nhs.wales/healthcare-services/childrens-healthcare-services>

## In the Spotlight



**Name:** Rebecca

**JOB TITLE:** COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S NURSE  
CARE CLOSER TO HOME & CHILDREN'S  
COMMUNITY NURSING TEAM

**Qualifications & Experience:** Qualified Nurse  
Experience on Acute Paediatric Ward

**Role:**

- Administering IV antibiotics in patient's homes and in clinics
- Wound care either by visiting children in their home or at clinics
- Constipation and continence service, offering support to families
- Feeding advice
- Respiratory support visits to homes to check observations
- Post-operative care - family support and pain management
- Teach and support families to develop skills to manage their child's health condition
- Help to enable children to get home from hospital early

"I love the variety, as we meet so many different children every day. The care we provide, either at home, or closer to home, helps them leave hospital so much quicker, which offers such an improvement for the families and children. It's very rewarding."

## Care Closer to Home

The Care Closer to Home Service for children has been running since the start of the pandemic, to try and ease pressures within hospitals.

Due to the success of the project's first eighteen months, the service is already being expanded and developed.

The service enables children to leave hospital early by offering support and care, either in the patient's home or at local clinics. Healthcare provided by the team includes administering IV antibiotics, respiratory support, post-operative care, wound care, and teaching families to manage their child's healthcare needs.

The service runs 8am - 8pm, 7 days a week. There is a North Team based at Ystrad Mynach Hospital and a South Team based at Serennu Children's Centre in Newport.

Further information is available at <https://abuhb.nhs.wales/healthcare-services/childrens-healthcare-services>

## In the Spotlight



**Name:** Johnathan

**JOB TITLE:** HEALTH PLAY SPECIALIST  
THE GRANGE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL  
CHILDREN'S UNIT

**Qualifications & Experience:** Qualified Nursery Nurse  
Qualification in Play for Sick Children  
Health Care Play Specialist  
Foundation Degree  
24 years experience (14 years working as a Play Specialist, 10 years as a Play Worker)  
Previously worked for Camp America and The Prince's Youth Trust

**Role includes:**

- Supporting children in hospital through play
- Prepare and support children with anything that is going to happen whilst they are in hospital (blood tests, operations, scans etc) in a way they understand
- Use normalising plan to gain trust - this helps gives the child a voice, choice, control and respect
- Developing coping mechanisms with children so they can cope better in hospital and externally
- Anxiety management and coping with fears and phobia
- 100% child advocate
- Support long-term issues

## SPACE-Wellbeing

SPACE-Wellbeing is a multi-agency process to co-ordinate help, including both early intervention and specialist provision, for children's mental health and emotional wellbeing. The process brings together professionals from different agencies who support children's mental health and emotional wellbeing, in order to help children and their families to get the right help, first time. The SPACE-Wellbeing process is hosted by ABUHB's five Local Authority partners (Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen).

Further information is available at <https://abbhealthiertogether.cymru.nhs.uk/health-for-young-people/need-help-now/urgent-advice-self-referral-camhs>

[abuhb.nhs.wales](https://abuhb.nhs.wales)



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University Health Board



## Why are children's eye tests important?

All babies will have an eye screening at birth and again at about six weeks of age by a GP or health visitor.

During their first year at school, many children will have a screening for lazy eye. Whether the screening is available depends on your local CCG, who commission screening services. The screening is to detect whether a child has reduced vision in one or both eyes.



As well as the eye screenings, children should have an eye test every two years, as problems can occur at any age. Certain behaviours can be a sign that there is a problem, such as:

- sitting too close to the TV or insisting on watching TV in the dark
- rubbing their eyes a lot
- holding objects very close to their face
- blinking a lot
- showing signs of a squint – the eyes don't look into the same direction. One eye may turn inwards, outwards, upwards or downwards, while the other eye looks forward
- Problems navigating in the dark e.g. entering a tunnel or the cinema

Even if none of the symptoms above are displayed, there could still be an underlying eye condition. If you are worried about your child's sight or there is

a history of squint or lazy eye in the family, do not wait for the vision screening at school. Take your child to an ophthalmic practitioner or optometrist, who will see children of any age.

Don't worry about the costs, as all NHS sight tests are free for children under the age of 16.

Children do not have to be able to read to have their eyes examined. It's possible to see whether the child has a squint or needs glasses without asking them any questions, using age-appropriate tests and equipment. If the eye test detects any problems, your child will be referred to an Orthoptist, who is part of the eyecare team and generally works alongside ophthalmologists and optometrists. Orthoptists work in local health clinics or hospital eye clinics.

## Why are childhood immunisations so important?

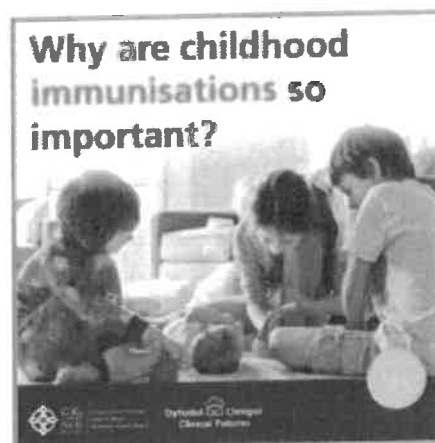
One of the best ways to protect your child against diseases like measles, rubella, tetanus and meningitis is through immunisation. Your child needs their first injections at eight weeks, then 12 weeks, 16 weeks and one year.

Vaccinations are offered free of charge in the UK. Your GP practice, health centre or baby clinic will send you an appointment for your child's immunisation. It is important that you are registered with a GP Practice and that they have your correct contact details.

Vaccines are also given at age 2 and 3 years old, and in school year 8 (age 12 and 13 years old) and school year 9 (age 13 and 14 years old).

There are some diseases that can kill children or cause lasting damage to their health. Vaccines contain a small part of the bacterium or virus that causes a disease, or tiny amounts of the chemical that the bacterium produces. Vaccines work by causing the body's immune system to make antibodies (substances that fight off infection and disease). Then if your child comes into contact with the infection, the antibodies will recognise it and be ready to protect him or her.

Before they are allowed to be used, all medicines (including vaccines) are thoroughly tested to assess how safe and effective they are. After they have been licensed, the safety of vaccines continues to be monitored.





*Item 7ci*

## NOTES

### Blaenau Gwent - Integrated Wellbeing Network

**Date of meeting:** 12-Oct-2021

**Time of meeting** 10am-12pm

**Venue for meeting:** See Invitation for teams link

#### Present:

**Kathryn Cross (KC);** Rosalin Williams (RW); Carol Matthews (CM); Megan-Rae Pembridge (MP); Sarah Price (SP); Lisa Kenny (LK); Paula Bowen (PB); Hannah Winmill (HW); Angela Thompson-Roach (AT); Greg Morgan (GM); Louise Nicholas (LN); Kelly Love (KL); Town Clerk – Claire (TC); Louise Tovey (LT); Leila Middlehurst-Evans (LM); Michell Turner (MT); Carolyn Heydon (CH); Tom Kivell (TK); Lissa Friel (LF); Victoria Price (VP);  
Pamela Harris-murton (PH);

#### Apologies:

#### Action Log:

WHO	ACTION	STATUS
<b>21-July-2021</b>		
Peter Hughes	To e-mail Jo Burchell re NEST linking with Compassionate Communities Team	Open
Emma Scherptong	To forward the local well-being plan for sharing with BG Collaborative Meeting members	Open
Kathryn Cross	To collate Active Travel discussion responses from Teams 'Chat' and distribute.	Open
Emma Scherptong	To feedback comments around Dewis development to local author(s).	Open
<b>12-Oct-2021</b>		

Item		Timing
<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>KC welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending today's Blaenau Gwent Collaborative meeting.</p> <p>And asked contact details be put into today's 'chat'.</p>	Kathryn Cross	
<p><b>BAME Community Engagement</b></p> <p>PB introduced herself. Primarily works with Black Asian Minority Ethnic Community (BAME). PB works for TCBC covering all five local authorities in Gwent; as well as supporting Talk Trace Protect (TTP) to collect as much data as possible.</p> <p>Can help to provide up-to-date info and translation to disseminate within community, as well as joining you at events / meetings to talk about TTP and adapt the service to needs of community. Today's purpose is to reiterate support that can be offered and introduce herself to new stakeholders.</p> <p>PB to put contact details into 'chat' for anyone to contact her.</p> <p><a href="mailto:paula.bowen@torfaen.gov.uk">paula.bowen@torfaen.gov.uk</a></p> <p>KC thanked PB for attending today's meeting.</p>	Paula Bowen	5 minutes
<p><b>Aneurin Leisure</b></p> <p>TK is Fitness development manager and placed his contact details into the 'chat' should anyone wish to contact him.</p> <p><a href="mailto:Tom.Kivell@aneurinleisure.org.uk">Tom.Kivell@aneurinleisure.org.uk</a></p> <p>TK gave a brief update as he is covering NERS scheme which is a physical activity, behavioural change and health improvement intervention, consultations are free. Have services available at Brynbach Park and Bedwellty and have a lot of outdoor physical activities.</p> <p>Here today to talk about two pilot schemes running at the moment, which is the DWP and National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS). Have received a small pot of funding to help people in receipt of universal credits, job seekers allowance, employment and support allowance, and income support.</p> <p>Have received a small pot of funding through exercise referral scheme and enough for approx. 70 participants for 16 weeks. So from the pilot, wanting to try to achieve improving confidence, self-esteem and health and wellbeing, with the long term goal of getting people employment through the interactive interventions.</p>	Tom Kivell	5 minutes

<p>It is a pilot across ABUHB area, currently running in BG and if anyone know of anyone eligible to forward their details for one to the team to make contact.</p> <p>Over 60s scheme: this population were probably more at risk than the other groups, and confidence levels low, physical activity levels dropped and social isolation at the highest seen. Welsh Gov funded a pot of money to increase physical activity and wellbeing through to Blaenau Gwent population. And have enough funding for 150 participants to have a three month membership for free and what will then study confidence levels.</p> <p>Currently have 100 participants and there have been given extra funding to take the number up to approx. 200.</p> <p>Realistically looking at it from a quantitative perspective but looking at it from a qualitative perspective too.</p> <p>It is life changing and really good to see this populations confidence improving and creating new social circles. So week on week they keep coming to these services with like-minded people, which can improve confidence and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>KC thank TK and agreed this is something needing support and have real life stories to illustrate people's lifestyle changes.</p>		
<p><b>Flu</b></p> <p>Currently within this year's flu campaign and shared a GP video for further information.</p> <p>Video covers information for 2-3yr olds, those under 65 with chronic conditions and those over 50 who are eligible for a free flu vaccine.</p> <p>The three cohorts are targeted and asked that meeting members remind community of their eligibility.</p> <p>In order to protect the over 65's the younger children need to have nasal spray flu vaccine.</p> <p>Have had a comms campaign and a video has been placed on the Facebook page.</p> <p>VP to put Facebook and Twitter links into 'chat' for all to share and will send KC some promotional information to share.</p> <p><u><a href="#">Blaenau Gwent Neighbourhood Care Network   Facebook</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Blaenau Gwent Neighbourhood Care Network (@BG_NCN) / Twitter</a></u></p> <p>Dr Donovan's video promoting 2/3 year olds to get nasal flu vaccine:</p> <p><u><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdWKR9YYH0&amp;fbclid=IwAR20YoZnwq7Ji5sEnb2hcJRHxz5V7Msrl2rTUPKh7IQEW4V-LhTxEV7jK-M">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdWKR9YYH0&amp;fbclid=IwAR20YoZnwq7Ji5sEnb2hcJRHxz5V7Msrl2rTUPKh7IQEW4V-LhTxEV7jK-M</a></u></p>	Victoria Price	5 minutes

<p>KC: we will forward any info received</p>		
<p><b>Participatory Budgeting</b></p> <p>ES gave an update about Participatory Budgeting and on Community Voice Community Choice Programme. There were a series of events held with a number of projects put forward. Overall the events were very successful and 40 projects were awarded funding from the projects that are to be delivered between now and next year.</p> <p>Have some videos from the Sunday event which are really good, there are good community groups in Blaenau Gwent and passionate about making a difference in their community.</p> <p>Received £1/4m at beginning which has been allocated and contract letters are going out shortly.</p> <p>In terms of next steps: Have four three-minute videos that give an update of progress / achievements, etc, and could potentially be brought to this meeting to showcase the work, as well as going to Public Services Board engagements. With growing social capital making the right connects with difference partners they are operating and want to keep the momentum going.</p> <p>There is work happening with schools and will be contacting schools to see if any young volunteers who would like to be involved.</p> <p>Working with PR FM who will introduce some projects and create a publicity campaign.</p> <p>Mutual Gain oversee process and we put together a summary overview report. It will show the start to finish process that has been covered and can be shared to promote with others within communities to promote and to read how well it all went.</p> <p>KC thanked ES for the update.</p> <p>LT: asked if videos could be shared in order to keep a showcase of the work going on.</p> <p>KC will share evaluation videos every three months, and will sent out link to Facebook page called Community Voice Community Choice. Mutual Gain have done many of these events across the UK and the percentage of people who voted on our four events was unbelievable at the 90% plus range, normally it's about 80%, which shows how engaged in the process people were and wanted to make sure the right projects received funding.</p> <p>We received 90 plus applications that entered and number that were unsuccessful. Therefore, will point the</p>	<p>Kathryn Cross / Emma</p>	<p>5 mins</p>

<p>unsuccessful ones in the direction of other funding and to meet with other partners to see if those unsuccessful groups could be funded from elsewhere. KC will keep meeting updated.</p>		
<p><b>Integrated Wellbeing Network 4 elements</b></p> <p>KC gave a brief update re IWN for Blaenau Gwent is a network running in Brynmawr and Tredegar, although the Participatory Budget covers the whole of Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>The vision being that professionals and communities work together to help resolve issues and support communities to make life better within those two towns.</p> <p>Eg, pre Covid IWN held community conversations in Brynmawr and the community came up with 6 priorities they wanted addressed, one of which was:</p> <p>More opportunities for families to be active together so a Sunday Stroll (a mile) was arranged in Brynmawr Welfare Park, it has been running for the last 2 weeks and meet at 10:30am. IWN and Aneurin Leisure are in the park. Are also looking to train run / walk leaders, for those community members who regularly attend. Training will be paid for and will be a community lead initiative.</p> <p>There are four main aspects of IWN which are listed below.</p>		
<p><b>Easy Access to wellbeing Information</b></p> <p>During Covid most of the information and networks have been online, using social media and wellbeing friends / community members to promote, as well as the Wellbeing Friend Facebook Page. But now we are trying to work in community to get information back out.</p> <p>Dewis is the national database for holding community activity information, which can be accessed by anyone / everyone and to add group / service details. Via NCN have secured funding for a Dewis Co-ordinator, AT.</p> <p>AT introduced herself and is working closely with KC, RW and VP.</p> <p>It is important for community, partners, etc, to know about and use Dewis. It is a free tool for all to use / keep up-to-date. It helps find practical sources of help for wellbeing support.</p> <p>AT is appealing for help today and really need editors across BG to check the information and for it to be visible to the community. Will be happy to give training over Teams, so if anyone interested please contact her.</p> <p>KC: Thanked AT.</p> <p>Dewis is a digital platform and will be providing training / supporting front line workers to be able to use and search Dewis for information required.</p> <p>There are some issues with Dewis but trying to remove the barriers. Therefore have commissioned a company to</p>	<p>Kathryn Cross/Angela Thompson-Roach</p>	<p>15 minutes</p>

work on a logo and to produce maps which are to be populated with drop-down information for Brynmawr and Tredegar. It will be called 'Blaenau Gwent – In this together' and will be able to show services, etc within the community.		
<p><b>Community Hubs</b></p> <p>KC: If people have agreed to become a community hub they have also agreed to have a noticeboard in the building they work in. Have Commissioned BG FM, local radio station, to do advertising and every month they will interview a community group / service for their input. Info will also go out via Wellbeing Friends.</p> <p>RW: has been working alongside KC to identify hubs in Tredegar and Brynmawr. Approx 13 hubs have been identified in Tredegar and potentially looking at: Bedwellty Park, Heritage Centre, the library, Cefn Gola Community House, Central Baptist Church, Brynbach Park, amongst others.</p> <p>At the moment not all partners have been linked with but conversations have been held. Some partners have agreed so within the next steps an app and what we need to have in place are being looked at.</p> <p>The idea being that the community hubs would link with each other, so the interactive maps will support by showing what is available in each hub area and be able to redirect to other hubs where necessary. The hub(s) staff would get to know what each other had.</p> <p>In Brynmawr identified approx. 12 hubs but not linked with all – Brynmawr Welfare Park, Brynmawr Wellbeing Centre, LAC, Table Centre, Brynmawr Library, amongst others. These are the sort of places which are being looked at and agreeing to become hubs. Meetings / conversations are in progress with some of the organisations about moving forward.</p> <p>Once the hubs are set up we would be looking to have a launch in the new year to get information out to community.</p> <p>KC: momentum is really good for hubs, encouraging them to come on board to promote their services post Covid.</p>	Ros Williams	15 minutes
<p><b>People who deliver services and support</b></p> <p>KC: If you provide support in the community you should be aware of what activities are happening in your area(s) and can signpost people to the relevant place(s).</p> <p>Wellbeing Friends Network has been set up which is made up of community members and professionals. They received information to use in general conversations with families, friends, networks, as and when relevant.</p> <p>Some front line staff may need further training to help with their role, we know that mental health is one issue and</p>	Kathryn Cross	10 minutes



<p>conversations can be difficult. We have commissioned Connect 5 Training, supporting professionals and volunteers work / mental wellbeing. Training is free and there are three levels and it is up to you how many levels you attend to build on your skills, ie, you do not have to attend all three.</p> <p>A colleague has secured funding from the health board to roll out suicide first aid training, and that will be available online shortly and offered to partners.</p> <p>AT is offering training around Dewis.</p> <p>RW and KC will be working in relation to hubs and will invite others as and when to support people delivering support / services.</p> <p>Anyone can apply for training and for more info on any of the above please contact KC.</p>		
<p><b>Place Based Collaborative</b></p> <p>Originally thought about having two, but as Brynmawr and Tredegar are geographically so close they have been brought together as one, ie, BG Collaborative Meeting. The main aim was to bring professionals and communities together in the same space to discuss any community issues they wished to have solved.</p> <p>Many community members find this set up very daunting to link in with professionals, so we have gone out into the community and community conversations have been held to take the issues back to the professionals / collaborative. Have looked at a mental health pathway for Blaenau Gwent. Digital inclusion and how we can change some of it, as there is a lot of digital exclusion and have worked together this morning to come up with a first steps plan of how this can be addressed. Although need more input from partners. ie, how can support be given? Are community conversations raising you any issues which can be brought back to the BG Collaborative Meeting.</p> <p>KC: placed meeting members into four break out rooms, for feedback to be brought back to meeting.</p> <p>'What do you think the aim of the collaborative should be?'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Room 1: discussed purpose of network to ensure everyone's voice is heard, so between us all this could connect / feed in. As a network would need to be adaptive and change post Covid taking into account everything is currently different to pre-Covid. Workforce – how organisations / people are struggling to recruit.</li> </ul>	Kathryn Cross	15 minutes

<p>KC: we have looked generally at the two communities and perhaps going forward could have collaboratives to focus on specific groups of people.</p> <p>Feedback from adults in Brynmawr was there needs to be more activities for young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Room 2: Connecting with other people in the borough and to know what's happening therein. Info sharing. Dewis is daunting and 60+ ages may have problems, so will need hubs for supporting in the first instance and for them to gain confidence. Will hubs be relying on volunteers or will someone be paid maybe initially, but will need consistency. Advertising and promoting hubs would be essential, but there are a lot of social media platforms. Consistency of info too to know where to signpost. Organisational training on Dewis would be useful to be able to provide support.</li> </ul> <p>KC: with hubs hoping that one person will be identified to be trained to help community.</p> <p>IWN funding is only until Mar-2022 and we have to provide evidence to feedback to WG, therefore, Brynmawr and Tredegar were identified as pilot towns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Room 3: Concentrating on specific areas as they would have different issues, so information in hub to relate to and target services / support in those areas. Building community partnerships. KC: need to consider the views of the community and take them along with us on this journey. And would like to establish 'explorers' which would be the community members to feedback and be involved with collaborative conversations. Enabling community to be involved and take responsibility for themselves. Ensuring information available is up to date for specific areas.</li> <li>Room 4: Key aim would be sustainability of IWN or collaborative model to capture good practice, lessons learnt, and would like to continue working with local partners. Importance of Wellbeing Future Generations Act and the 5-Ways of working would be integral, along with engagement with local communities and thinking about prevention, problem solving and collaborating. Communities may come forward with issues, which are out of our control. Governance and connecting with those who can make decisions. To engage with communities for them to identify what services are missing and to work together to address. KC: sustainability and currently only funded until Mar-2022, so hoping to have an update shortly.</li> </ul>		
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KC: thanked all for their feedback and the collaborative can work on.		
Break		10 mins
<b>Discussion</b> <b>Place Based Collaborative</b>  IWN have been tasked with that after Covid and restrictions have eased many are weary about venturing out, Therefore, meeting were placed into break out rooms to discuss those groups can support community. 'How can we support groups to get back up and running, but also identify gaps?' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Room 1: Bargoed Library made a video detailing Covid safety. Perhaps it would be good idea for community hubs. Loneliness, isolation, etc, was discussed along with digital exclusion / inclusion. Gaps for young people and what they want, ie, a safe place to congregate. Greg is looking at setting up youth clubs in Tredegar and Brynmawr. KC: the idea of videos is really good. Safe places have been previously discussed and hopefully can be taken forward.</li> <li>Room 2: Family Info Services (FIS) can provide info. <a href="mailto:sarah.price2@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk">sarah.price2@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk</a> Family Information Service Officer 08000 32 33 39, or 01495 355584. Apathy, people want but they don't engage. Services may obtain funding and then it drops away due to low support, so difficult when services are taken away. We can share but don't have any answers. Perhaps people are trying to connect with their family / friends rather than community activities and still Covid nervous. Maybe Community Connects could capture locality activities / services. Have support when re-opening community structures. Parent &amp; toddler groups and coffee mornings are gaps too. Mixed messages when statutory services have not re-opened. Funding for Parent and Toddler groups is available. KC: re professionals risk assessments is definitely causing mixed messages and some people are willing to re-open whilst others are cautious. Agrees that from next March when the flu season has ended, hopefully, the Covid rates will drop and we will see a different feel in the communities.</li> </ul>	All – Break out rooms	15 minutes
	Feedback	15 minutes

<p>We want facilities to re-open but there are no answers at the moment. From an IWN point of view we have to support those who want to re-open but that could take a while to happen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Room 3: 50+ Forum – felt they're experiencing issues. Community Connectors are very active. Mapping, setting up groups, providing advice, etc, and since Covid demand has changed. IAA are prioritising critical need and only one day per week to community mapping. Gaps – Loneliness, bereavement, isolation, etc. Perhaps digital support could continue to help people maintain contact and feel less isolated. KC: can see there are issues. Volunteering Matters have received some funding to continue their Befriending scheme.</li> <li>Room 4: GAVO has been supporting groups financially and with volunteer support. Some of the community centres have gaps from losing community members - GAVO can also help with funding / volunteering. Community Connects role and connecting, they previously captured resources and perhaps it could be revisited. Loss of confidence of community members as well as re-opening facilities / services, therefore, need to spend time to have conversations re barriers. Flexibility, accessibility and dual support around digital inclusion as this may become a lifeline to some. <a href="https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/news/2021-05-12/get-there-together-videos-support-people-dementia-wales-coronavirus">https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/news/2021-05-12/get-there-together-videos-support-people-dementia-wales-coronavirus</a></li> </ul> <p>KC: we do work closely with GAVO and Community Connectors have been useful with mapping services and will be picking back up. Digital inclusion has become part of people's lives.</p>		
<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was no other business.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>16<sup>th</sup> Dec-2021@10am via teams (invite sent)</p>		

Item 7c ii

**Clerk**

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**From:** Rosalin Williams (Aneurin Bevan UHB - ) <Rosalin.Williams@wales.nhs.uk>  
**Sent:** 15 October 2021 11:50  
**To:** Rosalin Williams (Aneurin Bevan UHB - )  
**Subject:** FW: Blaenau Gwent Wellbeing Friends Virtual Coffee Morning - follow up information/links  
**Attachments:** IWN.Presentation.pptx; Diaphragmatic Breathing.docx

Good Morning Wellbeing Friends

Please find information and links below from our virtual coffee morning. I hope you enjoyed it!

Thank you for all your ideas and suggestions for future content it is very much appreciated 😊

Don't forget to have a look on the Melo website.....it's a good resource for information on mental health/wellbeing, including online courses, tips, resources etc.

As mentioned I plan to introduce the 5 ways to wellbeing at our next coffee morning, we can discuss and focus on one area each month and share/feedback the following month what we've been up to.

We can also incorporate some of the activities suggested into the 5 ways as they fit really nicely.

**DIARY MARKERS\*\*\*\*\*** Dates for the next two coffee mornings – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 11am-12pm.  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 11am-12pm.

**\*\*CAN I ALSO CHECK ARE YOU HAPPY WITH 1 HOUR OR WOULD YOU PREFER TO EXTEND TO 1 HOUR 30 MINUTES. I AM HAPPY TO GO WITH THE MAJORITY. PLEASE LET ME KNOW.**

Have a great weekend

ROS 😊



## Mae Brechu yn achub bywydau Vaccination saves lives

### Plant ifanc a'r fflw

Gall fflw fod yn ddifrifol iawn i blant.

Os yw eich plentyn yn ddwy\* neu dair\* oed, gallwch ei amddiffyn gyda brechlyn fflw chwistrell drwynol syml.

Siaradwch â'ch ymwelydd iechyd, meddyg teulu neu nyrs practis i gael rhagor o wybodaeth.

Gallwch gael rhagor o wybodaeth am frechu rhag y fflw yn:  
[lcc.gig.cymru/brechlynfflw](http://lcc.gig.cymru/brechlynfflw)

\*Oedran ar 31 Awst 2021.



### Young children and flu

Flu can be very serious for children.

If your child is two\* or three\* years old, you can protect them with a simple nasal spray flu vaccine.

Talk to your health visitor, GP or practice nurse for more information.

You can find out more about flu vaccination at:  
[phw.nhs.wales/flu vaccine](http://phw.nhs.wales/flu vaccine)

\*Age on 31 August 2021.



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Public Health  
Wales



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### Autumn booster programme:

The JCVI has recommended a COVID-19 booster programme starting in the autumn of 2021. The Welsh Government have accepted that advice. People who were vaccinated in Phase 1 of the COVID-19 vaccination programme (priority groups 1-9) will be offered a booster dose of the vaccine. The priority groups for the autumn booster campaign are:

- Those living in residential care homes for older adults
- All adults aged 50+

- Frontline health and social care workers
- People aged 16-49 with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19, and adult carers
- Adult (aged 16+) household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals

If you're eligible for a COVID 19 booster vaccine, you will be contacted by your health board for an appointment. Please wait to be contacted.

Read the Welsh Government's announcement in full [here](#). Further information will follow in due course.

<https://llyw.cymru/datganiad-ysgrifenedig-brechu-rhag-covid-19-cyhoeddiad-y-jcvi-am-raglen-pigiadau-atgyfnerthu-yn-yrhttps://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/covid->

Datganiad Ysgrifenedig: Brechu rhag COVID-19 – Cyhoeddiad y JCVI am raglen pigiadau atgyfnerthu yn yr hydref | LLYW.CYMRU

Eluned Morgan, Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Eligibility for the vaccine - Public Health Wales

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Check your eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccination:

[Eligibility for the vaccine - Public Health Wales \(nhs.wales\)](#)

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TOPIC

## Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Help keep Wales safe:

- get both of your jabs
- get tested and self-isolate if you have symptoms
- outdoors is safer than indoors
- keep your distance when you can
- wash your hands
- wear a face covering

All of Wales is at alert level 0. Read the current guidance.

## Recent and upcoming changes

From Monday 11 October

People will be required to show the **NHS COVID Pass** to prove they are either fully vaccinated or have a recent negative Lateral Flow Test to attend:

- nightclubs
- indoor non-seated events where over 500 people are mixing closely for prolonged periods
- outdoor non-seated events where over 4,000 people are mixing closely for prolonged periods

any event of more than 10,000 people

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## Coronavirus Testing

It's easy to get a Coronavirus test if you live in Gwent- that's **Caerphilly, Newport, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and Monmouthshire**.

If you have symptoms of Coronavirus, please give us a call - we'll get you a test in a location convenient and appropriate for you.

Contact **119** or <https://gov.wales/getting-tested-coronavirus-covid-19> to book a test.

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- **Mobile Testing Units (MTU)**

- A mobile Covid-19 Testing Unit is available in the car park at the rear of Cwmbran Village Surgery, Victoria Street, Cwmbran.
- The unit is open 09:00-17:00 daily, attendance is by appointment only.
- If you feel generally unwell or if you have symptoms of Coronavirus you can book a test at the testing centre in Torfaen by calling 119 between 8am and 6pm or book online at [gov.wales](https://gov.wales).

- **Local Testing Site (LTS)**

- A Local Testing Site (LTS) is available in the Old Mill Car Park on Trosnant Street, Pontypool.
- The local testing sites are a semi-permanent structure and will remain on site for long periods to improve access for Torfaen residents. The LTS will be open 7 days a week from 8am-8pm and will be operated by the Department of Health and Social Care using self-swab PCR tests.
- To book a test phone 119 or visit [gov.wales](https://gov.wales)

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Cofion Cynnes/Kind Regards,

*Rosalin Williams*

**Community Involvement Officer**



**Rhwydweithiau Lles Integredig – Blaenau Gwent | Integrated Wellbeing Networks –  
Blaenau Gwent  
Tîm Iechyd Cyhoeddus Aneurin Bevan Gwent /  
Aneurin Bevan Gwent Public Health Team**

Ffôn/Tel: 01495 241208

Ebost/Email: [rosalin.williams@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:rosalin.williams@wales.nhs.uk)

Rhyngwrwyd/Internet: [www.iechydscyhoedduscymru.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.iechydscyhoedduscymru.wales.nhs.uk) / [www.publichealthwales.org/](http://www.publichealthwales.org/)

Croesawn ohebiaeth yn Gymraeg ac yn Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi. We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay.

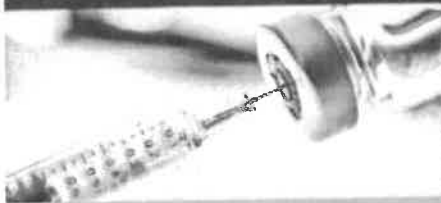


GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Aneurin Bevan  
University Health Board

# Diweddariad am y brechlyn Vaccination Update

SARS-CoV-2  
Vaccine



Cylchlythyr Wythnosol Weekly Newsletter

18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 Issue 40

WEEKLY PROGRESS 11<sup>th</sup> October – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Iken Fciii

Since the launch of the COVID-19 vaccine, the Vaccination Team have been working tirelessly to deliver the biggest vaccination programme we've seen in our lifetime. Across our Health Board since the programme commenced on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020, we have administered a total of 946,222 Covid-19 vaccinations.

During the first 4 weeks of the roll-out of the COVID-19 Booster programme 57,331 people have received their booster vaccination.

Residents from 72 care homes for older adults within the Health Board area have been offered the booster vaccine. We have given the booster to 15,081 people aged 80 years and over and 22,360 frontline health and social care staff.

## Please keep your Appointment

If you receive an appointment please do everything you can to attend the first appointment you are sent as we are vaccinating thousands of people every week. This will help the Mass Vaccination Programme to roll-out the booster programme to eligible individuals as quickly as possible.



## Outreach Pop-up Clinics

Working in partnership with the Wallich has enabled the mass vaccination programme to provide pop-up clinics for first and second doses in communities across Gwent. The mobile bus visited Abersychan, Blaenavon, Bargoed and Rhymney and community venues were used in Pill, Ringland, Abergavenny and Abertillery. Over 1,100 individuals have been vaccinated through these outreach clinics.

## Leaving no one behind

If you are aged 16 years and over and haven't received your first dose of vaccination, you can still receive your vaccine. Join the thousands that have been vaccinated, please contact the booking team on 0300 303 1373 to make an appointment for your first dose.





GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Aneurin Bevan  
University Health Board

Thank you for your continued support.  
*Together we will help keep Gwent safe.*

## WEEK AHEAD 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER – 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### Who are we vaccinating this week?

This week we continue with our Booster Programme vaccinating residents of care homes for older adults & their carers, front line health and social care staff and residents. We also continue to provide a 3<sup>rd</sup> primary vaccination for those residents who are identified as being immunosuppressed. The young person's programme continues vaccinating young people with underlying health conditions along with 12-15 year olds.

### How will I be invited for my COVID-19 booster vaccination appointment?

Individuals will be invited to attend for Covid-19 booster vaccination by letter, in the order they received their second dose. We would like to encourage everyone to attend the first appointment offered to them. If this is not possible, our booking line has an option to leave your name, date of birth and telephone number for a call back. Thank you for your patience and understanding at this time.

### Calling all pregnant women:

Please see the latest advice on pregnancy and the Covid-19 Vaccination via the following links:

<https://phw.nhs.wales/news/coronavirus-vaccine-benefits-far-outweigh-risks/>

- <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-information/patient-information/covid-19-vaccination-and-pregnancy/>

Most pregnant women who get COVID-19 are not seriously ill. However, there is a small risk of serious illness for mother and baby, such as needing intensive care admission and premature birth. These risks are higher later in pregnancy and in women who have underlying health conditions.

**Call 0300 3031373** to book your vaccination appointment.

Further information available at: [www.rcog.org.uk/covid-vaccine](http://www.rcog.org.uk/covid-vaccine)

### Immunosuppressed

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board are offering a third primary dose of the COVID-19 vaccination to individuals aged 12 years and over with severe immunosuppression, due to underlying health conditions or medical treatment. JCVI have advised that this group of patients should be prioritised for a third dose as they will potentially not yet have mounted sufficient immune response from their primary course of vaccination.

If you feel that you are within this group, please contact our vaccination team on 0300 303 1373 as soon as possible. Our team will take relevant details and then link with your clinician to confirm your position. Further information available at:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/third-primary-covid-19-vaccine-dose-for-people-who-are-immunosuppressed-jcvi-advice/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation-jcvi-advice-on-third-primary-dose-vaccination](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/third-primary-covid-19-vaccine-dose-for-people-who-are-immunosuppressed-jcvi-advice/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation-jcvi-advice-on-third-primary-dose-vaccination)

NHS Covid Pass Information available at <https://gov.wales/get-your-nhs-covid-pass#section-70608>  
Or by calling **0300 303 5667**

For further information on the Covid-19 Vaccination please visit:  
<https://abuhb.nhs.wales/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine/>

Public Health Wales Vaccination information: <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-information/>

Data is subject to revision as data entry and data quality checks are carried out.

[abuhb.nhs.wales](https://abuhb.nhs.wales)

Item 7d

Un Llais Cymru



One Voice Wales

**Model Local Resolution Protocol  
for Community and Town Councils**

# **ONE VOICE WALES**

## **Model Local Resolution Protocol for Community and Town Councils**

### **Background**

The Public Service Ombudsman has agreed to the principle of referring some complaints against Members back to Community and Town Councils for a local resolution. However, to date there has not been a common process for Community and Town Councils to follow in dealing with such matters. To assist the sector, One Voice Wales has drawn up the following as a model protocol which any Community and Town Council can use in dealing with such complaints.

This model protocol is meant as a starting point for Community and Town councils. Individual councils may wish to add or amend this model to suit their particular needs. Councils wishing to use this process should first of all be clear about its purpose and intention, formally adopt it in its current or in a revised form and ensure that all Councillors are provided with a copy for their attention. The Council should then determine the framework through which it is operated which may require the establishment of a Committee or Panel or an extension of the terms of reference of an existing Panel or Committee such as a Complaints Panel or Committee. In the case of establishment of a new Panel it is important that terms of reference are prepared and approved by the Council. In either case it will be important for Councils to document in the terms of reference as to what will happen if there is a lack of co-operation shown by the member concerned or a breakdown occurring during the operation of the process. For example, in such cases the default position might be that the matter is referred to the Public Ombudsman for Wales.

### **The Local Resolution Process**

#### **Issues which should be considered under this process**

Low level complaints about Members, including:

- Minor complaints from Members about Members
- Minor complaints from Officers about Members
- Members alleged to have not shown respect and consideration for others – either verbally or in writing
- Repetitive low level and frivolous complaints

#### **Issues which should not be considered under this process**

Complaints which must be directed to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, including:

- Complaints instigated by a member of the public
- Serious complaints – breaches of the Code of Conduct/failure to disclose interests/bullying/abuse of position or trust/repeated breaches
- Complaints made by the Clerk/Proper Officer
- Vexatious, or malicious complaints
- Members' complaints about officers which should be dealt with using the Council's internal complaints process

## **The Process**

### **The complaint**

The complaint would need to be sent to the Clerk/Proper Officer of the Council to undertake a first sift to ensure that the complaint is at a low level and should not be dealt with by way of a complaint to the Ombudsman. If appropriate, therefore, the Clerk/Proper Officer should firstly seek an early resolution of any such dispute by liaising informally with the individual members concerned prior to the resolution process described below. It is vitally important that the 'accused' member is given full details of the complaint against them so that in the interests of natural justice they are in a position to prepare their response to the accusation.

### **Resolution Process**

The involvement of the Chair/Vice Chair of the Council in the following process is not to adjudicate on the complaint, but to attempt to get the members/officers involved to come to an agreement as to how the issue(s) could be resolved on an amicable basis.

The Clerk/Proper Officer will act as a facilitator for the resolution process below.

If the complaint is between Members other than the Chair of the Council, the Clerk/Proper Officer and the Chair will meet individually with the complainant and Member subject of the complaint to seek an agreed resolution.

If the complaint is between Members, one of whom is the Chair of Council, but not the Vice Chair, the Clerk/Proper Officer and the Vice Chair will meet with the complainant and Member subject of the complaint to seek an agreed resolution.

If the complaint has been made by an officer/employee, but not the Clerk/Proper Officer, against a Member other than the Chair of Council, the Clerk/Proper Officer and the Chair of Council will meet with the officer and the Member subject of the complaint to seek an agreed resolution.

If the complaint has been made by an officer/employee, but not the Clerk/Proper Officer, against the Chair of Council, the Clerk/Proper Officer and the Vice Chair of Council will meet with the officer and the Chair to seek an agreed resolution.

If the complaint has been made by the Clerk/Proper Officer, then it is likely to be best practice that this complaint is forwarded by way of a complaint to the Ombudsman.

### **Possible results of the process**

If an agreement is reached by Members and/or officers during this Stage, then no further action is required.

If agreement cannot be reached the aggrieved Member/officer would always have the opportunity of referring the matter to the Ombudsman.

Examples of agreements might include issue of a letter of apology, a written undertaking or commitment not to breach the Code of Conduct in the future, a commitment to undertake training or an agreement that on the basis of the evidence that no further action should be taken and the matter be closed.

### **Time for the process**

It is the intention that all of the processes can be completed as quickly as possible to resolve the issue. However exact timing will depend on the availability of individuals to attend the meetings.

### ***Important Points to Note in preparing a process for use by the Council***

*The Clerk/Proper officer, Chair and Vice Chairs of Councils should consider receiving appropriate training in facilitation and mediation to be in a position to maximise the benefit of this process. Councils wishing to pursue this route should contact One Voice Wales for guidance.*

*Councils might want to include some guidance where complaints which are most appropriately dealt with under this process are referred to the Council by PSOW. The PSOW could actively do this if the Council has an approved process.*

*It is suggested that any meetings held with a view to discussing the issues of complaints and/or resolving matters are at the very least minuted, if not recorded. This is to ensure that agreements are captured. This will also be useful in the event that matters break down or escalate and need to be referred to the PSOW. It may also be useful as evidence in the event of further similar breaches of the conduct and future conduct.*

*Councils need to be clear on their powers in respect of code of conduct matters. The Ombudsman has seen examples of councils who have deemed it appropriate to fully investigate a code complaint, decide that there has been a breach and some have even thought it appropriate to consider the issue of a sanction. Investigations of possible breaches of the Code are matters for the Ombudsman. The Local Government Act 2000 gives him the authority to carry out such investigations. The Council has no legal authority to undertake such investigations or to make findings of a breach of the Code of Conduct, which are decisions that can only be reached by a Standards Committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales.*

Un Llais Cymru



One Voice Wales

## ABOUT ONE VOICE WALES

One Voice Wales is the national representative organisation for Community and Town Councils throughout Wales. The vision subscribed to by One Voice Wales is:

*"Working with local councils in Wales to shape places communities want to live in"*

One Voice Wales aims to support Community and Town Councils in achieving this vision and has adopted the following Mission Statement to guide its work:

*"To represent the interests of Community and Town Councils; raise awareness and understanding of this primary tier of government; and work collaboratively with our partners to ensure the sector contributes fully to the goal of developing dynamic and sustainable communities in Wales."*

One Voice Wales

24c College Street

Ammanford

SA18 3AF

01269 595 400

[admin@onevoicewales.wales](mailto:admin@onevoicewales.wales)

[www.onevoicewales.org.uk](http://www.onevoicewales.org.uk)



Clerk

Item 7di

**From:** Wendi Patience <wpatience@onevoicewales.wales>  
**Sent:** 15 October 2021 14:59  
**To:** Wendi Patience  
**Cc:** Wendi Patience  
**Subject:** OCTOBER 2021 - Remote training sessions that are taking place in October  
**Attachments:** New Free training places Form 2020 Cym.doc; New free training places form 2020.docx; Bursary letter up to Feb 2021-22 - £100.docx; Bursary letter up to Feb 2021-22 £100 Cym.docx

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below details of Remote training sessions that are taking place in October, please bring this to the attention of your council.

The cost of the training is £30 for members or £50 per person for non members. You will be invoiced after the training has taken place.

There is a bursary available to eligible councils.

Session times are listed against the module date.

19/10/2021	Tuesday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	6.30-8.00
19/10/2021	Tuesday	Effective Staff Management - Module 18	6.30-8.00
20/10/2021	Wednesday	Local Government Finance - Module 6	6.30-8.00
20/10/2021	Wednesday	Chairing Skills - Module 10	6.30-8.00
21/10/2021	Thursday	Advanced Local Government Finance - Module 21	6.30-8.00
21/10/2021	Thursday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3	6.30-8.00
21/10/2021	Thursday	The Council Meeting - Module 5	6.30-8.00
21/10/2021	Thursday	Code of Conduct - Module 9	6.30-8.00
25/10/2021	Monday	Code of Conduct - IN WELSH	2.00-3.30
26/10/2021	Monday	Advanced Local Government Finance - Module 21	6.30-8.00
26/10/2021	Tuesday	Chairing Skills - Module 10	6.30-8.00
26/10/2021	Tuesday	The Council Meeting - IN WELSH	2.00-3.30
26/10/2021	Tuesday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	6.30-8.00
27/10/2021	Wednesday	Information Management - Module 15	6.30-8.00
27/10/2021	Wednesday	The Council Meeting - Module 5	6.30-8.00

27/10/2021	Wednesday	Code of Conduct - Module 9	2.00-3.30
28/10/2021	Thursday	Advanced Local Government Finance - Module 21	6.30-8.00
28/10/2021	Thursday	Local Government Finance - Module 6	6.30-8.00

Many thanks.  
Wendi

Mobile – 07929 715990

Wendi Patience  
Administration Officer / Swyddog Gweinyddol  
One Voice Wales / Un Llais Cymru  
24c College Street / 24c Stryd y Coleg  
Ammanford / Rhydaman  
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Tel/Ffon: 01269 595400



The principal representative body for Community and Town Councils in Wales/  
Y prif gorff cynrychioli ar gyfer Cyngorau Cymuned a Thref yng Nghymru

Website/Gwefan: [www.onevoicewales.org.uk](http://www.onevoicewales.org.uk)



@onevoicewales



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Melo News Autumn 2021

# October Newsletter

*Item 7c*



## Hello. How are you?

As many of you will know, every quarter we share this newsletter to provide an update on progress with Melo and things to look forward to in the coming months.

As Autumn arrives, and the leaves start to change colour, Melo too has taken on a new look for the season. **Please take a look and let us know what you think.**

In addition to new Autumn colours, the graphic we have chosen for the homepage, is a reminder to us all to get outside if we can and to support others to do the same. As the days become shorter and colder it can be tempting to stay indoors. But getting some daylight, fresh air, moving our bodies and having opportunities to meet others is important for our own wellbeing, and for those we look after.

## Contributions from our partners

Getting outdoors links to the 5 Ways to Wellbeing which we promoted in the Summer through the **#5Days5Ways campaign**. Partners got involved by sending us pictures of themselves and colleagues doing the 5 Ways. We sent out a 5 Ways resources pack to care homes across Gwent and we are now preparing packs to send out to all schools in the coming weeks.

We hope you are all still keeping the 5 Ways habit going. There are lots of ideas and resources to help you on **Melo**.

Melo is continuing to grow. We have had 15k visitors to the website since it's launch in January. We have a growing social media following on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, and **Instagram**. Please follow and share our posts if you are not already.

We try to connect with partners on social media campaigns. For October we have linked with the DPJ Foundation and Farmwell to support Agricultural Mental Health Awareness week. **If you have a mental health campaign you would like us to be involved in please get in touch.**

We believe everyone needs to look after their mental wellbeing, no matter who you are. Each month we include a guest blog to highlight the simple things people do for their own mental wellbeing. **Take a look at our blogs [here](#).** If you would like to contribute a blog and tell us how you look after your mental wellbeing, we would love to hear from you.



Visit [melo.cymru](https://melo.cymru) for information on local opportunities, resources and courses to help you find ways to look after your mental wellbeing.

Click on the icons to follow Melo on social media



With partners, we have identified some additional topic pages that we will be developing and a range of resources you can download and print. We have secured additional funding to improve how people access the resources. We want to make it easier for people to find information, because we appreciate not everyone knows what they want or need. More details will be available in the next newsletter.

We are also working with partners, such as Gwent Police and other emergency services, to develop printed promotional resources to help our frontline workers signpost to Melo. If you would like any posters or business cards, please get in touch. **You can order resources [here](#).**



### Mental wellbeing courses from Melo

Melo also offers **free mental wellbeing courses** and all are accessible on-line. These include Stress control, which aims to give you the skills to help you manage your current stress and future problems.

Gwent Connect 5 training provides participants with the confidence and skills to have conversations about mental health and wellbeing and to know where to signpost people for support. There will soon be over 30 Gwent Connect 5 trainers able to deliver the course live

online or face to face. **Details of the programme can be found [here](#).**

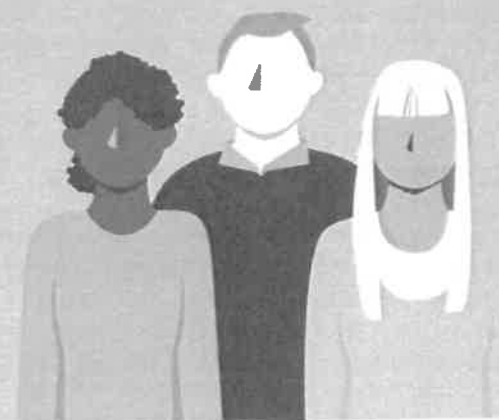
The bi-annual Gwent Suicide and Self Harm Prevention workshop took place on October 1st. It included a range of guest speakers and provided partners the opportunity to contribute to the action plan for Gwent. One of those actions is to produce a new section on Melo, highlighting things we can all do to help prevent suicide and self-harm, including signposting to support organisations.

### Volunteer for us

The **Gwent Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Network** are looking for a volunteer to lead on communications.

Please contact **[Jackie.Williams6@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Jackie.Williams6@wales.nhs.uk)** if you would like to know more about this role, or the Gwent Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Network.

We are also looking for partners to help develop the new webpages on Melo. If you would like to be involved, please get in touch, email **[Emma.Palmer@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Emma.Palmer@wales.nhs.uk)**.



**melo**

Visit **[melo.cymru](http://melo.cymru)** for information on local opportunities, resources and courses to help you find ways to look after your mental wellbeing.

Click on the icons to follow Melo on social media



Item N° 8

# NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

## CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Council Offices, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina. NP13 3BN  
TEL: 01495 292817 e-mail: [clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk)

Mrs T Hughes – Town Clerk/RFO  
Mrs N Horner – Assistant Officer

### Co-option of Members October 2021

Following recent resignations, there are now a total of 8 member vacancies in respect of Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council. The vacancies for co-option have now been advertised in line with all relevant legislation and Members are invited to exercise their vote for each applicant by marking the applicable box.

Please refer to your agenda for the Candidate's application (item 8)

In order to comply with the Council's Standing Orders, please return your ballot paper to the Town Clerk using the stamped address envelope (enclosed). Please ensure that your paper is received by 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Name of applicant	Yes	No
Kevin Rowland		

# NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

## CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Council Offices, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina. NP13 3BN  
TEL: 01495 292817 e-mail: [clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk)

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO  
Mrs N Horner - Assistant Officer

### Co-option Form

**This form must be completed in addition to a covering letter**

Please check your eligibility to become a Town Councillor following this link:  
<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-and-community-council-elections-in-england-and-wales>

Name: Kern Rowland

Please state any previous names by which you have been legally known by previously (i.e. maiden names, change of name by deed poll etc.)

Current address:

Date of birth: 13/08/1980

Employment Status (in education, fulltime, part time, retired, unemployed, carer etc.)

FULL TIME CARER

Address of employer / educational institute: same as current

address

Have you been employed or held a paid office at Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council with the last 12 months? (delete as applicable)

Yes:

No: ☒

Are you the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order? ) delete as applicable)

Yes:

No: ☒

**NANTYGLO & BLAINA**

**- 7 OCT 2021**

**TOWN COUNCIL**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I believe in the saying 'leave a place better than you find it.' I found Blaina 41 years ago, when I was brought up here by my parents who have lived in the area all their lives. My mother was a dinner lady in Garn Fach Infants, and my father was a long-distance lorry driver and also secretary for the TGU for the area. I learned a lot from my parents and have always tried to help people when I am able to.

I've been Chairman of the Gwent Reavers Tabletop Gaming club between 2012-2017, where we play board games, role-playing games and the like. This meant spending time attracting new members, advertising the club, organising events and setting up areas in social media where the group could talk and show off newly-painted miniatures with which to play games with. The club continues to this day and I am still proud to be a member.

I've done some photography and graphic design on a freelance basis for a youth group run by the County Council, and in 2014 I opened my own photography studio in Abertillery, until closing in 2017 due to being burgled. I've been part of two exhibitions at the Oriel Barker Gallery in Pontypool and would see if there is a local art scene to get involved with and help promote.

While I took a few months off to wonder what to do next with my life, my father was diagnosed with cancer in early 2018 and just a few months later my mother diagnosed with dementia. Since then I've been a full-time carer, looking after my father until he passed away in winter of 2019 and still care for my mother today. While not easy, I still feel honoured to be able to give back the time and care to my parents they gave to me growing up.

If I were to become part of the Town Council for Blaina and Nantyglo, you would have someone who wants the best for the local area in which they grew up in. The businesses, events, biodiversity, and the people that visit and call Blaina and Nantyglo home. It is for a seat in the Blaina ward I would like to be considered for.

Yours faithfully,

Kevin Rowland

Have you been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three months or more (or a suspended sentence) without the option of a fine during the last 5 years? (delete as applicable):

Yes:

No: ☒

Have you been disqualified under the Representation of the People Act 1983? (delete as applicable):

Yes:

No: ☒

Have you been disqualified from standing for election to a Local Authority following a decision of the First-tier Tribunal / Adjudication Panel for Wales?

Yes:

No: ☒

By signing below I am declaring that the information included in this form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge:

Signed: .....

Print Name: .....

KEVIN ROWLAND

Date: .....

07/10/2021