

FW: One Voice Wales National Awards Conference Thursday 26th March 2020 /  
Cynhadledd Gwobrau Cenedlaethol Un Llais Cymru Dydd Iau 26ain Mawrth 2020

From: Tracy Gilmartin-Ward <tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales>

Sent: Tue, 17 Dec, 2019 at 15:02

To: Tracy Gilmartin-Ward

Cc: Carol Timson, Wendi Patience

Hem 2a

Application Form 2020 Cym.docx (106.1 KB)

Application Form 2020.docx (106.1 KB)

Nomination Guide 2020 Cym.doc (492 KB)

Nomination Guide 2020.docx (444.8 KB) – **Download all**

Dear Chairperson/Clerk,

## **One Voice Wales Innovative Practice & National Awards Conference 2020**

I am delighted to announce that One Voice Wales will be holding its fourth Innovative Practice & National Awards Conference on **Thursday 26th March 2020** at Hafod a Hendre, Royal Welsh Showground, Llanellwedd, Builth Wells, LD2 3SY.

These awards are an opportunity for your council to showcase the services it provides for its community and an opportunity for councillors, clerks and staff to receive the recognition they deserve.

The entries will be used as an evidence base to inform Welsh Government, Unitary Authorities, the Third Sector and other key partners of the good work local councils are doing in their communities across Wales and how they can possibly support the work of the local council sector in the future.

Attached you will find a brochure listing the award categories and details of how you can nominate your council for these prestigious awards together with an application form.

An independent panel made up from national representative bodies will undertake the judging of the entries. There will be a shortlist of three nominations in each of the ten categories. Each of the shortlisted Councils for each category will be invited to take part in showcasing their Councils initiative.

The three nominated entries in each category will be required to give a 10 minute (maximum) presentation as part of a series of innovative practice sessions, to be held on the day.

The Awards Ceremony will be held in the afternoon of the Conference where the winners and the two runners up will be presented with their awards and certificates. One Voice Wales will also be publishing a post Conference report to be shared with local councils and stakeholder organisations throughout Wales.

**The closing date for entries is Friday 21 February 2020.** A judging panel will be held after this date and the three shortlisted councils for each category will be informed in early March to allow time to prepare for the 10 minute (maximum) presentation in advance of the Conference.

Should you have any queries with regard to the 2020 Awards Scheme please get in touch with Shan Bowden, South Wales Development Officer via email at [sbowden@onevoicewales.wales](mailto:sbowden@onevoicewales.wales)

I do hope that you will enter your council for an award/s and help One Voice Wales to highlight and promote the innovative practices that take place in local communities



throughout Wales.

Yours sincerely  
Cllr Mike Cuddy, Chair, One Voice Wales

\*\*\*\*\*

Annwyl Gadeirydd/Clerc,

## **Cynhadledd Arfer Arloesol & Gwobrau Cenedlaethol Un Llais Cymru 2020**

Rwyf yn falch iawn o gyhoeddi y bydd Un Llais Cymru yn cynnal ein pedwerydd Cynhadledd Arfer Arloesol & Gwobrau Cenedlaethol ar **ddydd Iau, 26ain Mawrth 2020** yn Hafod a Hendre, Maes y Sioe Frenhinol, Llanellwedd, Llanfair ym Mualt, LD2 3SY.

Mae'r gwobrau hyn yn gyfle i'ch cyngor arddangos y gwasanaethau a ddarpara i'w gymuned ac mae'n gyfle i gynghorwyr, clerod a staff dderbyn y gydnabyddiaeth maen hw'n ei haeddu.

Defnyddir y cynigion i greu corff tystiolaeth a gyflwynir i Lywodraeth Cymru, Awdurdodau Unedol, y Trydydd Sector a phartneriaid allweddol eraill i amlygu'r gwaith da a wneir gan gynghorau lleol yn eu cymunedau ledled Cymru a sut allant gefnogi gwaith y sector cynghorau lleol yn y dyfodol.

Fe welwch yn atodedig lyfryn yn rhestru'r categorïau gwobrau a manylion am sut allwch enwebu eich cyngor ar gyfer y gwobrau pwysig hyn ynghyd â ffurflen gais.

Bydd panel annibynnol yn cynnwys cynrychiolwyr o gyrff cynrychioliadol cenedlaethol yn gyfrifol am y gwaith o feirniadu'r cynigion. Fe fydd rhestr fer o dri enwebiad ymhob un o'r deg categori. Gwahoddir pob un o'r cynghorau a roddir ar y rhestr fer ar gyfer pob categori i gymryd rhan mewn arddangos menter eu Cyngorau.

Bydd disgwyl i'r tri chynnig a enwebir ymhob categori roi cyflwyniad 10 munud (uchafswm) fel rhan o gyfres o sesiynau arfer arloesol, a gynhelir yn ystod cyfres o sesiynau gweithdy i'w gynnal ar y dydd.

Cynhelir y Seremoni Wobrwyo ar brynhawn y Gynhadledd pan fydd yr enillwyr a'r ddau ail orau yn derbyn eu gwobrau a'u tystysgrifau. Bydd Un Llais Cymru hefyd yn cyhoeddi adroddiad yn dilyn y Gynhadledd, fydd yn cael ei rannu â chynghorau lleol a mudiadau budd-ddeiliaid ledled Cymru.

**Y dyddiad cau ar gyfer cynigion yw dydd Gwener 21 Chwefror 2020.** Cynhelir panel beirniadu ar ôl y dyddiad hwn a chaiff y tri chynig a roddir ar y rhestr fer ar gyfer pob categori wybod yn ddechrau mis Mawrth er mwyn rhoi amser i baratoi ar gyfer y cyflwyniad 10 munud (uchafswm) cyn y Gynhadledd.

Os oes gennych unrhyw ymholiadau am Gynllun Gwobrau 2020, mae croeso ichi gysylltu â Shan Bowden, Swyddog Datblygu'r De trwy e-bost yn [sbowden@onevoicewales.wales](mailto:sbowden@onevoicewales.wales)

Mawr obeithiaf y byddwch yn enwebu eich cyngor ar gyfer gwobr/au a helpu Un Llais Cymru i amlygu a hyrwyddo'r arferion arloesol sy'n digwydd mewn cymunedau lleol ar hyd a lled Cymru.

**One Voice Wales  
Innovative Practice & National Awards 2020  
Nomination Form**

**Category of Nomination** (see Nomination Guide):

**Name of Council Nominated:**

**Address of Council Nominated:**

**Post Code:**

**Telephone No:**

**Email:**

**Website:**

**Name of Nominator (councillor/clerk/external party):**

**Address:**

**Postcode:**

**Telephone No:**

**E-mail:**

**Website:**

Relationship of the person making the nomination to the Council nominated i.e. clerk/councillor/external party:

**Brief Report** in Support of Nomination **no more than 400 words** (1 side A4) continue on the next page if necessary :-

Please preferably email the completed nomination form, together with any supporting material i.e copy of annual report, report to meet criteria, photographs to [admin@onevoicewales.wales](mailto:admin@onevoicewales.wales) or alternatively post to One Voice Wales, 24c College Street, Ammanford, Carmarthenshire, SA18 3AF **no later than 21 February 2020**

Un Llais Cymru



One Voice Wales

2020

**INNOVATIVE PRACTICE  
& NATIONAL AWARDS CONFERENCE**

NOMINATION GUIDE



## **Contents**

Introduction	2
How to Apply	3
Judging Process	4
Best Annual Report	5
Best Environmental Project	6
Best Website	7
Best Community Engagement Initiative	8
Best Tourism Initiative	9
Best Sustainability Initiative	10
Best Youth Engagement	11
Best Heritage Initiative	12
Best Devolution of Service or Asset Project	13
Local Council Service of the Year	14



## Introduction

One Voice Wales is delighted to be running our **4th Innovative Practice & National Awards Conference in 2020.**

The Awards are an opportunity to showcase Community and Town Councils, the services they provide for their local communities and the commitment and work of community and town councillors, clerks and staff.

This is an opportunity for local councils to receive the recognition they deserve.

The innovative practice recognised will play a key part as an evidence base to Welsh Government, unitary authorities, the third sector and other key partners to highlight the good work local councils are doing in their communities.

The winning entries of the 10 award categories will be announced as part of the **Awards Ceremony** to be held at **Hafod a Hendre Building, Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, LD2 3SY on Thursday 26th March 2020.**

We are pleased that this initiative has become an integral part of the annual calendar of activities of One Voice Wales and that we are able to recognise, reward and celebrate the councils, councillors and staff who work so hard to best represent and deliver for the communities they serve.

**Cllr Mike Cuddy**  
**Chair, One Voice Wales**

## Who Can Nominate

Anyone i.e. a member or officer of a council or external body can nominate a council for one of the awards.

## How to Apply

To apply you must complete the application form attached including the brief report section, using no more than 400 words (one side A4) covering the criteria of the theme.

Please send to: [tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales](mailto:tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales)

**By: Friday 21st February 2020**

Your aim should be to provide the judges with a concise report, referring to source evidence and signposting to any further documentation that can substantiate your application.

Applications should include examples of good practice which represent new or 'ground breaking' ways of designing and delivering public services and/or proven ways of delivering service improvements and efficiencies.

**In submitting your application, you agree to share this information as part of the assessment process.**



## Judging Process

Applications will be judged against the **theme** and the **following governance criteria:**

- contributes to the achievement of national & local priorities
- contributes to democratic governance by elected members and stakeholders and public accountability
- collaborating with internal and external partners
- learning from others and influencing service sector
- evidence of impact, improvement and achievement on equalities
- evidence of impact on citizen and communities
- evidence of efficient and effective resource management (human and financial)
- evidence of sustainability in service and financial planning

Naturally the more evidence of the above you can provide will improve your chances of success.

## Timeline

**Deadline for applications: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020**

**Judging Process:** An independent panel made up of representatives of partner and stakeholder organisations including WLGA, NRW, Participation Cymru and Co-pro Cymru will meet in early March 2020 to judge all applications received. All Councils who are shortlisted will be notified in early March 2020.

**Award Ceremony:** This will take place on 26th March 2020 at the Hafod y Hendre Building at the Royal Welsh Showground – all shortlisted applications under each theme will be expected to showcase their Councils work in the Innovative Practice sessions held during the day.

## Best Annual Report

This award will recognise a council that has produced an informative annual report for its residents and the wider community outlining its work, achievements and aspirations.

### Who can nominate?

Anyone i.e. a member or officer of a council or external body can nominate a council.

### Criteria

You will be asked to provide a copy of the Annual Report and explain:-

- Why it is innovative/outstanding
- How it has been publicised and distributed
- What benefit does it bring to the council, its community and the wider general public
- **Please Note:** Additionally, applications will be judged against the Judging Process **governance criteria set out on page 4 above.**

### How to apply?

To apply you must complete the application form attached including the brief report section, using no more than 400 words (one side A4), covering the criteria and remembering to include a copy of the Annual Report.

Please send to: [tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales](mailto:tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales)

**Deadline for applications Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020**

### Prize

The OVW Best Annual Report Award 2020 will be presented to representatives of the winning council at the Awards Ceremony. Runners up will receive a framed certificate.

## Best Environmental Project

This award is to highlight an environmental project undertaken by the council that demonstrates how the project benefits the local community.

### Who can nominate?

Anyone i.e. a member or officer of a council or external body can nominate a council.

### Criteria

You will be asked to provide:-

- Background details on why and how the project was implemented
- Details and evidence illustrating how it benefits the local environment
- **Please Note:** Additionally, applications will be judged against the Judging Process **governance criteria set out on page 4 above.**

### How to apply?

To apply you must complete the application form attached including the brief report section, using no more than 400 words (one side A4), covering the criteria. Photographs highlighting the project would also be beneficial (**no more than 6**)

Please send to: [tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales](mailto:tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales)

**Deadline for applications Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020**

### Prize

The OVW Best Environmental Project Award 2020 will be presented to representatives of the winning council at the Awards Ceremony. Runners up will receive a framed certificate.

## Best Website

This award is to acknowledge the development of an outstanding website that provides information and signposting to the work of the council and local services.

### Who can nominate?

Anyone i.e. a member or officer of a council or external body can nominate a council.

### Criteria

You will be asked to provide:-

- The website address and also to describe why the website is innovative.
- Provide evidence supporting its benefit to the community or the wider public
- **Please Note:** Additionally, applications will be judged against the Judging Process **governance criteria set out on page 4 above.**

### How to apply

- To apply you must complete the application form attached including the brief report section, using no more than 400 words (one side A4), covering the criteria. Remember to highlight the address of the nominated website.

Please send to: [tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales](mailto:tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales)

**Deadline for applications Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020**

### Prize

The OVW Best Website Award 2020 will be presented to representatives of the winning council at the Awards Ceremony. Runners up will receive a framed certificate.

## Best Community Engagement Initiative

Local councils are at the grassroots of local democracy and this award is to celebrate and recognise an example of a highly successful community engagement initiative.

### Who can nominate?

Anyone i.e. a member or officer of a council or external body can nominate a council.

### Criteria

You will be asked to:-

- Outline the background to the initiative.
- Describe the methods used to engage with the community
- Provide details on how the community responded
- Provide evidence supporting the success of the engagement initiative.
- **Please Note:** Additionally, applications will be judged against the Judging Process **governance criteria set out on page 4 above.**

### How to apply

To apply you must complete the application form attached including the brief report section using no more than 400 words (one side A4), covering the criteria.

Please send to: [tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales](mailto:tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales)

**Deadline for applications Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020**

### Prize

The OVW Best Community Engagement Initiative Award 2020 will be presented to representatives of the winning council at the Awards Ceremony. Runners up will receive a framed certificate.

## Best Tourism Initiative

This award is to acknowledge and highlight an example of a successful tourism initiative that has been introduced by the council that actively supports the local tourism economy

### Who can nominate?

Anyone i.e. a member or officer of a council or external body can nominate a council.

### Criteria

You will be required to:-

- Describe why there was considered to be a need for the initiative and the council's involvement
- Explain and provide proof that it is of benefit to the local tourism economy
- **Please Note:** Additionally, applications will be judged against the Judging Process **governance criteria set out on page 4 above.**

### How to apply?

To apply you must complete the application form attached including the brief report section, using no more than 400 words (one side A4), covering the criteria. Photographs highlighting the initiative would also be beneficial (**no more than 6**).

Please send to: [tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales](mailto:tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales)

**Deadline for applications Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020**

### Prize

The OVW Best Tourism Initiative Award 2020 will be presented to representatives of the winning council at the Awards Ceremony. Runners up will receive a framed certificate.

## Best Sustainability Initiative

This award is to recognise a sustainable initiative introduced by the council that demonstrates how the initiative benefits the local community and support of the goals of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

### Who can nominate?

Anyone i.e. a member or officer of a council or external body can nominate a council.

### Criteria

You are asked to:-

- Give the background and details of the initiative
- Describe how it benefits the community and supports the goals of the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- **Please Note:** Additionally, applications will be judged against the Judging Process **governance criteria set out on page 4 above.**

### How to apply?

To apply you must complete the application form attached including the brief report section using no more than 400 words (one side A4), covering the criteria. Photographs highlighting the project would also be beneficial (**no more than 6**).

Please send to: [tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales](mailto:tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales)

**Deadline for applications Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020**

### Prize

The OVW Best Sustainability Initiative Award 2020 will be presented to representatives of the winning council at the Awards Ceremony. Runners up will receive a framed certificate.

## Best Youth Engagement

The award is to highlight the work of a council that has developed and maintained successful engagement with the young people in its community.

### Who can nominate?

Anyone i.e. a member or officer of a council or external body can nominate a council.

### Criteria

You are asked to describe:-

- How the council established, maintained and managed effective engagement with local young people
- How the engagement process benefits the council, the young people and the community
- **Please Note:** Additionally, applications will be judged against the Judging Process **governance criteria set out on page 4 above.**

### How to apply?

To apply you must complete the application form attached including the brief report section, using no more than 400 words (one side A4), covering the criteria. Photographs (if appropriate) highlighting the engagement with young people would be beneficial (**no more than 6**).

Please send to: [tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales](mailto:tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales)

**Deadline for applications Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020**

### Prize

The OVW Best Youth Engagement Award 2020 will be presented to representatives of the winning council at the Awards Ceremony. Runners up will receive a framed certificate.



## Best Heritage Initiative

The award is to highlight the work of a council that has undertaken a heritage related project within its community.

### Who can nominate?

Anyone i.e. a member or officer of a council or external body can nominate a council.

### Criteria

You are asked to describe:-

- Background details on why and how the project was implemented
- Details and evidence illustrating how it benefits the local environment
- **Please Note:** Additionally, applications will be judged against the Judging Process **governance criteria set out on page 4 above.**

### How to apply?

To apply you must complete the application form attached including the brief report section, using no more than 400 words (one side A4), covering the criteria. Photographs highlighting the Heritage project would be beneficial (**no more than 6**).

Please send to: [tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales](mailto:tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales)

**Deadline for applications Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020**

### Prize

The OVW Best Heritage Initiative Award 2020 will be presented to representatives of the winning council at the Awards Ceremony. Runners up will receive a framed certificate.

## Best Devolution of Service or Asset Project

The award is to highlight the work of a council that has undertaken devolution of a service or an asset within their community to sustain the provision of a much valued service or asset.

### Who can nominate?

Anyone i.e. a member or officer of a council or external body can nominate a council.

### Criteria

You are asked to describe:-

- Background details on why and how the project was implemented.
- Details and evidence illustrating how it benefits the local community.
- **Please Note:** Additionally, applications will be judged against the Judging Process **governance criteria set out on page 4 above.**

### How to apply?

To apply you must complete the application form attached including the brief report section, using no more than 400 words (one side A4), covering the criteria. Photographs highlighting the service or asset devolved would be beneficial (**no more than 6**).

Please send to: [tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales](mailto:tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales)

**Deadline for applications Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020**

### Prize

The OVW Best Devolution of Service or Asset Project Award 2020 will be presented to representatives of the winning council at the Awards Ceremony. Runners up will receive a framed certificate.

## Best Local Council Service of the Year Award

This award aims to reward and publicise the council that has provided an exemplar/innovative local service for the benefit of its local community.

### Who can nominate?

Anyone i.e. a member or officer of a council or external body can nominate a council.

### Criteria

You are asked to describe:-

- The improved or innovative service provided by the council
- Explain how it was improved or why it was introduced and the benefit to the council, service users and the community
- **Please Note:** Additionally, applications will be judged against the Judging Process **governance criteria set out on page 4 above.**

### How to apply?

To apply you must complete the application form attached including the brief report section using no more than 400 words (one side A4), covering the criteria. Photographs highlighting the service would also be beneficial **(no more than 6).**

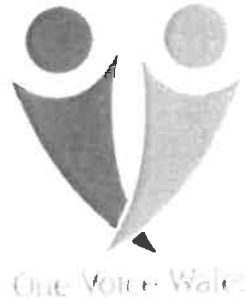
Please send to: [tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales](mailto:tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales)

**Deadline for applications Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020**

### Prize

The OVW Local Council Service of the Year Award 2020 will be presented to representatives of the winning council at the Awards Ceremony. Runners up will receive a framed certificate.

Un Llais Cymru



## 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

Telephone: 01269 595400

Fax: 01269 598510

Email: [tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales](mailto:tgilmartinward@onevoicewales.wales)

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

Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council

# Patients Voice News Bulletin

## Winter Project 2020

Following the success of the winter project last year the CHC will be running the winter project again from January to March 2020.

The objective of the Winter Project is to obtain meaningful feedback from patients during the 'winter pressure' months and allow the Health Board to respond proactively to any issues that may arise.

Feedback will be obtained using a survey, which will focus on the following areas:

- Waiting times
- Comfort levels
- Communication

The patient experience feedback will be submitted to the Health Board on a weekly basis. A comprehensive report will then be submitted to the Health Board after the completion of the project.

## Orthodontics Project

CHCs across Wales launched an Orthodontics Project in October 2019. This project will target young people currently awaiting orthodontic treatment. Surveys will be sent to all schools and Orthodontic clinics who are willing to take part in the survey to establish the patients' feedback on the service. The final report will be forwarded to Welsh Government with the aim of having the young person's voice heard.

Surveys are available upon request.

## Zimmer Frames Project

The CHC is currently conducting a survey on the trial of the newly introduced colourful walking frames. Surveys have been sent to all Nursing Homes and Hospital Wards who are taking part in the trial.

## CHC Awareness

Members of the CHC have recently carried out three awareness events at local 50+ forums i.e.

- 6 August – Blaenavon
- 11 September – Pontypool
- 22 October – Cwmbran

A presentation was delivered to each group to raise awareness of the role of the CHC and the activities that are undertaken.

## Visits

Members of the CHC have recently conducted 11 Visits to the following Hospitals, between July and November 2019:

Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr x 1  
Royal Gwent Hospital x 4  
Nevill Hall Hospital x 5  
County Hospital x 1

A copy of each report is available on request.

## Advocacy

From July 2019 to date, our Advocacy Service has received 60 new concerns. This takes our current caseload to 141. Below are the top 5 areas of health care featuring in concerns:

- Primary Care – General Practice
- Cancer Services
- Trauma and Orthopaedics
- Adult Mental Health Services
- Gastroenterology

## Membership

We have recently recruited:

- 3 Co-opted Members:

Mr Byron Grubb, Mr Brian Potts and Mrs Susan Gaylard

- 3 Local Authority Members:

Cllr Graham Berry, Cllr David Fouweather and Cllr Huw Bevan

Should you wish to become a member please call 01633 838516 for information.

## Farewell

Sadly, all at the Aneurin Bevan CHC said a fond farewell to Mrs Andrea Gage, Complaints Advocate, in October 2019. We would like to thank Andrea for all her hard work and wish her well in the future.

## New Staff

The Aneurin Bevan CHC welcomed 2 new members of staff to the Team:

- Mr Luke Absolam joined our Administration Team in July 2019
- Mrs Sarah Benson joined our Advocacy Team in October 2019.

Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council  
6-8 William Brown Close  
Raglan House  
Llantarnam Business Park  
Cwmbran  
NP44 3AB

Phone: 01633 838516

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

### **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.

[www.patienthelp.wales.nhs.uk/aneurinbevan](http://www.patienthelp.wales.nhs.uk/aneurinbevan)

RECEIPT

No. 1

DATE 16<sup>TH</sup> DEC

RECEIVED FROM NANTYGLU & BHAINA TOWN COUNCIL  
TO BHAINA BOWLS & NANTYGLU FOOTBALL  
CLUB FOR CAMERAS AT THE DUFFAN  
PARK AND THE CHIEF

THE SUM OF  
FOR £ 100-00

CHEQUE

CASH

DISCOUNT

£ 100	00

Rolin Watt  
V/CHAIR OF  
BHAINA BOWLS  
WITH THANKS





## Connecting Communities in Wales Newsletter

### Issue No. 3 | December 2019

#### Welcome to the December 2019 issue of the Connecting Communities in Wales Newsletter

Welcome to the third issue of the Connecting Communities in Wales (CCW) newsletter. As the year draws to a close, we are coming to the end of a very busy Phase 2 of the project which was primarily focussed on:

- Raising Awareness of CCW.
- Establishing a network of Transport Innovation Networks (TINs) across Wales.
- Developing robust project reporting and evaluation criteria.
- Facilitating Funding Applications from CTOs to appropriate Funding Streams, including Cooperation & Supply Chain Development Scheme (CSCDS).
- Moving to our new office in Neath.

On behalf of everyone at the Connecting Communities in Wales Team and the Community Transport Association, we'd like to wish all our partners a Merry Christmas and safe and prosperous 2020.



## Updates from the team

### Alison Owen, Project Manager

[alision@ctauk.org](mailto:alision@ctauk.org)



"I would like to start by praising the Connecting Communities in Wales Team for the commitment and dedication they have shown, developing ideas, building partnerships and assisting with funding applications. Well done and a huge thank you for all your hard work and effort!

I also want to summarise some of the wonderful achievements, helping community transport providers to build capacity and further develop valuable services in Communities across Wales. Michelle and David supported Organisations to submit 24 Bids during 2018, 13 were successful to the value

of almost £ 514,000.

We have done even better in 2019, with 29 bids having been submitted to date, 5 have been successful worth over £ 191,000 and we are still awaiting the outcomes of a further 17. In addition to this there are 20 bids at various stages, which are due to be submitted in the next couple of months. I am pleased to say the money has funded Core Activities, Employing Development Officers, Purchasing Vehicles, providing rurally isolated Individuals with access to services including healthcare and access to work.

In addition to the above, we have also supported organisations through our Driver Training Programme. Please speak to our Project Support Executive John Evans regarding this, we would love to support staff and volunteers to obtain their MiDAS qualification.

In September we facilitated a Training Pilot, engaging with the Alzheimer's Society who delivered a "Dementia Awareness Training for Staff working in Transport Services", this was a One Day "Train the Trainer" Cascade, supporting Members who are now able to Train their Staff and Volunteers.

Our plan is to facilitate further Training Days across Wales, please contact John to register your interest. The D1 Trainer Programme is in the early stages, we hope to have our First "D1 Trainers" in the New Year.

**In other news, the CTA team in Wales, alongside some Welsh community transport providers, were nominated for a number of awards at the Wales Transport Awards in November!** The Awards evening was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the importance of accessible and inclusive transport provision across Wales.

It was a fantastic achievement both for the team and a number of our members to be shortlisted for three separate awards

- **Driver of the Year** Eve Carter – Ffrindau Cerrig Friends
- **Services to the Transport Industry** CTA | Accessible Caring Transport (ACT)
- **Women in Transport** Christine Boston, Director for Wales and UK lead for research and policy campaigns, CTA.

We were pleased that Glyn and Eve from Cerrig Friends could join us at the awards, as well as Ellen and Pauline from ACT. We would also like to say a huge thanks to Anneessa Mahmood, CTA's new Director of Member Services, for travelling to Cardiff for the Awards - it was a great opportunity for us all to get together and engage with some lovely members!"



## David Brooks, Project Co-ordinator South Wales

[david@ctauk.org](mailto:david@ctauk.org)



"Having worked for CTA for a number of years my focus has been promoting the project to CTOs in my area, encouraging partnerships with other organisations whose clients depend on Community Transport. This has resulted in a number of projects being developed and funding applied for including:

- Working in partnership with the Connecting Communities in Wales team, **Dolen Teifi community transport** has successfully secured £80,000 over two years from the Brechfa Community Windfarm fund. The funding will enable Dolen Teifi to establish an electric community car scheme for individuals, families and small groups who need to get to essential services and opportunities, in and around, the Brechfa area (Carmarthenshire). The volunteer run scheme will provide bespoke journeys to destinations including local hospitals, GP surgeries, as well as, social appointments, using a local pool of volunteer drivers. Funding will provide an electric MPV and staff costs and it is anticipated that the project will get underway in Autumn 2019.
- Working in partnership with **Welsh Government, Department for Work and Pensions (Communities 4 Work team) and Village and Valleys Community Transport**, the Connecting Communities in Wales team have established a new transport to work pilot based in the Rhondda Fach. In May 2019 the Valleys to Work, one-year pilot, started to deliver a daily minibus service specifically designed to help job seekers to travel outside their usual locality to access employment opportunities. This bespoke service will also operate at times much more suited to shift working

patterns which some employers require, and which would otherwise be unachievable based on timetables delivered by existing public bus operators in the area. As a result of this work, the DWP are exploring replicating the pilot in other areas of Wales and the UK.

- Working in partnership with **Hay Dial a Ride**, the Connecting Communities team have supported Hay to apply for funding to deliver the 'Bank Bus' service. The unique scheme, which received funding through the Big Lottery 'Awards for All' programme, will support people to travel from Hay to Brecon in order to access over the counter banking facilities and other services which are no longer available in their local community.

The funding means that the service is free for passengers, and as well as accessing banking and other essential services, Hay Dial a Ride members can also enjoy each other's company, helping to reduce loneliness, isolation and build friendships. The team has also recently supported Hay Dial a Ride to submit an application for core costs to the Garfield Weston Foundation and are awaiting a funding decision.

The Connecting Communities team has recently supported **Ystradowen Community Centre** to submit a funding application to the Big Lottery Community Fund to help extend the existing luncheon club and associated community transport.

If successful, the funding will enable Ystradowen to provide greater accessible transport opportunities for people living in surrounding local communities – enabling them to better access the luncheon club and other activities that take place at the Ystradowen Centre.

The team has also supported **Neath Port Talbot Community Transport** to submit a funding bid to the Big Lottery Awards for All fund to enable the extended delivery of the 'Neath Town Rider' service to enable people living in the communities of Birchgrove, Glais and Lon las continue to access transport to get to Neath town Centre following the withdrawal of a local public bus service route.

If successful, this intervention will plug a vital gap in the transport network and ensure people can still access essential services and social opportunities.

Project development work including partnership building and bid writing is also taking place in Ystradgynlais, the Upper Amman Valley and in the Rhondda Valleys and we expect to see exciting projects being developed in these areas over the next few months!"



## Michelle Clarke, Project Co-ordinator North Wales

[michelle@ctauk.org](mailto:michelle@ctauk.org)



Working in North Wales, transport is a key topic of conversation wherever I go, and it is heartening to see the fantastic work community transport schemes do every day. There are obvious gaps in provision, however, and many rural communities need accessible and affordable community transport to help residents access employment opportunities, leisure and wellbeing activities, attend medical appointments, and do the weekly supermarket shop.

So my role involves working with groups and organisations to develop new services. Some highlights of the past months have been:

- Meeting the new Co-ordinator for **the Rural Conwy Community Car Scheme** managed by **Community and Voluntary Services Conwy**. We secured £150,000 funding for this new post and wheelchair accessible community car through the Lottery and Steven Morgan Foundation. The car will help people attend health appointments and wellbeing activities.
- Participating in a **Sustainable Transport** event with **AVOW and Renew Wales** at the Plas Madoc Splash Centre in **Wrexham** to discuss transport as residents reported difficulties getting to local sites of employment or to attend activities due to lack of private car ownership and limitations of public transport. The event is being followed by a meeting to agree priorities and develop an action plan.
- Having chaired meetings of an **Abergynolwyn and Tywyn Community Transport Partnership** over a period of months, with enthusiastic participation by community groups and stakeholders, it is great news that local group Egni Abergynolwyn will host an electric community car for 12 months. This pilot provides an opportunity to gather evidence of need for future funding applications.
- Assisting **Harlech Community Council** find funding to run a **Harlech Hoppa service** linking the lower and upper parts of the town for a time-limited period over summer. The area has some of the steepest streets in Wales and while the health centre is in the lower part of the town, the pharmacy is in the upper part, as are other services and facilities, such as the leisure centre. A small grant of £8,200 was secured and options are now being considered for the longer-term development of the scheme.
- Working alongside **Partneriaeth Ogwen in Bethesda** and **Friends of the Earth** to develop ideas and an Expression of Interest for a large Rural Lottery funding application, based around a 'Dyffryn Gwyrdd' / 'Green Valley' project that has electric community transport as a key element of the proposed project. Partneriaeth Ogwen has established a proactive Partnership Group which will work together to identify other sources of funding and develop additional, complementary, areas of work.

- Working with **O Ddrws i Ddrws in Nefyn** to consider funding applications to assist with both core and project costs. A small grant application was made initially, and O Ddrws i Ddrws contacted us to say: 'We had a letter from Garfield Weston Foundation this morning –our application for funding was successful! We received a cheque for £10,000 – no more forms to fill. The follow up monitoring is basically an end of year report to say how the money was spent. Thanks again.'

Please do contact me if you would like to discuss community transport in your area. I can be contacted by phone on 01745 556751 (office) 07918 748260 (mobile), or by email [michelle@ctauk.org](mailto:michelle@ctauk.org)."

## **John Evans, Project Support Executive**

[john@ctauk.org](mailto:john@ctauk.org)



"I have been busy developing and implementing processes and systems to help the team accurately record their myriad of interactions with partner organisations and ensure that all KPIs are captured with robust supporting evidence. We also ran another round of Transport Innovation Networks – see below. My focus during the year has been helping identify training and development needs of our community transport providers to facilitate a successful Phase 2 of the Project.

Alison has already outlined some of the support we have been able to provide for MiDAS and driver support. In addition, we have also worked in partnership with Social Business Wales to provide mentoring support to a number of CTOs to help structure future development in three key areas: management, governance, and social accounting.

A Governance Questionnaire is available that is used to identify where the community transport providers are in terms of these key areas and what support is required to address areas of development. Please speak to me if you would like to access this support."

## Transport Innovation Networks

We have now run three rounds of Transport Innovation Networks (TINs) across Wales. The events brought together nearly 300 representatives from the public, private and third sectors to discuss transport gaps and opportunities for new initiatives that will ensure better connectivity for those who are isolated across Wales. The events were a huge success with 93% of attendees saying they thought the sessions were 'good' or 'excellent'.

The information gathered from the earlier rounds helped shape the agenda for the third round where:

- Dolen Teifi gave an overview of how the Connecting Communities in Wales Project has enabled his organisation to secure funding, train drivers and work with Social Business Wales to help Trustees structure Dolen Teifi and develop a Succession Planning Strategy.
- Dr. Kate Hamilton, Programme Director for Renew Wales illustrated how community transport providers are embracing the Green agenda and the positive partnerships and projects being developed.
- Mike Entwisle from PAVO explained D1 & MiDAS training and how community transport providers could apply for funding from CCIW Project. To date 45 individuals have committed to undertake D1 training in Wales and 197 have committed to MIDAS.

For 2020 we intend to refresh the structure of the TINs and would welcome any suggestions!

## New South Wales Office Opening

In July, we opened our new South Wales office in Neath! The office, based at **119 London Road, Neath, SA11 1LF**, has more space, including a meeting room for partners to use, and is close to public transport links with Neath Railway Station only 10 minutes' walk away.



To celebrate the new office, we welcomed over 30 partners to Neath for our official opening! It was great to see so many members and partners gather for some lunch and great conversations. Thanks to everyone from the Wales team involved in organising the event and for making it so welcoming.

**To share your stories and contribute to future editions of this newsletter, please contact:**

John Evans, Project Support Executive on [johne@ctauk.org](mailto:johne@ctauk.org) | 01792 844 290

Connecting Communities in Wales Newsletter | [ctauk.org](http://ctauk.org) | @CTAUK1 | 01745 356751



# E-NEWSLETTER Winter 2019

1



## RET Update

Another year has come full circle and it's time to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Thank you again for your continued support. We recognise that partnership working takes effort and appreciate your commitment and willingness to collaborate across the region.



The first of our films launched at the WEFO Annual Event in November, highlighting the role of the team within the Cardiff Capital

Region. You can view and find out if you made the final cut [here](#) 😊. We've already started to develop our second film that will highlight the SME competitiveness priority, and this should be ready late spring.

Going forward we'll see a drive to ensure the region realises the full benefit from the current programmes. We also feel confident that the partnerships and networks we've built, will place us in a very good position to plan for the future, whatever the funding landscape might look like.

We look forward to working with you again in 2020

*Lisa, Amy, Natalie, Nicola and Jan*

## In this edition

[RET update](#) - Page 1

[Regional investment in Wales after Brexit](#) - Page 2

[CCR Skills Board](#) - Page 2

[Valleys Taskforce](#) - Page 3

[Working Wales](#) - Page 4

[WEFO annual event](#) - Page 5

[Learning & Work conference](#) - Page 6

[Business support network](#) - Page 7

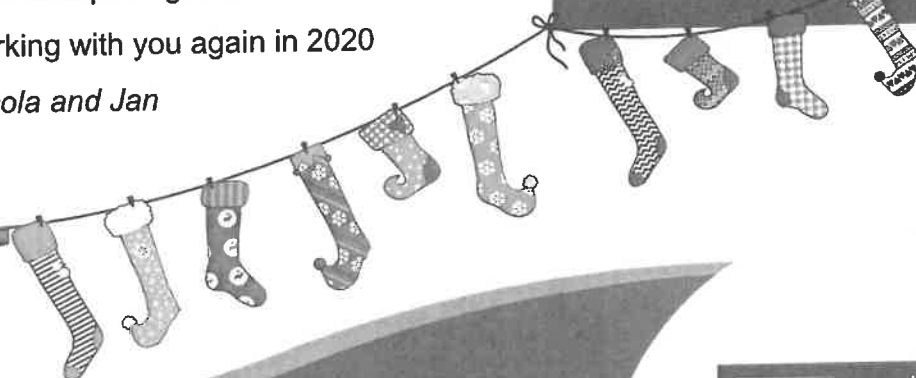
[Development Bank of Wales](#) - Page 7

[Social Business Wales](#) - Pages 8-9

[Big Ideas Wales](#) - Page 9

[Business Wales](#) - Page 10

[Social Business Growth Fund](#) - Page 11



01656 815327 | [SEWalesRET@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:SEWalesRET@bridgend.gov.uk)  
[www.sewales-ret.co.uk](http://www.sewales-ret.co.uk) | [@SEWalesRET](https://twitter.com/SEWalesRET)





## Regional investment in Wales after Brexit

Further to the joint [Ministerial statement](#) issued in July by the Counsel General and Brexit Minister and Economy and Transport Minister the Welsh Government is continuing to work with partners to develop a future investment framework for Wales.

The Regional Investment for Wales Steering Group, chaired by Huw Irranca-Davies AM, continues to meet to draw on knowledge and experience from business, local authorities, academic institutions, the third sector and wider public sectors across Wales. The Group has met several times this year and will next meet on 17 December. Membership, papers and minutes from these meetings can be found [here](#).

In addition to the Steering Group, four sub groups, established during the summer, have been meeting monthly to help take forward the detailed work required in specific areas, including the drafting of the consultation

document for launch early next year.



Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport, Lee Waters AM, with OECD officials at a stakeholder seminar in Cardiff

A two-year project with the OECD has also been underway since January to help ensure international best practice and effective regional governance are built into our future plans. The OECD visited Wales in June to gather feedback from Government and stakeholders and visited Wales again 25-29 November to inform their work and broaden engagement. This included an OECD seminar which brought together the Welsh Government, non-government stakeholders and international peers and practitioners to exchange information and expertise. Work will continue throughout 2020.

## CCR Skills Board

The Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) Skills Partnership brings together a wide range of stakeholders, including businesses; industry bodies; higher and further education institutions; training providers; schools; local authorities and the Welsh Government.

The latest version of the Regional Skills Plan (RSP) was launched on 24<sup>th</sup> October at Malpas Court Mansion House in Newport. The event featured a message from Ken Skates AM, Minister for Economy and Transport, a launch of the [Skills Partnership website](#) and Skills Observatory, case studies, and an introduction to the plan from both Cllr Debbie Wilcox, Leader, Newport City Council (as was) and Leigh Hughes, CSR Director, Bouygues Construction UK and Chair, CCR Employment & Skills Board who said of the 4<sup>th</sup> published Regional RSP:

*"The development of the Employment and Skills Plan has been led by the CCRSP and has involved a collaboration with business, education, training providers and Welsh Government, it is informed by Prosperity for All, the Employability Delivery Plan, Apprenticeships Skills Policy Plan, Economic Action Plan and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.*

*The Recommendations contained within the plan will help to shape and influence Welsh Government's approach to funding post-16 learning and details how the actions it will take working with partners over the next three years will support the [CCR Industrial and Economic Plan](#) objectives to accelerate economic and inclusive growth in the region."*

The full plan can be found [here](#).

## Valleys Taskforce

The Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport has made a number of important announcements from the Valleys Taskforce since September.

The Ministerial Taskforce, left to right: Standing – James Davies, Lee Waters AM, Wendy Walters, Dawn Bowden AM. Seated: Cllr Andrew Morgan, Nicola Somerville, Josh Miles, Ruth Treharne. Absent from the photo is Kellie Beirne.



He recently launched the delivery of phase one of the Empty Homes Grant Scheme. £10 million has been set aside over two years, offering grants to eligible applicants who wish to bring an empty property back in to use. Rhondda Cynon Taf are leading this scheme across the Valleys Taskforce boundary and working with all of the Taskforce Local Authorities to ensure people from all areas within the boundary are able to apply. The funding will be available to those applicants who meet the empty homes criteria, further information and updates on the Local Authorities signed up to the scheme can be found [here](#).

Since September Taskforce subgroups have been meeting to discuss the seven key priorities for the Valleys Taskforce. An updated [delivery plan](#) was published on 28<sup>th</sup> November, the plan includes details about the sub-groups and their renewed actions for the remainder of the Taskforce. Further details on these actions will be incorporated into the plan before March 2020. In October the new members of the Taskforce met for the first time to discuss the priority themes.

The Taskforce worked in partnership with Transport for Wales throughout the autumn to deliver a series of community events across the valleys which offered the chance for communities to talk about transport infrastructure in their local area. The events were chaired by local Assembly Members and were well attended by local communities. The key issues raised during the events have been analysed and discussed by the Transport sub-group. The group are now in the process of agreeing a series of actions which will build on existing transport pilots and key infrastructure developments, such as the South Wales Metro, to improve public transport options across the valleys region.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> November the Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport made an oral statement in Plenary where he outlined his vision for the Foundational Economy in Wales, the transcript can be found [here](#). 27 Valleys based projects out of 50 experimental projects across Wales were announced in October to trial different approaches to local economic development. The pilots have been boosted through the £4.5m [Foundational economy challenge fund](#) which has been part funded through the Valleys Taskforce.

The Valleys Taskforce have also been working with Business Wales to meet local AM's and develop plans for business surgeries across the Valleys throughout 2020. The business surgeries will provide local support and advice to existing business and be specifically tailored to the local communities

If you would like to know more about the work of the Taskforce, including the delivery plan, please follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) @TalkValleys / #OurValleys or visit our [website](#).

## Working Wales

As of the 1st November the Working Wales service has been operating for six months.

Launched on 1 May, the service has already proved to make a real difference to people's lives. In just a short amount of time, we have been able to help over 20,000 customers.

Careers Wales has seen a marked increase in the amount of people making contact via their telephone helpline, live chat and e-mail services. The Careers Wales career centres have seen an upturn in the amount of customers requesting face to face meetings. The efforts to deliver services to people in their local communities have been facilitated through the support of partners, meaning we have increased our outreach presence in Jobcentres, Hwbs and other locations.

Events and outreach activity are an important part of the offer. This type of activity is one of the key ways to engage with stakeholders and partners and to speak directly with customers. Staff members who help to deliver the Working Wales service have attended over 80 events since 1st May. We have also presented at a number of stakeholder conferences and meetings, including the recent Communities for Work/+ conferences, where we were grateful to be provided with an opportunity to deliver an overview of the Working Wales service, enhance existing local relationships and explore how we can replicate the good working practices that are taking place across Wales.

Since July, following a guidance interview, each customer has been asked to complete a

customer survey, the findings of which have been very positive. Of those surveyed over 90% either agreed or strongly agreed that:

1. they were satisfied with the service they received
2. that they would recommend the Working Wales service to others in a similar position to them.



Left: Tony Daly - Merthyr and RCT Team Manager  
Right: Alun Lloyd - Careers Adviser

The picture was taken at the opening of the new Calon Las Community Hub, in the Gurnos, Merthyr Tydfil. Working Wales were pleased to be involved in the re-development of this important community venue (led by the local authority) and have sponsored an 'interview pod', which will be used by partners and ourselves to deliver services to the local community. We will deliver Working Wales services from the venue every Thursday.

In summary, it has been a busy and productive 6 months and we look forward to developing our support offer to customers and partners.



## WEFO Annual Event

The ESI 2014 – 2020 Annual Information Event 2019 was held on the 28th November at the Marriot Hotel Cardiff.

The event was opened by Peter Ryland, Chief Executive of WEFO who gave an overview of the progress and developments of 2014- 2020 programmes, highlighting some key successes including the high level of funding committed already, and focusing on the importance of partnership and co-operation now and in any future programmes.



*Jeremey Miles AM, Counsel General & Brexit Minister*

The key note speaker for the event was Jeremey Miles AM, Counsel General and Brexit Minister. He was keen to celebrate the results of the European funding invested in Wales and drew attention to Wales bucking the economic trends as a result of the money. Since 2007 EU funded programmes in Wales have created 50,000 new jobs, 13,500 new businesses and, supported 26,500 businesses. He also

outlined the four priorities of the Welsh Government for any future regional investment funds as:

- Reducing income inequalities for people, analysing the factors that create income inequality and reduce disposable and discretionary income.
- More productive and competitive businesses, including the vital role of innovation and research as well as alternative business models.
- Transition to a zero-Carbon economy, taking advantage of the opportunities this creates as well as reducing negative effects,
- Healthier and more sustainable communities, recognising different challenges in different communities and the role of local areas in identifying priorities in their places.

The work of the Regional Engagement Teams was featured and the audience were treated to the premier of the new SE RET film highlighting our role in the region. Delegates also heard from the OECD, who provided an update on their project to produce a report into best practice in regional funding management; and Rachel Garside Jones, the new Deputy Director of Regional Policy and Investment at the Welsh Government.

The event finished with a lively panel discussion and Q&A session chaired by Huw Irranca-Davies AM, chair of the All Wales Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC).



*Huw Irranca-Davies AM chairing the Q&A panel.*



## Learning and Work Conference

We were delighted to be asked to facilitate a workshop at the Employability and Skills Wales Convention held by the Learning and Work Institute (LWI). The event was held in City Hall, Cardiff, with a fantastic range of presentations and workshops.



Lee Waters AM, Deputy Minister for Economy & Transport

The inspirational keynote speech from Lee Waters AM, Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport, highlighted the need to ensure we have the right skills in place to adjust to the changing economy and the importance of the regional skills partnerships in meeting this challenge. He stressed that civil society needs to become bolder and less adverse to criticism in order to be innovative, grow the foundational economy and build success. Experimentation and scaling up successful pilots will be encouraged. Local procurement needs to focus on social value and not just best value. The drive to grow the number of apprenticeships will continue to be a key priority.

Other key messages from the day included how skills shortages are costing organisations £155m a year and the need to

work creatively with businesses to develop flexible learning opportunities to meet this gap and help address in- work poverty. Interregional collaboration and long – term planning and investments is key to building resilient regions. Improving basic skills has made a positive impact on productivity and social justice but further work is needed to improve the parity of esteem between vocational and academic education.



Huw Wilkinson and Tanya Hillman from Inspire to Work and Inspire to Achieve.

Thank you to Huw Wilkinson and Tanya Hillman who presented the regional and local perspectives on the Inspire to Achieve and Inspire to Work projects during our workshop on Supporting Young People in Employment: How Local Authorities are Using ESF in Wales.

Another thought-provoking and engaging event held by LWI – we look forward to the next one!

## ERDF P2 Business Support

The ERDF P2 SME Competitiveness network are continuing to meet on a quartile basis. The network consists of ERDF P2 funded projects, Local Authority Economic Development team members, WEFO, Welsh Government and Cardiff Capital Region representatives meet to discuss key priorities and challenges for the region and provide groups members with key up-to-date relevant information. At the last meeting kindly hosted by Blaenau Gwent Council and chaired by Muhammad

Forouzan, the group received updates from the Cardiff Capital City Deal and Business Wales Tender Advice team. The network also discussed the lack of industrial space in the region and how local authorities can work together to tackle the issue. Effective communication by regional stakeholders about the availability of sites will be key.

The next meeting of the group will take place at Cardiff Castle in January.

The following articles showcase the work of many of the operations funded under ERDF P2.

## Development Bank of Wales

The Development Bank of Wales is part of the ERDF Priority 2 funded Business Wales suite of interventions. They provide flexible business finance for companies based in Wales from £1,000 up to £5 million. To date across South East Wales, through the Wales Business Fund, the Development Bank have: Provided £40m of direct investment  
Leveraged £83m contribution from the private sector

Invested in 105 business

Created 471 jobs

Safeguarded a further 805 jobs.

### Case Study - ie ie Productions, Cardiff

Loan from the Wales Business Fund through the Development Bank of Wales.

Launched in 2016 and managed by the Development Bank of Wales, the Wales Business Fund is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government. Since launch the fund has been topped up and now stands at £180.9 million.

Loans and equity investments are available to Welsh micro to medium-sized businesses from £50,000 up to £2 million. Growing businesses can also benefit from follow-on funding from the Wales Business Fund.

Finance can be used for a range of business

needs, including hiring new staff. And that's what creative business ie ie Productions did with their loan.

With a number of award-winning documentaries to their name, Cardiff-based ie ie aims to produce experimental and multi-platform projects. These embrace Welsh culture and focus of female protagonists from diverse backgrounds. The loan has been used to create three new development producer roles at the all-female staffed company, including two new drama-specific freelance positions.

Managing Director Catryn Ramasut said: "We are committed to representing women in front of and behind the camera. We've made a conscious decision to focus on female talent and female protagonists."

The new posts will extend the company's pitching reach with a view to securing more multi-platform and broadcast commissions.

*Catryn Ramasut with Joanna Thomas, the investment executive who brokered the deal.*



## Social Business Wales

Social Business Wales, delivered by the Wales Co-operative Centre, provides specialist business support to help the growth of social businesses across Wales. Social businesses include social enterprises, co-operatives, mutuals and employee owned businesses. So far across the South East region the operation has achieved:

- 181.2 jobs created
- 182 organisations assisted
- 94 organisation given equality and diversity support
- 97 organisations given sustainable development support

### Social Business Wales launches its 'New Start' project

Social Business Wales is launching a new service in January to specifically support start-up social enterprises. Thanks to funding from the European Regional Development Fund and Welsh Government, the new service can offer free business support and advice to social enterprise start-ups, helping them create the strong foundations needed to build a thriving and sustainable business.

The service will be available in West Wales and the Valleys, including Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Torfaen. Its team of experts can offer one-to-one advice and a mentoring scheme to help social entrepreneurs from the ideas stage, to starting to trade, incorporating the business, and training people up.

By 2022 the project aims to help 250 new social businesses in Wales to get established and will also see around 200 new jobs created.

More information is available at a launch briefing taking place in Merthyr Tydfil on Wednesday 15 January. You can book a

free place at <https://new-start-south-east-launch.eventbrite.co.uk>.

### Case Study - Education company becomes a co-op to grow the business

When the directors of teaching agency Equity Solutions Ltd realised their legal model was holding them back, they approached Social Business Wales to help them transform into a co-operative. This enabled them to enshrine co-operative values and access new tendering opportunities.

Equity Solutions Ltd is an education agency which supplies teachers and support staff to schools. It also provides bespoke services such as high quality tutoring for hard to reach, vulnerable or challenging learners.



Michael O'Neill, Lianne Mason and Nerys Owen

The three Directors, Michael O'Neill, Lianne Mason and Nerys Owen, were driven by a desire to see equity and fairness in the education sector, and raising attainment for all. They were committed to paying their staff fair rates, charging manageable fees to their partner schools and ensuring that services ensured quality over profits.

They had originally set up the business as a company limited by shares, but this legal model was preventing them from tendering for local authority contracts.

Realising that they needed to find a new structure, but keen to embed the social principles which had motivated them to start the business in the first place, they approached Social Business Wales for support.

*Continued on page 9*

### *Continued from page 8*

SBW advisor Tricia Morgan advised the Directors on various legal models which would suit their needs. They decided to become a co-operative with a company limited by guarantee legal structure.

The support from SBW went much further. Advice from a marketing specialist resulted in a marketing plan being produced. HR support to review and update contracts of employment, job descriptions, HR policies and develop a staff handbook helped the organisation strengthen its position as a fair

and ethical employer. As well as this, support was given to help the company develop an environmental policy, action plan and an eco-code.

By becoming a co-op, Equity Solutions has committed to uphold the principles of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity. It has confirmed its commitment to being an ethical agency which pays fair wages and encourages colleagues to feel like part of a team.

It has also secured a new contract with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.

## Big Ideas Wales

Big Ideas Wales provides inspiration for young people to develop their enterprise aspirations and help them make decisions about business start-up. Since January 2016, the network of entrepreneur role models have now met 91,564 young people in schools, colleges, universities and youth groups across the South East region.

You can now hear from other entrepreneurs through our new **Podcasts**:

Spotify here: <http://ow.ly/VGpX50xdCbF...>

iTunes here: <http://ow.ly/EeZK50xdCe3>

YouTube here: <http://bit.ly/2pu3PnT>

To celebrate graduate start-ups in Wales, Universities Wales recently launch this promotional [video](#) showcasing many of the young graduates from our universities that have succeeded in business.

Closing Global Entrepreneurship Week, on 23/24<sup>th</sup> November, Big Ideas Wales hosted their **Bootcamp to Business** experience at the Urdd centre in Cardiff Bay. 38 successful participants shared this intensive learning experience led by entrepreneurs, to develop their ideas, meet like-minded young entrepreneurs to help them take their business forward.

We are calling all Primary schools: The **Enterprise Troopers** competition helps to develop teamwork, ambition, enterprise and creativity skills. Find more details about the competition and resources for schools [here](#). The closing date will be the 11th of May 2020.

Big Ideas Wales is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government

Participants of 'Bootcamp to Business' in Cardiff Bay





## Business Wales

Business Wales continues to encourage the sustainable start and growth of Welsh business



91,564 Young People have been Inspired by role Models



14,039 Individuals and Businesses have been advised



Increase in Employment figure is 7,984



We have supported 751 young People Supported to develop their business ideas



1,820 New enterprises have been created



The total Investment in enterprise is 117.3 million



We have 201 role models covering the South East Region



Increase in exports is now at 98.9 million

*Results so far from the Business Wales Support packages in the South East Region*

As the self-employment sector in Wales continues to provide jobs and investment in local economies, the Welsh Government's flagship business support service sees off another successful quarter.

With over 3,000 new businesses launched in less than 4 years and 13 jobs on average created every day, Business Wales, which is funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government, helps aspiring entrepreneurs take the first steps to self-employment via a series of workshops and one-to-one advisory and specialist support.

Our highly experienced team cover all aspects of starting a business, including business planning, research, sourcing finance, laws and regulations, marketing, tax, business structure, legal status, insurance and employing staff.

We deliver regular start-up workshops to further help budding entrepreneurs assess their skills and gain the confidence and practical understanding of what is necessary to start a business.

Check out the new case study on how Business Wales start up support has helped in Abergavenny [here](#).

*If you want to find out more about the Business Wales start-up support in South East Wales, phone **01656 868500** or email [southwales@businesswales.org.uk](mailto:southwales@businesswales.org.uk).*

*Business Wales, which is funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government, supports the sustainable growth of small and medium-size enterprises across the country by offering access to information, guidance and business support.*



[...back to top](#)

## Social Business Growth Fund

### EU Funding from Social Investment Cymru

The innovative use of ERDF funds by Social Investment Cymru at WCVA in supporting the third sector is proving a big hit. £2.3m has already been approved and been put to work in communities, helping transform lives across Wales

Social Business Growth Fund provides a blend of grant and repayable assistance linked to the creation of jobs, with the extra incentive of less to repay if more than the planned number of jobs is created. As Alun Jones, Head of Social Investment Cymru commented 'It does just what it says on the tin and a wide variety of different social businesses are using the moneys in support their growth

aspirations. We've funded a dog rescue centre, an ocean-going yacht, 2 children's play centres, 2 Care and Repair operations and a whole range of other ventures. It's been really interesting to see what's come forward'

'The success has been such that the funds for East Wales have almost already gone. We're recommending that people in the East Wales area move fast to give us a call while there's still some money there. For now, West Wales and the Valleys is fine, but we're always on the lookout for new and exciting growth projects'

The Social Investment Cymru team can be reached on 0300 111 0124 or [sic@wcva.cymru](mailto:sic@wcva.cymru).



*Hope Rescue staff and volunteers with rescue dogs. The opening of their new dedicated Rescue Centre was helped by funding from Social Investment Cymru's Social Business Growth Fund and the Charity Bank*



*Happy Christmas!*

## Watchdog finds unlawful spending at Welsh councils



Two councils in Wales have incurred over £290,000 of 'unlawful' expenditure, the Auditor General for Wales has discovered.

In two new reports, the auditor found Buckley Town Council and Mumbles Community Council had 'significant deficiencies' in their procurement arrangements.

Buckley Town Council incurred unlawful expenditure totalling £269,962 after it failed to comply with its own standing orders on two cleaning contracts and the appointment of a town centre manager.

Mumbles Community Council was found to have 'significantly' overspent its budget in relation to planning consultancy services.

Auditor General, Adrian Crompton said: 'This year alone I have had to issue twelve reports in the public interest, which highlight serious weaknesses in the financial management and governance and town and community councils in Wales. This undermines public trust and can lead to a waste of public money.

'I call on all town and community councils to take heed and learn from the important lessons within these reports so that communities in Wales get the services and the assurance they rightly deserve.'

*(Published by [localgov.co.uk](http://localgov.co.uk): 6 November 2019)*

74cm 24

# SWANSEA

BUILDING SOCIETY

11/12 CRADOCK STREET, SWANSEA SA1 3EW

**Swansea Branch:** (01792) 739100

**Mumbles Branch:** (01792) 739200

**Carmarthen Branch:** (01267) 611950

**Cowbridge Branch:** (01446) 506000

**Email:** [inv@swansea-bs.co.uk](mailto:inv@swansea-bs.co.uk)

**Website:** [www.swansea-bs.co.uk](http://www.swansea-bs.co.uk)

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES  
INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S CENTRE  
HIGH STREET  
BLAINA  
NP13 3BN

39000



November 30, 2019

Dear Customer,

**Re: Changes to the General Terms and Conditions for the operation of Savings Accounts.**

You may remember we recently wrote to you advising of changes to the Society's Savings General Terms and Conditions following the introduction of new regulations/codes covering payment services focusing on fraud reimbursement. The changes seen have been introduced to protect both you as the customer and the Society from future financial claims where fraud was undertaken relating to a payment made to a third party from a Society savings account. Without these changes, potentially you as the customer and / or the Society could be liable for any claims seen where third-party fraud took place which was a risk that the Society felt was too great to allow going forward.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our customers for the feedback given regarding the changes made and their kind understanding. The Society recognises that for a small number of its account holders, such changes have been unwelcome and we apologise for any inconvenience caused but unfortunately the new regulations/code introduced is something which we had no control over.

As a result of the feedback received, I am delighted to inform customers that as from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, the Society will be introducing a facility for savings account customers enabling them to make an electronic payment from their Swansea Building Society savings account to a nominated bank account in their own name without charge, subject to a maximum number of one payment made per customer per working day\*. (Please note that the current fee for this service is £20 per payment.) A maximum of one nominated bank account can be registered per customer and the bank account nominated must be in the name of the Society savings account holder(s). An up to date bank statement detailing the nominated bank account will be required before the nominated bank account can be registered to receive payments.

Please note from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 as advised previously, savings customers are unable to make payments to a third party from their SBS savings account, either via an electronic payment or a counter cheque from the Society. However, once the customer transfers monies to a nominated bank account that allows third party payments to be made by another financial institution, they can make a third-party payment that way instead.

Enclosed with this letter is the 'Nominated Bank Account Form' which customers need to complete should they wish to use this service. Please complete the form and either pop it into one of our branch offices along with a copy of your bank statement which shows the details of the nominated bank account or send the form and the bank statement to your nearest branch office for actioning. Please note we are unable to accept these forms via e-mail as we require an original signed copy. All bank statements received will be returned by post if received that way.

For those customers who are a signatory to a Trust account, you are unable to use this facility unless the nominated bank account is in the name of the Trust and cannot be in the name of the Trustee.

For those customers who are a signatory to a Child's account, you are able to set up this facility to send monies to a bank account in the name of the signatory where the account mandate allows this.

**Please remember that payments into your Swansea Building Society savings account(s) will not be affected by this and third-party payments can continue to be paid into your Swansea Building Society savings account(s) from another bank or building society account held by a third party elsewhere.**

We would like to take this opportunity to remind customers who have been issued with a Society cheque book previously that they need to make alternative arrangements regarding the payment of cheques by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 at the latest as from this date, all cheques presented for payment from their cheque books will be returned unpaid. We would urge such customers to make the necessary alternative arrangements for payments normally made this way as soon as possible. If you would like a passbook to be issued on your account, please contact your local branch and one of our friendly experienced staff will be pleased to arrange this for you. Details of our branch offices can be found on our website at [www.swansea-bs.co.uk](http://www.swansea-bs.co.uk).

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Miles  
Head of Savings

\* This applies to payments up to £250,000. For payments in excess of this amount, a CHAPs payment is required, and a £20 fee will be made for this service. Furthermore, where more than one payment is required on the same day, a £20 fee will be charged per each additional payment request.

Enclosed with this letter is the 'Nominated Bank Account Form' which customers need to complete should they wish to use this service. Please complete the form and either pop it into one of our branch offices along with a copy of your bank statement which shows the details of the nominated bank account or send the form and the bank statement to your nearest branch office for actioning. Please note we are unable to accept these forms via e-mail as we require an original signed copy. All bank statements received will be returned by post if received that way.

For those customers who are a signatory to a Trust account, you are unable to use this facility unless the nominated bank account is in the name of the Trust and cannot be in the name of the Trustee.

For those customers who are a signatory to a Child's account, you are able to set up this facility to send monies to a bank account in the name of the signatory where the account mandate allows this.

**Please remember that payments into your Swansea Building Society savings account(s) will not be affected by this and third-party payments can continue to be paid into your Swansea Building Society savings account(s) from another bank or building society account held by a third party elsewhere.**

We would like to take this opportunity to remind customers who have been issued with a Society cheque book previously that they need to make alternative arrangements regarding the payment of cheques by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 at the latest as from this date, all cheques presented for payment from their cheque books will be returned unpaid. We would urge such customers to make the necessary alternative arrangements for payments normally made this way as soon as possible. If you would like a passbook to be issued on your account, please contact your local branch and one of our friendly experienced staff will be pleased to arrange this for you. Details of our branch offices can be found on our website at [www.swansea-bs.co.uk](http://www.swansea-bs.co.uk).

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Miles  
Head of Savings

\* This applies to payments up to £250,000. For payments in excess of this amount, a CHAPs payment is required, and a £20 fee will be made for this service. Furthermore, where more than one payment is required on the same day, a £20 fee will be charged per each additional payment request.



17/11/20



001422 SES6151A 9610426557

Salem Baptist Church  
Blaina Institute & Library  
High Street  
NP13 3BN



Customer ID 90601

Tender ID 1849729

Contact Number 0800 072 3317

Email Address  
direct.sales.basingstoke@sse.com

Date 19 December 2019

Dear Customer

## Your SSE Business Energy contract is ending – Your options

We understand that powering your business can be one of the most significant costs you have to pay. It's essential you pick a deal that supports you and your business with all your energy needs.

**Your current SSE Business Energy electricity contract for the supply at the address above is due to expire on 29 February 2020, so we are writing to you to let you know how to renew your contract.**

The offer we have enclosed on page 3 is for SSE Protect, our fully fixed price tariff, that guarantees all existing charges\*, including current non-commodity costs (excluding VAT and Climate Change Levy), for the duration of your contract. So, if these costs rise during the life of the contract, the amount you pay won't – we'll simply cover any increase.†

Here are just some of the benefits you'll enjoy on signing up to SSE Protect:

- **Certainty:** Provides price certainty for the duration of your contract
- **Price continuity:** Removes the need to manage mid-contract price increases
- **Price stability:** Protects you from the price fluctuation of current non-commodity costs

**The contract enclosed is for a period of 24 months.**

If you would like to hear about the other energy tariffs we have available, we would be happy to discuss these with you – just use the details overleaf.

Our renewal offer is subject to our amended standard terms and conditions (you can view the schedule of amendments on page 5 and you can see the original terms and conditions by visiting this page on our website <https://www.ssebusinessenergy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/3114-Elec-TC8-including-MBC-terms-1.8h-Amendments-16.3.pdf>).

We also have other contract lengths and product options available and would be happy to discuss these with you directly.

**NANTYGLO & BLAINA**

**06 JAN 2020**

**TOWN COUNCIL**

**ssebusinessenergy.co.uk**

SSE Business Energy is a trading name of SSE Energy Supply Limited, registered in England and Wales number 03757502 which is a member of the SSE Group. The registered office of SSE Energy Supply Limited is No. 1 Forbury Place, 43 Forbury Road, Reading, RG1 3JH.

**Return address:** 1 Forbury Place - 43 Forbury Road, Reading, RG1 3JH

MXBE001 RENCCREN

638386408

001422 003805 SES6151A 9610426557



Please note the following prices exclude Climate Change Levy and VAT

Quote ID	MPAN Prefix	MPAN	Annual Consumption
26668063	03220200	2199990204380	2124.22 kWh

Description	Current Rates	Renewal Rates
Week Day Units	14.695 p/kWh	15.087 p/kWh
Quarterly Charge	£27.54	£27.61
Non Week Day Units	12.916 p/kWh	13.178 p/kWh
FiTs Recovery Charge	0.568 p/kWh	0.62 p/kWh

Site Address: Salem Baptist Church - 69 High Street, Blaina, Abertillery, Gwent NP13 3BN



**Statement of Renewal Terms applicable to a Micro Business Customer contract****Customer:** Salem Baptist Church**Tender ID:** 1849729

We classify you as a Micro Business Customer. A Micro Business Customer is identified as, and only needs to meet, one of the categories identified below:

1. an annual consumption of electricity below 100,000 kWh\*
2. an annual consumption of gas below 293,000 kWh\*
3. a business with fewer than ten employees or part time equivalent, and an annual turnover or balance sheet not exceeding €2 million

\* Consumption values relate to the total annual consumption of your business across all of your sites.

If you do not meet any of the above criteria for a Micro Business Customer, please let us know and we will amend our records accordingly. This will not affect the rates being offered.

The fixed term period for this Agreement is due to end on 29 February 2020 (the Termination Date) and the Relevant Date will be 30 January 2020 (30 days prior to the Termination Date).

At any time on or before this Relevant Date, you may notify us in writing that you do not wish to renew your Agreement from the Termination Date. This notification will be accepted as your notice to terminate your contract at the end of the current fixed term period. Written notice of termination may be sent by email to [sortnotices@sse.com](mailto:sortnotices@sse.com), or by post to Business Energy Sales, Contract Administration, 1 Forbury Place, 43 Forbury Road, Reading, RG1 3JH.

If you send us a termination notice, it will be your responsibility to put in place a new contract either with us or an alternative supplier of your choice. Please also note that it will be necessary for us to have received, and have an effective registration in place, from the supplier of your choice which confirms you have contracted with them and the registration will take effect at midnight on the Termination Date.

If on the Termination Date a valid agreement is not in place with us, or your new supplier does not have an effective registration in place, we will continue to supply you with energy on our Deemed contract terms and rates, or on the appropriate Domestic tariff if applicable. Whilst we continue to supply you on a Deemed contract, you will be free to appoint us or an alternative supplier of your choice at any time.

If we do not receive a termination notice from you on or before the Relevant Date and we have not agreed the terms of a new agreement with you, we will continue to supply you with energy on the same terms and conditions however you will be charged our Variable Business Rates (or on the appropriate Domestic tariff if applicable) from the Termination Date, until such time as you appoint a new supplier or agree a new contract with us. If you are transferred onto our Variable Business Rates, you must give us 30 days' notice of intent in order to be able to move to a supplier of your choice.

Further information on our Deemed and Variable Business Rates, is available on our website <https://www.ssebusinessenergy.co.uk/help-and-advice/out-of-contract-rates>.



**Subject: SSE Protect, Schedule of amendments to standard T & Cs. Amendment to Clause 4. Price and payment.**

**For**

#### 4. Price and Payment

Clause 4.2 (E) of TC8 shall be amended to:

Any amounts payable under this Agreement are subject to the remainder of this clause exclusive of any applicable United Kingdom tax, duty, levy, tariff, for which you shall be additionally liable. Notwithstanding the foregoing, SSE's forecasted position for Renewables Obligation, CfD, FiT charge and Capacity Mechanism will remain fully inclusive and fixed for the duration of the contract

Clause 4.3 of TC8 shall be amended to:

4.3 We shall be entitled by notice in writing to you to add any new charges as introduced by a third party to SSE

Clause 4.3 (B) of TC8 shall be amended to

4.3 (B) to reflect any inclusion of any new element of the costs to us of providing the supply of electricity which is not within our reasonable control, including but not limited to:

Clause 4.3 (B) (i) of TC8 shall be amended to

4.3 (B) (i) The introduction of any new use of system charges made by National Grid Company plc or the relevant Distributor;

Clause 4.3 (B) (ii) of TC8 shall be removed

Clause 4.3 (B) (iv) of TC8 shall be removed

Clause 4.3 (D) of TC8 shall be removed

You can view a copy of the original terms and conditions by visiting this page on our website:  
<https://www.ssebusinessenergy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/3114-Elec-TC8-including-MBC-terms-1.8h-Amendments-16.3.pdf>

**Safety Inspections – Salem Chapel**

**Inspection of Salem Chapel – December 2019**

<b>MAIN CHAPEL / WEEK</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>21, 24 &amp; 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Report of any defects And action taken</b>
Main Hall of Chapel	./	./	./	./	Dry rot detected on stage & part lifted. Further investigations undertaken 31/8/16. Pipe organ supports re-enforced Sept 2016.
Fire Alarm	./	./	./	./	Inspected 13/08/2018
Emergency Lighting	./	./	./	./	
Stairways to Balcony	./	./	./	./	Stair lift not working
Balcony	./	./	./	./	
Toilets	./	./	./	./	Removed due to dry rot
High Street Entrance	./	./	./	./	
Office	./	./	./	./	
General Condition	./	./	./	./	
Fire Extinguishers	./	./	./	./	Inspected 16.10.19
Observations/ Other Comments	./	./	./	./	Faulty emergency lighting remedied by Dragon FS 30/07/2019. Alarm sounded on 21 <sup>st</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> December 2019. Chapel inspected by Cllrs G Morvan, R Pagett & Mr R Dunham.
<b>ANNEX BUILDING</b>					
Ground Floor	./	./	./	./	
Kitchen	./	./	./	./	Newly formed mould/rot on floor – R Dunham informed. Floor rotten through incident re: Cllr R Pagett fell through rotten floor (recorded in accident book). Kitchen units coming away from wall due to severe damp in floor of kitchen. R Dunham inspected & to advise further.
First Aid Box	./	./	./	./	
Seating Area	./	./	./	./	
Stairway to upper room	./	./	./	./	
Upper Room	./	./	./	./	
Rear Entrance	./	./	./	./	
Side Door	./	./	./	./	
Observations/ Other Comments					Small amount of marker graffiti at rear exterior wall.
<b>Statutory annual Inspections:</b>					Dragon Fire & Security Systems (fire extinguishers) 16/10/2019 Dragon Fire & Security Systems (Intruder & fire alarms) 05/02/2019

**Signed:** *T Hughes*

**Town Clerk**

**Date:** 13/01/2020

**Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee**

Item 3  
**SLCC**

**For Local Council Professionals**

0001 / 0000044 / 999 B

Mrs Tracy Hughes  
Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council  
Council Offices Blaina Institute  
High Street  
Blaina  
Gwent  
NP13 3BN

**NANTYGLO & BLAINA**

**06 JAN 2020**

**TOWN COUNCIL**

December 2019

Dear Tracy,

**Renew your SLCC membership online TODAY!**

We would like to thank you for your valued support and commitment over the past year. At the SLCC, we aim to equip all of our members with the necessary knowledge, training and skills to thrive within their role and best support their council and community.

Your membership has enabled us to accomplish so much in 2019, some of the highlights include:

- A new SLCC website featuring an enhanced advice library with over 600 documents, an e-Forum providing networking opportunities, a comprehensive job board displaying the latest sector vacancies and much more!
- Over 9,000 professional queries resolved by our team of experienced advisors
- Six editions of The Clerk magazine available in printed and digital format
- A variety of training courses, webinars, conference and branch meetings to ensure you remain up to date with the latest legislative changes
- A Professional Development Scheme helping you to develop your career, grow your professional development and gain recognition

**According to our records your annual membership is due for renewal on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020.**

To renew your membership please visit [www.slcc.co.uk](http://www.slcc.co.uk) and follow the steps:

1. Login using your existing SLCC login details – your username is HugheT272 and password is 13132
2. Click 'Account' and 'Membership' on the right menu
3. Click the button 'Click here to renew'
4. Renew your membership and pay via cheque, bank transfer, credit or debit card.

**\*\*Please ensure that you complete this online application before sending payment\*\***

For help with renewing your membership online call 01823 253646 or email [membership@slcc.co.uk](mailto:membership@slcc.co.uk)

**Don't forget** to renew your Association of Local Council Clerks (ALCC) membership (please see instructions enclosed)  
The annual subscription cost for full members of the SLCC to join is £40. Other SLCC members and non-members can join the ALCC for £60 per year. The ALCC is the only trade union dedicated to supporting people working in the local council sector, visit [www.alccunion.co.uk](http://www.alccunion.co.uk) for more details.

We hope that you continue to find your membership beneficial to your role and look forward to hearing from you soon.  
If you are no longer working for the council, please let us know so we can update our records.

Yours sincerely,

*R Langdon*

**Roxanne Langdon**  
**SLCC Membership Officer**

*£227 for full year.*



# **The Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund**

*administered by Torfaen County Borough Council*

**lgps**

**Local  
Government Pension  
Scheme**

**Your ref/Eich cyf:**  
**Our ref/Ein cyf:**  
**Date/Dyddiad:** December 2019  
joanne.griffiths@torfaen.gov.uk

**Please contact/Cysyllter â:** Mrs J Griffiths  
**Direct line/Llinell union:** 01495 766280  
**Email/Ebost:**

Hen 6b

Tracy Hughes  
Town Clerk  
Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council

Dear Tracy,

## **GREATER GWENT (TORFAEN) PENSION FUND** **TRIENNIAL ACTUARIAL VALUATION AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2019**

I am pleased to report that the Triennial Actuarial Valuation of the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 has now been completed.

The purpose of the Valuation is to assess the overall funding level of the Pension Fund:

- i. to ensure that there are sufficient assets in the Pension Fund to cover the pension benefits accrued in respect of all active, deferred, pensioner and dependent members of the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund and:
- ii. to set the Employer contribution rate for the three year period commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

In carrying out the Valuation the Pension Funds external Actuary assesses the current status and profile of the scheme membership including age, sex, pensionable pay, periods of membership accrued up to the date of the valuation and potential membership to the members normal retirement age in order to assess the Funds long term liabilities. An assessment is also made of the changes which have occurred during the inter-valuation period, any significant events which have occurred which will impact on the valuation and the value of the pension fund assets as at the valuation date.

### **Actuarial Assumptions**

Given the long term nature of the pension fund and its future liabilities, the Actuary applies a number of assumptions in carrying out the valuation which include: -

- The rate of inflation to be applied to pensions and deferred benefits. (Consumer Prices Index (CPI)).

**You are welcome to correspond in Welsh or English**  
The Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund,  
Torfaen County Borough Council, Civic Centre, Pontypool,  
Torfaen, Gwent NP4 6YB  
Tel: 01495 766266 Fax: 01495 742670

**Mae croeso i chi ysgrifennu yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg**  
Cronfa Bensiwn Gwent Fwyaf (Torfaen),  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Torfaen, Canolfan  
Ddinesig, Pontypŵl, Torfaen, Gwent NP4 6YB  
Ffon: 01495 766266 Ffacs: 01495 742670

**[www.gwentpensionfund.co.uk](http://www.gwentpensionfund.co.uk)**



- The rate of inflation to be applied to active members pension accounts on a year by year basis plus salary inflation in respect of the pre 2014 scheme protections
- The assumed future interest rate taking account of market conditions.
- The assumed future rate of return on investments taking account of market conditions.
- Longevity – this is an assumption as to the life expectancy of active, deferred and pensioner members to assess the level of funding required to cover the current and future liabilities. Life expectancy in the LGPS has been increasing fairly steadily over the last 20 years. The LGPS Life Expectancy Index also shows that this rate of increase in life expectancy has however slowed in more recent years, specifically since 2011. There have been more deaths at an earlier age in recent years, giving rise to this slower increase in life expectancy, compared to what was anticipated based on the 2016 valuation results. The general increase in deaths over recent years has been attributed to a range of different factors, including limited scope for future improvement in cardio-vascular mortality, increases in deaths attributed to dementia and an increasingly frail elderly population. The longevity assumptions for the 2019 Valuation are based on the latest (2018) version of CMI longevity improvements model, calibrated to English and Welsh population data up to the end of 2018. The assumptions have then been tailored to the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund's specific membership profile (age, sex, affluence, retirement health, occupation) taking into account the Funds specific trends in this regard..
- Assumptions are also made relating to future salary increases. It should be noted that whilst the benefits relating to the Career Average Scheme which came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 are based on the actual pay in each year, benefits built up prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 are calculated on the basis of the pre 2014 membership and the full time equivalent pay at the date of leaving employment which could be 40 year hence. In the 2019 actuarial valuation, the Actuary has assumed that salaries will increase by 2.6%.

### Overall Results

The overall Fund level results of the Valuation have shown that the funding level (current assets expressed as a proportion of all current and future liabilities) of the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund has increased from 72% funded at the 2016 valuation to 86% funded at the 2019 valuation; a funding increase of 14%. This is clearly a positive and welcome outcome.

During the inter-valuation period (2016-2019), the Pension Fund has experienced:

- better than anticipated investment returns,
- Pensioner death numbers have been higher than previously assessed levels
- The number of early leavers (members leaving their employment without an entitlement to an immediate pension) was significantly higher than anticipated
- Benefit increases less than expected.
- Lower than anticipated increases in salaries

Each of these experiences has had a positive effect on the funding level

However on the negative side:

- higher than anticipated costs relating to ill health retirements; and
- an increase in the long term expectations for Consumer Prices Inflation since 2016

These have had a negative effect on the funding level.

Overall the Financial Market experience coupled with the Membership Experience has resulted in an increase in the funding level and a decrease in the total amount of the funding deficit across the Fund.

The funding level however relating to each individual employer within the Fund reflects its own workforce profile and its own actual experience over the preceding three year period. It does however then benefit as part of the whole Fund from, for example, the strong investment returns seen over the last 3 years.

### **Employer Contribution rates**

The Employer Contribution Rate is made up of two elements, the Primary Contribution Rate (formerly the future service rate) and the Secondary Contribution Rate (formerly the deficit recovery contributions) The Primary Contribution Rate is reflective of the profile of the active membership as at the valuation date. A number of employers will see an increase, albeit small in most cases, in their Primary Contribution Rate as a result of lower than expected future investment returns, placing a higher value on future liabilities i.e. the outlook for the future is worse than at the last valuation. The Primary Contribution Rate is expressed as a percentage of the pensionable pay.

The Secondary Contribution Rate reflects the deficit in the employer's notional share of the fund which has been identified at the valuation date. The Secondary Contribution Rate is expressed as a cash amount to ensure that the deficit payments are not distorted by, for example reductions in the number of staff who are active members of the Pension Fund or falling pensionable payrolls. The majority of employers will see a decrease in their Secondary Contributions which can be attributed to the slow down in improving life expectancy and good investment returns in the 3 years to March 2019

### **Your Results**

The attached schedule sets out the valuation results as they relate to your organisation providing your individual funding level and also the employer contribution rates expressed in percentage of payroll for future service accrual, now called the Primary Contribution Rate, and the past service cash contribution now called the Secondary Contribution Rate.

Based on the age profile of your membership the time horizon for Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council participation in the GG(T)PF has been assessed as an average of 20 years.

On the basis of a time horizon of 20 years and coupled with the other changes affecting all employers at this valuation the Primary Contribution Rate for future service required for the three year period commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 is 20.80% of pensionable pay.



In addition the Secondary Contribution cash amount in respect of the past service deficit for the three year period commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 is £3,000.

As you can see, your employer contribution rate applicable from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 has decreased from 22.50% plus £5,000 to 20.80% plus £3,000. I trust you find this acceptable, however if you would like to discuss the outcome of your valuation result, please contact me no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

### **Funding Strategy Statement(FSS)**

Finally, I turn to an important policy statement for the Fund which is directly related to the Actuarial Valuation. The requirement to maintain and publish a Funding Strategy Statement is contained in LGPS Regulations. In publishing the FSS the Administering Authority has to have regard to any guidance published by Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) (most recently in 2016) and to its Investment Strategy Statement.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has stated that the purpose of the FSS is:

- i. "to establish a clear and transparent fund-specific strategy which will identify how employers' pension liabilities are best met going forward;
- ii. to support the regulatory framework to maintain as nearly constant employer contribution rates as possible; and
- iii. to take a prudent longer-term view of funding those liabilities."

This is the framework within which the Fund's actuary carries out triennial valuations to set employers' contributions and provides recommendations to the Administering Authority when other funding decisions are required, such as when employers join or leave the Fund. The FSS applies to all employers participating in the Fund

The above context means it is important to undertake the actuarial valuation and review the FSS in parallel. I therefore attach a draft of the Funds proposed FSS as at December 2019. Whilst the document is lengthy and quite complex, consultation on the FSS is a requirement of LGPS Regulations and so you are invited to consider and provide any comment on the attached draft and reply to me by 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at the latest. The Pensions Committee will then formally consider the updated Policy document taking into account any views received.

I look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely

**Joanne Griffiths**  
**Pensions Manager**

# 2019 Valuation Employer Results Report Draft

HYMANS + ROBERTSON

Employer / Pool: Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council (Employer 630)  
Fund: Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund

Page 1

## Addressee and purpose

This Employer Results Report is addressed to the Administering Authority for the purposes set out in Your Guide to the 2019 valuation. It may be shared with the employer or pool of employers noted above ("the Employer") but should not be shared with any other third parties without our prior written consent. Please note that Hymans Robertson LLP accept no liability to any third parties (including the Employer). The results in this report should be read in conjunction with the draft Funding Strategy Statement. The assumptions and methodology used to calculate employer contribution rates are set out in this document.

If you are the Employer, the purpose of this report is to give you advance notice of the recommended contributions payable from 1 April 2020 for planning purposes and to allow you check that the way these recommended rates have been calculated is appropriate to your circumstances and is in line with the draft Funding Strategy Statement. It also allows you to verify the cashflow and membership data used in our valuation calculations. This report has been prepared for the Administering Authority and does not provide advice to you as the Employer.

If the Employer is a member of a funding pool within the Fund, the contribution rates, funding level and membership data shown in this report may relate to the pool as opposed to the individual employer. This will be indicated in the title of the relevant table.

The following Technical Actuarial Standards have been complied with to a proportionate degree in the preparation of this report: TAS 100, TAS 300.

13 December 2019

Prepared by: Douglas Green FFA

Peter MacRae FFA

Contributions	Current rate % of pay	Recommended rate % of pay	Noted amount (£)	% of pay	plus	(£)
Currently in payment 2019/2020	22.5%	-	5,000	22.5%	plus	5,000
Recommended for year end to 31 March 2021	20.8%	-	3,000	20.8%	plus	3,000
Recommended for year end to 31 March 2022	20.8%	-	3,000	20.8%	plus	3,000
Recommended for year end to 31 March 2023	20.8%	-	3,000	20.8%	plus	3,000

The recommended contribution rates are the minimum rate required by the Fund. In most circumstances the Employer can pay additional contributions to improve their funding position but this should be referred to the actuary first. The Employer's final contribution rates will be certified in the Fund's Rates and Adjustment's Certificate, which must be published by 31 March 2020.

The Primary Rate includes an allowance of 0.5% for administration expenses.

Employer contribution rates are additional to employee contributions. The average employee contribution rate is 6.2% of pay.

Funding strategy	Our Valuation 1 March 2019	This Valuation 1 March 2019
Funding target	100% funded on the ongoing participation basis	100% funded on the ongoing participation basis
Funding time horizon	20 years	20 years
Required likelihood of achieving target	75%	80%

The recommended contribution strategy gives a 80% likelihood that both past and future service benefits will be at least fully funded on the Fund's ongoing participation basis at the end of a 20 years time horizon. This funding strategy has been determined by the Administering Authority, taking into account the type of organisation the Employer is and the nature of its participation in the Fund. The approach to setting employer contribution rates, and the Employer's funding target, is explained further in the draft Funding Strategy Statement.

Investment strategy used in contribution rate assessment	Our Valuation 1 March 2019	This Valuation 1 March 2019
	Whole Fund	Whole Fund

Further details on the Employer's investment strategy is included in the Fund's Investment Strategy Statement.

	Our Valuation 1 March 2019	This Valuation 1 March 2019
<b>Past service liabilities</b>		
Employees - Final Salary	62	65
Employees - CARE	15	47
Deferred Pensioners	0	0
Pensioners	138	125
<b>Total</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>237</b>
<b>Asset share</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>195</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(79)</b>	<b>(42)</b>
<b>Funding Level</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>82%</b>

Please note, figures in tables throughout this document have been shown rounded. As a result, the sum of figures within tables may not add up due to rounding.

The assumptions underlying the funding position are summarised on Page 2.

# 2019 Valuation Employer Results Report Draft

Employer / Pool: Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council (Employer 630)  
Fund: Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund

Change in the surplus / (deficit) position	Actual 2016 (£'000)	Actual 2019 (£'000)	Surplus / (deficit) (£'000)
<b>Last valuation at 31 March 2016</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>(79)</b>
Employer contributions paid in	30		30
Employee contributions paid in	6		6
Benefits paid out	(23)	(23)	0
Net individual transfers into / out of the Employer *	1		1
Other cashflows (e.g. Fund expenses)	0		0
Interest cost on benefits already accrued		27	(27)
Accrual of new benefits		28	(28)
Salary increases less than expected		(4)	4
Benefit increases less than expected		(0)	0
Early retirement strain (and contributions)	0	0	0
Ill health retirement strain		(1)	1
Early leavers fewer than expected		0	(0)
Pensioner deaths fewer than expected		5	(5)
Commutation less than expected		0	0
Impact of bulk transfers	0	0	0
Other membership experience		(8)	8
Investment returns on the Employer's assets **	45	6	(6)
Changes in future inflation expectations			
Change in demographic assumptions (exc. longevity)		(1)	1
Change in longevity assumptions		(8)	8
Change in salary increase assumption		(1)	1
Change in discount rate		1	(1)
<b>This valuation at 31 March 2019</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>(42)</b>

\* We have not quantified the net liability for transfers in and out as we have insufficient data to do so

\*\* The investment return on the Employer's assets between 31 March 2016 and 31 March 2019 was 33.3%

Assumptions used in the valuation	Assumptions used in the valuation 31 March 2016	Assumptions used in the valuation 31 March 2019
<b>Financial</b>		
Investment Return	4.0%	4.0%*
Salary Increases	2.6%	2.6%
Benefit increases and CARE revaluation (CPI)	2.2%	2.3%
<b>Demographic</b>		
Baseline longevity	Club Vita	Club Vita
Future improvements in longevity	CMI 2013, 1.25% long term available on request	CMI 2018, 1.25% long term available on request
Other demographic assumptions		

\*There is a 70% likelihood of the Fund's investments achieving at least an annual return of 4.0% p.a. over the next 20 years

Employer code	630
Employer name	Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council
Funding pool	Individual
Employer type	Resolution
Open / closed to new members	Open

Assumptions used in the valuation	Assumptions used in the valuation 31 March 2016	Assumptions used in the valuation 31 March 2019
<b>Employee members</b>		
Number	1	2
Total Actual Pay (£000)	27	38
Total Accrued Pension (£000) (80ths)	1	2
Total Accrued Pension (£000) (60ths)	2	2
Total Accrued Pension (£000) (CARE)	1	3
Average Age (liability weighted)	45.9	48.1
<b>Deferred pensioners</b>		
Number	0	0
Total Accrued Pension (£000)	0	0
Average Age (liability weighted)	0.0	0.0
<b>Pensioners</b>		
Number	1	1
Total pensions in payment (£000)	8	8
Average Age (liability weighted)	69.3	72.2
Average duration of liabilities	17.4	17.4

# Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council

## Cyngor Tref Nant-y-glo a Blaenau

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO  
Town Council Offices, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina. NP13 3BN  
Swyddfa'r Cyngor, Y stryd Fawr, Blaenau, NP13 3BN  
Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: [clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk)

December 2019

Town Mayor and Members of the Council:

### **Budget and Recommended Precept Report 2020 / 21**

#### **1. Introduction:**

Members of the Task and Finish Group in respect of the Budget and Precept for the financial year 2020/21 discussed the requirements of the Council and gave careful consideration to the expenditure; reserve accounts and subsequent precept requirement as detailed within this report on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

Statutory provisions require that local councils must give consideration to a financial budget requirement report when determining the Community Council Tax precept for the following financial year i.e. 2020 / 21.

This statutory process has to be undertaken against a background of future potential local authority re-organisation and other local government legislative changes that have or may occur. It should also take into account the impact of budgetary decisions taken by the principal authority, Blaenau Gwent CBC and may also include consideration of budgetary and policy decisions taken by neighbouring local councils and other statutory authorities.

Members are advised that all costs, expenditure and any associated recommendations included in this report have been made following an assessment of the impact of pay awards, general inflation and other factors that may be estimated. Clearly these assessments are made at a point in time and may vary subsequently, which is why it is important for the Council to maintain an appropriate level of General Reserves as a contingency.

Additionally, a decision must be made by Council and approved at the Ordinary Meeting in January 2020 at the latest to enable Blaenau Gwent CBC to receive notice of the 2020/21 precept by their deadline of 31st January 2020.

#### **2. Overview 2019/20:**

##### **Additional Member of Staff:**

An additional member of staff (Assistant Officer to the Town Clerk) was appointed in January 2018 and commenced employment in February 2018. The Assistant Officer has

proved to be a valuable member of staff and has enabled the Council to advance significantly in terms of policies/administrative work and events. However, Members were advised that as a highly qualified individual the Assistant Officer has now secured alternative employment elsewhere. It has since been resolved to re-advertise the post and this process is currently on-going (as at December 2019). Members are also informed that the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) three yearly valuation (received December 2019) has illustrated that an additional member of staff has **reduced** the employer's contribution to the LGPS by £6,350 per annum as from April 2020 (see page 7 – pension costs).

#### Town Clerk / RFO:

The Town Clerk was appointed in January 2015 and over the last few years the workload of the post has increased significantly due to additional statutory and other duties, including the introduction of 'Thematic Assurances' by the Wales Audit Office and the Council's wish to undertake a comprehensive annual review of its Internal Audit arrangements. In order to meet these new challenges and continue to attain good practice standards across the range of services and activities provided by the Council, the provision of an additional staffing resource is therefore regarded as vital.

The important issues of staff wellbeing and safety and the associated risks that the Council need to manage have been substantially reduced following the appointment of a second member of staff in February 2018.

The appointment of the Assistant Officer will continue to allow the Town Clerk to concentrate on safeguarding the statutory functions of the Town Council and provide support for the proposed community events programme, although it must be noted that significant and welcome assistance from elected Members is still and always will be required.

#### Salem Chapel:

The issues and challenges associated with Salem Chapel continued throughout 2019/20 with some progress albeit slow. This has mainly been due to the difficulty in obtaining responses from the Nantyglo and Blaina Charter Group in respect to the Formal Deed of Surrender. Many of the other issues with Salem Chapel such as the outstanding gas bill; valuation and the lease in respect of the Baptist Union have now been resolved. It is both hoped and anticipated that significant progress will be made in respect of the formal deed of surrender in 2020/21 (see page 3).

#### Major Events during 2019/20: (LGA 1972 s145)

The Town Council hosted and took part in a number of successful events including:

- ☐ ARC Awards which paid tribute to members of the community.
- ☐ Primary Talent Showcase at Blaen y Cwm Primary school. This event seems to grow in popularity each year and is a cost effective way at celebrating young talent within the area at a local venue. 2019 saw the addition of St Mary's RC Primary take part for the first time.
- ☐ Nantyglo & Blaina in Bloom was successfully hosted for the second year.

- ☐ Ongoing public consultations were provided at each event and regular meetings of the Town Council have held in the Nantyglo Ward for the first time.
- ☐ The establishment of a task and finish group (including local BGCBC ward members) to help produce an effective mission statement and action plan.
- ☐ The successful establishment of a task and finish group which implements the Events Committee's decision.
- ☐ Civic Sunday
- ☐ Remembrance Sunday parade
- ☐ Four school Carol Concerts.
- ☐ Christmas Lights.
- ☐ The Town Council provided two Christmas Fun Nights in November and December 2019: at Blaina Community Centre & Nantyglo Rugby Club which involved the Town Council working with a number of local groups such as Blaina Band, Coed Cae Interact Club, Academy of Vocal Arts, local churches and Borough Ward Members.
- ☐ The procurement and siting of two memorial benches which honour all those who served their country.
- ☐ Plans in place for visual enhancements throughout both Nantyglo and Blaina.

#### Recommendations:

- i) That the Town Council continues to deliver an agreed annual programme of events, following appropriate engagement with relevant bodies and organisations (where necessary).
- ii) That the Town Council continues to review this programme to ensure that it is popular, successful and cost effective for the local community. Ongoing public consultation would help identify such events.
- iii) That a Task and Finish Group continues to discuss and report to the Finance Committee's decisions in respect of events.

### **3. Challenges arising during 2020 / 21:**

#### Salem Chapel: (LGA 1976 [Miscellaneous Provisions19])

Members are aware of the challenges that lie ahead with the structure of Salem Chapel, Blaina. Members have previously approved that an appropriately experienced surveyor inspects the chapel and provides a detailed report regarding the condition. It is anticipated that the cost of the required repairs will be far in excess of the Town Council's budget and that grant funding has been applied for and verbally agreed by Blaenau Gwent CBC for £10,600. One option Members may wish to consider is the possibility of utilising Council reserves to fund any shortfall, with a financial plan to reimburse the reserve account on an annual basis.

In 2016/17, the Town Council invited tenders for phase 1 of the required repair works, although it proved very difficult to obtain such tenders. The proposal that renovations

would be project managed by Sophie Teague-Davies (RICS) of Taliesin Conservation had previously been resolved by the Council. Members are reminded that the amount submitted in the budget report is for phase 1 of the repairs only (urgent repairs).

An added complication is the current lease of the Chapel to the Nantyglo & Blaina Charter Group and any consequential legal issues around respective responsibilities and ownership which may impact upon the potential contract works (which has been an issue in the past).

Subject to the above funding and other issues being resolved, one approach would be to compile an appropriate plan and timetable to demonstrate the feasibility of Salem Chapel and whether it could be utilised effectively for the community. Clearly this would need to be cost effective and in a manner that is acceptable to the Town Council, as the Council would be expected to undertake due diligence before committing further public funding. This process would create considerable work management pressures and further demonstrates the need for a proper project feasibility study which would include any additional staff resourcing requirements.

A further option which has been suggested previously is to consider the sale or disposal of Salem Chapel. There would be many issues to consider before this could be realistically considered and much more investigation into the associated issues is required. An initial meeting to discuss this possibility has taken place (12<sup>th</sup> December 2017) between Councillors G Morvan and R Pagett (Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council) and Cllr G Collier and Rev R Watson (Nantyglo & Blaina Charter Group). There was also the unexpected issue of a large gas bill (from British Gas) which the Charter Group had not paid (this has now been successfully resolved). A Formal Deed of Surrender has been drawn up by Le Gros solicitors, which will terminate the Council's lease to the Charter Group. This document has been sent to the Nantyglo & Blaina Charter Group and their solicitors to be signed a number of times. Successful discussions with the Welsh Baptist Union Corporation Ltd in respect of the lease agreement which exists between the Town Council and the Baptist Union which allows religious services to be held in the chapel has resulted in an amicable forfeiture of that lease.

The Council are currently applying for to CADW in order to have the grade II listing removed from the interior of the Chapel. The removal of this listing would assist the Council in a number of ways: enable any repairs or work to be undertaken much more efficiently and would make the Chapel more attractive to prospective purchasers if it were put up for sale. Removal of the internal listing is also likely to increase the value of the Chapel and appeal to a wider market.

The recommendations listed are not exhaustive and may more accurately be described as options but will help Council consider all possibilities.

#### Recommendations:

- i) That the Town Council strives to continue to obtain tenders for any work required and resolved by the Council to undertake.
- ii) Upon receipt of tenders but prior to any possible work taking place, the Council discusses the most appropriate course of action taking into account cost, efficient use of the Chapel, practical considerations such as staffing & volunteers, possible future use, community consultation, etc. as part of an overall future feasibility assessment of the Chapel.

- iii) The Council continues to examine all options in respect of the building AND obtains specialist advice/services as deemed necessary by the Council as part of the process.
- iv) Council determines its preferred course of action and resolves accordingly.
- v) That the Salem Reserve account be maintained and monitored regularly.
- vi) That discussions are required by the Task and Finish Group, having all relevant information, which are subsequently reported to Council prior to any decision being taken.
- vii) Continue to apply to have the internal grade II listing removed from the Chapel.

#### Christmas Lights: (Parish Councils Act 1957 s3)

The Town Council owns the Christmas lights and pays for all associated costs each year. There are still some current Christmas lights that are aging and some are in a bad state of repair with replacements needed each year. There is still a small stock of lights which require 15 watt bulbs which damage easily and are costly to replace. LED lights are easier and quicker to put up and use less energy and therefore cost less to power. Such lights would enhance the display throughout Nantyglo & Blaina. Members will be aware of the current resolution to update the Christmas Lights during a three year period (as from 2016) to enhance the locality's Christmas display has now ended although Council did resolve that additional lights be purchased in 2019.

Additionally Members are reminded that the Town Council has recently awarded Mr Russell Dunham a three year contract to erect the Council's Christmas Lights. Members are also requested to consider an ongoing programme of investment for the Christmas Lights.

Members are additionally informed (following discussion with G.A.V.O) that it is almost impossible to obtain specific grant funding for Christmas Lights. An application for support was previously made to Tai Calon Housing Association but no response was received.

#### Recommendations:

- i) To continue to upgrade the Christmas lights to ensure the display is appropriate for the community.
- ii) To review the contract at the end of the proposed period for 2019/20 (as per the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations).
- iii) To continue with the planned programme of renewing and investing in the Christmas lights whilst striving to obtain the best value for money.
- iv) To identify additional locations within Nantyglo to erect a more suitable display of Christmas lights.
- v) To ensure that any possible increase in Christmas lights expenditure is budgeted for accordingly
- vi) Continue with the reserve account in respect of Events and all council activities to allow for such expenditure including visual enhancements of Nantyglo and Blaina.



### Public Consultations:

As already mentioned, the Council has been continually engaging with the electorate throughout 2019. As a result a number of completed consultation forms have been received.

The Task and Finish Groups have consulted the completed forms and acknowledged the comments contained. The comments as to what is required of the Town Council are generally:

- More community events
- Better services/facilities
- Cleaner streets/outside areas

In considering the responses, Members will need to take into account:

- What powers do the council have to provide the goods/services?
- The anticipated cost?
- Future viability of any goods and/or services provided?

It is important to remember that responses to public consultation are actively considered and actioned wherever lawful, possible and viable.

### Recommendations:

- i) That public consultations continue to be actively carried out.
- ii) That the Town Council continue to consider responses to the public consultations on a regular basis.
- iii) That Meetings of the Town Council continue to be held at Nantyglo as appropriate.

### Further Increases in Workload:

Ever increasing legislation and continual development have increased the statutory workload of Town Councils throughout Wales and this is set to continue into the future, particularly if Local Government re-organisation proposals (see below) are progressed. The time of the Town Clerk / RFO is increasingly taken up with statutory workload and as such it is becoming more difficult to carry out community work. In order for Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council to be as proactive in working with and for the community as in the past, a full staff structure and the continuing help of all Members will be necessary. Additionally as mentioned on page 1, there is always the possibility of staff changes due to resignations, ill health or other reasons. It is vital that Members acknowledge this and plan accordingly.

### Pay Awards 2020/21: (LGA 1972 s.112)

Members are reminded that Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council have adopted the National Agreement in relation to pay and job description/employment contracts. The National

Agreement has previously agreed a 2% pay increase for the Town Clerk / RFO and Assistant Officer each year from April 2018 to March 2020 (NALC & SLCC 2019/2020/ National Salary Award. Currently, any pay award for 2020 / 21 is unknown but it would be prudent financial planning to budget for up to a 3% pay increase.

#### Recommendations:

In the absence of any agreement, an annual pay award increase of 3% be resolved to accommodate any decision made by the national agreement adopted by the Town Council.

#### Pension Costs: (LGA 1972 s.112)

The actuarial valuation for the next year years (effective from April 2017) has specified the Town Council's Employers' contribution rate at 22.5% of earnings plus an annual sum of £6,000. Members will be aware that occupational pensions have become more expensive to provide due to historic factors and reduced financial returns combined with a growing population of pensioners. Members are advised that the Council approved the adoption of the LGPS scheme some years ago and this forms part of the employment contract. The Council is required by law to offer a pension scheme for qualifying staff. The results of the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund Triennial Actuarial Valuation as at March 2019 (received December 2019) has informed that the Town Council's contribution rate will decrease as from April 2020 (a reduction of £6,350 per annum from 2019/20). The employer contribution rate will be 20.80% of earnings plus an annual sum of £3,000 and this contribution level is fixed until March 2023.

#### Phone, Internet, Stationary and other Requirements: (LGA 1972 s.111)

A provisional estimate of £5,000 has been included within the budget proposed for BT, Photocopier, Stationery and IT expenditure. Actual quotations have been sought (in line with financial regulations and the Town Council's Standing Orders) in 2019 for the photocopier lease agreement which has subsequently been renewed. An amount of £5,000 is recommended to continue as a possible use of reserves to fund any larger emergency purchases and possible IT maintenance.

#### Devolved Services and other possible changes:

To date, no information has been forthcoming from Blaenau Gwent CBC regarding any possible increase to the Council Tax and bandings.

Whilst no other services have been devolved to Town/Community Councils, it is likely that the real impact of public spending cuts will begin to be realised by Town Councils in the form of further devolved services and Members are advised to be prepared for this.

#### Recommendations:

- i) That an appropriate plan of action combined with a realistic reserve account be established to prepare for any such course of events.
- ii) That the Council continues to monitor and if resolved, re-appropriate the Council's reserve accounts.

#### Audit Fees: (Accounts & Audit Regulations 1996 [S.I. 1996/s90])

The audit fees to be paid in 2020/21 will be for the 2019/20 audit to both the Internal and External Auditors (see miscellaneous in the precept report – appendix 1). The Internal Audit fee for 2020 / 21 have increased by 1.8% (£20) per annum.

#### Mayoral Expenditure:

Following the IRPW's report for 2019 and the draft report for 2020, the Council is required to set up and resolve an additional budget for Mayoral expenditure (in addition to the Mayoral Allowances). Members may wish to consider and if appropriate Resolve this budget as an annual amount of £400 for the year 2020/21.

### **4. Potential Changes to Local Government:**

#### Boundary Changes:

Another purpose of the budget and precept report is to discuss and plan for future changes and any financial implications that may be incurred.

Members will be aware that the proposed changes to incorporate parts of the Nantyglo Ward (Lakeside) into the Brynmawr Ward has been rejected after objections by the Town Council. However, as such proposals have altered during the previous few years, it would be sensible to always 'keep an open mind' as boundary changes are often proposed.

In addition some of the functions currently carried out by BGCBC (e.g. war memorials, allotments, public parks/playgrounds and litter picking of highways) may be devolved to community councils. This could lead to smaller councils (such as Brynmawr and Nantyglo & Blaina) facing difficulty in maintaining an equal service in comparison to the larger community councils with greater resources and similar levels of fixed costs (e.g. for staff and IT). Economies of scale would also benefit larger councils.

#### Recommendation:

That the Town Council continues to closely monitors changes to local government whilst continuing to consider:

- different ways of working which would lead to increased and improved services for the local community;
- the possibility of income generation whilst keeping costs to a minimum or even as a percentage reduction.

### **5. Proposed Council Programme for the Financial Year 2020 / 21:**

The proposed annual events programme has been detailed on pages 2 and 3 and this may be further enhanced by other appropriate and cost effective commemorative

events as recommended to and resolved by Council during the year.

Members should take into account the eventual proposals for the cost of renovation required at Salem Chapel as dependent upon the preferred option; this is likely to have a significant impact on future programmed expenditure.

It would also prove beneficial for Members to consider more detailed forward planning (via the completion of the Council's Action Plan) of the Council's events to ensure that they are deliverable; viable; cost effective and practical whilst continually monitoring the electorate's demand for such events. It is also important that the Town Council continues to strive to be more visible throughout the local community which can be achieved through increased and varied public events.

#### Recommendation:

- i) That the proposed annual events as detailed above are carried out by the Town Council during 2020 / 21.
- ii) To facilitate the provision of events more efficiently, it would prove beneficial for the Events Committee to continue as a standing committee together with an active task and finish group in order to facilitate the decision of the committee.

#### **6. Members Remuneration: (LGA 1972 s174)**

Members are reminded of the information contained in the draft report of the Independent Remuneration Panel Wales, as previously reported to Council. The cost of the proposals contained within the report has been included in the estimated precept requirement. Please note that the Council is currently awaiting the final version of the report for its recommendations and determinations and that as in previous years, individual Members may choose to decline specific allowances.

#### **7. Income:**

The Council does not provide any services from which it receives a regular and significant income stream. Actual income received during a typical year is by way of an annual VAT refund (approximately £1,724.74 – April 2019), interest received from bank accounts (£128.36 in 2018/19) and possible donations from Blaenau Gwent Ward Members which varies from year to year and miscellaneous donations & income (£117.87 in 2018/19).

#### **8. Reserve Accounts:**

Members are invited to give consideration to the required reserve accounts from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. Taking into account feedback received from the Council's ongoing public consultation, the estimated expenditure and the Council's desire to increase spending on Events etc AND keep any increase in the precept to a minimum the following reserve accounts and percentages are recommended to be retained:

(Please note the figures stated are based on the most recent bank statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 and are for illustration only):

<b>Reserve Account</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Amount (for illustration only)</b>
General Reserves Account	35%	£49,573.90
RFO Contingency Account	20%	£28,327.94
Salem Chapel Account	40%	£56,655.88
Events Account	5%	£7,081.99
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>£141,639.71</b>

### **9. Precept Requirement:**

Members are invited to give consideration to the attached (draft) estimated expenditure & precept figures report prior to concluding their consideration of the precept for 2020-21 and approve a budget requirement for 2020-21 (see appendix 1)

### **10. Conclusion:**

The following details and figures were discussed at the Task and Finish Group meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

With the total estimated proposed expenditure requirement for 2020-21 of £121,193 including reserve amounts, the current process of negotiating costs and seeking savings will need to continue indefinitely or until the Council approves a significant increase in the precept. However it is anticipated and realistic to expect costs to rise during next year and clearly this will make the process of identifying and realising in-year savings much more challenging than in previous years.

Whilst the amount of income (see section 7 for more details) is minimal, an approximate amount of £1,500 to £2,000 can realistically be expected, which would contribute to the possible total expenditure which could be incurred.

Prudent financial control to date suggests that the Council can again anticipate a slight underspend against the budget for 2019/20 and consequently achieve a small increase in its general reserves at the end of the current financial year. This increase could be used as part of a deficit funding strategy to partially offset the estimated expenditure in 2020/21. However the projected deficit at the start of the new financial year (£41,000) would remain significant if a standstill precept were to be approved and if compensating savings cannot be identified, it is inevitable that general reserves will be significantly depleted.

It is important that if Members wish to increase the number of public events and/or services as indicated by the responses received to the public consultation forms, then either a significant increase in the precept is required or for 2020/21, the establishment of the Events Reserve Account (5% of general reserves) continues to provide much

needed financial flexibility.

The current financial reserves held by Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council are within the limits specified by statutory guidance (see appendix 2 for levels of reserves. These reserves will however need to be closely monitored and where necessary maintained in order to remain compliant with this guidance.

Finally and most importantly, the Council has a duty to approve a sustainable budget strategy for the future. The strategy of the last few years has required the Council to achieve significant in-year savings in order to limit actual expenditure at the year end to a total that has been no greater than the cash precept set and therefore avoid a significant reduction in general reserves. Given the various cost pressures identified above, the Council should now give careful consideration to revising this strategy and setting a precept which guarantees a more sustainable level of income for the current electoral cycle and medium term future.

Information in respect of the cost to each household (bands A\*, A & B) for different precept levels is shown in appendix 2).

#### **11. Recommendation:**

**Members approve the detailed recommendations listed under the relevant sections of paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8 above.**

**Members approve:**

**A standstill precept of £81,443.00 for 2020-21 and agree an estimated appropriation of up to £41,000 from general reserves to cover the anticipated residual funding deficit for 2020-21 if required.**

Tracy Hughes  
Town Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer  
December 2019

# NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL – PRECEPT FIGURES 2019-20

## Appendix 1

Expenditure	Actual as at 31/03/2019	Estimate 2019/20	Possible Use of Reserves 2020/21	Estimate 2020/21	Detail 2020/21
Wages	29,137.19	30,000.00		31,000.00	Possible 3% pay increase budgeted for (not confirmed).
PAYE	7,657.84	9,000.00		9,000.00	Increase in contributions (additional member of staff & Members)
LGPS	15,920.17	17,350.00		11,000.00	Decrease in contributions due to additional member of staff and as a result of 3 yearly review of contributions by LGPS.
S.137 / Donations	895.00	1,500.00		1,500.00	Subject to number of applications received.
Subscriptions	1,576.00	1,700.00		1,700.00	To allow for possible increases in cost of subscription
BT, Postage, Stationary & Photocopier	4,465.21	4,000	5,000.00	4,000.00	Estimate includes phone bill. Council reserves the option to fund possible emergency purchases & possible IT maintenance to <b>from RFO Contingency Reserves.</b>
VAT	1,752.41	1,600.00		1,600.00	Probability of 100% refund
Christmas Lights; Culture: Entertainments & Awards	5,855.16	5,000.00	6,000.00	5,000.00	Includes modest amount to further upgrade Christmas lights & allows for consideration of additional Events etc.
Salem Chapel	5,382.37	2,000.00	25,000.00	2,000.00	Estimate includes provision for utility and security/alarm maintenance costs only. As Council has not made any decision re: repairs to building required, Council reserves the option to fund any possible repairs from <b>Salem Chapel Reserves.</b>
Misc. inclusive of Insurance, By-elections & possible Training costs	4,908.30	5,000.00	5,000.00	6,000.00	Allowance made for possible by-elections. Council reserves the option to fund any spending over £6,000 from <b>RFO Contingency Reserves.</b> NB – this also includes payroll costs; bank charges, audit fees, website & e-mail costs (including possible increases) and any possible devolved services from BGCBC.
Mayor / Deputy Mayor Allowances	480.00	900.00		600.00	Budget for Mayoral Expenditure to be set up in addition to Mayor/Deputy Mayor Allowances.
Mayoral Expenditure	N/A	N/A		400.00	Budget required as specified by IRPW Annual Report.
Members Remuneration	1,879.05	4,000.00		5,000.00	Subject to Members' instructions and instructions from IRPW report (to be announced In Feb 2020)
Public Works Loan Board	1,392.76	1,393.00		1,393.00	Fixed amount
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,301.46</b>	<b>£83,443.00</b>	<b>£41,000.00</b>	<b>£80,193.00</b>	

<b>Income</b>	<b>Actual Income for 2018/19</b>	<b>Estimated Income for 2020/21</b>
VAT refund	£1725.00 (received April 2019)	£1,700.00
Bank Interest	£128.00	£100.00
Miscellaneous Donations	£178.00	£200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,915.00</b>	<b>£2000.00</b>



Item 6d

**FW: Precept 2020/2021**

From: dave.mcauliffe@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Sent: Mon, 23 Dec, 2019 at 14:29

To: n-btowncouncil@hotmail.co.uk

Precept 2020-21 Nantyglo & Blaina.pdf (436.9 KB)

Dear Mrs Hughes,

Please find attached a request for information regarding your precept requirements for the 2020/2021 financial year (hard copy to follow if you require it). I would be grateful if you could supply this information by 31 January 2020.

Cofion / Regards

David McAuliffe BSc, CPFA

*Jwch Partner Busnes/*

Senior Business Partner

*Tim Cyfrifo Rheolaeth Ariannol/*

Financial Management Accounting Team

☎ Phone/Ffon: (01495) 355123

📠 Fax/Ffacs: (01495) 355172

✉ Email: [Dave.mcauliffe@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:Dave.mcauliffe@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

🏠 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Anvil Court, Church Street, Abertillery, NP13 1DB

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn cyfathrebu gyda chi yn eich dewis iaith, dim ond i chi rhoi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu yn y ddwy iaith. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Mae'r neges ebost hon, ynghyd ag unrhyw ffeiliau sydd ynghlwm wrthi, yn gyfrinachol ac at ddefnydd yr unigolyn neu sefydliad y cyfeiriwyd hi ato. Pe dderbynioch y neges hon mewn camgymeriad, byddwch mor garedig a rhoi gwybod i'r rheolwr system. Mae'r nodyn hwn hefyd yn cadarnhau bod y neges ebost hon wedi cael ei archwilio am bresenoldeb feirws cyfrifiadurol.

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this e-mail in error please notify the system manager. This e-mail also confirms that this e-mail message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

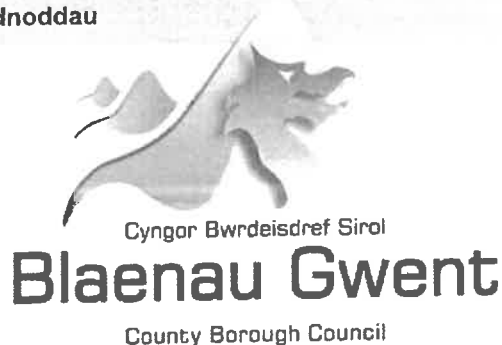
T: (01495) 355123 DX:

F: (01495) 355172 E:

Our Ref./Ein Cyf.: DM\_Pre\_NB\_1920

Your Ref./Eich Cyf.

Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Mr D McAuliffe



23rd December 2019

Dear Mrs Hughes

**Re: Precept 2020/2021**

I should be grateful if you would inform me of your precept requirements for the year 2020/2021, clearly stating how much you will require in such terms.

For your information, a precept set by the Town Council at last year's level of £81,443 would equate to the following: -

Band	Estimated Charge 2020/21
A*	16.79
A	20.15
B	23.50
C	26.86
D	30.22
E	36.93
F	43.65
G	50.36
H	60.44
I	70.51

The above changes are based on the Council Tax base confirmed by the Executive Committee on 18th December 2019.

It is my intention to remit the precept to you on Friday 3rd April 2020.

Cont.d...

We welcome correspondence in the medium of Welsh or English. Cyswllt yn eiddo'r Iaith Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg

Municipal Offices  
Civic Centre  
Ebbw Vale  
NP23 6XB

Swyddfeydd Bwrdeisiol  
Canolfan Dinesig  
Glyn Ebwy  
NP23 6XB

*a better place to live and work*  
*(le gwell i fyw a gweithio)*

**Continuation Sheet 1**

It would be greatly appreciated if you would supply me with your precept requirements as soon as possible, but in any case no later than 31st January 2020.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Yours sincerely

pp Chief Officer Resources

Mrs T Hughes  
Clerk to Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council  
Council Offices  
High Street  
Blaina  
NP13 3BN

We welcome correspondence in the medium of Welsh or English / Croesawn ohebiaith trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg

*a better place to live and work*  
*lle gwell i fyw a gweithio*



# HEALTHY CHANGE FOR BLAENAVON - MAKING IT HAPPEN



Kevin Warren, Clerk to Blaenavon TC, explains how the council came to engage a Healthy Blaenavon Officer

We are often told, by statistical data, that the people of Blaenavon are unhealthy, that they have poor lifestyle habits and are at higher risk of chronic conditions. It's not a good message to hear, or to accept, if you are one of those people. Subsequently, we started to think about how we might offer an alternative to the standard public health messages we are faced with every day. How could we create a Healthy Blaenavon?

Despite those statistics, we see a movement of change across the town, and we want to build on that. Sports clubs are thriving with the creation of more junior teams, teenagers are using the gym at the Active Living Centre and the community spirit that is so prevalent here is encouraging that change.

In 2018 Torfaen Public Service Board made a commitment to improving the health and well-being of Blaenavon as part of its well-being plan. Partners want to test an approach that is multi-faceted which involves a greater focus on tackling the social determinants of poor health and well-being. By definition, this brings services together working in a collaborative and integrated way and asks the community to shape this change. It was an opportunity that the town council just had to get involved with.

The Healthy Blaenavon Officer post is funded jointly between Blaenavon Town Council and Torfaen County Borough Council. The project is managed by the TC and is supported strategically by the Public Health Team of Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

One of the biggest challenges of talking to the people of Blaenavon about health and physical activity was the decision several years ago to remove the swimming pool from the town. Inevitably this comes up in conversations with people, so we need to find ways to positively move away from this issue.

Part of our solution regarding this has been working with Torfaen Play Schemes to provide free transport to Pontypool so that children can swim during the summer and half terms. Another challenge is transport out of the town, particularly for elderly people.

We will be working hard to promote what is already on our doorstep, working with partners on transport solutions for older



From left to right as follows:

- Emma Davies McIntosh - Torfaen Service Development Lead, Integrated Wellbeing Networks.
- Kevin Warren - Clerk to Blaenavon Town Council.
- Rebecca Smith - Healthy Blaenavon Officer - Blaenavon Town Council.
- Councillor Gareth Davies - Project Lead - Blaenavon Town Council.

people to get to lunch clubs, art class or other available social activities.

Tackling loneliness and isolation is a huge part of improving health and well-being.

Tackling loneliness and isolation is a huge part of improving health and well-being, it's not just about physical activity. We've recognised this as part of our award-winning intergenerational work with the Hwb Youth Club, Big Pit Mining Museum and others key partners.

Our advice to other councils would be, find out what the strategic issues that are prioritised at the Public Service Board level, then offer your local knowledge, awareness, agility, accessibility and democratic accountability. They should see this for the huge potential and added value that town and community councils can bring to solving local social and economic issues.

We are at the beginning of this journey and this summer our Healthy Blaenavon Officer will start to get out and about talking to people about their health and well-being, connecting them to things that might help and feeding back community thoughts, feelings and ideas to our multi-agency steering group.

Rebecca Smith, Healthy Blaenavon Officer said "In order to deliver a bespoke service you need to truly understand your community, to resonate with their issues and capabilities. To do this, time must be spent engaging with the residents. This needs to be done predominantly in the short term for wider dissemination to support the life of the project"





# Healthy Blaenavon

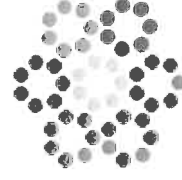
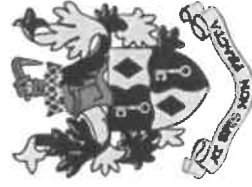
Journey so far and next steps



Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
**Torfaen**  
Public Services Board

## Healthy change for Blaenavon - making it happen

- January 2018 – Data provided by Torfaen Public Service Board's (TPSB) Wellbeing Plan indicated that Blaenavon residents have poor lifestyle habits and were at a higher risk of chronic conditions.
- January 2018 – Blaenavon Town Council (BTC) produced its first ever Business Plan 2018-22. Several of the key objectives within the plan looked at ways to support Health and Wellbeing.
- May 2018 - Launch of the Smart Living Project organised by Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) this was in conjunction with a range a partners, including Anuerin Bevan Health Board, Blaenavon Town Council and Third Sector organisations.
- Subsequently, we started to think about how we might offer an alternative to the standard public health messages that we were faced with daily.



Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
**Torfaen**  
Public Services Board

INTEGRATED



WELL-BEING  
NETWORKS  
GWENT

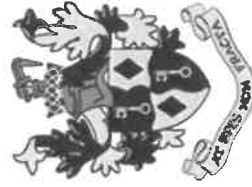


- As a Town Council and in line with our Business Plan, we wanted to test the approach that would need to be multi-faceted. This would involve a greater focus on tackling the social determinants of poor health and wellbeing.
- How could this work? Bringing services together working in a collaborative and integrated way whilst asking our community to shape that change.
- January 2019 – A project plan was drafted which created the role of a Healthy Blaenavon Officer. This officer is employed by the Town Council on a two year fixed term contract and is jointly funded by TCBC.
- The project is managed by the Town Council and is supported strategically by the Public Health team of the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board namely Emma Davis-Macintosh. The project lead for the Council is Councillor Gareth Davies.
- July 2019 – Blaenavon Town Council appointed Rebecca Smith as the Healthy Blaenavon Officer. A Service Level Agreement was agreed by BTC and TCBC together with a Strategic Work plan jointly produced to deliver the project.
- How did we as a Town Council create this role and the opportunity for change? Our advice to other Councils would be:
  - i. Find out what the Strategic issues that are prioritised at the Public Service Board Level.
  - ii. Offer your local knowledge, awareness, agility, accessibility and democratic accountability.

### **What did we as a Town Council demonstrate to others?**

A positive vision and the huge potential and added value that Town and Community Councils can bring to solving local social and economic issues.

The story so far:



Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
**Torfaen**  
Public Services Board

# Integrated Wellbeing Networks: update



**Blaenavon Resource Centre: More than Health Care**

The following support is available every week:

<b>Monday &amp; Thursday 10am - 2.30pm</b>	<p>Client Advice Drop in</p> <p>Work, debt &amp; living costs advice</p> <p>Specialist appointments Wednesday (10am-3.30pm call 01493 776033 to arrange)</p>
<b>Tuesday 9.30am - 12.30pm</b>	<p>Drop in for housing advice from the Walsall Housing Partnership</p> <p>Nature, Birds, Trees (NBT) Employment Support</p> <p>Helping under-employed people return to the employment market</p> <p>Struggling to stay in work, return from sick leave or develop your career</p>
<b>Wednesday 10am - 12pm</b>	<p>Helen O'Brien, providing housing related support for Blaenavon</p>
<b>Thursday 10am - 12pm</b>	<p>Carole, Clerk &amp; Clerk, Come along to get involved in our &amp; create, have a cuppa and chat to the mental people</p>
<b>Friday 9.30am to 1pm</b>	<p>Disability Employment Advice (DEA)</p> <p>Support unemployed or those absent from work due to long term health conditions</p> <p>Helping people find the right job with mental health conditions, including managing sickness &amp; homelessness</p>

Place based collaboration

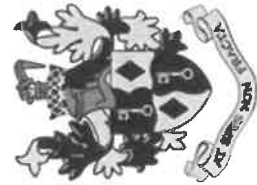
Community Hubs

Wellbeing Information

Wellbeing Workforce



Dewis Cymru



Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
**Torfaen**  
Public Services Board

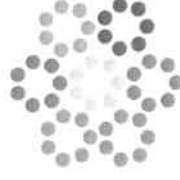


INTEGRATED  
**WELL-BEING NETWORKS GWENT**

# Integrated Well-being Networks

Reflections  
from a year  
ago...

- Integrated / aligned working is hard
  - The Resource Centre is a good place to start
  - People in Blaenavon are sometimes difficult to engage
    - A dedicated role with a focus on health and wellbeing will help
  - We need to be consistent in how we present well-being information
  - A strategic commitment to Dewis and more operational partners promoting it
  - We still need to work on the language we use
- Work in progress!



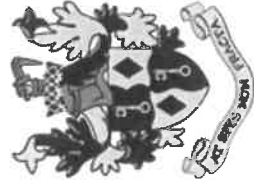
Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
**Torfaen**  
Public Services Board



# Healthy Blaenavon The journey so far

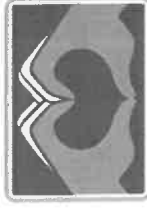
## Engagement:

- Hwb
- Play
- Blaenavon Heritage
- Over 50's, Torfaen take a stroll
- Bethlehem Chapel
- Opportunities Fair



Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
**Torfaen**  
Public Services Board

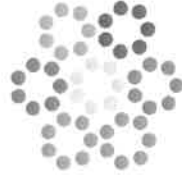
INTEGRATED



WELL-BEING  
NETWORKS  
GWENT

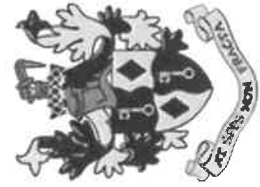
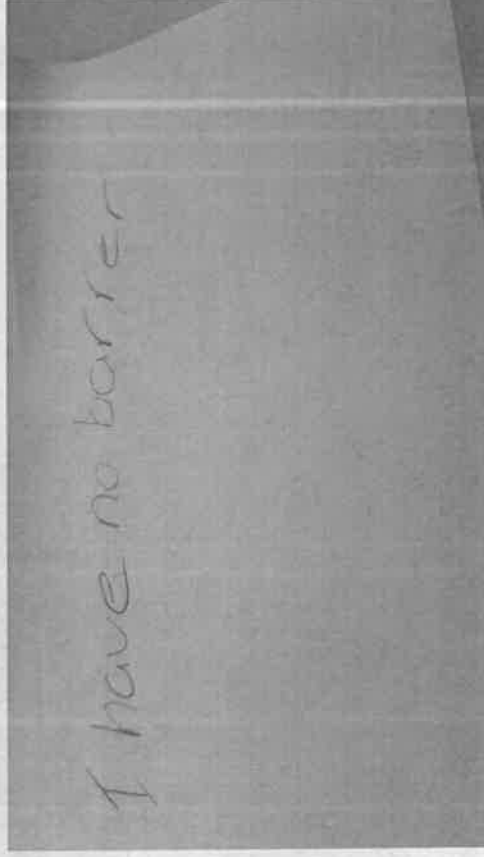
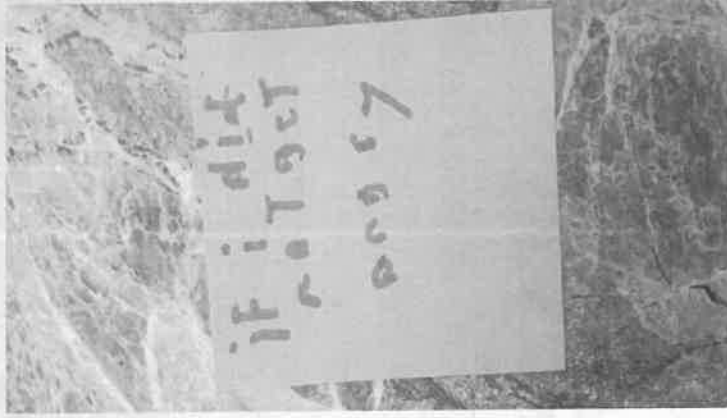
## Feedback from the groups

- Public transport is too expensive.
- It is difficult to get to college, often 3 buses to get there.
- There is a lack of mental health support. Young people don't feel supported by the Doctor or their school.
- Young people feel "hated" by the older generation.
- Unless you play sport there is little for young people to do.
- There is a lot to do for the older generation but transport around town is an issue.



Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
**Torfaen**  
Public Services Board

# Barriers to Healthy Living

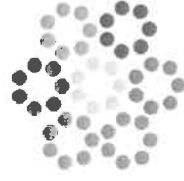


Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
**Torfaen**  
Public Services Board

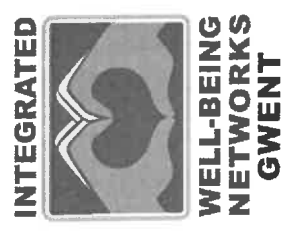


## Filling the gaps

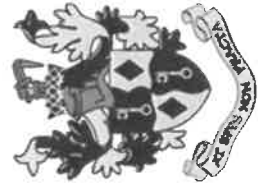
- State of Mind project with Platform for 14-25 year olds
- Music for Mental Health and self esteem with Recrock
- Trips out of town.
- Food for life get togethers
- Befriending
- Family Engagement project with Street Games (Jan 2020)
- Inside Out Cymru mental Health art project. (Jan 2020)



Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
**Torfaen**  
Public Services Board



# State of Mind



Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
**Torfaen**  
Public Services Board





# Music with Recrock



Engaging the hard to reach



Music for your mental health



Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
**Torfaen**  
Public Services Board



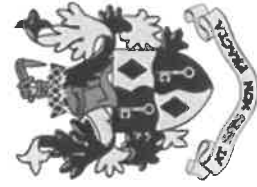
# Raising aspirations



Learning to be DJ's



Fashion design and resilience.



Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
**Torfaen**  
Public Services Board



# Intergenerational Breaking down barriers



Community get togethers



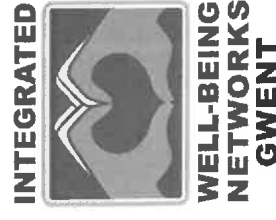
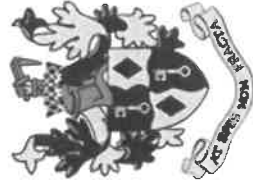
Food for life get together

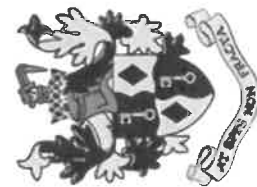


Just a  
jolly?

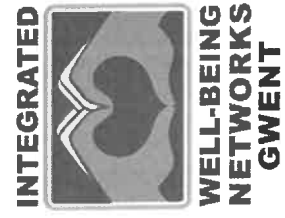
“If you take people out of their community and engage in activities not inside it, you can broaden people’s horizons and aspirations. That in itself will lead on to people wanting to gain more skills and better skills. We need to break through those barriers.”

Dr Mark Lang “Lessons from Lansbury Park”  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-39457860>



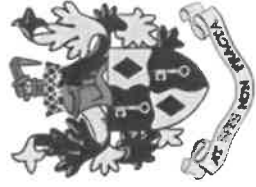


Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
**Torfaen**  
 Public Services Board



Days  
out this  
year  
have  
included

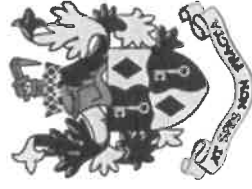
- St Fagans
- Cardiff Museum
- Swansea Museum
- Victoria and Albert Museum
- Millennium Centre



Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
**Torfaen**  
Public Services Board

# Community Conversations

- Building on our community get togethers
- Planned through the Hwb and Inter-generational group, adding members along the way
- Community Explorers – taking the conversation out
- Genuine engagement, interaction and listening by public services



Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
**Torfaen**  
Public Services Board





# Family Engagement Programme

- Blaenavon Town Council & Street Games
- Supporting families to be more active – on their terms
- Engagement led by Sports Development & Play Service
- Building on Family Wellbeing sessions (Fairwater) and #ifyougolgo
- Starting in January, detail still to be confirmed!
- Connections and conversations, not referrals and assessments



Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
**Torfaen**  
Public Services Board

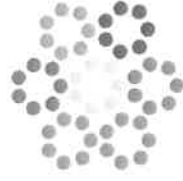




## Partnership Funds accrued to date

- Street Games Wales £27,500
- Comic relief for the next stage of the music project **£9,242.50 - Confirmed**
- Small food grant **£150** Grant awarded October 2019
- Fusion **£850** for an intergenerational trip to the V&A in London – confirmed
- Wales Millennium centre funding for community lantern trip **£300** confirmed

Total: £38,042.50



Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
**Torfaen**  
Public Services Board





2h

Your Energy Plan is due to end shortly

From: British Gas Customer Services <do-not-reply@britishgas.co.uk>

Sent: Mon, 13 Jan, 2020 at 11:23

To: clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk

F3850C8DF4EF5BB6E8081A9C2D8DA190ED4FC86E.png (4.2 KB)

D0B895FB0DAC210D44564EB03624A8AEB822F89E.png (< 1 KB)

F111B9FDB880C490FFDCCF701E036E6409876979.png (1.2 KB)

8594C2B08FB129A57BE6A8F2261F3BAC5EA2203D.png (< 1 KB)

58C18499B8ECC0531A61987ECD4AA8344AE12F63.jpg (13.5 KB)

– Download all



Images not displayed.

**SHOW IMAGES** | **ALWAYS SHOW IMAGES FROM THIS SENDER**



British Gas

View this email online

**My account**

NANTYGLO & BLAINA

13 JAN 2020

TOWN COUNCIL

# Agree a new deal online and save up to 9%

[Log In to renew  
online](#)

Dear Mrs Hughes

Your gas Fixed Price Energy Plan ends on 10 February 2020. Agree a new deal with us online today and you can save money on your renewal offer.

## Go online to start saving

If you [renew online](#) with us you'll save an extra 2%. If you choose to pay by direct debit, you'll save a further 7%^.

If you don't agree a new gas energy plan with us by 10 February 2020 you'll be moved to our variable prices which tend to be higher.

If you've got any questions, just get in touch – we're here to help.

**Phil Manock**

Head of SME Sales

# Need help?



**Email** Contact us online



**Support** Help and advice

Account Number

603114978

Site address

Blaina Salem Baptist

Church

High Street

Blaina Abertillery

Gwent

NP13 3BN

Contact Us

0330 332 1101\*

8am - 6pm Mon to Fri

**Renew online  
and  
save up to 9%**



British Gas

All you need is your password

**Log In**

\*Calls may be monitored or recorded to help improve our services to you. Calls to 0800 numbers are free. 0845 numbers are charged at 4 pence per minute plus your telephone company's network charge. For information about calls to 0330 and regional numbers please contact your network provider as individual call charges will vary.

^Customers who move to our variable prices or whose variable prices have changed and those we've price matched do not qualify for a Direct Debit discount.

Any concerns? You can access details of our complaints handling procedure at [britishgas.co.uk/business/complaints](http://britishgas.co.uk/business/complaints)

Micro businesses are entitled to additional protections. You can find the qualifying criteria and additional information at [gas.co.uk/business/microbusiness](http://gas.co.uk/business/microbusiness) and in the enclosed Terms and Conditions or by visiting [gas.co.uk/business/terms](http://gas.co.uk/business/terms).

British Gas is a trading name of British Gas Trading Limited a Centrica company. Registered in England and Wales No. 3078711. Registered office: Millstream, Maidenhead Road, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 5GD.

RETN/OLN/002

The information contained in or attached to this email is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorised to and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it. It may contain information which is confidential and/or covered by legal professional or other privilege under applicable law.

The views expressed in this email are not necessarily the views of Centrica plc or its subsidiaries, and the company, its directors, officers or employees make no representation or accept any liability for its accuracy or completeness unless expressly stated to the contrary.

Additional regulatory disclosures may be found here:  
<https://www.centrica.com/privacy-cookies-and-legal-disclaimer#email>

PH Jones is a trading name of British Gas Social Housing Limited. British Gas Social Housing Limited (company no: 01026007), British Gas Trading Limited (company no: 03078711), British Gas Services Limited (company no: 3141243), British Gas Insurance Limited (company no: 06608316), British Gas New Heating Limited (company no: 06723244), British Gas Services (Commercial) Limited (company no: 07385984) and Centrica Energy (Trading) Limited (company no: 02877397) are all wholly owned subsidiaries of Centrica plc (company no: 3033654). Each company is registered in England and Wales with a registered office at Millstream, Maidenhead Road, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 5GD.

British Gas Insurance Limited is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. British Gas Services Limited and Centrica Energy (Trading) Limited are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. British Gas Trading Limited is an appointed representative of British Gas Services Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.



## Strategic Equality Plan Formal Consultation

From: David.Arnold@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk  
 Sent: Wed, 8 Jan, 2020 at 11:25  
 To: clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk, clerk.ALCC@gmail.com,  
 tredegartc@btconnect.com, brynmaur.tc@btconnect.com  
 Cc: andrew.parker@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk,  
 Emma.Scherptong@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

SEP Formal Consultation Letter (1).pdf (520.9 KB)

Dear Clerks,

Please see attached a letter setting out the details of BGCBC's consultation on our draft Equality Plan approach and Equality Objectives 2020-24.

If you would like to respond on behalf of your Community/Town Council please do so on or before 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2020.

Some more information about the proposed Equality Objectives will be provided at the QLC meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan.

Many thanks,

David

**David Arnold**

**Policy Officer / Swyddog Polisi**

Partnerships Team / Tîm Partneriaethau

Blaenau Gwent Council / Cyngor Blaenau Gwent

Civic Centre / Canolfan Ddinesig

Ebbw Vale / Glyn Ebwy

NP23 6XB

[david.arnold@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:david.arnold@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

01495 357727

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn cyfathrebu gyda chi yn eich dewis iaith, dim ond i chi rhoi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu yn y ddwy iaith. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Mae'r neges ebost hon, ynghyd ag unrhyw ffeiliau sydd ynghlwm wrthi, yn gyfrinachol ac at ddefnydd yr unigolyn neu sefydliad y cyfeiriwyd hi ato. Pe dderbynioch y neges hon mewn camgymeriad, byddwch mor garedig a rhoi gwybod i'r rheolwr system. Mae'r nodyn hwn hefyd yn cadarnhau bod y neges ebost hon wedi cael ei archwilio am bresenoldeb feirws cyfrifiadurol.

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this e-mail in error please notify the system manager. This e-mail also confirms that this e-mail message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

**NANTYGLO & BLAINA**

**08 JAN 2020**

**TOWN COUNCIL**





**Mich lle Morris,**  
Managing Director / Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr

**T: DX: 43956 Ebbw Vale**

**E:**

**Our Ref./Ein Cyf.**

**Your Ref./Eich Cyf.**

**Contact:/Cysylltwch  :**



**NANTYGLO & BLAINA**

**08 JAN 2020**

**TOWN COUNCIL**

Dear stakeholder,

**Re: Tell us what you think about equalities! -**

**BG Council's Consultation on our Draft Equality Plan approach and Equality Objectives 2020-24 (Closes on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2020)**

Every four years the Council is required to review its Strategic Equality Plan and Equality Objectives in-line with the Equalities (Wales) Act 2010. To meet our statutory duties, we are currently undertaking preparations to publish a new plan in Spring 2020.

To help support the development of our plans, we are currently seeking your views on our Draft Equality Plan approach and Equality Objectives 2020-24:

1. Blaenau Gwent Council is an exemplar organisation who champions inclusion and diversity.
2. Develop an equality confident workforce who champions inclusion and diversity.
3. Support children and young people, particularly those with protected characteristics, to achieve their learning ambitions.
4. Promote, encourage and support safe, friendly and cohesive communities.
5. Ensure the meaningful involvement of people, communities and stakeholders. To better understand equalities issues and to inform our decision-making processes.
6. Promote, encourage and support safe, friendly and cohesive communities
7. To reduce inequality caused by poverty.

Mae'r Cynghor yn croeso i chi roi eiddo'n Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn cyfathrebu gyda chi yn eiddo dewis iath chi ond i chi rhoi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw beth.  
The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

**Municipal Offices**  
Civic Centre  
Ebbw Vale  
NP23 6XB

**Swyddfeydd Bwrdeisiol**  
Canolfan Dinesig  
Glyn Ebwy  
NP23 6XB

*a better place to live and work  
lle gwell i fyw a gweithio*

Further information is provided in our Draft Strategic Equality Plan Approach and Equality Objectives 2020 to 2024

Your feedback is important to us as we want to ensure that our plan is meaningful and reflects the needs of local people and communities and supports us as a public service body in advancing and strengthening equalities.

You can take part in many different ways:

- By completing our online survey
- Write to us via Policy & Partnerships, Civic Centre, Municipal Offices, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent. NP23 6XB
- Email us via: [pps@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:pps@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)
- Call us on: 01495 355935 / 01495 355092
- We also welcome drawings, stories, poems or videos

After the consultation closes we will be preparing a final Strategic Equality Plan 2020-16 which will be considered by our Corporate and Political processes in February and March prior to publication.

We would also like to take the opportunity to **invite you to a special event called 'Voices of our Valleys' being held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January at The Ballroom, Beaufort Theatre** (10.00am - 13.00pm). The event includes a series of short talks about equalities and will highlight some positive examples of where good work is happening to support the equalities agenda and will also give you another opportunity to have your say. **Lunch and refreshments will be provided.** Please contact [janet.mccarthy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:janet.mccarthy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk), or call 01495 355091 if you wish to attend.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Professional Lead for  
Engagement, Equalities & Welsh via [emma.scherptong@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:emma.scherptong@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk), 01495 355935  
if you wish to discuss this letter further.

Yours faithfully,

M/19 Mornis

Managing Director



## Biological Wildlife Recording Day - Free Training Event

From: Edwards, Rachel <Rachel.Edwards2@torfaen.gov.uk>

Sent: Fri, 10 Jan, 2020 at 14:08

To:

Cc: Williams, Steve

NANTYGLO & BLAINA

13 JAN 2020

TOWN COUNCIL

Dear all,

There will be an opportunity to attend a free training event in Pontypool on Friday 13th March. A Biological Wildlife Recording Day will be run by SEWBReC (South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre) and hosted by Torfaen & Blaenau Gwent Local Nature Partnership.

The aim of the course is to turn wildlife watchers and enthusiasts into wildlife recorders. The course will give participants the knowledge, tools and confidence to start submitting their wildlife records for the benefit of biodiversity protection and conservation. It will be an informal training day with a mix of classroom and outdoor elements. The course will be held at PALC from 10-3.30pm and there is currently one space per community council available for you to send a representative along. This type of event would count towards helping Community Councils to meet their public body biodiversity duties under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

A typical programme for the day would be as follows:

10.10 Introductions and acknowledgements  
10.30 The What, Where, When, Who and Why of Wildlife Recording  
11.30 Break  
11.45 How to record wildlife: techniques and surveys  
12.45 Lunch  
13.30 Outdoor session to make observations  
14:30 Capturing Wildlife Records electronically: demonstrations of online record entry into SEWBReCORD and the LERC Wales app.  
15:30 Summing up and finish.

If you would like to secure a place for this event please provide me with your name and contact details to be added to the list.

Kind regards,

**Rachel Edwards**

Ecologydd/Ecologist

Polisi Ecoleg a Thirwedd/Ecology and Landscape Policy

Polisi'r Amgylchedd Naturiol a'r Grŵp Gweithrediadau Strydlun/Natural Environment Policy and Streetscene Operations Group

Cymdogaethau, cynllunio a diogelu'r cyhoedd/Neighbourhoods, Planning and Public Protection

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Torfaen/Torfaen County Borough Council

Ffon/Tel: 01633 648331 (8331)

Mobile: 07779 454644

E-mail/E-bost: [rachel.edwards2@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.edwards2@torfaen.gov.uk)

\*\*\*\*\*  
DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this e-mail is a) the property of Torfaen County Borough Council; and b) confidential. It is intended only for the addressee. If you are not the addressee you must not disclose, copy or distribute this or take any action in reliance upon it. If you receive this e-mail in error, please notify us immediately by telephone on ++44 (0) 1495 766366, and re-direct the e-mail and any attachments to us. WARNING: Please ensure that you have adequate virus protection

1961 11 1 38 1842

1961 11 1 38 1842

1961 11 1 38 1842

Michelle Morris,  
Managing Director / Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr

T: 01495 356011 DX: 43956 Ebbw Vale  
E: committee.services@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Our Ref./Ein Cyf. MH

Your Ref./Eich Cyf.

Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Michelle Hicks



MEETING NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - THIS IS NOT  
A MEETING TO WHICH SECTION 100(A) TO (K) OF  
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 APPLIES

10<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

**CONSULTATION WITH TOWN/COMMUNITY COUNCILS –  
REVENUE BUDGET 2020/2021**

I write to advise that arrangements have been made for the above meeting to be held on **FRIDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2020 at 11.00 a.m.** in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre Ebbw Vale.

I trust that it is convenient for you to attend.

Yours faithfully,

*M. Morris*

Managing Director

NANTYGLD & BLAINA  
13 JAN 2020  
TOWN COUNCIL

**A G E N D A**

**1. REVENUE BUDGET 2019/2020**

To consider report of the Chief Officer Resources.  
(Copy to follow)

CO2002N7

To: Leader / Executive Member - Corporate Services  
Councillor N. Daniels

Executive Member - Regeneration & Economic Development  
Councillor D. Davies

Executive Member – Environment  
Councillor G. Collier

Executive Member – Education  
Councillor J. Collins

Executive Member – Social Services  
Councillor J. Mason

Councillors M. Cook, M. Cross, J. Hill, M. Moore, L. Winnett

Managing Director

Chief Officers

Head of Governance and Partnerships

Policy, Partnership and Engagement Manager

Ms T. Hughes, Clerk, Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council,  
Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina

Mr R. Gwinnell, Clerk, Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council  
Abertillery District Office, Mitre Street, Abertillery.

Mrs C. Price, Clerk, Tredegar Town Council,  
Bedwellty House, Bedwellty Park, Tredegar.

Mrs. A. Davies, Clerk, Brynmawr Town Council,  
Community Centre, Orchard Street, Brynmawr.