

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022/23



**NANTYGLO & BLAINA  
TOWN COUNCIL**

**Town Clerk: Tracy Hughes**

# NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

## CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

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### Mayor's Report:

Cllr Lillian Harris: It was a wonderful honour to be elected by my fellow Councillors to be the mayor for 2022-2023 and what a year it has been. I feel very privileged to have seen the Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee and Kings Charles Coronation. Mayor attended the 4 local schools with commemorative gifts for every pupil for the Platinum Jubilee and for the Kings Coronation. I also attended the 3 local sheltered accommodations in the area to donate money towards an afternoon tea for the residents. Amongst those 2 very special events I have also attended Armed Forces Day at Bedwellty House. Civic Sunday was held at Cwmcelyn Chapel. Remembrance Sunday at Central Park, Blaina. Town Council held two Christmas Carol concerts, 1 at St Peters Church, Blaina and the 2<sup>nd</sup> was at Nantyglo Rugby Club. At both events a Christmas Fair was held with a Santa's grotto, where children received a gift from Santa. The year has been a pleasure to be the Town Mayor of Nantyglo & Blaina Town working for the people of Nantyglo & Blaina. Also, during my term, we gave the residents the best possible local duty and resolved many issues to make things better for the area. This was realised by the hard work of our staff and was confirmed by the national audit office whereby there were no recommendations in their report on our council, which was very pleasing for all concerned.



COVID imposed upon us. Covid has not completely gone away but we now seem to have found a way to live with it as we do with many other infections.

We have now moved into a period of extreme financial difficulties which has left many of us struggling to make ends meet.

We as a Council recognise these difficulties and do what we can within our limitations, to try and assist the residents of Nantyglo and Blaina during this difficult time.

We continue to support the local Food Bank by making a financial donation each month to assist them in providing the fantastic work they do within our communities on a regular basis.

This year we reintroduced some of the activities that were curtailed during the pandemic period. We have recently held the Nantyglo & Blaina in bloom competition which was well supported by residents & organisations ready to show their gardening skills. Also, nominations have been submitted for the ARC awards which annually acknowledge the outstanding contributions made by residents who have gone the extra mile to work with, and in, our communities to make a difference to those who live here without seeking reward or recognition.

We have also increased the number of planters throughout Nantyglo & Blaina this year all filled with an array of plants and colours which hopefully make people feel just a little bit better about themselves and their towns.



### Leader's Report: Cllr Glyn Morvan:

As a council we will continue to work for and with you during the coming months and increase our involvement with the communities of Nantyglo & Blaina in as many ways as possible, and in doing so, meeting with as many of you as we can on the way.

We have finally moved away from the constraints that



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### **ABOUT COUNCIL:**

Nestling in the upper reaches of the Ebbw Fach Valley lies the town of Nantyglo and Blaina.

The Local Government Act 1972, brought about a nationwide reorganisation of local government. The implementation of the Act during 1974, brought the five former Urban District Councils of Abertillery; Brynmawr; Ebbw Vale; Nantyglo & Blaina and Tredegar together to create Blaenau Gwent Borough Council.

Nantyglo and Blaina Community Council was established to continue some of the functions of the previous UDC and to provide local representation on various statutory and voluntary organisations. The first meeting of the community council, which was held on the 27th of February 1974, resolved to adopt town status for Nantyglo and Blaina and thus the community council became a town council.

Council membership is of 16 unpaid, elected members, 8 for Nantyglo and 8 for Blaina. The Council currently has 3 vacancy available at Nantyglo ward and 3 at Blaina ward.

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### Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council Membership:

Name	Party	Ward
Cllr Lillian Harris: Town Mayor, Chair of Full Council Committee	Independent: Elected	Blaina
Cllr Glyn Morvan: Leader of Council,	Independent: Elected	Nantyglo
Cllr Ken Jones: Chair of Planning & Highways Committee	Independent: Elected	Nantyglo
Cllr Keith Jenkins: Chair of Events Committee	Independent: Elected	Nantyglo
Cllr Michael Williams: Vice Chair of Events Committee	Independent: Elected	Blaina
Cllr Des Hillman: Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee	Independent: Elected	Blaina
Cllr Carole Hillman	Independent: Elected	Nantyglo
Cllr Lydia King	Independent: elected	Blaina

### Committee Membership:

Name	Position	Committee
Cllr Lillian Harris	All Members of Council Chair	Full Council
Cllr Ken Jones Cllr Carole Hillman	All Members of Council Chair Observers	Planning & Highways Committee
Cllr Keith Jenkins Cllr Michael Williams	All Members of Council Chair Vice Chair	Events Committee
Cllr Des Hillman	All Members of Council Chair	Finance & General Purposes Committee
Cllr Des Hillman Cllr Glyn Morvan Cllr Keith Jenkins	Leader of Council	Personnel Committee
Cllr Keith Jenkins Cllr Michael Williams Cllr Carole Hillman Cllr Des Hillman Cllr Ken Jones	Town Mayor Deputy Mayor  Substitute	Joint Committee of Local Councils

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Cllr Lillian Harris Cllr Des Hillman Cllr Carole Hillman Cllr Michael Williams Cllr Ken Jones	Town Mayor Representative Representative Representative Substitute	Blaenau Gwent CBC Liaison Meeting with Town Councils
Cllr Ken Jones	Representative	Blaenau Gwent CAB
Cllr Michael Williams	Representative	Blaina Ward Action Group
Cllr Lillian Harris	Town Mayor	Blaina Gwent Heritage Forum
Cllr Des Hillman	Representative	Blaenau Institute Trust Fund
Cllr Michael Williams	Representative	School Governors – Ystruth Primary
Cllr Keith Jenkins	Representative	School Governors – Coed Y Garn Primary
Cllr Glyn Morvan	Representative	Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces: Covent Steering Group
Cllr Glyn Morvan Cllr Keith Jenkins	Leader of Council Town Mayor	One Voice Wales
Cllr Glyn Morvan	Leader of Council	One Voice Wales Larger Councils Representative
Cllr Des Hillman Cllr Carole Hillman	Representative Representative	Planning Application Observer

### Staff

Name	Position
Mrs Tracy Hughes RFO	Town Clerk
Mrs Nicola Horner	Assistant Officer

### Meetings

Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month for Planning & Highways and Finance and General, typically at 6pm. They also, meet every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month for Full Council and Events. Task and finish group and Personnel meetings are held as and when required. Annual Meeting usually take place in May of every year.

### Training Plan 2022/23:

#### Introduction:

The Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 places a duty on Town & Community Councils in Wales to set out a training plan for both councillors and staff to enable them to undertake their respective roles for the betterment of not only the Council and the Community it serves, but also the councillors' personal development.

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### **Training:**

Training is defined as *'a planned process to develop the abilities of the individual and to satisfy the current and future needs of the organisation'*.

Learning can be categorised into the following:

- Intuitive – learning by what happens by chance and we may not be conscious of it.
- Incidental – learning by reflection on particular events or activities.
- Retrospective – a system approach to reflecting on activities and identifying what we learned from them.
- Proactive – planning to learn from an activity, reflecting on it and planning to use what has been learned.

It is anticipated that councillor / staff learning will reflect many of the above.

### **Training Aims:**

The Council's training aims are the following:

1. To improve the understanding of its councillors, of their role as a local Councillor, the powers available to the Council and how best to utilise the resources available to the Council for the betterment of the residents it serves.
2. To provide the necessary training to its staff to ensure that they can undertake their respective roles.
3. To ensure an acceptable level of succession planning to:
  - a) Ensure the Council can operate effectively following local elections and potential changes to the Council membership.
  - b) Ensure the Council can continue to operate during times where staff may be unavailable (e.g., holidays, sickness, staff turnover etc.)

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### Staff Training:

All new staff to take Induction Training	As & when required
All staff to undertake staff appraisals to develop their training needs	Annually
All office-based staff encouraged to undertake the following, for which the Council will provide financial support:  1. ILCA – Introduction to Local Council Administration 2. FILCA – Financial Introduction to Local Council Administration 3. CILCA – Certificate in Local Council Administration	On-going
All staff encouraged to read regular publications and updates from internet websites:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SLCC</li> <li>• The Clerk</li> <li>• One Voice Wales</li> </ul>	Monthly
All staff encouraged to attend training relevant to the position.	On-going

### Council:

Council to allocate a training budget to cover provision of training activities, attendance at conferences and training publications for councillors and staff	Annually
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### Councillors Training:

All councillors are provided with New Members Induction Pack following Local Council Elections as soon as practicable after the local elections.	Every 4 years (or following local elections)
All councillors are encouraged to complete a skills audit to identify training needs.	Annually
All councillors shall undertake training in the Code of Conduct within 6 months of acceptance of office.	On Election to Office

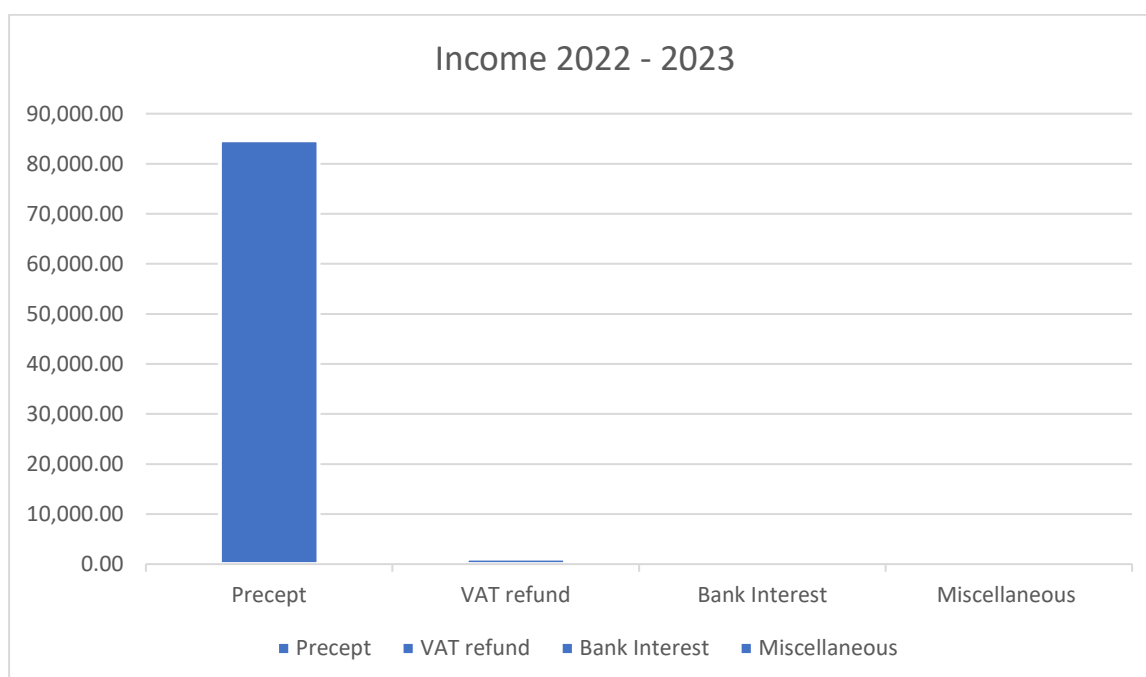


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All councillors are encouraged to attend conferences and training events as appropriate to councillors and Council's needs and responsibilities.	Annually
All councillors are encouraged to read the following publications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Good Councillors Guide</li> <li>• Governance &amp; Accountability – A Practitioners Guide</li> </ul>	On Election to Office

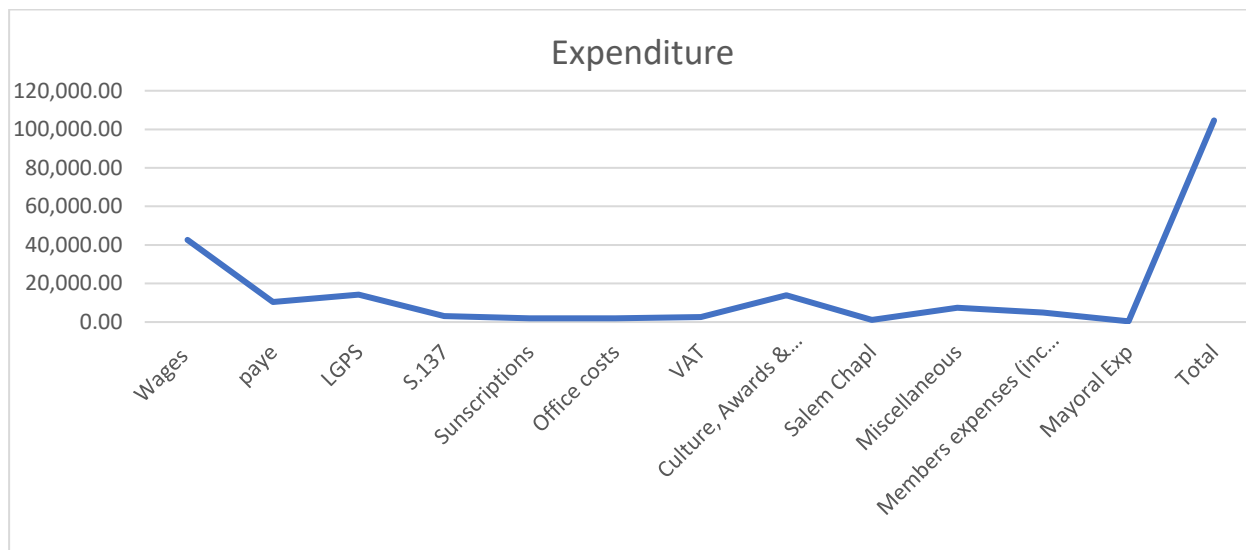
### Finance - Income



The main source of funding for Town councils is the funds raised through what is referred to as a precept (a charge) to council tax under section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council calculates its budget requirement for a financial year in accordance with section 50 of that Act and issue a precept to the billing authority. In 2022/23 the Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council precept was £84,700. A band D property for Council Tax paid £28 for the year towards the Town Council. This interest and a VAT refund is the only income to Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council.

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## Expenditure



## Financial Donations made through S137 2022/23

Financial donations given to organisations for grant funding from Nantyglo & Blaina Town council 2022/23. *(Funding provided to support organisations)*

DATE	ORGANISATION	AMOUNT
April '22	Llys Y Capel Social Fund	100.00
June '22	Kids Cancer Charity	100.00
July '22	Riverside Flats Fund	100.00
October '22	Rafi Abbas – Community Project	51.21
October '22	Cerebral Palsy Cymru	100.00
December '22	Brynmawr Rotary	100.00
December '22	Patchwork & Quilting	50.00
January '23	Urdd Gobaith Cymru	50.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>651.21</b>

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## Financial Donation given to Blaenau Gwent Food Bank:

### Donation provided to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank 2022/23 from Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council

*To support the residents of Nantyglo & Blaina who have been in need during the financial year.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
April	200.00
May & June	400.00
July & August	400.00
September & October	400.00
November & December	400.00
January	200.00
February & March	400.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2400.00</b>

## Assets:

### Description:

Salem Chapel – Building & Annexe
Salem Chapel – Contents
Historic films (Chartist & Blaina WW11)
Furniture & equipment (Clerks Office)
Artefacts in Council Chamber
Public Seating
Millennium Wall
Christmas Lighting
Silverware

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Festive Banners
Civic Chains (Mayor & Consort)
Educational Films (Scotch Cattle) & wall mounted TV and control box
Educational Films (Blaina Riots) & wall mounted TV and control box
Corner Suite
Christmas Train Set
Wall map Nantyglo
Memorial to CSM J.H. Williams VC
WW1 & WW11 – Pen & Ink drawings
2 x business laptops
Salem Chapel – decrease in valuation
Salem Chapel – Amended Valuation
2 x oil radiators
2 x Memorial Benches
Paper Shredder
2 x Laptops, 2 x monitors, 2 x docking stations, 2 x mouse & 2 x keyboards
Owl Pro Meeting System

### Activities

**Achievement & Recognition in the Community (ARC):** This event held annually which recognises people from the below categories. Town Council holds a ceremony to present winners with a trophy and certificates for their achievement.

- **Services to Youth:** Presented in recognition of service provision in the support of youth development i.e., running youth clubs, Air Training Corps, Scouts, Careers/employment advisor.

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- **Music Award:** Presented to a person or persons for their outstanding achievement and talent in the musical arena.
- **Carers:** Presented to a person who by concern for the welfare of others provide care and assistance to those who by age, infirmity or disability are dependent upon the assistance of others.
- **Good Neighbour:** Presented to a person or persons, who by a continued expression of consideration of a neighbour's quality of life are felt to be worthy of recognition.
- **Sports:** Presented to a person or trainer who has shown outstanding commitment or achievement to local sport.
- **Community:** Presented in recognition of the tireless effort and dedication given to enhance and support the local community particularly when that person is a member of several local community groups or organisations.
- **Award in Recognition of Professional Services:** Presented in recognition of the excellent services provided to those in need of advice or assistance.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Presented by the Town Mayor, in recognition of exceptional or outstanding service to the communities of Nantyglo & Blaina.

**In Bloom:** This event also held annually which recognises people from the below categories. Town Councils holds a ceremony to present winners with a trophy and certificates for the achievement.

- Open Spaces:
- Individual Houses:
- Individual Allotments:
- Community Group:
- School:
- Places of Worship

**Christmas Carol Concerts:** Town Council invites our 4 local schools Coed y Garn Primary, Ystruth Primary, Ysgol Bro Helyg Primary and Blaen y Cwm Primary to a carol concert annually for the children to sing hymns and receive a gift from Santa, which is purchased by Town Council.

**Christmas Fair:** This is occasional event whereby Town Council invites stall holders to come along and sell their Christmas products for our residents to come along. Again, Santa is available in his grotto for children to visit him and receive a gift, purchased by Town Council.



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**Christmas Lighting:** Nantyglo & Blaina Town purchases new LED low wattage lights every year to update old inefficient lighting to light up the street with festive lighting around both towns.

**Easter Egg:** Town Council holds this activity annually which provides every child within the local schools Coed y Garn Primary, Ystruth Primary, Ysgol Bro Helyg Primary and Blaen y Cwm Primary an Easter Egg.

**Queens Platinum Jubilee:** Town Council provided every pupil in their 4 local primary schools with drinks bottle and pen & pencil set. Also, there were 2 commemorative trees planted to mark the celebration.

**Death of Queen Elizabeth:** A book of condolences purchased for residents to write their deepest sympathy wishes to the Royal Family and a service of Remembrance was held jointly organised with Blaina Branch of Royal British Legion.

**Remembrance Sunday:** Town Council supports the Role of the Royal British Legion in a parade through Nantyglo & Blaina and lay a poppy wreath.

**Civic Sunday:** As part of the Mayoral Year, the Town Mayor holds a Civic Sunday Service to which the whole community and other local dignitaries invited.

**Merchant Navy Day – Fly the Red Ensign:** Commemorated the day by Town Council flew the Red Ensign flag to mark their condolences.

**NHS Day:** Commemorated the day by Town Council flew the flag for the first NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers' Day for a celebration and recognition of the hard work carried out by essential workers during the pandemic, and to remember those who have lost their lives in the service of others.

**Wellbeing:** Town Council provided from the start of the pandemic and still provides to date £200.00 every month to Foodbank Blaenau Gwent to help support our residents in Nantyglo & Blaina who are in financial need.

### **Environment:**

**Planters:** Town Council purchased 6 extra-large planters and replants all planters twice a year for Nantyglo and Blaina to have flowers all year round.

**Collaborative Working:** Town council worked collaboratively with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Town Centre Manager, also alongside Local Authority Ward Councillors, Cllr Lisa Winnett, Cllr John Morgan, Cllr Peter Baldwin & Cllr Sonia Behr. Donations made to events

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of Halloween and Christmas funday. Town Councillors were also in attendance and assisted with Santa Sleigh through the streets of Nantyglo & Blaina.

**Local Giving Grants S.137:** To individuals or deserving groups in the area to apply up to £100 grant in 1 year.