

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023/24



**NANTYGLO & BLAINA  
TOWN COUNCIL**

**Town Clerk: Tracy Hughes**

# NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

## CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

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### Town Mayor's Report:

It is with great sadness that the late Cllr Keith Jenkins passed away before he was able to provide Town Council with a report, therefore Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Michael Williams provided Town Council with the following report.:

Cllr Jenkins considered it a privilege and an honour to have been the Town Mayor for Nantyglo and Blaina for 2023/24 and proudly carried out the role to the very end, aided and assisted by his consort Mrs Lynne Higgins.

Cllr Jenkins was a wonderful man who served his community to the very end, and it's very sad that Town Council thanked officially at the Annual meeting in 2024 him for his amazing work that he did over the years - especially looking after the planters around both towns, and the yearly In Bloom Competition - he will be sadly missed. Some of his many visits and activities during his Mayoral Year included:

- Visiting the newly revamped studios of BGfM.
- Attended the opening of 'Stute café in Blaina Institute.
- Representing the Town Council at Remembrance Day Service.
- Attending the joint Christmas carol service of the 4 local primary schools.
- Attending the Holocaust Memorial Day at Bedwellty House which was hosted by Tredegar Town Council.
- Attending the celebrations of the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Llys y Capel.

Cllr Jenkins represented the Town Council as a School Governor also as an area representative of One Voice Wales.



### 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 as we can on the way.

In / during 2023/24, the Council continued working with partner agencies on various community projects in Nantyglo and Blaina

We began by donating Easter eggs to the four primary schools, which were warmly received. In May, we marked the King's Coronation by gifting commemorative presents to primary school pupils and providing financial support to local care homes for their celebrations.

Sadly, the occasion was overshadowed by the sudden passing of our Mayor, Councillor Keith Jenkins. Before his passing, he oversaw the placement of new planters in both towns, which later flourished in his memory.

Community efforts were celebrated through the ARC Awards and the In-Bloom Competition, recognizing those who support and enhance our area.

Throughout the year, we donated monthly to the Blaenau Gwent Foodbank and supported local groups assisting residents.

As Christmas approached, schools hosted a wonderful joint Carol Service, and we thanked pupils with selection packs. We also contributed to the BGCB Christmas Extravaganza, the Santa Sleigh run, and the Rotary Christmas hamper appeal.

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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 Keith Jenkins: 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 Lilian Harris: 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 Keith Jenkins	All Members of Council Chair	Full Council
Cllr Ken Jones Cllr Carole Hillman	All Members of Council Chair Observers	Planning & Highways Committee
Cllr Lillian Harris 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	Town Mayor Deputy Mayor	Joint Committee of Local Councils

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Cllr Ken Jones	Substitute	
Cllr Keith Jenkins 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 Keith Jenkins	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 2023/24:

#### 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

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undertake their respective roles for the betterment of not only the Council and the Community it serves, but also the councillors' personal development.

### **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.)

### **Staff Training:**

All new staff to take Induction Training	As & when required
All staff to undertake staff appraisals to develop their training needs	Annually

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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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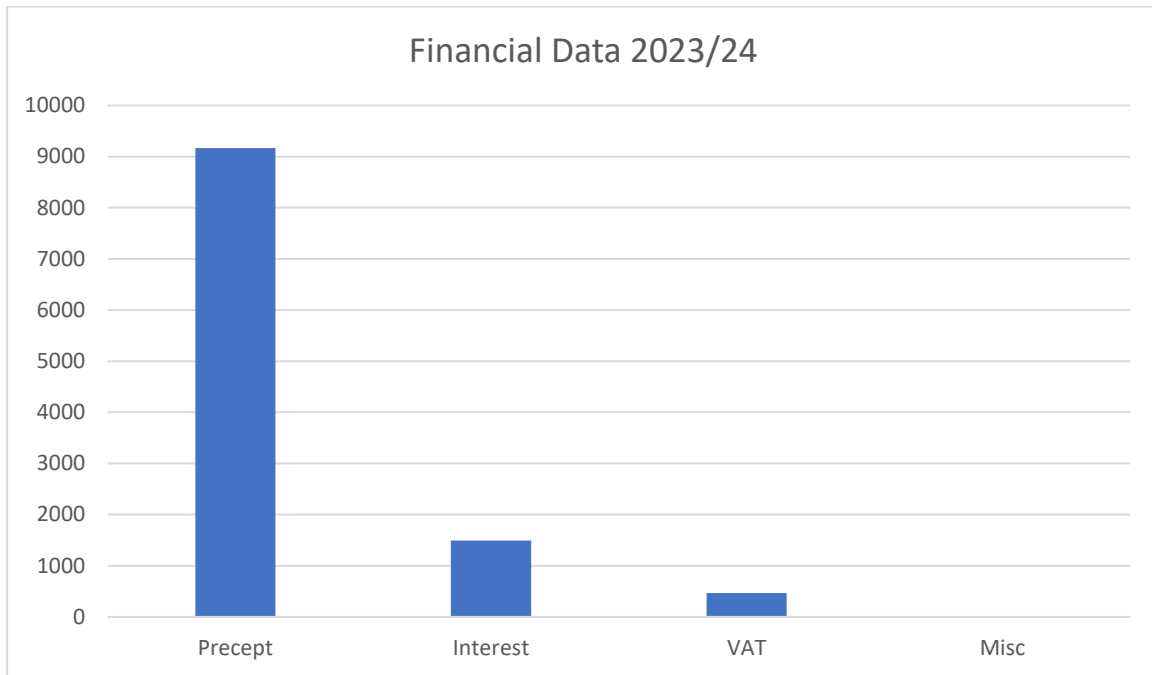
### Councillors Training:

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.	Election to Office
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



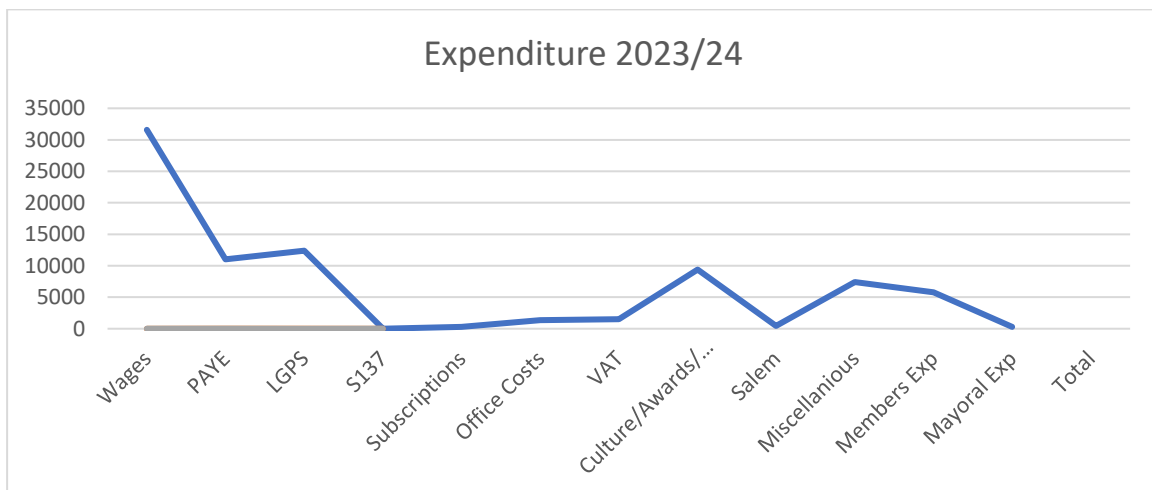
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## Finance - Income



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 2023/24 the Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council precept was £91,170.00 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.

## Expenditure



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## Financial Donation made through S137 2023/24

**Grant funding given to organisations to support their groups  
& Donations provided for families in need of Nantyglo and  
Blaina residents from Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council**

**April 2023 – March 2024**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Amount</b>
April '23	McMillan Cancer	100.00
April '23	Blaen Y Cwm School	100.00
April '23	Cwmcelyn House	72.00
April '23	Llys Y Capel	96.00
April '23	M Knapp	50.00
April '23	Riverside Flats	81.00
April '23	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
May '23	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
May '23	M Cummings	100.00
May '23	KR Llewellyn (Nbull)	100.00
June '23	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
June '23	Hospice of the Valleys	100.00
July '23	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	400.00
July '23	Shaw Health - Cwmcelyn Nursing home	100.00
Sept '23	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
Oct '23	Ebbw Fach Creative Club	100.00
Oct '23	BGCBC - TMC	100.00
Oct '23	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
Nov '23	Friends of North Ebbw Fach	100.00
Nov '23	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
Dec '23	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
Jan '24	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
Feb '24	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
Mar '24	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
<b>Apr - Mar</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£3599.00</b>

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## Financial Donation given to Blaenau Gwent Food Bank:

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Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO  
Council Offices, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina NP13 3BN  
Swyddfa'r Cyn

gor. Sefydliad Blaenau, Y Stryd Fawr, Blaenau NP13 3BN

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

FINANCIAL DONATIONS GIVEN TO ORGHANSIATION TO SUPPORT RESIDENTS AND GROUPS WITHIN  
NANTYGLO & BLAINA WHO ARE IN NEED 2023/24.

DATE	ORGANISATION	AMOUNT
April 2023	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
May 2023	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
June 2023	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
July 2023	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	400.00
September 2023	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
October 2023	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
November 2023	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
December 2023	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
January 2024	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
February 2024	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
March 2024	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	200.00
	<b>Total amount of donations</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

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Public Seating
Millennium Wall
Christmas Lighting
Silverware
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

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### 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.
- **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:
  - Schools:
  - 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 joint carol concert for the children to sing hymns and receive a gift from Santa, which is 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.

**Kings Coronation:** Town Council provided every pupil in their 4 local primary schools with a commemorative nylon bag.

**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 continues to replant 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 of Halloween, Christmas funday and Superhero Day. 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.