

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

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO

Council Offices, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina NP13 3BN
Swyddfa'r Cyngor, Sefydliad Blaenau, Y Stryd Fawr, Blaenau NP13 3BN

Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk

Dear Member,

You are summoned to attend a hybrid meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina to commence following the Planning & Highways Committee meeting **on Tuesday 9th July 2024**.

If any member of the public wishes to attend the meeting remotely, please contact the Town Clerk at the above e-mail or phone by 3pm on 9th July 2024 for details of how to access the meeting.

Yours sincerely



Town Clerk

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

AGENDA

Declaration of Interest

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

1. Apologies for absence:

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

2. Questions from the Public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters itemised on the agenda (limited to 10 minutes total).

3. Correspondence:

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

- a) Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council – (for consideration & information- copies attached)

Notes and actions from the Joint Liaison Meeting of BGCBC and Town Councils held on 29th May 2024. Please note the information also contains a letter from the Welsh Government in respect of the 20mph speed limit & information re: CCTV cameras.

- b) Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council response – (for information & consideration – copies attached):

Town Council response to e-mail received from C. Gunter and the subsequent response.

- c) Rafi Abbas – (for information & consideration – copies attached):

E-mail re: local service project and request for recognition.

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

As previously resolved, Members are invited to consider making further financial donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist residents of Nantyglo and Blaina for the months of July and August 2024.

5. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

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

- a) *None received to date*

6. Salem Chapel:

Members are invited to consider the attached inspection report:

- June 2024 (*copy attached*).

7. Members Updates:

Members are invited to provide any updates or information.

8. Confidential Information:

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

Tracy

From: Arnold, David <David.Arnold@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 June 2024 16:20
To: Clerk; ALCC Clerk; Brynmawr TC Clerk; Tredegar Town Council
Cc: Parker, Andrew
Subject: TCC Liaison Committee meeting 29th May
Attachments: TCC Liaison Committee notes & actions May 2024.docx; 05062024 20mph - Letter to Town and Community Councils.pdf; 2024 Expression of Interest for Meanwhile Use.docx; TC-Loans(A5)-PF.pdf; Town Centre Business Premises.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi all,

Please find attached the notes and actions (in red) from the joint TCC & Cabinet committee meeting on 29th May. Below (and also attached) are some responses to some of the actions, please can you share with your members.

I'll be in touch separately to arrange a Clerks meeting with you to discuss some of the Budget outcomes and suggestions etc.

Default Speed Limit

Letter from Welsh Government to TCCs attached and link to the feedback survey here: <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/road-safety/20mph-default-speed-limit-have-your-say/>

Support for Town Centre Businesses

Info below and also attached.

Town Centre Loans

The Town Centre Interest-Free loan scheme delivered by the Town Centre Team has been a significant catalyst for both property owners and local businesses, and it has played a crucial role in reactivating vacant properties. This initiative provides interest-free loans for underutilised commercial properties within the Town Centre, thereby facilitating their transformation and reintegration into the local economy.

These loans, subject to an affordability assessment, a robust business plan, and the Council's application of the necessary legal charge, have been instrumental in revitalising properties. The effectiveness of this scheme is underscored by the successful administration of over 20 loans, highlighting its substantial contribution to the vibrancy and growth of the Town Centre's in Blaenau Gwent.

Meanwhile Use

The Meanwhile Use Scheme delivered by the Town Centre Team is a strategic initiative designed to provide short-term rental support to new businesses that introduce unique and distinctive offerings to the Town. The scheme's objective is to attract a diverse array of businesses. However, it's important to note that businesses such as hairdressers, takeaways, barbers, and other businesses that could potentially cause displacement are not considered under this scheme.

To ensure a smooth and efficient process, we require a comprehensive business plan from all interested parties. This plan should clearly illustrate the unique proposition of the proposed business, as well as its potential contributions to the local economy and community.

This scheme has proven to be successful, having supported numerous businesses that have either continued to rent the property or have transitioned into larger premises within the town centre.

Shop Local Scheme

The “Shop Local” initiative, overseen by the Town Centre Team, aims to promote local Town Centre businesses and invigorate the local economy.

This initiative allows businesses to exhibit their offerings via BGCBC social media channels. It facilitates the promotion of their business by providing their contact information and their products or services.

Significantly, this scheme has already promoted more than 200 businesses and continues to expand. This is indicative of the scheme’s positive influence on promoting independent retailers.

Furthermore, this service is offered at no cost to the businesses. This ensures inclusivity, allowing all local companies, irrespective of their scale or resources, to take part in the scheme and reach a broader customer base.

These schemes are promoted via Twitter and Facebook.

Many thanks,

David

David Arnold

Professional Lead for Strategic Partnerships / Arweinydd Proffesiynol Partneriaethau Strategol

Phone/Ffon: 07977 158946

Email/Ebost: david.arnold@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, The General Offices, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale NP23 6DN

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent, Y Swyddfeydd Cyffredinol, Glynebwy, NP23 6DN

Website: <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/home/>

Gwefan: <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/cy/hafan/>

Twitter/Trydar: <http://www.twitter.com/blaenauqwentcbc>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/blaenauqwentcbc>

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.

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

Our Ref./Ein Cyf. MH

Your Ref./Eich Cyf.

Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Michelle Hicks

LIAISON COMMITTEE WITH TOWN/COMMUNITY COUNCILS

WEDNESDAY, 29TH MAY, 2024 at 10.00 a.m. via MS Teams.

WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr Helen Cunningham (BGCBC)

Cllr Hayden Trollope (BGCBC)

Cllr Glyn Morvan (N&B TC)

Cllr Julian Gardner (Brynawr TC)

Upcoming meetings

A future meeting of this Committee to be held in person at the General Offices, Ebbw Vale.

CHRISTMAS ADORNMENTS ON STREET LIGHTING

MS explained the need for structural testing and risk assessment for the safety of the columns and the public. Guidance has been issued to town and community councils and will be shared again. Cllrs Des Hillman and Wayne Hodgins raised concerns about the costs and the impact on the well-being of the communities. Earlier conversations each year and better signposting of information for community groups.

TCCs to encourage their community groups to review the existing guidance ahead of this Christmas and inform BGCBC about which lampposts they want to use as early as possible, and to explore alternative options to hang adornments where possible not involving streetlighting.

All to consider whether any 3rd sector well-being grants programmes might be able to support community groups in covering survey costs.

Mae'r Cyngor yn croeso i chi 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.

General Offices
Steelworks Road
Tyllwyn, Ebbw Vale
NP23 6DN

Swyddfeydd Cyffredinol
Heol Gwaith Dur
Tŷ Llwyn, Glyn Ebwy
NP23 6DN

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

BUDGET 2024/25 AND BEYOND

Working group of TCC reps to consider where costs can be shared in future e.g. CCTV and other areas.

CCTV: OVERVIEW POSITION OF BLAENAU GWENT TOWN CENTRE ZONES

AP presented the options for partnership between the council and the town and community councils for the CCTV provision. The service was operational and effective and that he would share the annual report with the statistics and the evidence once available.

TCCs to collectively consider entering a Blaenau Gwent CCTV partnership/collaboration, and collectively consider financial contributions they can make to support CCTV delivery within the relevant CCTV Zones.

ARMED FORCES COVENANT

AP thanked the town and community councils for signing up to the armed forces covenant and said he would work with the armed forces champion Derek Bevan to communicate that to the community and the armed forces.

ITEMS FROM TCCS

TCC Review & Charter of Common Agreement

Review the charter and consider the recommendations from the town and community council review as part of the Forward Work Programme.

Default Speed Limits

Link to the Welsh Government feedback mechanism to be shared with TCCs.

Business Development grants

Information to be shared with TCCs about any grants and support schemes available to town centre businesses.

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

<u>Q2 2024/25</u>	<u>Q3 2024/25</u>	<u>Q4 2024/25</u>
Charter of Common Agreement	Charter of Common Agreement	Budget 25/26
Gwent PSB Well-being Delivery Plan	Budget 25/26	
Default Speed Limits	Intro to new Chief Exec and BG look-ahead	

Ken Skates AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref KSNWT/20mph

To: Town and Community Councils

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Local Government & Planning

05 June 2024

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to encourage you to get involved in our listening programme on 20mph. This has been a really challenging period for transport in Wales and I recognise that councils have been at the frontline through some incredibly turbulent times.

As we have always acknowledged with a change of this scale, we were not going to get the speed limits on all restricted roads right from the start. We now want to support all highway authorities to get the right speed on the right roads and achieve more consistency across Wales on which roads should have a 30mph limit.

Against that backdrop, it is not surprising that some colleagues are cautious about reigniting the debate on 20mph at a time when it was beginning to calm down in some parts of Wales. I absolutely recognise those concerns and genuinely welcome that constructive criticism and challenge.

I want to build from the consensus that 20mph is right around schools, hospitals and in built up residential areas. Through partnership working and by supporting highway authorities to make changes where it is right to do so, I believe we can absolutely make 20mph a success story for Wales.

However, we cannot escape the fact that 20mph has served to polarise the people and communities we serve. Against that background, I felt we should take a step back and listen to the views of everyone involved. I take full responsibility for that reset, and it is not a reflection on highway authorities who have worked so hard on the implementation of this policy over the past two years and more.

To support the National Listening Programme I have instigated, we have published a [webpage](#) to help signpost people towards the relevant highway authority where they want to feedback on specific speed limits. Your local knowledge and community engagement make you key partners in this process.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I encourage you to contact your local council, or the Welsh Government for trunk roads, about any roads or streets in your communities where you feel the speed limit has not been correctly applied. You can view a map of all Welsh trunk roads on [DataMapWales](#).

We want you to let your highway authority know if you think a specific road should:

- change from 20mph to 30mph
- change from 30mph to 20mph
- stay at 20mph

When giving feedback please:

- be clear and precise about which section of road you are talking about
- give reasons for your views

In my discussions so far, it has become clear that in many areas only a handful of changes will be made, whereas in other places, more roads are likely to revert to 30mph.

Through the drumbeat of regional meetings we are putting in place with the support of Transport for Wales, and with the help of the County Surveyors' Society Wales, we want to co-create a framework that supports highway authorities to make the right decisions for local roads – particularly when those calls are finely balanced.

That framework will be published before summer recess. After the summer break, we will continue to support highway authorities in the implementation phase of assessing roads, making of traffic regulation orders and finally in the implementation of changes on the ground. We acknowledge that it may take several months from September onwards before we see any changes on the ground.

My officials will then focus on prioritising guidance for other speed limits where people live.

To enable us all to focus fully on speed limits, we are pausing work on the development of a new Road Safety Strategy and pavement parking.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ken Skates AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport

Expression of Interest for Meanwhile Use

About You:

Full Name:	
Address:	
Contact Number:	
Email Address:	

About Your Business

Your business idea:	
Have you done similar before?	
Your business type (sole trader, ltd company, CIC, charity)	
What facilities do you require?	
Anything in your proposal that has 'social value' e.g., employing/creating business opportunities for local people/employing people who otherwise find it difficult to get work/opportunities with learning/training/sustainability benefits	
Current Business status (are you currently trading?)	
How would you promote your stay?	

Property intended for use:

Address of the property interested in meanwhile use:	
Proposed rent amount:	
Landlords name, address and telephone number:	
Intended use of the property:	
How long would you like the property?	
Size of unit in sqft	
Have you previously participated in Meanwhile Use for a property?	Yes No
If yes, please provide details:	

Declaration:

I, the undersigned, declare that the information provided in this Expression of Interest form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that submission of this form does not guarantee the approval of Meanwhile Use, further documentation including a business plan will be required.

Applicant's Signature:**Date:****Submission Instructions**

Please submit this Expression of Interest form to
Regeneration-projects@blaeanu-gwent.gov.uk

Tracy

From: Parker, Andrew <andrew.parker@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 July 2024 14:57
To: Clerk; Arnold, David
Cc: Herridge, Kristian
Subject: RE: CCTV queries

Hi Tracy

All pretty easy to answer. There are 2 cameras in Blaina currently, although one has just been upgraded to being a 180 camera, which means it has a view up and down the street, so like having a new camera (2 views from one pole).

One is located on the corner of High St and Hope St, with a view of High Street down towards the junction of Church St (looking south). The other one, which is new is located opposite the Co-op, it now looks North up towards Coop up High St, and also down High Street towards Cwm Celyn Road. This was improved earlier in the year, from discussions with the Councillors and Police. We can get some maps out to you (Kris will send the most up to date maps). There is also infrastructure on other columns/poles which moves the signal to the library i.e. it is wireless transfer not hard wired.

In terms of who is responsible, nice and easy - I am. As the Service Manager, reporting to Head of Service Sarah King. The SIRO is Rhian Hayden – Senior Information Risk Officer. If any discussions are needed on it with anybody, or your Councillors want to discuss anything it is through me 😊. Kris Herridge also cc'd is included. Anything on the system is via us, our contract with Caerphilly is operational delivery ie they deal with the footage etc. We also have an infrastructure contract too with IDS. I should add though our Cabinet Lead is Councillor Helen Cunningham.

I'd also add that in the meeting the other day that we had, Councillor Hillman's perception of cameras numbers, and costs is also a little linear though, as the costs are not just divided by 55 (number of cameras), the running costs for a zone, all have similar fees, regardless of the amount of cameras.

Furthermore, in Blaina, there are also cameras not operated by us (the Council) that get used by the Police, e.g. Aneurin Leisure Trusts system, down on the bottom roundabout, but this system is self-contained and not as costly as ours to operate. Actually purchasing and putting up a camera is relatively inexpensive compared on-going operating costs.

I'd add as well, Blaina had a big upgrade last year to PSBA connections as well - to take it to Caerphilly Control Room (around 15k investment from the Council) without this

we wouldn't be able to have cameras. Previously, we had 4G cameras, which were massively problematic in terms of accessing and retrieving footage – also the old system only held footage for say 7 days max, as it was internal storage, now it is recorded for 31 days to the library.

I can answer any queries or question needed, and happy to discuss further if the Council want a discussion.

Let me know if you need anything else,

Andrew

From: Clerk <clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk>

Sent: Monday, July 1, 2024 2:31 PM

To: Parker, Andrew <andrew.parker@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk>; Arnold, David <David.Arnold@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk>

Subject: CCTV queries

External: This email originated from outside Blaenau Gwent Borough Council. Please take care when clicking links.

Allanol: Daeth yr e-bost hwn o'r tu allan Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent. Cymerwch ofal wrth glicio ddolenni.

Good afternoon both,

Hoping that all is well.

Following the Liaison Meeting on 29th May, my Council has put forward a number of queries in relation to CCTV in the Nantyglo & Blaina area:

- How many CCTV cameras are currently situated in Nantyglo & Blaina?
- Where are the CCTV cameras located in Nantyglo & Blaina?
- Who is currently responsible for the operation of any CCTV cameras within Nantyglo & Blaina?

Many thanks both.

Kind regards

Tracy

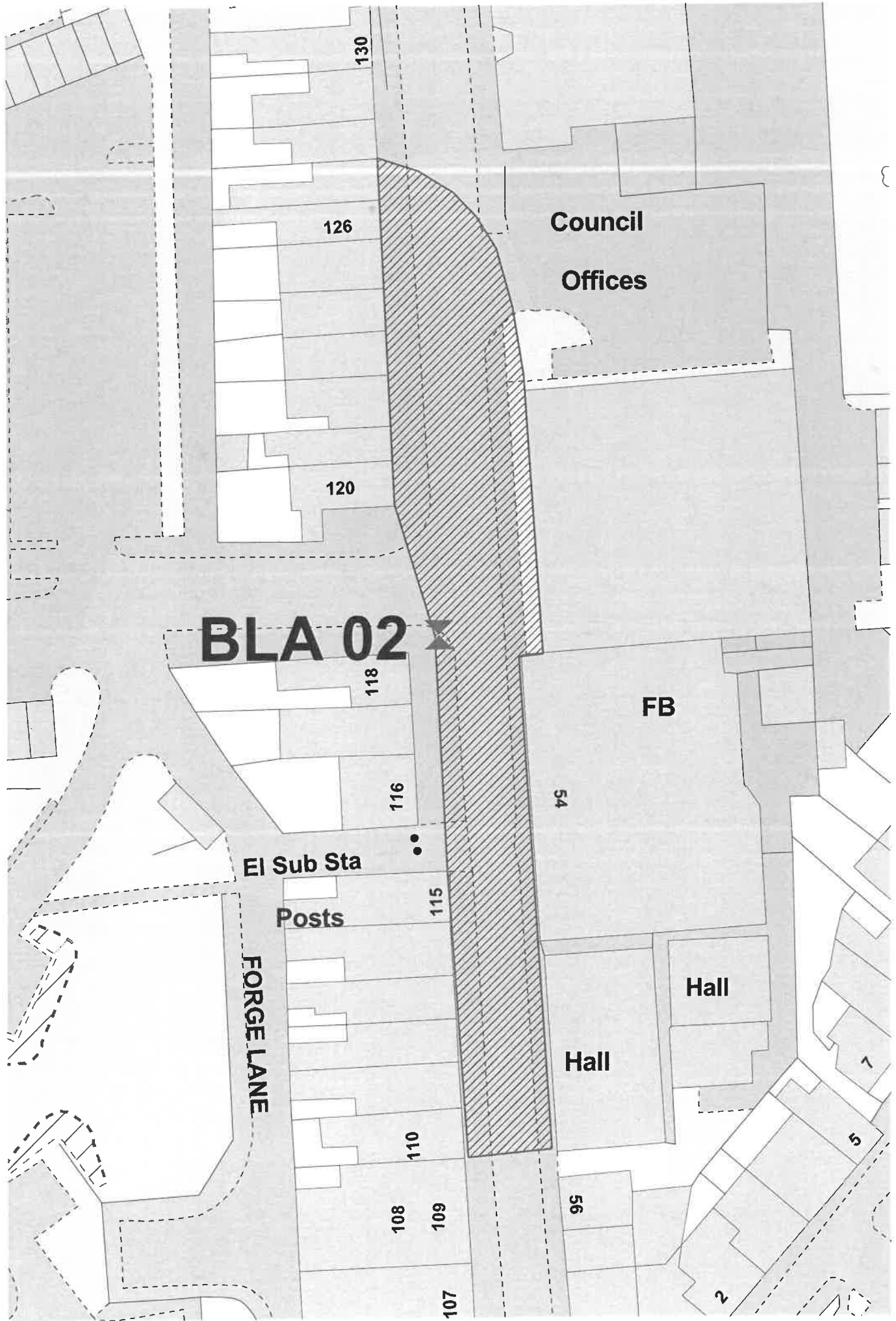
Tracy Hughes - Town Clerk / RFO

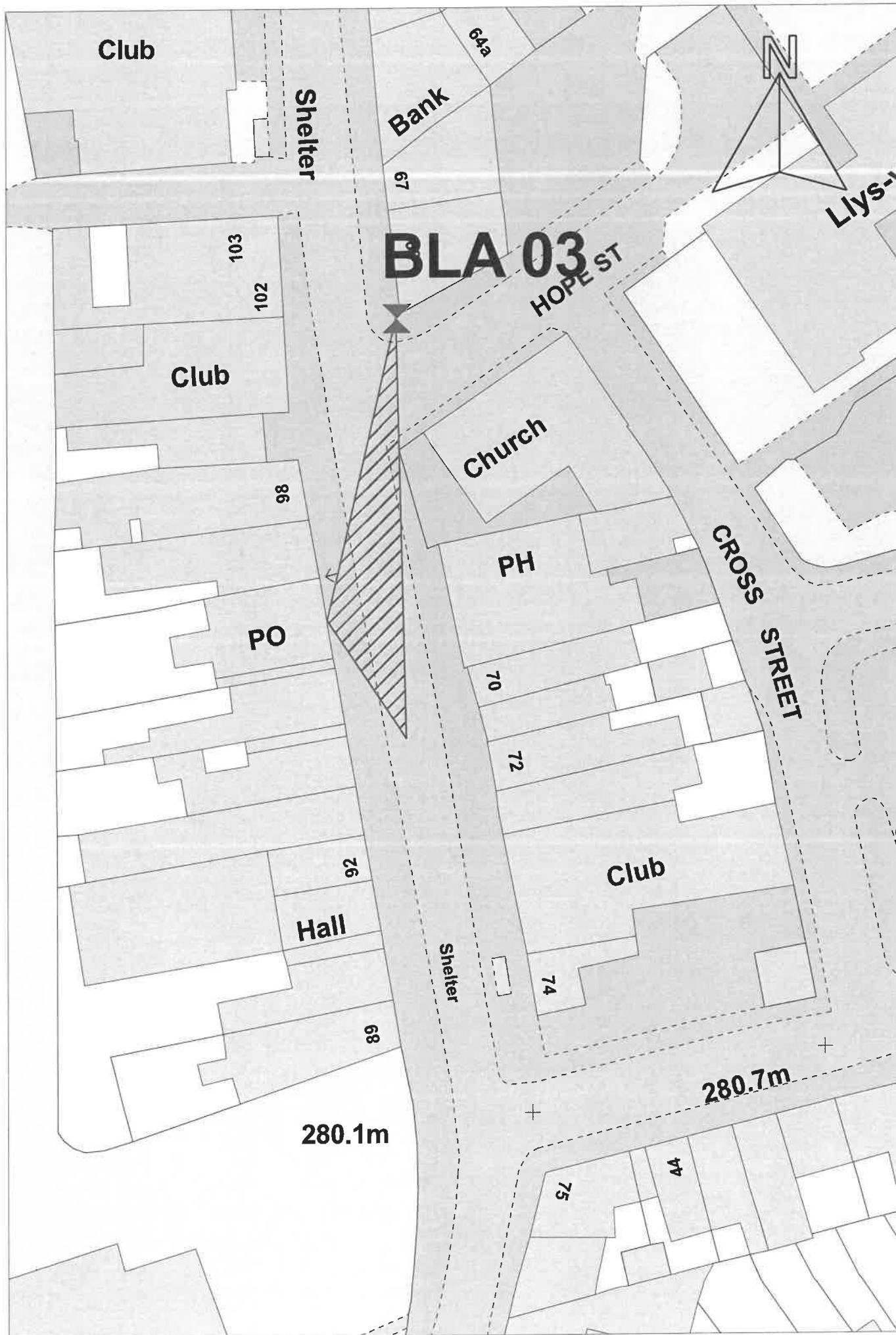
Nicola Horner – Assistant Officer

Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council

Tel no: 01495 292817

E-mail: clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk





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

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

Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: clerk@nantygloandblainatc.c.o.uk

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

Mrs C Gunter
30 Southlands
Blaina
NP13 3JY

22nd April 2024

Via e-mail

Dear Mrs Gunter,

Further to your e-mail.

1. The Town Council work with numerous organisations to help improve the community, much of which is outlined in paragraphs below. Since April 2020, the Town Council has made an ongoing commitment to help support residents of Nantyglo & Blaina who are in need by making a monthly financial donation of £200.00 to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank. The total amount donated to date is £9,579.92 and is ongoing. The amount of financial donations provided to both local groups and larger organisations (who benefit the area) is £3,100.21 (since April 2020). The Town Mayor's Appeal has raised nearly £6,000 in recent years for numerous charities such as Pheonix House, Citizens Advice, Wales Air Ambulance, Breast Cancer Wales & Downs Syndrome etc. The annual cost of Christmas lights throughout both Nantyglo & Blaina is approximately £6,000.00 & the Town Council are hoping to (where legally possible) extend & enhance the display. Butterfly nature gardens have been set up in both Nantyglo & Blaina in addition to memorial benches specifically purchased to honour those who have served in the forces. The Town Council has also purchased a number of flags etc to help the community honour organisations and events such as D-Day, NHS Day etc. A large amount of heavy duty Welsh bunting was purchased to enhance the local area although this was unfortunately destroyed by certain individuals. The Town Council actively recognises and celebrates the achievements and hard work of local individuals and groups via the Achievement & Recognition in the Community Awards, Freedom of Nantyglo & Blaina and most recently, nominated Reverend Roy Watson for a honour in the King's Honours List. This nomination has resulted in Reverend Watson being awarded a British Empire Medal.

2. The Town Council are currently in the process of finalising legal restrictions which will then allow for realistic plans for the future of Salem Chapel to be decided.

3. The Town Council would question the use of public finance on privately owned

businesses (shop fronts) as appropriate, particularly when Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council receive the business rates from such properties. It would be more suitable to make such an enquiry to the local Blaenau Gwent Councillors.

4. In 2022/23 & 2023/24 the Town Council arranged and put on the following events: ARC Awards, Nantyglo & Blaina In Bloom, provided bunting & funding for local nursing & residential homes to celebrate the King's Coronation, purchased & erected bunting throughout Nantyglo & Blaina in respect of the King's Coronation, commemorated Merchant Navy Day & Remembrance Sunday, held a week long exhibition in the Council Chamber to commemorate the Battle of Britain (with the RAF), held a service and provided a book of condolence for the community to sign in respect of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, provided financial donations to a number of local organisations & charities, provided £4,800 of funding to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank specifically to help support residents of Nantyglo & Blaina, provided each primary school child in Nantyglo with a gift to commemorate both the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the King's Coronation, arranged & funded a public commemoration service (with refreshments) in respect of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, purchased & planted two trees in commemoration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Two Christmas Carol concerts and Christmas Fayres were organised in Nantyglo & Blaina, selection packs & Easter Eggs are purchased for every primary school pupil in both Nantyglo & Blaina every year, which ensures every child receives a seasonal gift without being singled out as 'in need' or 'deprived'. In recent years, a financial donation has been made to the Rotary Club in respect of their Christmas campaign to provide Christmas Hampers to Nantyglo & Blaina residents who have been identified as being 'in need'. Numerous planters throughout both Nantyglo & Blaina are maintained and re-planted three times a year and have been increased in number and size.

5. The Town Council has made a financial contribution of £100 towards a number of events put on by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, in addition to purchasing and making up over 400 bags of reindeer food for two Christmas events. The financial contribution of £100 is the same as a nearby Town Council whilst a neighbouring Town Council does not contribute to such events. A number of Town Councillors attend and assist fully at such events organised by other organisations.

6. The Town Council spend less on wages than most nearby Town Councils and carefully consider all implications when setting the annual precept. Town Councillors are able to claim applicable allowances in accordance with and as set by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. In 2022/23 the total amount of allowances claimed by Nantyglo & Blaina Town Councillors totalled £4,021.80 with tax & NI payments totalling £344.60. Please note that all Town Councillors do not have any IT equipment provided but must use their own. In 2022/23 the total amount of allowances claimed by the four elected Blaenau Gwent County Borough Councillors for the Nantyglo & Blaina Wards totalled £77,971.19 (including pension contributions), an additional total of £4,287.96 for representation on other public bodies. Please note that these amounts do NOT include any tax or national insurance payments which are additional amounts. Furthermore, only 66% of Nantyglo & Blaina Town Councillors claimed any allowances compared to 100% of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Councillors.

7. The Town Council is currently considering a number of options with different providers as to provide free cinema or film showings throughout the school summer holidays. The Town Council does not currently fund a youth worker. Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council receive grant funding to provide for a youth worker.

8. Thank you for your kind comments regarding the Leader of the Town Council and his hard work in respect of the Remembrance Day Parade. The Remembrance Day Parade and service is organised by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and the Royal British Legion in all towns throughout Blaenau Gwent. Refreshments have always been made available to any persons. Please note that the Town Council purchases and provides refreshments at a number of events to which members of the public, invited guests and civic dignitaries (including Blaenau Gwent Councillors) are invited to. Such events include (but are not limited to) ARC Awards & In Bloom, Annual Meeting, commemoration events such as Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Battle of Britain exhibition etc.

9. The Town Council is currently in discussions with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to provide a series (not an individual session) of play sessions in both Nantyglo & Blaina for children aged 4-14 years during the school summer holidays.

I trust that the information answers your queries. I have also attached an application form & information should you wish to apply to join the Town Council & help to improve our local community.

Yours sincerely,

T Hughes

Mrs T Hughes
Town Clerk

Tracy

From: Chris Gunter <[redacted]@icloud.com>
Sent: 22 April 2024 19:46
To: Clerk
Subject: My response to Town Council reply

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

1 I think and others will agree that it was excellent that you nominated Rev'd Watson but this is absolutely nothing to do on how you could improve the town

2 I hope the plans for the future of Salem Chapel will be fully published for the Community to read and communicate on .

3 Yes you are correct business rates are collected by Borough Council. But on behalf of the Welsh Government and therefore transferred to Cardiff . Shouldn't you as a Town council be looking to improve Blaina Town

4 The giving of Easter Egg's and planting of tree's are not events as neither is the giving of donations . As for the events's you list Platinum Jubilee Etc were the general public invited or was it just who you wanted invited? . As i have definitely not seen any advertisements for the local community to attend .

5 Could you list the Councillors who attend and help at these Events because my mind can only bring up one

6 Why are you deflecting from my Questions . I asked about the Town Council not the Borough Council ? . But i will add Borough Councillor do not claim expenses and their role is completely different from a Town Councillor . Also you did not answer my question Why do Blaina & Nantyglo Town Council spend more on staff wages than they do investing in our town ? .

7 How are the youths getting to the Cinema. Who will be supervising the behaviour. Or do propose this is done in Blaina to which my next question would need to be where would you hold it .

8. You failed to answer my question ,s From living in Blaina all my life, I do not feel that the Town Council is using my money wisely and helping our Town, I would love to know what you are actually doing to improve our Town?. Your response's will be awaited

I will also definitely not be filling in the Application form you attached to this E mail because I feel huge changes need to be made and made quickly the first one being every Member of Town Council must be an active member .

Secondly The Community's of Nantyglo

&Blaina needs must be the top of any meeting Agenda

Kind Regards

Mrs Christine Gunter

Tracy

From: abbas1280@aol.com
Sent: 01 July 2024 08:49
To: Clerk
Subject: Service Project
Attachments: Service Project.jpg

FAO: Blaina & Nantyglo Town Councillors

I would like to bring to your attention the presence of a Ukrainian family who live in Nantyglo (Attlee Rd) They have been in the area for about a year now.

This family has been involved in a great service project in the area, on two separate occasions they have managed to collect plastic sleeves and bamboo sticks from the side of the mountain by West Side/Blaina.

The plastic sleeves and the bamboo sticks were used to support the young trees which were planted on the slope of the mountain about 8 years ago.

All the plastic sleeves were taken to the local recycle centre and the sticks are given to keen gardeners for their runner beans.

Would the town council consider recognising the wonderful service project done by this family by issuing them with Certificate of Appreciations?

Please see attached photos.

Regards,
Rafi ABBAS



Safety Inspections – Salem Chapel

Item no. 6

Inspection of Salem Chapel – June 2024

MAIN CHAPEL / WEEK	6 th	13 th N/A Sick	20 th	27 th	Report of any defects And action taken
Main Hall of Chapel	./	./	./	./	Dry rot detected & floor part lifted. Investigations undertaken 31/8/16. Organ supports re-enforced Sept 2016.
Fire Alarm	./	./	./	./	Inspected 13/01/2024
Emergency Lighting	./	./	./	./	Inspected 23/01/2024
Stairways to Balcony	./	./	./	./	Stair lift not working, evidence of damp on walls. Plaster fallen from underneath of stairs due to damp.
Balcony	./	./	./	./	Damage to display possibly from insects/woodworm. Greater evidence of damp on walls.
Toilets	./	./	./	./	Removed due to dry rot
High Street Entrance	./	./	./	./	Black mould on walls & ceilings
Office	./	./	./	./	Broken window secured
General Condition	./	./	./	./	General deterioration evident
Fire Extinguishers	./	./	./	./	Inspected & replaced as necessary 06/12/22
Observations/ Other Comments	./	./	./	./	J Dyer opinion is fungal rot. Valuation survey carried out by J Dyer 3/11/21. Exhibition items delivered to Westgate Hotel, Newport & awaiting to go to Blaen y Cwm Primary.
ANNEX BUILDING					
Ground Floor	./	./	./	./	Mould/rot on floor, appears very unsafe
Kitchen	./	./	./	./	Mould/rot on floor. Floor rotten through and unsafe. Kitchen units coming away from wall due to severe damp in floor of kitchen. R Dunham inspected.
First Aid Box	./	./	./	./	
Seating Area	./	./	./	./	Considerably amount of new damp on interior walls to left side of premises entering from the back entrance. Extensive rotting of wooden floor.
Stairway to upper room	./	./	./	./	
Upper Room	./	./	./	./	
Rear Entrance	./	./	./	./	Paint flaking off walls
Side Door	./	./	./	./	
Observations/ Other Comments					General deterioration evident. Alarms sounded & checked 5 th & 7 th Feb - OK
Statutory annual Inspections:					Dragon Fire & Security Systems (fire extinguishers) 06/12/2022. Dragon Fire & Security Systems (Intruder & fire alarms) 23/01/2024.

Signed: T Hughes

Town Clerk
Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee

Date: 09/07/24