

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

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO

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Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held at 6:00pm on Tuesday 10th February 2026 the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

Present: Cllr G Morvan, Acting Chair of Planning & Highways Committee, presiding
Councillors L Harris, C Hillman, M Williams, L Higgins (remote), M Evans, D Hillman, S Howlett, E Singleton, L Emanuel and D Finch.

In attendance: Mr K Rowland, Assistant Officer

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

To receive: Chris Ashman, Place Planning Consultant, to provide a presentation on developing a blueprint for Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen Future Growth.

1. Members were to receive the presentation.
2. Questions were to be invited at the end of the presentation.
3. Members were requested to ask only one question each – if time allows AND with permission of the Chair, a second question may be asked.
4. Members were reminded that there was to be no discussion or exchange of points of view between Members and that all dialogue was to be directed through the Chair.

The Chair introduced Chris Ashman the Place Planning Consultant for the Blueprint and welcomed him to the meeting.

Mr Ashman used a slide presentation digitally to speak about the Blueprint after which questions were welcomed.

Q. This felt like a different to our last guest regarding The Deal, interesting to see a different perspective. It feels as though these are a funding wish list, where might the funding come from?

A. Wish they could answer. In the past it has been the National Government and Welsh Government, however funding has been hurt since the UK left Europe so the more sustainable and productive a project will look, the more chance funding may be given. Metro system and road infrastructure can be important so more likely seeing projects succeed around the A465 after the heavy investment there.

Q. Does this continue if we have a new Government later in the year?

A. The Blueprint acts like a script, because of the input from the people it involves it should not change regardless of Governmental changes.

Q. With the mention of housing being developed and lots of people moving to the area, what plans are in place to support larger numbers of residents in terms of leisure and activities?

We need more facilities locally and not see money being spent in Merthyr Tydfil or Cwmbran and are there enough jobs because most people seem to work elsewhere?

A. Current state of health shows a lot of people are using online facilities instead of physical shops. Even trade in larger towns have fallen because of this. Question of what shops and what leisure do people want? 46 5 has brought more employment to Ebbw Vale, but further facilities are needed. Demand must be shown for leisure and trade so that funding will be given because success for those is much more likely with such demand so that they will pay their way.

Q. Regarding the Blueprint how do we get to agree the budget? The roads struggle now with increased housing, would this result in dual lane road from Abertillery to Blaina? There was a leisure centre in Nantyglo on the old school site, if that's to become housing the roads in that area will struggle.

A. Road issues are not below remit, road issues must be looked at regarding planning for those areas.

Q. The Marmot Principle is about giving the best start in life, how does the Blueprint work in regards to that in our area? Nantyglo has been deprived yet Tredegar obtained £20m, Nantyglo got nothing and the Welsh Government made that choice.

A. Marmot addresses issues around health and wellbeing, the Blueprint won't work in those areas. We work with various local partners to use important data, to make sure areas benefit from similar ideas that have been successful elsewhere. If an idea is good in one area, it could well work in another.

Q. Will this plan be in if we have a new Welsh Government?

A. No impact on who the Government will be, if the local response is strong any Government will support this.

Q. Regarding Marmot, children in the area are leaving school if disengaged or disruptive to a specialist unit, with Marmot we seem to be failing them if they're not getting the best start in life. Many of these kids struggle with basic maths and they're not being engaged, how to teach then? Perhaps there's no answer to that.

A. A phrase comes to mind, 'it takes a village to raise a child'. How do they fit into communities, what is their future and how do they integrate into that society? In Blueprint terms this means Pathway. People can change career plans we have to help and enable all sorts of people to engage with professionals to fill that gap, community communication is key.

The Chair thank Chris Ashman for attending the meeting and providing his presentation.

Chris Ashman left the meeting at this juncture.

Declaration of Interest

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

1. Apologies for absence:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note apologies were received from Councillor's K Jones JP, W Lewis, A Fryer and from Town Clerk/RFO Tracy Hughes. It was noted by the acting Chair Cllr G Morvan that the sick note provided by Mrs T Hughes is for 2 months from 2nd February. **Further Resolved** to accept those apologies and **Further Resolved** to send a get well soon card to Town Clerk/RFO Mrs T Hughes.

2. Questions from the public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda. There is a 10-minute allocation time for any questions from the public.

Resolved to note that no questions were received and **Further Resolved** that no members of the public or press were present at the meeting.

3. Correspondence:

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

a) Review of Community Areas and Electoral Arrangements – Blaenau Gwent (for information/consideration – copy attached)

Review of Community Boundaries and Review of Electoral Arrangements by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council with potential changes to be implemented for the 2027 elections. A meeting with Town Clerks and Town/Community Council Leaders to be arranged soon.

Members agreed that until the meeting has been held to discuss it at a future meeting.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to re-agenda the item after the meeting has been held.

b) Response to Member's enquiry regarding policy on change of use from a premises to dwelling from Thomas Engel.

'In regard to your query, there is a policy in place to prevent the change to

residential however as part of the application if they can prove that the existing use is not viable then the proposal can proceed.'

Resolved to note the information received.

Alysha Cacara re: Good Shepard Animal Sanctuary

Correspondence concerning early stages project to open a faith based animal sanctuary. The person asked to build relationships with local councillors and for any advice or knowledge of land in the local community that could be used as an animal sanctuary and to provide involvement with young adults.

Members were interested in the idea but were unsure on land that could be used. One member has a contact within the Common's Association that may be able to provide a lot of advice and will get those details to send over.

Resolved to note information received and **Further Resolved** to respond to the email with contact details for the Common's Association.

4. Planning Applications:

Members were invited to consider the applications listed below and, with the permission of the Chair, any further applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting:

a) Plan Application No. P/2026/0015 Mountain View, Highfield, Blaina, NP13 3AP

Change of use from a dwelling house (Class C3) to residential care home (Class C2) for up to 4 children.

Resolved that no objections or representations be made.

Plan Application No. P/2026/0020 5 Oak Road, Tanglewood, Blaina NP13 3JX

Loft conversion with rear flat-roof dormer.

Resolved that no objections or representations be made.

5. Licence Applications:

Members were invited to note the application(s) **for information only:**

None received to date

Resolved accordingly.

Meeting declared closed at 18:43pm