

# 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 & Highways Committee held at  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 6pm.**

**at Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina**

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

**Present:** Councillor K Jones JP, presiding, Chair, Planning & Highways Committee  
Councillors D Hillman, C Hillman, L Harris, L Higgins, L Emanuel,  
M Williams. Cllr G Morvan (Remotely)

**In attendance:** Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO  
Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer  
Mr A Parker, Service Manager, Blaenau Gwent CBC

**To receive: Mr Andrew Parker – Service Manager Policy & Partnerships, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council re: CCTV within Nantyglo & Blaina.**

**Members were reminded to note the Standing Orders relating to guest speakers:**

Chair welcomed Cllr L Higgins to her first Council meeting. Cllr G Morvan will join meeting at 6pm as he has a prior engagement.

Cllr L Emanuel asked could she be excused to leave meeting at 7pm to attend a hospital visit.

Chair introduced & welcome guest speaker, Andrew Parker, BGCB, Policy Service Manager.

1. Members to receive the presentation.
2. Questions to be invited at the end of the presentation.
3. Members were requested to ask only one question each – if time allowed AND with permission of the Chair, a second question might 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.

Andrew parker (AP) gave an overview of his role within BGCB. Explained that CCTV transaction is of a complex situation across BG. AP oversees the public spaces CCTV, with 6 zones and 57 cameras around the valleys of BG. BG and Community Safety managed the housing of CCTV for over 20 years but serviced it

out to Newport in 2014. 2018 – 2021 it was brought back to BG, but it was a record only system which was transferred to the Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale, when that closed, the CCTV was transferred to laptops.

2022 BGCBC received capital investment and sourced 2 x 180-degree cameras which are installed in Blaina High Street and fed back in Blaina Library, then sent directly to Caerphilly Council, and any issues would be fed back to Gwent Police to be raised.

## **Question and Answers:**

**Q1.** Were the cameras live monitored?

**A1.** Cameras were not monitored but recorded and only a responsible authority can access the footage.

**Q2.** If there was a road traffic accident, there would be no involvement from Gwent Police?

**A2.** Recommendation would be to contact the police. Insurance companies can obtain footage from CCTV recordings. Antisocial behaviour would need to go the Gwent Police.

**Q3.** How long will recordings be available for?

**Q4.** Storage was kept for 31 days for all authorities.

Cllr Hillman confirmed that he had read the report, and he got a few points noted.

**Q5.** Do you think the people of Blaina and Nantyglo were treated fairly with just 2 cameras in Blaina.

**A5.** It was not that the people of Blaina and Nantyglo were treated unfairly with 2 cameras. Nantyglo was mainly deployable cameras from 2010. Generally speaking, BGCBC worked with the remit of budgets. Blaina had benefitted from the cameras and with it BGCBC biggest success from a hit and run accident, which led to imprisonment. Although it's not about numbers of crimes, but there were only 6 actions for the year reported in Blaina. In 2018 BGCBC had a 2 tier CCTV system and Blaina increased from 1 and was now on the second tier. Each year the authority reviewed the structure.

Nantyglo, however, has more challenging issues. Community safety has had a deploy camera situated at Winchestown for antisocial behaviour. With regards to CCTV at Nantyglo a transfer pole was required to bounce footage one camera to another, if a camera was installed in Nantyglo the bounce back would not be suffice due to the distances.

**Q6.** Would there be calls from Gwent Police, if there were more cameras in Blaina and Nantyglo

**A6.** More cameras would not provide more police crime reports. The costs to update comes in at £10,000.00's, the cost to purchase cameras isn't that expensive, it was the cost of data to transfer from one camera to another and to the CCTV hubs.

There was a misconception that cameras were not working, but this was incorrect, all cameras were working.

*Cllr M Williams and Cllr G Morvan joined the meeting at this juncture.*

**Q7.** A Member informed that she once worked at the CCTV at Barleyfield site, Brynmawr and the imaging of CCTV footage was very clear.

AP confirmed that the cameras were now operating on 4K ultra, so images were even clearer and sharper than ever. Footage could now be viewed 24/7, whereas previously, it could only be viewed when CCTV hub was open during working hours. There was a misconception that the CCTV could aid with drug related crime, but no prosecution could be made from CCTV drug crime.

**Q8.** A Member explained that the 180 cameras do not cover the whole High Street. The financial support requested from BGCBC for CCTV was a considerable amount and that it would need involve the Town Council to increase their Precept, which comes from BGCBC. Also, he continued to express that the use of personal ring bells to help solve crime was not acceptable.

AP informed that he would take comments back to BGCBC & explained that BGCBC needed to work with budgets restraints and the existing infrastructure.

**Q9.** A Member explained that she understood that BGCBC faced financial difficulties, but Cwmcelyn area benefited from patrols, as there were no CCTV cameras in areas, at one point there were drug issues, fires set alight and even cars burnt out in the area. Such issues were no longer present, but if there were issues to report in the area now, police were turning up from Newport, and they were struggling to find the area. Cwmcelyn recently had plants stolen too, if cameras were situated, the crime would have been reported.

**A9.** AP reported that surveillance was not always the key. A new camera was £5000 and the additional costs for data transfer, which is not always financially viable, it would be best to look at community surveillance via the community safety initiatives. AP continued by asking Cllr Harris to please report all instances. He has got fridge magnets with contact details that he will distribute to members.

**Q10.** The Member asked could AP pass on for a patrol surveillance in the area of Cwmcelyn?

**A10.** AP confirmed that the feedback would be taken back and reported.

**Q11.** A Member asked for recommendations for home security.

**A11.** AP informed there were many good providers, BGCBC was not permitted to use any Chinese manufacturers. Surveillance ring doors bells were a good source, but he would seek advice from Community Safety and Police Crime Partnership Team at BGCBC.

BGCBC were trying to work on a CCTV policy. Tai Calon has CCTV camera at the bottom of High Street.

BGCBC do listen and tries to change but only had a limited finance available.

**Q12.** Regarding the finance, could a payment from Gwent Police and /or the Police & Crime Commissioner to help with the costs of CCTV?

**A12.** BGCBC was currently in discussions with Gwent Police and Community Safety regarding this matter for contributions towards the costs of CCTV.

**Q13.** Chair explained that Ebbw Vale do not have a Town or Community Council, so who would paying for their CCTV?

**A13.** BGCBC invests in £200,000 and there was the opportunity for the Town Council wanted to be part of the improvement for surveillance within Nantyglo and Blaina. AP confirmed he was not here to convince the Town Council & that it was about building partnerships. AP confirmed that if the Town Council decides not to financially help support the CCTV, there would be no impact on the surveillance in Nantyglo and Blaina, although things may get tighter and more challenging.

AP reminded Town Council that the next Joint Liaison meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024 was in person.

Chair thanked Andrew Parker for his presentation and attendance.

Andrew Parker and Cllr L Emanuel left the Chamber at this juncture.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Town Clerk informed that no members of the public or press were present. **Resolved** to note the information received.

The Chair informed of the fire procedures to be taken in the event of an emergency. **Resolved** to note the information received.

### **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. **Resolved** to note that Cllr L Harris & Mrs N Horner, AO declared an interest on the additional planning application Point 5 d). Town Clerk advised that as non-pecuniary and not likely to affect any resolution made, both Cllr L Harris & Mrs N Horner remain in the meeting for item 5d but not take part in any discussion or vote. **Resolved** as stated.

1. Apologies for absence: Members are invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note that apologies received from Cllr J Bond.

**Resolved** that the apology be accepted.

2. Questions from the public: To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda. There was a 10-minute allocation time for any questions from the public.  
**Resolved** to note that no members of the press or public were present and that no questions were received.

3. Correspondence: Members were invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chair's permission, any urgent information that might be received prior to the date of the meeting.

No correspondence received to date.

### ***Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair***

#### **3.1 Email received from [Kathryn.Childs@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:Kathryn.Childs@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)**

An invite for a representative to attend BGCBC and Arcadis would be holding a workshop for external stakeholders to look at preliminary proposals for Active Travel improvements along the A467 Strategic Corridor and would like to invite a representative to attend.

Chair confirmed that if date and times permits, he would attend.

**Resolved** to note information received and **Further Resolved** that Chair (Cllr K Jones JP) attend, if time permits.

#### **4. Decisions taken under delegated powers during August 2024:**

Plan Application No. P/2024/0190 - 8 Berea Close, Blaina  
Application for Proposed dormer extension.

**Resolved** to note that no representations or objections were made and **Further Resolved** to support the decision.

5. 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/2024/0163 – Miners Cabin, West Side, Blaina:  
Application for construction of wooden cabin with change of use to holiday let.

The following observations were made and to be submitted to Planning Department.

- The application appeared to be made retrospectively
- There were concerns regarding the absence of parking
- There were concerns as to the absence of running water
- There were concerns as to the only toilet facility being a 'Portaloo' and the provision for emptying
- There did not appear to be any facilities for rubbish/refuse collection
- There were queries as to the payment of council tax for the property

**Resolved** that representations/queries listed be made in respect of the above planning application.

b) Plan Application No .P/2024/0196 – Blaina Integrated Children’s Centre, High Street, Blaina, NP13 3BN:

Application for new single storey office extension to be built within the existing courtyard. The proposal will include an external store unit for the ASHP & childcare store and a bin / bike store to be located at the main entrance gates.

**Resolved** that no representation or objection be made.

c) Plan Application No. P/2024/0223 – Land at Glyn Millwr, Stones Houses, Blaina, NP13 3AA:

The retention of the use of land as an extension to the existing Travellers Site to accommodate five pitches for family members, to construct a communal utility room block, retention of timber fencing, installation of private treatment plant with access and ecological improvements.

- As work had already commenced – should the application be stated as a ‘retrospective’ application
- It was reported that there was a public right of way at the rear of the existing site and that part of this had been ‘fenced off’
- There was a query as to the reference to Rhondda Cynon Taff Council in the information and how it related to the planning application.

**Resolved** that the representations/queries listed be made in respect of the above planning application.

***Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair.***

*Cllr L Harris & Mrs N Horner declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 5d.*

**Resolved** to note and **Further Resolved** that both Cllr L Harris and

d) Plan Application No: P/2024/0187 - 93 Cwmcelyn Rd, Blaina.

Part Retrospective Planning Application for retention and completion of detached garage and Retaining walls and associated external works.

**Resolved** that no representation or objection made.

6. Licence Applications: Members were invited to note the application(s) for information only:  
No Licence applications received to date.  
**Resolved** accordingly.

7. **Default Speed Limit: Survey requested by Welsh Government**  
Summary of Survey results received to date for consideration.

The following information has been submitted:

Play areas – to remain at 20mph 5 (Blaina)

Schools – to remain at 20mph 6 (Blaina)

High Street – to remain at 20mph 5 Blaina)

Housing estates – to remain at 20mph 6 (Blaina)

Hospitals – to remain at 20mph 3 (Blaina)

Station Road – to revert to 30mph 1 (Blaina)

High St: from Rising Sun Ind: Est: – to revert to 30mph 1 (Blaina)

All main roads to revert to 30mph– 6 (Blaina)

**Resolved** to note information received.

Meeting declared closed at 18:55pm