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Big Ebbw Fach Trail Tidy

From 4 - 13 October, join one of many events happening along the Ebbw Fach Trail this autumn

The Big Ebbw Fach Trail Tidy is led by Keep Wales Tidy, in partnership with our community groups, litter picking hubs, schools and volunteers.

Everyone is welcome to join this event which aims to bring people together whilst creating a cleaner Ebbw Fach Trail for all to enjoy.



4 Oct 11am - 2pm	Lakeside - Waul Pond
5 Oct 10am - 12pm	Parc Nant-Y-Waul
5 Oct 1pm - 3pm	Beaufort Hill Park & Woodlands
6 Oct 10.30am - 2pm	Trevor Rowson Park
7 Oct 10.00am - 12pm	Cwmduffy Pond & Woodland
7 Oct 1pm - 3pm	Duffryn River Pathways
8 Oct 10am - 12pm	Roseheyworth Woodlands - Arael View
8 Oct 12.30pm - 2.30pm	Cwmillery Lakes - Pentref Tyleri
9 Oct 10am - 2pm	Abertillery Park
10 Oct 10am - 2pm	Parc Arael Griffir
11 Oct 10am - 2pm	Abertillery / Ebbw Fach Community Centre
12 Oct 10am - 1pm	Brynithel Activities Group
13 Oct 10am - 12pm	Glenny's Wood and Cwmilleryth



Scan me for more details

#BigEbbwFachTrailTidy



From: Dean Bengough <Dean.Bengough@orbitsit.co.uk>
Sent: 30 September 2024 21:07
To: Clerk
Subject: Important Updates: Company Structure Change and New Contracts

Importance: High

Dear Nicola

We hope this message finds you well. We are writing to inform you about some changes happening at Orbits IT.

Effective immediately, Original Business IT Solutions, Orbits IT (Midlands) and Orbits IT (South West), will all be trading under the Orbits IT group. This change reflects our commitment to providing a unified and enhanced service experience for all our valued clients irrespective of location. Billing for all clients will be done through Original Business IT Solutions, trading as Orbits IT. As you are already billed through this entity there will be nothing for you to do, however we are encouraging all clients to sign up to direct debit, please see the link below to our direct debit system:

<https://pay.gocardless.com/BRT0002ARPRMW0Y>

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve our services, we will be implementing a 5% increases on all services excluding Microsoft 365 starting from 1st November 2024. This adjustment is necessary to ensure we can continue to offer you the highest quality of support and service.

Additionally, new contracts will be issued to all clients in due course to reflect the new structure and costs. These contracts will provide a clear and updated overview of the terms and conditions moving forward to ensure all parties are aware of responsibilities and scope of service.

We understand that changes can bring questions, and we are here to assist you with any queries you may have.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Best regards,

Dean

Safety Inspections – Salem Chapel

Item no. 6

Inspection of Salem Chapel – September 2024

MAIN CHAPEL / WEEK	5th	12th	17th	26th	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) 21/08/2024.

Signed: *T Hughes*

Town Clerk **Date:** 08/10/24
Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO a BLAENAU

Renewal of Contracts

Introduction:

Members may be aware that the Town Council has a 5 year lease with Konica Minolta in respect of the photocopier located in the office.

Purpose:

The 5 year lease with Konica Minolta ends in late October 2024 and, in line with the Town Council's Financial Regulations, Members are invited to consider the renewal of the contract in respect of the photocopier.

Report:

Three quotations have been sought and received in respect of a five year lease for an appropriate photocopier (see table below). A 5 year lease is preferred as it provides for a fixed price for the lease period.

Both Digihub Wales and Blue Sky are based in South Wales and claim to offer a quicker and more reliable service in respect of call outs and maintenance etc than Konica Minolta.

Konica Minolta have provided the Town Council with a photocopier since at least 2011.

Financial:

All prices stated are based on a 5 year lease agreement:

<u>Product</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Additional Info</u>
Konica Minolta bizhub C301i (new 2024 model)	£111.37 ex VAT (lease - per quarter) £0.0022 ex VAT – per page mono £0.0210 ex VAT – per page colour	Konica Minolta	Price includes scans, maintenance, parts, labour and toner
Canon DX C3926i (new)	£165.00 ex VAT (lease – per quarter) £0.0021 ex VAT – per page mono £0.0210 ex VAT – per page colour	Blue Sky Digital (Pontyclun)	Price includes scans, maintenance, parts, labour and toner
Canon C3525i (refurbished)	£135.00 ex VAT (lease - per quarter) £0.0021 ex VAT – per page mono £0.0210 ex VAT – per page colour	Blue Sky Digital (Pontyclun)	Price includes scans, maintenance, parts, labour and toner
Xerox AltoLink 8030 (light used – top spec photocopier)	£96.00 ex VAT (lease - per quarter) £0.0021 ex VAT – per page mono £0.0210 ex VAT – per page colour	Digihub Wales (Port Talbot)	Price includes scans, maintenance, parts, labour and toner. Can also translate English

			to Welsh & vice versa. Includes a redaction option for documents & will automatically ensure that photocopier become compliant with any additional GDPR legislation introduced.
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Recommendation:

That Members consider the above information and resolve accordingly.

Tracy Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO

September 2024

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO a BLAENAU

Christmas Lights throughout Nantyglo & Blaina

Introduction:

Members will be aware that the Town Council pays for the Christmas Lights to be put up each year throughout Nantyglo & Blaina and that, for a number of years, the Town Council has purchased an additional amount of Christmas Lights (approximately £2,000) to add to the Council's Christmas Lights and to help replace the old, broken and energy inefficient lights). The total expenditure in respect of Christmas Lights each year is approximately £5,700 (2023).

Members will also be aware of the following difficulties faced by the Town Council in respect of Christmas Lights:

- that it is very difficult to erect Christmas Lights throughout many areas of Nantyglo (mainly due to a lack of suitable buildings and refusal by Western Power to use the wooden lamp posts).
- Recent legislation introduced by the Welsh Government means that additional inspection fees and restrictions/requirements are now in place if Christmas Lights (& other adornments) are to be fixed to lamp posts.
- A number of requests were made in December 2023 that the Town Council purchase large illuminated conical Christmas trees for display in the main street(s).

Council had resolved that an informal discussion take place with Mr Russell Dunham, the Town Council's Christmas Lighting Contractor to discuss ways to enhance the current Christmas lights throughout Nantyglo & Blaina.

Purpose:

To discuss the outcome of the informal meeting with Mr R Dunham and agree a practical and cost effective way to enhance the community's Christmas Lights for 2024.

Report:

Russell Dunham (Christmas Lights contractor – RD) informed that as per the new Welsh Government legislation now in force, he is unable to erect Christmas Lights to the lamp posts due to the requirement to have a minimum public liability insurance of £10 million and he does not have the required electrical qualification.

RD informed that each Christmas approximately 2km of Christmas Lights are put up in Nantyglo & Blaina – 700m in the St Peter's Church area alone. In order to have 'motif' style lights on lamp posts (which he is unable to do), a power supply would need to be put in at a cost of approx. £300 and each 'motif' style light would cost approx. £500 each.

Previously, shops in the High Street, Blaina would plug in and switch on the lights, but fewer shops available means that this is now an issue.

RD informed that the lights purchased by the Town Council in the last few years are connectable over longer distances (900 metres from 1 power source), which means that far fewer power supplies are required. Additionally, such lights are very low voltage/wattage, so they are incredibly cheap to run and very safe if they break.

RD informed that he would be able to wrap a very lightweight length of lights around some appropriate lamp posts but that a nearby power supply would be required - possibly a shop or other premises to which a contribution could be made by the Town Council for the supply.

RD informed that both Abertillery & Llanhilleth CC and Tredegar TC hire their Christmas Lights at a much higher cost.

RD informed that the (real) Christmas tree planted within the grounds of St Peter's (facing the High Street) had been vandalised two years running and that it may be better to try to plant a much larger tree which would be more difficult to vandalise. RD also stated the need to try to increase Christmas Lights in all areas of the main 'High Streets' in Nantyglo & Blaina. The Town Clerk informed that the requested lit up conical Christmas tree would cost approximately £9,000 each and would be required in both Nantyglo & Blaina. As the 'real' Christmas Tree had been vandalised two years running (in addition to numerous plants having been stolen from the town centre planters), there was a very real possibility that such a valuable and attractive tree posed a high risk of being vandalised and/or stolen.

When asked RD explained that in order to enhance the Christmas Lights, an additional 1.8km of connectable LED light strings would need to be purchased (the same type as purchased in the previous few years). If a mixture of red, white and blue were purchased then such lights could be used for other appropriate civic celebrations.

Lamp posts would not be used for putting lights across the streets if brackets could be purchased (RD offered to provide a quotation for the brackets required). Storage for Christmas Lights is not a problem. Members present verbally agreed that they would prefer for RD to continue putting up the Christmas Lights.

Recommendation:

That Members consider the above information and resolve the following:

- That Russell Dunham continues to put up the Christmas Lights in both Nantyglo & Blaina.
- That the Town Council continues to work with Russell Dunham to identify other possible areas (or ways) in Nantyglo to erect Christmas Lights (along the main street).
- That additional Christmas Lights be purchased (ConnectPro as purchased in the last few years) to a total of £4,000.
- That Russell Dunham provides a quote for brackets to enable the LED lights to be erected across the main street(s) where viable.
- To make an appropriate contribution to those businesses who have supplied power to in respect of the Christmas Lights.

Tracy Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO

August 2024