



Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council Well- being Report 2023/24

Produced by Erika Davies, Deputy Clerk



Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council serves Swffryd in the south, through Llanhilleth, Brynithel, Aberbeeg, Six Bells, Abertillery and Cwmtillery, to Bournville in the north. We currently have 16 Councillors serving our communities.

The five ways of working from the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015

Collaboration



Integration



Involvement



Long-term



Prevention



The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015

We use the five ways of working when considering how we can improve and deliver the well-being goals to our community. This helps identify areas that we need to help improve and also to prevent issues from becoming worse. The majority of the council budget in 23/24 was concentrated on making a positive local impact helping to create safer and more vibrant communities, ensuring future generations have a positive outlook on the area and a willingness to thrive and prosper.

When assessing how we deliver well-being, we must integrate each of the 7 goals as identified in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

1. Prosperous
 2. Resilient
 3. More Equal
 4. A Healthier Wales
 5. A Wales of Cohesive Communities
 6. A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
 7. A Globally Responsible Wales
-

A Prosperous Abertillery and Llanhilleth



- To promote the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area.
- To work in partnership with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and participate in regional meetings.
- To support local groups and provide funding by way of grants.

We have very active Facebook and Instagram accounts that are updated with all events happening in and around the area. These include events hosted by ALCC in addition to those hosted by other organisations which are looking to support the local community. We produce a regular newsletter which is distributed by our Councillors and our website is constantly updated.

Our Councillors are active in the Joint Committee of Local Councils in Blaenau Gwent (JCLC), The Blaenau Gwent CBC Scrutiny Committee, the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum and the Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces Covenant Group. In 2023, we received a bronze award from the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS). This award is in recognition of employers who support those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families.

In 23/24, we awarded a total of £31,985.24 in council and ward grant funding to local community groups. Some examples include £7,500 for the provision of a medical facility room at Abertillery Rugby Club; £3,000 towards Christmas Hampers and £9,000 to a local not-for-profit sports group.

A Resilient Abertillery and Llanhilleth



- To support local nature spots and the natural environment.
- Support keeping the local area free of litter.
- Supporting social, economic, and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt and change.

We are constantly striving to strengthen our links with the local community, providing support to ensure resilience and a safety net for those facing material and social deprivation.

Our sixth Party in the Park event was held again in 2023 with £15,000 of People and Communities Committee funding supplied to ensure a family event that everyone could enjoy. The whole day and its activities are free of charge, enabling everyone in the community to attend. There were bouncy castles, face painting, and stalls alongside professional entertainers, local musicians and amateur dramatic groups.

We have an established relationship with local community group Ffrindiau Tyleri and in 23/24, provided £2,500 to support town centre events such as Winterfest, Springfest and Aberfest.

£5,000 was set aside for the Loneliness project, aimed at supporting people in the community by funding meeting hubs and warm spaces to meet for coffee mornings. These are vital to our community feeling connected and examples include £1397.67 given to Six Bells Community Centre in respect of groups using the centre whose objectives support people who are impacted by loneliness and isolation. Zion Miners Chapel and Community Room received £734.87 in respect of the Zion Dementia-friendly and Living Alone Group. The Ebbw Fach Community Group received £1517.71 in respect of the Ebbw Fach Men's Well-being group.

Our Biodiversity Report outlines what services we have provided to the local community that have an impact on biodiversity such as promoting sustainability by pursuing sustainability goals and practices wherever possible. In 23/24, we allocated £35,000 of solar farm grant funding to community projects. £15,000 of this solar funding went to Aberbeeg Park and Woodland which has recently received a Community Green Flag Award for its efforts in nature recovery.

Ffrindiau Tyleri works with the local high school in litter-picking days to promote the engagement of the school children and clear up the town centre.

A More Equal Abertillery and Llanhilleth



- Provide a structured training schedule for staff and Councillors through One Voice Wales.
- Promote equality through our youth services.
- Give young people in the community a voice.
- Support groups that work with young people.

We work with One Voice Wales to deliver a structured [training plan](#) to our staff and Councillors. The training plan is updated and published on our website.

We are proud to support the youth teams in our area. 'Off The Streets' covers Llanhilleth, Brynithel and Sofrydd and provides fun and free engagement opportunities for children and young people. It is a community organisation which focuses on listening, social interaction, mental health, well-being and community cohesion. In 23/24 we provided the following funding for them -

- £44,244 to keep their detached youth work in the area
- £5,000 to host their own Party in the Park at Llanhilleth
- £1020 towards a summer cinema programme.

The Blaenau Gwent detached youth services team also received £63,293 of funding from us in 23/24 to enable them to keep working with youths in the area by having teams on the streets and engaging in activities with them. This work has seen a fall in the amount of anti-social behaviour in the town.

At the start of 2024 we invited Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community Campus to hold their Pupil Parliament meetings at our chamber. This has been a very successful partnership with young children from early primary age up to year 11s participating. The children enjoy the setting and have been advised on how to produce a summons, conduct meetings and write minutes. The plan for 24/25 is to recruit two youth representatives, starting in September.

PUPIL PARLIAMENT



Our 3-16 Pupil Parliament were given the fantastic opportunity of holding their most recent meeting at the Council chambers. Our Chair and Secretaries all received specialised training from the very accommodating representatives and the meeting was a HUGE SUCCESS!!

A Healthier Abertillery and Llanhilleth



- Share information on our social media channels to raise awareness of health and well-being groups.
- Support and fund local community groups that look after health and well-being.
- Partner with BGCBC well-being initiatives.

Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council encompasses five wards; Abertillery, Cwmtillery, Llanhilleth, Six Bells and Sofrydd. It is important for us to include all the communities when making decisions, planning events and awarding grants.

2023 saw the first Community Fun Run take place. Organised by Councillor Ben Owen-Jones and other committee members, and funded by Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council, it was a very successful event which both families and accomplished runners enjoyed. The aim was to provide a socially cohesive and fun event for the Sofrydd area which focused on promoting health,

being outdoors and enjoying the local environment. Any money raised from the event was donated to Sofrydd Primary School.

Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council places a high value on community groups that support residents and offer activities to promote health and well-being. Examples of groups that have benefited from council funding are Abertillery Excelsiors Juniors FC, Cwmtillery Angling Club, K-Style Fitness and Abertillery Piranhas Swimming Club, to name a few.

We have actively encouraged all community groups and hubs within the Abertillery and Llanhilleth area to sign up to the '[inthistgether](#)' website. This is an interactive map that links groups in your town in one place and makes it easy to find out what is going on in your area. A large part of the programme involves identifying ways that hubs can be centres for well-being resources in the community and making sure everyone is aware of where they are.

An Abertillery of Cohesive Communities



- Create working partnerships to benefit the local community.
- Allow the use of the Council Chamber for community groups.
- Partner with the local school Pupil Parliament programme.
- Plans to invite two youth representatives to join us.

We are currently the guardians of 11 defibrillators in the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Council area. They are registered on '[The Circuit](#)' (the national defibrillator network) and maintained by us. The budget for this project in 23/24 was £7,500. There are plans to purchase two more in 24/25.

In 2023 we joined forces with the Blaenau Gwent Car Scheme, run by Bridges. Working in collaboration with the community transport scheme, we designed and delivered almost 7,000 leaflets to local residents asking them if they'd like to volunteer. The purpose of the scheme is to help people that need to get to medical appointments, without the high cost of a taxi.

An Abertillery and Llanhilleth of Vibrant and Thriving Welsh Language



- Value Welsh culture.
- Provide documents in the Welsh language where appropriate and if requested.

Less than 17% of the population of Blaenau Gwent speak Welsh so we do not have a Welsh language policy in place. However, we will never discriminate against anyone wishing to speak Welsh or requesting documents in Welsh. We would be happy to provide both with prior notice.

A Globally Responsible Abertillery and Llanhilleth



- Being committed to recycling.
- Litter Picking.
- Being environmentally friendly.
- PlaCE Committee reviews planning applications and will raise sustainability issues with BGCBC.

Along with Ffrindiau Tyleri and the local 3-6 school children, litter picking has become a regular event through town. We have a commitment to keep our town and surrounding areas free of litter.

Two of our Councillors are members of the Abertillery and District twinning association.

A commitment as a Council to reduce paper usage and use laptops in meetings wherever possible.

Council adopted a single use plastic policy in May 2022.

Council adopted the Community Asset Transfer Policy which promotes sustainable development.

High Street banking is set to return to Abertillery for the first time since Barclays Bank announced the closure of the town's last branch in February 2019. The announcement follows painstaking work by Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council. LINK - which operates the UK's inter-bank payment system - has announced that Abertillery has been recommended as a location for a new Bank Hub. The communities in the Council area are very passionate about the banking hub and we are trying our best to get the project moving forward.

Further Reading

[Annual Report](#)

[Biodiversity Report](#)

[Training Plan](#)

[Blaenau Gwent inthistogether](#)

[Community Transport Scheme](#)