



# Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council Well- being Report 2024/25

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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 19 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 24/25 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
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## **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.

Our social media accounts continue to grow and our aim is to reach as many people in the community as possible, updating them on council business and making them aware of council and community run events that are happening near them. We are currently in the process of designing and building a new council website with the help of Her Web Solutions, a company that designs and develops user-friendly, high-performing websites for public sector organisations and who were successful in securing the contract with us after a competitive tender and interview process.

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 24/25, we awarded a total of £20,432 in council and ward grant funding to local community groups. Some examples include £300 for Six Bells over 50's club to help fund day trips; £400 to Dainton Evans towards his trip to Verona to defend his title in the Muai Thai World Championships; £1937 to Llanhilleth Institute towards the cost of restoring their integral clock; £1000 for the Mitre Music venue to provide a community space for live music and culture; £2000 to The Friends of BG and Roseheyworth Park to provide improvements to the park (mural, park bench and picnic tables) and £380 to Six Bells Bowls Club for a new security gate to provide disabled access.

## 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.

Another successful Party in the Park event was held in 2024 with £15,000 of Leisure and Tourism Committee funding supplied to ensure a family event that everyone could enjoy. The whole day and its activities are completely free of charge, enabling everyone in the community to attend. In addition to the family favourites of bouncy castles and face painters, this year saw the addition of Circus of Positivity, a not-for-profit group who aim to promote physical and mental well-being in the local community through the provision of juggling and ground-based circus activities and, Blaeddau Du Vikings, a Dark Age re-enactment society that train with steel weapons in a fighting system that has been honed since 1971, both proving very popular with all ages.

We have an established and on-going relationship with local voluntary community group Ffrindiau Tyleri and in 24/25, provided £4,500 to support town centre events such as Aberfest, Springfest, and Halloween Scare in the Square.

£7,500 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 an increase of £2000 from the previous year. The successful applicants received; £1,600 to Six Bells Tennis Club for running costs for a local pensioners group; £1580 to Ebenezer Baptist Church towards rent and food for its different groups; £1,108.81 to Kenny's Vinyl Vault towards equipment for their groups; £1500 to Aberbeeg Sewing Circle towards rent, machine servicing, materials and sewing kits and finally, £1711.19 to The Mitre Music venue towards furnishing an upstairs room for community groups.

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 24/25, we allocated £70,000 of Solar Farm grant funding to community projects. Friends of Blaenau Gwent Village and Roseheyworth Park received £29,506 for park benches and play equipment. Abertillery Town Band received £7,300 for the refurbishment

of instruments. Abertillery Learning Community received £7,180 to replace grounds gates and install rugby posts and finally, St Iltyd's Minister Area received £25,000 to install a sustainable heating system in St Michael's Church, Abertillery.

Ffrindiau Tyleri continues to work with the local high school in litter-picking days to promote the engagement of the school children and clearing up the town centre, which we promote to Councillors and social media.

The PlaCE committee asked Council to produce a Biodiversity leaflet which could be passed onto the Town in Bloom community involvement partners to promote awareness of local nature and how choosing the correct plants could help increase local wildlife. The leaflet was produced and distributed and requested by One Voice Wales Local Places for Nature Officer, Rachel Carter for use at their Senedd exhibition stand in November.

## 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 continue to have a structured [training plan](#) for all our staff and Councillors. The training plan is updated and published on our website and, training is booked primarily through One Voice Wales.

We continue 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 24/25 we provided the following funding for them -

- £60,000 to keep their detached youth work in the area
- £5,000 to host their own Summer Fete at Llanhilleth
- £1040 towards a summer cinema programme.

The Blaenau Gwent detached youth services team also received £60,000 of funding from us in 24/25 to enable them to keep working with youths in the area. The detached team links with the

whole of the Youth Service and engages with young people in public areas, including using a van equipped to play video games and prepare food and drinks. They worked hard over the Summer with an extensive programme of activities. They are also working as part of a taskforce with Gwent Police, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Tai Calon and Safer Streets to reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the area. They also link with Cardiff Kicks and Dragons Rugby to help reduce ASB. The number of ASB injunctions reduced from 1,347 to 1,059 between January 2024 and September 2024.

At the start of 2024 we invited Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community Campus to hold their Senedd ALC meetings at our chamber. This has been a very successful partnership with young representatives from all year groups attending meetings both remotely and in-person.

In October 2024, two Youth Representatives aged 15-25, joined our council as non-voting members for a one-year term. They have access to all the same training as our other members and receive a summons to attend all Full Council meetings. Jackson Powell and Sophie Townsend have contributed to meetings and it has been great to get their perspectives on issues that are affecting the younger people in our community.

## **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, Aberbeeg, Cwmtillery, Llanhilleth and Six Bells. It is important for us to include all the communities when making decisions, planning events and awarding grants.

2024 saw the second Community Fun Run take place. Organised by Councillor Ben Owen-Jones and other Leisure and Tourism committee members, and funded by Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council, it was another successful event in which little ones participated in a 1k family run and older children and accomplished runners enjoyed a 5k. The aim was to provide a socially cohesive and fun event for the outlying Swffryd area which focused on promoting health, being outdoors and enjoying the local environment. The £249 raised from the event was donated to Sofrydd Primary School. It is our intention and focus for the event to grow year on year.

Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council places a high value on community groups that support residents and offer activities to promote health and well-being. The following are some examples of community members and groups that have received funding over the past year with this vision in mind.

- £400 ward grant to Catherine Evans (mother of Dainton Evans) to pay towards his trip to Verona in June of this year to defend his title in the WBC Amazing Muay Thai World Championships.
- £1,000 grant to Abertillery Bluebirds Football Club to create a sporting facility for the youth football teams.
- £300 grant to Six Bells Tennis Club to provide free tennis sessions for the community.
- £100 to Llanhilleth Park for the refurbishment of 6 park benches.

We have also created a public defibrillator map which shows the location of all the public access defibrillators in our area which are accessible 24/7.

## 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 13 defibrillators in the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Council area. They are registered on '[The Circuit](#)' (the national defibrillator network) and maintained by us. The maintenance budget for this project in 24/25 was £3,500. There was also £3,500 budgeted for the purchase and installation of two new defibrillators. We are pleased to confirm that one was installed at Aberbeeg Tyres and, one at Caffi Tyleri both in June 2024.

In January 2025, all Councillors were offered the opportunity to attend a free first aid session, run by a local company, SLIC. Five members attended and learnt about adult / paediatric CPR, adult / paediatric AED usage, adult / paediatric Choking and adult / paediatric recovery position. We also offered the use of our chamber to deliver these free sessions to any community groups within our wards.

Our relationship with Blaenau Gwent Car Scheme, run by Bridges, continued throughout 24/25. Working in collaboration with the community transport scheme and, with a budget of £5000 we have helped fund 175 trips, saving the community users £560.

Community groups such as Ffrindiau Tyleri, continue to hold their meetings in the chamber and the local Knit & Natter group use another of our rooms to meet every Wednesday.

## **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 and would be happy to provide both with prior notice.

This year, we have started using more Welsh in our newsletters and this is something we hope to build on going forward.

## **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.

We are very lucky to have 10 individuals/groups that look after flower tubs in our area. These are part of our Town in Bloom project and each tub has an allowance of £75 per year for the purchase of soil, flowers and plant food. This plays a big part in keeping the area pretty and inviting but also encouraging local wildlife to thrive.

Along with Ffrindiau Tyleri and the local 3-16 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.

We have 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.