



**THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY & LLANHILLETH  
CYNGOR CYMUNED ABERTYLERI A LLANHILLEDD**

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Our Ref: **NOTICE OF MEETING**

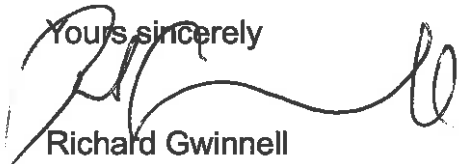
23 January 2020

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council, to be held in the Council Chamber, Mitre Street, Abertillery on **Wednesday 29 January 2020 at 7.00pm**. The agenda for the meeting is set out below.

The Council may suspend standing order 3(x) if it wishes the meeting to last beyond two hours, at the appropriate point in the meeting.

Yours sincerely



Richard Gwinnell  
Town Clerk

## **AGENDA**

**1. Apologies for absence and welcomes**

**2. Declarations of interest or dispensations**

Members who consider that they have an interest to declare are asked to state the item in which they have an interest and the nature of the interest. Any member who is unsure should seek advice prior to the meeting in order to expedite matters at the meeting itself.

**3. Minutes: Council: 11 December 2019 (attached):**

To be confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.

**4. Questions from the public:** To receive public questions and provide answers where possible

**5. Motion from Councillor Adamson (attached):** To consider the following motion: "That full Council consider if they have confidence in the Councillor Gill Clark, the Chair of ALCC Council 2019-2020, after presiding over the following: the disorderly conduct of meetings in the final months of 2019, namely the lack of minutes from previous meetings at the Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> 2019 meeting (and to date); the ignoring of council resolutions from previous meetings (i.e. the awarding of Solar Farm Grants); and failure to recognise councillors not declaring interests when voting on awarding Solar Farm Grants."

**6. Grant application (attached):** To consider a Council grant application and recommendation from the Finance and Grants Committee.

**7. Ward Grants Criteria (attached):** To review the wording of the process (re members applying for ward grants outside their own wards).

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**8. Progress reports/recommendations from Working Groups:**

- (a) Christmas Lights (attached)
- (b) Leisure and Tourism
- (c) Shop Local
- (d) Well-being
- (e) Youth Engagement

**9. Committees and working groups:** To report resignations and decide any other changes.

**10. Electronic Banking and Financial Accounting Package (attached):** To consider moving to electronic banking and purchasing a financial accounting package.

**11. Financial Risks 2020/21 (attached):** To consider asking Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council for quarterly payments of the precept and moving the reserve account to a different bank.

**12. Former Queen Street Primary School – Community Asset Transfer (attached):** To consider whether ALCC wishes to express any views to Blaenau Gwent CBC.

**13. Replacement Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy (attached):** To consider whether ALCC wishes to express any views to Blaenau Gwent CBC.

**14. Reports back on relevant training or other meetings:** To receive reports back from members or officers on relevant meetings or training attended on behalf of the Council.

**15. Chair's announcements, relevant correspondence and Celebrating Success:** To receive announcements from or deal with correspondence raised by the Chair or officers, including reports on local achievements and successes.

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
(ALCC) HELD ON 11 DECEMBER 2019 at 7.00pm  
in the Council Chamber, Mitre Street, Abertillery**

**PRESENT: Councillors:**

Gill Clark (Chair), Peter Adamson, Michaela Assiratti, Vanessa Bartlett, Keri Bidgood, Roger Clark, Tracey Dyson, Julie Holt, Beverley Lucas, Perry Morgan, Gary Oakley, Rob Phillips, Tracy Postlethwaite, Allen Rees, Nick Simmons, Bernard Wall and Graham White

**Officers:** Richard Gwinnell, Town Clerk

**Others:** 5 members of the public (reps of organisations applying for solar farm grants)

**ABSENT:** Councillors Mark Lewis and Glyn Smith

**148. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mark Lewis and Glyn Smith.

**Council RESOLVED** that staff send a "get well" card to Glyn Smith on ALCC's behalf.

Welcomes were extended to Councillor Vanessa Bartlett (to her first meeting) and to the members of the public.

The Chair referred to a complaint received from a councillor that, as some councillors spoke to others (whilst other people were already speaking) and some councillors spoke over others, this made it very difficult for other people to hear what was happening, especially if they had hearing difficulties. Councillor Lucas expanded on the problems she experienced.

The Chair asked all members to speak one at a time, not interrupt others, and speak loudly enough for everyone else to hear.

Members agreed to use the microphone system from now on, as that may help.

**149. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No members declared any personal interests.

**150. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no public questions for this meeting.

Agenda item 4 (finance order) was deferred to later in the meeting, as the public had come to hear the solar farm grants debate.

## 151. SOLAR FARM GRANT 2019

The Clerk outlined the process to date, reminding members of the 10 October deadline for applications, the meetings held and the decisions made already about solar farm grants 2019. He referred to the documents circulated to all members already by email and paper copies made available at this meeting of the seven applications, the criteria adopted by the Council and the notes of the Solar Farm Grant Working Group (SFGWG) held on 4 December 2019.

The Chair read out the notes and recommendations of the SFGWG held on 4 December 2019. She referred to each application, whether it met the Council's grant criteria, and the SFGWG recommendation on each. She ended with the Roseheyworth and Bournville Community Woodlands Association (R&BCWA) application, as the SFGWG had recommended that they be granted the entire £35,000 available this year.

Comments were made and questions were asked by various members (main points):

- had R&BCWA got permission to undertake their project; it was not their land?
- had detailed costings been received from R&BCWA as their application did not contain any specifics?
- Councillor Morgan stated that he had sent (yesterday) detailed costings supplied by R&BCWA and initial expressions of support for their project from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) to the Clerk and to the members of the SFGWG
- details and costings should have been received by the 10 October deadline; they were not admissible at this late stage as that would give R&BCWA an advantage over others
- the SFGWG asked on 4 December for the detailed costings and BGCBC position
- did Councillor Morgan go back to other applicants and ask them for more details?
- Councillor Morgan referred to R&BCWA as "we"; did he have a personal interest?

Councillor Morgan replied that he did not have a personal interest in the R&BCWA; the R&BCWA used Bournville Community Hall (BCH) for their meetings and he (Councillor Morgan) was Chairman of BCH. He had asked R&BCWA for the further details and they had supplied them.

The Clerk was asked to circulate copies of the further details received from Councillor Morgan on the afternoon of 10 December. He did so. The Chair gave members a few minutes to read the documents. She also read out parts of the documents as some people were unable to read them due to the size of the print.

The Chair asked Council if they wished to accept the further details at this stage of the process, given that criterion number 8 was clear that all details must be provided with the application form, by 10 October 2019.

Council agreed to take the further details received from R&BCWA (via Councillor Morgan) into account.

Further comments were made and questions asked by various members (main points):

- other applicants did not supply all the required details either (e.g. Swffryd Community Centre) and they and several others had received solar farm grants within the last five

years, so did not meet criterion 17

- the R&BCWA project fitted best with the project aims and objectives signed up to by the Council previously (when Dr David Llewellyn presented to the Council last year)
- last year, the whole £35,000 had gone to projects in Cwmtillery
- the same area should not get all the funding again as other areas were missing out
- the R&BCWA scheme built on the Cwmtillery scheme supported last year
- it took many years of investment to make a real difference in an area
- BGCBC had provided initial support but not formal agreement to the R&BCWA project (on BGCBC land)
- were the woodlands going to be asset transferred or formally leased to R&BCWA?
- these processes took years sometimes to agree and sign off
- the £35,000 had to be spent; not left in a bank account awaiting BGCBC permission
- R&BCWA did not want to community asset transfer (CAT) the land; they wanted better access to the woodlands
- R&BCWA needed to go through the proper processes; BGCBC officers employed to improve access to the countryside were bound to say they supported the project, but this did not constitute formal landowner's permission
- £150,000 had been granted to improve the woodlands several years ago; a lot of work was done to improve access and BGCBC maintained it for some years
- two years ago, CANCO had indicated that no one was maintaining it
- who was going to maintain the woodlands in future?
- BGCBC did not have the funds to do so; they had higher priorities for limited funds
- the woodlands had not been maintained; they had been left to become a jungle
- the solar farm grant funding should go elsewhere this year
- Dr Llewellyn had advised ALCC; the big vision was to create a country park, linking up different areas of the valley, creating a lasting and sustainable legacy, involving local volunteers, well-being, tourism, employment, training and many other aspects
- the R&BCWA scheme built on the Cwmtillery project last year and ticked all the boxes
- Cwmtillery Lakes were also in BGCBC's ownership; this was no different
- of all the applications, only one met the criteria properly; the R&BCWA project
- it was about creating an outdoor classroom, education, schools, recruiting volunteers to maintain it, teaching new skills, improving natural and pond habitats, engaging local communities and sustainability
- the woodlands had been badly neglected for many years; how was ALCC to know this would not happen again and the solar farm grant money would be wasted?
- the Leader of BGCBC had indicated their support for Six Bells Park last year
- the Leader of BGCBC had indicated that BGCBC would remain responsible for the maintenance of any land or assets not transferred to community groups
- other organisations (e.g. the Abertillery Workmen's Institute) worked very hard to raise funds themselves; they did not simply rely on grants for all their income
- had R&BCWA raised any funds themselves to pay towards their project?
- had R&BCWA applied (or did they intend to) for a CAT or lease of the land?
- could these questions be asked in writing before any decisions were made?

The Clerk reminded members that the solar farm company had set a deadline of 15 December (and extended that to 20 December only) to issue the funds. If they were not issued by then, the company had indicated that they would withdraw the funds. There was therefore no time left to enter into written correspondence with applicants, questioning their projects. Representatives of some groups were however present today if Council wanted

to ask them questions and they wished to respond.

Caroline Mundy of the R&BCWA stated that she was happy to answer questions if she could. She was asked:

- had R&BCWA raised any other funds already?
- was R&BCWA planning to apply for a CAT of the land from BGCBC?

Caroline Mundy responded on behalf of R&BCWA:

- R&BCWA had only approx. £800 in the bank
- it was a very newly formed organisation
- it had been formed when people heard about the solar farm grant, through CANCO
- it had applied for three other grants from other organisations already
- it hoped to match fund any grants
- it was focussed on getting funds to improve access to the woodlands
- she took groups of children to the woods and was very passionate about improving access to the woodlands now and for years to come
- R&BCWA had no plans to apply for a CAT or lease of the land
- £35,000 was a “drop in the ocean”
- R&BCWA's priority was to see how much could be done with this money.

Further comments were made and questions asked by various members (main points):

- if the woodlands were not transferred to R&BCWA, BGCBC would remain responsible for the upkeep of the woodlands
- giving £35,000 to R&BCWA would therefore simply reduce BGCBC's liability
- BGCBC did not have any money spare to spend on maintaining the woodlands
- this was wild land, not a park or sports ground, which may benefit from a CAT
- woodlands were different from parks and needed special consideration
- the Cwmtillery project land was also owned by BGCBC; were the same questions asked last year?
- the funds last year had gone to Abertillery Excelsiors AFC; they already owned their land following a CAT and maintained it on behalf of BGCBC; they also had an established long-standing relationship with BGCBC
- the pond at the R&BCWA site was unsafe for children
- the woodlands were owned by BGCBC; so was Six Bells Park
- the paths at Six Bells Park were unsafe too; why should they be treated differently?
- the £35,000 had been given to 30 groups in 2017
- the £35,000 had been given to only one group in 2018
- what would happen if the funds were not transferred next week?

The Clerk reminded members of the solar farm company's deadline (20 December). The company had said they would withdraw the funds from ALCC and employ a company to administer the funds instead, if ALCC did not make the necessary decisions in time.

Further comments were made and questions asked by various members (main points):

- could ALCC not share out the funds to each applicant?

- some applicants had received grants previously so could not get grants again
- the new “5 year rule” was only adopted in September; members had agreed therefore to consider each application under the “exceptional circumstances” clause
- the SFGWG turned down three applicants under the 5-year rule as they did not show exceptional circumstances
- the solar farm company had said they wanted more groups to benefit, not fewer
- applicants did not know when they applied that the 5-year rule may be backdated
- he (Councillor Oakley) had told two groups not to apply due to the 5-year rule; that rule therefore had to be honoured
- until the applications were considered by the SFGWG, there was no way of knowing if they had any exceptional circumstances
- Six Bells Park (SBP) received £2,000 in 2017 and had raised £4,000 in match funding; why were other groups not also obliged to raise other funds?
- £2,000 had been given to SBP by the local tenants and residents association
- in principle, the woodlands project was good; however it was not acceptable for the same area to receive £70,000 in two years and other areas to get nothing
- the SFGWG decided which applications met the criteria and which did not
- the SFGWG made recommendations; Council did not have to agree with the SFGWG
- this was £35,000 for this year only; another £35,000 would be available next year
- this money may not be available at all next year
- improving the natural environment was very important; but so was improving the social and economic environment; the criteria were not just about green spaces
- R&BCWA did not meet the criteria either; they did not give specific costings by the advertised deadline
- there was no certainty what the solar farm company would do if ALCC agreed to give the whole £35,000 to the R&BCWA project; as R&BCWA did not have control of the woodlands and did not have detailed costings.

The Clerk stated in answer to questions that he was not able to answer detailed questions about the land ownership issue. The company had said they required details of exactly what the money would be spent on. The details supplied by applicants would be sent to the solar farm company (whichever applicant(s) ALCC agreed to fund). It would be for the solar farm company to decide (as it was their money) if they agreed to the funding going to the organisation(s) concerned.

Further comments were made by various members:

- BGCBC had already indicated their support for the R&BCWA project
- an indication of support was not formal permission.

A motion was moved by Councillor Oakley: *that the £35,000 2019 solar farm grant be given to Roseheyworth and Bournville Community Woodlands Association.*

The motion was seconded by Councillor White.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Postlethwaite: *that the £35,000 2019 solar farm grant be shared equally amongst all seven applicants.*

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Dyson.

The Chair put the amendment to the vote. With 9 members voting in favour and 8 against, the amendment was declared carried.

**Council RESOLVED:** that the £35,000 2019 solar farm grant fund be shared equally amongst all seven applicants.

Councillors Peter Adamson, Perry Morgan, Gary Oakley, Robert Phillips, Allen Rees, Nick Simmons, Bernard Wall and Graham White asked for their votes against to be recorded.

Members of the public left the room at this point and Council adjourned for a few minutes.

Further comments were made and questions were asked by various other members:

- if ALCC did not decide today, it would be too late; the money would disappear
- how would it be decided what £5,000 would be spent on by each group, given that they had all applied for more than that?

The Clerk responded:

- all seven applications would be sent to the solar farm company tomorrow
- each group would get £5,000 if the solar farm company agreed all the projects
- it would be for the groups to accept £5,000 and prioritise what to spend that on
- it would be up to the solar farm company whether it agreed to ALCC giving £5,000 each to seven groups
- this did not fully meet the criteria (e.g. the minimum of £10,000) but the Council had decided nevertheless to split the funds equally.

Councillor Oakley stated that:

- it should be noted that members may have taken an illegal vote, as they had not applied the grants criteria correctly
- Brynithel Community Centre had been told they could not apply
- the Council was at risk of judicial review and other legal action if it took this decision, as it had prevented some groups from applying (if they had received solar farm grants previously) and they may sue
- the previous decision to adopt the criteria could not be reversed within six months, without being formally rescinded.

Councillors Morgan and White added to Councillor Oakley's comments.

The Clerk responded that:

- the criteria had not been changed and no decisions were being rescinded
- the NALC legal advice (received in November) said that ALCC could decide that its criteria meant whatever ALCC wanted them to mean
- ALCC had not told anyone that they could not apply
- ALCC could not be held liable for telling people not to apply, as ALCC had not told anyone not to apply



- Councillor Oakley had told groups not to apply (and he had announced that at an earlier Council meeting); he may therefore have put himself at risk of action
- anyone could decide to take legal action against anyone else; it would be for the defendant to defend their own actions and the courts to decide the outcome
- the Council decided on 18 November to backdate the new 5-year rule and not to re-advertise (allowing other groups to apply); those decisions risked action
- it took those decisions, on a vote of 9 members to 8, even though he (the Clerk) had advised members of the risks those decisions involved
- ALCC could change its criteria if it wished to, but it had not done that
- ALCC had not decided to give the funds to anyone until today, so there was no previous decision to rescind.

The Chair stated that the decision had already been taken. Council needed to move on.

Council returned to agenda item 4 (finance order) at this point.

## **152. FINANCE ORDER**

The Clerk responded to questions on staff salary payments, insurance, the gazebos broken at Party in the Park, banking of allotments income, the printer lease and progress with electronic banking.

### **Council RESOLVED:**

- (1) to note the payments listed in Table 2 of the finance order
- (2) to authorise the payments listed in Table 3 of the finance order
- (3) to note the financial position on the current and reserve accounts.

## **153. CHRISTMAS 2019**

Councillor Phillips reported on the very successful Winterfest event held on 30 November 2019, the lessons learnt (e.g. the need for an external power source at the Museum) and the “stunning” Christmas lights provided this year in Abertillery and surrounds under the new contract with Centregreat (who had worked very well to overcome the many problems they had encountered with old power supplies, old timing systems and so on).

The Clerk read an email from Centregreat. They had been unable to source the additional 100m of coloured lights ordered in November for the trees outside Bournville Community Hall but could supply 50m of white and 50m of coloured lights if needed. They had also said the cost of the electricity to run 100m of lights outside the Community Hall for the weeks remaining of Christmas lighting would be approx. £20.

Councillor Morgan informed Council that there was no need for the Council to provide lights in those trees as the Community Hall had its own lights in those trees and was ordering an additional 300m of lights. There was also no need for a donation from the Council to the Community Hall for the costs of the electric as the cost was minimal. The Community Hall would instead provide its own lights and ask ALCC for a grant in future years (as other areas had received grants for their Christmas lights).

Questions were asked about why there were no lights in Somerset Street (beyond the King Street junction) this year, where the stars provided there previously had gone, who had provided lights there in the past and whether the lights intended for Bournville could be placed at Somerset Street (beyond the King Street junction) instead. A question was also asked about where the lights provided at Bournville approximately 15 years ago had gone.

Councillor Phillips (Chair of the Christmas Lights Working Group) explained that:

- decisions had been made over many years to put lights in different places
- ALCC wanted to rotate lights and “share out” lighting to a wider area in recent years, whilst still focussing most of the lights and spending on Abertillery town centre
- this was why ALCC was now providing lights for the first time in Cwmtillery and Aberbeeg for example
- ALCC had to cut down in other areas, as it did not have a limitless pot of money
- many years ago, the former Town Centre Manager had purchased the blue stars for Somerset Street (beyond King Street) and installed them there
- that had only lasted one year, after which ALCC ended up paying for them by default when Abertillery no longer had a Town Centre Manager (as the funding ceased)
- the working group had proposed this year (and Council had decided) a fairer share of lights, including stopping the Somerset Street lights at the King Street junction
- ALCC did its best but it was not possible to keep everyone happy all of the time
- as in many other examples, ALCC ended up footing the bill when others withdrew
- ALCC had a contract, agreed in June; it was not possible to decide in mid-December to put lights up in new places, where they had not been ordered to date
- ALCC had over many years ended up with numerous lighting features, stored at the factory unit in Cwmtillery, many of which were not working and were obsolete
- ALCC decided some years ago to dispose of all the old lights and Commercial Christmas (ALCC’s former contractor) took them away for disposal
- it was impossible to say where the original blue stars had gone
- Centregreat (ALCC’s new contractors) were using what was left of ALCC’s stock, as well as new stock (which they supplied as part of the new contract).

The Chair reminded members of the Charity Carol Concert being held on Sunday 22 December 2019 and asked for volunteers to help on the night, selling programmes, as stewards etc. 8 members volunteered.

**Council RESOLVED:**

- (1) to note the updates
- (2) to inform Centregreat that the Council does not require the lights (ordered in November) in the trees outside Bournville Community Hall after all this year
- (3) to consider next year, if requested, whether to make a grant towards the costs of the Christmas lights in Bournville, provided by the Community Hall.

**154. REPORTS BACK AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES**

**Human Resources (HR) Committee:** Councillor Gill Clark (Chair of the HR Committee) reported that a meeting had been held on 29 November 2019 and the committee had:

- agreed the Christmas shut down dates (24 December at noon to 2 January) in line with what Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council was doing
- agreed the staff appraisals and that performance was satisfactory
- agreed that ALCC wants to be the best it can be, so needs the best training for staff including CILCA in light of the general power of competence coming down the line
- agreed that the amount of staff training provided was insufficient due partly to the lack of time and asked officers to look into future training options and report back to the HR Committee in January
- agreed that the staff job descriptions were out of date and needed review, as did the staff job evaluations and the number and hours of staff
- agreed to ask One Voice Wales to assist the HR Committee in January in a review of the JDs, JE and staff hours/numbers (depending what OVW was going to charge)
- agreed to hold special meetings in January to consider the OVW costs and start work on the JD/JE/staffing review.

The Chair reported that the HR Committee would report back to Council with the costs as soon as possible.

**Finance and Grants (F&G) Committee:** Councillor Oakley (Chair of the F&G Committee) reported that a meeting had been held on 2 December 2019 and the committee:

- discussed the budget at length and explored all budget lines in depth
- would discuss the budget further on 13 January and make recommendations to budget Council in January
- agreed that a buzzer was needed in the Council Chamber for people who arrived late at meetings and could not get in
- recommended Council to pay for that now (the quote received from the existing supplier was £225 + VAT)
- discussed IT/TV etc upgrades and would discuss this further as part of the budget build in January
- agreed to ask members for further breakdowns of their proposed budget additions as soon as possible
- discussed the Financial Services Compensation Scheme £85,000 limit and whether ALCC should have different banks
- asked officers to report back on banking options and
- agreed to write to members with a ward grants deadline (of 10 January 2020).

Councillor Oakley stated that:

- ALCC should get on with setting up accounts with different banks and moving ALCC's funds quickly, as there was another financial disaster looming
- specialist expertise may be needed to review the Council's IT and data storage systems, to comply with relevant laws
- there were a number of other areas where financial management at ALCC needed to be improved, as he and two other councillors had discovered at a recent One Voice Wales advanced finance training event
- these would be discussed further by the F&G Committee in due course.

**Council RESOLVED:**

- (1) to note the updates
- (2) to agree to the spending of £225 + VAT to purchase and install a buzzer in the Council Chamber, to alert Council if someone arrives late for a meeting and cannot get in.

**155. REPORTS BACK AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM WORKING GROUPS**

**Leisure and Tourism Working Group (L&TWG):** No update was given.

**Shop Local Working Group (SLWG):** No update was given. A question was asked about the sleigh and reindeer purchased recently and whether they were covered by the Council's insurance. The Clerk stated that they were not currently covered but further discussions were taking place with the insurance company on this matter. In the meantime, ALCC could not take risks with public safety or take the risk of being prosecuted for failing to provide safe facilities. This was an example of laudable actions being taken in a hurry, but not being carried through properly.

**Wellbeing Working Group (WBWG):** Councillor Simmons (Chair of the WBWG) reported that he would arrange a WBWG meeting in the new year.

**Youth Engagement Working Group (YEWG):** Councillor Oakley (Chair of the YEWG) reported that Blaenau Gwent Youth Services were still in the process of recruiting additional youth workers but progress was frustratingly slow. More details were awaited on the costs of the additional youth workers in the year ahead. More also needed to be done to progress the "safe space" which young people's representatives had asked for. In answer to questions, Councillor Oakley stated that he and the Chair of the Council had attended a meeting of the BG Youth Forum and that anyone else's help on these issues was welcome.

**Council RESOLVED** to note the updates.

**156. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 3(x)**

**Council RESOLVED** to suspend standing order 3(x) to extend the time limit for the meeting beyond the normal two hours.

Councillor Phillips left the meeting at this point.

**157. HONORARIUMS FOR SERVICES RENDERED**

The Clerk reported that the Council had paid £40 in previous years to Ian Bradley, who drove the vehicle which towed Santa's Sleigh at Winterfest. It had also paid £75 in previous years to Sharon Mason, the Mitre Street building caretaker, at this time of year.

Members suggested that the amount for Sharon Mason be reviewed upwards next year.

**Council RESOLVED:**

- (1) to pay an honorarium of £40 to Ian Bradley for his Winterfest services in 2019
- (2) to pay an honorarium of £75 to Sharon Mason for her caretaker services in 2019

(3) to review, upwards, the amount paid to Sharon Mason next year.

#### **158. WAR MEMORIAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

The Clerk informed Council that:

- the War Memorial maintenance contract was expiring shortly
- tenders had been sought for the contract for the next three years (with an option to extend for a further two years beyond that, if performance was satisfactory)
- only one tender had been received, from Green Fingers, which was the existing contractor and had performed very well over the last two years
- Green Fingers had quoted exactly the same price in 2020 as it had charged in 2019, for the same work
- £100 had been added to the quote for Autumn daffodil bulb planting if required
- £15 per visit was charged for watering the site in very dry weather.

Comments were made by various members (main points) that:

- litter was picked from the bank opposite the site by an ALCC councillor
- Green Fingers did an excellent job of maintaining the War Memorial site
- ALCC should ask Green Fingers to maintain the Silent Soldier site as well
- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) owned and maintained the Silent Soldier site, but not always to a high standard
- BGCBC would cut it back and tidy the Silent Soldier site if and when requested
- further clarity was needed on who owned the War Memorial site.

The Clerk reported that ALCC was responsible for the War Memorial but not the Silent Soldier site. Further work would be needed in relation to the Silent Soldier site, if Council required, as it was BGCBC owned and maintained. The Silent Soldier site could not simply be added to the existing contract and a new tendering process may be required.

#### **Council RESOLVED:**

- (1) that the contract to maintain the War Memorial site be awarded to Green Fingers for the year ahead, on the terms in the tender submitted
- (2) that the contract be awarded for only one year
- (3) that further work be undertaken in the year ahead, on whether the Silent Soldier site can also be included in the contract if appropriate
- (4) that officers report back on who owns and is responsible for the War Memorial site.

#### **159. REPORTS BACK ON RELEVANT TRAINING OR MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Councillor Simmons stated that he and two other members had attended Advanced Local Government Finance training recently and that all members of the Finance and Grants Committee (and all other members of the Council) should attend.

#### **160. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS, RELEVANT CORRESPONDENCE AND CELEBRATING SUCCESS**

Following comments from Councillor Roger Clark:

**Council RESOLVED:**

- (1) to write with the Council's congratulations to Abertillery Bluebirds AFC for their recent performance in the Welsh Cup and
- (2) to publicise their successes on the Council's website and Facebook page.

The Chair extended season's greetings to everyone and closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

Signed as a correct record by the Chair .....

*NB these minutes are a summary of the proceedings and record of the decisions taken. They are not intended to be a verbatim record.*

*Minutes produced by Richard Gwinnell, Town Clerk*

Motion for full ALCC council meeting 29th January 2020.

That full council consider if they have confidence in the Councillor Gill Clark, the Chair of ALCC Council, 2019-2020, after presiding over the following:

The disorderly conduct of meetings in the final months of 2019, namely the lack of minutes from previous meetings at the Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. 2019 meeting, (and to date); the ignoring of council resolutions from previous meetings (i.e. the awarding of Solar Farm Grants ); and failure to recognise councillors not declaring interests when voting on awarding Solar Farm Grants.

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Agenda Item 6



Received on post  
26.11.19

## Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council (ALCC)

### Council Grant Application

(see criteria and process attached before applying)

Name and Address of group, organisation or project:

MENASH - (Mental Health Support Group)  
Ebenezer Chapel, Park Place, Abertillery. NP13 1ED

Group Contact name: Brenda Russell

Role in the group: Chair

Telephone number:

Email: N/A

What are the aims of your project? Funding for activities to benefit all members such as bus trips, various excursions which benefit all members with different mental health issues e.g. to help reduce anxiety & increase self & social confidence

How does your project benefit the Abertillery and Llanhilleth area or its residents? It's aims are to provide a safe, welcoming & supportive club for anyone who has or is suffering from mental health issues. We work together to aim to reduce member's anxiety & feelings of isolation whilst increasing self confidence & positive mental health.

Approx number of beneficiaries 10-15 members

Details of project costs:

A. Project costs met by group (include match funds)	Amount (inc. VAT)
to Self Funding (via membership fees & sale of refreshments etc)	£ 425-00
	£
	£
Sub Total	£ 425-00
B. Costs requested from ALCC	Amount (inc. VAT)
	£ 500-00
	£
Sub Total	£ 500-00
C. Total project costs (A + B) TOTAL	£ 925

Is the organisation a: ~~Charity/community group/sports club/company/not for profit business/other~~ (explain and provide evidence)  
 ..... self funded community group .....  
 .....  
 .....

Payee name: ..... Menash (Brenda Russell - signatory) .....

Name of person making the application:

Print Name: ..... BRENDA RUSSELL .....

Signed: ..... B. J. Russell .....

Date: ..... 21/11/2019 .....

Please return this form with any relevant supporting documents (group constitution, financial statements, letters of support etc.) to: Town Clerk, Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council, Mitre Street, Abertillery, NP13 1AE or to [clerk.alcc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.alcc@gmail.com)



*Existing*

## **Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council (ALCC)**

### **What are Ward Grants?**

1. Ward Grants are to help local communities and organisations improve the well-being of local people. A Ward Grant will only be made if there is a clear economic, social or environmental well-being benefit to residents of the ALCC area.
2. The organisation must usually be based in, operate substantially in, or serve people mainly in the ward for which the Councillor concerned is responsible. Otherwise, it must be an organisation which serves people in the whole of the ALCC area.
3. The Council places a high value on voluntary and community service.
4. No Ward Grants will be made to professional or commercial clubs or organisations, companies, businesses or other enterprises which aim to make a profit. Ward Grants will only be made to enterprises if they are not for profit and if any surplus generated by the enterprise is reinvested into improving local communities or local community facilities.
5. Organisations such as sports clubs or parks which have become companies in order to manage or run community facilities under Community Asset Transfers may be considered for Ward Grants.
6. Ward Grants may not be used to fund national charities or organisations under any circumstances.

### **How does the Ward Grants process work?**

1. An ALCC Councillor may apply on behalf of a group or organisation (or multiple groups or organisations) in their ward for a ward grant.
2. Councillors must declare any personal or prejudicial interests in ward grants under the Code of Conduct in the same way as any other matter or business.
3. The total budget available will be £200 per year, per councillor, for this purpose.
4. If a ward councillor's £200 allocation has been spent and they then cease to be a councillor, that allocation will not be available again (to any new councillor for that ward) until the following financial year.
5. The minimum Ward Grant will be £50. The maximum Ward Grant will be £200.
6. All Ward Grant applications must be made by Councillors using the Ward Grant Application form and include the required details, prior to their consideration.
7. All applications for Ward Grants will be considered by the Finance and Grants Committee.
8. The Finance and Grants Committee will make recommendations to the Council, which will decide the ward grant applications.
9. The councillor making the application may be required to make the case for approval of the Ward Grant at the Council / Finance and Grants Committee meeting.
10. The Council / Finance and Grants Committee will consider Ward Grant applications no

more than four times a year; intended to be in April, June, November and January. Any applications submitted after a relevant deadline will be held over and not considered until the following meeting.

11. Any Ward Grant must be publicised appropriately by the receiving organisation (e.g. on its website, social media pages or posters/programmes). If appropriate publicity is not given, the organisation concerned will receive no further funding from ALCC.
12. The Council may at any time require any and all such evidence it decides that a Ward Grant given previously has been spent in the manner for which it was intended.



*Proposed*

## **Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council (ALCC)**

### **What are Ward Grants?**

1. Ward Grants are to help local communities and organisations improve the well-being of local people. A Ward Grant will only be made if there is a clear economic, social or environmental well-being benefit to residents of the ALCC area.
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5. Organisations such as sports clubs or parks which have become companies in order to manage or run community facilities under Community Asset Transfers may be considered for Ward Grants.
6. Ward Grants may not be used to fund national charities or organisations under any circumstances.

### **How does the Ward Grants process work?**

1. An ALCC Councillor may apply for ward grants to be given to groups or organisations based or located in their ward. They may also apply for ward grants for groups or organisations based or located outside their ward – if the group or organisation has a multi-ward or whole-area benefit (e.g. the Museum Trust, Hospice of the Valleys, choirs, bands, drama groups, sports clubs etc) (this list is not exhaustive).
2. Councillors must declare any personal or prejudicial interests in ward grants under the Code of Conduct in the same way as any other matter or business.
3. The total budget available will be £200 per year, per councillor, for this purpose.
4. If a ward councillor's £200 allocation has been spent and they then cease to be a councillor, that allocation will not be available again (to any new councillor for that ward) until the following financial year.
5. The minimum Ward Grant will be £50. The maximum Ward Grant will be £200.
6. All Ward Grant applications must be made by Councillors using the Ward Grant Application form and include the required details, prior to their consideration.
7. All applications for Ward Grants will be considered by the Finance and Grants Committee.
8. The Finance and Grants Committee will be able to approve (but not refuse) ward grant applications.

9. The councillor making the application may be required to make the case for approval of the Ward Grant at the Finance and Grants Committee meeting.
10. If the Finance and Grants Committee is minded to refuse a Ward Grant application, the application must be referred to the Council for a decision.
11. The Finance and Grants Committee should consider Ward Grant applications no more than four times a year; intended to be in April, June, November and January. Any applications submitted after a relevant deadline will be held over and not considered until the following meeting.
12. Any Ward Grant must be publicised appropriately by the receiving organisation (e.g. on its website, social media pages or posters/programmes). If appropriate publicity is not given, the organisation concerned will receive no further funding from ALCC.
13. The Council may at any time require any and all such evidence it decides that a Ward Grant given previously has been spent in the manner for which it was intended.



Clerk Clerk &lt;clerk.alcc@gmail.com&gt;

**Christmas Lighting Working Group meeting 22nd January.**

1 message

**Rob Phillips** <robphillips.alcc@gmail.com>

23 January 2020 at 09:44

To: Clerk ALCC <clerk.alcc@gmail.com>, Gill Clark <gillclark.alcc@gmail.com>, graham white <grahamwhite.alcc@gmail.com>, Julie Holt <julieholt.alcc@gmail.com>, Glyn Smith <glynsmith.alcc@gmail.com>

Good Morning Richard, and Members of the CLWG.  
present Chair Rob Phillips, Gill Clark, Graham White.  
apologies Julie Holt.

At last evenings meeting we agreed, That overall we were pleased with the way the Christmas Lighting Contract had been carried out, with the exception of Bournville, and the Trees at West Bank Cwmillery, and Warm Turn. this would be discussed with the Contractor before next years Display.

Also it was noted that the areas like Swffryd, Llanhilleth and Brynithel were very pleased with the Grant funding to carryout their own Displays.

With Regard to Bournville, the group agreed, that they would support Bournville residents wish to install their own display in the future and would give them the money in the form of a Grant, that would of been spent if this were part of the Contract £800.

This would require item 102, 30th October minute to be rescinded.

With regard to the complaint from a shop keeper in Somerset Street, the group agreed that this had been cut from the Budget in order to provide an equal share to outlying areas, and this would remain the case.

With regards to the Christmas Tree at the Church, it was agreed that if any further works were to be carried out, the Tree should go in Jubille Square, subject to feasibility and cost. this would be explored by the Chair Cllr Rob Phillips.

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**ELECTRONIC BANKING AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING**

**REPORT FOR COUNCIL MEETING 29 JANUARY 2020**

**BY STEVE EDWARDS (DEPUTY CLERK)**

The council manages the expenditure it pays out by mainly writing cheques, in 2019/2020 we wrote over 250 of them. They cost 70p each, paying by electronic banking is 35p per item. We do pay some items by direct debit, but these are the utility type of bills with BT, Gas and ICO annual fee. We also, under the current system, require at least two of the three authorised Councillor signatures to come into the office to sign checks, which can lead to a delay in payments that have been agreed by Council being issued. We also have several cheques per year that are lost by the recipients as they find it difficult to pay in a physical cheque.

We get a monthly paper statement from the bank which we can then reconcile against outstanding cheques, but if we require a check on balance etc we must phone the bank and go through their security procedures. This can take anything from 5 to 20 minutes depending on how busy the banks telephone systems are at the time.

Nat West have a system for electronic banking called Bankline which it would be simple to set up. The process of making any payments by this system would be.

1. The Council agrees to make a payment as it does now.
2. The Officers using the Councils email (clerk.alcc@gmail.com) as login will set up the payment in the banking system.
3. The three authorised Councillors will receive an email telling them that a payment has been set up.
4. One of the three will login to the system and authorise the payment, it is at that point the payment is processed.
5. The system will keep records of authorisations that can be printed off, so we retain a hard copy financial record for audit purposes.

Having this system would also make it very easy to find daily updated balances across our accounts, and for money to be moved between the current account and reserve account. We would still retain the ability to issue cheques.

At present we keep our financial records on a single Excel spreadsheet, one for each year. This is held on the deputy clerk's computer. All the financial records are backed-up along with other Council documents to Google Drive so can be recovered if the deputy clerk's computer fails. The collating of monthly finance orders, quarterly forecasts, and year end accounts is a time-consuming process with the clerk and deputy clerk creating further spreadsheets.

There are at least three accounting systems out there that have been developed for the town and community council sector and are in wide use within the South Wales area. The reports within these systems have many standard reports about forecasting, current position, they calculate the VAT return and help to do the end of year accounts and annual return.

A move to such a system would benefit council being able to produce reports quicker.

#### **Recommendations:**

**1: The officers set up electronic banking for all the council's bank accounts as soon as possible.**

**2: That Councillors Rob Phillips, Julie Holt and Glyn Smith (who are the current cheque signatories) be set up as the Online Electronic Banking payment authorisers, so that there is a consistency of financial authorisations for all council payments.**

**3: That Financial Regulations are amended if required and are appropriate to allow for Electronic Banking, with any changes brought back to Council for approval.**

**4: The officers put in place and action a formal tendering exercise to procure and install a Financial Accounting package within the agreed budget.**

**REPORT FOR COUNCIL MEETING 29 JANUARY 2020**

**BY STEVE EDWARDS (DEPUTY CLERK)**

The large rise of the budget and precept last year has highlighted a serious financial risk issue, that must be considered now as one of the recommendations below would, if agreed, make a change to the way the precept is paid.

The current situation is that all the Community council's money is held with one bank, Nat West. The money is in three separate accounts, a current account and two interest bearing reserve accounts. We do have some cover within the current FSCS (Financial Services Compensation Scheme) as we have an annual budget under 500,000 euros. In practice this would mean that if Nat West was to go bust than only £85,000 of our money would be covered and recoverable under that scheme. As of the 1<sup>st</sup> January we had over £200,000 across all accounts with the solar farm grant money being deposited. Also given the likelihood of a budget and precept next year of £230,000 to £240,000 that in April and May we would have over £300,000 on account with Nat West, so a possible risk of a loss of £215,000 to Council if the bank went bust.

We cannot remove this risk completely as there will always be times of the year when we hold over £85,000 in our accounts, but we can mitigate it to large extent by doing two things.

The first thing is moving our two reserve accounts away from Nat West to one account with one of the other major UK banks, but keeping our current account with Nat West. This will give us cover up to £170,000 across our two accounts, instead of the current £85,000.

The second thing is to get the precept paid in 4 quarterly amounts from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, so instead of a single payment of £234,000 last year made in April, it would have been made up of 4 payments (April, July, October and January of £58,500 each time). We have had some preliminary discussions with them, and they are able to pay the precept in 4 quarterly amounts.

### **Recommendations:**

**1: The proper officers conduct a comparison exercise across the major UK Banks to find the one that has the best interest payments on a business reserve deposit account, which allows for instant access.**

**2: Once the officers have completed this exercise the RFO decides which new bank account to set up and to take all required actions to move the current Nat West Reserve Accounts, not the current account, to that new account, whilst retaining the existing authorisation controls.**

**3: The RFO, when making the precept request for 2020/21, requests that Blaenau Gwent pays it in 4 quarterly amounts.**

Item 12



Clerk Clerk &lt;clerk.alcc@gmail.com&gt;

**Former Queen Street Primary School, Abertillery - Community Asset Transfer**

1 message

**Lyn.Sage@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk** <Lyn.Sage@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk>  
To: clerk.alcc@gmail.com

20 January 2020 at 13:24

Good afternoon Richard,

The Estates Department are in the process of adding an application from Abertillery Youth Drama & Music Society (AYDMS) to effect a Community Asset Transfer of the former Queen Street Primary School, Abertillery for a multi-use Arts Facility.

We are currently awaiting the Business Plan but in the meantime, would you be kind enough to forward any views/comments to Mark Howland or myself by Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 please.

Many thanks

Kind regards

Lyn Sage

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council / Cyngor Bwrdeisdref Sirol Blaenau Gwent  
Project Development Officer – Community Asset Transfer / Swyddog Datblygu Prosiect – Trosglwyddo Asedau Cymunedol

Estates and Strategic Asset Management / Rheoli Stadau ac Asedau Strategol

☎ Phone/Ffon: 01495 355741

:E-mail/E-bost: [lyn.sage@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:lyn.sage@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

📍 Municipal Offices, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6XB / Y Swyddfeydd Bwrdeisiol, Canolfan Dinesig, Glyn Ebbw, NP23 6XB

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn cyfathrebu gyda chi yn eich dewis iaith, dim ond i chi rhoi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu yn y ddwy iaith. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Mae'r neges ebost hon, ynghyd ag unrhyw ffeiliau sydd ynghlwm wrthi, yn gyfrinachol ac at ddefnydd yr unigolyn neu sefydliad y cyfeiriwyd hi ato. Pe dderbynioch y neges hon mewn camgymeriad, byddwch mor garedig a rhoi gwybod i'r rheolwr system. Mae'r nodyn hwn hefyd yn cadarnhau bod y neges ebost hon wedi cael ei archwilio am bresenoldeb feirws cyfrifiadurol.

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Clerk Clerk <clerk.alcc@gmail.com>

## Fwd: Blaenau Gwent Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033 Preferred Strategy Consultation / Ymgynghoriad ar y Strategaeth a Ffefrir ar gyfer Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Newydd Blaenau Gwent 2018-2033

1 message

Clerk ALCC <clerk.alcc@gmail.com>

20 January 2020 at 09:50

To: Allen Rees <allenrees.ALCC@gmail.com>, Beverley Lucas <beverleylucas.alcc@gmail.com>, Gary Oakley <garyoakley.alcc@gmail.com>, Gill Clark <gillclark.alcc@gmail.com>, Glyn Smith <glynsmith.alcc@gmail.com>, Graham White <grahamwhite.alcc@gmail.com>, Julie Holt <julieholt.alcc@gmail.com>, Keri Bidgood <keribidgood.alcc@gmail.com>, Mark Lewis <marklewis.alcc@gmail.com>, Michaela Assiratti <michaelaassiratti.alcc@gmail.com>, Nick Simmons <nicksimmons.alcc@gmail.com>, Perry Morgan <perrymorgan.alcc@gmail.com>, Peter Adamson <peteradamson.alcc@gmail.com>, Rob Phillips <robphillips.alcc@gmail.com>, Roger Clark <rogerclark.alcc@gmail.com>, Tracey Dyson <traceydyson.alcc@gmail.com>, Tracy Postlethwaite <tracypostlethwaite.alcc@gmail.com>, Vanessa Bartlett <vanessabartlett.alcc@gmail.com>

Dear members

Please see below an email from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, announcing their consultation on the Preferred Strategy for the Replacement Local Development Plan. They are consulting on the preferred strategy and associated documents from 16 January to 27 February 2020.

The email from BGCBC contains links to various documents, comment forms and online surveys.

I will put this on the Council agenda on 29 January for a whole Council response (if Council as a whole wishes to respond).

In the meantime, please have a look at the documents. You can respond as individual councillors if you wish.

BGCBC are also holding consultation events if you wish to attend as follows:

### Timetable of Events

Location	Date and Time
<b>Ebbw Vale Library</b>	Thursday 30th January 13.30-17.30
21 Bethcar Street, Ebbw Vale NP23 6HH	Friday 31st January 9:00-13:00
<b>Abertillery Metropole</b>	Thursday 6th February 13.30-17.30
Mitre Street, Abertillery	Friday 7th February 9:00-13:00
<b>Tredegear Indoor Market</b>	Thursday 13th February 12.30-16.30

Gwent Shopping Centre, Tredegar NP22 3EJ	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 9:00-13:00
<b>Brynmawr Learning Action Centre</b>  8 Market Square, Brynmawr NP23 4AJ	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 13.30-17.30  Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 9:00-13:00
<b>Civic Centre</b>  Municipal Offices, Ebbw Vale NP23 6XB	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 15:00-19:00

Best wishes

Richard Gwinnell  
Town Clerk  
Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council  
Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery. NP13 1AE.  
(Telephone 01495 217323)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <Hayley.Spender@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk>

Date: Wed, 15 Jan 2020 at 15:39

Subject: Blaenau Gwent Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033 Preferred Strategy Consultation / Ymgynghoriad ar y Strategaeth a Ffeirir ar gyfer Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Newydd Blaenau Gwent 2018-2033

To:

I am writing to inform you of the commencement of a six-week public consultation period on the Preferred Strategy for the Replacement Local Development Plan. The consultation period runs from Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January to Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The Council would welcome your views.

The Preferred Strategy and supporting Initial Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulation Assessment documents are subject to consultation and are available to view and download by clicking on this link. Should you wish to make any comments on the documents, we would be grateful if you could complete the corresponding comment forms which are also available via the link. Alternatively you can comment on the preferred strategy via a detailed online survey which is available via this link.

A summary leaflet of the Preferred Strategy document which is a shorter and simpler version is available by clicking here. You can comment on this summary leaflet via a comment form or an online survey which can be accessed via this link.

Hard copies of all of the above documents are available to view during opening hours at all local libraries, the Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale and Anvil Court, Abertillery.



Please note that the background evidence in the form of a series of background papers and supporting documents are also being made available for information by clicking [here](#).

We are holding a number of consultation events across the County Borough where you can speak to a planning officer. Click [here](#) for further details.

If you should have any queries regarding the aforementioned or indeed any aspect of the Replacement Local Development Plan, please do not hesitate to contact the team on (01495) 355538 or 354740 alternatively email [planningpolicy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

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Ysgrifennaf atoch chi i'ch hysbysu am gychwyn cyfnod ymgynghori chwe wythnos ar y Strategaeth a Ffeirir ar gyfer Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Newydd. Mae'r cyfnod ymgynghori'n rhedeg o Ddydd Iau Ionawr 16 tan Ddydd Iau Chwefror 27, 2020. Byddai'r cyngor yn croesawu eich barn.

Ymgynghorir ar y Strategaeth a Ffeirir ac ar yr Adroddiad Gwerthusiad Cynladwyedd Integredig ac Asesiad Rheoleiddio Cynefinoedd sydd yn gefnogol iddi ac maent ar gael i'w gweld a'u lawrlwytho trwy glicio ar y ddolen hon. Os hoffech gynnig unrhyw sylwadau ar y dogfennau, byddem yn ddiolchgar petaech chi'n cwblhau'r ffurflenni sylwadau cyfatebol sydd hefyd ar gael trwy'r ddolen. Fel arall, cewch gynnig sylwadau ar y strategaeth a ffeirir trwy arolwg ar-lein manwl sydd ar gael ar y ddolen hon.

Mae taflen sy'n grynodeb o'r ddogfen Strategaeth a Ffeirir sydd yn fersiwn fyrrach ac yn symlach ar gael trwy glicio yma. Cewch gynnig sylwadau ar y daflen o grynodeb ar ffurflen sylwadau neu trwy arolwg ar-lein y gellir cael hyd iddynt trwy'r ddolen hon.

Mae copïau celyd o'r holl ddogfennau uchod ar gael i'w gweld yn ystod oriau agor ym mop llyfrgell leol, yn y Ganolfan Ddinesig, Glyn Ebwy ac yn Llys yr Eingion, Abertyleri.

Noder os gwelwch yn dda fod y dystiolaeth gefndirol ar ffurf cyfres o bapurau cefndir a dogfennau cefnogol hefyd ar gael er gwybodaeth trwy glicio yma.

Rydym yn cynnal nifer o ddigwyddiadau ymgynghori ar draws y Fwrdeistref Sirol lle cewch siarad â swyddog cynllunio. Clicier yma am ragor o fanylion.

Os oes gennych unrhyw ymholiadau ynglŷn â'r uchod neu yn wir ynghylch unrhyw agwedd ar y Cynllun Datblygu Lleol newydd, na phetruser rhag cysylltu â'r tîm ar (01495) 355538 neu 354740 neu fel arall drwy e-bostio [planningpolicy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

Kind Regards

Hayley

Prif Swyddog Cynllunio / Principal Planning Officer

Cyngor Bwrdeisdref Sirol Blaenau Gwent / Blaenau Gwent County Borough council

Llawr 1a / Floor 1a

Swyddfydd Bwrdeisiol / Municipal Offices

Canolfan Dinesig / Civic Centre

Glyn Ebwy / Ebbw Vale

NP23 6XB

Ffon / Telephone: 01495 355538

E-bost / Email: hayley.spender@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn cyfathrebu gyda chi yn eich dewis iaith, dim ond i chi rhoi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu yn y ddwy iaith. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Mae'r neges ebost hon, ynghyd ag unrhyw ffeiliau sydd ynghlwm wrthi, yn gyfrinachol ac at ddefnydd yr unigolyn neu sefydliad y cyfeiriwyd hi ato. Pe dderbynioch y neges hon mewn camgymeriad, byddwch mor garedig a rhoi gwybod i'r rheolwr system. Mae'r nodyn hwn hefyd yn cadarnhau bod y neges ebost hon wedi cael ei archwilio am bresenoldeb feirws cyfrifiadurol.

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- English (/en/resident/planning/local-development-plan/local-development-plan-2018-2033/preferred-strategy-pre-deposit-stage/)

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## Preferred Strategy/Pre Deposit Stage

The Preferred Strategy is the first formal publication in the preparation of the Blaenau Gwent Replacement LDP. It signals the end of the pre deposit preparation and engagement stage, where stakeholders worked with officers and Members to identify the challenges, vision and strategy for the Preferred Strategy document.

We are consulting on our:

Replacement Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy;

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report; and

Habitat Regulation Assessment.

### Preferred Strategy

The Preferred Strategy sets out the long term vision for Blaenau Gwent by indicating how much development is needed within the Borough and broadly where it is likely to go over the 15 year period 2018-2033. It identifies the key challenges for the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) to address, a vision and set of objectives. To deliver the vision and objectives the strategy contains 15 strategic policies.

### How to have your say on the Preferred Strategy Document...

Download the full Preferred Strategy document [here](#)  
(/fileadmin/documents/Resident/Planning/Local\_Development\_Plan/Preferred\_Strategy\_Docs/Full

Complete this online survey via this [link \(https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=157858848290\)](https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=157858848290)

Download this [comment form](#)  
(/fileadmin/documents/Resident/Planning/Local\_Development\_Plan/Preferred\_Strategy\_Docs/Con  
post it or email back to the Planning Policy Team using the contact details below

### Summary of the Preferred Strategy

If you want to read a shorter and simpler version of the Preferred Strategy document, you can download a summary leaflet [here](#)  
(/fileadmin/documents/Resident/Planning/Local\_Development\_Plan/Preferred\_Strategy\_Docs/FIN

You can comment on this summary leaflet via an online survey via this [link \(https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=157858809129\)](https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=157858809129)

Or download a simpler [comment form](#)

[/fileadmin/documents/Resident/Planning/Local\\_Development\\_Plan/Preferred\\_Strategy\\_Docs/Summary\\_Leaflet.pdf](#)  
to the summary leaflet here and post it or email back to the Planning Policy Team using the contact details below

## The deadline for commenting is 5pm on Thursday 27th February 2020.

Further advice can be obtained from the team by email or telephone on 01495 355538

## Integrated Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report

The Initial SA report is the second stage of the SA process and appraises the social, economic and environmental effects of the LDP Preferred Strategy.

## How to have your say on the Integrated Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report Document...

Download the Integrated Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report [here](#)

[/fileadmin/documents/Resident/Planning/Local\\_Development\\_Plan/Preferred\\_Strategy\\_Docs/Blas](#)

An executive summary is available [here](#)

[/fileadmin/documents/Resident/Planning/Local\\_Development\\_Plan/Preferred\\_Strategy\\_Docs/Blas](#)

Download the [comment form](#)

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post it or email back to the Planning Policy Team using the contact details below

## Habitat Regulation Assessment

The purpose of the assessment was to identify any aspects of the Plan that might cause an adverse effect on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites, otherwise known as European sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites), either in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects, and to advise on appropriate policy mechanisms for delivering mitigation where such effects were identified.

## How to have your say on the Habitat Regulation Assessment Report Document...

Download the Habitat Regulation Assessment Report [here](#)

[/fileadmin/documents/Resident/Planning/Local\\_Development\\_Plan/Preferred\\_Strategy\\_Docs/Blas](#)

An executive summary is available [here](#)

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post it or email back to the Planning Policy Team using the contact details below

## Attend a Consultation Event

At these events, you can speak to a planning officer. However comments will still need to be made in writing by the above options.

## Timetable of Events

Location	Date and Time
Ebbw Vale Library	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 13.30-17.30
21 Bethcar Street, Ebbw Vale NP23 6HH	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 9:00-13:00

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Abertillery Metropole  Mitre Street, Abertillery	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 13.30-17.30  Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 9:00-13:00
Tredeggar Indoor Market  Gwent Shopping Centre, Tredeggar NP22 3EJ	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 12.30-16.30  Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 9:00-13:00
Brynmaur Learning Action Centre  8 Market Square, Brynmaur NP23 4AJ	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 13.30-17.30  Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 9:00-13:00
Civic Centre  Municipal Offices, Ebbw Vale NP23 6XB	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 15:00-19:00

Copies of the consultation documents are available to view during opening hours at the Civic Centre, Anvil Court and all local libraries.

To view the background papers and supporting documents please click [here](#)  
[/en/resident/planning/local-development-plan/local-development-plan-2018-2033/pre-deposit-documents/](#)

## Contact Information

Planning Policy Team

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Municipal Offices, Civic Centre

Ebbw Vale

NP23 6XB

Tel: 01495 355538

Email: [planningpolicy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk) (<mailto:planningpolicy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk>)

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About Us (<http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/corporate/about-us/>)

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Privacy

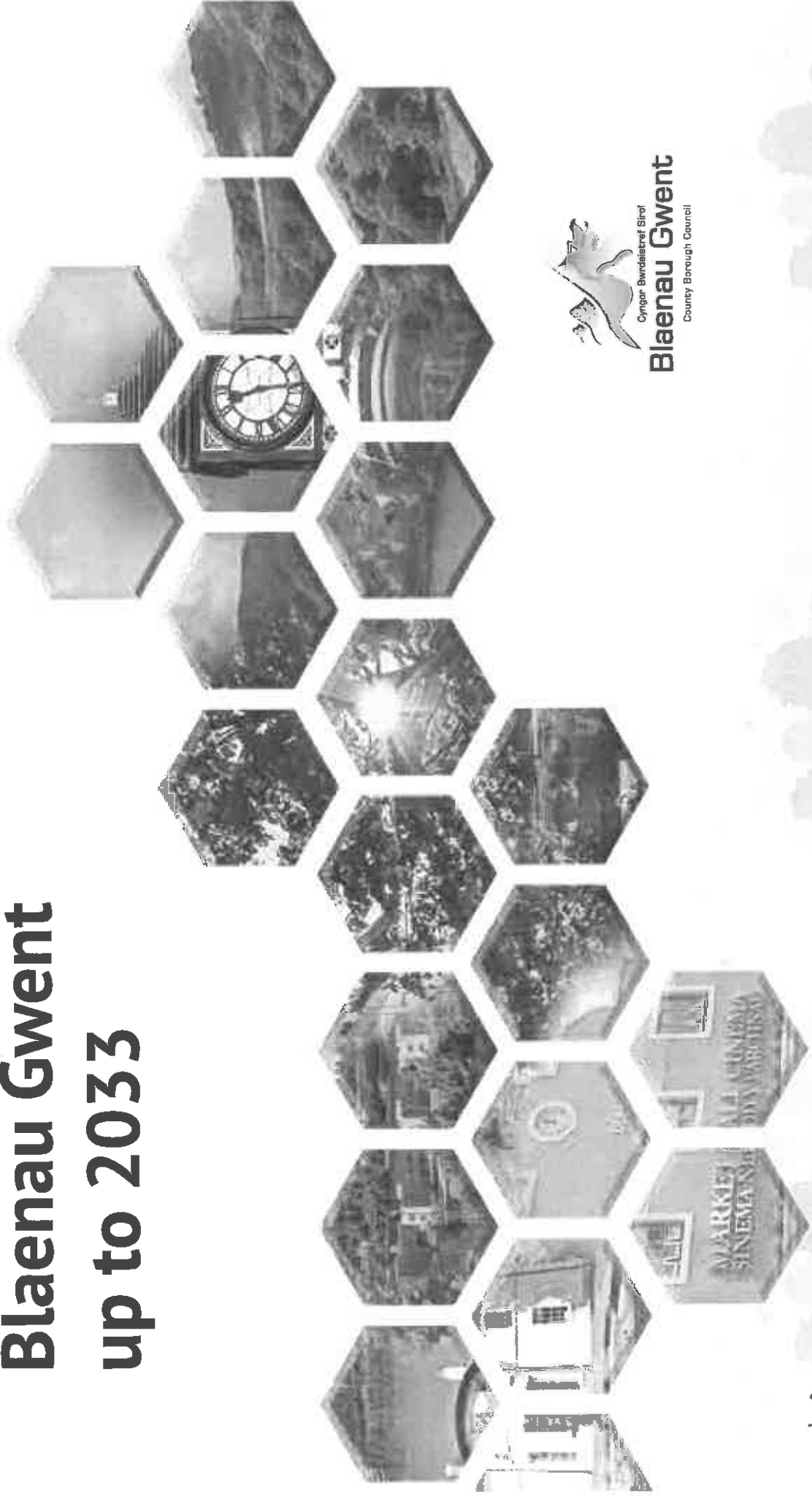
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# New Development Plan for **Blaenau Gwent** up to 2033



# Introduction

This is a summary of the Strategy for the new development plan for Blaenau Gwent Replacement Local Development Plan - (RLDP).

The Strategy document sets out the long term vision for Blaenau Gwent by indicating how much development is needed within the borough and broadly where it is likely to go.

Our current plan has been in place for seven years and will run out in 2021 - so we need to replace it.

# Progress so far...

- We reviewed the current Plan to help us understand what worked and what needed to change.
- We prepared a Delivery Agreement which sets out our timetable and how we will engage with people. It is a long process and will take approximately 3½ years to produce.
- We asked landowners, developers and others to suggest new sites for development e.g. for housing.
- We listened to key people from the community and others to find out their views on our challenges, vision, growth levels and where development should go.

# We've written a preferred strategy

We want to know what you think. Does this strategy:

- Identify the right challenges for the RLDP to address?
- Provide enough new homes including affordable homes?
- Provide enough new jobs to contribute to economic growth?
- Is growth in the right places?

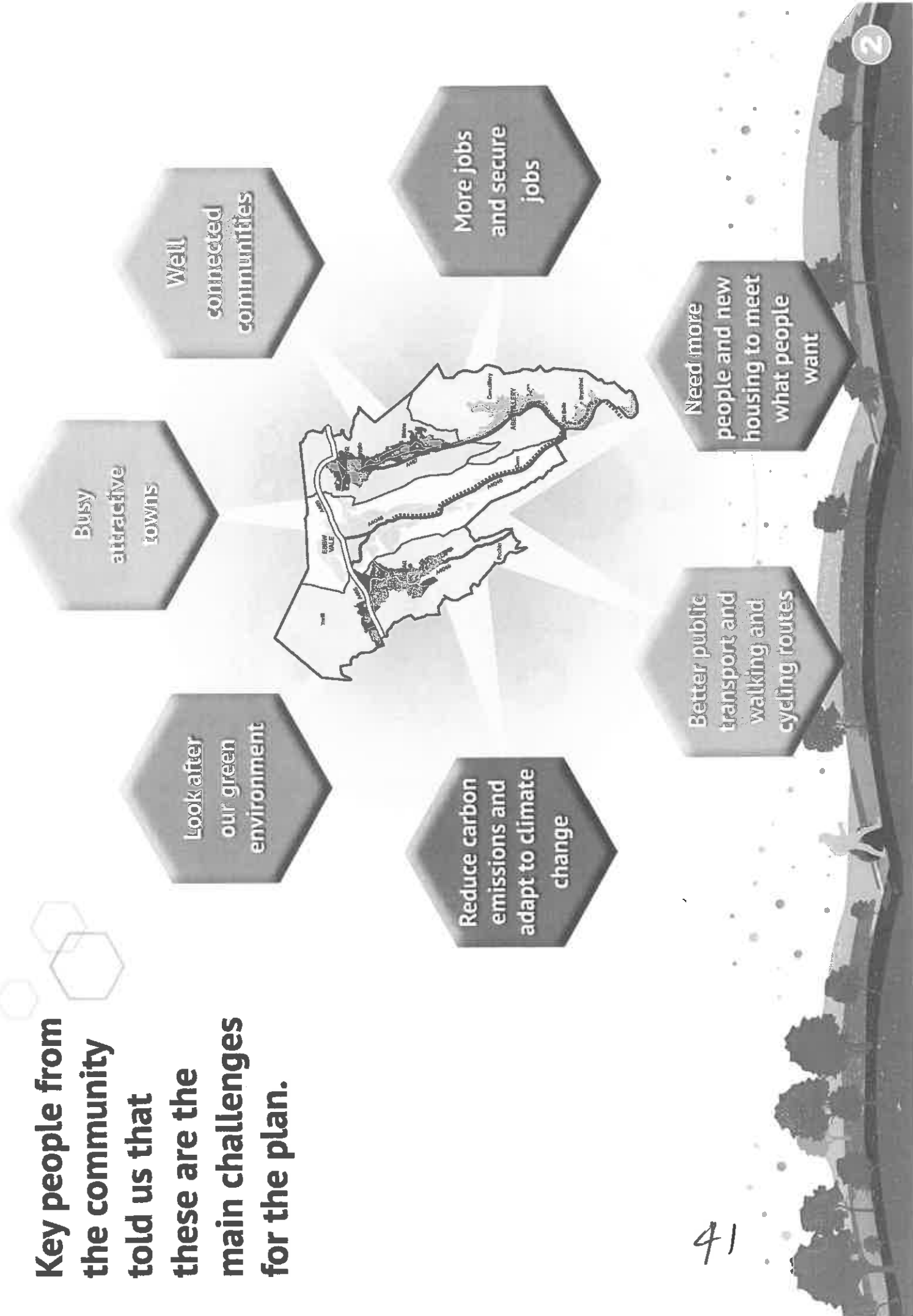
# Next steps

- Write the final plan and check with the public before submitting it to Welsh Government (Autumn 2020).
- The plan is examined by an Inspector at public meetings. After this the Inspector writes a report on our plan (Autumn 2021).
- The Council adopts the plan based on the Inspector's Report (Spring 2022).





Key people from the community told us that these are the main challenges for the plan.



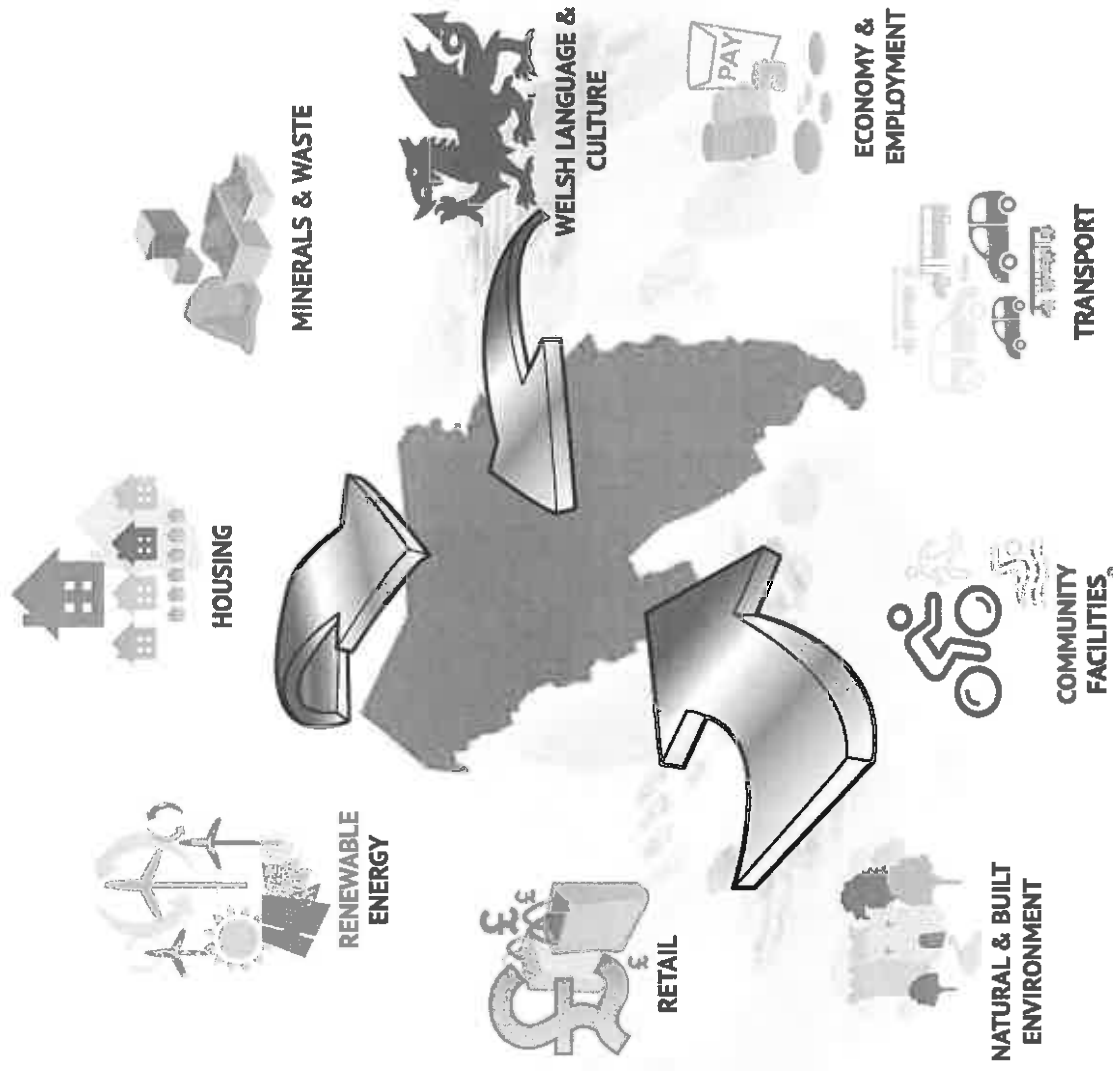
# Our vision for Blaenau Gwent

Through collaborative working, by 2033, Blaenau Gwent will become a network of connected sustainable, vibrant valley communities that support the well-being of current and future generations with:

A prosperous low carbon economy where people have the skills, knowledge and opportunities to achieve a better quality of life.

Residents living in well connected, healthy and safe communities, in a range of good quality homes with better access to services.

Its distinctive natural environment, cultural and historic identity is protected and enhanced creating a place where people want to live, work and visit.

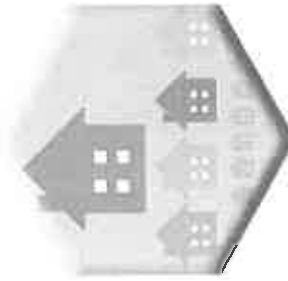


# How much growth

A preferred strategy option has been developed following engagement with key people of the community.



This plan will look to grow the population by 2% - 2.9%. Resulting in an increase of between 1,471 to 1,996 people.



This plan will provide the land to add between 1,755 to 2,115 new homes including 478 affordable homes. This is at least 117 new homes each year to 2033.



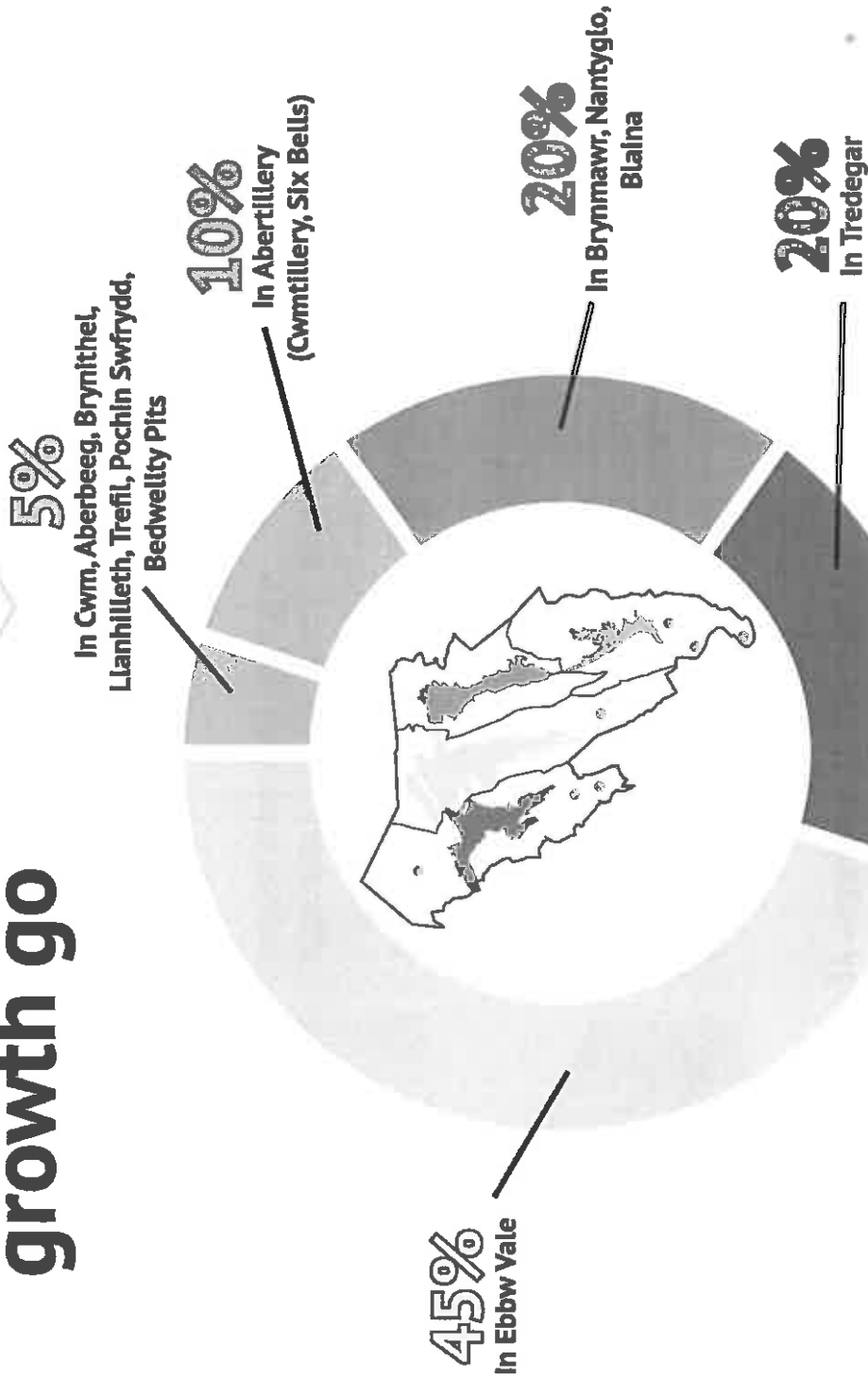
This plan aims to provide the land to add 1,500 to 3,375 new jobs. It will allocate 3-46 hectare of employment land.

## The final plan will identify:

- Land for services – schools, health services;
- Land for infrastructure – cycle, walking routes, public transport, roads; and
- Protect green spaces, heritage and culture.



# Where will the growth go



There are 3 strategic mixed use sites which we have identified as being important to Blaenau Gwent's growth:

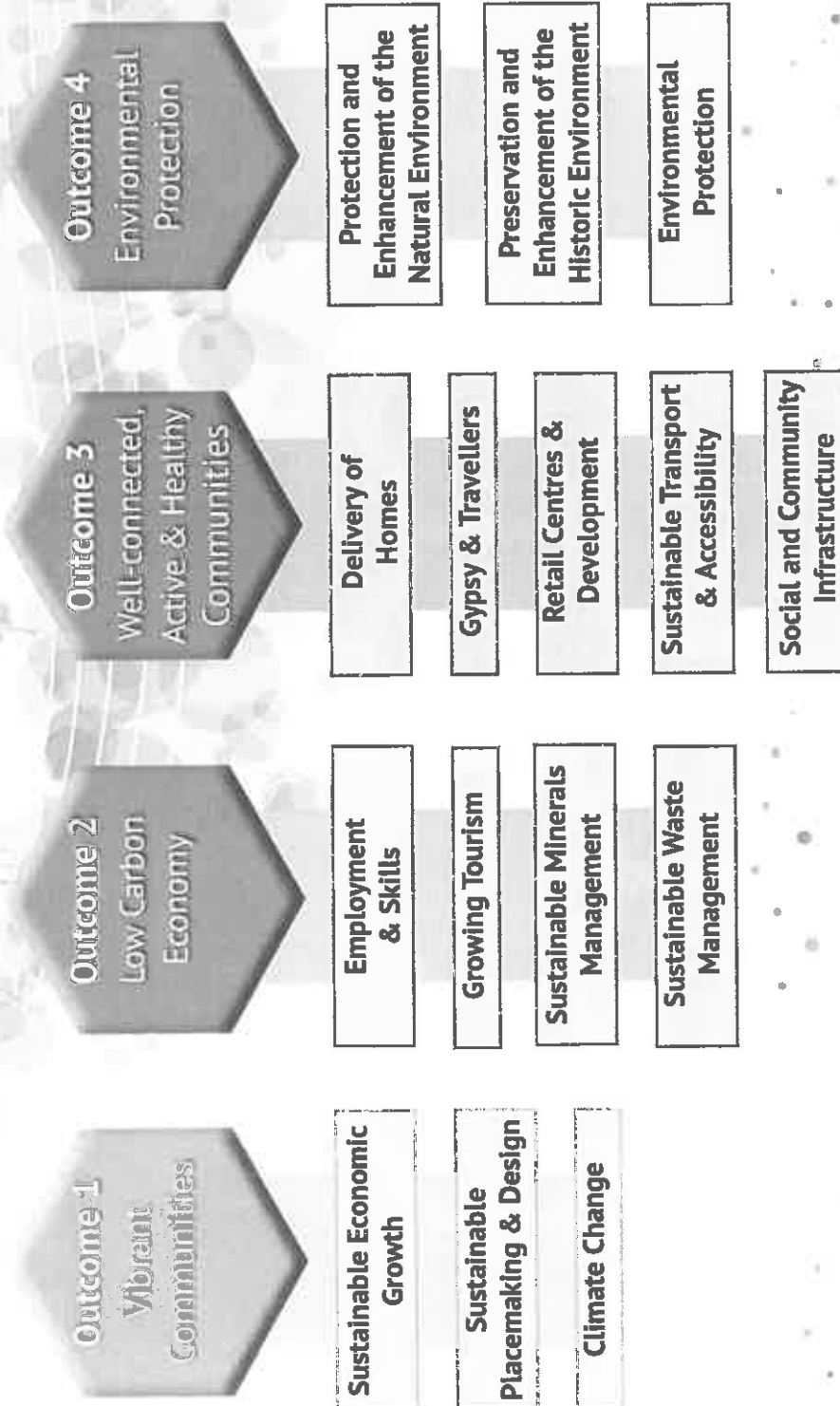
The Works  
Ebbw Vale

Ebbw Vale  
Northern  
Corridor

Former  
Nantyglo  
Comprehensive  
School Site

# Delivery

To deliver the vision and objectives we have set out 15 strategic policies around 4 outcomes.



To ensure that our plan is sustainable and that it does not have an impact on protected species the Strategy is supported by an Integrated Sustainable Appraisal and a Habitats Regulation Assessment.

## Let us know what you think...

The full Preferred Strategy is available [here](#).

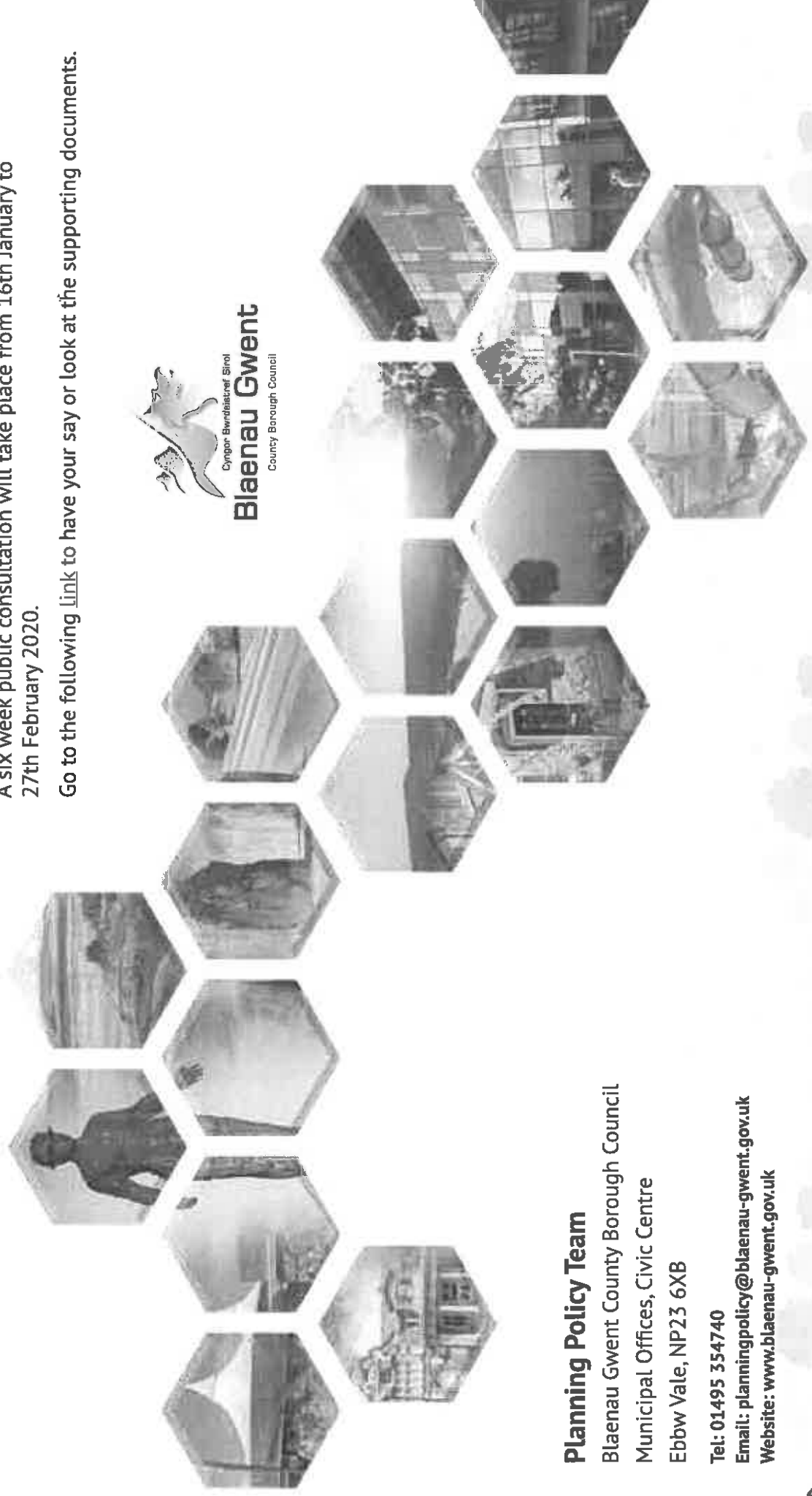
If you want to get involved there will be drop in events in the area.

A six week public consultation will take place from 16th January to 27th February 2020.

Go to the following [link](#) to have your say or look at the supporting documents.



**Blaenau Gwent**  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
County Borough Council



### Planning Policy Team

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Website: [www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)