

## Youth Committee

At its Annual Meeting in May, the Council resolved to establish a Youth Engagement Working Group with the following terms of reference:

- The Working Group shall be three members.
- The Working Group shall meet at least once every six months.
- The Working Group's duties shall be:
  - To establish criteria for measuring the effectiveness, value-for-money and performance of Community Council-funded youth work, and to make recommendations to the Council.
  - At least once every six months, to review the effectiveness, value-for-money and performance of Community Council-funded youth work, and to make recommendations to the Council.
  - To liaise with external agencies to formulate proposals for future youth engagement initiatives, and to make recommendations to the Council.
  - To examine external sources of additional funding for youth engagement initiatives, and to make recommendations to the Council.

Barrie Page, Josh Rawcliffe and Ben Owen-Jones were appointed to the Working Group.

The Working Group has proposed that it should be replaced with a Youth Committee with the following proposed terms of reference:

- The Committee shall be at least three members but no more than five.
- The Committee, by its nature, will co-opt non-voting members and external people as required.
- The Committee shall meet bi-monthly.
- The Committee duties shall be:
  - To establish criteria for measuring the effectiveness, value-for-money and performance of Community Council-funded youth work.
  - To continually review the effectiveness, value-for-money and performance of Community Council-funded youth work.
  - To liaise with external agencies to formulate proposals for future youth engagement initiatives.
  - To examine external sources of additional funding for youth engagement initiatives and if need be, help establish groups and act as members of those groups.
  - Take steps to establish a Youth Council within the Community Councils area.
  - Have delegated authority to manage and use Community Council budgetary funding that applies to any Community Council areas of youth engagement work.

A working group has no authority to transact business on behalf of the Council. The establishment of a Youth Committee would enable greater and more flexible oversight of Community Council-funded youth work and would enable the Committee to transact business such as procuring professional advice.

## Abertillery War Memorial

Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council is the owner and custodian of Abertillery War Memorial, which is a Grade II listed building. The site has been listed because of its “well-designed and prominent” First World War monument but includes the entire grounds and curtilage of the War Memorial site.

Owners of listed buildings have a legal responsibility to conserve and maintain them and are responsible for keeping them in good repair.

Furthermore, it is an offence under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to permit anything which would cause, or is likely to result in, damage to a listed building.

On 13 September, the Council received a two-line email from a member of the public in Abertillery saying, “I am asking permission for contractors Elite rendering systems, and artist, Tee 2 Sugars to erect scaffolding on the land occupied by the War Memorial Abertillery, to carry out work on the pine end of the house in Somerset St adjacent to the War memorial.”

This was the first contact the Council had had from the member of public on this matter, although it appears that he had been organising an online fund-raising project since July to finance the painting of the mural shown below. The online campaign had raised around £1,500 by 13 September. On 5 October, it was suddenly announced that the full £10,000 fund-raising target had been reached.



The member of public in question is not the owner of 155 Somerset Street. The proposed mural does not require planning permission. The gable wall does not form any part of the War Memorial site but its current poor state of repair is undeniably unsightly (to the detriment of the War Memorial site) and would greatly benefit from being re-rendered.

However, the proposed project is unlikely to be straightforward. The monument, which has been removed from the artist's impression on the left, stands within a few yards of the gable wall. Scaffolding erected to enable the wall to be re-rendered and painted would strike the monument if it fell. The ground slopes severely and an electricity switch cabinet near the wall shows that high voltage cables run under the area where the scaffolding would be erected.

Given the Council's legal duties and responsibilities, the Clerk replied to the member of the public asking for:

- A full plan of works including a complete description of the work to be undertaken, the extent and nature of the scaffolding required plus a calendar and timetable of works.
- Full details of insurance policies that cover anyone undertaking works against damage to the War Memorial, the land surrounding the War Memorial and its amenities and utilities.
- A full risk assessment for the erection of the scaffolding plus a full working at height risk assessment covering works carried on while the scaffolding is in place.

The Clerk also asked the member of the public to consider giving a written undertaking to maintain, and make good any damage to, the proposed mural for a reasonable period of time.

There then followed more than twenty emails from the member of the public, some questioning this Council's authority and threatening legal action, an email to all Members demanding "a reply from all of you", numerous social media posts, a formal complaint to Blaenau Gwent Council's monitoring officer and, apparently, a complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman. Most recently, an email from the member of the public threatened legal action "if this building project is affected by unnecessary conditions, and decisions" by the Council and announced that he also intended to make a formal complaint directly to the Council.

What he did *not* provide for three-and-a-half weeks was any of the information requested. When he finally did ask his contractors to submit the information, it was very informative.

By law, a scaffolding assembly, use and dismantling plan must be drawn up by a competent person. Scaffolds must be designed, erected, altered and dismantled only by competent people and the work must be carried out under the direction of a competent supervisor. The scaffolding contractor has confirmed that only "skilled, trained and competent operatives" will erect the scaffolding and that their work will conform to the SG4 national scaffolding guidance.

All three contractors provided professional risk assessments. The rendering contractor and painting contractor both provided details of the measures that they will take to mitigate the risks, not only of working at height, but also of spillages and of paint aerosol blowing in the wind.

Nothing in the documents describing the proposed ways of working suggests that further reasonable safeguards would be required.

Finally, after five-and-a-half weeks and nine separate written requests to the member of the public who had asked for access to be granted to the War Memorial site, the Council received written confirmation that all three contractors have substantial (in excess of £1 million) public liability insurance cover.

The member of the public has not provided a single calendar and timetable of works. The information from the rendering contractor and the painting contractor suggests that their work could be completed within about a fortnight but the scaffolding contractors have estimated that the scaffolding would be in place for three weeks.

The request to provide an undertaking to care for and maintain the proposed mural prompted the following response from the member of the public: *"Is that a joke? What a nerve. The homeowner can do whatever he likes. Community councillors should keep their noses out of other people's business."*

As the Council as a body holds the legal duties and responsibilities that come with ownership of the War Memorial site, it is right that authority to erect the scaffolding is a decision for the Full Council.

The Council should consider the following:

- Under the Neighbouring Land Acts a homeowner has a legal right of access to neighbouring land for works that are “reasonably necessary for the preservation of the whole or any part” of their home where the works cannot be carried out without entry to the neighbouring land.
- It is feasible that the Council could be held liable for any accident or injury that occurred during work on its land, whether or not it was caused by, or happened to, a contractor employed by someone else. However, it is believed that very few landowners in the UK have ever been held liable in this way.
- The War Memorial site is insured by the Council against accidental or malicious damage for £84,000. However, it became apparent that this valuation is based only on the land value of the site and that the monument itself had never been valued as a work of art. The Council procured the professional opinion of Philip Keith of valuers Rogers Jones who is an expert on Welsh art and whose valuations are sought by national museums and the National Trust. He has valued the monument for insurance replacement purposes at £200,000. It would take a calamitous accident to inflict £84,000 of damage to the monument and the surrounding War Memorial site but the Council is taking action to increase its insurance cover to reflect the full value of the site and the monument.
- The law allows for a landowner to set terms and conditions, such as “the date on which, or the period during which, the land may be so entered” or “reasonably necessary” conditions “for the purpose of avoiding or restricting any loss, damage, or injury.”
- When considering whether to grant permission for scaffolding to be erected within the Grade II-listed Abertillery War Memorial site, the Council may wish to consider whether it should include any reasonable terms or conditions such as a date on which the work could begin.

**Member training**

In June of this year, the Council adopted a Training Policy that stipulated that members of the PlaCE Committee, Finance and Grants Committee, HR Committee and Chairs of Committees should undertake certain relevant training modules within six months of being appointed or face deselection from their positions.

This stipulation was agreed in the expectation that members would be offered numerous opportunities to complete the relevant training modules.

In the event, the relevant One Voice Wales training modules have not been run as frequently as expected and those that have been organised have often been offered at very short notice. It has, therefore, proved unreasonable to expect the Members in question to have completed the relevant training modules.

The motion seeks to extend the deadline by a further six months.

## **Remembrance Sunday**

Traditionally, this Council is represented at wreath-laying ceremonies within the community council area on Remembrance Sunday.

It is among the duties of the Chair of the Council to lay a wreath at the ceremony at Abertillery War Memorial.

The Council needs to appoint representatives to attend ceremonies and to lay wreaths at four other locations.

## Pentref Tyleri

Members may recall that, in March 2021, the Council resolved to adopt a disused traditional red K6 telephone kiosk opposite the Blaentillery school in East Side Row, Cwmtillery under BT's Adopt-a-Kiosk scheme.

The idea had come from the local community group Pentref Tyleri. BT were not willing to pass ownership of telephone kiosks to individuals or small community groups but were willing for them to be adopted by a Community Council, Local Authority or registered charity.

There are a number of examples of this type of arrangement across the UK and many telephone kiosks have been successfully transformed into new uses including mini libraries, book exchanges, flower displays, art galleries or public information kiosks.

The kiosk passed into the Council's ownership for the sum of £1 in November 2021 and we began discussions about future use of the kiosk with Pentref Tyleri.

It is known that many K6 telephone kiosks will have been coated in organic and inorganic lead paint and, unfortunately, this turned out to be the case with the kiosk in Cwmtillery. This needs to be replaced before the kiosk can be transformed for public use. It had also suffered from vandalism and other damage, which needs to be repaired.

Pentref Tyleri have obtained quotes for the safe removal of the lead paint, which must be undertaken by a licensed operator. They have also costed the supply of lead-free paint and replacement parts from BT's approved supplier. Once the lead paint has been removed, Pentref Tyleri propose to carry out the renovation and repainting of the kiosk themselves.

Pentref Tyleri have applied for funding to cover the costs itemised below.

<b>Renovation costs</b>		<b>+VAT</b>
	£	£
Professional paint removal	1100.00	1320.00
K6 paint kit x1	127.00	152.40
original glass sign x 3	91.65	109.98
Poly window large x 24	166.08	199.30
Poly window small x 48	228.96	274.93
Poly window sealing tape	13.27	15.92
K6 window rivets x1 pack	28.19	33.83
Shipping	25.00	25.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2131.36</b>

It should be remembered that the Council owns the telephone kiosk in question. Pentref Tyleri are, in effect, asking for funding to carry out renovation work on behalf of the Council.

**Christmas lanterns**

As well as funding Christmas lights in locations throughout the council area, the Council has also traditionally supplied Christmas lanterns that are handed out to children at Christmas lights turning-on events.

The lanterns are sold in packs of twelve, hence the slightly unusual number proposed.



### **Council grants**

The **Allsorts Parent and Toddler Group** meets at the Salvation Army Hall in Abertillery but is not funded by the Salvation Army. It is run by qualified volunteers and relies on ad hoc charitable support.

The group has asked for funding to replace broken toys and to purchase sensory toys to stimulate the development of very young children and those with special needs.

**Urdd Gobaith Cymru** has sent the same letter (attached) to every town and community council in Wales.

The Council's Grant Criteria include the stipulation that "A Council Grant will only be made if there is a clear economic, social or environmental well-being benefit to residents of the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area."

Children from the council area may compete at or visit next year's Urdd National Eisteddfod in Llandovery, but the letter from the Urdd does not explain how any grant would be used let alone how it would specifically benefit residents of the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area. Neither does the letter specify the level of grant funding sought.



## Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council (ALCC)

### Council Grant Application

(see criteria and process attached before applying)

Name and Address of group, organisation or project:

Allsorts mother and toddler group,  
Salvation Army hall,  
Hill St,  
Abertillery

Group Contact name: ...Karen Williams

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Role in the group: One of the playgroup leaders.

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Telephone number: ...01495 212696 Mob  
07925671018.....

Email:

Karenapeterm@icloud.com.....

**What are the aims of your project?** ... The aims of our playgroup is to provide a welcoming, safe, and inclusive environment in which young parents are given the opportunity to meet together. This benefits the parent. in preventing social isolation that can be a result of being at home with a young child. Research over the years has demonstrated that this isolation can be one factor in young mothers experiencing low mood which then has a negative impact on their baby, and any other children. The children benefit from both the play skills and social skills which groups like ours help to foster, and which help lay the foundations for them in helping them settle at nursery and later school, sowing the seeds for a positive attitude to

education. In the current climate groups like ours are even more important ; After two years of lockdown these young families have missed out on the vitally important part of establishing their own community of other young families which traditionally have supported each other. Groups like ours can offer these families the opportunities these families have missed out on and afford them the support that is so important. Furthermore, in recent times families have moved away from the traditional set up of having grandparents close by for support. Our group is led by mature women who have had experience of their own children as well as being involved with children professionally. In that way we can offer support, advice or just a listening ear to these young parents. ....

Our request for funding is to replace toys which have become broken or are difficult to keep clean ( so important since the pandemic). We would also like to purchase some sensory toys which help to stimulate the development of very young children or little ones with special needs. Presently, our group has no financial support; and has in the past relied on donations of toys etc. the parents pay a nominal amount each week but this covers drinks, and snacks .

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**How does your project benefit the Abertillery and Llanhilleth area or its residents? As stated above, the provision of a progressive playgroup benefits the children, young families and ultimately the community at large by offering support and soicalisation at such an important time in the family's life.**

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**Approx number of beneficiaries** ...our numbers are capped at the moment to 25, but we have a waiting list and hope in the future to run our group for another morning each week. ....

Details of project costs:

A. Project costs met by group (include match funds)	Amount (inc. VAT)
No funding available.	£
	£





**100**  
1922 - 2022

October 2022

**To: Town and Community Councils**

Dear Clerk

**Urdd National Eisteddfod Sir Gaerfyrddin 2023 (Carmarthenshire)**

As you are aware, the Urdd National Eisteddfod in 2023 will be held in Llandovery, Carmarthenshire and the hard work of organising the event has already commenced with numerous committees being formed. The festival annually attracts up to 100,000 visitors and 55,000 competitors and is regarded as the largest youth festival of its kind in Europe. In order to sustain a successful festival, we are dependant on the support of individuals, organisations and institutions on a local and national level. But without local support, it would not be possible for us to stage the festival in its present form. Support is paramount to its success both practical and financial. The Urdd Eisteddfod in 2023 will cost in the region of £2.1million.

There are numerous benefits to the County which stages the event, both cultural and artistic benefits along with the once in a lifetime opportunities for the children and young people of the area. But there is also a substantial economic benefit. Research by the Arad Company 2018 shows that hosting the Urdd Eisteddfod brings an economic value of £11.5 million to the area.

Over the past year, local appeal committees have been established all over the County to stage fundraising events and to raise awareness. Numerous Councils have already donated and we are most grateful for the support, but if your Council has not yet contributed, we would kindly ask you to consider a financial contribution to assist your local appeal committee in order to ensure the success of the Urdd National Eisteddfod in 2023.

We also require an army of volunteer workers to ensure that we have enough stewards, etc. Any assistance would be appreciated and more information is on our website [www.urdd.cymru/eisteddfod](http://www.urdd.cymru/eisteddfod)

I would like to thank you for your time and hopefully you will draw the councillors attention to the festival and that you will support the Eisteddfod. If you have any further enquiries please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Siân Eirian**  
Director of the Eisteddfod and Arts

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Llanuwchllyn, Y Bala, Gwynedd LL23 7ST  
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