

Financial report

The Council currently holds a large amount of public money.

Reserves

All community councils should hold reserves to enable them to continue to carry out their functions in the face of unexpected expenditure or a sudden drop in income. The official guidance advises that community councils' reserves should be between 25 percent and 100 percent of a council's annual budget. As Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council's income is not reliant on unpredictable investments or uncertain commercial activities, it would be expected to hold reserves near the lower end of the 25-100 percent range. The Council's current reserves are more than £20,000 higher than the 25 percent mark.

Current account

This Council needs to make sure that it can bear a very large bill at the start of each financial year when it pays the annual bills for its two Council-supported youth engagement projects. The Council also needs to carry £40,000-to-£60,000 in its current account at the start of each quarter to enable it to comfortably ride the peaks and troughs of spending throughout the year.

Nevertheless, the Council holds far more money in its current account than it is forecast to require. The figure as of 31 October (£178,010) is forecast to fall to around £163,000 by the end of the financial year, but this will still be more than £60,000 in excess of what the Council is forecast to require.

Budget and expenditure

The Council is compelled to set aside funds in its budget for some items even though it does not believe those funds will be spent. For instance, the Council had to set aside funds to pay for Council elections in May 2022 even though few people expected those elections to be contested. These items mean that the Council is always forecast to spend less than its annual budget.

However, even when those compulsory budget lines are removed from the calculations, this Council is forecast to spend substantially less than it budgeted for in 2022-23. The Council budgeted to spend more than its income in 2022-23 (which would have had the effect of reducing its inflated current account balance) but, in the event, the Council is currently forecast to underspend by more than £70,000.

Budget proposals 2023-24

Even though this Council is forecast to substantially underspend against its budget for the third year in a row in 2022-23, the draft budget proposals submitted by budget-holders for 2023-24 would see the budget rise significantly. When the compulsory budget lines noted above are removed from the calculations, the draft budget for 2023-24 is currently 65 percent higher than the amount this Council is forecast to spend in 2022-23.

This suggests that the Council continues to plan for expenditure that it does not have the wherewithal – in terms of Members' and officers' time and capabilities – to actually carry out.

Financial report to Full Council

As of 31 October 2022

Reserves:	£107,145
Current account:	£178,010
Forecast income 2022-23 (excluding Solar Farm grants):	£289,000
Forecast expenditure 2022-23 (excluding Solar Farm grants):	£212,180
Forecast reserves 31 March 2023:	£117,000 (target: £95,000)
Forecast current account 31 March 2023:	£163,000 (target: £100,000)
Budget 2022-23:	£339,533
Budget 2022-23 excluding compulsory items:	£302,000
Draft budget proposals 2023-24:	£372,701
Draft budget proposals 2023-24 excluding compulsory items:	£350,000

Co-options

The number of applicants to be co-opted onto the Council equals the current number of vacancies, but that does not guarantee that all (or any) of the applicants will be co-opted. Under the Local Government Act 1972, an applicant “must have received an absolute majority vote of those present and voting” in a meeting of the Full Council in order to be co-opted, so a vote for and against each co-option will be taken.

Members should consider the suitability of each applicant against the person specification for the role of Member of the Council:

Personal Attributes

- Sound knowledge and understanding of local affairs and the local community.
- Forward-thinking
- Can bring a new skill, expertise or key local knowledge to the Council.

Experience, Skills, Knowledge and Ability

- Ability to listen constructively
- A good team player
- Ability to pick up and run with a variety of projects
- Solid interest in local matters
- Ability and willingness to represent the Council and their community
- Good interpersonal skills and able to contribute opinions at meetings whilst willing to see others' views and accept majority decisions.
- Ability to communicate succinctly and clearly.
- Ability and willingness to work closely with other members and to maintain good working relationships with all members and staff.
- Ability and willingness to work with the Council's partners (e.g., voluntary groups, other Community Councils, principal authority, charities).
- Ability and willingness to undertake induction training and other relevant training.
- Experience of working or being a member in a local authority or other public body
- Experience of working with voluntary and or local community / interest groups
- Basic knowledge of legal issues relating to town and Community Councils or local authorities

Circumstances

- Ability and willingness to attend meetings of the Council (or meetings of other local authorities and local bodies) at any time of day, and events in the evening and at weekends.

To: The Clerk
 Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council
 Council Offices
 Mitre Street
 Abertillery
 NP13 1AE



Tel: 01495 217323
 email: clerk.alcc@gmail.com

**APPLICATION FOR THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR
 ON ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Full name	Stephen Richard Bard
Home address incl. postcode	35VictoriaRoad SixBells AbertilleryNP132LX
Home telephone number	01495 365055
Mobile number	07974 406793
Email	bardsteve@aol.com
Of the wards* for which vacancies have been advertised, which would you most wish to represent?	Six Bells and/or Abertillery

*The wards where the Council currently has vacancies are: Abertillery, Cwmtillery, Llanhilleth and Six Bells

It is a condition of being a Community Councillor for Abertillery and Llanhilleth that your phone number and email address (an official email address will be supplied) be made public via notice boards and website.

**LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR BEING A COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR
 QUALIFICATIONS**

(To qualify you must be able to answer 'Yes' to both of the questions below)

Are you a British citizen, a Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of a European Union country?	Yes
Are you aged 18 or over?	Yes

(To qualify you must be able to answer 'Yes' to at least one of the questions below)

Are you on the electoral register for a ward within the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area?	Yes
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Have you lived either in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area, or within three miles of its boundary, for at least a year?	Yes
Have you been the owner or tenant of land in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area for at least a year?	Yes
Have you had your only or main place of work in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area for at least a year?	Yes

DISQUALIFICATIONS

(You must be able to answer No to all of the questions below to be eligible to serve as a councillor)

Are you the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order?	No
Have you within the last five years been convicted of an offence in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man which resulted in a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of three months or more without the option of a fine?	No
Are you disqualified by order of a court from being a member of a local authority?	No

With reference to the Person Specification, please tell us something about the skills that you feel you will bring to the Council plus details of, for example, professional qualifications and financial or project management expertise.

I am a supply teacher and business owner in Abertillery. I have served on both Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council (including a Year as Chair) and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and held the post of Executive Member for Education.

I conduct both Abertillery Orpheus Male Choir and Abertillery Ladies Orpheus Choir and play in Abertillery Town Band.

I am very community minded and have done everything in my power to help the community for many years.

Please tell us something about the life experience that you will bring to the Council. Examples may include previous local government experience, work in the voluntary or charitable sector, business or trade union experience etc

Please see above for Council experience.

I am a supply teacher so have excellent communication and interpersonal skills. I can organize and am happy to work both alone or in collaboration with others.

Both of my choirs have helped in concerts raising thousands of pounds for local and National charities and good causes.

I run the local Travel Agency as a business and have also worked in the Statistics Office as a public service employee so I have a wide range of experience.

Please outline why you are interested in being a community councillor.

I have always been interested in Council work and have spent around 10 years on each of the Community & County Borough councils.

Work and personal commitments forced me to give these up but things are now more manageable and I would like to return to try to offer more to my Town and local areas.

I feel the people of Abertillery & Llanhilleth suffer from a lack of opportunities in many areas and I believe OUR Councils should be looking to help them in providing for this in their work.

We are a community with a beautiful landscape and also very rich in musical and sporting culture. Little or none of this is really used for the benefit of the area and I believe this needs to change.

I hope I can bring some energy and positivity back to the Council and hope you will consider my application positively.

Your signature:



Date:

25/10/22

Email your completed application form to clerk.alcc@gmail.com

Alternatively, you can post (or hand-deliver) the completed form to The Clerk, Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council, Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery, NP13 1AE

To: The Clerk
 Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council
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**APPLICATION FOR THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR
 ON ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Full name	Deborah Pitt
Home address incl. postcode	62 Mount Pleasant Estate Brynithel Abertillery Blaenau Gwent Np132hu
Home telephone number	
Mobile number	07548917414
Email	meeek27@hotmail.co.uk
Of the wards* for which vacancies have been advertised, which would you most wish to represent?	Llanhilleth Ward

*The wards where the Council currently has vacancies are: Abertillery, Cwmtillery, Llanhilleth and Six Bells

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**LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR BEING A COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR
 QUALIFICATIONS**

(To qualify you must be able to answer 'Yes' to both of the questions below)

Are you a British citizen, a Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of a European Union country? Yes	Yes / No
Are you aged 18 or over? Yes	Yes / No

(To qualify you must be able to answer 'Yes' to at least one of the questions below)

Are you on the electoral register for a ward within the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area?	Yes
Have you lived either in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area, or within three miles of its boundary, for at least a year?	Yes
Have you been the owner or tenant of land in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area for at least a year?	Yes
Have you had your only or main place of work in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area for at least a year?	Yes

DISQUALIFICATIONS

(You must be able to answer No to all of the questions below to be eligible to serve as a councillor)

Are you the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order?	No
Have you within the last five years been convicted of an offence in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man which resulted in a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of three months or more without the option of a fine?	No
Are you disqualified by order of a court from being a member of a local authority?	No

With reference to the Person Specification, please tell us something about the skills that you feel you will bring to the Council plus details of, for example, professional qualifications and financial or project management expertise.

I have lived within the Brynithel community for my whole life. I have also worked within different job roles in the immediate areas of Abertillery, Swffryd, Sixbells and Aberbeeg since I was 14 years old.

I am an experienced and qualified Youth Worker with a BA Hons in Youth and Community Work and have worked in Community Development as a youth and community worker since I was 23. This has provided me the opportunity to develop and facilitate positive and purposeful relationships with a number of community organisations, community members, young people and their families.

My current job role with Off the Streets has in more recent years given me the opportunity to go and work in smaller pockets of the communities with these community members in order to provide a robust programme of engagement and positive activities. Within this myself and my team engage with up to and exceeding 100 children and young people per week.

I have links with a number of community groups in the area I and have a longstanding background in supporting and enabling change at a local level. I hope to be co-opted into including community centre, youth and childrens provisions, shop keepers and local businesses as well as the support of our Borough Councillor, Lee Parsons who I talk with and work with regularly in order to give my community the support it requires.

Please tell us something about the life experience that you will bring to the Council. Examples may include previous local government experience, work in the voluntary or charitable sector, business or trade union experience etc

I have worked in community development for the last 12 years, starting out with working on the Communities First programme, helping and supporting setting up lots of the organisations that still reside with the ALCC area today including Tuffy, Ffryndi Tyleri, Clean, The Space Youth Cafe, Off the Streets Youth Team and Communities for Work amongst others. Working to support and develop these projects and organisations has allowed me to get involved in lots of community development including work on an intergenerational basis also.

I also thrive to support my own local communities, spending time in local coffee mornings, meet ups etc supporting litter picks and community events in order to provide personal support as well as the professional support I am able to provide.

Please outline why you are interested in being a community councillor.

My interest in becoming a community councillor comes from both a personal and a professional level, as outlined about I have lived within the ward my whole life and want to see what positive personal change I can offer to my community by giving my time back being a community councillor and offering support to individuals and organisations when and where I am able.

But also as a professional I see it as a good professional choice and it will allow me to partnership work not just with other councillors but open doors to new groups and organisations in the area that I may have been unaware of that I can offer support to as part of my professional role.

Your signature: D Pitt

Date: 26/10/22

Email your completed application form to clerk.alcc@gmail.com

**Alternatively, you can post (or hand-deliver) the completed form to The Clerk, Abertillery
& Llanhilleth Community Council, Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery, NP13 1AE**

To: The Clerk
 Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council
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 NP13 1AE



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 email: clerk.alcc@gmail.com

**APPLICATION FOR THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR
 ON ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Full name	Thomas Langley-Noel
Home address incl. postcode	8 Lower Gwastod Terrace, Cwmtillery, Gwent NP131JY
Home telephone number	
Mobile number	07988 854016
Email	TNOEL@SKY.COM
Of the wards* for which vacancies have been advertised, which would you most wish to represent?	CWMTILLERY

*The wards where the Council currently has vacancies are: Abertillery, Cwmtillery, Llanhilleth and Six Bells

It is a condition of being a Community Councillor for Abertillery and Llanhilleth that your phone number and email address (an official email address will be supplied) be made public via notice boards and website.

**LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR BEING A COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR
 QUALIFICATIONS**

(To qualify you must be able to answer 'Yes' to both of the questions below)

Are you a British citizen, a Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of a European Union country?	Yes
Are you aged 18 or over?	Yes

(To qualify you must be able to answer 'Yes' to at least one of the questions below)

Are you on the electoral register for a ward within the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area?	Yes
Have you lived either in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area, or within three miles of its boundary, for at least a year?	Yes
Have you been the owner or tenant of land in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area for at least a year?	Yes

Please outline why you are interested in being a community councillor.

I believe that Abertillery is a fantastic Town – and it's biggest asset is its people. I have lived in Abertillery now for over 18 years and in that time I have sadly seen the devastating impact of the economic challenges that we face. Our Town, once a thriving place, is now a shell of what it used to be.

But what hasn't changed is the community.

I believe that Abertillery is at its best when the community comes together. We need to help re-imagine what Abertillery is and stands for.

I am interested in becoming a councillor so that I can be at the very heart of the change that we need to see.

As someone that is highly engaged in the inclusion & diversity agenda [particularly with LGBTQ+ and Mental Health] I believe that I can really add value by helping the community council engage with members of the community that perhaps feel underserved. In order to fully reflective of the community in which we serve, we need to understand that community.

As I reflect on the challenges that Abertillery faces, one of the biggest challenges I think exists in mental health. A growing number of the population suffers from mental health conditions [depression/anxiety etc] that is a barrier to their entry/maintaining of suitable employment which in turn has an impact on the economic growth in the area. I believe that we need to do more to help in this space as sadly with pressures placed on our Health Service, people are not getting access to the treatment they need in order to recover.

Your signature: T. Langley-Noel via e-mail (tnoel@sky.com)

Date: 2/11/2022

Email your completed application form to clerk.alcc@gmail.com

Alternatively, you can post (or hand-deliver) the completed form to The Clerk, Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council, Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery, NP13 1AE

DISQUALIFICATIONS

(You must be able to answer No to all of the questions below to be eligible to serve as a councillor)

Are you the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order?	No
Have you within the last five years been convicted of an offence in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man which resulted in a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of three months or more without the option of a fine?	No
Are you disqualified by order of a court from being a member of a local authority?	No

With reference to the Person Specification, please tell us something about the skills that you feel you will bring to the Council plus details of, for example, professional qualifications and financial or project management expertise.

I am employed by a major UK Retail Bank as a Community Hub Director. This means I have significant experience in people management & leadership, implementing change, influencing others (up to and including Senior Exec level), community engagement, budget responsibility, delivering results in a changing & highly regulated environment and ensuring adherence to training & competence / regulatory requirements. As part of my role I have an ILM in Leadership & Management.

Retail Banking is changing at a dramatic pace with ever increasing customer expectations and a digital revolution. I think this is wholly transferable to this role where the electorate are also demanding differing things. We also need to stay relevant and engage with the public via different mediums.

I am comfortable in public speaking and presenting and am fully proficient in the use of IT and Mobile technology.

In terms of my experience within the local community, I am very engaged in local affairs. I set-up a Facebook community with 2 other 'admins' for Abertillery & surrounding areas via Facebook. This group has now nearing 4000 members. The initiative was based on a vision that the admin team had of encouraging local people to use digital technology to stay connected and have information at their fingertips.

Please tell us something about the life experience that you will bring to the Council. Examples may include previous local government experience, work in the voluntary or charitable sector, business or trade union experience etc

- Community Hub Director for a major UK Retail Bank with significant people management and leadership experience
- For 5 years I was the local Bank Manager for the same Retail Bank in Abertillery Town
- I am also part of the Leadership Team for 2 employee led people networks within my organisation based around inclusion & diversity – Embrace [our LGBTQ+ network] and the Mental Wellbeing Network. I believe that inclusion & diversity needs to be at the very core of what we do in order to fully reflect the people that we represent and be reflective of the communities in which we serve.
- I have been a trade union representative for Advance [our dedicated TUC affiliated Union] for over 6 years
- In my spare time I am highly engaged in the LGBTQ+ community and with organisations that work with Mental Health.
- I am very passionate about inclusion and diversity – sexuality, disability, age, gender, ethnicity etc

Have you had your only or main place of work in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area for at least a year?	No
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To: The Clerk
 Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council
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 Mitre Street
 Abertillery
 NP13 1AE



Tel: 01495 217323
 email: clerk.alcc@gmail.com

**APPLICATION FOR THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR
 ON ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Full name	ALLEN DAVID REES
Home address incl. postcode	134 ALEXANDRA ROAD SIX BELLS NP13 2LH.
Home telephone number	01495 214990
Mobile number	07929 230201
Email	allenwarbonnet@aol.com.
Of the wards* for which vacancies have been advertised, which would you most wish to represent?	SIX BELLS

*The wards where the Council currently has vacancies are: Abertillery, Cwmtillery, Llanhilleth and Six Bells

It is a condition of being a Community Councillor for Abertillery and Llanhilleth that your phone number and email address (an official email address will be supplied) be made public via notice boards and website.

**LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR BEING A COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR
 QUALIFICATIONS**

(To qualify you must be able to answer 'Yes' to both of the questions below)

Are you a British citizen, a Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of a European Union country?	Yes / No
Are you aged 18 or over?	Yes / No

(To qualify you must be able to answer 'Yes' to at least one of the questions below)

Are you on the electoral register for a ward within the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area?	Yes / No
Have you lived either in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area, or within three miles of its boundary, for at least a year?	Yes / No
Have you been the owner or tenant of land in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area for at least a year?	Yes / No
Have you had your only or main place of work in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area for at least a year?	Yes / No

DISQUALIFICATIONS

(You must be able to answer No to all of the questions below to be eligible to serve as a councillor)

Are you the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order?	Yes / No
Have you within the last five years been convicted of an offence in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man which resulted in a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of three months or more without the option of a fine?	Yes / No
Are you disqualified by order of a court from being a member of a local authority?	Yes / No

With reference to the Person Specification, please tell us something about the skills that you feel you will bring to the Council plus details of, for example, professional qualifications and financial or project management expertise.

P.C. CERT ED.

AS ENTERTAINMENTS OFFICER FOR BLAENAU Gwent COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL, AS WELL AS ORGANISING MAJOR EVENTS I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF FIVE OF THE AUTHORITIES BUILDINGS, INCLUDING, THE METROPOLE THEATRE; BEAFORT BALLROOM AND THEATRE, BRYMAWR COMMUNITY CENTRE; WELFARE HALL, BEAFORT BDDFELLOWS HALL, ABERTILERY.

Please tell us something about the life experience that you will bring to the Council. Examples may include previous local government experience, work in the voluntary or charitable sector, business or trade union experience etc

SENIOR ASSISTANT MANAGER ABERTILERY LEISURE CENTRE WORKING WITH LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS FROM 7 TO 70.

MY WIFE WAS A FOUNDER MEMBER OF FRIENDS OF SIX BELLS PARK, AND THE FIRST OFFICIALLY APPOINTED TREASURER, A POSITION SHE HELD FOR OVER TWO YEARS. I WORKED WITH MY WIFE AT NUMEROUS EVENTS FOR FRIENDS OF SIX BELLS PARK.

COUNCILLOR FOR ALCC FOR 4 YEARS. WORKED WITH VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS THROUGH THE ALCC AREA.

VOLUNTEER LITTER CHAMPION.

Please outline why you are interested in being a community councillor.

I HAVE LIVED IN SIX BELLS FOR A GREATER MAJORITY OF MY LIFE AND HAVE AN INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE AREA. ALTHOUGH I CONFESS THAT I DO NOT KNOW OF EVERY ISSUE OF CONCERN TO THE RESIDENTS OF SIX BELLS, I AM HIGHLY APPROACHABLE. IF APPROACHED I WILL DO MY BEST TO RESOLVE ANY SUCH CONCERN, I HAVE NOT, AND DO NOT, INTEND TO SIT ON MY BACKSIDE.

THE PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE I GAINED AS A MEMBER OF ABERTILLERY AND LIANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL BE OF INESTIMABLE VALUE IF I AM SUCCESSFUL IN BEING CO OPTED TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF SIX BELLS

Your signature:

D. Rees

Date:

*7TH ~~September~~ 2022.
November.*

Email your completed application form to clerk.alcc@gmail.com

Alternatively, you can post (or hand-deliver) the completed form to The Clerk, Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council, Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery, NP13 1AE

To: The Clerk
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Tel: 01495 217323
 email: clerk.alcc@gmail.com

**APPLICATION FOR THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR
 ON ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Full name	Christopher Hill
Home address incl. postcode	65 Gladstone Street Abertillery Blaenau Gwent NP131NZ
Home telephone number	01495212073
Mobile number	07713152658
Email	Chrishilltennis@aol.com
Of the wards* for which vacancies have been advertised, which would you most wish to represent?	Abertillery or SixBells

*The wards where the Council currently has vacancies are: Abertillery, Cwmtillery, Llanhilleth and Six Bells

It is a condition of being a Community Councillor for Abertillery and Llanhilleth that your phone number and email address (an official email address will be supplied) be made public via notice boards and website.

**LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR BEING A COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR
 QUALIFICATIONS**

(To qualify you must be able to answer 'Yes' to both of the questions below)

Are you a British citizen, a Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of a European Union country?	Yes
Are you aged 18 or over?	Yes

(To qualify you must be able to answer 'Yes' to at least one of the questions below)

Are you on the electoral register for a ward within the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area?	Yes
Have you lived either in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area, or within three miles of its boundary, for at least a year?	Yes

DISQUALIFICATIONS

(You must be able to answer No to all of the questions below to be eligible to serve as a councillor)

Former employment with British Steel EV, quality auditor also Quality facilitator. Communications trained. During this period LTA Qualified DCA level 3 Coach giving 22 years volunteer work to SixBells Tennis Club. 2002 turned Professional after upgrading coaching qualifications to LTA CCA level 4 Set up my own coaching business delivering Tennis, Ball skills advice throughout Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent and South Powys. Qualified to Teach Teachers Tennis at School, Have project managed a couple of facility projects at Tennis venues.

Are you the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order?	/ No
Have you within the last five years been convicted of an offence in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man which resulted in a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of three months or more without the option of a fine?	/ No
Are you disqualified by order of a court from being a member of a local authority?	No

With reference to the Person Specification, please tell us something about the skills that you feel you will bring to the Council plus details of, for example, professional qualifications and financial or project management expertise.

A Past chairman of the Gwent tennis league, i have served on numerous sporting committees. I've taught sport in most schools in Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and South Powys. Down the years have worked closely with Local Authorities running events and School sport. For 10 years I ran the Successful Blaenau Gwent Open Tennis Champions for BG. Head Tennis coach to Cardiff Wheelchair Tennis Club when they became British Champions. Volunteered and Set up ball skills course for Autistic Children. Welsh International Tennis Player, have played over 120 lifetime matches for my country. 2020 honoured to have been accepted as a member of the International Club of GB.

Please tell us something about the life experience that you will bring to the Council. Examples may include previous local government experience, work in the voluntary or charitable sector, business or trade union experience etc

Please outline why you are interested in being a community councillor.

Running my own business I understand the importance of being a good communicator, to run a successful business I pay attention to detail and help support projects.
I have an inquisitive mind to find the best routes, having been trained in problem solving at British Steel
I feel I'm a good role model for our area, I'd like to help to make our area a more positive area, maybe influencing change and image and mindset?
I believe there's been too much bad press on our area, very rare do I see any talking up of the good achievements done by our valleys people?
I'm approachable and would like to support and give my take on what could improve our area.
I've travelled to most areas in the UK and have seen good practices, I've also played for a German Club and played in a number of countries in Europe.
I'm proud to be able to say I'm from Abertillery.

Your signature: CCS Hill

Date: 10/11/22

Email your completed application form to clerk.alcc@gmail.com

Alternatively, you can post (or hand-deliver) the completed form to The Clerk, Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council, Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery, NP13 1AE

Have you been the owner or tenant of land in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area for at least a year?	Yes
Have you had your only or main place of work in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area for at least a year?	Yes

Community Councillor Application Form.

Mark Lewis <mhfl.sparky.71@gmail.com>

10 November 2022 at 17:23

To: Clerk ALCC <clerk.alcc@gmail.com>

Good morning David, Steve,

A little bit of difficulty with filling out and downloading the Community Councillor vacancies application form so I have copy and pasted it below with my answers to apply for one of the Cwmtillery Ward vacancies.

Full name

Mark Herbert Fredrick Lewis.

Home address incl. postcode

6, Gaen Street, Blaenau Gwent, Abertillery, Gwent. NP13 1PT.

Home telephone number

01495 217886

Mobile number

07462783536

Of the wards* for which vacancies have been advertised, which would you most wish to represent?

Cwmtillery

Are you a British citizen, a Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of a European Union country?

(Yes)

Are you aged 18 or over?

(Yes)

Are you on the electoral register for a ward within the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area?

(Yes)

Have you lived either in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area, or within three miles of its boundary, for at least a year?

(Yes)

Have you been the owner or tenant of land in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area for at least a year?

(Yes)

Have you had your only or main place of work in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area for at least a year?

(Yes)

Are you the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order?

(No)

Have you within the last five years been convicted of an offence in the UK, the**Channel Islands or the Isle of Man which resulted in a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of three months or more without the option of a fine?**

(No)

Are you disqualified by order of a court from being a member of a local authority?

(No)

With reference to the Person Specification, please tell us something about the skills that you feel you will bring to the Council plus details of, for example, professional qualifications and financial or project management expertise.

I have a sound knowledge and understanding of local affairs and the local community and I am definitely forward thinking plus can bring a new and existing skill,expertise or key local knowledge to the Council.

I have the ability to listen constructively, I am a good team player with previously proven ability to pick up and run a variety of projects for ALCC with a solid interest in local matters with the ability and already proven willingness to represent the Council and their community.

Again I have good interpersonal skills and am able to contribute opinions at meetings whilst willing to see others' views and accept majority decisions which again I have already proven at ALCC over the previous four years.

I have the ability to communicate succinctly plus again the already proven ability and willingness to work closely with other members on ALCC and maintain good working relationships with all members and staff.

I have the proven ability and willingness to work closely with other members and to maintain good working relationships with all members and staff.

I have the proven ability and willingness to work with the Council's partners (e.g., voluntary groups, other Community Councils, principal authority, charities) and have done so in the previous four years.

Again I have the proven ability and willingness to undertake induction training and other relevant training with probably the most courses undertaken and completed by any current ALCC Councillor.

I have four years previous experience of working and being a member of Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council.

Previously worked with Ffrindiau Tyleri organising Springfest, Aberfest and Winterfest in recent years plus currently working with the Ebbw Fach Trail Group and recently had to restart my local area's Friends of Blaenau Gwent and Roseheyworth Park Community Group as the area is severely neglected and under provided for with the services that it needs and requires.

I have a basic knowledge of legal issues relating to town and Community Councils or local authorities.

I am a self employed website designer and social media manager and have previously been Chairman of several groups and committees on Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council.

Please tell us something about the life experience that you will bring to the Council. Examples may include previous local government experience, work in the voluntary or charitable sector, business or trade union experience etc

Four years prior experience, knowledge and relevant training gained on Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council.

Please outline why you are interested in being a community councillor.

My local area where I live in Blaenau Gwent in the Cwmtillery Ward and the whole Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area is in need of some necessary improvements to help the local residents live better lives which I would like to help achieve.

Your signature:

Mark H F Lewis

Date:

10/11/2022

Council Grant criteria and process

The current criteria for the award of Council Grants were drawn up more than five years ago. In practice, the Council has regularly chosen not to follow its own criteria.

There appear to be two main reasons for this:

- The Council expected applications for Council Grants to greatly exceed the available budget. It, therefore, agreed criteria that would limit the number of applicants. In practice, Council Grants have been under-subscribed.
- The upper limit for Council Grants is currently £500, “unless in exceptional circumstances.” The lower limit for Solar Farm Grants is £5,000. Unless it ignores its own criteria, the Council has no avenue to award grants in the £500-£5,000 range.

The revised Council Grant criteria and process (below) raise the financial limit for Council Grants and remove or amend some other criteria to better reflect how Council Grant awards have been determined in practice.



Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council

Revised Council Grant criteria and process

1. The purpose of Council Grants is to help local communities and established organisations to improve the well-being of local people. A Council Grant award 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.
2. Council Grant awards will not be made to individuals, to individual families or to ad hoc groups unless the applicant can demonstrate a clear economic, social or environmental well-being benefit to the wider community of the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area.
3. The organisation must usually be based in, or operate substantially in, the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area, and the majority of the members of the organisation, or those it serves, should live in the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area.
4. If the organisation is based outside the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area, evidence must be given of how (and how many) people from the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area benefit from the work of the organisation.
5. In determining Council Grant awards, the Council shall place a high value on voluntary and community service.
6. The Council will not make a grant to professional or commercial clubs or organisations, companies, businesses or other enterprises that aim to make a profit. The Council will make grants only to organisations if they are not-for-profit and if any surplus generated by the enterprise is reinvested into improving local communities or local community facilities.
7. 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 Council Grants.

8. The Council will not award a Council Grant to a national charity, unless they can demonstrate clearly and specifically how that funding will benefit residents and service users in the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area.
9. The Council shall allocate its Council Grants budget according to the principle of benefiting as many people and communities in the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area as possible.
10. Council Grants will not usually be awarded for amounts over £500. In any case, the Council shall not award a Council Grant of more than £5,000 to an applicant.

How does the Council Grants process work?

1. All Council Grant applications should be made using the Council Grant application form. The Council may refuse to consider any grant applications that are not made using the required form or that do not contain the required details (e.g. the specific amount requested and the purpose of the grant).
2. Council Grant applications may be considered by the Finance and Grants Committee before submission to the Full Council. The Committee may scrutinise the application and make recommendations to the Full Council.
3. A representative of the applicant organisation may be required to attend a meeting of the Council or of the Finance and Grants Committee in order to provide more information about the application.
4. Any grant award made by the Council should be publicised appropriately by the receiving organisation (e.g., on its website, social media pages and/or posters/programmes).
5. The Council may at any time require any and all such evidence as it decides that a Council Grant given previously has been spent in the manner for which it was intended.

Summary of proposed amendments

Proposed amendments	Reason
Insert: <i>“Council Grants will not be awarded to individuals, to individual families or to ad hoc groups unless the applicant can demonstrate a clear economic, social or environmental well-being benefit to the wider community of the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area.”</i>	The current criteria assume that only established charities or community groups will apply for Council Grants. In practice, the Council has received several applications from individuals.
Delete: <i>“Council Grants will not be given to groups to pay for ongoing running costs (e.g., insurance, water, gas and other utility supplies etc) unless in exceptional circumstances.”</i>	In practice, Council Grants have often been awarded for ‘running costs’ such as the provision of refreshments. Removing this clause would enable the Council to consider any application for ‘running costs’ on its merits.
Delete: <i>“The Council wishes to spend its limited grants budget to help as many people and communities as possible in the ALCC area. The Council will not therefore give financial support to the same organisation in two consecutive years unless in exceptional circumstances.”</i>	The current criteria assume that the Council will be over-subscribed with applications for Council Grants and will need to ration its support. In practice, the Council Grants budget has been under-subscribed for several years.

Proposed amendments (cont.)	Reason
<p>Delete: <i>“The Council will not give a grant of more than £500 to one organisation unless in exceptional circumstances.”</i></p> <p>Insert: <i>“Council Grants will not usually be awarded for amounts over £500. In any case, the Council shall not award a Council Grant of more than £5,000 to an applicant.”</i></p>	<p>The Council currently has no provision for grant awards between £500 (the upper limit for Council Grants) and £5,000 (the lower limit for Solar Farm Grants). In practice, the Council has regularly ignored the £500 limit. This amendment would formally raise the limit to close the current £500-£5,000 gap.</p>
<p>Delete <i>“All Council Grant applications must be made using the Council Grant application form. The Council will not consider any grant applications which are not on the required form.”</i></p> <p>Insert: <i>“All Council Grant applications should be made using the Council Grant application form. The Council may refuse to consider any grant applications that are not made using the required form.”</i></p>	<p>The official form is the preferred method to collect the necessary information but, in practice, several successful applicants have provided all the necessary information in a letter.</p>
<p>Delete: <i>“The Finance and Grants Committee will consider all grant applications in detail and make recommendations to the full Council.”</i></p> <p>Insert: <i>“Council Grant applications may be considered by the Finance and Grants Committee before submission to the Full Council. The Committee may scrutinise the applications and make recommendations to the Full Council.”</i></p>	<p>The current criteria assume that the Council will be over-subscribed with applications for Council Grants and will need the Finance and Grants Committee to sift through them. In practice, the Council Grants budget has been under-subscribed. If a meeting of the Finance and Grants Committee has been scheduled before the next Full Council meeting, it may be helpful for them to look through applications – but making it a requirement that all applications are scrutinised by that committee seems an unnecessary step.</p>
<p>Delete: <i>“The Finance and Grants Committee and the Council will consider 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.”</i></p>	<p>The current criteria assume that the Council will be over-subscribed with applications for Council Grants and will need to set aside special meetings to consider them. In practice, the Council has shown itself to be perfectly able to deal with Council Grant applications on an ad hoc basis.</p>

Ward Grant applications

Each Member of the Council may propose Ward Grants up to a total of £200 each year. Although Ward Grant awards must be authorised by either the Finance and Grants Committee or a meeting of the Full Council, they are traditionally agreed to on the recommendation of the proposing Member without debate.

Abertillery Excelsiors Junior FC – Glyn Smith

The club is required to provide all ten of its teams with a first aid kit. The proposed award will provide more than half of the necessary funding.

Friends of Six Bells Park – Peter Adamson

As well as voluntarily staffing a refreshment kiosk at the park, the Friends of Six Bells Park clean the area, cut the hedges, maintain bird baths and bird feeders, and are responsible for a wealth of planters and extensive floral displays.

Community events staged by the group this year included a scavenger hunt, a children's Easter parade, a community picnic, a litter pick and the opening up of a walking route around the park. A Santa's Grotto event sold out more than a month in advance.

The Fields In Trust named Six Bells Park as one of the top twenty public parks in Wales in 2022.



Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council (ALCC)

Ward Grant Application

(see criteria and process attached before applying)

Name and Address of group, organisation or project:

Abertillery Excelsiors Junior Football Club
3 Spring Cottage, Cwmtilery, Abertillery, NP131JW

Group Contact name: Sarah Hayward

Role in the group: Club Secretary

Telephone number: 07516366971

Email: AbertilleryExcelsiorsyouth@gmail.com

What are the aims of the group or project? to kit out each team with a first aid kit, which is required by the FAW.

How does the group / project benefit the Abertillery and Llanhilleth area or its residents? This group enables children to play football in a safe and friendly environment with the correct equipment in place.

Approx number of beneficiaries 10 youth teams over 110 children

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

Sports Club (football)

Amount requested: £200. this will go towards the kit
Payee name: Abertillery Excelsiors Junior Football Club
Name of Councillor making the application:
Print Name: Glyn Smith
Signed: Glyn Smith
Date: 1st Sept 2023

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



Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council (ALCC)

Ward Grant Application

(see criteria and process attached before applying)

Name and Address of group, organisation or project:

Friends of Six Bells Park
C/O 40 Marlborough Road, Six Bells, Abertillery NP13 2PH

Group Contact name: Sian Olding

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Role in the group: Chairperson

.....

Telephone number: 07769042680

.....

Email: sianolding@yahoo.com

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What are the aims of the group or project?

Aim is to keep the kiosk open that has public toilets and a cafe that is open from March to October which is run by volunteers.....

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How does the group / project benefit the Abertillery and Llanhilleth area or its residents?

The whole community enjoys this facility and is regularly attended by the elderly who come most days weather permitting also the children and parents use the kiosk daily for a social meeting. and I would say that as a whole this facility is a benefit to all of Six Bells Abertillery and Cwmtillery .

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Approx number of beneficiaries:

This facility is a benefit to all of Six Bells, Abertillery and Cwmtillery

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

.....
.....Community Group.....
.....
.....
.....

Amount requested: £200
.....

Payee name: Friends of Six Bells Park
.....

Name of Councillor making the application:

Print Name: Peter Adamson

.....

Signed: Peter Adamson

.....

Date:18th November 2022.....

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