



ANNUALREPORT

Section 52 of The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires community councils to prepare and publish an annual report about the council's priorities, activities, and achievements over the previous year.

Bargoed Town Council



April 2022 to March 2023

Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>What is Town Council?.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Your Councillors</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Town Council Mayor.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Council Meetings.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Contact information</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Training Plan.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Meeting attendance</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Partnership Working</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Representation on Other Bodies</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Financial Information</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Key council objectives</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Forward Work Plan.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Youth Representatives.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Future Budget requirements</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Our Community Feedback</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Images from our Gallery</i>	<i>20</i>

Introduction

Cllr Howard Llewellyn
Mayor

Maes-y-Graig Street, Gilfach, Bargoed
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I am pleased to present the 2022-23 Annual Report on behalf of Bargoed Town Council. It has been a most interesting twelve months, for me as a local councillor, for the Town Council, and the wider community to whom we represent. I was fortunate to be the Town Mayor in the first month of this reporting period and following re-election to the office of Town Councillor representing the Gilfach ward, it was my privilege to accept the position of Bargoed Town Council Mayor once again for this, the very first year of the newly elected Town Council.

When thinking about what I was going to write in this report, six things sprung to mind: politics, and the local elections; the tremendous pace of change; how immensely busy the town council has been; the cost-of-living crisis; the wellbeing challenge; and what a strong 'Team' (of councillors, volunteers, and staff) we are fortunate to have at Bargoed Town Council. This has been a year where adapting to change has featured highly; with new legislation came additional reporting duties and training plan requirements, the three-year Environment Act reporting duty under section 6, and also, sadly, the passing of our Queen was not the only loss felt by town council as poor health led to two casual vacancies in the Aberbargoed ward. I am pleased to report the Bargoed Town Council 'Team' has risen to the challenges and are working well together to effect positive change in our local community.

Following induction of the newly elected Council, the year's activities swiftly sprang into action with the great celebration of Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee and Town Council delivered two exceptionally well received afternoon tea parties for the older generation. Through grant funding secured from the Big Lottery Community Fund, over 150 people attended the two parties, some of whom hadn't left their homes in over a year.

It has been all systems go ever since these events through delivery of:

- an expansion to the community floral displays and a trial of native, pollinator friendly planting.
- community engagement activities in the town centre to promote bee friendly garden activities;
- the launch of exciting new geocache initiatives in Bargoed Urban Park and Coed Tir Bargoed,

and increased working with the Integrated Wellbeing Network to re-invigorate wellbeing activities across the community. This year, for the first time, we have also welcomed two youth representatives to the council.

In addition to the initial two grants to our local foodbanks, the first round of the small grants scheme awarded 9 grants to voluntary organisations with projects ranging from allotments and gardening club activities through to lunch clubs, eisteddfod and community choirs all receiving funding from town council.

Then came the devastating news of Queen Elizabeth II passing away, and our community joined the rest of the nation in mourning the loss of our beloved queen and the subsequent welcoming of our new King.

Early Autumn brought another opportunity to replicate the success of the platinum jubilee events in the shape of Silver Sunday. Town council delivered another hugely successful afternoon tea/prize bingo event in Gilfach with almost a hundred older people attending.

The pre-Christmas period was exceptionally busy as ever; partnership working with Caerphilly County Borough Council on a new Roller-skating Rink, Elf Trail and winter food and craft fair. Members delivered selection boxes via the six primary schools and the home school liaison team to each primary school aged child across the four wards; and supported Santa's attendance at the winter food and craft fair with 'elves' who helped him distribute chocolate treats during the event. This year also included a giant snow globe, for additional cost-free family photographic opportunities.

This period saw the council approve donations to the two local foodbanks, the Wales Air Ambulance, Salvation Army and the Bargoed branch of the Royal British Legion. The team worked with local organisations on the installation of an expanded display of festive lighting including new lights at St Peters church and refurbishment of several lamp post figurines, with a small carol service taking place as the lights were switched on at the end of November.

Partnership working has been a central theme running through Town Council activity this year:

- with Members working hard to encourage and support applications from local organisations to the Caerphilly County Borough Community Empowerment Fund and the Aneurin Bevan Health Board Cwtsh Funding Programmes. 7 organisations received funding from the Empowerment fund totalling £37,269 and 8 organisations were awarded grants from Cwtsh totalling £18,397.
- staff and Members working closely with the Caerphilly County Borough Team to support local organisations to deliver cost of living support in the way of welcoming warm spaces throughout the winter months, an initiative jointly funded by Bargoed Town Council, CCBC and Welsh Government.
- town council supporting the setup of regular food and craft fairs in Bargoed town centre.
- joint working with CCBC Library Service at Bargoed to introduce monthly gaming activities and an annual comic con style event in the town.

In my role as Mayor of this wonderful community, I have attended several residents' celebrations delivering flowers at wedding anniversaries and big birthdays; it was my honour to represent Town Council at the Royal British Legion Remembrance concert at Heolddu Comprehensive School; and to lay the remembrance wreaths at the cenotaph in Bargoed. I have represented Town Council at community events including a well woman event at Bargoed library, memorial events for HM Queen Elizabeth II, a community exhibition on the local development plan, and a fundraising event for Ukraine. My role has led me to host informal visits to town council from One Voice Wales, CCBC regeneration team, and young people from Heolddu Comprehensive School. I also took the opportunity to donate the mayor's personal allowance to the fundraising programme for the breast cancer unit at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr.

As a town council we are continually working hard to improve governance, planning and financial management arrangements. Members regularly receive training, and the council are striving to improve engagement activities across the four wards. During this reporting period town council has commenced self-evaluation using the new Welsh Government/One Voice Wales Finance & Governance Toolkit and have undertaken a strategic planning away day to commence work on a strategic plan. The council has secured project grants from the Big Lottery Community Fund and the Cwtsh programme.

We are keen to focus our energies on attracting more community activities in the town centre and enabling greater numbers of local organisations to deliver services and events for our residents. Wherever possible, town council activities use local suppliers and contractors, and prizes for community events are purchased in the form of vouchers for local restaurants/cafes to encourage greater footfall for our local businesses. During the last quarter of the financial year, an over 60s afternoon tea event was delivered in

Aberbargoed ward which secured a local artist to provide entertainment, a local business to provide the catering and vouchers for local businesses were distributed during the event as prizes for participants.

The Town Council biodiversity working group have also been busy in the local community planting 11 new fruit trees in the community orchard on the park estate; and subsequently working with the support of volunteers from the Caerphilly Youth Service they planted 11 new fruit trees in the food growing area at the rear of Yew Street Park in Aberbargoed.

Members approved community grants to three voluntary organisations for community events to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, and also established a one-off grant scheme for any other voluntary organisations planning public events of this nature which will be administered in the new financial year. To sum up, what a busy year it has been, the Council has done so much, all due to the hard work of every member and the clerk, for me it has been a privilege and an honour to lead the team as Mayor, a position that I've enjoyed immensely. We, at Bargoed Town Council are proud of our achievements, thank you one and all. The Mayor

What is Town Council?

There are 735 community and town councils in Wales, representing this tier of government closest to the people. They cover approximately 94% of the land area and 70% of the population of Wales. The communities they serve range from small rural settlements to large towns and their budgets vary accordingly. However, what they all have in common is they are independent corporate bodies each serving their communities and acting to improve the quality of life in their locality. This is achieved through exercising a range of statutory powers and duties. Community and town councils are responsible to their local electorates for delivering a wide range of services and for the provision and upkeep of local amenities. Each council is made up of elected members, or in some cases co-opted members.

Bargoed Town Council serves the communities of Aberbargoed, Bargoed and Giffach, population circa 13,000. Town Council consists of 13 Members over 4 separate electoral wards:

Aberbargoed	4 Members;	Bargoed	5 Members;
Giffach	2 Members;	Park	2 Members.

How to become a councillor

To be a local councillor, you must be at least 18 years old and a qualifying commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, a relevant citizen of the Union or a qualifying foreign citizen. You also need to meet at least one of the following four qualifications:

Are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the community in which they wish to stand; Have owned or occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the community area for the whole of the 12 months before the day of their nomination and the day of the election; Main or only place of work during the 12 months before the day of their nomination and the day of election has been in the community area; Have lived in the community area or within three miles of it for the whole of the 12 months before the day of their nomination and the day of election.

A – Being Elected – at a normal election which takes place every five years or at a by-election in the event of 10 or more members of the electorate requesting one when a casual vacancy arises.

B – Being Co-opted - Co-option is what happens in the event there are not enough candidates at election time, and the Council chooses who will fill the vacant seat on the Council.

Town Council is a non-political corporate body. Whichever route you take to becoming a councillor, once you formally accept the office, it makes no difference; you are councillors **working together to serve your community**. Your task is to bring local issues to the attention of the council, and help it make decisions on behalf of the local community.

Your Councillors

Aberbargoed Ward

Peter Collins (CllrCollins@bargoedtc.org.uk) Tel: 07887397664

Paul Edwards – resigned September 2022

Alan Collis – resigned November 2022

Jacky Davies (CllrDavies@bargoedtc.org.uk) Tel: 07538825316

Megan Ingram-Jones (CllrM-IngramJones@bargoedtc.org.uk) Tel: 07854423908

Martin Harry (CllrHarry@bargoedtc.org.uk) Tel: 07488228113

Bargoed Ward

Susan Hamer-Thomas (CllrHamerThomas@bargoedtc.org.uk) Tel: 07852907435

Dianne Price (CllrPrice@bargoedtc.org.uk) Tel: 07875167471

Tich Williams (CllrWilliams@bargoedtc.org.uk) Tel: 07870624801

Dawn IngramJones (CllrIngramJones@bargoedtc.org.uk) Tel: 07484754559

Josie Bissex (CllrBissex@bargoedtc.org.uk) Tel: 01443 836313

Gilfach Ward

Carol Andrews (CllrAndrews@bargoedtc.org.uk) Tel: 07522222109

Howard Llewellyn (CllrLlewellyn@bargoedtc.org.uk) Tel: 07435976289

Park Ward

Rhyanon Price (CllrRPrice@bargoedtc.org.uk) Tel: 07494468521

Reg Carroll (CllrCarroll@bargoedtc.org.uk) Tel: 07428158848

Town Council Mayor

At Annual Meeting in May each year Bargoed Town Council selects a mayor. All Members are eligible to be considered for appointment as the town council Mayor to serve in office for the following twelve months.

The election of the mayor is the first item of business at Annual Meeting.

For 2022-23 Councillor Howard Llewellyn was elected to the office of Mayor.

Councillor Reg Carroll was elected to the office of Deputy Mayor.

Council Meetings

Bargoed Town Council usually meets monthly on a Wednesday except for during August when council is in recess. Meetings commence promptly at 6pm. A full list of monthly meeting dates can be found on the town council website.

In addition to the monthly full council meetings there are several committees and working groups, each of which work on separate areas of town council activities. Current committees include Events and Environment; Policy and Resources; HR and Staffing; Community Engagement.

Meetings currently take place on a hybrid basis using the Microsoft Teams platform and the Town Hall in the Old Courthouse building adjacent to Bargoed Police station. Members of the public are entitled to attend most meetings of council unless the agenda contains confidential business such as human resources issues. If you would like to attend a meeting, you should contact the Clerk or the Assistant Clerk to discuss options and to obtain a meeting link and agenda.

Contact information

Council currently employs two part time members of staff, a Clerk/RFO and an Assistant Clerk

(post currently vacant with effect from January 2023).

Clerk – Helen Williams, telephone 07789321664 Email clerk@bargoedtc.org.uk

Bargoed Town Council landline 01443 830184 (answer machine)

Training Plan

All Members undertake mandatory Code of Conduct training upon taking up their roles as Town Councillors. In accordance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, in July 2022 Bargoed Town Council published its first Training Plan for Employees, Members and Volunteers. This can be found on the Town Council website.

During 2022-23 the following Councillors completed training:

New Councillor Induction: Cllr Carroll, Cllr D IngramJones, Cllr Williams, Cllr M IngramJones

The Council: Cllr M IngramJones

The Councillor: Cllr M IngramJones

The Council as an Employer: Cllr Andrews, Cllr Carroll

Understanding the Law: Cllr Williams, Cllr M IngramJones

Local Government Finance: Cllr Carroll

The Council Meeting: Cllr M IngramJones

Health & Safety: Cllr Williams

Code of Conduct: Cllr Andrews, Cllr R Price, Cllr D IngramJones, Cllr M IngramJones, Cllr Williams

Chairing Skills: Cllr Williams, Cllr Collins

Members have been working with the clerk to undertake a training needs analysis and will be updating their training plan in the first quarter of 2023-24.

In House Training

Strategic Assessment: Cllr Andrews, Cllr Bissex, Cllr Carroll, Cllr Collins, Cllr Davies, Cllr HamerThomas, Cllr D IngramJones, Cllr R Price, Cllr Williams

Introduction to Planning (online portal): Cllr R Price, Cllr D Price, Cllr Davies, Cllr Collins, Cllr Williams, Cllr Andrews, Cllr M IngramJones, Cllr D IngramJones, Cllr Bissex, Cllr Carroll

Governance & Finance Toolkit: Cllr Carroll, Cllr Davies, Cllr Collins

Strategic Planning Follow Up: Cllr Andrews, Cllr Davies, Cllr Bissex, Cllr Carroll, Cllr R Price, Cllr Williams, Cllr Collins, Cllr D IngramJones, Cllr M IngramJones

Representation on Other Bodies

Caerphilly Town and Community Councils Liaison Committee	Cllr Howard Llewellyn, Cllr R Carroll
Gwent Integrated Wellbeing Network	Cllr Josie Bissex, Cllr Carol Andrews
St Gwladys Bargoed Primary School	Cllr David (Tich) Williams
Gilfach Fargoed and Park Primary Federation School	Cllr R Carroll, Cllr R Price
Aberbargoed Primary School	Cllr M Ingram-Jones
Bro Sannan Welsh School Aberbargoed	Cllr M Harry
Gilfach Fargoed Welsh School	Cllr Jacky Davies
One Voice Wales Area Committee	Cllr H Llewellyn; Cllr Tich Williams

Meeting attendance

Member Name	Full Council	Events and Environment Committee	Policy and Resources Committee
Howard Llewellyn (Mayor)	13 of 14	3 of 7	3 of 8
Dianne Price	9 of 14	5 of 7	N/A
Reg Carroll (Deputy Mayor)	11 of 14	7 of 7	8 of 8
Josie Bissex	13 of 14	7 of 7	3 of 6
Carol Andrews	9 of 13	N/A	5 of 8
Alan Collis	N/A	N/A	N/A
Paul Edwards	3 of 6	N/A	N/A
Susan Hamer-Thomas	9 of 14	3 of 5	N/A
Dawn Ingram-Jones	11 of 13	5 of 7	4 of 8
Jacky Davies	11 of 13	5 of 7	6 of 8
David (Tich) Williams	11 of 13	5 of 7	4 of 8
Megan Ingram-Jones	4 of 5	N/A	N/A
Peter Collins	11 of 13	6 of 7	7 of 8
Martin Harry	1 of 3	N/A	N/A
Rhyanon Price	12 of 14	5 of 7	N/A

Partnership Working

Bargoed Town Council continues to have a strong working relationship with Caerphilly County Borough Council and is an active member of the Caerphilly Town and Community Councils Liaison Committee. The Town Council works closely with Gwent Police and receives a monthly report from the police inspector.

Throughout this reporting period, work with Aneurin Bevan Health Board and Gwent Integrated Wellbeing Network has significantly increased with several new community activities having been initiated, grant funding been secured, and additional capacity brought to the Town Council. The relationship with Bryntirion Surgery has been strengthened with a small delegation of members visiting and having a tour of the facility. An invitation has been extended to the new business manager to attend a meeting of town council in the coming months to discuss how the council can support the practise moving forward.

Town Council are mindful of the need to work closely with the Gwent Public Services Board (PSB) to ensure services and activities are aligned with the wellbeing priorities for the area.

Since the appointment of the new Principle Officer Town Centre and Business Support at Caerphilly County Borough Council and her team of town centre support officers, members have been proactive in working with her to bring improvements to the town centre in Bargoed, identifying several ongoing issues and supporting the delivery of activities to increase footfall for our local businesses.

It is widely acknowledged that the composition and activity within our town centres has to change to correspond with changing demands of society. To this end the newly shaped business network in Bargoed has met three times to date, and town council is supporting the development of projects such as a new monthly food and craft market, and a marketing app for local businesses in the hope that town centre revival can improve opportunities in the local area.

Financial Information

Income

Town and Community Councils primary means of income is through the 'precept.' This is the proportion of annual council tax that is paid by the electorate towards supporting the local councils' sector. In addition to the precept, councils may have income from investments, fees for services, grants and donations, refund of VAT payments from HMRC.

Precept

For the financial year 2022-2023 the total precept was £ 149,585.00

Grant Funding Secured

Aneurin Bevan Health Board	£6,699.32
Big Lottery Community Fund	£5,200.00
CWTSH Community Connections Fund Grant Scheme	£4,520.00

Balance Sheet at 31st March 2023

Assets	£ 89,287
Balance brought forward	£ 59,644
Income	£175,893
Expenditure	£156,050
Balance	£ 79,488

Expenditure April 2022 – March 2023.

Grants and Donations	£21,400
Members, civic costs, training & equipment	£7,546
Spend on local services and activities	£61,116
New assets	£6,240
Election costs	£6,229

Bargoed Town Council runs a small grants programme for local community groups and organisations under which grants of up to £250 can be applied for. Organisations can apply for a grant once per year. In addition to the small grants programme, Members occasionally choose to make a one-off donation to support specific needs. During the 2022-23 fiscal year, the following grants and donations were made to local organisations working for the benefit of the local community:

Donations

Ty Hafan Childrens Hospice £200
Bargoed Salvation Army £100

CCBC Operation Santa Appeal £600
Wales Air Ambulance £500
Rhymney Valley Foodbank £1,000
St Gwladys Fare Share Foodbank £1,000
Eisteddfod Y Cymoedd £250

Small Grants (£250 each)

Ty Fry Allotments
Knit & Natter at Cartref Community Hall
Taraggan Educational Gardens & Nursery
Bargoed Gardening Club
Oakland Hall Allotments
Thriving Communities CIC (Hengoed
Happiness & Wellbeing Group)

Special Grants

Warm Spaces provision £12,000
Aberbargoed Community Action Team
Coronation Event £500
St Gwladys, Bargoed Coronation Event £500
St Margarets, Gilfach Coronation Event £500

Bargoed Male Voice Choir
East View Allotments
Bargoed Community Choir
Tuesday Club Cartref
Margaret Street Allotment

Members allowances

Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 introduced payment of allowances to Councillors, and they are now determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. Some allowances must apply to all members, however individual members can decline part, or all, of their entitlement. The council is required to publish details of all payments made to each Councillor.

What are the Allowances?

£150 per annum to cover telephone, stationery, and information technology. Up to £500 for a maximum of 5 members with specific responsibilities (Larger Councils must make payments to at least one member and medium/smaller Councils may pay up to 5 members). Travel, both inside and outside the council's area and Subsistence Allowances. Financial Loss Allowance where such a loss has occurred by attending approved duties outside the council's area. Care Allowance to reimburse necessary care of dependent children or adult or to assist Councillors with their caring needs. Specific allowances are in addition to the basic expenses allowance of £150. For the 2022-23 fiscal year the Independent Remuneration Panel introduced an attendance allowance that councils could pay to Councillors at a rate up to £30 per meeting. Bargoed Town Council resolved to pay the attendance allowance for full council meetings only at a rate of £20 per meeting.

Councillor Name	Annual Allowance up to £150 maximum	Committee Chair Allowance	Attendance Allowance	Total
Carol Andrews	0	N/A	0	0
Alan Collis	£87.50	N/A	0	£87.50
Dawn IngramJones	£150	N/A	£220	£370.00
Tich Williams	£150	N/A	£220	£370.00
Howard Llewellyn	0	N/A	0	0
Paul Edwards	0	N/A	0	0
Peter Collins	0	N/A	0	0
Reg Carroll	£150	£500	£220	£870.00
Rhyanon Price	0	N/A	0	0
Jacky Davies	0	N/A	0	0
Sue HamerThomas	£150	N/A	£180	£330.00
Dianne Price	£150	£500	£180	£830.00
Josie Bissex	0	N/A	0	0
Megan Ingram-Jones	£62.50	N/A	£80	£142.50
Martin Harry	£37.50	N/A	£20	£57.50

Audit

Section 12 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 requires community and town councils (and their joint committees) in Wales to make up their accounts each year to 31 March and to have those accounts audited by the Auditor General for Wales. Regulation 14 of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 states that smaller local government bodies i.e., those with annual income and expenditure below £2.5 million must prepare their accounts in accordance with proper practices.

Internal scrutiny of the accounting records is carried out by a delegated Member of town council on a quarterly basis. 100% of receipts and payments are scrutinised and reported back to town council.

Town Council also engage the services of Mr M Fisher to undertake a comprehensive internal audit of the fiscal management and governance arrangements at town council.

External audit

Confirmation that 'Audit Wales' completed the external audit of Bargoed Town Council 2021-2022 accounts 26th September 2022. The Annual Return can be viewed on the Town Council website by clicking on the following link https://www.bargoedtc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Annual-Return_2021-to-2022_External-Audit-completed.pdf

Key council objectives

Bargoed Town Councillors overarching aim is to enable the local community to live their best life possible. Two main objectives have been identified under this theme:

A. Become a more robust, resilient Town Council enabling a wide range of services and activities to be delivered for the benefit of residents.

B. To improve and enhance opportunities for residents' well-being.

Progress against objectives

Objective A

Members identified two activities towards this objective:

Increase public engagement.

The town council has commenced work on developing an intergenerational volunteer team; have increased use of social media platforms and their community noticeboards are being used much more effectively.

Develop closer links with the local business community.

Town Council has a presence at CCBC business networking events and work has commenced on developing an electronic mailing list for our local businesses.

Objective B

Members identified several activities towards this objective, while operational issues prevented any progress against some of the activities, considerable progress has been made on others:

Further expansion of the floral display programme throughout the town council areas

Through additional recycled oak barrel planters in two of the town council ward areas, with winter planting as well as the traditional spring/summer displays. Additional barrier basket planters at Upper High Street in Bargoed, traffic lights interchange in Aberbargoed and Gilfach bridge.



Develop regular social activities for older people.

In response to the tremendous loneliness and isolation experienced by the older community as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic, Town Council delivered events throughout the year that would not only encourage older people out into the community, but to also offer financial support to our local businesses.



Through the support of grant funding from the Big Lottery Community Fund, the Queen Elizabeth II (RIP) Jubilee celebrations provided an initial opportunity for the older community to reminisce over old photographs, to talk with youth volunteers and to celebrate the historical event taking place in the United Kingdom.

Over 160 older residents participated in these celebration events.





'Silver Sunday' presented another opportunity to deliver an intergenerational event encouraging the older community to socialise. On this occasion, an afternoon tea with the usual music and games/prize draw.



The traditional Bargoed Town Council 'OAP Event' was this year transformed to an Afternoon Tea for the Over 60s. With a larger venue available in Aberbargoed ward, members chose to deliver an event full of entertainment, finger buffet and an opportunity to dance. Another successful event that brought older people out into the community and also encouraged footfall for out town centre businesses with all the 'prizes' consisting of vouchers for our local cafes/food and drink providers.



Develop volunteer gardening initiatives.



Grant funding secured to purchase tools, plants, equipment, and volunteer resources for these initiatives, with the first activity being the planting of 20 new fruit trees in the food growing area in Aberbargoed and the Community Orchard on the Park Estate.



Work with CCBC and Park Rangers to develop environmental projects and family-friendly initiatives in Bargoed Country Park

Two hugely successful geocache routes have been developed throughout this reporting period. With the support and guidance of Gwent Wildlife Trust and working with both the parks department and the park rangers at CCBC, the first route was established at Bargoed Urban Park with a second to follow shortly afterwards at Gilfach Bargoed Woodland Park.

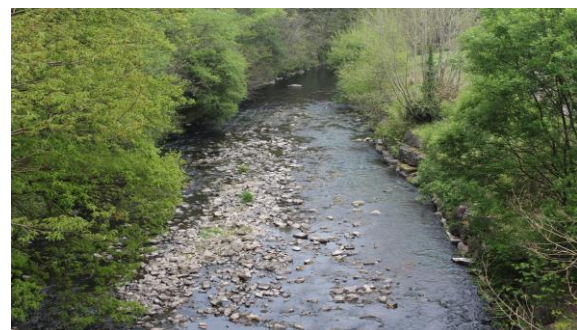
Wellbeing through Geocaching

Bargoed Town Council has successfully installed two Geocache sites in the area. As a small explanation, geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity in which participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches", at specific locations marked by coordinates in Bargoed Urban & Country Parks.



It is an ideal form of wellbeing as outdoor adventure is fun and exploring with a purpose is better. It makes you feel good, and the dealings comes in a variety of forms. It also improves your health and stamina and improves long-term relationships if you get active with this activity.

Geocaching has a lot of benefits to every participant. It improves your physical literacy by going outdoors and conquering different terrains or surfaces that require climbing, thinking, digging, exploring, and even moving obstacles to search for hidden treasures that's waiting for your discovery.



Expand Winter & Festive Season Activities for families.

In partnership with Caerphilly County Borough Council and Morrison's Supermarket, delivered alongside the Winter fair, a Roller-skating rink was a new event for Caerphilly County Borough.

Santa's magical sleigh delivery of chocolate treats

Operation Santa appeal was supported to ensure looked after children received Christmas gifts.

Each primary school aged child received a selection box.

Chocolates provided to Aberbargoed Fire Station for use with their community sleigh.

Environmental Reporting and Biodiversity Action



In addition to the expansion to the town council floral display programme, with the increase in native pollinator friendly plants, this year Members took to the community and undertook engagement activity in the town centre. Planting in small gardens, patios and balconies was encouraged, wildlife and flower identification activities undertaken with children, and residents were asked to help decorate some of the town centre with environmental themed craft work. A lovely array of knitted and crocheted displays brightened up the town centre throughout the summer months.



Forward Work Plan

Objective A

Increase public engagement through:

- Bi-monthly drop-in sessions at Bargoed & Aberbargoed libraries.
- Development of an engagement programme with young people by visiting schools/youth clubs/sports clubs.
- Undertaking a consultation with local residents on the development of a Covid Memorial Garden in Bargoed

Develop closer links with the local business community by:

- Establishing an electronic distribution list
- Encouraging attendance at a bi-annual drop-in with local businesses to seek their opinion on the way forward for the town centre.

Objective B

Expansion of the floral display programme throughout town council areas through:

- Replacement hanging baskets in Bargoed town centre.
- A new display feature to the Square Royale area of the town.
- Development of raised planters in the centre of Aberbargoed.
- Installation of recycled barrels in the centre of Gilfach.
- Rejuvenation of the seating area in Upper High Street in Bargoed with the installation of recycled barrels.
- Relocation of floral fountains to Lowri Plaza to make the area more appealing to visitors.

Develop regular social activities for older people through:

- Regular afternoon tea events in the community
- Tea dance – this will bring the whole community together – Film and tea

Develop volunteer community gardening initiatives at:

- Memorial gardens Aberbargoed, Gilfach, Hanbury Rd/Cross street [memorial] garden, Bargoed
- Food and herb garden, Yew st park, Aberbargoed
- Community Orchard, Park Estate

Develop Wellbeing Initiatives in Bargoed Urban Park by:

- Engaging school children in wildflower bombing activities.

Promote the dementia friendly Bargoed initiative through:

- The development of healthy walking trails through the park eg. heart health routes

Expand Autumn/Winter Activities for Families such as:

- Community delivery options for Christmas Grotto
- Working in partnership with Caerphilly County Borough Council to expand Winter Fair in Bargoed Town Centre
- Working in partnership with voluntary organisations to look at opportunities for delivery of family activities at Gylfach Bargoed Community Centre
- Supporting youth service activities at the Hangar, Aberbargoed



Youth Representation

This year saw Members introduce two youth representatives to the town council. Two young people from the sixth form at Heolddu Comprehensive School were selected to join the council and provide a liaison between the younger residents and the town council.

The youth representatives made an impact within their first few weeks of taking up office, leveraging volunteer support at community events, and bringing fresh ideas to the meeting table.

As a result of the youth representative's activity, gaps in provision for homework and study skills support were identified and opportunities have been explored with the youth and community library service to work with young people on this issue.

How to become a Youth Representative

Following their Annual Meeting, Members of Bargoed Town Council will invite expressions of interest from young people aged between 16 and 19 who are resident in either Aberbargoed, Bargoed or Gylfach. These invitations will go out to all the secondary schools and colleges in the area, via social media and the community noticeboards. Upon reviewing the expressions of interest Members will shortlist and a social evening will take place to informally chat with candidates. Youth Representatives are appointed prior to the August Recess and the appointment lasts for one academic year, commencing in September.

Future Budget Requirements

How the priorities will be met (precept, reserves, commercial activities, grant funding etc)

Most of the town council planned activities for 2023-24 will be met through earmarked reserves or the precept.

Earmarked reserves have been set aside for:

Potential By-Election Costs that may occur in the event of a casual vacancy arising.

Members Care Costs

Growth Fund

Cost of Living projects

Bargoed May Fair

Table- Top Gaming Activities for Young People

Coronation Event grants for Voluntary organisations

Running Costs reserves

Easter activities at the Youth Service in Aberbargoed

Wales in Bloom entry

Our Community Feedback

Thriving Communities CIC

Bargoed Town Council enabled Thriving Communities CIC to deliver free empowering workshops with cake, fruit, and refreshments in Bargoed which had excellent feedback from participants. Everyone said that they enjoyed and learnt from the sessions (especially the laughter yoga and meditations which are effective strategies to reduce stress by experiencing joy and becoming calm and peaceful) and would recommend them to others.

There were face book requests from residents asking if we were going to repeat them and whether they were available ongoing.

Many participants are now regulars on the weekly Bargoed Walk 'n' Talks.



Bargoed Gardening Club



We had our first session using items paid for with our Bargoed Town Council Grant. We took hardwood cuttings, and it was an extremely successful evening with everyone joining in. We even had a few local children joining in and helping to organise the supplies as well as taking cuttings and talking to our members.

Aberbargoed Community Action Team

The Scarecrow Trail that ACAT held was very successful.....

businesses/organisations in Aberbargoed.....fourteen took part..... Scarecrows were designed with a variety of apple in mind to coincide with the Harvest Festival.... Fifty families took part in the completion and returning of the forms, but many more took part. The children choose the winning Scarecrow and chose Sam's Headquarters Hairdresser.



Bargoed Community Choir

Bargoed Community Choir has been going from strength to strength since we reformed in January after a two-year break after Covid. With the help of grants such as yours we have been able to pay a professional musician to lead our choir. For the first time in 3 years, we have been able to visit local care homes to entertain the residents. We are very grateful for the support you have given us and hope it will continue for many years to come.



Caerphilly Table-Top Gaming Club (CTG)



Young people have been flocking to Bargoed library to the monthly gaming club – which provides an opportunity to teach children there is more to games than consoles and mobile devices! Children can learn strategy, maths, STEM activities and socialize with other fellow gamers for real. CTG is a new free monthly gaming society that meets in the Bargoed Library once a month 10-4pm. Described by the press as the “gaming club that makes maths fun”; this has been an excellent new initiative funded by Bargoed Town Council.

Wales Air Ambulance

Your support will ensure your Wales Air Ambulance helicopters and crews can continue to operate across Wales. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Last year we attended over 3500 life or limb threatening missions, all possible through support from the people of Wales. We can be anywhere in Wales within 20 minutes. But we don't just fly patients to hospital, we bring A&E directly to the patients. Our critical care consultants and practitioners have some of the most pioneering equipment and skills in the world, including blood products and techniques developed in the armed forces. Thank you again for supporting Wales Air Ambulance Charity. Your donations are the only way we can provide this service and continue 'Serving Wales, Saving Lives'



Images from our Gallery



Welcoming Spaces
Residents are invited to come along for a hot drink or a soup and a roll, phone charging, meet people at:

St Margaret's Church, Gilfach
Wednesday 12-3pm

Cartref Community Hall Bargoed,
Tuesday 12-4pm & Friday 12-1pm

ARTHUR BALFOUR, ABERBARGOED
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12-2pm

St Gwladys Church Hall, Bargoed
Monday 3-7pm, Thur 1-4pm, Sun 11-1pm

GILFACH BARGOED COMMUNITY CENTRE
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 10.30-2.30pm

FREE HOT DRINKS AT ABERBARGOED & BARGOED LIBRARIES DURING OPERATIONAL HOURS.

