



Minutes of the Engagement and Wellbeing Committee 20TH April 2026

Present: Councillors D Ingram-Jones; M Ingram-Jones; C Andrews.

Present Online: Councillors S HamerThomas; H Llewellyn; R Price.

Chairperson: Councillor M Ingram-Jones.

Also present: Miss F Probert (Heolddu); Mrs H Williams (Town Clerk); Mr C Gapper (Deputy Clerk).

In the absence of the visitor, the chair proposed to move on with the agenda until the visitor's arrival.

To receive Apologies for Absence.

No apologies received.

The Committee welcomes a visitor from Heolddu Comprehensive School at 17.31 to discuss and present possible Community Engagement projects.

There are 45% of upper sixth form pupils dipping into free school meals currently at the school. Looking at other initiatives in supporting families in the community.

Over the last two years Christmas Hamper have supported children and families in the community. Christmas 2025, supported 85 children, which was almost triple the number of children supported in the first year following Bargoed Town Councils support and engagement. Now looking at other initiatives, relating to those families who may have had poor experiences in school themselves to provide support. Three initiatives for consideration by Members:

- School Library Reopening – Encouraging pupils to use, however support for the provision of new books to improve literacy skills is needed. Existing books are probably around 10 years out of date.
- Large local businesses in the area – Currently four large businesses located in Bargoed that would have corporate social responsibility programs that could offer grants donations to support students. Possible to look at past supporters of the school for further support / grants to bring the wider community together.
- School Scholarships – Businesses or local councillors could consider supporting a scholarship scheme to assist students in low-income families in their academic journey towards wider education and employment.

The visitor met with cluster primary schools, to look at the wider issue of poverty and income in the community. Currently in the early stages of partnership work and putting together a roadmap on what work needs to be undertaken and how this will look going forward.

A Member spoke about a previous 'buy a book' project that may be worth looking at again. Also mentioned the work of Caerphilly County Borough Council on social value. Information will be emailed to the visitor after the meeting via the Clerk.

A Member sought additional information on the scholarship initiative. How the support would look. Would this be for pupils going to university or returning to 6TH Form at Heolddu Comprehensive School perhaps. Items such as laptops and starter packs could be options, but more research needed.

A Member spoke about support for the scholarship initiative and would be interested in receiving additional information, details on how it will be achieved.

The chair thanked the visitor for attending. The visitor will draft proposals and forward them to the Town Council once completed. The visitor left the meeting at 17:45.

To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate. No declarations made.

Press and public participation.
No press or public participation

1. To receive, review and approve draft unapproved minutes of the Engagement & Wellbeing Committee 23rd February 2026 and the 13th April 2026. Clerk to speak on amendments.

The Deputy Clerk noted the edits made to the draft unapproved minutes of the meeting for 23rd February 2026.

Councillor C Andrews moved with Councillor D Ingram-Jones seconded.

Resolved To approve the meeting minutes of the 23RD February 2026.

The draft unapproved minutes of the postponed meeting of 13th April 2026 were **Resolved** as approved.

2. To receive feedback from the Community Cinema working party (Councillor McCarthy to report.)

In the absence of Councillor McCarthy, the chair fed back that more feedback is being sought on the proposal, along with Members looking at various community venues that could potentially host a community cinema. A suitable venue is problematic within Bargoed with some venues not being suitable sized. Community Centre in Bargoed has been used for similar events previously with some equipment present, but other issues would need consideration.

A Member asked if the underground car park at the local supermarket may be worth considering with permission. The public have brought their own chairs to outdoor cinema events previously, so felt it wouldn't be out of the question to use such a venue without seating. The working party are still gathering information.

Lecturer is possibly attending the June meeting of Full Council to discuss benefits and issues of a Community Cinema.

3. To hear from the Chair regarding Member input received to date on the development of an Events strategy and consider next steps.

Only two members have contributed to date. Workshops around crafts, hobbies, reading, writing events and exhibitions. Events to appeal to wider audiences. Clerk advised that one or two Members have had difficulties opening the online document and found it difficult to think of anything meaningful, worthy of consideration.

4. To discuss members participation, objectives and resource requirements for the May Fair Event 9th May 2026.

Members priorities consultation will continue to be run through both the May Fair and the Summer Music festival. Same arrangements as the Spring Fair event to be utilised.

Resolution: Deputy Clerk to source chocolates for the event. £50 expenditure authorised.

(Local Government Act 1972, s.137)

Instruction: Deputy Clerk to email all members to establish who will volunteer to attend the event on the 9TH May 2026, confirming the arrangements for an 11am start at Councillor Collins shop.

5. To hear from the Clerk regarding:

5.1 Morrison's Artwork Project

The project will need to be put on hold at present due to a lack of continuity at the store and no new manager currently in position. No further progress has been made to-date.

A member suggested other locations could be considered in the future but only after a Store manager is in position and a final decision is received.

5.2 Noticeboard use at Bryntirion Surgery

Clerk reminded Members of the offer to use one of the noticeboards in Bryntirion surgery. Utilising this resource to promote Bargoed Town Council events should form part of notification and distribution within the Community.

Detailing the use of notice board should be included into the Engagement Strategy going forward.

6. To hear from the chair and appoint Members to work with the clerk in producing an engagement strategy for inclusion in the town council strategic plan which will be approved by Full Council.

The chair spoke about the value of an engagement strategy to be included in the strategic plan. Members asked if they would like to be involved in drafting the strategy. Councillor D Ingram-Jones volunteered to support the chair. Members asked for ideas for inclusion.

7. To receive a briefing note on community awards events and consider a recommendation to Full Council.

Members reviewed the briefing note and spoke about the notion of a community awards scheme being positive for community cohesion and engagement. Members expressed concern regarding funding and delivering a big presentation event. Further research required with examples of other councils delivering similar events including cost comparison to be considered at a future meeting.

Resolved: A Member proposed that new Community Activities and Engagement Officer to be tasked with researching and costing the initiative for a future meeting.

Councillor S Hamer-Thomas left the meeting at 18:18.

8. To consider the possibility of a Scarecrow Trail in 2026.

Members discussed the opportunity to run a Scarecrow Trail in 2026 but the whole council and local businesses would need to be fully engaged to be successful. With insufficient human resources and a full event schedule for 2026 the Scarecrow Trail will not run this year.

Resolved: No Scarecrow Trail in 2026.

9. To hear from the Deputy Clerk about possible grant applications.

Deputy Clerk advised Members that they need to be mindful that while Town Council have spoken about their need to engage in applying for various grants. The Clerk needs to have input from Members to identify what they are looking for funding.

Members spoke about environmental, biodiversity funding and potentially cultural activities / exhibitions to celebrate the people of Bargoed. Grant Funding can only be sort for new activities not anything existing which is currently running or operational.

The chair thanked all Members for attending and the meeting was closed at 18.27pm.