

BEDLINOG AND TRELEWIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2021/22



1. CONTEXT

During the year 2021/22, the Council comprised of 9 Community Councillors who were fully committed to representing the residents of Bedlinog and Trelewis and providing them with services and facilities designed to enhance the social and environmental well-being of the community. The Councillors who were in office during the year were as follows:

Councillor Richard Searl
Councillor Jeff Beard
Councillor Gillian Preston
Councillor Elizabeth Evans (Part Year)
Councillor Sherelle Jago
Councillor Ian Thomas
Councillor Vanessa Matthews
Councillor Christopher Frayne
Councillor Deborah Brown

The Council has one standing Committee and Councillors are appointed to serve on this. The standing Committee is:

HR & Staffing Committee

Membership of the Committee together with contact details of Councillors is available via the following link:

<http://www.bedlinogcommunitycouncil.gov.wales/YourCouncillors.aspx>

The following Community Councillors represent the Council on outside bodies:

- Taf Bargoed Learning Partnership Governing Body – Councillor Deborah Brown
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Standards Committee – Councillor Richard Searl
- One Voice Wales Regional Committee – Councillor Deborah Brown.

The main contact for Council business is Ryan James, Clerk to the Council:

clerk@bedlinogcommunitycouncil.gov.wales

The Community Council was saddened by the passing of our colleague, Cllr Elizabeth (Betty) Evans. Cllr Evans had volunteered her time for many years as a Community Councillor, working hard to make the community the best place it

could be. Cllr Evans' contribution will be missed but not forgotten.

2. FINANCIAL INFORMATION.

Income and expenditure in the financial year which ended on 31 March 2022 is summarised as follows:

OPENING BALANCE	47,019.68
PRECEPT	
Precept	23,250.00
OTHER RECEIPTS	
VAT Repayments	14,333.34
Miscellaneous Receipts	2306.26
Community Centre Rental Income	432.50
Grants – Income	18,347.00
Winter of Wellbeing Fund	3287.00
Allotment Improvement Grant	12,359.21
Local Places for Nature Grant	1502.00
Bedlinog Miners Welfare Association	14,970.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	90,787.31
OTHER PAYMENTS	
Post, Admin, Travel	543.32
Miscellaneous Payments	10,841.19
Insurance	1750.83
Membership Fees	1212.00
Christmas Lights	7488.00
Allotment Improvement Grant	12,179.21
Digital Interpretation Board	2880.00
Winter of Wellbeing Fund	2825.92
Clerk Emergency Payments	284.18
Welsh Translation	30.16
S137	500.00
Councillor Expenses	130.10
Hardship Fund	200.00
Training	337.00
National Lottery Community Fund	2500.00
Local Places for Nature	41,648.74
Grants	3,585.00
Allotments	327.39
Bills	5810.96
Audit	950.00
Bedlinog Miners Welfare Association	15,042.00
TOTAL OTHER PAYMENTS	111,066.00

STAFF COSTS	
Salaries	11,447.20
HMRC Tax	2154.14
Pension	2562.42
TOTAL STAFF COSTS	16,163.76
TOTAL PAYMENTS	127,229.76
CLOSING BALANCE	10,577.21

The value of fixed assets of the Council are £220,000

An independent auditor has internally audited the accounts.

The accounts have been submitted to Audit Wales and an audit opinion is expected later in the year. They must therefore be regarded as 'Not yet Audited'

The Council's finances are monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Responsible Financial Officer (the Clerk). The Council publishes all payments and schedules taken to Full Council every month on our website, and Council approves the payments. Full Council also monitors the budget monthly. At the end of the financial year, a balance sheet is prepared by the RFO, and Full Council approves this before it is passed for audit.

3. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

The Community Council has a [charter](#) in place with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council – it sets out the way in which both aim to work together for the good of the communities of Bedlinog and Trelewis whilst recognising their respective responsibilities as statutory bodies.

The Community Council worked in partnership with previous County Councillor Sherelle Jago during FY21-22, who is also a Community Councillor. Cllr Jago attended the meetings of the Council providing a County Council update at each meeting and listened to issues raised by Community Councillors relating to the responsibilities of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and assumed matters for action with relevant officers as appropriate. A representative of the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council also acts as a Liaison Officer modelled on the agreed Charter with Community and County Councils.

The Community Council are also consulted on planning applications in Bedlinog and Trelewis and represent the Community in responding to these applications based on residents' feedback.

4. COMPLAINTS

No official complaints were received about the Community Council during the

year.

5. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2021/22.

The key achievements during the year were as follows:

a) The Community Council awarded grants to the following community groups:

- Taf Bargoed Angling Association - £500
- Trelewis Bowls Club - £500
- Trelewis OAP Welfare - £500
- Bedlinog Constitutional Club - £500
- Trelewis Playgroup - £500

To ensure that we can award grants to as many community groups as possible, within the budget allowed, the Council grants a maximum of £500 per group.

b) Using Allotment Improvement Grant funding to provide Trelewis Primary School Pupils with 4 x raised, accessible beds for the pupils to grow their own fruit and vegetables.



c) Following feedback from residents in the Community engagement Survey, we worked with Bedlinog Miners Welfare Association to re-develop the old tennis courts in Bedlinog into a Multi-Use Games Area.



d) Utilise Allotment Improvement Grant funding to replace the broken fence at Bedlinog Allotments. As well as build a new shed with toilet and wash facilities for pupils at Bedlinog Community Primary School to use when they are at the allotments growing fruit and vegetables on their own plots.



e) Install lamppost baskets and street planters around the main routes of Bedlinog and Trelewis:



f) We launched the Community People Award, to recognise our community champions who dedicate their time to making the community a better place. The winners were Daniel Lewis for all his hard work in clearing fly-tipping from the common. Also, Ian & Gareth from Bedlinog Newsagents, for all their work during the pandemic delivering items to vulnerable, isolated, residents who were unable to visit the shop. To nominate a resident in the forthcoming year, keep an eye out on our social media, or speak to one of your Community Councillors.



g) We provided a community bench for both Bedlinog and Trelewis. The benches were installed in memory of late Councillors, Cllr Helen Thomas, and Cllr Elizabeth Evans. The memorial bench for Cllr Thomas is located at the top of the entrance to Taf Bargoed Parc, and the memorial bench for Cllr Evans is located above the newly enlarged 'Long Island Pond' at Parc Nant Llwynog.



h) Following feedback from a Trelewis resident that there is a sign on the mountain road to Bedlinog but not Trelewis, we arranged for a new 'Trelewis' signpost to be installed.



i) Purchased and installed 4 x defibrillators in the community – 2 for Bedlinog (located in Grove Terrace and at the Top Bus Stop), and 2 for Trelewis (located at the entrance to Parc Taf Bargoed and opposite the Ffaldciach Inn).



j) Secured funding from the Winter of Wellbeing Fund, to provide activities at RockUK Climbing Centre and trips to Giddy Kiddies Soft Play, for the young people of Bedlinog and Trelewis during half term holidays.



k) In addition, we arranged for the green line (safe route to school) to be re-painted from Bedlinog Community Primary School to Commercial Street and continued to provide free use of the Bedlinog Community Centre for St. John's Badgers Club, and Bedlinog and Trelewis Youth Club. We replaced the broken bin in Station Terrace and adopted a Welsh Language Scheme. We also provided Christmas lights again in Bedlinog and Trelewis.

6. ASSETS AND SERVICES MANAGED BY THE COUNCIL.

The Council is responsible for managing the following assets and services:

- Bedlinog Community Centre
- Bedlinog Allotments
- Kickabout Area, Hylton Terrace
- Part-ownership of Rugby/Cricket Pavilion at Bedlinog Recreational Ground

A full list of Council assets can be found on our website:

www.bedlinogcommunitycouncil.gov.wales

7. BIODIVERSITY PLAN.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (the Act) introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (the s6 duty) for public authorities in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales. The s6 duty requires that public authorities 'must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems'.

The Community Council will shortly be publishing a report on what we have done to comply with the s6 duty, and an action plan going forward.

8. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2022/23.

These include:

1. Publish a Biodiversity Plan and consult with interested groups
2. Conduct an Engagement Survey with the residents of Bedlinog and Trelewis
3. Work with Bedlinog Miners Welfare Association to bring the former Bowls Pavilion back into community use
4. Investigate opportunities for recreational space in Trelewis
5. Create community allotment space and a community growing area in Trelewis
6. Provide Christmas lights for Bedlinog and Trelewis
7. Investigate the Community Council taking responsibility for the Trelewis OAP Hall, to provide a community space within Trelewis.