



Feedback to online December 2025 Budget Consultation responses

"I feel the community council is a bit of a waste of the extra money we pay within our council tax, given the majority of Trelewis residents have no idea who they are or what they do. We have 2 plant pots in summer, a few feeble Christmas lights at Christmas time. When following on social media, they seem do a lot of Bedlinog".

Community Councils are the most local tier of local government and exist to represent residents, support community wellbeing, and deliver local services and activities that matter to our villages. We recognise from this response that not all residents feel fully aware of what the Community Council does, and improving communication and visibility is something we are committed to.

We strongly encourage residents to read our newsletters, and specifically our Annual Report, which provide full details of our activities, spending, and priorities. These are available online and distributed locally in local shops. We also use social media to share updates and events details.

To give residents the opportunity to meet councillors in person, we previously held Community Council surgeries. Attendance was very low, but we will be re-establishing these sessions so residents can raise concerns, ask questions, and better understand our work face to face.

In terms of visible investment across both villages, provision is equal:

- 6 street planters in Bedlinog and 6 in Trelewis
- 12 hanging baskets in each village
- 12 Christmas lights in each village (note from previous budget consultations, residents did not feel investment in more lights should be a priority)
- Investment in Trelewis MUGA with more investment coming there

We organise and fund a wide range of family and community events, including:

- Half-term family activities
- Glo in the Park
- Christmas Fayre
- Community bus trips

All events are always held in Trelewis, including activities at Taff Bargoed Park and Rock UK Climbing Centre (as it is felt this location sits between the two villages but is technically in Trelewis), and in 2025 we were proud to support and commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the Trelewis Cenotaph.

We also operate a weekly Community Hub at Bedlinog Community Centre, which provides social activities, advice, and support. Importantly, we provide a free return bus from Trelewis, which is well used, and attendance figures show that more Trelewis residents attend the Hub than Bedlinog residents. In addition, we are currently trialling a second Community Hub session at Trelewis Community Centre to further improve access.

Beyond events and activities, the Community Council:

- Provides financial grants to local community groups
- Supports local initiatives that promote health, wellbeing, and social inclusion
- Acts as a voice for residents in discussions with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and other bodies

We understand that some residents feel the Community Council's work is not always visible. We encourage residents to follow our social media pages, read our newsletters and Annual Reports, and attend events, meetings or surgeries to see first-hand how the Community Council supports both Bedlinog and Trelewis.

We remain committed to fair investment, transparency, and improving engagement across both communities.

“More should be done after school for children and young people”.

Activities for young people has been identified as a key priority from the budget consultation.

During the summer, the Community Council funded boys' and girls' football coaching sessions at the Bedlinog and Trelewis MUGAs. While attendance was very low, with some sessions having no participants at all, we recognise that new activities take time to build awareness and momentum.

As the weather improves, we will be re-establishing these sessions and developing a clear strategy for youth activities, rather than one-off events. We are currently in discussion with third-party organisations to help support sustainable and engaging provision for young people.

The Community Council is also investing in IT equipment to enable after-school and IT-based clubs, and we will be visiting local schools to speak directly with pupils about what activities they would like to see in their communities.

This approach will help ensure future provision is shaped by young people themselves and delivers better long-term value for the community.

“Myself personally have not benefited from them”.

We understand that not every resident will personally benefit from every Community Council service, and we acknowledge this feedback.

However, the spending priorities selected alongside this response were older persons' services, disabled services, and green spaces, all of which the Community Council is actively addressing.

We run a weekly Community Hub, primarily attended by residents aged 50+, which also supports disabled residents. This includes providing a disabled-accessible transport service, improving disabled access within the Community Centre, and hosting regular support sessions from organisations such as the Older Persons' Commissioner, Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil, Citizens Advice, and other local support networks.

We are also committed to improving green spaces by introducing additional allotment beds in both villages each year, enhancing biodiversity through the planting of native trees and plants, and actively promoting local parks by holding community events within them.

While this resident may not have benefited personally to date, the Community Council's current and planned activities directly reflect the priorities they identified and aim to deliver wider community benefit.

"Council should be improving area not us out our money".

Community Councils use a small precept from Council Tax specifically to fund local improvements and services that would not otherwise be provided. This allows decisions about local priorities to be made within the community, rather than at a distance.

We encourage residents to attend councillor surgeries, speak directly with Community Councillors, and tell us what improvements they want to see. Community Councillors can then advocate on residents' behalf and work with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and other bodies to pursue those improvements.

Local engagement helps ensure that money raised locally is spent on the issues that matter most to residents.

"Full financial information should be shown to everyone living in the area monthly. We are never advised what has been spent where with proof. Seems as we fund this more transparency is required. All meetings should be filmed and shared with the village as not everyone is able to attend the meetings that are held".

We agree that transparency is essential, particularly as the Community Council is funded through a Precept.

Monthly income and expenditure reports are published within the Community Council meeting minutes, which are publicly available. We encourage residents to read the minutes, as financial information is already shared in this way and queries may arise where residents are not aware the information is already available.

We recognise that attending meetings in person is not always convenient. For this reason, the Community Council offers a hybrid meeting format, allowing residents to attend remotely as well as in person. Funding was secured specifically to purchase the equipment required to enable hybrid meetings.

At present, the Community Council does not have the specialist equipment or resources required to film meetings and publish them online in line with accessibility, and governance standards, unlike larger authorities such as Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, which has a significantly larger budget and dedicated resources. Unfortunately, this level of investment is not currently affordable within the Community Council's budget.

We remain committed to openness and will continue to publish financial information, agendas, and minutes, operate meetings remotely as well as in person, and to improve accessibility to meetings wherever resources allow.

“More bins, events In Bedlinog, more youth activities, better Xmas decorations”.
--

All Community Council events are planned so that both Bedlinog and Trelewis residents benefit equally. We often use Rock UK Climbing Centre because, although it has a Trelewis address, it is a central location between both villages. Holding significantly more events in one village would be unfair to residents of the other.

Requests for additional bins are welcome. Residents are encouraged to contact a Community Councillor or email clerk@bedlinogtrelewis-cc.gov.wales so locations can be reviewed and discussed.

The Community Council allocates £5,000 per year for Christmas lights. Budget consultation results showed that Christmas lights were not a top three spending priority for residents. While we would like to provide more or higher-specification lighting, the current budget allows for 12 lights in each village along main routes. Providing additional or more expensive lights would require an increased budget and precept, which residents indicated they did not want.

We continue to work within the agreed budget while aiming to bring Christmas cheer to both villages as fairly as possible.

“Either evenly spend their budget between both villages or disband completely”.

The Community Council is committed to fair and balanced investment across both Bedlinog and Trelewis. However, this does not always mean spending can be split exactly 50/50 each year, as needs, facilities, opportunities, and external funding can vary.

Feedback from the consultation clearly shows conflicting views, with some residents asking for more spending in Bedlinog and others asking for more spending in Trelewis. This highlights the challenge of meeting all expectations. The Community Council's role is to make decisions that benefit the whole community, rather than prioritising one village over the other.

The Council is made up of Community Councillors representing both villages, and all decisions are taken in public meetings, informed by resident feedback, community need, and value for money. Over time, investment is planned to ensure that both villages benefit equitably, even if individual projects are delivered in one location.

We understand it is not possible to please everyone all the time, but we remain committed to fairness, transparency, and listening, and we encourage residents to engage with us, so decisions continue to reflect local priorities as closely as possible.

Where to find more information:

Agendas and minutes of meetings: <https://bedlinogtrelewis-cc.gov.wales/meetings/>

Contact details for your Community Councillors: <https://bedlinogtrelewis-cc.gov.wales/councillors/>