



Annual Report – Financial Year 2018-2019

Bedlinog Community Council is the only Community Council in the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough. The Bedlinog Ward represents the villages of Bedlinog and Trelewis and our mission is to support, benefit and enhance the two villages to benefit the residents.

Bedlinog Community Council holds monthly meetings and the public are welcome to attend. Dates of meetings will be published in advance. The Agendas and Minutes are available on our website: www.bedlinogcommunitycouncil.gov.wales .

We also have a Facebook page where we post details of Council meetings and other updates, please give us a 'like' and get involved in the conversation:

<https://www.facebook.com/bedlinogcommunitycouncil/>

Bedlinog Community Council is a transparent organisation and supports consultation with the community of matters like; planning and highways.

The Community Council can be contacted via our website or via email clerk@bedlinogcommunitycouncil.gov.wales

What is a Community Council?

A Community Council is a voluntary organisation set up by statute by the Local Authority and run by residents to act on behalf of its area. As the most local tier of elected representation, Community Councils play an important role in local democracy.

Community Councils are comprised of people who care about their community and want to make it a better place to live.

As well as representing the community to the local authority, Community Councils facilitate a wide range of activities which promote the well-being of their communities. The Community Council protects and promotes the identity of their community. They advise, petition, influence and advocate numerous causes and cases of concern on behalf of local communities.

Planning

Community councils have a statutory right to be consulted on applications for planning permission and the Community Council has a special role, representing a broader yet still local view which can be set alongside the comments of those with a more individual interest.

During financial year 2018-2019, Cllrs attended training facilitated by Planning Aid Wales. Planning Aid Wales is an independent, charitable organisation helping individuals and communities across Wales to participate more effectively in the planning system. During the year, the Community Council consulted on and considered a total of 17 planning applications, from within the communities of Bedlinog and Trelewis.

Grants

The Community Council is committed to supporting and strengthening the many networks and community groups that help to make a positive difference to Bedlinog and Trelewis as a great place to live and work, for everyone. We know that the Community Council can make a difference through our grants process, but it is also important that we seek a relationship with many of these groups to explore other ways in which they can develop and grow as they need to.

At the discretion of the Community Council, grants are awarded to community organisations which demonstrate a clear need for financial support. Projects and activities must have a specific benefit to residents.

During financial year 2018-2019, the Community Council awarded a total of 10 grants to the following organisations:



Bedlinog Angling Association -
The Bedlinog Angling Association was established in 1927, and we provided a grant to contribute to providing fishing stock to the association.



Bedlinog RFC Mini's – the Community Council provided a grant to contribute to the cost of trophies for the presentation evening.

Trelewis Arts Club – the Community Council provided a grant to contribute to tutor costs for art lessons.

Bedlinog Day Centre – the Community Council provided a grant to enable attendees of the day centre to have their annual day out.

Bedlinog Miners Welfare Association – the Community Council provided a grant to help with the running costs of the association.

Bedlinog Football Club – the Community Council provided a grant to contribute to the maintenance of the football pitch.



Trelewis & Treharris Bowls Club – the Community Council provided a grant to contribute to maintenance of the bowling field.

Trelewis Parents Teachers Association – the Community Council provided a grant to contribute to the transport costs for the Children of Trelewis Primary School to attend a pantomime at Christmas.



Friends of Nant Llwynog Park – the Community Council provided a grant to purchase a bench for community use at the park.

Defibrillator for use in the community of Trelewis – the Community Council provided the funding for a defibrillator to be purchased for use in the community of Trelewis. Each year in Britain around 30,000 people are struck by sudden cardiac arrest outside of hospital environments. They can affect anyone at any time – from young children at school, to adults when they're at home, work or out in public places. If victims aren't treated properly, often, cardiac arrests are fatal. The British Heart Foundation's figures show that only one in ten victims survive, so this is a vital resource for the community. The Community Council would like to give special thanks to Roxanne Richardson for organising the installation.



In case of Emergency, the Defibrillator can be found outside 21 Gelligaer Road, Trelewis, CF46 6DN.

You can find details of your local Community Councillor on the 'Your Councillor' page of our website:

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

Policies

In 2019-2020, the Community Council implemented several new policies.

Safeguarding Policy - the purpose of this policy is to make clear to all members, staff, volunteers and contractors what is required in relation to the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Financial Regulations - these financial regulations govern the conduct of financial management by the Council and may only be amended or varied by resolution of the Council. Financial regulations are one of the Council's three governing policy documents providing procedural guidance for members and officers. Financial regulations must be observed in conjunction with the Council's standing orders and any individual financial regulations relating to contracts.

Updated Standing Orders - Standing orders are the written rules of a local council. They are used to confirm a council's internal organisational, administrative and procurement procedures and procedural matters for meetings.

Data Protection Policy - Everyone has rights regarding how their personal information is handled. During the course of Bedlinog Community Council (BCC) activities we will collect, store and process personal information about our Councillors and staff, and we recognise the need to treat it in an appropriate and lawful manner.

All our policies and procedures can be found on the 'Documents' page of our website:

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

Other Work

The Community Council renovated Bedlinog Community Centre - no maintenance work had been carried out for many years, so the improvement works were very much required. The newly renovated Community Centre is now being used by the community with a weekly day centre, a weekly Dementia Carers Support Group and weekly Badgers Club. In addition to this, Cllr Sherelle Jago will soon be launching the new Youth Club which will be open to the young people of Bedlinog and Trelewis.

The Community Centre is also available for hire for children's parties, private functions and meetings. Our Charging Policy can be found on our website:

<http://www.bedlinogcommunitycouncil.gov.wales/ UserFiles/Files/Bedlinog%20Community%20Centre%20-%20Hire%20Charging%20Plan.pdf>



On the 24th May 2018 we held a 'drop-in' session at the Community Centre regarding the Welsh Government Independent Review on the future of Community & Town Councils. Residents were invited to come along and be part of the consultation on how they felt that Community Council's should be run going forward.

Feedback from residents was that those living in Trelewis felt excluded – we have listened to your views and on the 17th July '19, a report will be going to Full Council at Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, to request approval to change the name of the Community Council to Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council.

You can read a statement on the findings of the Welsh Government's review via the following link:

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-future-role-community-and-town-council-sector-wales>

In Christmas 2018, the Community Council funded 12 Christmas lights for Bedlinog and 12 for Trelewis. This was very much welcomed by both communities and we will continue to bring Christmas spirit to the Communities that we represent.

We continue to receive monthly Police reports from South Wales Police and consult with Police on how we can work together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the area. All Police reports are published on our Facebook page every month.

We arranged for the grass to be cut at Graig Fargoed Cemetery after residents raised this as an issue. We will continue to work with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council to maintain the grass and paths within the cemetery on an on-going basis.

We have also been fighting for many months to improve Taff Road – residents had brought to our attention the amount of litter along the road, as well as the narrowing of lanes due to debris which was causing the road to become dangerous. We raised

these issues with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and now the road is swept every 8-10 days and a full clear-up of the debris took place to improve the safety of the road.



After a lot of money was spent regenerating Bedlinog Square several years ago, we arranged a regular litter-pick (every 8-10 days) and clear up of the square to ensure that this centre point of our community looks its very best.

Reports were made to the Council of glass being present in the area surrounding Trelewis Community Centre, we arranged with Merthyr Valleys Homes for this to be cleared and continue to monitor the area to ensure a safe environment for our young people.

Residents complained to the Council about dog mess being an issue in both the Shindrig and Manor View estates within Trelewis. The Community Council have purchased two dog waste bins for each estate and have organised these bins to be emptied by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council on a regular basis and are currently organising installation.

The Community Council will continue to support the communities of Bedlinog and Trelewis to be a safe, happy, healthy environment to live in. We hold Council meetings on a monthly basis and the public are welcome to attend. We value your contribution and feedback and would love to hear from you if you have any concerns, issues or ideas that you wish the Community Council to consider and support.