



Annual Report – Financial Year 2019-2020

Bedlinog and Trelewis 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 and Trelewis 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/>

Our Twitter handle is @BedlinogC

Bedlinog and Trelewis 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

Feedback from residents in financial year 2018-2019 was that those living in Trelewis felt excluded – we listened to their views and on the 17th July 2019, a report was approved in Full Council at Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, to request approval to change the name of the Community Council from Bedlinog Community Council to Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council.

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.

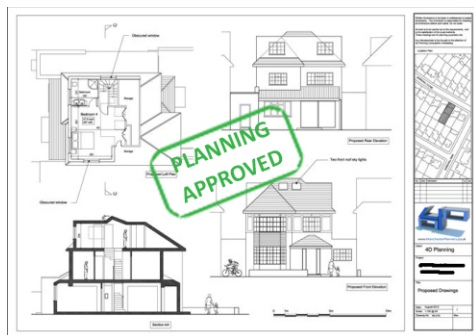
Community Councils are comprised of people who care about their community and want to make it a better place to live. Community Councillors volunteer their time for the benefit of their community.

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 2019-2020, the Community Council consulted on and considered a total of 10 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 2019-2020, the Community Council awarded a total of 4 grants to the following organisations:

£625 was awarded to the 'Crafters Club'. The grant was used to cover the cost of rent for holding the club at the OAP Hall, Trelewis.





Bedlinog Angling Association -
The Bedlinog Angling
Association was established in
1927, and we provided a grant
of £500 to contribute to
providing fishing stock to the
association.

Trelewis Parents Teachers
Association – the Community
Council provided a grant of
£600 to contribute to the
transport costs for the
Children of Trelewis Primary
School to attend a
pantomime at Christmas.



Bedlinog Parents Teachers Association – the
Community Council provided a grant of £400 to contribute to the transport costs for
the children of Bedlinog Primary School to attend a pantomime at Christmas.

New Community Councillors

During the financial year, the Community Council Co-Opted a new Community
Councillor - Cllr Christopher Frayne represents the Community of Trelewis on the
Council and has proved to be valuable member of the Council.

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 revised some of our policies.

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.

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.

The Community Council implemented a new 'Charter' with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. Both organisations agreed to publish the Charter which sets out how we will work together for the benefit of the local communities whilst recognising respective responsibilities as autonomous, democratically elected statutory bodies.

The Charter is designed to build on existing good practice and embrace the shared principles of openness, respect for each other's opinions, honesty, and a common priority of putting citizens at the centre. The Charter is based on equality of partnership and is not a top-down arrangement.

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 continues to provide use of Bedlinog Community Centre to community groups. It is used for a weekly day centre, a weekly Dementia Carers Support Group, and weekly Badgers Club. In addition to this, Cllr Sherelle Jago launched the new Youth Club which is 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 (please note that in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, current Welsh Government guidelines will be considered at the time of booking):

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



In Christmas 2019, 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.

The Community Council's current Chair, Cllr Richard Searl, joined the Taf Bargoed Learning Partnership Governing Body as a Community Council Governor. The Community Council is pleased to have an input into ensuring good quality education for all pupils in Bedlinog and Trelewis Primary Schools.

Other casework we have dealt with is:

- Installation of four dog waste bins in the Manor View and Shindrig Estates in Trelewis
- Arranged for the repair of the wall along Taf Road
- Maintained the grass area around Bedlinog Community Centre
- Purchased a Standard for Remembrance Day parades
- Arranged repairs to potholes on the road leading to Graigfargoed Cemetery
- Purchased and arranged installation of a waste bin near the Hylton Terrace roundabout
- Purchased replacement pads and battery for the community defibrillator in Bedlinog
- Arranged on-going litter picking in Bedlinog Square
- Continued to provide transport for the Day Centre attendees

We have a very exciting year ahead of us as we have successfully received a grant award for £50,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of the Local Places for Nature grant. We have also received £39,000 from Welsh Government as part of the Circular Economy Fund. We look forward to working with the community to utilise these grants to improve Biodiversity and reconnect our residents with nature, and contributing to moving to a circular economy in Wales where waste is avoided and the things we use are kept in use as long as possible.

As we are in the midst of a global pandemic, there are challenging times ahead for us all but 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 monthly 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.