

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 18 March 2026 at 7.00 pm in the
Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Josh Rawcliffe (Chair), Peter Adamson. Steve Bard, Frankie Baker, Ivor Beynon, Richard Catlin, Tracey Dyson, Bruno Góes Maciel (via video), Lucy Harmer, Ralph Henderson MBE, Chris Hill, Rob Phillips, Nick Simmons, Mike Whatley and Graham White (via video).

Riley Overton (Youth Rep) and Jackson Powell (Youth Rep).

Absent: Mark Lewis, , Ben Owen-Jones, Barrie Page and Bernard Wall.

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk), Erika Davies (Deputy Clerk) and Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk)

Others: Jenna Panfili-Tinker (Save Roseheyworth School Campaign)

177. Apologies for Absence

Mark Lewis, Ben Owen-Jones, and Barrie Page.

178. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – Agenda Item 4

Josh Rawcliffe – Governor at Abertillery Learning Campus

Lucy Harmer – Parents Teacher Friends Association Six Bells School

They did not take part in any voting

179. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

180. Proposed closure of Abertillery Learning Community - Roseheyworth Road Primary Campus.

The Council heard from Jenna Panfili-Tinker about the actions that are being taken, with a survey being at the forefront. There had been some consultation meetings but the Council was deeply concerned about the lack of prior information coming from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

The Council were concerned over a number of areas concerning the proposed closure of the school and wider ranging educational issues.

- The impact on class sizes in Tillery Street and Six Bells, where there are already “Learning Streets”, children being taught in corridors all day which is already unacceptable.
- The expectation that children as young as 5 could be faced with a long walk at both ends of the day and the impact that would have for working families. There was no provision in the proposals for funded transport to new sites
- There are already major transport congestion issues around the other schools and this closure would only worsen that issue.
- This was a political/economic decision and does nothing to make the quality of the children’s education in our area better.
- That a strategic approach to catchment areas could easily deliver small class room sizes thus having a beneficial effect on educational levels.

- Access to pre and post school clubs will be constrained for the pupils from Roseheyworth school because of the increased travel time.
- The “ Budget before Children’s Education” was directly opposite the Marmot principles that the Borough Council is trying to promote.
- That the management at the Abertillery Learning Community was already top heavy and savings could be found from there rather than frontline educating costs.
- That the ALN (Added Learning Needs) requirements from Roseheyworth had not been fully factored in.
- Some of the children at Rosehwyworth have family caring responsibilities, and again this has not been factored in.
- One of our Councillors would like to see a structural report on Rosehwyworth School
- The Council wanted Senedd Members to be aware and involved
- The figures that Blaenau Gwent are using are misleading as 3+4 year olds (the new intake for the next few years) are not included as attendance is not mandatory until age 5
- The Council was fully opposed to the closure of the school

The Council **RESOLVED** to give any support to the Campaign group

The Council **RESOLVED** send a letter opposing the school closure as part of the consultation process with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

181. Date of Next Meeting

25th March at 7pm

The meeting ended at 8:15 pm.

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards Clerk

Signed as a correct record by the Chair.....

Date.....