



**THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY & LLANHILLETH
CYNGOR CYMUNED ABERTYLERI A LLANHILLEDD**

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Our Ref: **NOTICE OF MEETING**

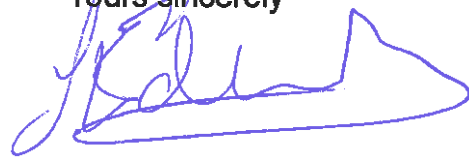
23 January 2019

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council, to be held in the Council Chamber, Mitre Street, Abertillery on **Wednesday 30 January 2019 at 7.00pm**. The agenda for the meeting is set out below.

The Council may suspend standing order 1(z) if it wishes the meeting to last beyond two hours, at the appropriate point in the meeting.

Yours sincerely

PP 
Richard Gwinnell
Town Clerk

**COUNCIL AGENDA
WEDNESDAY 30 JANUARY 2019 at 7:00pm**

1. Apologies for absence and welcomes

To receive apologies for absence from Councillors and welcome new attendees.

2. Declarations of interest or dispensations

Members who consider that they have an interest to declare are asked to state the item in which they have an interest and the nature of the interest. Any member who is unsure should seek advice prior to the meeting in order to expedite matters at the meeting itself.

3. Anti-Social Behaviour and how to tackle it

To receive a verbal presentation from Samuel Taylor (Blaenau Gwent YMP – member of UK Youth Parliament)

4. Questions from the public

To receive questions from the public and provide answers where possible.

5. Council Action List (attached)

To update Council on actions taken resulting from past decisions

6. Barclays Bank

To agree Council response to the planned closure of the Barclays Bank Branch in Abertillery

7. Committee Memberships

To agree replacements following the resignations as Councillors of Ivor Beynon and Steve Bard.

Human Resources Committee (Steve Bard)

Shop Local Working Group (Steve Bard)

Joint Committee of Local councils in Blaenau Gwent (Ivor Beynon)

One Voice Wales Gwent valleys Area Committee (Ivor Beynon)

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg – School Governing Body (Ivor Beynon)

8. New Projects Working Group

To agree the setting up and membership of the New Projects Working Group that will bring forward to Council recommendations for the spending of the additional funds available in the 2019/20 budget.

9. Blaenau Gwent Play Areas Review

To consider and decide on Council response

10. Grant Applications

(a) Orpheus Choir

(b) Tillery Dragons Netball

11. Resolution to exclude the press and public

Members are recommended to consider and resolve that, by virtue of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public are excluded from discussions on the following items on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

12. Christmas lights provision

To discuss the above and agree way forward

**ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
30 JANUARY 2019**

ACTION SHEET

This action sheet lists decisions previously taken by the Council, where specific action is required to implement the decision. Its purpose is to monitor those decisions, to ensure decisions are implemented and ensure Council is kept up to date on the situation.

Past decisions will remain on the decision sheet until they have been implemented and reported back to Council. Once reported back as complete (or overtaken by events), they will be removed. Decisions to be removed after this meeting are shaded and marked *

Meeting	Minute ref	Decision / action required	By whom	Position report
Council 12.7.17	42 (6)	Arrange Code of Conduct training – attendance mandatory for all members	Clerk	All have attended except 1 member
Council 27.9.17	76 (13)	Council agrees to replace or fix the broken gate at the Abertillery War Memorial site	DC	Quotes sought. None yet obtained. Ongoing
Council 25.10.17	109	Jubilee Square gates – lock – follow up	Clerk / DC	Overtaken by events – gates being locked and unlocked daily *
Council 25.10.17	111 (3)	Contact Lawrence Memorials to take up their offer to clean the War Memorial itself at nil cost to the Council, prior to the 2018 Centenary Remembrance events	Clerk	Cleaning complete. Publicity to follow
Council 8.11.17	128 (4)	Approach the church to see if they could improve the siting and lighting of the Stations of the Cross	Clerk / DC	Discussions ongoing
HR Ctte 29.11.17	HR8 (12)	Undertake the annual review of staffing levels in Oct/Nov 2018 before the budget is set for the following year	HR Ctte	Completed and reported to Council 12.12.18 *
Council 13.12.17	175	Progress direct debit mandates as soon as possible in respect of utilities bills such as gas, electric, water, telephone and internet services	DC	Phone, internet and electric now on DD. No gas. Water to be done
Council 31.1.18 ordinary	207	Publicise, via the Council's website, relevant funding streams to which local community groups or organisations may apply	DC	
Council 28.3.18	252 (3)	Liaise with Aberbeeg Community Centre to help them with storage solutions if possible	Cllr Phillips	Completed *
Council 25.4.18	292 (2)	Pay up to £50 for a wreath on behalf of ALCC for the last post ceremony in Belgium	Clerk	Awaiting invoice from Cllr Morgan
Council 25.4.18	294 (1)	Invite Simon Morgan of Admiral Nurses to a future Council meeting	Clerk	Date being arranged
Council 25.4.18	303 (4)	All existing key fobs in the possession of members be collected in (except Chair/Vice)	Clerk	In progress. Old key fobs re-coded so they no longer work
Council 9.5.18	8 (all)	Pay members allowances, unless members write to forego their allowances	Clerk	In progress. Deadline 31 Jan 19 for member replies

Council 27.6.18	11	Work with the public questioners to see if something can be done to further campaign for an Abertillery rail link	Chair of WBWG (Cllr Simmons)	In progress
Council 27.6.18	22	Approach Wetherspoons to assess whether siting a defibrillator inside would be an option and report back	Clerk/DC	Initial approach made 9 Aug. Response awaited. See below
Council 27.6.18	23	Progress two blue plaques, for John Selway and Roger Cecil, at Jubilee Square	Clerk/DC	JS plaque received. To be put up asap
Council 27.6.18	25	Report back on plans for replacing the Six Bells Post Office when more information is received from the Post Office	Clerk/DC	News awaited
Council 25.7.18	44 (3)	Earmark £500 from reserves to demonstrate commitment in principle to help kick-start a shop local campaign, subject to gaining trader commitment and subject to Council approval at a later meeting to any spending from that earmarked funding	Clerk	See below updates
Council 25.7.18	48 (1)	Appoint Hugh O'Sullivan to carry out the Internal Audit for the 2017/18 accounts	Clerk	Underway
Council 25.7.18	48 (2)	Agree terms of engagement with the Internal Auditor	Clerk	Underway
Council 25.7.18	48 (3)	Start preparations to go out to tender for Internal Audit services in future	Clerk / DC	
Council 25.7.18	52 (2)	Add feedback on grants to the Council's website as soon as possible	Clerk / DC	
Council 26.9.18	59 (2)	Report back on costs of installing a big screen TV in the Chamber, to help with presentations	DC	Underway
Council 26.9.18	62 (1)	All members encouraged to sign up to Town Shops Facebook and share with friends	All members	In progress
Council 26.9.18	62 (2)	Produce and erect shop local banners and release ring-fenced money for this only	Clerk / DC / Chair, SLWG	Completed *
Council 26.9.18	62 (3)	Members of SLWG to remain in contact with businesses to see what can be achieved/how	Members of SLWG	In progress
Council 26.9.18	62 (4)	Investigate facilitating a quarterly problem solving and business networking session; any costs to come back to Council for approval	SLWG	
Council 26.9.18	62 (5)	Ffrindiau Tyleri members to take traders concerns back to FT	FT members	Completed *
Council 26.9.18	66 (2)	Speak to Tredegar Town Council re how they run their public toilets	Clerk / DC	
Council 26.9.18	70 (1) (2) and (7)	Apply for solar farm grant; approach the company to enquire about availability and criteria; report back to next Council meeting	Clerk / DC	Underway – see updates below
Council 26.9.18	70 (4)	Email Clerk with ideas for the spending of the solar farm grant this year	All members	Only Six Bells Park / wall suggested – see below updates *
Council 26.9.18	70 (5)	Consult the public for their priorities for the spending of the solar farm grant	Clerk / DC	
Council 26.9.18	72 (3)	Winterfest: make all necessary bookings and arrangements for ALCC activities	Clerk	Completed *
HR Ctte 24.10.18	80	Take suggested amendments to HR terms of reference back to Council	Clerk	To be done at annual Council meeting
HR Ctte 24.10.18	83	Write to all members re the need to make an appointment before coming to the office	Clerk	Completed *

HR Ctte 24.10.18	84 (a) to (c)	Staff appraisals be completed + key outcomes reported to HR Committee	Chair / Clerk	In progress
HR Ctte 24.10.18	84 (d) to (e)	HR Committee decide on performance and report to Council on increments	HR Ctte	In progress
Council 24.10.18	89	Invite the Leader and other reps of Blaenau Gwent CBC to attend future ALCC meetings, arranged just for that purpose, with dates and times to be agreed	Clerk	
Council 24.10.18	92 (2)	Devise suggested criteria for future grants and report back to Council with recommendations	GCWG / Chair	
Council 24.10.18	92 (3)	Publish amended committee memberships and terms of reference lists	Clerk	
Council 24.10.18	93	Officers to be given access to the new ALCC shop local/trader Facebook page as soon as it is established	SLWG members	
Council 24.10.18	97 (2)	Owls, princesses and anything else suitable to be added to ALCC Winterfest activities	Clerk / DC	Completed *
HR Ctte 7.11.18	104	Arrange another meeting to consider staff appraisals further	HR Ctte	Meeting 10 Dec *
HR Ctte 7.11.18	105	Arrange another meeting to consider staffing and pay structure review further	HR Ctte	Meeting 21 Nov *
Council 7.11.18	112	Take the views expressed in the ALCC survey into account in future decision making	All	
Council 7.11.18	112	Engage with local constituents and encourage them to complete and return surveys	All	
Council 7.11.18	112	Submit further survey progress reports in due course	Clerk	
Council 7.11.18	113	Include amounts for community events, well-being projects, youth projects, car park and a screen in the Chamber (for presentations) in the draft 2019/20 budget	Clerk / DC	Underway
Council 7.11.18	113	Allocate up to £15,000 from reserves to pay as soon as possible for up to 10 defibrillators: purchase, installation, training and publicity	Clerk / DC	£15k transferred. Work continuing – see 21.11.18 update
Council 7.11.18	113	Add draft 19/20 budget to Council agenda 12 December for further discussions then	Clerk	Completed *
Council 7.11.18	117	Co-optee applications to go to Council 12 Dec 2018	Clerk	On agenda *
Council 7.11.18	118	Publish amended committee memberships list to reflect decisions taken today	Clerk	
HR 21.11.18	123(4)	Review staff appraisal form	HR Ctte	Underway
HR 21.11.18	123(5)	Review staff JDs	HR Ctte	
HR 21.11.18	123	Write report for Council on review of staff pay and structure	Chair of HR	On agenda 12.12.18 *
HR 21.11.18	125	Meet again 10 Dec 2018	HR Ctte	
Council 21.11.18	128	Report back with more detailed defibrillator costs	DC	On agenda 12.12.18 *
Council 21.11.18	134	Add freedom of information publication scheme to website	Clerk	
Council 21.11.18	135	ALCC email accounts to be mandatory with immediate effect	Clerk / DC	Underway
Council 21.11.18	136	Solar Farm Grants – members devise projects for their wards and report back	All members	On agenda 12.12.18 *

Council 21.11.18	138(3)	Blaina Riots Plinth – seek further details of the help or funding they are asking ALCC for	Clerk	Question asked: reply awaited
Council 21.11.18	138(4)	Six Bells Community Centre - seek further details of the funding they are asking ALCC for	Cllr Adamson	On agenda 12.12.18 *
Council 21.11.18	138(7)	Orpheus Choir - seek further details of the funding they are asking ALCC for	Clerk	Question asked: reply awaited
Council 21.11.18	138(11)	Members help manage the extra footfall for Jubilee Square backdrop photo opportunity	Members	Underway
Council 21.11.18	138(12)	Members carry out ALCC survey at the same time	Members	Underway
Council 21.11.18	138(13)	Provide £50 for refreshments for above	Clerk	Underway
Council 21.11.18	138(14)	Organise rota for above	Cllr Lewis, Chair, SLWG	Underway
Council 21.11.18	138(15)	Grant £150 to Ty Ebbw Fach for public toilets costs	Clerk	Underway
Council 21.11.18	140	Authorisation given to spend money remaining from the £500 set aside for shop local initiatives e.g. window stickers	Clerk / DC	Noted *
Council 21.11.18	141	Attend the Tir Pentwys Canyon inquiry on the Council's behalf	Chair, Cllr Holt	

Abbreviations

DC = Deputy Clerk	Cllr = Councillor
PQ = Public Question	BGCBC = Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Ctte = Committee	RFO = Responsible Financial Officer
CEWG = Centenary Events Working Group	DBS = Disclosure and Barring Service
SLWG = Shop Local Working Group	WBWG = Well-being Working Group
A&LCC = Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council	GCWG = Grants Criteria Working Group
FT = Ffrindiau Tyleri	

Author: Richard Gwinnell, Clerk to the Council

Updated: 3 December 2018

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 29.11.2018

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 5.12.2018

Committee: **Special Council**
 Date of meeting: **12th December 2018**
 Report Subject: **Review of Play Areas**
 Portfolio Holder: **Cllr. Garth Collier**
 Report Submitted by: **Head of Community Services, Clive Rogers**
 Report Written by: **Natalie Taylor – Strategic Transformation**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
x	x	x				x	x	Ward Members

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To provide all members of the Council with the findings of the Play Area Review.

2. Scope and Background

2.1 Scope

2.2 The aim of the review was to undertake an analysis of Council owned play area provision across Blaenau Gwent.

2.3 Play areas include equipped playgrounds, ball courts (MUGAs) and wheeled sports areas (skate parks).

2.4 The findings of the review would provide a position of the current condition of the play areas and financial estimates.

2.5 Background

2.6 As part of the Council's Financial Efficiency Programme a service review was proposed to identify potential financial savings for 2019/2020.

2.7 The provision of playgrounds and play areas with physical equipment is not a statutory requirement. Although, where equipment has been erected, the Council has a duty to inspect and maintain it.

2.8 Wales was the first country in the world to legislate for play under the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. Section 11 of the Measure places a duty on local authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their area.

- 2.9 A local authority can choose to provide play provision in many forms such as open access in park areas, staffed play provision, naturalistic play, play initiatives and schemes, water play, woodland schemes, inclusive play projects etc.
- 2.10 Every local authority must complete a Play Sufficiency Audit every three years. The Early Years & Play Sufficiency Team is currently undertaking the audit work and the results will be submitted to Welsh Government by 31st March 2019.
- 2.11 The Team are responsible for developing and implementing the Play Sufficiency Action Plan which proposes and co-ordinates new play projects resulting from the Play Sufficiency Audit findings and feedback.

2.12 **Findings**

- 2.13 The Council are responsible for maintaining 74 play areas. The play areas include equipped playgrounds, ball courts and wheeled sports (skate parks)

2.14 *Table 1*

Playgrounds	53
Ball Courts	12
Wheeled Sports	9
Total Number of Play Areas	74

- 2.15 Appendix 1 shows each play area, per ward.
- 2.16 Budget and staffing has reduced since 2013/14 from £109,000 to £46,000 and to 1 member of staff.
- 2.17 The member of staff does not work full-time on the play areas as he is part of the Council's integrated service.
- 2.18 The member of staff works approximately 20% of the time on play areas undertaking high priority maintenance and repair work and quarterly physical inspections of equipment. Repair and maintenance is reactive as there is no Work Programme in place currently. The remainder of his time is divided between the grounds maintenance and cemeteries services.
- 2.19 The Cleansing Crews carry out weekly visual inspections of play areas to support the service as an element of their cleansing role.
- 2.20 There is no capital budget for investment in play areas.

2.21 Site Assessment

An internal site assessment was undertaken on all play areas during May/June 2018 to evaluate their current condition. The main findings include:

- a. Play areas and equipment are in a very poor condition and require significant investment
- b. Safety surfacing in the majority of play areas requires repair or complete resurfacing
- c. Many play areas are in an isolated location, have limited/low use and poor sightlines
- d. Many play areas do not have safe routes to access them limiting free play opportunities for children
- e. There are unsatisfactory access issues to and within play areas
- f. There is high vandalism and anti-social behaviour (particularly within wheeled sports areas)
- g. All wheeled sports areas require resurfacing at transition points and repair to or replacement of ramps
- h. Considerable damage to ball court fencing and fire damage to surfacing.
- i. Much of the playground equipment is old/obsolete and lacks challenge
- j. Playground equipment has had to be immobilised as replacement parts are obsolete or there is insufficient budget to repair/replace
- k. Facilities and equipment within many playgrounds does not cater for a range of age groups thus limiting the use of sites for the longer term.
- l. Many of the small playgrounds within Blaenau Gwent have equipment that is suitable for specific age groups only i.e. just for toddlers or juniors and this restricts the use of the sites for families with children that are at different ages.
- m. Poor cleanliness within and surrounding the play areas.
- n. There are a number of play areas that are connected to open green space, cycle and walking routes that allow children to access alternative and a wider range of play opportunities
- o. There are a small number of play areas that are multi use sites and have a playground, ball court/wheeled sport area, green space which is suitable for a range of age groups.
- p. A number of play areas are used by schools; play workers, childminder groups etc.

2.22 The play area Annual Inspection Report which is an independent inspection undertaken by the Play Advisory Service highlights the following:

- 26 sites – are located in an isolated position and have poor sightlines
- 36 sites – have limited/low use
- 30 sites – are vulnerable to vandalism
- 49 sites – have limited or no challenge opportunities
- 38 sites – have unsatisfactory access

2.23 The condition of each play area has allowed us to develop financial estimates to understand the costs of removal of equipment; repairs to play areas or like for like replacement of equipment.

2.24 It is estimated that currently a minimum of £382,000 will be required to undertake these types of work.

- 2.25 Furthermore an estimated, minimum of £250,000 will be required to replace safety surfacing. This figure is based on recent resurfacing undertaken.
- 2.26 The total estimate will be in the region of £631,000 minimum, as this figure does not include staff, plant or groundwork costs that would be required.
- 2.27 The significant revenue and capital investment required to bring all play areas up to an acceptable standard is not available in the current financial situation. It is unlikely that there will be additional funding from the Welsh Government for this type of provision. Therefore the Council will need to identify ways of reducing its costs and alternative ways of securing play provision.
- 2.28 The Play Strategy 2004-2009 used a methodology of one static (equipped playground) per every 250 children per Ward between the ages of 0-14. This was adopted to reflect the Fields in Trust - Play in Wales guidelines.
- 2.29 The methodology does not include the provision of ball courts and wheeled sports areas, which are an additional facility to the equipped playgrounds. The Play Strategy aimed for one ball court and one wheeled sports area per ward. This was dependent upon capital funding being identified.
- 2.30 The population figures for 0-14 year olds at the time the Play Strategy 2004-2009 was developed was 14,056. This number has reduced over time due to lower birth rates and migration of families out of the area to 11,306. Projections show that there is no significant increase in the figures of 0-14 year olds over the next and the overall population of Blaenau Gwent has steadily reduced since 1991 Census.
- 2.31 Due to the reduction of 0-14 population this shows there is over-provision in some Wards and that the number of equipped playgrounds could be decreased by 15 to 38 by using the 1:250 methodology. See Appendix 2.
- 2.32 There are four playgrounds in the Play Strategy that were agreed for closure during 2004-2009. These are Woodland Terrace, Aberbeeg; Troy Road, Llanhilleth; Garn Cross, Nantyglo and Brynheulog, Blaina. These still remain due to the reduced budgets to undertake the closures.
- 2.33 To aid member discussion during the engagement sessions and future decisions, a database has been developed detailing the results of the Annual Inspection Report and site visits undertaken during the review. These findings can be used to provide a robust methodology and evidence for any potential future reductions. See Appendix 3.
- 2.34 The database includes a number of criteria for consideration such as poor location, low usage, poor play value and poor condition which form the basis of the independent annual inspection etc. The issues that should be noted with each play area have been highlighted in red.
- 2.35 The Council's insurers also undertake ongoing site inspections and identify repair and maintenance defects that the Council then carry out.

2.36 Research and Opportunities

- 2.37 The Fields in Trust Guidance (Beyond the Six Acre Standard – Wales) updated in 2017 focusses more on naturalistic play and access to a wider range of outdoor spaces for recreational purposes for communities.
- 2.38 It encourages the use of the natural environment and a move away from the traditional equipped play areas although there is recognition that these have their place in the provision of children's play.
- 2.39 Where fixed equipment is chosen it is suggested that it should promote imaginative play, excitement and challenge for children. Something that the traditional swing, slide and roundabout may no longer provide.
- 2.40 As a result of financial reductions and removal of funding, many local authorities both in Wales and England have gradually reduced the number of playgrounds, wheeled sports and ball courts they are responsible for maintaining.
- 2.41 The reductions have been carried out in numerous ways, such as the transfer of sites to Town and Community Councils, Tenants & Residents Committees, Community Groups and to housing associations as part of their housing stock transfer arrangements.
- 2.42 There are 37 play areas that are located within a social housing managed area. Initial discussions have been held with the organisation to discuss the possibility of transferring a number of play areas to their responsibility as part of their Neighbourhood Improvement Plan.
- 2.43 The organisation has since confirmed that they are unable to commit at present in managing or owning play areas. Their aim is to develop social housing in key areas as part of their long term plans. They would, however, be interested in purchasing some areas of land for development purposes as a result of any play area closures that may be planned in the future, if it forms part of the Council's Local Development Plan.
- 2.44 Where other local authorities have transferred a play area this has been in the form of either a full community asset transfer or partial transfer through the establishment of a "Friends Of" arrangement, where residents undertake low level maintenance work and the Council continue with physical inspections and repair work. This arrangement would not reduce costs significantly for the Council.
- 2.45 The full community asset transfer allows the new owner to apply for capital funding for the development of the site. They would be responsible for making sure inspections, repairs and maintenance work is undertaken to meet the required Standards and that the correct public liability insurance is in place.
- 2.46 The Big Lottery has confirmed that currently a lease must be a minimum 5 year agreement. Some groups are often unwilling to agree to a lease of this length and often the complexities of Community Asset Transfer and public liability insurance results in a project or asset transfer not being delivered.

- 2.47 Initial indications from the Big Lottery are that they recognise the issues of the leasing requirements and will commence discussions with policy colleagues across their organisation on the possibility of shorter term licence agreements.
- 2.48 There has been interest from a residents group in Llanhilleth to establish a "Friends Of" arrangement and discussions are currently ongoing. Big Lottery promote funding solely to Community Groups where they have secured a lease or where the Group works in partnership with a local authority. Sport Wales support Groups in terms of ball courts, multi-use games areas etc.
- 2.49 The Council's Insurance Manager has stated that there are a number of fundamental requirements that need consideration prior to a "Friends Of" or community asset transfer arrangement of a play area due to the nature and risks of these types of facilities.
- 2.50 Also where there has been a community transfer of an asset previously e.g. sports ground with play area on site, arrangements must be made clear to ensure there is no conflict or confusion to between each party.
- 2.51 Local authorities have utilised Section 106 agreements with developers to retain areas of sustainable, recreational space for communities and/or ensure that the designs of new developments consider the need for children to "play out" safely.
- 2.52 Local authorities also identify capital investment for play via various funding streams such as Heritage Lottery, Leisure Trusts, Buildings Communities Trust Programme etc.
- 2.53 The Buildings Communities Trust has recently funded the refurbishment of the ball court (MUGA) at Cefn Golau. This work is due for completion October 2018 and was officially reopened on 30th October 2018.
- 2.54 Funding opportunities can sometimes appear unexpectedly therefore it would be beneficial for the Council to identify and agree the type of alternative play provision it would like to develop in the area by developing a Strategy for Play spaces, with a prioritised list of projects that have been approved by the relevant approval authority so if funding becomes available the Council is able to submit a bid at short notice.
- 2.55 Local authorities have various ways of dealing with the ongoing and increasing costs of maintaining their play areas. These include complete removal of equipment based on internal risk assessments; development of larger play spaces that have multi use for all age groups; change of use to open green space for free play; removal of traditional playground equipment with replacement natural objects such as boulders, grass mounds etc. to reduce maintenance costs.
- 2.56 The risk assessments used by authorities differ slightly, although most take into consideration poor location, isolation, usage and cost of maintaining and upgrading. These elements reflect the criteria in the annual inspection reports mentioned in point 2.33 above.
- 2.57 A red, amber and green status is used against play areas to determine a programme of work and the prioritisation of repairs and maintenance required. A robust methodology

will be required to enable accurate prioritisation of sites.

- 2.58 The Play Advisory Service states that the location of a play area is the most important element to achieving an effective play space. More often if a location is poor it can reasonably be assumed that it will have low use no matter how well designed it is, isolated sites are usually areas that are prone to anti-social behaviour and vandalism.
- 2.59 Play provision should be integral to the wider environment. It is increasingly recognised that play does not just take place in designated play spaces, but in the whole environment that a child occupies and local authorities need to involve multiple services in securing appropriate play spaces.
- 2.60 Fields in Trust have published a new standard regarding open space. The Local Development Plan (LDP) Manager has re-calculated the open space provision and this shows that the Council has a shortfall in its provision of approximately 15 hectares. Shown in Table 3 below.
- 2.61 *Table 1*

Open Space Typology	Required Provision	Actual Provision
Equipped/designated play areas	0.25ha per 1,000 population (69.609 x 0.25 = 17.402ha)	5.75ha (deficit of 11.652ha)
Other outdoor provision (MUGAs Skateboard Parks)	0.55 ha per 1,000 population (69.609 x 0.55 = 38.28ha)	16.86ha (deficit of 21.42ha)

- 2.62 The Council could look more closely at the areas that it identifies as equipped/ designated play areas to add more land but given the extent of the shortfall in provision across the typologies it is advised that the Council should look to retain the playground sites even if a decision was made to remove the equipment
- 2.63 It should be noted that all these sites are currently protected from development by the Local Development Plan through policy DM11 which either requires a replacement facility or demonstration that the facility is surplus to requirements – which would be hard to evidence due to the current deficit.
- 2.64 The Council will be undertaking an open space assessment as part of preparing the new LDP and could look to set out its own standards based on the assessment. However it is unlikely to be completed until the middle of next year at the earliest and the new LDP will not be adopted until early 2022.
- 2.65 In terms of selling the land in the future, the Council has a duty to give notice of its intention to dispose of open space and consider any objections received.

3. Options for Recommendation

There are 3 options that can be considered. All options will require a phased approach in its implementation with the development of an over-arching plan:

3.1 Option One – Do nothing

- a. This option will maintain the current number of play areas and the current financial burden will continue.
- b. Play equipment will continue to fall into disrepair and will need to be removed.
- c. It will require a programme of work with identified high priority repairs
- d. Costs will continue to increase as further high priority repairs will be required to achieve acceptable standards.
- e. The Council will uphold its duty to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in the area albeit at a poor standard.
- f. There will be no savings achieved

3.2 Option Two – PREFERRED OPTION - Develop a Strategy for the future provision of play spaces across the borough that considers rationalisation of equipped play areas

- a. This option will allow the Council to reduce equipped play areas based on an agreed methodology and criteria.
- b. A prioritisation plan will be required to reduce and repair remaining sites.
- c. Investment will be required to remove equipment and repair play areas.
- d. Engagement and discussions with key stakeholders will be required.
- e. Discussion with Community Groups, Tai Calon and other organisations will be required where there is an opportunity to transfer or change use of a site.
- f. An agreed vision is required for the Strategy on the type of play provision offered in the future and potential projects for development, should funding become available i.e. traditional or naturalistic, increased destination/ neighbourhood play spaces.
- g. Discussion is required on whether the Council will continue with the methodology of the Play Strategy 2004-2009 of 1 playground to 250 children 0-14 age or whether the ratio should be increased in keeping with an alternative vision for larger play spaces.
- h. A more strategic approach is required to secure play and play spaces in the future which should link to the Local Development Plan, highways infrastructure, cycle and footpaths, open space etc. This approach will allow children to "play out" safely in the vicinity of their own home.
- i. The Council will uphold its duty to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in the area.
- j. There will be no savings achieved.

3.3 Option Three – Removal of all equipped play areas across the borough

- a. This option will reduce financial burden upon the Council in the long term.
- b. There will be costs to remove play equipment and repair land for alternative use.
- c. A programme of removal will need to be developed and managed appropriately through prioritisation of sites and the associated costs.
- d. The Council will need to identify and consider what alternative play provision will be

available in the short and long term prior to any reductions. This could include current recreation space, play schemes, private local facilities, open access facilities etc.

- e. The Council will need to demonstrate that it is upholding its duty to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in the area.

4. Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan

4.1 This review supports the achievement of a number of areas within strategic plans:-

- a. Access to recreational space for all residents supports their long term physical and mental health and well-being.
- b. Recreational spaces are very important for communities in building positive relationships and attitudes.
- c. Physical activity is important to everyone regardless of age or ability.
- d. Provision of play in many forms will support the development of children and families.
- e. Provision of facilities must be sustainable for the future and must consider the long term financial challenges of the Council. Community Asset Transfer is one option that can support this, as is increased use of the natural environment.
- f. Smarter infrastructure of residential areas such as road calming, green space, safe routes etc. is essential to give children the option to "play out" and not have to visit an equipped designated area to play.

5. Implications Against Each Option

5.1 Option One – Do nothing

5.2 Benefits

The current number of play areas will still be available for use across the Borough albeit at a poor standard.

5.3 Dis-benefits

- a. The findings of the review show that most play areas are in poor condition and require significant investment which is not realistic in the current financial climate. Therefore many of the current sites will continue to fall into disrepair which will result in increased costs.
- b. The Council has a duty to maintain and inspect all play areas including those sites which are rarely used. This results in inefficiencies and is resource intensive.
- c. Residents will continue to receive a poor service

5.4 Risks

- a. Playgrounds that have old, obsolete equipment will soon become irreparable and will not meet European/British standards.

- b. Transition points off ramps within wheeled sports areas are at minimum levels and require repairs which are expensive.
- c. Costs of repair and maintenance will continue to rise.
- d. The significant capital investment needed cannot be identified due to the Council's need to protect its statutory service provision.
- e. Complaints from residents and visitors will increase due to the poor condition of the sites.
- f. Reputational damage to the Council due to lack of investment and poor quality of play area provision.
- g. If play areas are not kept to the standards required the Health & Safety Executive could prosecute the Council or serve enforcement notices in the future.
- h. Continued financial cuts to local government budgets.

5.5 **Budget**

The current budget of £46,000 is not sufficient for the number of current play areas and for the volume of repairs and replacement equipment.

5.6 There is no current capital budget.

5.7 **Legal**

- a. There are no legal implications linked to this report.
- b. One playground is being leased from Pontypool Park Estates (Warm Turn) and one playground is being leased from Duke of Beaufort Estates (Trefil).
- c. If play areas are not kept to the standards required the Health & Safety Executive could prosecute the Council or serve enforcement notices in the future.

5.8 **Option Two – PREFERRED OPTION**

Develop a Strategy for the future provision of play spaces across the borough that considers rationalisation of equipped play areas

5.9 **Benefits**

- a. A strategic approach to play provision should reduce the dependency on equipped sites and enable a broader range of recreational and community provision across the area.
- b. Play provision will become more sustainable in the long term through increased use of open recreational space that caters for all abilities and interests.
- c. Increased play value and challenge would be available for children through different

types of play and access to open space.

- d. Equipped play areas are non-statutory and the Council can choose alternative types of play provision that it will offer which can utilise the natural environment, open spaces and sign-posting to local businesses that provide alternative play.
- e. A reduction in equipped play areas would reduce the cost burden upon the Council and make the management and maintenance of the sites more effective.
- f. A removal of play areas that are isolated, in poor condition or have little play value will enable the Council to concentrate its effort in larger, multi-use sites that provide for a range of age groups, abilities and interests.
- g. The transfer of play areas could provide opportunities to new owners to secure capital funding to develop sites.
- h. A Play Sufficiency Audit is currently being undertaken that will support the development of a Play Space Strategy and the Play Sufficiency Action Plan.
- i. A Play Space Strategy would identify sites for upgrade, change of use, developed through the receipt of external funding and new sites that could be utilised for play.

5.10 Dis-benefits

- a. In the event of removal of a play area some residents would have further distances to visit a play area.
- b. The current budget will not be sufficient to maintain the remaining sites and remove play areas.
- c. Initial estimates to remove those play areas identified in the criteria mentioned in 2.38 and 2.39 above would be approximately £84,000. This figure does not include the cost of staff, plant and groundworks.
- d. Community groups or organisations may not wish to take over responsibility for many of the play areas due to their current poor condition, location, cost to repair and associated risks of that type of provision.

5.11 Risks

- a. Residents and/or ward members may wish sites to remain which will result in continued increased costs and low value play areas.
- b. Playgrounds that have old, obsolete equipment will soon become irreparable and will not meet European/British standards in the future. Therefore the equipment will need to be removed to avoid penalties.
- c. Transition points off ramps within wheeled sports areas are at minimum levels and require repair which is expensive.
- d. Reputational damage to the Council due to lack of investment and poor quality of

play area provision.

- e. If play areas are not kept to the standards required the Health & Safety Executive could prosecute the Council or serve enforcement notices in the future.
- f. Continued financial cuts to local government budgets.

5.12 Budget

- 5.13 The budget of £46,000 is not sufficient for the number of play areas that would remain or for the number of repairs and replacement equipment required.
- 5.14 Any developments required to the remaining play areas would not be possible unless additional capital funding is identified from external funding.

5.15 Legal

- a. There are no legal implications linked to this report.
- b. One playground is being leased from Pontypool Park Estates (Warm Turn), one playground is being leased from Duke of Beaufort Estates (Trefil). If the decision is made to close either of these playgrounds the lease will need to be surrendered.
- c. All other play areas are Council owned.
- d. If play areas are not kept to the standards required the Health & Safety Executive could prosecute the Council or serve enforcement in the future.

5.16 Option Three – Removal of all play areas across the Borough

5.17 Benefits

- a. The Council would make a small saving in the long term in relation to maintenance and inspection requirements costs.
- b. Equipped play areas are non-statutory and the Council can choose alternative types of play provision that it will offer which can utilise the natural environment, open spaces and sign-posting to local businesses that provide alternative play.
- c. Potential sale of land opportunities in the future following the removal of equipped play areas that could result in income to the Council. This will be a longer term opportunity as currently the Local Development Plan protects these types of sites for open recreational space.
- d. Alternative play provision would be secured to meet the future needs of children through the use of the Play Sufficiency Audit and engagement with children and their families.

5.18 Dis-benefits

- a. A reduction in the number local equipped play facilities.
- b. Families would need to access alternative equipped facilities available within the Borough that may not be local to them.
- c. The current budget is insufficient to fund the removal of play areas and will require bids to capital or budget contingency funding and external funding where available.

5.19 Risks

- a. Reputational damage to the Council
- b. Welsh Government may not be supportive of a complete removal of equipped playgrounds, wheeled sports and ball courts if alternative provision is not identified or planned as part of a wider programme of work.
- c. Continued financial pressures upon local government funding.

5.20 Budget

- a. Removal of equipment and restoration of land will require additional budget. Initial financial estimates for removal of play areas depending upon the amount of type of equipment could cost between £1500 and £10,000.
- b. The cost of the staff and vehicle would not be removed as the role is part of the integrated service and undertakes work for Grounds Maintenance and Cemeteries service.

5.21 Legal

- a. There are no legal implications linked to this report.
- b. One playground is being leased from Pontypool Park Estates (Warm Turn, Aberbeeg), one playground is being leased from Duke of Beaufort Estates (Trefil) If the decision is made to close either of these playgrounds the lease will need to be surrendered.
- c. The Council would therefore need to surrender the lease back to both owners.
- d. All other play areas are Council owned. Although it should be noted that where facilities close and allowed to grass over it is still the responsibility of the Council to inspect and maintain boundary walls and structures surrounding play areas.

5.22 Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)

- a. There are no savings or cost reductions that can be identified in the play area review for option 1, option 2 or option 3.

- b. The service has a very small budget for repair, replacement and maintenance approximately £1,800. This is insufficient for the current number of play areas within the Borough if option 1, option 2 or option 3 is chosen.
- c. There will be significant costs to remove play areas and restoration of land for alternative use or sale.
- d. In the short term if the Council were to reduce the play areas there would also be a requirement to repair play areas to meet European/British standards.
- e. Transfer of play areas to a third party would reduce costs if whole Community Asset Transfer was agreed which included repair, maintenance, inspection, cleansing and grass cutting.
- f. Friends Of arrangements would not reduce costs significantly due to the nature of the agreements.
- g. There is an opportunity that the Council could release land following closure of some sites and generate income through sale of land. The current LDP does not allow for this and consideration of this will be part of the open space assessment of the future LDP.
- h. The Council will need to agree its tolerance to vandalism versus cost of repair and its intentions of dealing with these issues.
- i. To address the essential maintenance, repairs, replacement of equipment or removal of a play area a bid for £100,000 has been submitted through the Council's Capital Programme from 2019 onwards.
- j. In the current financial climate and the need for the Council to prioritise its statutory services funding will need to be identified from external sources in the form of grants, fund-raising, sponsorship etc.

5.23 Human Resources

- a. The current staffing arrangement is not sufficient to effectively maintain the play areas and requires a full time member of staff that has the skills and expertise to maintain and repair play areas.
- b. A reduced number of play areas would still require a full time member of staff to undertake physical inspections, maintenance and repairs.

6. Supporting Evidence

6.1 Performance Information and Data

- a. Customer reports and demand information on the play area service is not available.
- b. If an option is chosen to retain some or all play areas there will be a requirement to improve the service through the use of digital. There is an opportunity to capture quality data to improve management and monitoring of each play area and the

assets within them in the future.

- c. The latest Inspection Report highlights that there are minor failures and maintenance risks in the majority of the play areas. The Council prioritise failures that are scored A and B which require attention immediately or within the short term. Failures scored C are unable to be resolved due to the lack of budget.
- d. Standard failures are rectified through ongoing maintenance. These are caused by wear and tear, vandalism or deterioration is commonly found in play areas.
- e. Equipment that is scored as high risk during a site inspection or at annual inspections are either removed or immobilised. This has reduced the challenge and play value within play areas.
- f. Feedback of consultation undertaken during Blaenau Gwent We Want and the Play Sufficiency Audit find that play areas are generally poorly maintained, have poor equipment, that repair and modernisation is required, playgrounds are not fit for purpose and do not meet the future needs of children and that there are ongoing issues with anti-social behaviour.

6.2 Expected outcome for the public

- a. There is acknowledgement that play areas can provide health and wellbeing benefits for all ages. Play areas tend to be recognised for their traditional equipment such as a swing, slide and roundabout. Whilst equipped play areas have their place, the more modern approach to play provision links to the wider environment.
- b. Open spaces, woodland, cycle tracks, footpaths, water play etc. offer a breadth of opportunities to children and adults for play and recreation. A more strategic, inclusive approach by services will be able to consider these links and support the provision of play so that it is more widely available, whether that is "outside the front door" or within the natural environment.
- c. This approach would support the Council in maintaining the ability to secure play provision and enable it to concentrate its efforts in larger destination facilities that benefit the wider community rather than individual small areas.
- d. The public would benefit from improved recreation provision that is well maintained, fit for purpose and caters for a wide variety of needs and interests.
- e. The Welsh Government's play legislation directs local authorities to consider the diverse needs of children and are supportive of alternative provision that includes funding for new technology, improvements to open play space, play initiatives and schemes delivered by the third sector, play libraries and free access to leisure facilities

6.3 *Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)*

Included as part of this review:

6.4 *Member Engagement*

6.5 Engagement sessions have been held with all ward members to discuss each play area in detail and highlight the findings of the review.

6.6 Members have indicated their support for the approach taken and the supporting evidence collated.

6.7 Members' comments have been captured and will be taken into consideration in respect of any future changes/reductions in play areas across the County Borough.

6.8 *GAVO*

6.9 Discussions have been held regarding grant funding opportunities, community asset transfer and community interest. Indications are that most community groups are not interested in taking over responsibility for play areas due to the insurance requirements of such sites.

6.10 It was acknowledged that residents groups prefer "Friends Of" arrangements and are willing to undertake the roles of low level maintenance.

6.11 The Big Lottery have confirmed that they will commence initial discussions with their policy colleagues regarding short term licence agreements that would allow community groups to draw down capital funding to take over responsibility for some play areas.

6.12 It should be noted that the Council would need to retain some responsibility in terms of physical inspections and repairs to ensure health & safety standards are maintained.

6.13 *External partners*

6.14 There have been a number of discussions regarding the possibility of partners taking over responsibility for play areas. However this in some instances did not fit with their future plans.

6.15 Tai Calon are currently developing a community area at Newtown, Ebbw Vale which will be a low maintenance site which can be used by children and families. This site is being developed with the support of GAVO, drawing on available funding opportunities.

6.16 *Play Advisory Service*

6.17 Discussions were held regarding the results of the inspection report and condition of play areas. Feedback was that well located play areas were key to ensuring that they were well used and easily accessible to children and families.

6.18 Discussions have also been held with the following and have been included in the findings of this report:

- All elected Members
- Corporate Leadership Team
- Head of Community Services
- Early Years Manager
- Play Sufficiency Officer
- Policy Officer – Research & Analysis
- Insurance Manager
- Health & Safety Team
- Estates Section
- Planning Policy/LDP Manager
- Accountancy Section
- Feedback from Blaenau Gwent We Want
- Play Sufficiency Audit 2018/19 initial feedback
- Service users whilst on site

6.19 **Following the review:**

- Further engagement with all ward members will be required
- Children and Residents
- Play Sufficiency Audit 2018/19 final analysis
- Service areas
- Staff
- Childcare providers
- Schools (Community Focussed Schools)
- Early Years Team and Integrated Children's Centre
- AM and MP for information
- Alternative private play providers

6.20 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

6.21 For a long term, sustainable play provision it will be necessary to reduce the number of play areas and provide low maintenance sites to keep costs down.

6.22 A number of options have been included in this report that will support the Council in this. These include:

- a. Developing a strategic, inclusive approach that considers play provision in new developments or changes to services i.e. planning, highways, local development plan with links with cycle tracks, footpaths, open space, schools, and community facilities.
- b. Consideration of planning design in new developments and attention to traffic calming.
- c. Consideration of larger multi use sites that are suitable for a range of age groups

- d. Alternative play provision not necessarily physical equipment.
- e. Promotion of other play providers
- f. Prioritisation of closures could be based on play areas in the poorest condition, size of site, costs of removal.
- g. Prioritisation of developing an area or changing the use of an area dependent upon location, usage and cost.
- h. Improved monitoring and management of the service through digitalisation so that there is improved quality of the recording of assets, inspections, maintenance. This would include the development of an implementation plan, work programme and prioritisation.
- i. Investigate potential sponsorship for play areas

6.23 *Preventative focus*

- a. The Council has undertaken a fundamental review of all play areas across the Borough.
- b. The findings of this review have highlighted the poor condition of many of its play areas and ways that could improve the provision for the longer term.
- c. There will be a need both corporately and operationally to change the service model to one that is fit for purpose for residents, visitors and manageable for the Council in the future.

6.24 *Collaboration / partnership working*

- a. There are opportunities to work with housing associations, community groups, leisure services and local businesses to secure ways to provide good quality play opportunities.
- b. Initial discussions have taken place that have been positive and will benefit the wider community.
- c. Local childcare providers, childminders and schools would also benefit from future joint working arrangements.

6.25 *Integration (across service areas)*

The findings of this report should be considered by a number of services:

- a. Social Services – Providing an environment that supports health & well-being for families and individuals.
- b. Environment – Access to open space is essential for alternative play provision, as well as investigating the options for transferring assets to the community or the

organisations within the area.

- c. Planning, Highways & Countryside – The Local Development Plan will safeguard the area's open recreational space so that links between new developments and the local environment can be utilised in the best way possible, securing opportunities for play.
- d. Corporate – The decrease in funding each year means that the Council need to reduce costs wherever possible. Continued engagement with key stakeholders whilst changing service provision will be key to successful implementation of the chosen option.
- e. Education - The continued development of community focussed schools to support children's play and out-of-school-hours learning activities help to improve the learning and wellbeing of pupils, their families and the wider community.

6.26 EqIA(screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)

- a. An EQIA screening exercise would need to be undertaken if the Council decision was to remove all play area provision. The original Financial Efficiency Project proposal includes an EQIA screening.
- b. The retention or reduction of play areas would not impact upon any of the protected characteristics.

7. Monitoring Arrangements

- 7.1 If option 1 is chosen (Do nothing)
 - a Work Programme will need to be developed so that prioritisation of maintenance and repair work is agreed. Performance targets will need to be set and timescales for completion agreed.
- 7.2 If option 2 is chosen (Develop a Strategy for the future provision of play spaces across the borough that considers rationalisation of equipped play areas)
 - a Programme of repair and removal will need to be developed, prioritised and agreed.
 - a Work Programme will need to be developed so that prioritisation of maintenance and repair work is agreed. Performance targets will need to be set and timescales for completion agreed.
 - The LDP assessment process will continue to monitor the open space typology.
- 7.3 If option 3 is chosen (Removal of Council owned play areas)
 - a Programme of removal will need to be prioritised, developed and agreed.
- 7.4 An operational implementation plan will need to be developed and monitored by the Service Manager Community Services for options 1, 2 and 3.
- 7.5 The work will be monitored through Regeneration & Community Services directorate

management team and reported through normal Council processes.

7.6 The LDP assessment process will continue to monitor the open space typologies.

8. Background Documents /Electronic Links

8.1 Attached to this report:

- Appendix 1 – List of Current Play Areas per Ward
- Appendix 2 – List of Current and Future Play Area provision
- Appendix 3 – Criteria Assessment per Play Area

8.2 Not attached to this report but used as reference and research for the review:

- *Annual Inspection 2017 – Play Advisory Service*
- *The Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010*
- *Blaenau Gwent Play Strategy 2004-2009*
- *Play Sufficiency Audit and Action Plan 2016*
- *Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play in Wales – Beyond the Six Acre Standard (Wales) Fields in Trust - <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/guidance/Guidance-for-Outdoor-Sport-and-Play-Wales-Apr18.pdf>*
- *Most Play Strategies are Wrong – Rob Wheway 2011*
<http://www.ipa2011.org/login/uploaded/monday%20papers/rob%20wheway.pdf>
- *Public Space Lessons - Designing and Planning for Play – Cabe*
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110118132726/http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/designing-and-planning-for-play.pdf>

Current Play Areas per Ward							
Playgrounds				Ball Court		Wheeled Sports	
Ward No.	Ward	Current No. of Playgrounds	Name of Playground	Current Number of Ball Courts	Name of Ball Court	Current Number of Wheeled Sports	Name of Wheeled Sports
1	Beaufort	3	Beaufort Rise, Primitive Place, Garnlydan	1	Garnlydan		
2	Cwm	3	William Street, Cwm Welfare, Hillside Terrace	1	William Street	1	Cwm Welfare
3	Badminton	1	Glyncoeed	1	Glyncoeed		
4	Rassau	2	New Rassau, Old Rassau	1	Old Rassau	1	New Rassau
5	Ebbw Vale North	2	Letchworth Road, Newtown		Letchworth has ball area	1	Hilltop
6	Ebbw Vale South	4	Coronation Park, Garden City, Pennant Street, Tylwyn				
	Total	15		4		3	
7	Brynmawr	4	Brynmawr Rec, Brynawel, Brynmawr Welfare Junior, Brynmawr Welfare Toddler	1	Gurnos	1	Brynmawr Welfare
	Total	4		1		1	

Current Play Areas per Ward								
Playgrounds			Ball Court		Wheeled Sports		Ward No.	Ward
Ward No.	Ward	Current No. of Playgrounds	Name of Playground	Current Number of Ball Courts	Name of Ball Court	Current Number of Wheeled Sports	Name of Wheeled Sports	
8	Abertillery	2	Gelli Crug, Vivian Street	1	Gelli Crug	1	Abertillery	
9	Six Bells	2	Warm Turn, Six Bells Park	1	Six Bells Park			
10	Llanhilleth	7	*Woodland Terrace, Llanhilleth Park, Oxford Place, Soffryd, *Troy Road, Aberbeeg Welfare, Brynithel	1	Brynithel			
11	Cwmillery	5	Roseheyworth, Abertillery Park, Jim Owen, Woodland Field, Bournville	1	Jim Owen	1	Roseheyworth	
	Total	16		4		2		

Current Play Areas per Ward							
Playgrounds			Ball Court		Wheeled Sports		
Ward No.	Ward	Current No. of Playgrounds	Name of Playground	Current Number of Ball Courts	Name of Ball Court	Current Number of Wheeled Sports	Name of Wheeled Sports
12 & 13	Nantyglo and Blaina	11	Banna Park, Vincent Avenue, Coed Cae, *Garn Cross, Waunheulog, Central Park, Glanysruth, *Brynheulog, Maeshafod, Duffryn Park, West Side	1	Banna Park	1	Blaina
	Total	11		1		1	
14	Central & West	2	Bedwellty Pits, Brangwyn Cefn Golau	1	Brangwyn Cefn Golau	1	Tredegar
15	Sirhowy	3	Chartist Way, Ty Newydd, Trefil			1	Trefil
16	Georgetown	2	Southend, St James Way	1	St James Way x2 Southend ball area		
	Total	7		2		2	
	Overall Totals	53		12		9	

Current Play Areas per Ward									
Playgrounds					Ball Court		Wheeled Sports		
Ward	Current No. of Playgrounds	No. of Children 0-14	Future Provision 1 per 250 children	Name of Playground	Current Number of Ball Courts	Name of Ball Court	Current Number of Wheeled Sports	Name of Wheeled Sports	
Beaufort	3	636	2	Beaufort Rise, Primitive Place, Garnlydan	1	Garnlydan			
Cwm	3	623	2	William Street, Cwm Welfare, Hillside Terrace	1	William Street	1	Cwm Welfare	
Badminton	1	438	1	Glyncoed	1	Glyncoed			
Rassau	2	527	2	New Rassau, Old Rassau	1	Old Rassau	1	New Rassau	
Ebbw Vale North	2	773	2	Letchworth Road, Newtown		Letchworth has ball area	1	Hilltop	
Ebbw Vale South	4	785	3	Coronation Park, Garden City, Pennant Street, Tylwyn					
Total	15	3,782	12		4		3		
Brynmawr	4	925	3	Brynmawr Rec, Brynawel, Brynmawr Welfare Junior, Brynmawr Welfare Toddler	1	Gurnos	1	Brynmawr Welfare	
Total	4	925	3		1		1		

Current Play Areas per Ward									
Playgrounds					Ball Court		Wheeled Sports		
		No. of Children 0-14		Future Provision 1 per 250 children					
Ward	Current No. of Playgrounds	MYE 2016			Name of Playground	Current Number of Ball Courts	Name of Ball Court	Current Number of Wheeled Sports	Name of Wheeled Sports
Abertillery	2	672		2	Gelli Crug, Vivian Street	1	Gelli Crug	1	Abertillery
Six Bells	2	403		1	Warm Turn, Six Bells Park	1	Six Bells Park		
Llanhilleth	7	766		3	*Woodland Terrace, Llanhilleth Park, Oxford Place, Soffryd, *Troy Road, Aberbeeg Welfare, Brynithel	1	Brynithel		
Cwmthillery	5	797		3	Roseheyworth, Abertillery Park, Jim Owen, Woodland Field, Bournville	1	Jim Owen	1	Roseheyworth
Total	16	2,638		9		4		2	

Current Play Areas per Ward									
Playgrounds					Ball Court		Wheeled Sports		
Ward	Current No. of Playgrounds	No. of Children 0-14	Future Provision 1 per 250 children	Name of Playground	Current Number of Ball Courts	Name of Ball Court	Current Number of Wheeled Sports	Name of Wheeled Sports	
Nantyglo and Blaina	11	1562	6	Banna Park, Vincent Avenue, Coed Cae, *Garn Cross, Waunheulog, Central Park, Glanstruth, *Brynheulog, Maeshafod, Duffryn Park, West Side	1	Banna Park	1	Blaina	
Total	11	1,562	6		1		1		
Central & West	2	957	3	Bedwellty Pits, Brangwyn Cefn Golau	1	Brangwyn Cefn Golau	1	Tredegar	
Sirhowy	3	854	3	Chartist Way, Ty Newydd, Trefil			1	Trefil	
Georgetown	2	588	2	Southend, St James Way	1	St James Way x2 Southend ball area			
Total	7	2,399	8		2		2		
Overall Total	53	11,306	38		12		9		

Hi We will be firstly hosting Burbage choir from Sheffield in June 2019. A party of approx 40. We would like to provide them with a buffet lunch on the Saturday they arrive at Abertillery this is a reciprocal visit as we the male and the ladies Orpheus visited in 2016 and we're treated to a buffet.

Our selves and the ladies Orpheus. Would provide this proposed buffet on a self catering basis at the Ebenezer church So would expect to spend around £150/ £200

Also in September we are hosting a choir from Stevanger Norway again this will be a party of approx 40 we have discovered a link with the son and a nephew of the secretary of our founder choir who sings in this choir. This will be a more formal weekend with memorabilia etc being presented to the Abertillery Orpheus by the family there will be a few dignitaries attending yet to be confirmed but we wish to provide a buffet again but at the Foundry public house where we have to pay around £10 /head which equates to approx £400 plus the hire of their function room £60 in all both events will cost in total £600/ 700 ourselves and the ladies Orpheus would contribute to the cost so we would request the community counsel assist us with 50 percent

I will keep the council informed as things begin to develop for the September visit of the Norwegian choir. as I would think at this time the community council will need to be represented if you require any further info I would be happy to meet the council at a later date when things start to firm up regards

Sent from Outlook

From: Clerk ALCC <clerk.alcc@gmail.com>

Sent: 03 December 2018 12:48:06

To:

Subject: Re: Fw: Norwegian choir visit to Abertillery

Hi

I put your email to the Council on 21 November 2018. They asked me to write back to you, asking you to specify what amount of funding you are seeking from ALCC and what you plan to spend it on (in more detail)? Please let me know some specifics and I will report back to Council as soon as possible.

Best wishes

Richard Gwinell
Clerk to the Council

From:

Sent: 04 October 2018 17:56:36

To:

Subject: Norwegian choir visit to Abertillery

Dear councillors

Both Abertillery Orpheus choirs are jointly hosting visiting choir from Stevanger Norway



Tillery Dragons Netball

47 Granville Street
Abertillery
Blaenau Gwent
NP13 1NR

TREASURER: Mrs Julie Hooper
Tel: 07885643382 / 01495211948

4th January 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

Tillery Dragons Junior Netball Club is increasing in numbers every season from the age of 5 - 14, training at Abertillery Leisure Centre on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays every week and participating in monthly league tournaments.

We are currently organising a trip for approx 35 of the older girls to a Netball Festival, Disneyland Paris in October half term where the girls will take part in a netball tournament over three mornings as well as coaching sessions from England Netball players. They will be accompanied by our qualified coaches. With the success that England Netball have had over the last 12 months hopefully our coaches and girls will find the coaching sessions an advantage and be able to bring their knowledge gained back to the club. They will of course enjoy some free time around Disney during the evenings.

We are hoping to arrange some fundraising events during the next couple of months to help towards the costs. As the girls will be representing the Community of Abertillery as well as playing for the Club we were wondering if there is any Community Funding available to help purely towards the costs for the girls.

I would be grateful if you would consider the club if there are any community funds available for these circumstances to help towards the costs.

If you need any further information to support our request then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks in advance for your support.


Julie Hooper
Treasurer/Secretary

Community Clerk
Abertillery Community Council
Mitre Street
Abertillery
NP13 1AE