

To: The Clerk
 Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council
 Council Offices
 Mitre Street
 Abertillery
 NP13 1AE



Tel: 01495 217323
 email: clerk@abertilleryandllanhilleth-wcc.gov.uk

APPLICATION FOR THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR ON ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Full name	
Home address incl. postcode	
Home telephone number	
Mobile number	
Email	

It is a condition of being a Community Councillor for Abertillery and Llanhilleth that your phone number and email address (an official email address will be supplied) be made public via notice boards and website.

LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR BEING A COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR QUALIFICATIONS

(To qualify you must be able to answer 'Yes' to both of the questions below)

Are you a British citizen, a Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of a European Union country?	Yes / No
Are you aged 18 or over?	Yes / No

(To qualify you must be able to answer 'Yes' to at least one of the questions below)

Are you on the electoral register for a ward within the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area?	Yes / No
Have you lived either in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area, or within three miles of its boundary, for at least a year?	Yes / No
Have you been the owner or tenant of land in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area for at least a year?	Yes / No
Have you had your only or main place of work in the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area for at least a year?	Yes / No

DISQUALIFICATIONS

(You must be able to answer No to all of the questions below to be eligible to serve as a councillor)

Are you the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order?	Yes / No
Have you within the last five years been convicted of an offence in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man which resulted in a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of three months or more without the option of a fine?	Yes / No
Are you disqualified by order of a court from being a member of a local authority?	Yes / No

With reference to the Person Specification, please tell us something about the skills that you feel you will bring to the Council plus details of, for example, professional qualifications and financial or project management expertise.

As a committed community advocate with roots in Blaenau Gwent and over a decade of experience working at local and national levels, I believe I offer a rare blend of strategic vision, grassroots understanding, and creative leadership.

Currently, I serve as Community Development Officer for Menter Iaith Blaenau Gwent, where I support people across the county to access and enjoy the Welsh language in informal, inclusive ways. I design and deliver community projects that foster pride in place and bring people together—from storytelling trails and “talking” phone boxes to public events rooted in local history and culture. Prior to this, I held the same role in Newport with Menter Iaith Casnewydd, promoting Cymraeg across diverse communities and building partnerships aligned with Cymraeg 2050.

I also serve as a governor at Ysgol Gynradd Bro Teyrnnon, where I contribute to the strategic leadership of the school with a focus on standards, policy, and the integration of diwylliant Cymreig (Welsh culture) into school life.

Before my transition into the public and third sectors, I spent several years as a national voice in Welsh arts and culture. As founder and Operations Manager of **Minty’s Gig Guide CIC**, I helped build a 20,000-strong community dedicated to championing live music across Wales. I coordinated major campaigns, supported venue sustainability, and increased cultural participation—especially among younger audiences. My work was recognised by roles with **Independent Venue Week**, **BBC Horizons/Gorwelion**, and **BBC Radio Wales**, where I contributed to campaigns and programmes reaching millions across the country.

Whether in broadcasting, education, events or community development, I’ve always believed in the power of people—and I bring that same energy, empathy, and dedication to every role I take on.

I am an excellent communicator in both Welsh and English, with experience in public engagement, stakeholder relationships, and collaborative working. I’m a good listener, a confident speaker, and I thrive when working in a team to move projects forward. I am committed to lifelong learning and would welcome all training and support available to councillors.

I am also flexible with my availability and more than happy to attend meetings and events in the daytime, evenings or weekends as needed. If given the opportunity to join the Council, I would bring with me a unique combination of local insight, cultural leadership, and a proven ability to make things happen.

Please tell us something about the life experience that you will bring to the Council. Examples may include previous local government experience, work in the voluntary or charitable sector, business or trade union experience etc

I bring a lifetime of lived experience rooted in Blaenau Gwent, combined with a broad career across the cultural, voluntary, and public sectors. Having grown up in the area, I understand both the challenges and strengths of our communities—from the long-standing barriers faced by local people to the resilience and pride that defines the valleys. This perspective grounds everything I do.

Professionally, I have worked across Wales in roles that centre around community voice and cultural access. I currently work as a Community Development Officer for Menter Iaith Blaenau Gwent, where I support people across the county to use and enjoy Cymraeg in everyday life, particularly in areas where access to Welsh has historically been limited. I also have experience working with Menter Iaith Casnewydd and serve as a school governor at Ysgol Gynradd Bro Teyrnnon, where I contribute to educational standards, policy, and cultural provision.

Before this, I founded and ran Minty's Gig Guide CIC—Wales' leading grassroots music platform—helping to amplify local venues and artists and support a national community of over 20,000 people. Through this, I gained hands-on experience in organisational leadership, volunteer coordination, and campaign management, working alongside charities, independent businesses, and creative freelancers. My work included campaigns with Independent Venue Week, BBC Cymru Wales, and BBC Radio Wales, all focused on supporting cultural infrastructure and social connection.

This wide-ranging experience has given me a practical understanding of how to build partnerships, support communities, manage projects, and bring people together around shared goals. I've worked with schools, charities, volunteers, local authorities, Welsh Government-funded initiatives, and national broadcasters. I also understand the importance of representation, clear communication, and public accountability.

At the heart of it all is a desire to make a difference locally—to help people feel proud of where they live, listened to, and supported. I believe these values align closely with what the Council stands for, and I would bring energy, integrity, and a strong grounding in local life to the role.

Please outline why you are interested in being a community councillor.

I'm passionate about Blaenau Gwent because it's where I'm from. I care deeply about the people, culture, and future of this area—and I believe that local voices should be at the heart of local decision-making. Becoming a community councillor would allow me to use my experience and energy to make a meaningful difference and to represent residents with fairness, creativity, and commitment.

Throughout my career, I've worked in roles that focus on empowering people, building stronger communities, and celebrating local identity. Whether through my work with Menter Iaith Blaenau Gwent, as a school governor, or through grassroots cultural projects, I've seen how much can be achieved when local people are supported and listened to. I want to help create spaces where that kind of participation and collaboration is encouraged and valued.

I'm particularly interested in improving access to culture, language, and opportunities—especially for communities who may feel overlooked or disconnected. I believe local councils have a vital role to play in connecting people, protecting services, and creating pride in place. I'd be proud to contribute to that work as part of a team.

This role feels like a natural step in my journey of serving and standing up for my community—not just in words, but in action.

Your signature:

Date: 16/07/2025

Email your completed application form to clerk@abertilleryandllanhilleth-wcc.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can post (or hand-deliver) the completed form to The Clerk, Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council, Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery, NP13 1AE

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Full name	[REDACTED]
Home address incl. postcode	[REDACTED]
Home telephone number	N/A
Mobile number	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]

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AS A LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER, I HAVE SKILLS, IN PLANNING, MARKETING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS.

I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY GROUPS, INCLUDING ABERTINERY EXCELSIORS FOOTBALL CLUB, FRINDLAU TYLER AND ABERTINERY BUSINESS FORUM FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS. THIS HAS GIVEN ME THE SKILL SET AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE EXPECTATIONS OF A VIBRANT COMMUNITY. TO THAT END I HAVE A VERY GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF LOCAL AFFAIRS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

Please tell us something about the life experience that you will bring to the Council. Examples may include previous local government experience, work in the voluntary or charitable sector, business or trade union experience etc

I HAVE WORKED IN COMMUNITY GROUPS FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS, WHICH HAS GIVEN ME A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF A CONSTITUTIONAL STANDING ON OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL MATTERS. DURING THIS TIME I HAVE HAD NUMEROUS MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS OF BLAENAU GWENT COUNCIL, WHICH HAS GIVEN ME AN INSIGHT AND KNOWLEDGE ON THEIR OPERATIONAL FUNCTIONS.

Please outline why you are interested in being a community councillor.

AS A CWMTILLERY RESIDENT, I AM PRIVILEGED TO LIVE IN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL AREA, I WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN HELPING CWMTILLERY LAKES AND SURROUNDS BECOME A TOURIST DESTINATION AREA, THUS BENEFIT THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

SECONDLY, I RUN A BUSINESS IN THE TOWN CENTRE, SUBSEQUENTLY, I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE ABERTILLERY PLACE MAKING PLAN.

FINALLY, I ACKNOWLEDGE WE HOST SOME WONDERFUL EVENTS AROUND THE TOWN, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ASSIST IN THESE EVENTS AND FUTURE PROJECTS THAT MAY DEVELOP

Your signature 

Date: 15/07/2025

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