Tredegar Town Council



Annual Report

April 2021 to March 2022



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Mayor's Foreword

I am delighted to introduce the first Annual Report of Tredegar Town Council. On behalf of myself, as Mayor for 2021/2022, and Members of Tredegar Town Council, I would like to express our sincere thanks and congratulate all the professionals, volunteers and community groups for their dedication and hard work. Your commitment has been commendable and this has been more than evident during the past year.

The civic year began with restrictions in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic and, throughout that period, the Council faced challenges in carrying out its functions. It was a year of continuous transition, as Government regulations were subject to change, requiring Council to regularly review its' operations and activities, as we moved towards the easing of restrictions throughout 2021 and a return to normality.

As Mayor, I was pleased to support the community in every way possible, whilst adhering to legislation, and undertook as many activities permitted within restrictions, i.e. visiting various groups to present a grant; I had the pleasure of visiting two residents on the occasion of their 100th birthday and a couple celebrating their Diamond Wedding anniversary; attended a church service commemorating 100 years of the Royal British Legion; attended an event by Kidz R Us, and also the Children's International Film Festival of Wales - a fabulous event, organised by Cymru Creations Film & Media. This had been an excellent event, held over two days, and it had been pleasing to see 'our little town' of Tredegar hosting an International Film Festival of such renown. As Mayor, I attended the Awards Ceremony and was overwhelmed by the talent of these children - from around the world - and the children of Tredegar, now performing on the national stage.

To you - the residents and community of Tredegar, please accept our most sincere gratitude as we move forward together.

Cllr Gaynor James Town Mayor

Introduction:

Tredegar Town Council was founded in 1974 when the Tredegar Urban District Council was disbanded; over those years many clubs, societies and other organisations have benefited from the grants that Tredegar Town Council has provided. Throughout the year, the Town Council worked diligently on behalf of the local community on a variety of issues. Tredegar Town Councillors continued to work on behalf of, and in partnership with, groups and individuals within the community. This report highlights the main achievements and activities of the Council during that period.

Organisation:

Tredegar Town Council has eighteen voluntary Councillors elected by the residents of Tredegar. The Council is split into three Wards - Central and West, Sirhowy and Georgetown:

Central & West

David Howells	Gaynor James	David Jones	Bernard Willis
Jacqueline Thomas	Mark Turner	Haydn Trollope	Sharon Trollope

Georgetown

Allan Jones Kevin Phillips Sean Rees Gerran Walters

Sirhowy

Diane Rowberry Malcolm Cross Phillip Prosser Ellen Jones

Tommy Smith Alyson Tippings

(N.B. Candidates subject to change due to Local Authority elections for County Borough and Town / Community Councils on 5th May, 2022)

Committee Membership:

Civic Committee - all Members of Council

Performance Review Sub-Committee - all Members of Council

Civic Sub-Committee - 9 Members

Councillors T. Smith (Leader) (Chair), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), D. Howells, E. Jones, K. Phillips, D. Rowberry, H. Trollope

Events Sub-Committee - 9 Members

Councillors M. Turner (Chair), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), A. Jones, K. Phillips, J. Thomas, H. Trollope

Heritage Sub-Committee (encompassing Bedwellty House and Park, the Assembly Room Picture Gallery, Tredegar War Memorials and Tredegar Town Clock) with plenary powers up to £500.00 - 10 Members

Councillors A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader) (Chair), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), M. Cross, D. Howells, A. Jones, P. Prosser, H. Trollope, G. Walters

Finance & Staffing Sub-Committee - 9 Members

Councillors H. Trollope (Chair), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), D. Howells, D. Jones, E. Jones, G. Walters

Appeals Committee - 6 Members

Councillors M. Cross (Chair), A. Jones, P. Prosser, D. Rowberry, S. Trollope, B. Willis

Policy Sub-Committee - all Members of Council

Community, Youth and International Sub-Committee

Councillors A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader) (Chair), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), E. Jones, D. Rowberry, H. Trollope, S. Trollope

'Tredegar Live' / One Voice Wales Climate Change Adaptation Programme

Councillors D. Jones (Chair), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), A. Jones, D. Rowberry

Tredegar Public Facilities Sub-Committee

(To incorporate Tredegar W/C Facilities the Deighton Playing fields and Sirhowy Community Garden)

Councillors B. Willis (Chair), G. James (Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), M. Cross, H. Trollope; A. Jones (Reserve)

Publicity Sub-Committee

Councillors S. Trollope (Chair), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), E. Jones; Vacancy (Reserve) **Budget Working Group**

H. Trollope (Finance & Staffing Sub Chair), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), G. Walters **Allotment Association**

Councillors A. Jones (Chair), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), K. Phillips; D. Jones (Reserve)

Planning

Councillor P. Prosser (Sirhowy Ward); A. Jones (Reserve)

Councillor K. Phillips (Georgetown Ward); G. Walters (Reserve)

Councillor M. Turner (Chair) (Central & West); D. Howells (Reserve)

** Town Council representatives – Consultee-only status, as delegated by the Local Authority

Members also attended meetings as representative 'Delegates to Outside Bodies' in respect of the following organisations:

Quarterly Liaison Meeting / Joint Committee of Local Councils

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), D. Howells, Ms. C. Price (Clerk); H. Trollope (Reserve)

Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), G. James (Mayor), E. Jones, Clerk; M. Cross (Reserve)

One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), G. James (Mayor), M. Cross, H. Trollope

Tredegar Twinning Association

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), G. James (Mayor), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), E. Jones, Clerk

School Governing Bodies

Bryn Bach Primary - D. Jones

Deighton Primary - S. Trollope

Georgetown Primary - G. Walters

Glanhowy Primary - A. Jones

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary - T. Smith

Blaenau Gwent CAB

Councillors E. Jones, H. Trollope (Reserve)

Tredegar Business Forum

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), H. Trollope

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum

Councillors P. Prosser, T. Smith (Leader), B. Willis; K. Phillips (Reserve)

VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative

Councillor T. Smith (Leader).

Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund

Councillor T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader)

The Council operated at the maximum capacity allowed during 2021/2022, within the restrictions stipulated in respect of the Covid-19 pandemic, to ensure the continuation of Council business. Meetings were held on a hybrid basis, remotely via Microsoft Teams and – when appropriate – physically in the Council Chamber.

Meetings of Council, its' Sub-Committees and Working Parties

Annual Meeting - 26th May, 2021

Civic Meeting of Council – 2nd June, 2021

Ordinary Meeting of Council – 16th June, 2021

Public Facilities Sub-Committee – 6th July, 2021

Civic Sub-Committee – 7th July, 2021

Civic Meeting of Council - 7th July, 2021

Public Facilities Sub-Committee - 13th July, 2021

Performance Review Sub-Committee – 21st July, 2021

Ordinary Meeting of Council - 21st July, 2021

Public Facilities Sub-Committee – 4th August, 2021

Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee – 4th August, 2021

Publicity Sub-Committee – 1st September, 2021

Civic Meeting of Council – 1st September, 2021

Public Facilities Sub-Committee – 15th September, 2021

Ordinary Meeting of Council – 15th September, 2021

Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee – 4th October, 2021

Civic Meeting of Council – 6th October, 2021

Events Sub-Committee – 7th October, 2021

Events Sub-Committee – 20th October, 2021

Performance Review Sub-Committee – 20th October, 2021

Ordinary Meeting of Council – 20th October, 2021

Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 27th October, 2021

Events Sub-Committee – 3rd November, 2021

Civic Meeting of Council – 3rd November, 2021

Events Sub-Committee - 17th November, 2021

Ordinary Meeting of Council – 17th November, 2021

Events Sub-Committee – 24th November, 2021

Budget Working Group – 29th November, 2021

Civic Sub-Committee – 1st December, 2021

Civic Meeting of Council - 1st December, 2021

Events Sub-Committee – 15th December, 2021

Ordinary Meeting of Council – 15th December, 2021

Performance Review Sub-Committee – 5th January, 2022

Civic Meeting of Council – 5th January, 2022

Performance Review Sub-Committee – 19th January, 2022

Ordinary Meeting of Council – 19th January, 2022

Events Sub-Committee – 2nd February, 2022

Civic Meeting of Council – 2nd February, 2022

Policy Sub-Committee – 16th February, 2022

Ordinary Meeting of Council – 16th February, 2022

Events Sub-Committee – 2nd March, 2022

Civic Meeting of Council – 2nd March, 2022

Events Sub-Committee – 16th March, 2022

Ordinary Meeting of Council – 16th March, 2022

Council's Aims and Objectives:

The Council's key aims are:

- To act as a link between public sector organisations and the community on a range of subjects including
 - community facilities
 - community safety, health and wellbeing
 - the environment
 - planning and licensing
- To represent the views of the community in an open and transparent manner
- To continually identify and monitor the needs of the community in order to influence services and policies
- To provide a wide range of advice, information and support for its' constituents and local community groups / individuals
- To appropriately liaise with other partner organisations to address any concerns / issues to a satisfactory conclusion
- To support community projects and groups
- To deliver activities in a sustainable way and encourage sustainable practices throughout our community
- To engage with the community via social media, i.e. designated website,
 Facebook and Twitter, regular meetings and (as appropriate) consultation
- To support tourism in encouraging visitors to Tredegar as a whole

Training Plan 2022

Topic	Required	Timescale
Code of Conduct	All Councillors / Clerk	Within six months of
	** Mandatory	being elected
Understanding the Law	All Councillors / Clerk	Within six months of
		being elected
Chairing Skills	All Chairs / Clerk	Within six months of
		being elected
The Council Meeting	All Councillors / Clerk	Within six months of
		being elected
Local Government	Finance Sub-	Within six months of
Finance	Committee Members /	being appointed to the
	Clerk / RFO	Sub-Committee
The Council	All Councillors / Clerk	Once in the Council
		Term
The Councillor	All Councillors / Clerk	Once in the Council
F" .: 0: "	0. "	Term
Effective Staff	Staffing Sub-Committee	Within six months of
Management	Members	being elected
The Council as an	Staffing Sub-Committee	Within six months of
Employer	Members	being elected
Advanced Local	Finance Sub-	By the end of second
Government Finance	Committee Members / Clerk / RFO	year of Council Term
Introduction to	Two Councillors	Once during Council
Community Engagement		term
Community Engagement Part 2	Two Councillors	Once during Council term
Health & Safety	Two Councillors	Once during Council
Troum a Janoty	, in Geamener	term
Creating a Community	Two Councillors	Once during Council
Plan		term
Information Management	Two Councillors	Once during Council
		term
Equality & Diversity	Two Councillors	Once during Council
		term
Mediation and	Two Councillors	Once during Council
Conciliation		term
Planning	Two Councillors	Once during Council
		term

N.B: Cost of Training to be added as undertaken –optional, unless stated Otherwise: Members to attend 'as and when required'

It is recommended that elected Members and staff attend the appropriate training, as identified in the Training Plan

Assets and Services:

The Council holds a comprehensive Asset Register, detailing assets of any value, which is a 'live' document continually monitored and updated by the appropriate Officer:

Town Clock

A.B. Roundels

Cenotaph

Commemorative plaques for Cenotaph

Gates, Fences, Street Furniture

Civic Chains

Assembly Room Picture Gallery

Waterford Vase in Display Case

Battle of Tredegar Hill Memorabilia

Bronze Bust of Aneurin Bevan

Plaster Bust of Lord Tredegar

A.B. Bronze Tablet

Other Memorabilia and gifts

Other office Equipment plus two trolleys

PA System (Cost) plus two microphones

Sofa

Consort chain

CCTV system at Public Conveniences

Community Benches (x 3)

Mayor's Parlour Oak Furniture

Mayor's Parlour Blinds

Road signs

Road signs/site signs

New office laptops/associated hardware

Lectern

The following outlines some services and responsibilities within Council remit:

Town Clock

Built in 1858, the Town Clock is a Grade II Listed Structure; the Clock tower is 72 feet high and the pillar is composed of cast iron. The Council undertook significant improvements to the Town Clock during a maintenance project in 2021, which entailed refurbishment of the exterior, upgrading to the lighting and reinstating of the Rooster weathervane. The surrounds of the Clock are planted every season with colourful flowers to make it an even more attractive feature.

War Memorials

The Council is responsible for three War memorials - these are

- the Remembrance Gates to Bedwellty Park
- the Cenotaph, surrounded by the names of Tredegar's heroes who fell in the two World Wars, has Listed Structure status
- the unique Burma Memorial with a casket containing earth from Tredegar Hill in the Arrakan in Burma.

WWI Memorial benches

These are located at Commercial Street, Peacehaven and Sirhowy Village Green; each year a Remembrance Service is held at the Commemorative Benches, with the placing of poppy bouquet

Public Toilets

Tredegar Town Council was proactive and responded to the needs of the community in taking over management of public toilet provision in the town centre, following the cessation of this facility by the Local Authority. Maintenance and operation of the Public Conveniences, situated at Gwent Shopping Centre, has been provided via financial support of the Town Council, assisted by local businesses located within the shopping precinct, and renovations were undertaken to improve the facility with the refurbishment of the Ladies / Gents and Disabled Toilets in September 2021.

Deighton playing field and Sirhowy Community Garden

Retention of open / green spaces for access by the public is of utmost importance to the community, particularly bearing in mind the loss of so many facilities for sporting groups – both for training and 'match' fixtures.

Basic Financial Information:

Budgeting and Precept

The budget setting process took place over two Full Council meetings; whilst also incorporating previous discussions from the Performance Review meetings, Finance Committee meetings and Budget Working Party. As with other financial years, all aspects of the Council's budget were scrutinised and evaluated to reduce costs and make efficiency savings while ensuring that its core functions were adequately resourced. Also,

- Council continued with the decision to remain at the current level of services it offers and would not be looking towards accepting further devolved services.
- Considered the impact of Covid 19 restrictions on Council's activities and events.
- Council discussed any potential projects for 2021/22, taking into consideration as to whether they were vital/necessary/emergency and if sufficient funds were available to complete them without there being an adverse impact upon and depleting the level of Reserves.

Council recognises the importance of providing a best value service and keeping costs down; service providers and contracts are reviewed to ensure best value.

Income and use of Reserves covers a percentage of the anticipated annual expenditure with the remainder met by the Precept which is borne by Council Tax payers and levied, by the local authority, on chargeable dwellings in Tredegar.

When setting the Precept, Members had also considered the impact of Covid 19 on the community and the increased financial struggles residents were incurring.

At the Ordinary meeting of 20th January 2021, Council agreed a Precept of £138,401, a standstill Precept, which Council has actioned for the previous thirteen years.

Financial Statements at 31st March 2022

As at the date of this report, Council continues to have two external audits (31/03/2021 and 31/03/2022) outstanding. All information, and supplemental queries, were supplied to the external auditor within the statutory timescale with the delay in supplying an audit opinion being that of the external auditor. Therefore, the Financial Statements below are unaudited.

N.B. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

2020-2021	Income	2021-2022
138,401	Precept	138,401
0	Christmas Lights Grant	0
0	Function Income	0
0	Night Out scheme	0
20	Memorabilia	20
0	Bandstand	0
0	Prizes	0
266	Bank Interest	27
14,798	VAT	17,798
<u>7,767</u>	Other Income	<u>10,072</u>
<u>161,252</u>	Total Income	<u>166,318</u>
	Expenditure	
	General Administration:	
32,847	- Staff salaries	34,423
20,599	 National Insurance/PAYE 	21,183
0	- Officers Expenses	0
250	- Training	4,258
0	- Telephone	0
0	- Publications	0
1,501	 Stationery/Equipment 	1,476
338	 Postage/Petty Cash 	754
2,068	- Insurances	1,973
2,759	 Fees to Associations 	2,844
211	- Bank Charges	324
531	 General Administration 	559
0	Members Expenses/Allowances	150
650	Senior Allowance (Leader/Mayor)	500
	Inauguration – New 2021/22	0
	Mayor's Civic Budget – New 2021/22	0
0	Election Expenses	0
1,760	Audit Fees	1,475
0	Conference Fees	170
	Town Clock:	
1,018	- Energy	1,244
	10	

564	- Insurance	536
0	- Maintenance	23,176
1,200	- Garden surround	1,480
0	- Celebrations	0
416	 Annual Clock Maintenance 	398
	Community Provisions:	
26,498	- Public Conveniences/Green Space 2	25,863
	N.B. Green Spaces split separate 2021/22	
	- Green Spaces	8,188
200	- Special Projects	140
0	- Park Concerts	0
0	 Civic Presentations 	35
0	 Environmental Improvements 	0
	Grants:	
-300	- Churches s137	1,500
1,600	- Sporting/Cultural	5,200
700	- s137	180
1,024	Presentations	895
27,606	<u> </u>	29,081
1,525	War Memorial	1,625
50	Allotments	50
11,016	VAT	7,336
<u>699</u>	Publicity	<u>687</u>
<u>137,330</u>	Total Expenditure <u>18</u>	<u>37,703</u>
2020-2021	Cumulative Fund Balance 2021	-2022
2020-2021 250 689		1 -2022 74 611
250,689	01.04.20 - Opening Balance - 01.04.21 27	4,611
250,689 <u>161,252</u>	01.04.20 – Opening Balance – 01.04.21 27 Add: Total Income <u>16</u>	74,611 66,318
250,689 <u>161,252</u> 411,941	01.04.20 – Opening Balance – 01.04.21 27 Add: Total Income <u>16</u>	74,611 66,318 10,929
250,689 <u>161,252</u> 411,941 - <u>137,330</u>	01.04.20 – Opening Balance – 01.04.21 27 Add: Total Income 16 Less: Expenditure -18	74,611 66,318 10,929 37,703
250,689 <u>161,252</u> 411,941	01.04.20 – Opening Balance – 01.04.21 27 Add: Total Income 16 Less: Expenditure -18	74,611 66,318 10,929
250,689 161,252 411,941 -137,330 274,611	01.04.20 – Opening Balance – 01.04.21 27 Add: Total Income 16 Less: Expenditure -18 31.03.21 – Closing Balance – 31.03.22 25 Current Assets	74,611 66,318 40,929 37,703 53,226
250,689 <u>161,252</u> 411,941 - <u>137,330</u>	01.04.20 – Opening Balance – 01.04.21 27 Add: Total Income 16 Less: Expenditure -18 31.03.21 – Closing Balance – 31.03.22 25 Current Assets 25 Cash 25	74,611 66,318 10,929 37,703
250,689 161,252 411,941 -137,330 274,611	01.04.20 – Opening Balance – 01.04.21 27 Add: Total Income 16 Less: Expenditure -18 31.03.21 – Closing Balance – 31.03.22 25 Current Assets Cash 25 Creditors	74,611 66,318 40,929 37,703 53,226
250,689 161,252 411,941 -137,330 274,611 274,611	01.04.20 – Opening Balance – 01.04.21 Add: Total Income Less: Expenditure 31.03.21 – Closing Balance – 31.03.22 Current Assets Cash Creditors Miscellaneous/Trade Creditors	74,611 66,318 10,929 37,703 53,226 53,226
250,689 161,252 411,941 -137,330 274,611	01.04.20 – Opening Balance – 01.04.21 Add: Total Income Less: Expenditure 31.03.21 – Closing Balance – 31.03.22 Current Assets Cash Creditors Miscellaneous/Trade Creditors	74,611 66,318 40,929 37,703 53,226
250,689 161,252 411,941 -137,330 274,611 274,611	01.04.20 – Opening Balance – 01.04.21 Add: Total Income Less: Expenditure 31.03.21 – Closing Balance – 31.03.22 Current Assets Cash Creditors Miscellaneous/Trade Creditors	74,611 66,318 10,929 37,703 53,226 53,226
250,689 161,252 411,941 -137,330 274,611 274,611 0 274,611	01.04.20 – Opening Balance – 01.04.21 Add: Total Income Less: Expenditure 31.03.21 – Closing Balance – 31.03.22 Current Assets Cash Creditors Miscellaneous/Trade Creditors Represented by:	74,611 66,318 40,929 37,703 53,226 53,226
250,689 161,252 411,941 -137,330 274,611 274,611	01.04.20 – Opening Balance – 01.04.21 Add: Total Income Less: Expenditure 31.03.21 – Closing Balance – 31.03.22 Current Assets Cash Creditors Miscellaneous/Trade Creditors Represented by:	74,611 66,318 10,929 37,703 53,226 53,226
250,689 161,252 411,941 -137,330 274,611 274,611 0 274,611	01.04.20 – Opening Balance – 01.04.21 Add: Total Income Less: Expenditure 31.03.21 – Closing Balance – 31.03.22 Current Assets Cash Creditors Miscellaneous/Trade Creditors Represented by: General Reserves (Contingency) Earmarked:	74,611 66,318 40,929 37,703 53,226 53,226 63,226
250,689 161,252 411,941 -137,330 274,611 274,611 0 274,611	01.04.20 – Opening Balance – 01.04.21 Add: Total Income Less: Expenditure 31.03.21 – Closing Balance – 31.03.22 Current Assets Cash Creditors Miscellaneous/Trade Creditors Represented by: General Reserves (Contingency) Earmarked:	74,611 66,318 40,929 37,703 53,226 53,226 0 53,226
250,689 161,252 411,941 -137,330 274,611 274,611 30,000	01.04.20 – Opening Balance – 01.04.21 Add: Total Income Less: Expenditure 31.03.21 – Closing Balance – 31.03.22 Current Assets Cash Creditors Miscellaneous/Trade Creditors Represented by: General Reserves (Contingency) Earmarked: - Members Attendance Allowance - Devolved Services	74,611 66,318 40,929 37,703 53,226 53,226 63,226 80,000 11,880 0
250,689 161,252 411,941 -137,330 274,611 274,611 0 274,611 30,000	O1.04.20 – Opening Balance – 01.04.21 Add: Total Income Less: Expenditure 31.03.21 – Closing Balance – 31.03.22 Current Assets Cash Creditors Miscellaneous/Trade Creditors Represented by: General Reserves (Contingency) Earmarked: - Members Attendance Allowance - Devolved Services - Accommodation (1 year)	74,611 66,318 40,929 37,703 53,226 53,226 63,226 30,000 11,880 0 21,520
250,689 161,252 411,941 -137,330 274,611 274,611 30,000 0 21,520	O1.04.20 – Opening Balance – 01.04.21 Add: Total Income Less: Expenditure 31.03.21 – Closing Balance – 31.03.22 Current Assets Cash Creditors Miscellaneous/Trade Creditors Represented by: General Reserves (Contingency) Earmarked: - Members Attendance Allowance - Devolved Services - Accommodation (1 year)	74,611 66,318 40,929 37,703 53,226 53,226 63,226 80,000 11,880 0

5,000	 Office refurbishment 	5,000
13,500	- Green Spaces (2 years)	13,500
4,500	- Allotments (3 sites)	4,500
10,000	- Town Clock	10,000
42,000	 Contractual Maintenance (toilets) 	21,000
<u>128,091</u>	Reserves	<u>125,826</u>
274,611		253,226

Grants and Donations:

The Council has a Grants Policy and grants forms, to be completed by applicants, in place. There are two types of grant forms: A general form for use by cultural and sporting associations and a specific form for Churches/Chapels. The Council's Grants Policy stipulates for Churches/Chapels

"grants are not to be issued in relation to religious activities; for grants towards building upkeep, there must be evidence that the building is being utilised for other community activities i.e. coffee mornings, lunch clubs, playgroups. A grant form specifically for religious venues requests this information is formally identified/recorded as evidence of the community benefit."

The Council maintained its community grants budget and during the 2021/22 financial year, Council approved grants totalling £7030 to a variety of worthwhile associations all of which carry out valuable and important work within the community. A list of those who received grants or donations is listed below.

The impact of Covid 19 has still been felt during the past year, the level of expenditure has been lower than in years pre-covid and Council has been made aware of some associations that have disbanded as a result of the pandemic.

Cultural and Sporting

2167 Squadron ATC
Aneurin Leisure/Life Leisure Trust
Bedwellty Park Bowls Club
Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum
Coalfield Regeneration
Dukestown Football Club
FC Tredegar Juniors
FC Tredegar Seniors
Friends of Bedwellty Park
Gwent Defibbers
Hospice of the Valleys

Llangollen Musical Eisteddfod

Moose No. 1 Ladies Circle

Oak Football Club

Sirhowy Woodlands

Southend Allotments

Stocktonville Senior Citizens Association

Tredegar and District Floral Art Society

Tredegar Angling Club

Tredegar Business Forum

Tredegar Camera Club

Tredegar History and Archive Society

Tredegar Junior Netball

Church/Chapel (s.137) and others s.137

Chloe's Community Cupboard

Horeb Chapel: Christian Aid

Horeb Chapel

Retired Police Dogs of Gwent

St Georges Church

Sardis Chapel

Tredegar Methodist Church

Trinity Spiritualist.

Well-being:

Defibrillators in the community

There are defibrillators located throughout Tredegar, accessible to the public (some during 'opening' hours only):

The Cambrian Inn Betfred

The Moose Hall Tredegar Rugby Club

R & V, Ashvale Industrial Estate

St. George's Church Bethel Baptist Church

Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church

Woffington House Care Home Castle Street Dental Practice

Bupa Dental Care Tredegar Health Centre, Park Row

Glan-yr-Afon Surgery

The following defibrillators were presented by Tredegar Town Council: All Primary Schools within the Tredegar area and Tredegar Comprehensive School, Fresh Active Gym; and, The Mountain Air, Nantybwch

Environment:

Deighton playing field and Sirhowy Community Garden

Responsibility of the maintenance for this playing field transferred to Tredegar Town Council from the Local Authority and also the management, in partnership with various sporting organisations throughout Tredegar, to retain this facility for the benefit of the community. The facility is also available on request, subject to criteria for appropriate use, such as the Blaenau Gwent play sessions in the school holiday period; thus supporting the Local Authority. Sirhowy Community Garden was also maintained by Town Council, subject to a lease from the Local Authority.

Volunteers undertook a Local Places for Nature project on both sites - erecting trellis, placing of planters and carrying out planting, all included in a Starter Pack provided by Keep Wales Tidy. Grass cutting maintenance was provided by the Local Authority in accordance with the appropriate Service Level Agreement.

Allotments

Tredegar has three allotment sites, all based in the Georgetown Ward. The Southend Allotment site is owned by Tredegar Town Council, whilst Milefield and Vale View are rented from the Borough of Blaenau Gwent on an annual basis. Each allotment is managed by the cultivators of that site by the appropriate Allotment Association.

The maintenance of trees within these sites subject to a Tree Preservation Order remains the responsibility of Tredegar Town Council and is undertaken as and when required.

Woodland Trust 'The Charter'

Tredegar Town Council entered into the 'The Charter for Trees, Woods and People' which sets out "the modern-day relationship between people and trees, and a vision for a future where we can be stronger together". Since its' inception, over 600 communities, known as Charter Branches, joined the movement to implant Tree Charter principles within their area.

Activities undertaken and engagement with the community:

Calendar of Events

Highlights of the Council's activities and achievements from April 2021 up to 31st March, 2022, entailed:



Armed Forces Day – 27th June, 2021; and Aneurin Bevan Day – 4th July, 2021

Unfortunately, the Town Council agreed not to hold a physical event, in the interest of public safety and restrictions to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, but very much hoped to return to normal celebrations in 2022

However, the Town Council was proud to hoist the Armed Forces flag in support of military personnel – past and present – and share activities on social media for our younger community to raise awareness of 1) the dedication of our Armed Forces, and 2) Aneurin Bevan and the NHS

Merchant Navy Day 'Fly the Red Ensign' – 2nd September, 2021

It was agreed that a streamlined event be held to mark Merchant Navy Day, with invited guests only, a reduced Order of Service, readings and pre-recorded music





Battle of Britain – 15th September 2021 was the commemorative day and, as a mark of respect, Tredegar Town Council raised the flag at Bedwellty House

Remembrance Day Memorial service (support role only); and Memorial benches / placing of poppy bouquets – 11th November, 2021





Cairn Memorial walk – 13th November, 2021: a Service at the T2520 Memorial Cairn, Cefn yr Ystrad, Trefil – to mark the anniversary and commemorate those who lost their lives in that fateful crash





Remembrance Parade and Service –14th November, 2021 (support role only)

Christmas Light switch-on – 26th November, 2021

Each year, Tredegar Town Council host a Christmas Light switch-on event, with visitors from far and wide participating in activities - this display has been highly commended and is a fitting event to commence the festive season.



Mayor's Christmas visits to Nursing, Residential and Care Homes – December 2021





National Holocaust Memorial Day 2022 – 27th January, 2022

This year's Holocaust Memorial Day theme was 'One Day and, to commemorate, the Town Clock in The Circle, Tredegar, was illuminated in purple and white.

Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth – 14th March, 2022

Pupils from each of the Primary Schools in Tredegar joined with civic dignitaries at Bedwellty House and Park to celebrate Commonwealth Day 2022. The event organised by Tredegar Town Council saw the raising of the Commonwealth flag on Bedwellty House before a short service celebrating the Charter that unites fifty-three sovereign states around the world.



Council Contact details:

Tredegar Town Council

Bedwellty House

Bedwellty Park

Tredegar

NP22 3XN

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Email <u>tredegartc@btconnect.com</u>

Website www.tredegartowncouncil.co.uk

Social Media - Facebook and Twitter

For Information:

Town Clock

The Circle, Tredegar NP22 3PS

Public Conveniences

Gwent Shopping Centre, Commercial Street, Tredegar NP22 3EJ

Open spaces

Deighton Playing Field, Stockton Way, Tredegar NP22 3ES

Sirhowy Community Garden, Beaufort Road, Tredegar NP22 4NP

Allotments

Southend Allotment, Southend, Tredegar NP22 4JN

Vale View Allotment, Vale View, Tredegar NP22 4ND

Milefield Allotment, Fields Road, Tredegar NP22 4LW

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tel. (01495) 311556

Bedwellty House and Park (Aneurin Leisure) Tel. (01495) 353370