

# Tredegar Town Council



## Annual Report

April 2023 to March 2024



Contents

Mayor’s Foreword ..... Page 2

Introduction ..... Page 3

Organisation ..... Page 3

Committee Membership and Meetings..... Pages 3-7

Council’s Aims and Objectives ..... Page 7

Training Plan..... Page 8

Assets and Services ..... Page 9-10

Basic Financial Information ..... Pages 11-15

Wellbeing ..... Page 16

Environment ..... Page 17

Activities undertaken / Engagement with community ..... Pages 18-21

General Information ..... Page 22

## Mayor's Foreword

It has been a great honour to have been appointed Mayor of Tredegar since 2023.

I have been fortunate for the last eleven years that my work has kept me in the heart of the community, but even more so as Mayor. There are so many aspects of the position that have served the community and, as a result, gave me an even deeper appreciation of my town and the wonderful people who live and support our community.

It has been great to have attended many official engagements from Armed Forces Day, to being part of the Bevan festival; each event unique to our community. But for me, the personal impact the role has allowed me to achieve has been truly amazing. The Christmas carol singing, in which the Town Council visits sheltered accommodations and care homes, was one of the many experiences that will remain with me for the rest of life. To brighten someone's day is a gift in itself, but whether its carol singing, Mayor's appeal events, celebrating great milestones and birthdays, visiting appreciative organisations, all have had a huge impact on myself. The position is not just a Mayor, it's a figurehead that the community looks to, and when you look back, it can have such a positive effect on those around you. That, above all, is what the position can do; brighten someone's day, make someone smile, the effect on one's well being is nothing short of amazing. This is seen so prominently at events, such as those held in the bandstand during the summer months, where the community come together and listen to musicians and singers who are keeping our Welsh musical traditions alive.

The Mayor's role can be many things, but helping to make someone's day better or happier is one of the most important things we can do as human beings.

I'd like to finish by thanking my fellow Councillors for giving up their valuable time, especially at events, in helping to make our town a better place, and of course to Annette and Clare who work tirelessly on behalf of the Council. Finally, to the people of Tredegar to whom we serve, our communities.

May we all work together to support and care for those around us.

Cllr Kevin Phillips

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*

Ellie Griffin	Sunny Mavar	Mandy Moore	Jacqueline Thomas
Haydn Trollope	Sharon Trollope	Mark Turner	Chris Walters

### *Georgetown*

Kevin Phillips	Bethan Rees	Katie Waldron	Gerran Walters
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### *Sirhowy*

Gemma Badham	Andrew Evans	Allan Jones	Ellen Jones
Diane Rowberry	Alyson Tippings		

*N.B. The following Members stood down during 2023:  
Pierre Cornlouer, Glyndwr Evans and Phillip Prosser*

## Committee Membership:

**Civic Committee** - all Members of Council

**Performance Review Sub-Committee** - all Members of Council

### **Civic Sub-Committee - 9 Members**

Councillors M. Turner (Leader) (Chair), K. Phillips (Mayor), E. Griffin (Deputy Mayor), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), E. Jones, D. Rowberry, H. Trollope, [Vacancies]

### **Events Sub-Committee - 9 Members**

#### ***To incorporate Publicity Sub-Committee and Website Working Party***

Councillors A. Jones, (Chair), K. Phillips (Mayor), E. Griffin (Deputy Mayor), M. Turner (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), J. Thomas, H. Trollope, C. Walters, [Vacancies]

**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 M. Turner (Leader) (Chair), K. Phillips (Mayor), E. Griffin (Deputy Mayor), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), A. Jones, H. Trollope, G. Walters, [Vacancies]

**Finance & Staffing Sub-Committee - 9 Members**

***To incorporate the Budget Working Party***

Councillors H. Trollope (Chair), K. Phillips (Mayor), E. Griffin (Deputy Mayor), M. Turner (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), G. Badham, E. Jones, G. Walters, [Vacancies]

**Appeals Committee - 6 Members**

Councillors A. Jones, D. Rowberry, J. Thomas, S. Trollope, K. Waldron, C. Walters

**Policy Sub-Committee - all Members of Council**

**Community, Youth and International Sub-Committee - 9 Members**

***To incorporate Twinning Association***

Councillors K. Phillips (Mayor), E. Griffin (Deputy Mayor), M. Turner (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), E. Jones, D. Rowberry, H. Trollope, S. Trollope, C. Walters

**One Voice Wales Climate Change Adaptation Programme - 7 Members**

Councillors K. Phillips (Mayor), E. Griffin (Deputy Mayor), M. Turner (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), A. Jones, D. Rowberry, J. Thomas

**Tredegar Public Facilities Sub-Committee - 9 Members**

***To incorporate Tredegar W/C Facilities, Deighton playing field and Sirhowy Community Garden, Allotments and the Town Clock***

Councillors A. Jones (Chair), K. Phillips (Mayor), E. Griffin (Deputy Mayor), M. Turner (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), H. Trollope, [Vacancies]

**Planning**

Councillor A. Jones (Sirhowy Ward); [Vacant] (Reserve)

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

Councillor M. Turner (Chair) (Central & West); C. Walters (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 K. Phillips (Mayor), E. Griffin (Deputy Mayor), M. Turner (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), Ms. C. Aherne (Clerk); G. Walters (Reserve)

**Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales**

Councillors M. Turner (Leader), K. Phillips (Reserve)

**One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM**

Councillors M. Turner (Leader), K. Phillips (Reserve)

**Tredegar Twinning Association**

Councillors K. Phillips (Mayor), E. Griffin (Deputy Mayor), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), E. Jones

**School Governing Bodies**

**Bryn Bach Primary** - C. Walters

**Deighton Primary** - S. Trollope

**Georgetown Primary** - G. Walters

**Glanhowy Primary** - Vacancy

**St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary** - K. Phillips (Mayor)

**Ysgol Bro Helyg Primary** - M. Turner (Leader)

**Blaenau Gwent CAB**

Councillors E. Jones, H. Trollope (Reserve)

**Tredegar Business Forum**

Councillors J. Thomas, A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader) (Reserve)

**Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum**

Councillors M. Turner (Leader), K. Phillips (Reserve)

**Tredegar Placemaking**

Councillor K. Phillips (Mayor)

**Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund**

Councillors M. Turner (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader)

Following restrictions introduced in respect of the Covid-19 pandemic during 2022 / 2023, to ensure the continuation of Council business, Council Meetings continued to be held on a hybrid basis, remotely via Microsoft Teams and physically in the Council Chamber.

- ***Meetings of Council, its' Sub-Committees and Working Parties***
  - Annual Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2023
  - Ordinary Meeting of Council – 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2023
  - Events Sub-Committee – 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2023
  - Civic Meeting of Council – 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2023
  - Ordinary Meeting of Council – 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2023
  - Events Sub-Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2022
  - Civic Sub-Committee – 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2023
  - Civic Meeting of Council – 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2023
  - Events Sub-Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2023
  - Performance Review Sub-Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2023
  - Ordinary Meeting of Council – 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2023
  - Public Facilities Sub-Committee – 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2023
  - Events Sub-Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2023
  - Civic Meeting of Council – 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2023
  - Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2023
  - Public Facilities Sub-Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2023
  - Appeals Sub-Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2023
  - Heritage Sub-Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2023
  - Community, Youth and International Sub-Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2023
  - One Voice Wales Climate Change Adaptation Programme Sub-Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2023
  - Civic Sub-Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2023
  - Policy Sub-Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2023
  - Ordinary Meeting of Council – 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2023
  - Events Sub-Committee – 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2023
  - Civic Meeting of Council – 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2023
  - Performance Review Sub-Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2023
  - Ordinary Meeting of Council – 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2023
  - Events Sub-Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2023
  - Civic Meeting of Council – 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2023
  - Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee – 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2023
  - Events Sub-Committee – 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2023
  - Ordinary Meeting of Council – 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2023
  - Events Sub-Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2023
  - Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2023
  - Civic Meeting of Council – 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2023
  - Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2023
  - Ordinary Meeting of Council – 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

Performance Review Sub-Committee – 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2024  
Civic Meeting of Council – 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2024  
Performance Review Sub-Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2024  
Ordinary Meeting of Council – 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2024  
Special Meeting of Council – 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2024  
Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee – 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2024  
Civic Meeting of Council – 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2024  
Ordinary Meeting of Council – 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2024  
Events Sub-Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2024  
Civic Meeting of Council – 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2024  
Civic Sub-Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2024  
Policy Sub-Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2024  
Ordinary Meeting of Council – 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

### 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 2024

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Code of Conduct	All Councillors / Clerk <b>** Mandatory</b>	Within six months of 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	Finance Sub-Committee Members / Clerk / RFO	Within six months of being appointed to the Sub-Committee
The Council	All Councillors / Clerk	Once in the Council Term
The Councillor	All Councillors / Clerk	Once in the Council Term
Effective Staff Management	Staffing Sub-Committee Members	Within six months of being elected
The Council as an Employer	Staffing Sub-Committee Members	Within six months of being elected
Advanced Local Government Finance	Finance Sub-Committee Members / Clerk / RFO	By the end of second year of Council Term
Introduction to Community Engagement	Two Councillors	Once during Council term
Community Engagement Part 2	Two Councillors	Once during Council term
Health & Safety	Two Councillors	Once during Council term
Creating a Community Plan	Two Councillors	Once during Council term
Information Management	Two Councillors	Once during Council term
Equality & Diversity	Two Councillors	Once during Council term
Mediation and Conciliation	Two Councillors	Once during Council 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

Aneurin Bevan 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

Aneurin Bevan 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

Gates – Deighton playing field / Public Toilet

Noticeboards – External (x2)

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 bouquets.

- ***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 and Finance Committee meetings. 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 2023 / 24, 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 continued to consider the impact of Covid 19 on the community and the increased financial struggles residents were incurring.

At the Civic meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023, Council agreed a Precept of £159,161.00, which Council has actioned for previous years.

## Financial Statements at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

As at the date of this report, Council has two external audits (31/03/2023 and 31/03/2024) 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.*

<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
138,401	Precept	159,161
0	Christmas Lights Grant	0
0	Function Income	0
0	Night Out scheme	0
0	Memorabilia	0
0	Bandstand	0
0	Prizes	0
519	Bank Interest	3,428
9,797	VAT	9,290
9,261	Other Income	3,971
<u>157,978</u>	<b>Total Income</b>	<u>175,851</u>
	<b>Expenditure</b>	
	<i>General Administration:</i>	
38,126	- Staff salaries	39,903
25,431	- National Insurance/PAYE	22,295
5	- Officers Expenses	29
2,906	- Training	76
0	- Telephone	0
141	- Publications	0
1,476	- Stationery/Equipment	5,639
780	- Postage/Petty Cash	531
1,736	- Insurances	2,115
2,955	- Fees to Associations	3,196
331	- Bank Charges	335
1,149	- General Administration	1,847
450	Members Expenses/Allowances	875
0	Senior Allowance (Leader/Mayor)	0
204	Inauguration – New 2022/23	0
0	Mayor’s Civic Budget – New 2022/23	0
0	Election Expenses	668
2,140	Audit Fees	675
225	Conference Fees	120

	<i>Town Clock:</i>	
1,244	- Energy	1,830
587	- Insurance	667
0	- Maintenance	357
1,200	- Garden surround	1,589
318	- Celebrations	93
260	- Annual Clock Maintenance	286
	<i>Community Provisions:</i>	
24,393	- Public Conveniences/Green Space	26,405
6,750	- Green Spaces	7,236
1,778	- Special Projects	2,590
3,015	- Park Concerts	2,873
561	- Civic Presentations	476
0	- Environmental Improvements	0
	<i>Grants:</i>	
900	- Churches s137	900
5,250	- Sporting/Cultural	5,880
540	- s137	545
1,447	Presentations	1,833
25,065	Christmas Lights	23,798
1,645	War Memorial	
50	Allotments	50
8,402	VAT	8,796
<u>699</u>	Publicity	<u>789</u>
<u>187,703</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>165,311</u>

<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>Cumulative Fund Balance</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
253,226	01.04.21/22 – Opening Balance	248,849
<u>157,978</u>	Add: Total Income	<u>175,851</u>
411,204		424,700
<u>-162,355</u>	Less: Expenditure	165,311
<u>248,849</u>	31.03.2022/23 – Closing Balance	259,389

	<b>Current Assets</b>	
248,849	Cash	259,389
	<b>Creditors</b>	
<u>0</u>	Miscellaneous/Trade Creditors	<u>0</u>
<u>248,849</u>		<u>259,389</u>

	<b>Represented by:</b>	
30,000	General Reserves (Contingency)	30,000
	Earmarked:	
11,880	- Members Attendance Allowance	11,880
10,000	- Election	10,000
5,000	- Office refurbishment	5,000

13,500	- Green Spaces (2 years)	14,000
4,500	- Allotments (3 sites)	4,500
10,000	- Town Clock	10,000
21,000	- Contractual Maintenance (toilets)	22,950
<u>125,826</u>	Reserves	<u>151,016</u>
<u>253,226</u>		<u>259,346</u>

### **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 slightly revised its community grants budget and during the 2023/24 financial year, Council approved grants totalling £7,325 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, although higher than last year, it remains 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  
BGCBC Halloween Event  
Friends of Bedwellty Park  
Gwent Defibbers  
Hospice of the Valleys  
Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod  
Moose No. 1 Ladies Circle  
Oak Football Club  
St. John Ambulance  
Sirhowy Woodlands  
Stocktonville Senior Citizens

Tredegar Angling Club  
Tredegar Business Forum  
Tredegar Camera Club  
Tredegar Cricket  
Tredegar Decoupage Group  
Tredegar History / Archive Society  
Tredegar Junior Netball  
Tredegar Miners  
Tredegar RFC Under 9s  
Tredegar / Rhymney Golf  
Tredegar Senior Netball  
Tredegar Veterans Support  
Tredegar Women's Cricket  
Urdd Gobaith Cymru

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

Castle Street Congregational  
Cerebral Palsy Cymru  
Hope Rescue Centre  
Horeb Chapel: Flower Festival  
MacMillan Cancer  
Noah's Ark  
Tredegar Mayor's Appeal  
Tredegar Methodist Church  
Trinity Spiritualist  
Ty Hafan  
Wales Air Ambulance



Well-being:

- ***Defibrillators in the community***

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

Bedwellty House and Park

Betfred

The Cambrian Inn

The Moose Hall

R & V, Ashvale Industrial Estate

Sirhowy Community Centre

Sogefi Filtration Ltd, Crown Business Park

Tredegar Fire Station

Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir (Exterior cabinet)

Tredegar Rugby Club

Ty Parc

Bethel Baptist Church (Exterior cabinet)

Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church

St. George's Church

Bupa Dental Care

Castle Street Dental Practice

Glan-yr-Afon Surgery

Tredegar Ambulance Station

Tredegar Health Centre, Park Row

Woffington House Care Home

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.

Council continued to work with Local Places for Nature / Keep Wales Tidy and volunteers in respect of both sites. 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.

- Council also support local groups, such as Sirhowy Woodlands and Tredegar Business Forum, in work undertaken within the community, e.g. maintenance of baskets and planters throughout the town centre, and enhance the environment by undertaking planting of the garden surround to the Town Clock in the town centre.

Activities undertaken and engagement with the community:

▪ **Calendar of Events**

Highlights of the Council’s activities and achievements from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023 up to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024, entailed:



Coronation Celebrations–  
His Majesty King Charles III –  
6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2023

Tredegar Town Council were pleased to sponsor a Window Dressing Competition and decorate the Town Clock with a flag and bunting to mark celebrations; also, purchase of a commemorative gift for each Primary School pupil in Tredegar.

Summer Concerts in the Bandstand  
Bedwellty Park, Tredegar  
28<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 - 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2023

- City of Cardiff (Melingriffith) Brass Band
- Mid Rhondda Band
- Tongwynlais Temperance Band
- Ebbw Valley Brass
- Royal Welsh Regimental Band
- Tredegar Town Band
- Abergavenny Borough Band
- Markham & District Brass Band
- Abertillery Town Band
- Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir



Twinning visit – 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

As part of the Twinning partnership with Orvault, France, Town Council Members and Twinning representatives undertook a visit to Orvault, France. The trip went very well and proved a success in engaging with Council’s French counterparts.

## Armed Forces Day – 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

Town Council was proud to hoist the Armed Forces flag in support of military personnel and welcome the Royal Welsh Regimental Band to our annual event in Bedwellty Park, as part of the National Armed Forces Day celebrations.



## Aneurin Bevan Day – 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2023 Aneurin Bevan and the NHS

Tredegar Town Council held our annual event in Bedwellty Park – a fun day, featuring stalls and activities, including a performance by Tredegar Town Band in celebration of the NHS and its' founder, Aneurin Bevan. Council was happy to support any events organised by local groups and organisations to celebrate Aneurin Bevan and the NHS.



## Open Doors 2023 – Tredegar Town Clock - 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2023

Tredegar Town Council was delighted to open the VERY small door of Tredegar Town Clock to the public in support of Cadw's 'Open Doors 2023', enabling visitors to climb the interior to the top!

## Merchant Navy Day 'Fly the Red Ensign' – 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2023

The event was held to mark Merchant Navy Day, with invited guests, undertaking readings, and the Order of Service being led by Rev'd Matt Davis.





Cairn Memorial walk – 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2023:  
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 Day Memorial service, Gwent Shopping Precinct (*support role only*); and Memorial benches / placing of poppy bouquets in Commercial Street, Peacehaven and Sirhowy Community Garden – November 2023



Remembrance Parade and Service –  
12<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 Cenotaph,  
Bedwellty Park (*support role only*)



### Christmas Light switch-on – 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2023

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.

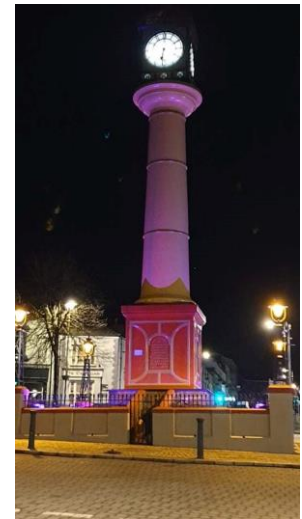
Local food and drink vendors support the event and stall opportunities are offered for local groups to participate - selling Christmas decorations, hair accessories, jewellery, Cakes, handing out promotional literature, and – for the Children – face painting... and Santa!



### Mayor's Christmas visits to Nursing, Residential and Care Homes – December 2023

### National Holocaust Memorial Day – 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2024

To commemorate this year's Holocaust Memorial Day, the Town Clock in The Circle, Tredegar, was illuminated in purple and white.



### Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth – 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

Primary School Pupils in Tredegar joined with civic dignitaries at Bedwellty House and Park to celebrate Commonwealth Day 2024.



Council Contact details:

Tredegartown Council  
Bedwellty House  
Bedwellty Park  
Tredegartown  
NP22 3XN

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Social Media – Facebook and Twitter

For Information:

*Town Clock*

The Circle, Tredegartown NP22 3PS

*Public Conveniences*

Gwent Shopping Centre, Commercial Street, Tredegartown NP22 3EJ

*Open spaces*

Deighton Playing Field, Stockton Way, Tredegartown NP22 3ES

Sirhowy Community Garden, Beaufort Road, Tredegartown NP22 4NP

*Allotments*

Southend Allotment, Southend, Tredegartown NP22 4JN

Vale View Allotment, Vale View, Tredegartown NP22 4ND

Milefield Allotment, Fields Road, Tredegartown NP22 4LW

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tel. (01495) 311556

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