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COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE GEORGE EDWARDS HALL AND ZOOM AT 10:00 AM ON Monday, 12th of January 2026
Chair: Councillor Mr P Vaughan

Present: Councillors Mr D Wright, Mrs I Twigg, Mrs S Benbow-Jones, Mrs J Jones, Clerk Trina Nicholls-Smith, Community Development Officer Andrew Ruscoe.

Via Zoom: N/A

1. Apologies: Project Coordinator Deio Jones, Mrs G Wright

2. To Receive Declaration of Interest from Members
None Received.

3. Presentation from Mr Shane Hughes from Natural Resources Wales

Mr Shane Hughes, Natural Resources Wales, provided an overview of his professional background and explained that he is the officer responsible for North East Wales. He advised that his attendance was to explore whether there are any areas within the Cefn area that could be designated as part of the National Forest for Wales**.**

Mr Hughes explained that the scheme is a Welsh Government initiative and is free to join. Areas of any size can be included, and public access is not a requirement, although it is recommended. Designation as a National Forest for Wales enables organisations to work with Natural Resources Wales to apply for grant funding, for example, for tree planting and pathway improvements. Interpretation boards would be provided free of charge once an area is registered. Proof of land ownership would be required.

He further advised that most woodland areas are suitable for registration and that Natural Resources Wales can assist with the development of woodland management plans.

Members suggested several potential sites for consideration, including Trefynant Cemetery, Plaskynaston Ground, land to the rear of the George Edwards Hall, the Memorial Gardens, and Druids Ground near Llys-y-Graig**.**

Councillor Vice Chairman Derek Wright proposed that a site meeting be arranged with Mr Hughes to visit the potential locations prior to the next Development Committee meeting, in order to assess what could be achieved. Mr Hughes confirmed that he would email the

Community Development Officer with proposed dates for the site visit, following which potential sites would be identified.

Members expressed strong support for the proposal, particularly welcoming the inclusion of interpretation boards and highlighting their intergenerational value.

Recommendation: That the Development Committee recommend to Full Council that Councillor Vice Chairman Derek Wright, the Chair Councillor Phil Vaughan and the Community Development Officer arrange a site meeting with Mr Shane Hughes of Natural Resources Wales to visit and assess potential sites within the Cefn area for inclusion in the National Forest for Wales scheme, with a report on identified sites and opportunities to be brought back to the Development Committee.

4. Update on items from previous meeting, if any – Community Development Officer to report

4.1 Update on item 3.2 of the previous minutes Low Carbons Project
The Community Development Officer reported that the bird boxes and bug houses are still awaiting confirmation of suitable locations from Members. The previous recommendation to site one bird box at The Delph was accepted, but arrangements are required for installation.

The Development Committee recommended that Councillor Vice Chairman Derek Wright and Chairman Phil Vaughan be given autonomy to carry out site visits, identify suitable locations for the bird boxes and bug houses, and determine how the installations can be completed, utilising their expertise. The Community Development Officer will provide support as required.

Recommendation: That the Development Committee recommend to Full Council that Councillor Vice Chairman Derek Wright and Chairman Phil Vaughan be authorised to make decisions on the siting and installation of the bird boxes and bug houses, with the Community Development Officer providing support as needed.

4.2 Update on 3.4 of the previous minutes on "Friends of Cefn" Group
The Community Development Officer informed the Development Committee that no progress has yet been made regarding the establishment of a "Friends of Cefn" group. There were no new updates to report, and the proposal is still to be presented to Full Council for consideration.

Recommendation: That the Development Committee recommend to Full Council that the proposal for the development of a "Friends of Cefn" group be noted, and that further information regarding its objectives, recruitment process, and organisational requirements be provided before any formal advertising or recruitment commences.

4.3 Update on item 4.5 – Ysgol Cefn Mawr's Stop Littering Posters

The Community Development Officer reported that the Stop Littering posters created by Ysgol Cefn Mawr pupils are now in production and have been ordered from Slick Sticker. It was further noted that two designs have been selected at Full Council. The Officer requested that the Chair assist with placing the posters around the community once they are delivered.

Recommendation: That the Development Committee recommend to Full Council that the update on the Ysgol Cefn Mawr Stop Littering Posters, including the selection of two winning designs, be noted, and that the Chair be authorised to assist with their placement in the community.

4.4 Update on item 4.6 – Notice Board Task

This item is still in motion and continues to be explored.

Recommendation: That the Development Committee recommend to Full Council that the Notice Board Task remain on the agenda for the next Development Committee meeting for further discussion.

4.5 Update on Item 12.1 – Planters from Rhosymedre Church Yard

The Community Development Officer reported that this item had been explored by Chairman Phil Vaughan, who provided feedback at a Full Council meeting. As a result, the Community Development Officer was instructed to write to Coleg Cambria to explore the possibility of them supporting the planters as a project.

However, it was noted that the Community Development Officer is currently awaiting permission from the Church before approaching any external organisation to support or progress the planter's project.

Recommendation: That the Development Committee recommend to Full Council that the update on the planters from Rhosymedre Church Yard be noted, and that no further action be taken until approval is received from the Church, after which the planters may be offered to Coleg Cambria as a potential project.

5. Planned programme of projects of the Development Officer (January 2026 – July 2026) – for committee agreement

5.1 January 2026 – School-Based Futsal Sessions and Community Activity

The Community Development Officer reported on the programme of school-based futsal sessions and community activity scheduled for January 2026. This includes sessions at Ysgol Cefn Mawr, Ysgol PFG, Ysgol Acrefair, and potential additional schools, delivered in partnership with Active Wrexham**,** as well as the #StayOnSide Cefn Litter Pick in Newbridge, undertaken in partnership with Tesco.

At the request of the Clerk, the Community Development Officer provided further explanation regarding the new working partnership with Active Wrexham. Members were advised that Active Wrexham is the sport and physical activity service of Wrexham County Borough Council, which supports the development of sport, physical activity, and wellbeing across communities. It was noted that the Community Development Officer is working closely with Liam Jones, the Active Wrexham officer for this region, to support and expand school-based and community activity provision within Cefn. Members were also informed that Liam Jones has successfully sourced packed lunches for the Girls' Futsal Competition in

partnership with Wrexham Play Services. The Development Committee expressed that it is very pleased with this partnership.

Councillor Vice Chairman Derek Wright requested that it be formally recognised that the Community Development Officer does not need to seek Committee or Council approval to engage with schools when delivering sport and community activities, provided this is done reasonably and with the knowledge and permission of the Clerk. Members agreed that schools require ongoing support and welcomed the proactive approach being taken.

Recommendation: That the Development Committee recommend to Full Council that:

- ***The January 2026 programme, with Active Wrexham, of school-based futsal sessions and community activities be approved; and***
- ***the Community Development Officer be authorised to work directly with schools to deliver sport and community activities without the need for prior Committee or Council approval, provided such activity is undertaken reasonably and with the knowledge and agreement of the Clerk.***

5.2 School Girls Only Futsal Competition 2026

The Community Development Officer reported on the School Girls Only Futsal Competition 2026 (2nd Annual Event), scheduled for 23 January 2026, delivered in partnership with Active Wrexham and North Wales Police (PACT Funding), including the request for £178.12 from the National Lottery Budget for trophies and medals and the provision of packed lunches and refreshments for participants.

Recommendation: That the Development Committee recommend to Full Council that the arrangements and associated funding request be approved.

5.3 February 2026 – Junior Parkrun

The Community Development Officer reported on plans to deliver Junior Parkrun (Sundays) at Ty Mawr in February 2026, in partnership with Active Wrexham and Wrexham Play Services, with dates to be confirmed.

Recommendation: That the Development Committee recommend to Full Council that the proposal to deliver Junior Parkrun be approved.

5.4 Derek Wright Annual Football Competition

The Community Development Officer reported on the proposed date of 10 February 2026 for the Derek Wright Annual Football Competition, the unavailability of Ysgol Min-y-Ddol on that date, the request to reschedule by one to two weeks if required, and the request to purchase trophies and medals in line with previous years. It was noted that the competition will not take place on 27 March.

Recommendation: That the Development Committee recommend to Full Council that the proposed arrangements, rescheduling flexibility, and associated purchases be approved.

5.5 Weekly Walking Football Sessions – February 2026 onwards

The Community Development Officer reported on plans to introduce weekly Walking Football sessions at Plas Madoc Leisure Centre from February 2026, delivered in partnership with Active Wrexham through the National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS). The sessions will target males aged over 50 and will be delivered by the Community Development Officer, supported by Community Agent Donna Thornley. Members were advised that, if successful, the programme will be funded through NERS for an initial period of three months.

Recommendation: That the Development Committee recommend to Full Council that the introduction of Weekly Walking Football Sessions at Plas Madoc Leisure Centre from February 2026 be approved, including access to Community Agent Donna Thornley as part of the project, subject to successful NERS funding for an initial three-month period.

5.6 Ongoing #StayOnSide Activities and Funding Update

The Community Development Officer reported on the continuation of the #StayOnSide Schools Programme and the #StayOnSide Cefn Litter Pickers group, including the allocation of a £1,000 Low Carbon grant from Wrexham Council for clothing, equipment, and signage. Members discussed and agreed that the litter pickers' clothing should be a bright green branded colour to ensure high visibility and consistent recognition of the #StayOnSide initiative. It was further noted that the clothing bundle to be provided to the main participants will consist of a coat, a beanie hat, gloves, a polo shirt, a hoodie, and waterproof trousers, all of which are funded through this allocation.

Recommendation: That the Development Committee recommend to Full Council that the ongoing #StayOnSide activities, the allocation of the £1,000 Wrexham Councils Low Carbon grant, the agreement to use a bright green branded colour scheme, and the provision of a clothing bundle consisting of a coat, beanie hat, gloves, polo shirt, hoody, and waterproof trousers for the main participants be approved.

5.7 The Ty Mawr 40th Celebration

The Community Development Officer reported that there is currently no formal update on the Ty Mawr 40th Celebration, as Councillor Sue Mills is awaiting a meeting to discuss the event in more detail. Members were advised that initial ideas shared by Councillor Sue Mills include the possibility of a large-scale, carnival-style celebration featuring elements such as a brass band, Morris dancers, a parade, and fairground attractions.

Councillor Derek Wright suggested that Councillor Sue Mills be invited to attend the next Development Committee meeting to present further information and proposals once discussions have progressed.

Recommendation: That the Development Committee recommend to Full Council that Councillor Sue Mills be invited to attend a future Development Committee meeting to provide an update and present proposals for the Ty Mawr 40th Celebration once further discussions have taken place.

6. To discuss the recent Plaskynaston MUGA ground FAW inspection

The Community Development Officer reported that the Plaskynaston MUGA ground has passed its recent FAW inspection, several advisories were issued as part of the inspection outcome.

Councillor Derek Wright informed Members that Cefn Albion have submitted an email indicating that they may wish to arrange a meeting to discuss the advisories raised. Councillor Wright further advised that any additional improvements required to address the advisories would likely need to be funded through external grant funding, should this become available, as the Council currently has no remaining budget allocation to fund further improvements to the ground.

It was further noted that the high level of demand from multiple teams using the MUGA is having an impact on pitch quality. In light of Wrexham AFC Women acquiring The Rock, Members discussed the importance of establishing positive working relationships with relevant facilities staff. It was suggested that contact be made with Wrexham AFC and the Rock ground facilities manager to explore opportunities for cooperation and good communication.

Recommendation: That the Development Committee recommend to Full Council that the update on the Plaskynaston MUGA FAW inspection and associated advisories be noted; that any future improvements be pursued through external grant funding if available; and that the Community Development Officer and Councillor Vice Chairman Derek Wright be authorised to make contact with Wrexham AFC and The Rock ground facilities manager to establish future positive working relations.

7. To discuss Football Clubs SLA for the 2026/27 season

The Vice Chairman, Councillor Derek Wright, reported that he had advised the Community Development Officer to revise the SLA for the 2026/27 season, amending and adding clauses based on what has worked and what has not in previous seasons. The following amendments were made to the SLA:

- **Admission Fees:** Under no circumstances can admission fees be charged to supporters or spectators. Voluntary donations are permitted; however, any signage, announcements, or communications must not reference admission, fees, entry charges, or suggest a fixed or implied value (e.g., "£2 donation", "entry £2", or similar wording).
  Reason: To ensure compliance with the covenant restricting admission fees.
- **Groundsman Discretion:** The Groundsman has discretion at all times regarding whether the pitch may be used, primarily during the winter months. All matches may only be scheduled at the Groundsman's discretion based on weather conditions and pitch quality. For Tier 3 or higher-ranking games, a match may only be called off at the Referee's discretion.
  Reason*: *To give the Groundsman appropriate autonomy to preserve the playing surface.
- **Youth Matches:** Youth matches may be held on the morning of any adult match between 1st April and 31st October, including Tier 3 or higher-ranking games scheduled for the afternoon. From 1st November to 31st March, no youth matches are permitted on the morning of Tier 3 or higher-ranking games, but may proceed on the morning of Tier 4 and below, including reserve and 1st team cup matches.

Reason: To protect the pitch while ensuring youth matches are not unnecessarily cancelled.

- **Senior Classification for Older Youth Teams:** Under-17, Under-18, and Under-19 teams will be classified as senior sides for the purposes of pitch protection.
  Reason: FAW views players aged 16 and above as adults, and older youth teams place increased demands on pitch quality.
- **Summer Maintenance Closure:** During the summer period, essential maintenance works will be carried out on the playing surface. The ground will be closed to all clubs and schools, including inset days, from 11 June to 14 July.
  Reason: To allow the pitch to rest and for maintenance works to be carried out effectively.
- **Midweek Matches and Training:** Once groundwork has been completed, midweek friendly matches and training sessions will be permitted under normal booking conditions. A maximum of two adult matches per week may be scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays, allowing fair access for training sessions on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, with local clubs taking priority.
  Reason: To create fairer opportunities for training and matches and to avoid scheduling conflicts experienced previously.
- **Council Funding for Maintenance:** The Council will meet the costs associated with end-of-season and summer pitch conditioning, along with any necessary maintenance required to preserve pitch quality, subject to the availability of funds within the approved budget allocated for these works.
  Reason: To clarify that funding is subject to the Council's approved budget and is not unlimited.

The Vice chairman finished with the fees staying the same for the 2026/2027 season.

Recommendation: That the Development Committee recommend to Full Council that the revised Football Clubs SLA for the 2026/27 season, including the amendments detailed above, be approved once the draft version is finalised, and that authority be delegated to the Chair, Vice Chairman, and Clerk to finalise the SLA and implement any minor adjustments necessary before issuing to clubs. And not to alter the fees for the coming season

8. Update on Cefn Health Games

Councillor Vice Chairman Derek Wright reported that a meeting had taken place between the Community Development Officer, Active Wrexham, and himself to explore the involvement of pupils from Ysgol Ruabon in supporting the Cefn Health Games. It was explained that Ysgol Ruabon students would work alongside Active Wrexham to visit local primary schools and help train children in preparation for the Cefn Olympics and in the lead-up to the tournament.

Members welcomed this approach and noted it as another positive example of effective collaboration with Active Wrexham.

It was further reported that communication is ongoing with the City of Culture bid writers, who are seeking to secure funding of up to £65,000. Members were advised that the bid writers have expressed a strong interest in the Cefn Health Games initiative and associated

plans, and that, if the bid is successful, funding may be allocated to Cefn Community Council to support delivery of the project.

Recommendation: That the Development Committee recommend to Full Council that the update on the Cefn Health Games be noted.

9. Chair to discuss vintage posters in George Edwards Hall

The Chairman discussed the possibility of displaying historical vintage posters within George Edwards Hall to showcase and celebrate the heritage of Cefn. Members agreed that the focus of the displays should be on Cefn's heritage and the industrial history of Acrefair, Rhosymedre, Plas Madoc and Newbridge, to reflect the area's identity and historical significance.

It was suggested that quotations be obtained for suitable display options, including magnetic boards or metal boards, which would allow posters to be easily changed and wiped clean. Members agreed that the proposal aims to make the hall more visually engaging, strengthen its connection to local heritage, and create a warmer and more welcoming environment for potential hirers, events, and parties.

The Community Development Officer confirmed that he will obtain quotations for the proposed display options and will also work with Cefn Mawr Museum to seek historic photographs relating to Cefn and the surrounding villages, particularly focusing on local heritage and industrial history, which could potentially be printed for display.

Recommendation: That the Development Committee recommend to Full Council that quotations be obtained for the provision of magnetic or metal display boards to enable the installation of historical heritage and industrial posters within George Edwards Hall, and that the Community Development Officer be authorised to work with Cefn Mawr Museum to source historic images of Cefn, Acrefair, Rhosymedre, and Newbridge, with a further report to be brought back once costs and a folder of picture options have been identified.

10. To receive an update on George Edwards Hall bathroom refurbishment

The Clerk updated Members that all refurbishment works at George Edwards Hall have now been completed. It was reported that payment from Wrexham Council has been received and that the contractors have been paid in full. The toilets are now complete and fully operational.

Noted: That the update was received and noted, with the project confirmed as complete and no further action required.

11. To Update land leased to Tesco and their responsibilities – Clerk to report

The Clerk reported that there are no new updates at this time. Communications with Tesco remain positive, and Members were advised that any further developments will be reported to the Committee as they arise.

Noted: That the update was received and noted, and that this item will remain on the agenda for future meetings.

12. General Discussion / Action Plan

12.1 Next Development Committee Meeting

It was agreed by Members that the next Development Committee meeting will be scheduled for Monday, 10th February 2026, at 10:00 am at George Edwards Hall.

Recommendation: That the Development Committee recommend to Full Council that the date, time, and venue of the next Development Committee meeting be approved. The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

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