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CEFN
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE GEORGE EDWARDS HALL AND ZOOM AT 10:00 AM ON Monday, 17th of February 2026
Chair: Councillor Mr P Vaughan

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

Special Guest Invitational: Mrs Councillor Sue Mills of Ty Mawr, Mrs Nicola Ellis of Wrexham Council, Mr Liam Jones of Active Wrexham & Mrs Louise Brady of Active Wrexham

Via Zoom: N/A

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

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

3. Presentation from Mr Liam Jones & Louise Brady of Active Wrexham
Mr Liam Jones and Mrs Louise Brady of Active Wrexham attended the meeting and provided an overview of their roles and recent activity in the Cefn Mawr area. Members noted that Active Wrexham has been working alongside the Community Development Officer over the past five months on a range of initiatives, including a girls' futsal competition and engagement work within local schools.

Active Wrexham explained that a key focus for their work in the area is tackling inequalities in sport, including improving opportunities and participation for girls and women. They also advised Members of a potential project to redevelop the BMX track at Ty Mawr Country Park. The proposed improvements include addressing drainage issues, upgrading the surface, and exploring options to expand and enhance the track, with the aim of increasing physical activity and attracting more people to the area. An estimated project cost in the region of £10,000 to £13,000 was outlined, and Active Wrexham asked whether the Community Council could consider supporting the project.

Following discussion, the Development Committee proposed that a recommendation be taken to Full Council to consider allocating a contribution towards the Ty Mawr BMX track improvements, of a maximum of three thousand subject to budget availability and approval.

Active Wrexham also outlined a further ambition to support increased use of George Edwards Hall as a community hub, including improving weekend usage and expanding inclusive provision such as table tennis activities and disability-focused sessions. Members noted that this work will continue to be explored in partnership with the Community Development Officer.

In addition, Members were advised that free Boccia taster sessions will be delivered in schools after half term, with the longer-term aim of holding a festival event at George Edwards Hall and Plaskynaston Bowls at a later date.

The Clerk thanked Active Wrexham for their support, and the Development Committee welcomed the collaborative partnership and ongoing joint working.

Recommendation:

- ***To note the update provided by Active Wrexham and record the Council's thanks for their continued support.***
- ***That the Community Development Officer continues to liaise with Active Wrexham to progress inclusive community activity opportunities and school-based taster sessions.***
- ***That the proposal for Community Council support towards the Ty Mawr BMX track improvements be referred to Full Council on Tuesday 24th February 2026 for consideration, including the suggested level of contribution to a maximum contribution of 3K, subject to budget availability.***

4. Invitation to Sue Mills of Ty Mawr & Nicola Ellis of Wrexham Council regarding the Ty Mawr 40th Anniversary celebrations

The Committee congratulated Nicola Ellis and the wider Wrexham Council team on Wrexham's success in the Wales in Bloom competition. Nicola Ellis advised that Wrexham is now progressing to Britain in Bloom and outlined that a series of publicity and preparation activities will take place in the lead-up. This includes improvements along the route from the city centre to Ty Mawr (such as general tidying, weeding and cleaning signage) and opportunities to involve schools along the route, including simple engagement tasks (for example, themed colouring activities).

Councillor Sue Mills presented her vision for Ty Mawr Country Park's 40th Anniversary celebrations, provisionally planned for Sunday 19 July 2026. Councillor Mills expressed a desire to host a parade from Cefn to Ty Mawr involving community groups such as Morris dancers, dance groups, volunteering organisations and local groups. She also referenced previous milestone celebrations (including the 25th Anniversary) and suggested reintroducing family-friendly, intergenerational activities such as "sheep card" crafts, together with music (including the possibility of a brass band), stalls and wider community participation. Councillor Mills highlighted ongoing challenges, including limited funding, volunteer availability and event-day logistics (including resident parking). She stated the aim is for the event to be as low-cost and accessible as possible so it can be enjoyed by all and remembered positively. It was also noted that additional contributors are expected to be involved on the day.

Member and officer suggestions were then recorded as follows:

Clerk (Trina Nicholls-Smith) suggestions:

- Suggested including a feature similar to the town-centre "beach" style attraction to draw families to the event.
- Suggested potential parade start points, including from Tesco or from the Plaskynaston MUGA.
- Asked for clarification on volunteer requirements and approximate numbers needed to support the day.
- Advised that family audiences will need strong promotion and that posters will need to be eye-catching and high quality.
- Offered support in assisting with contacts for family activities such as face painting.
- Suggested inviting Geoff Langford to contribute performance/dancing on the day.
- Suggested exploring whether the celebrations could align with and support Wrexham's City of Culture bid, as a wider Wrexham community event.

Councillor Sonia Benbow-Jones suggestions:

- Suggested incorporating heritage-style activities such as jam making, linked to local traditions.
- Suggested inviting drumming groups to help create energy, interest and a positive atmosphere.
- Suggested using social media (including Facebook) for appeals and community engagement in the build-up to the event.

Councillor Isabel Twigg suggestions:

- Suggested starting the parade from the top of Coronation Street, noting it may be a more practical starting point than Tesco due to distance.
- Suggested involving local sports/community groups such as Maelor Boxing.

Community Development Officer suggestions:

- Proposed a programme of smaller "lead-in" activities ahead of the main anniversary day to build momentum and community involvement.
- Suggested inviting community performers such as Fron Choir and exploring open-mic style sessions similar to those hosted elsewhere, including Welsh cultural and community singers.
- Suggested working with partners such as Ty Pawb to support contacts and programming.
- Suggested exploring a longer-term commemorative feature for the anniversary (for example, a commemorative stone or landmark/photo point with historical value) that could also support visitor interest and social media engagement.
- Raised that commemorative heritage interpretation and visitor features are areas that could be explored more widely through Wrexham Council, noting the value of marking important local heritage.

Councillor Derek Wright (Cefn East County Councillor and Vice Chair) comments relayed by the Community Development Officer:

- Suggested exploring whether the new "Wrecsam" sign could be present or featured as part of the celebrations.

Response / additional information from Nicola Ellis:

- Nicola Ellis advised that, through the Local Places for Nature fund, Wrexham Council is exploring the development of lettered signage at Ty Mawr for the event, with a nature-based design element, potentially incorporating a "bug hotel" concept.
- Nicola Ellis also confirmed that signage boards are being explored as part of wider work connected to the park and the celebrations.

Recommendation:

- ***To note the update and record congratulations to Wrexham Council and partners on Wales in Bloom success, with best wishes for Britain in Bloom.***
- ***That the Community Council offer support in principle where appropriate.***
- ***That the Community Development Officer liaises with Sue Mills and Nicola Ellis to support coordination, publicity, and Community Council involvement.***
- ***To record the Member and officer suggestions listed above as evidence of Community Council involvement and support in shaping the event.***

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

5.1 Update on Item 3 of the previous Minutes – Presentation from Mr. Shane Hughes (Natural Resources Wales)
The Community Development Officer reported that the application and Management Plan for National Forest for Wales recognition has now been completed. Members were advised that a tree analysis session is scheduled to take place in March with key stakeholder Derwen College, during which the tree species on site will be identified and confirmed. It was noted that this information will then be submitted to Natural Resources Wales to finalise the application for National Forest for Wales recognition for Plaskynaston Woodland at the MUGA.
Recommendation: To continue working with Paul Moss and Derwen College, including the scheduled March-dated tree analysis session, to identify tree species for inclusion within the Management Plan and enable completion of the application.

5.2 Update on Item 4.1 of the previous Minutes – (Low Carbon Project)
The Community Development Officer reported that, following the recommendation passed at Full Council on 27.01.26, work is ongoing to identify suitable locations within the community to install the new bird and Bug boxes.

Councillor Sonia Benbow-Jones recognised the installation of the Swift Boxes now at the George Edwards Hall. And our new title is "Swift Champions"
Recommendation: To continue to liaise with the Chairman and Vice Chairman on locations. Also full council recognises our new "Swift Champions title.

5.3 Item 4.2 of the previous Minutes – (Friends of Cefn" Group)

The Community Development Officer reported that it was agreed that the "Friends of Cefn" initiative will form part of the Tŷ Mawr celebrations, and updates will be provided within that segment going forward.
Recommendation: To continue with the agreed action plan agreed at the Full Council, of working towards a Friends of Cefn Group, using the Ty Mawr Birthday Celebration as the catalyst. This is to stay on the agenda until after the event.

5.5 Item 4.5 of the previous Minutes – (Planters from Rhosymedre Church Yard)
The Community Development Officer reported that an email has been sent to Coleg Cambria; no feedback or reply has been received to date. It is recommended that the Development Committee decide whether to continue exploring this option or to pass the idea on to other organisations to implement.
Recommendation: To remove from the agenda going forward.

Item 5.2 of the previous minutes– School Girls Only Futsal Competition
The Community Development Officer reported that the School Girls Only Futsal competition was a huge success, with Ysgol Cefn Mawr crowned this year's champions. Following this, schools have expressed a desire for a Futsal League, which is now being explored to run on Fridays after school, with separate boys' and girls' leagues, at Plas Madoc Leisure. Councillor Stella Matthews is keen to support this, along with Active Wrexham and Dave Fawkes (NEWFA). It was suggested that Dave Fawkes be invited to the next Development Committee meeting as a special guest to explain how they can support delivery.
Recommendation: To explore the meeting between the schools, however, the Community Development Officer should present a timetable to the clerk of how many hours would go into this project.

Item 5.6 of the previous minutes – Ongoing #StayOnSide Activities and Funding Update
The Community Development Officer reported that the #StayOnSide Cefn Litter Pickers have now received their uniforms, funded via Wrexham Council's Low Carbon Project. The Clerk and Andrew Ruscoe will be attending a meeting with Catriona Learmont (National Lottery) to explore a Medium People and Places grant application, now that the Awards for All grant has been completed. This will include exploring options to provide ongoing funding for the #StayOnSide project and support the development of George Edwards Hall as a community hub.
Recommendation: The clerk and Development Officer should provide feedback on the meeting notes at the next development meeting.

6. To present Artistic design for George Edwards Hall Community Garden
The Community Development Officer reported and presented an initial artistic visual concept for the Community Garden, originally intended to be supported through Low Carbon funding. Members were advised that the Low Carbon budget had since been allocated to other priorities, meaning the project cannot progress at present and may need to await further funding availability.
Recommendation: It was agreed to park this item until further funding becomes available and to remove it from the agenda for the time being.

7. To provide an update on the Community Notice Boards
The Community Development Officer provided an update on the Community Notice Boards, advising that confirmation was still being awaited on the total number of boards requiring a

quotation. Following the discussion, it was agreed that a quotation should be sought for four new notice boards.

Members were also advised that one existing notice board had previously been removed and relocated to Oswestry. It was agreed that further communication should be made with the relevant organisation to seek the return of the missing board, with the intention that it will be **installed in one of the agreed locations once recovered.**

The finalised locations for the notice boards were agreed as follows:

- Newbridge
- Acrefair
- Plas Madoc
- Cefn Mawr (two notice boards)

Recommendation: The Community Development Officer to obtain a quotation for the notice boards for approval of the full council and the Chair to progress the relocation of the missing notice board. To remain on the agenda until projection completion.

8. To present & discuss a potential letter of intent for sponsorship of the Plaskynaston MUGA

The Community Development Officer reported that a draft letter of intent had been prepared for circulation to potential organisations, to explore sponsorship opportunities towards a proposed 4G pitch at the Plaskynaston MUGA.

Following the discussion, it was agreed that no further action would be taken at this time.*Recommendation: To note the update and take no further action at this moment in time. To remove from the agenda.*

9. To update Football Clubs SLA for the 2026/27 season

The clerk reported that an SLA with an amendment had been drafted and will now be sent to the full council to approve, so that a date will be set for the clubs to review.***Recommendation: To allow the full council to approve the amended SLA for the 26/27 season and to seek a date for when this reviewed SLA can be sent to the clubs. To remove from the agenda and communications now take place at full council going forward.***

10. Update on Cefn Health Games

The Community Development Officer had nothing further to report at this stage.

- Cefn Olympics (Schools): week commencing 8 July 2026
- Cefn Health Games (Over 50s): week commencing 15 July 2026

Recommendation: To be discussed at the next Development Meeting and to remain on the agenda.

11. To update the vintage posters in George Edwards Hall

The Community Development Officer updated Members on a potential signage idea for Cefn Hall, noting that an initial quotation had now been received from Slick Stickers | Signs | Graphics for a set of seven aluminium artwork boards (approx. 760mm x 1250mm), digitally

printed. The quoted price was £120 per board, giving a total cost of £840, with the quotation valid for three months from the date issued (14 January 2026).
Recommendation: It was agreed to park this item for further discussion at a future meeting, once potential funding options to cover the costs have been explored in the near future. To be removed off Agenda until further notice, until funding becomes available to purchase, but also prioritise purchasing new curtains for the hall.

12. To update land leased to Tesco and their responsibilities – Clerk to report
The Clerk reported that Waterloo Place Lane has recently been patched with tarmac rather than fully resurfaced. The Clerk will write to Tesco to thank them for undertaking the patching works and to seek clarification as to whether this repair is intended as a temporary measure or forms part of a wider plan for full resurfacing. The Clerk further advised that an update is required on the current position regarding the structural engineering assessment of the wall adjacent to/at the MUGA.

Recommendation:

- ***Clerk to write to Tesco (thanks + request confirmation on whether temporary/permanent and any resurfacing timescales).***
- ***Clerk to gather clarity of status of structural engineering works on the back wall of the Plaskynaston MUGA.***

13. Chair to discuss AI Subscription
This was not discussed.
Recommendation: To remove from the agenda.

14. General Discussion / Action Plan
14.1 Canal & River Trust Update

The Chairman provided an update following his meeting with Claire Farrell (Canal & River Trust) and Councillor Sue Kempster (Llangollen Rural). The Chairman reported that the Canal & River Trust is seeking a suitable building—preferably an older/historic property—to support as a community hub. The George Edwards Hall was suggested as a potential option.

The Chairman advised that this could present an opportunity for funding and wider support for the Cefn area. It was noted that, should George Edwards Hall be progressed as a community hub, accessibility improvements would be required, including consideration of a lift. The Chairman proposed that a feasibility study would be beneficial to support and evidence plans to develop the Hall as a genuine community hub for the wider community.

The Chairman also commented that the community of Cefn has previously received assurances that have not come to fruition, and that this opportunity should be explored fully to secure tangible outcomes. In addition, it was reported that there was positive interest in the idea of a bridge over the River Dee linking the Chirk area.

Members asked whether the Council's existing feasibility studies could be shared with the Canal & River Trust.

Recommendation / Resolution:
That the Chairman continues to explore this opportunity for the Cefn area, with a focus on the potential of the George Edwards Hall as a community hub, and that the Clerk/Chairman share relevant feasibility information with the Canal & River Trust where appropriate.

14.2 Next Development Committee Meeting
It was agreed by Members that the next Development Committee meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, 12th March 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.

The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.