

To whom it may concern

My name is Judith Voyle and I am the Branch Retail Manager at the Barnardo's Shop Bargoed.

I was so sorry to hear today by Jeanette Brook that there is a possibility that the Community Centre in Phillipstown may have to close.

I would like to let you know how Jeanette and friends from that Community Centre have helped raise funds for many years for us in Barnardos by organising Jumble Sales, Easter events, raffles.

Having attended all these events over the past few years I have always come back feeling proud of the people of Phillipstown and proud of all of us who live in the Welsh Valleys. There are so many Communities that are struggling to stay as a community. I personally feel that when our coal mines closed we lost a lot of community spirit, but Phillipstown is the best example where the people of the community are fighting to keep that spirit going by the kindness they show to try and help others when in fact their own community needs all the help it can get.

The people on your committee I know will work hard to keep their community centre open. They cannot do it on their own. Please can you try and find a way to help them.

The community centre is in the heart of Phillipstown, it is a place where people like Jeannette and friends can organise create opportunities, fill their lives up. It is a place for the children to call "their Centre". It is a place where maybe children growing up will have a place to go , off the streets.

I am not a resident but I know by the people who come into my shop and the involvement I have had with them that the closure of this building will have a huge impact on their lives.

Please do all you can to find a way to keep their community centre open it is all they have and they truly deserve all the help they can get.

Communities is a small or large social unit with something in common be it social, religion , values or identity, this is what Phillipstown needs more than ever, so please given these people a chance.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

Judith voyle