

Annex 4e: Response from Gelligaer Community Council

With reference to your recent draft proposals I am writing to confirm that members of Gelligaer Community Council do not agree to the 7.9% increase to Council Tax in view of the fact that you have a considerable amount in reserves, some of which is earmarked, and an underspend from last year.

We would like CCBC to reconsider the following:

CS10 - We would like to see the Empowerment Fund continue it was extremely useful to community groups, making worthwhile projects possible at grass root level. It was such a good initiative (very much like the Area Forum Funding) but needs time to bed in and establish itself properly.

CS14 - We object to the cuts to voluntary organisations such as GAVO, Groundwork and CAB. These services are needed more than ever during this cost of living crisis and should be supported.

EE4 – we oppose the withdrawal of subsidy for the Blackwood to Ystrad Mynach Rail Link bus service. Other solutions should be explored like opening up the service to non rail users.

EE6 - We oppose the increase in charges of sport pitches as it flies in the face of the Welsh Government's Well-being of Future Generations Act which requires public bodies to consider carefully the long term impact of their decisions and to work better with communities in preventing health inequalities.

EE15 We object to the cuts to Community Centres just when we have emerged from the pandemic and people are finding the confidence to re-engage with others through activities held at our community centres and halls.

ELL13 We object to the loss of an Educational Psychologist a crucial role in supporting our children and we feel should be filled immediately.

Please acknowledge receipt of my email.

Many thanks

Cofion cynnes / Warm regards
Ceri

Ms Ceri Mortimer
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