

**Healthy Blaenavon Partnership  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 5.30pm  
Blaenavon Town Council Offices  
Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Nathan Matthews (Chair)	Mayor of Blaenavon, Blaenavon Town Council
Amy Evans	Blaenavon Community Capacity Builder, Torfaen CBC
Bethan McPherson	Head of Communities and Renewal, Torfaen CBC
Cllr Nick Horler	Elected Member, Torfaen CBC
Kath Mitchell	Community Capacity and Business Manager, Torfaen CBC
Kevin Warren	Chief Officer, Blaenavon Town Council
Lydia Parry	Bron Afon Community Housing

**Apologies:**

Apologies were received from David Leech, Emma Davies-McIntosh, Alexis Williams, Sam Jones, Greg Davies-Owens, Jo Lloyd, Ashleigh Taylor, Cllr Liam Cowles and Cllr Janet Jones.

**Welcome and Introductions**

The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance but noted that the meeting was barely quorate. He raised concerns over the high number of apologies received and the number of partners not present and felt that attendance and partner commitment needed to be addressed if the Partnership Board is to have a future.

**Minutes of last meeting:**

Agreed

**Actions log:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Update</b>
5/10/23	To develop a logic model for interventions. i.e. if we do this how do we measure whether it's (a) reduced loneliness and social isolation, and (b) increased people's engagement with community groups	Dave Leech / Emma Davies-McIntosh	Pending confirmation of arrangements of Torfaen IWN support in absence of lead role
5/10/23	To consider whether Bron Afon could sponsor a small monthly award.	Lydia Parry	In progress, linked to discussion re sponsorship below
5/10/23	To put some ideas together for a comms plan for consideration at the next meeting.	Dave Leech	Pending update
16/11/23	BTC to put out social media posts for more 'good neighbours' stories	Kevin Warren	Pending
16/11/23	Good news stories to be printed and distributed across town	Amy Evans	Pending
16/11/23	Blaenavon Primary School to be approached in relation to Windows to Positivity	Ashleigh Taylor	Pending update
16/11/23	Approach Abersychan and Bryn Onnen schools	Emma Davies-McIntosh	Pending update

07/12/23	Circulate list of businesses and organisation to members	Amy Evans	
07/12/23	Email invitation to businesses and organisation	Amy Evans	

### **Good Neighbours Update**

Amy Evans and Lydia Parry provided an update on the event planned for Thursday 25 January 2024.

It was noted that the auditorium in Blaenavon Workmen's Hall has been booked from 5pm to 9pm at a cost of £200. Bron Afon has agreed to fund catering at the cost of £75.

The event will take place from 6pm to 7:30pm.

A discussion took place concerning the content of the event. It was agreed that the event will:

- Focus on networking
- Allow partner organisations the opportunity to share their work with the community
- Prompt conversations with local businesses and organisations to ask questions and identify ways in which they can promote positivity in Blaenavon
- Identify priorities for the future consideration by the Healthy Blaenavon Partnership

In terms of messaging, it was felt that 'encouraging positivity' rather than 'challenging negativity' would be more appropriate.

### **Structure of event**

- Refreshments and Networking
- Welcome and introductions - Nathan
- Overview of project (what is the aim) - Nathan
- About the Charter (Set key principles but ask the community for input)
- Closing comments to include what's next and asking people to sign up - Nathan
- Networking (Lydia, Jo and Amy to have clip boards with forms for people to sign up)

It was agreed that no mention of the 'Windows to Positivity' project would be included in the evening's agenda, as this would be dependent on the award of grant funding. It was also noted that Blaenavon Town Council had decided not to match fund the Windows to Positivity project at an Extraordinary Meeting held on 6 December 2023.

Amy to hold the register of those signed up and to keep them informed on good news stories. A QR code will be sent to those who are unable to attend on the night.

### **Invitation List**

- 84 at present – still collating information.
- Amy to email the list to members of this group for contact information on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 23.
- Members of the meeting to submit any changes and return to Amy by the 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 23.
- Amy to send email invite on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 23.

1 or 2 representatives from each organisation

A couple of weeks before the event, discussed sending out a social media, aimed at businesses and organisations.

### **Community insight**

Kevin - Blaenavon Town Council have received positive feedback on their recent events and communications activities, these events have also brought in others from outside Blaenavon.

Lydia - There have been more positive social media posts.

Lydia – Cost of living is still impacting on BA residents, their hardship budget is being cut.

Nick - The improvement of properties has brought positive change to the community.

Nick - The Postmaster has been approved but planning application is still pending.

Amy – Currently working with several groups/ organisations with positive changes in the pipeline for 2024, still early days.

### **Schedule of meetings for 2024**

To be discussed at next meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 5:30pm