CROESYCEILIOG AND LLANYRAFON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CROESYCEILIOG a LLANYRAFON
Caring for the Community

****Report of MEETING**
BUSINESS PLANNING COMMITTEE
Wednesday 14th October 2026 AT 6.00PM

Present:

Cllr V Crick (Chair)
Cllr D Dewar
Cllr S Matthews
Cllr C Crick
Cllr N Davies
Cllr D Williams
Cllr V Williams
Cllr J Boycott

Sian Davies, Clerk
Kelly Lewis, Administrator
Dan Oliver, Hwb
Ashleigh Taylor, Hwb

1. Apologies

Cllr L Boycott

2. Presentation/Workshop

Dan Oliver (CEO) The Hwb Torfaen and Ashleigh Taylor, (Chair of the board) The Hwb Torfaen

Dan Oliver (CEO, Hwb Torfaen) and Ashleigh Taylor (Chair, Hwb Torfaen) provided Members with an overview of Hwb's achievements, community impact, investment and strategic priorities since 2020, including the transformation of Woodland Road and plans for future development.

Members were updated on changes to Hwb's Board, including the appointment of three new trustees and a new Chair. The valuable contribution of the outgoing Chair was also acknowledged.

Despite challenges including Covid-19 and restricted access during major refurbishment works, Hwb reported significant achievements, including:

- Over **577,000 community engagements**
- **7,667 service users** in 2025
- **99 collaborative community partnerships**
- Over **£1.76 million secured in funding**
- **183 volunteers** contributing over **20,600 hours**, valued at **£175,431**

Dan and Ashleigh emphasised the importance of Hwb's longstanding partnership with CCLC, highlighting how the Council's financial support had helped secure an additional **£1.4 million in funding** over six years, enabling substantial improvements to community facilities, services and opportunities. Members were particularly impressed by the contribution of volunteers.

Hwb welcomed the prospect of Croesyceiliog Rugby Club returning to the site and its ambition to secure funding for dedicated changing facilities. Strong relationships with residents and local organisations were also highlighted, including a resident who voluntarily removes graffiti from the children's play park.

Members were advised that Hwb had submitted a **£400,000 application to the National Lottery Community Fund**, currently at Round 1. If successful, funding would commence the following summer to support further development and community activities.

Dan and Ashleigh requested the continuation of **CLCC's £50,000 annual contribution for three years from April 2027**, with a review and potential extension to five years. They stressed that this support would provide essential match funding to attract further investment, sustain services and deliver Hwb's strategic objectives.

Members present expressed their support for continuing the partnership and Hwb's ongoing development. They also highlighted opportunities to strengthen both organisations' community visibility and social media presence.

Ashleigh also requested **two additional grants totalling £12,000**:

- **£7,000** towards essential electrical works to make the upstairs bar safe and operational
  for sports clubs, functions and community events.
- **£5,000** towards repairs and maintenance of the children's swings, currently unsafe and unusable.

Ashleigh explained that Hwb's available reserves had been committed to establishing the new café, leaving limited funds for these unforeseen costs. Both grants would enable important community facilities to be restored to safe public use.

** Cllr V Williams left the meeting at 6.30pm **

Cllr D Williams advised he is supportive of Hwb's objectives and suggested an active citizenship award promoted by Hwb could be awarded at the Grants evening and suggested inviting Codi and Lovell to the grants evening who potentially offer local funding which could be beneficial to Hwb and other local organisations who attend.

** Cllr D Williams left the meeting at 6.35pm **

The Clerk advised Hwb a Community Project Grant Application form would be sent for completion, and consideration of project funding and the service level agreement would be undertaken at Full Council.

Dan and Ashleigh were thanked for attending the meeting and sharing valuable information with members.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr D Williams – Torfaen County Borough Council Member
Cllr J Boycott – Community Garden

4. Minutes of Business Planning Committee Meeting 9th September 2026

Minutes of the Business Planning Meeting held 9th September 2026 were approved as an accurate record.

RESOLVED: Members approved the Minutes

Proposed by Cllr N Davies seconded by Cllr V Crick, **agreed** unanimously

5. Matters Arising

-Trees and plants – members were advised that the planters outside The Co-operative on North Rd have been maintained.
- Cllr N Davies requested the Clerk contact TCBC to request an overgrown hedge is maintained in Croesyceiliog – What3Words location shared with the Clerk.

- **Riverbank** – Cllr S Matthews arranged a further site meeting is requested to discuss TCBC's response relating to the riverside bunds, Clerk to forward the email response so that Cllr Matthews can make arrangements.

RESOLVED: Members noted.

6. Review of Project Plan & Planting Suggestion List

The updated plan was discussed and:

-Litter bins - TCBC confirmed that a bin will be placed at Kidwelly Rd asap, but are behind schedule, and that placing a bin at Llanyrafon AFC would be problematic as emptying it would be an issue.
-Riverbank erosion- Discussed in item 5.
-Memorial Area – Cllr J Boycott has contacted Morris' of Usk who have advised they will maintain the Oak tree prior to the memorial service, and the contractor has also advised he will repair the planters prior to the service. Cllr S Matthews will fill the planters prior to the service, costs to be discussed with the Clerk.
- Remembrance Sunday Order of Service to be sent to Cllr V Crick. The Clerk has also emailed the TA Centre to invite a flagbearer and bugler to attend the service. Cllr S Matthews to visit the TA Centre to chase a response. Hwb and the Padel have also made arrangements to ensure the area is clear and ready for the service.
-Christmas Tree Lights and Events – to be progressed by the Events Committee.
-Street Poppies – The contractor has been engaged to erect the lamppost poppies as usual.
-Heritage Phone Box – The project is complete and this item will be removed from the next Project Plan.

7. Items for Discussion

7.1 **Dog bag holder, bags and dog wash facilities at WR**
Item deferred.

7.2 **Speeding on The Highway**
The response from TCBC advised that they are legally unable to install repeater signs, and offered to install a SID, however a SID is already installed and therefore members suggested a response is sent to advise that it is already in place. Cllr C Crick suggested that his previously submitted correspondence to the AM and MP be taken to full Council for its approval to resubmit to the two Elected Members and requested details of the relevant legislation from TCBC.
Members **agreed** unanimously.

7.3 **Riverbank Issues**
Discussed in item 5.

**** This report is NOT a set of authorised meeting minutes, but a reflection of the meeting held. The minutes of the meeting this report refers to will reviewed and discussed at the next Full Council meeting and authorised accordingly.**