

Special Meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday, 11 July 2018 with Mrs. Andrea Withers, Connect Facilitator, United Welsh in the Council Chamber, Orchard Street at 6.00pm.

Present:- Councillors ***B.M. Sutton*** ***(Presiding).***
J. Sutton
J.M. Gardner
Mrs. O.M. Swales
H.J. Swales
W.K. Hodgins
D.P. Foote
G.D. Jones
M.I Morgan

In Attendance:- ***Mrs. A.C. Davies*** ***(Town Clerk).***
Miss. N.J. Williams ***(Asst. Town Clerk).***

***Apologies were given on behalf of Councillors, R.J. Hill, Mrs. D. Brown
Miss. S.A. Morgan.***

The Chair welcomed Mrs. Andrea Withers to the meeting.

Mrs. Withers started by informing members that she had previously worked for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council for 39 years.

Mrs. Withers then went on to explain that she had recently landed her dream job as a Connect Facilitator with United Welsh which is funded by Comic Relief. The post will last for 2 years so Mrs. Withers is hoping that volunteers will take ownership of the classes and continue with the schemes when her post ends. The aim of the role is to get the lonely out of isolation to involve them more in the community and to bring local residents into the schemes using assets that are available. Mrs. Withers have been contacting Local Clubs, Agencies and Organisations in Brynmawr, Beaufort, Nantyglo & Blaina area to arrange meetings to find out what events, clubs and classes are currently taking place. Mrs. Withers will be working with Wesley House and Saxon Court in the Brynmawr area.

Mrs. Withers asked Members for any information regarding clubs, funding etc.

A member said that he is in contact with the Sole Sisters (Blaenau Gwent) Running Club to arrange running sessions in Brynmawr, they have over 120 members and do all levels of running and walking for all ages. The Running Club is aimed at woman but men can join also.

Various clubs was suggested:

Crafty Knitters – Blaina - LAC Centre – Wooly Friends Knitting Club.

Ebbw Vale Institute (EVI) – Art Classes, Yoga Classes for all ages, Patchwork quilting, Stress Control, Music events.

A member suggested starting a gardening club where residents grow flowers to plant around the town.

Mrs. Withers explained that she would be gathering all the information then visiting each resident individually to find out what is important to them and what they would feel comfortable getting involved in.

Mrs. Withers informed the meeting that the Head of Arts is coming along to give a taster day which will take place on Friday, 13 July 2018 at Llys-Nant-y-Myndd, Nantyglo where residents will be able to experience different activities.

Mrs. Withers is also in contact with local Nursery Schools to get them involved with the Come Visit Scheme where pupils will visit residents with Alzheimer's.

Mrs. Withers informed members that she has to deliver feed back of the outcomes of each scheme to Comic Relief in six months time.

Members suggested to meet with Mrs. Withers in six months time but during the meantime Brynmawr Town Council will forward any ideas/information/events that is happening around the town. Mrs. Withers finished by thanking the Town Council for meeting her and said she would forward any further information to the Clerks.

Meeting closed at 18.35 hours.