

***Special Meeting with Ms. Sharon Cargill and Ms. Claire Smith, Blaina ICC,  
Blaenau Gwent Children's Development Officers.  
Wednesday, 09 January 2019 at 5.30pm. in the Council Chamber, Brynmawr.***

***Present:- Councillors B.M. Sutton (Chair).  
R.J. Hill, M.I. Morgan, H.J. Swales,  
Mrs. D. Brown, W.K. Hodgins,  
G.D. Jones, D.P. Foot.***

***Town Clerk: Mrs. A.C. Davies.  
Asst. Town Clerk: Miss. N.J. Williams.***

***Apologies:- Mrs. O.M. Swales, Miss S.M. Morgan, J.M. Sutton,  
J.M. Gardner.***

The Chair welcomed Ms. Sharon Cargill and Ms. Claire Smith to the meeting.

Ms. Cargill started by explaining that it has been a Local Authority's Statutory Duty to support children's activities and offer local play opportunities since 2012. The aim is to encourage children to play outside safely in their local communities and to make Wales the best place to play and the best area to be bought up in.

Ms. Cargill said that since 2013 every 3 years an assessment takes place and a draft is presented to the Welsh Government to make sure the criteria is being met. There are 101 criteria that are scored in a green, amber and red method.

Figures:

2013 – 45% green and 14% red

2016 – 71% green

2019 – to be complete by March 2019.

Ms. Cargill explained that they can achieve a lot with the help of the Local Authorities, parents, children and partners by all linking up, but cannot do it alone. They already work with Tai Calon using their areas for activities and they have funded play dates in the past also Aneurin Leisure Trust offer sports activities such as street games all at no cost.

Ms. Smith said they are allocated around £10,000 a year but there is no dedicated budget for this scheme. GAVO have supported this project over the last two years who have recruited 50 volunteers to help with play sessions, to go into schools to talk with the children to find out what they would like and what barriers there are stopping them from playing outside and to look at available areas for activities.

A group called "Wild Tots" is already up and running at Roseheyworth and is very successful. Parents and toddlers get to go outside in all weathers foraging and lighting fires for hot drinks and marshmallow roasting.

Ms. Smith said play friendly schools are encouraging schools to get children out in all weathers letting them take little risks where the children can learn and be able to grow.

Ms. Smith said that the Town Council can get involved by signposting play in the Community and to engage with the local people and then feedback to Claire and

Sharon what people would like and if there are areas where there is nowhere to play or activities for the children. Ms. Smith said the Town Council could bare the impact on children's play areas when commenting on Planning Applications. It was suggested that Brynmawr Town Council could fund a play session in the near future.

Both ladies agreed to meet the Town Council in the near future.

The Chair thanked the guests for presenting their Summer Session scheme to members.

Meeting closed at 18.10 hours.