

Annex 8: Budget Consultation 2020/21 - Feedback from Face to Face Drop in sessions

Proposals agreed with:

- I agree with reduction in corporate DDA budget as a lot has been done and I trust enough money is still available for work that needs doing
- Enforcement – litter and dog fouling e.g. football clubs need to take responsibility when spectators litter
- Penallta CA site expansion and closure of Trehir – suggest recycling shop is run with a charity
- Turn street lights off – the sooner the better
- Agree with higher increase in civic catering costs
- Reduction in community centre caretakers
- Charging for planning advice for larger builds
- More enforcement – litter, dog fouling and illegal parking
- Agree review of investment strategy
- Agree with digital services efficiency savings

Proposals disagreed with

- Reducing tree cutting leads road signs being obscured (danger)
- I object to the reduction on voluntary sector budget £80k to GAVO, Groundwork and especially CAB. These organisations are major contributors to the support of voluntary organisations, which the Council depend on to deliver the Caerphilly we want and work in connection with loneliness and isolation. Volunteers who are not paid are wonderfully good value. The CAB will have to reduce its activity (outreach will be closed) a major blow to deprived and vulnerable people
- I object to charging for rat treatment. Council will only save £20k – very little – and many people will not report rat infestations and rat population will grow especially in deprived areas
- Closure of Trehir tip
- Carriageway resurfacing - cuts to maintenance budget
- I object to increasing the price of school meals by 10p. Child poverty in CCBC area is bad and this doesn't help. Many non-free school meal families still live in poverty.
- I object to deleting Technical Assistance Fund as this is great help to community work in the voluntary sector
- I object to the reduction (£10k) peanuts in Council budget in playground maintenance budget. Children need to play, families need support.
- No adult education courses available in Fochriw and transport to Bargoed/Rhymney is limited
- Cleaning parks/leaves – reducing maintenance budget
- Increase the cost of bulky waste collection and closing civic amenity sites - it will be more difficult to access sites/service which will result in increased fly tipping as
- Reduction in street cleansing budget
- Reduction in grass verge cutting

- Reduction in pavement maintenance budget
- Council Tax
- Bulky waste charge increase leading to more fly tipping
- Customer Services
- 2% reduction in schools budgets
- Household Waste Recycling Centre – impact on fly tipping and Rat Treatment Fees
- CCTV
- Community Safety Wardens
- Carriageway maintenance budget
- War memorials budget especially with Centenary
- Disagree with review of investment strategy
- Road safety implications
- Reduction in highway maintenance budget
- Gully cleaning
- Reduction in street sweeping and cleansing budget not good
- Help to community centres
- Reduce cost of removing household furniture and white goods hopefully reducing fly tipping also try to keep 2 members of staff in New Tredegar library as the library is now a lifeline to many aged and unemployed people

Comments on how community can work with us

- People feel there is no point in having their say because nobody listens
- Don't pay lip service to consultation/seeking views – the Council actually need to connect/engage “get out on the street”
- “customer services” – the perception is that customer services are just there for paying Council tax and there was no understanding of what else could be done at the customer services desk in libraries
- “understanding is the key to collaboration” the Council need to explain things to people so that they understand e.g. the street light situation – explain the connections between things e.g. solar/energy saving and street lighting
- Involve Councillors in the conversation and make sure that they are engaged and engaging in the conversation
- Use “real” examples to explain e.g. ½ million cuts is equal to ...
- If people can see how things will impact on them, then they will get involved
- Increase percentage collection for council tax to more realistic level
- Increase charges for meals on wheels to production costs (£5.00 approx) as older people who need meals on wheels at home are very likely to get extra disability payment e.g. attendance allowance
- Encourage the local community to take responsibilities for their area and get involved
- Knit and natter group Newbridge – Council to facilitate a route for volunteers to come forward to “improve” their communities e.g. litter collection, garden projects. Lots of interest but how is this interest “consolidated” and these individuals “brought together”?
- Need to encourage teenagers to take responsibility

Other comments

- Hours of drop in sessions
- Public toilets (last year)
- Street lighting at Council offices
- Time taken for Council houses to have new tenants empty for too long – 10 weeks!
- Be seen – how can we help – not in ivory towers
- Disconnect – senior officers need to go out and about and not sit in offices. How does your job affect others?
- Good to see Blackwood toilets reopened – but do something with the old building which is still empty doing nothing
- Lottery funding for local art clubs etc
- Bring back Christmas parades – involve the whole community and make it commercial
- Blackwood library great community facility used for many community activities
- Outsourcing of council departments where able and relevant

Voting on Council Tax increase

I support the proposed increase

I'd support a lower increase

Would be prepared to pay an even greater increase

I do not support any increase in council tax