

Annex 9: Digest of social media (Facebook) responses

The collective comments in relation to the following Facebook posts are included below.

7 November 2019

4 December 2019

13 January 2020

As with all consultation responses, those considered to be of an offensive nature have been removed.

Alison Long No problems accessing either the budget proposals or the link. I really hope people respond accordingly. Quite disappointed the schools have been targeted given that most now rely on PTA's for assistance. And the closure of trihir site would have a catastrophic effect. I believe the savings are disproportionate to the clean up which would be required following all the fly tipping which would undoubtedly follow. Also CO2 emissions from all residents needing to get to the sites further away and crossing patrols should come under the same umbrella as the schools. Children's safety is paramount!!

Duncan Nicholls Caerphilly County Borough Council so basically since last years increase of 6.95% you cut the services. And guess what another proposed increase of the same. So lets do some simple sums. A 2 year increase of nearly 14% for less services. Do you think employers give us council tax payers that sort of increase on our wages every year. Not unless your on the board of the council that is.

Mark A Williams The only thing the council is not cutting is the grass

Dawn Stephens Caerphilly County Borough Council not turned off lighting ? Funny that because from 11pm till 5.30 am risca & Ty-sign has no street lighting which is a health and safety issue but hey as long as your saving money don't worry about us parents getting phone calls at 1 am because a man is in the street shouting and xxx too xxx scared to get out of her car and come home yep you all sleep well and don't let it worry you . What will it take for you too realise it's a problem ? Girl / woman raped ? Elderly falling over a death ? Hmmm I'm sure you don't care your saving money balancing your books and lining your pockets . Well done.

Tracy Davies Yet more cuts that we have to suffer from. This council is a farce. Are you going to look at cuts within the council? Over staffing in some areas, full time psots that could be part time, fuel allowance for meetings about meetings, flexi time misuse that doesn't get managed properly, overspend of stationery and office equipment, relocations of departments that don't need to be done. These are just some examples to look at. We, as the public, deserve to live in a well lit, safe, clean environment. The cuts made in this Borough is reverting to us living in times gone by. We should be leading by example and making the Borough a place where people want to live. We have great links to motorways and would be a perfect and affordable place for out of area workers to live if we lived in an an environment that was up to date!

Tom Tom What about helping a family who has to live in private accommodation with windows falling out because they're so rotten and environmental health and housing know about this and 4 years later were still here what a joke!! But the list of faults and problems here are endless I thought rent smart Wales was there too protect tenants and landlords alike.

Denise Main-Evans A huge cut back you could make is to go paperless as much as possible. Far too much is being spent across the county on postage and paper and the staff hours to print and put in envelopes let alone the trees. It's 2019 and surely most people under 60 have access to email. Postage and paper should be in the minority with only those who, under no circumstances, can receive a digital copy!!

Brian Lear Save a few bob by sacking the transport department, and whoever gave the green light to mess up the corbets roundabout for over a year then painted arrows willy nilly

Neil Fox Stop having dog poo bag pick up and just have dog walking areas so the dog poo can degrade back into the soil where it belongs

Ken Jones The leader gets £49K per year and the two deputies get £30K each, roughly this is £109K, what do they do? There could be money saved by just having one deputy

Merriel Brewer That's nothing new about them making cuts, if they done the job they were paid to do and not take the p-ss in claiming high expenses there may be a bit more money in the pot, they waste so much money it's crazy.

Cynthia Robinson Why are street lighting not part of this year's budget consultation. This decision to plunge us all into darkness at midnight would not be tolerated in other parts of South Wales. Imagine the uproar residents of Cardiff would complain and take action against Cardiff council. The residents of Caerphilly who are ratepayers should take action against this council who are treating the ratepayers disgracefully. Put the lights back on in Caerphilly please. I am quite frightened to be plunged into darkness at midnight. Can I have a reduction in my rates please Caerphilly council, not a copy and paste reply either.

Cynthia Robinson Caerphilly County Borough Council does this mean that a lot of pot holes in the borough will be filled in please? Can you define further what 'reinvestment' means and also the same definition for transportation network across the county borough. Could I have answers in plain English please as I am 74 years of age and fine use of modern English and technology baffling. Many thanks

Cynthia Robinson Caerphilly County Borough Council who made the decision to plunge the whole area under Caerphilly cc into darkness at midnight each evening. Please don't insult my intelligence by saying a survey was carried out etc because I don't know of anyone in my area who was 'surveyed' etc. I would, as a ratepayer who has lived in Caerphilly since 1971, very much appreciate a sensible answer to this question. Many thanks

Angela Hamilton Just put our lighting back on

[Ann Woosnam](#) As a flippant comment, re-using the banners plastered on the lampposts would be a good cut to make. You have enough different varieties now to cover all eventualities

[Joanne Cegielski Taylor](#) As part of your consultation, could you please include options. For example, the consultation you sent out last year, highlighted cuts to meals on wheels, this I believe, was completely inappropriate, if you cut meals on wheels service, this could lead to bed blocking of hospitals, it currently costs approximately £600 per day to keep a person in hospital for non medical care. Can you please provide realistic options within your service provisions. Low, medium, high risk of loss of service, income and outgoing loss and gain analysis together with 'forward thinking' projections of any immediate loss and impacts to all constituents. Value for money projections, staff cuts in line with any proposed cuts you project. This way, we as the general public can have our say in a democratic manner regarding invaluable service loss in all sectors in an equal and fair manner. Thank you your reply would be appreciated as the consultation you sent out last year was 'singular and misleading'.

[Paul Saunders](#) Surely council leaders dont need £150k a year, so how about cutting their salaries

[Liane Elms](#) **[Sara Powell-Davies](#)** im just annoyed that our Council tax is going up and expected to cover so much more yet their wages and pension bill is over £10million. We aren't even paying for services - just their wages and pensions

[Elizabeth Strange](#) Perhaps some money could be saved by getting rid of the canteen in Ty Penallta. A subsidised canteen for a small minority of people employed by CCBC is neither fare nor needed. If staff not working in Ty Penallta can manage without a subsidised canteen the so can those working there.

[Claire Barley](#) **[Caerphilly County Borough Council](#)** I understand about capital budgets, project funding etc. But you need to invest more in your comms strategy and engagement with residents, Governance, programme and project management.... If all we see are the results of very poor governance and HR processes (I don't think I need to expand this point)! underspends...whichever budgets they come from... you can't blame us residents, Whose council tax keeps going up without an increase in quality or quantity of service provisuon.... Or worse still, cuts in areas of priory for Welsh Government - health and wellbeing.... You can't blame residents for beings sceptical or having miss trusting.

[Liane Elms](#) **[Caerphilly County Borough Council](#)** from what I have read - albeit quickly - the cuts aren't very high impact - apart from the schools - the issue arises with the CCBC wage bill, living wage increase, pension contrubutions etc. Wasn't it not so long ago that it was mentioned that your sickness bill was £1 million a month?

[Martyn Evans](#) Wonder how bad the cuts are going to get after Brexit? My feeling is this is nothing compared to what lies ahead. Still, at least the Council Offices look state of the art while many of the school buildings are no longer fit for purpose.

Frank Tug Tugby First cut back council executives pay and councilors expenses that should save a few quid

Elaine Hamer Turn the street lights back on, it's ridiculous living in blackout all the time, it's not safe,

Andrew Jenkins Wont win Labour Welsh government needs to cut to 5 in wales no big pays of silly pensions.

And councillors thing of past not needed now .That would, free up 100 of millions of pounds .

Spent schools roads youth clubs trains .we to invest in our young people not old But never happen in wales we go backwards as England Scotland move upward

David Susan Evans Cut the execs pay xxxxxxxx, we dont have much left

Gareth Williams <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/.../17324853.../>



SOUTHWALESARGUS.CO.UK

Costs of controversial roundabout works rise to eye-watering £8million

Michael Brain **Gareth Williams** and all they needed to do was put traffic lights on the original roundabout and achieve the same thing for hardly any cost and hardly any delays it's laughable

Teg Milton CCBC, I never comment on these type of notices but I for one will be happy to see the back of this Labour run farce.

The people who suffer are the workers, who already pay over the odds with your Council tax. Who are paying the price for your own means. One of the biggest savings could be getting rid of the amount of 'mostly' useless managers, you've got manages managing managers, managing managers. Not one of them can make a decision unless there's a 'meeting', to my understanding these meetings are usually held within the

working day, so why do they need to claim expenses as well as a bonus for attending?

Stop the expenses, also stop the expenses to the so-called local Councillors, I'm sure once they realise they need to fund (or get funding from another source) they too will walk away. I don't know why we need the amount of Councillors, it seems there are more 'local' Councillors than there are politicians in the American White House.

You take, take and continue taking. The tax we pay also covers scene's of beauty, yet we've now got to pay to park. The cemeteries are covered by our tax, yet you are robbing people when they need to bury a loved one..... I'll enlighten the public later because of the way you made me feel it infuriates me even thinking about it.

The letter I received from you a week or so ago, yes I still live in my home alone, yes my husband still resides at the local cemetery and NO I don't think he'll be home any time

soon.

I suppose I should thank you for the pittance 25% discount off my Council tax!!!! So we have both worked throughout the 35 years we have lived here, we have ALWAYS paid FULL rates, poll tax and now Council tax..... Unless my maths is totally wrong, where there were two, sadly now one I'm sure that equals 50%...

xxxxx the good Council staff are getting tarred with the same brush.

Start emptying your lockers, it will hopefully be many, many of you out on your useless ear come the 12th of December.

Neil Greaney Do our views matter? Hardly likely, no one will listen.

Cutting over paid managers is one option.

In this modern day, why do we not have solar street lights?

If the current trend continues, in 10 years we will be paying over £1000 more a year.

Bazza Preston So nearly another £100 increase on our council tax for even less service when are we going to get a year with no cuts or just keeping our council tax the same as the year before

Leon Watkins So again the public consultation is only available during the working (commuting) week, I'm sure those residents that aren't in full time work will agree to the changes/cuts so long as there's no change to their benefits. [Caerphilly County Borough Council](#) continues to side against anyone that works for a living when it's the working people that contribute the most. It's a broken council with a top heavy wage structure, independent consultation is needed to thin out the money hungry few.

Matthew Jayne Council don't care. As long as its convenient for them and their own no1 els matters.

Why is our chief executive being funded by US to go on a 'business trip' to the south of France along with other councilors.

Alan Sargent How are they expecting to claw back 8 MILLION by getting rid of a few part time lollipop ladies/men.

Stephen Young 20 odd million underspend...xxxxxxxxx ...and now a 7 % poll tax increase what do you expect the community to say...thank you

Rachel Clarke How are children to cross safe with no crossing person

Richie Jones The clowns up there won't listen to the public. Street lighting being one hot topic Too busy infighting and paying off crooks. Needs a complete refresh of officers to represent the needs of the area not the personal agenda of the incumbents.

Byron Jones Definitely wages cuts the staff are over paid, why does the chief exec role need so much I live on less than quarter of that. xxxxxxxx

Claire Louise How can you put a price on a child's safety? Absolutely disgusting that this has even been proposed!



Eirwen Potter Trigg Can caerphilly council answer this question please, what is the average pay increase for the executives of the council? If it is over 2% then consider not increasing their wages as they are probably over paid anyway

Ben Delabane Charge council staff over a certain pay grade to park in car park?

Dilwyn Rogers Cut number of councillors and there pensions, share services with other councils, before we all using foodbanks

Mark Payne £30.000000 paid for the fortress(council offices) sell them and get somewhere cheaper!

Alison Long I cannot fathom how the council believe cutting crossing patrols would be a good move. It would jeopardise the safety of so many children. This should never have been considered. It is wrong. The survey has been completed by me, and I would hope many others across the borough. Shame on ccbc for even considering this as a viable money saving option. You cannot put a price on the safety of children.

James Barton Reduce your staff by 50% if you were a business you wouldn't have that many

Pamela James Your spending cut backs are so bad you won't even bother spending money on these so called projects to be done properly... here you are telling the media look what we done to improve places like lansbury, doing up all the houses, new fences new windows and doors. You dont tell people you hire the cheapest and buy the cheapest materials which in turn is not leaving the house economically friendly like you claim. Our new doors are more crook that Mr Sullivan...

Dai Miles Caerphilly Council why are you wasting thousands in St Anne's Gardens maesycwmmmer moving lampposts from one side of road to the other

Paul Hopkins Newport has the lowest tax rate compared to caerphilly and newport is bigger than us. Stop wasting money examples.

Ystrad hospital terrible

Wasted millions on stupid roundabout.

Cut councillors wages saves money.

Pay rises for the elite stop it and make cut backs.

Money wasted on trump tower ie tredomen house why the hell spend that much on a building that only has a few people.

Kelly Ann Jones Here's one idea! Stop the light switch offs in the caerphilly area you are leaving people very vulnerable people who work and finish early hours of the morning and the elderly who live alone and are more vulnerable to crime... turn your lights out in the office and you will save an absolute fortune it's like Blackpool tower there yet many residents are being left afraid because of how dark it is! And also have a look at your single person discount rates! I work 18 hours a week and currently paying £77 council tax ridiculous taking food out of my child's mouth to pay for your wages! But our views won't matter 😞 xxxxxx Nothing. Also I'm still waiting for my house to be done by your so called contractors 🙄🙄 they've done all my neighbours houses yet have missed mine completely 🙄🙄 I have phoned time and time again and I just get palmed off

Simon Jenkins Save money..... xxxxxxxx.

But tbh, isn't there a few people getting pay 4x the average county wage to think up ideas to save money? Instead you ask the public to do it for free..... Infact we still have to pay these people from our taxes, so we get a negative return....

Martyn Stallard Well maybe spend a little out of yr budget being disabled in a wheel chair and cant access my car due no back access to my property and no dropped curb to off road parking disgusting you treat disabled people like this .

Martyn Stallard Phoned them up asking to drop kerb told me not to do with them disgusting should go to the national news and shame them

Elizabeth Turner I would question a few things:

1. Why cut our street lighting that is making our elderly residents feel vulnerable. We pay for these services through our council tax. And our council tax is increasing. Although the council offices are flood light all night and no one is there and I don't doubt we pay for security?
2. Cutting library services restrict free access to books to those that can't afford them or the internet?
3. Are school numbers reducing, to warrant a reduction in school costs, and if not how will there education be affected?.
4. We've just paid the prior CEO extortionate salaries whilst off. How many members of staff are you paying that are off sick, under investigation, who we are paying for temporary members of staff to cover. Effectively paying one salary twice. should perhaps these be managed more effectively to make savings?

Vaz Lewis I would remove/reduce as much as possible of services negatively impacting youth services, primary schools and volunteer organisations.

I hear secondary schools in England are piloting meal allowances enabling children to eat twice a day, not having to choose when in the day they have their 1 and only meal. Our new generation need as good a start as they can.

Amanda Asante No reduction in schools budgets. No increase in cost of school meals. No increase in cost of meals on wheels. Those would be the three I would scrap from the list.

Laura Dawes No reduction on individual school's budget

Stop the closure of Trehir site (Llanbradach tip)

No reduction in voluntary sector budget

Karen Moore I would cut the pay of the chief exec £140 grand a yr is ridiculace . Then you can stop cutting time from the lowest paid staff