

Annex 5p: Response from Management Committee of Tir y Berth Village Hall

We are a third sector organisation as the management committee of Tir y Berth Village Hall. We have found the 2019/20 budget proposals devastating news for us. The village hall was rebuilt in 2015 with lottery funding after a considerable effort by the committee and the then Chairman Hefin David AM. CCBCs proposal to reduce and then withdraw the funding support of our caretaker's salary will mean certain closure of the village hall. The hall is used for a variety of activities serving a wide demographic and as such, the cost of running, sustaining and maintaining the hall are considerable. Without the funding for the caretaker's salary we cannot meet these costs.

Tir y Berth is very much a community and the hall is a very integral part of the life of the community having a positive impact on the mental and physical well being of residents. The hall is used to support the more vulnerable younger and older generations of the community with groups enjoying social activities run by volunteers and access to health and well being courses and groups that are held by the local authorities. Such as healthy eating, sight loss, healthy heart and diabetes awareness and management.

We also support a number of charities and volunteer groups. GAVO are currently hiring some space in the upper area to enable them to run an office at the building. We also support another voluntary group Helping Hands who are based at the hall and do considerable work in the community to involve the local residents in all manner of activities. They hold parties and crafting sessions at the hall and organise social activities/trips. They recently organised the lighting of the Christmas tree in the village square.

Tir y Berth village hall host charity funding activities and have raised money for groups such as Cancer Research. Volunteers from the community have helped so the residents feel they are giving back and not just taking.

The parents of the children in the village feel that the children have great fun at all the activities in the hall and that it is building a sense of belonging and worth in what is a very deprived area. The older adults feel less isolated because they can meet together regularly.

Our caretaker hours are essential for the opening and closing of the hall and maintaining the current high standard of cleanliness. Our caretaker is a local resident of the village and is very passionate about the village hall and regularly spends her own time volunteering in groups held at the hall. Without the funding, our caretaker will lose her and we are very concerned about the impact this will have on her and her family.

We cannot express how strongly we feel about the impact it will have on our community both individually and corporately if the support to fund our caretaker's salary is withdrawn.

We implore you to reconsider this decision as we feel the repercussions of this decision will be felt for a considerable time in the future in the health and well being of the community is not supported through the work and activities that are held in the hall.

Continue to support the village hall so that we can continue to support the community.