



CYNGOR TREF  
PONTYPRIDD  
TOWN COUNCIL

# Agenda

**Regeneration, Events & Museum  
Committee – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 @  
5pm (via Zoom)**

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1. Welcome and apologies.
2. Declarations of interest.

To receive disclosures of personal interests from members:

***Note: Members are requested to identify the item number and subject matter to which their interest relates and to signify the nature of the personal interest; and where Members withdraw from the meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a personal interest, they must notify the Chair when they leave.***

3. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

To note the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 imposes a duty on public bodies including the Town Council to carry out sustainable development in accordance with the sustainable development principle and to act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4. Chief Executive's Report. (pages 1-26)

- 4.1 Christmas Events Report
- 4.2 International Women's Day 2026
- 4.3 Brass Band Festival – Funding Request
- 4.4 Choirs Festival – Funding Request
- 4.5 Jazz Festival – Funding Request
- 4.6 Pride RCT – Funding Request
- 4.7 Museum – Grants Update

## Committee Members

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Councillor L. Davies  
Councillor J. Brencher  
Councillor C. Morgan  
Councillor H. Fychan  
Councillor M. Powell  
Councillor E. Griffiths

Councillor S. Presse  
Councillor A. Kabid  
Councillor L. Tomkinson  
Councillor C. Thomas  
Councillor L. Lewis  
Councillor C. Lisles



Chief Executive/Town Clerk  
5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

***The zoom link for the meeting is available on request by emailing  
info@Pontypriddtowncouncil.gov.uk***

### Please Note

If there are any specific details you wish to raise regarding, for example, background information or require additional detail, it would greatly assist if you could contact the office in advance so that the information and answers can be made available at the Meeting.



CYNGOR TREF  
**PONTYPRIDD**  
TOWN COUNCIL

# **Chief Executive's Report**

## **Regeneration, Events and Museum – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

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### **1. Christmas Events Report (pages 4-8)**

Members are invited to consider the attached report prepared by CH/KM. It will be noted how successful the events over the Christmas period were. The 'Lights Switch On' attracted a very large number of residents into the town centre with many commenting on how well the event was run this year. There were comments received from a couple of local businesses in the run up to the event asking why it was not run on a Saturday, but these were not widespread and it was clear that the event was as popular as usual.

The Grotto was very popular with most Saturdays completely full. The Saturday that coincided with the Festive Take-over was extremely busy and a number of families had to be turned away. This will be considered in the coming weeks and any recommendations will be forthcoming in due course.

The Chief Executive will provide a verbal update regarding damage to the Christmas tree located on Taff Street that occurred on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025.

#### **DECISION REQUIRED:**

To note the report and provide comments as requested.

### **2. International Women's Day**

Cllrs Brencher and Lisles have been involved in organising this event and will provide a verbal update.

#### **DECISION REQUIRED:**

To note the report.

### **3. Brass Band Festival – Funding Request (pages 9-11)**

Members will be aware that a successful (first) Brass Band Festival took place in Summer 2025. The next Festival is planned at the end of Summer 2026 (September 4-6<sup>th</sup>) and the draft programme, budget and funding request is attached for members consideration. This festival will, once again, form part of the Town Council's Tymor Yr Haf series of Summer events. Any funding agreed will come from the Community Events (External) budget which was increased to £17,500 in the 26/27 budget.

Cllr Lisles will provide additional information regarding the event, in kind support from other organisations and the overall costings.

A key question is whether the Town Council will be able to provide the 'in kind' admin support requested by Cllr Lisles. This should be possible but there are limited staff resources available, and this will have a knock on effect throughout the Summer as will be discussed.

#### **DECISION REQUIRED:**

To note the report and agree funding up to a maximum of £5k.

### **4. Choirs Festival – Funding Request (pages 12-14)**

Some Members will be aware that a new festival has been proposed for May 2026 involving a number of choirs from Pontypridd and RCT. The event will take place from 15-17 May and represent the start of our Tymor Yr Haf Summer series of events.

It is likely that this event will require a degree of administrative support because of the type of organisations involved and funding of £3k has been requested. At this stage it is not anticipated that significant external funding will be forthcoming in the inaugural year and Members will have to decide if this is an event they wish to encourage and support moving forward.

#### **DECISION REQUIRED:**

To note the report and whether to agree the funding request of £3k.

### **5. Jazz Festival – Funding Request (pages 15-19)**

Some Members may have already received contact from the organisers of the newly revamped Rhydyfelin and Pontypridd Jazz Festival. This is an expansion of the Rhydyfelin Jazz Festival that has been supported previously. The event will run from 31/7/26-2/8/26. The new organisers are hoping to expand the event significantly and include concerts in the town centre at the Museum.

This event will also form part of the Tymor Yr Haf schedule and will need some support although the organisers are highly motivated to create a successful

event. Their plan, budget and funding request are attached for members consideration.

As with the above mentioned festivals the funding would come from the Community Events (External) budget as previously mentioned and agreed. Again, it is likely that a level of support will be requested and the staff resources will be significantly stretched during the Summer period.

**DECISION REQUIRED:**

To note the report and agree funding up to £3k. The actual figure requested is £2850 but this is likely to change as the event gets closer.

**6. Pride RCT – Funding Request (pages 20-24)**

Members are invited to review the funding request of £1,970 from Pride RCT who are hoping to hold events in Pontypridd in June/July 2026. Details of the event and the funding request are attached for Members consideration.

Although this event will not be a formal part of the Tymor Yr Haf series and will not require staffing support it will add to the programme of events next Summer.

**DECISION REQUIRED:**

To note the report and determine the level of support that will be offered.

**7. Museum – Grants Update (pages 25-26)**

Members are invited to review the attached report prepared by NB which provides an update on works being carried out to the organ and the roof garden.

Works are progressing well although there are some challenges with the contractors carrying out the roof garden repairs (Gunnite). Any major issues will be reported back to the Policy & Finance Committee or Full Council as necessary.

**DECISION REQUIRED:**

To note the report.

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## **2025 Christmas Events/Activities**

1. Christmas Card Competition
2. Christmas Tree Project for Town Wards/Schools
3. Ponty's Christmas Cracker – switch on event
4. Santa's Grotto/Christmas Market
5. Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

Report prepared by: CH/KM

## **1. Christmas Card Competition**

Rob Davies from Kip McGrath Education Services Pontypridd once again supported this year's Christmas Card Competition. Rob was joined by Cllr Lynda Davies and Cllr Carol Morgan for the blind judging process.

Entries were invited from children of all ages who live in, or attend school within, the Pontypridd Town Council area.

The competition was judged in four age categories:

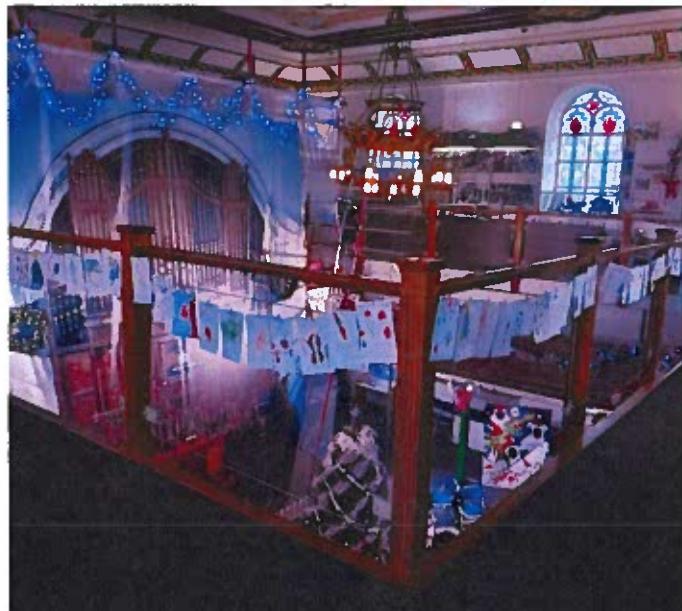
Ages 3–5

Ages 6–8

Ages 9–11

Ages 12+

Winners in each age group received a £25 prize donated by Rob Davies. First, second and third place entries were each awarded chocolates and certificates, while highly commended entries received certificates. All entries are currently on display upstairs in the museum.



We received approximately 120 entries, mainly from three schools, with some submissions received from the general public. A key change from previous years was the shift from school-year categories to age-based categories. This decision followed enquiries from older children, children not attending mainstream education, and to ensure fair access for those whose schools did not take part. As a result, the competition poster was distributed to schools as usual and also shared more widely across our social media platforms. The budget for the event is £300, the spend on this project including gift vouchers for the winners was £122.56 of which £100 was received from Kip McGrath to cover the cost of the vouchers so the total spend for the town council was £22.56.

### **Recommendations**

Entry numbers were less than half of those received last year, which itself saw a decline compared to the previous year. Correspondence with schools indicates that several other Christmas Card Competitions take place around the same time,

including the MP's competition and school PTA competitions. Schools also reported that our competition may fall too early in the academic calendar. An idea discussed by the judges was to change the focus of the competition. Instead of a Christmas card competition, we could introduce a **Christmas Wreath Competition**. All 13 schools within the Town Council ward could be invited to submit a wreath. Each school could decide who creates their entry—such as the eco-council, school senedd, or a collaborative effort across classes.

The wreaths could either be displayed in the museum (for example, hanging from the balcony), or—subject to the support of James BID—displayed in the windows of participating independent businesses. Each display would include a note identifying the school and confirming participation in the Town Council competition.

Judges could then select first, second, and third place. Proposed prizes, funded by Kip McGrath and potentially match-funded by PTC, are as follows:

**1st place:** £50 voucher

**2nd place:** £35 voucher

**3rd place:** £15 voucher

Schools would be free to spend the vouchers as they wish. The winning school could also nominate 2–4 pupils to represent them at the Christmas light switch-on event.

### **Decision Required**

Members are asked to discuss and provide feedback on the suggested changes to the competition.

## **2. Christmas Tree Project for Schools/Wards**

Following the success of the 2024 Christmas Project; Council agreed a budget of £5,000 for the Christmas Tree 2025 project, offering free trees to Schools and Town Wards in the Town Council area. 40 trees were purchased this year which included trees for the Town Centre, Grotto and the front of the Museum.

The budget allocated was £5,000. The actual cost was £5228 but this actual cost includes the 30 foot tree for the town centre.

### **Summary**

One ward opted for an 18 foot tree and another ward had a 16 foot tree but will pay the additional costs. There were no issues reported with delivery or erection of the trees.

### **Recommendation**

To continue the project in 2025.

## **3. Ponty's Christmas Cracker – Christmas Lights Switch On**

The event was held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November from 4:30pm to 7:30pm. The original budget for the switch on event was £15000 with an additional grant of £5000 being received from RCTCBC, so a total budget of £20,000. The spend was £16,637.

The weather was dry and the event was very successful. Positive feedback was received by many.

We estimate that approximately 8,000 people attended the event. Numerous volunteers assisted staff at the event including some Town Councillors. There was a bucket collection during the event for the Mayors appeal that raised £188.85.

#### Recommendation

To have a discussion later in the year around the day of the event after some feedback was received from local businesses asking if we would move the event to a Saturday.

#### **4. Santa's Grotto/Crafts**

Santa's Grotto was held on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December, 11am – 3pm along with crafts and other activities within the museum basement rooms and refreshments.

#### Breakdown of numbers and money raised per week:

Week 1: 83 children & 112 adults (£129.45 raised)  
Week 2: 126 children & 136 adults (£86.25 raised)  
Week 3: 104 children & 103 adults (£101.81 raised)

Total children: 313 Total Adults: 351 Total: 664

Total money raised £317.51

The grotto was housed on the ground floor of the museum with crafts, activities and free refreshments, based in the basement community rooms. The budget for the grotto was £3000, the actual spend was £1352.

#### Feedback received:

The grotto looked amazing; Santa (Cllr Pritchard) was excellent, overwhelming positive feedback was received, which is backed up by the visitor numbers and the amount raised.

The refreshments and crafts were very successful and highly praised. The added activities in the William Price room gave children different things to have a go at, apart from crafts eg making reindeer food and badge making.

#### Recommendation

To continue the event in 2026.

## 5. Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

The Wine and Wreath Night on 28.11.25 sold out its original 20 slots and even added one more. After a reschedule due to a weather warning in place, 18 of the 21 rebooked attendees took part. Tickets were £20 each and, along with a £20 donation, the event generated £380 in total income. Materials cost £297.50, leaving £82.50 , profit. The supplies from previous years was used for the workshop.



Attendees expressed both verbally and through the online survey that they will return next year if the museum hosts the event again, with one participant noting that it was the best workshop they had ever attended and the reason they have returned for the past three years.

### Summary

The workshop remains popular and complements the varied events offered by the Town Council.

### Recommendation

Possibly investigate having an alcohol license in order to be able to supply alcohol at a cost to participants.

## 6. Christmas Lights

New lights were purchased in 2025 for the Christmas tree at a cost of £3162.45 plus VAT. Positive feedback has been received regarding the new lights.

It is likely that recommendations will be made during 2026 to overhaul the Christmas lights to improve the look of the town for Christmas 2026. The current lights are starting to deteriorate and there have been several call outs needed to repair the lights over the season. Meetings will take place in the coming months with light suppliers to look at options.

These recommendations will be brought to Committee with costings in due course.

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## **Pontypridd Brass Band Festival**

### **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2026**

### **Programme Ideas**

#### **Vision:**

To bring a further Festival of Brass to Pontypridd Town Centre in September 2026. A weekend full of concerts and activities for all ages.

#### **Aims:**

- To provide an event which promotes pillars two, four and five of the Pontypridd Town Council Forward Development Plan by bringing people together, fostering youth music development, enhancing the cultural life of the town, increasing visitors and therefore trade to the town.
- To provide brass band music events in a range of formats and styles including the more unexpected, to the residents of Pontypridd, RCT, surrounding areas and beyond and in so doing, promote and uplift the popularity of the genre.
- Mark the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Bandstand by commissioning the composition of a short piece of celebratory music to be performed by bands over the weekend.
- Mark the coming of the Metro to the South Wales valleys by commissioning the scoring of METROpulence by Gwyn C. Jones, a local Rhondda composer telling the story of the railways of the valleys from steam to electric through a combined performance including spoken word with brass and jazz bands and choir.
- To continue the development of a greater musical focus within Pontypridd. This includes enhancing membership of existing bands by facilitating networking between bands and those wanting to take up or revisit brass instrument playing. Also to promote youth involvement in brass music by providing a taster session for young people interested in taking up a brass instrument as a hobby and a development workshop for existing young players with members of a leading band culminating in a combined performance.

#### **Programme Ideas:**

##### **Daytime:**

Saturday – Flashmob

Saturday – Band(s) play on Mill Street or junction

Saturday - Learner's Workshop and Performance – morning/lunchtime – Local Church

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bandstand in Ynysangharad War Memorial Park – A main feature of the Festival. Two days of performances, back to back, band to band, senior band interspersed with junior bands & RCT Music Service etc

Saturday - 11am - 4pm – 6 bands – ‘Carnival Festival’ type theme with stalls round the perimeter of bandstand area, fundraising for eg PTC Mayor’s charities, RCT Music Service etc plus Bar

Sunday - 12midday - 4pm – 4 bands - ‘Sul Swynol’ - Chilled, Relaxed, Family Picnic vibe - Children themed musical programme, craft sessions on picnic blankets in the bandstand area, facepainting

**Early Evening/Evening:**

Friday night – Jam night – Brass Band with Rock Band – Clwb y Bont

Friday night – Opening concert – potentially with organ - Pontypridd Museum

Saturday – 4.30pm Massed Bands – on the new Plaza

Saturday - 4.30pm - Movie performance with Band playing the score - The Muni

Saturday – 5.30pm – Band - either full band or 10 piece - Clwb y Bont courtyard

Saturday – 7.30pm - Formal Concert – The Muni

Sunday – 6.00pm - Finale Concert - Pontypridd Museum

**And...**

**Pontypridd Museum**

Saturday am - Lecture / Talk by leading light of Brass Band world

Saturday pm - Blast the Brass – Taster session upstairs with drums downstairs

Saturday - Link bandstand to Pontypridd Museum via Scavenger Hunt

Throughout - Exhibition – The Music and History of the Bandstand (to run either side of Festival)

Launch – Composition Competition for Young Composers – ready for 2027 Festival!

Pontypridd Brass Band Festival 2026 Expenditure		Cost
<b>Venues</b>		
Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Bandstand - Saturday & Sunday - 10.5 hrs est cost inc VAT		£415.80
Bar TEN Fee for Ynysangharad Park		£21.00
Clwb y Bont - est cost		£150.00
Clwb y Bont - sound engineer - est cost		£120.00
St. Catherine's Church - Learner's workshop and concert - est cost		£100.00
Muni Hire fee - (3pm to 11pm) (inc VAT) - est cost		£1,500.00
Pontypridd Museum (Time for daytime talk, evening opening concert, evening finale concert, Blast the Brass half day upstairs & downstairs) - £10 per hour - 20 hours - est cost		£200.00
<b>Band / Music Related Fees</b>		
Bandstand 100th Anniversary Celebratory Composition inc part editing costs		£580.00
Creating score and parts for METROpulence		£1,500.00
Fees for all community bands £200 x9 (9 x 45 mins) inc Bandstand(5) over 2 days, Flashmob(1), Town(2) & Clwb y Bont(1) - NOTE - no fee for junior bands or massed band		£1,800.00
Jam night - brass band plus rock band £300 X2 (2X45mins sets)		£600.00
Fee for massed band conductor - est cost		£50.00
Opening concert - Pontypridd Museum - est cost		£800.00
Opening concert - Organist Fee - est cost		£100.00
Finale Concert - Pontypridd Museum - Vintage Cory		£300.00
Lecture / Talk - Speaker Fee - est cost		£200.00
Young Composer Competition - 2027 - Prize		£200.00
Vouchers for Composers of Bandstand Anniversary Celebration piece & METROpulence (2 X £50) - thank you from PTC Mayor		£100.00
Percussion kits and Insurance - est cost		£550.00
RCT Music Service - one staff member to attend Learner's Workshop & Blast the Brass (1X£50)		£50.00
PRS - est cost		£250.00
<b>Merchandise</b>		
T-shirts (also used for stewards etc) - Reinspire - 100 = £5.50 plus £110 VAT - plus set up costs - £50 plus £10 VAT - est cost		£770.00
T-towel design - Rhianon - est cost		£150.00
T-Towels - Rhianon - 50 @£5 ea plus £15 postage plus VAT £53 - est cost		£318.00
Beer Mats 1,000 £150 plus VAT £30 - est cost		£180.00
Refreshments		
Lunch for learner's workshop tutors - local café 15 x max £10pp		£150.00
Bottled water and biscuits for learners workshop		£10.00
Bar costs for the park - ???		
<b>Advertising</b>		
Banners (X6) - advertising the festival across Pontypridd - est cost		£210.00
Proper Festival advertising - especially of main Saturday & Sunday day and evening events - est cost		£250.00
Posters / Flyers / Laminated Band Performance sheets - est cost		£300.00
Running cost items		
First Aid cover - 7.5hrs 4 persons Sat, 4.5 hrs 2 persons Sun (£30.87pp est cost) + VAT - est cost		£1,450.00
Prizes - youngest & oldest players @ the Festival, plus band with most related players		£50.00
Professional filming of the event - est cost		£250.00
Exhibition Boards - Pontypridd Museum - est cost		£250.00
Public liability - est cost		£500.00
PTC Van Team - collecting & delivering/returning drum kits - setting up gazebos on the day etc - est cost		£200.00
Assistant clerk - meetings and work prior to event - inc final printing and prep - est cost		£400.00
<b>TOTAL Expenditure</b>		£15,024.80
<b>Income</b>		
Grant - Pontypridd Town Council - requesting envelope of minimum £4,000 up to maximum underwrite - £5000		£5,000.00
Grant - Ty Cerdil - ENGAGE (75% before, 25% 8 weeks after when report submitted) £1500 (applied for £1900 last year, received £1300)		£1,500.00
Grant - Ty Cerdil - CREATE (25% 8 weeks after when report submitted) £522 (Can not be more than 90% of what budgeted for, which is £580) - for Bandstand celebration commission		£522.00
Grant - Pen y Cymoedd - to create score and parts for METROpulence		£1,500.00
Grant - Blakemore Foundation (SPAR) - requesting		£200.00
Cash in bank/hand		£54.00
Ticket sales - Jam Night 40@ £5 = £200 minus platform fee £30 - so = £170 - est		£170.00
Ticket sales - Opening concert - Pontypridd Museum 50@£5pp - minus platform fee £50 - so £200 est		£200.00
Ticket sales - Finale concert - Pontypridd Museum 50@ £5pp - minus platform fee £50 - so £200 est		£200.00
Ticket sales - Main Concerts - Muni (afternoon and evening)		£1,500.00
Merchandise sales - T-SHIRTS/T-TOWELS/PENCILS		£560.00
<b>TOTAL Income</b>		£11,406.00
<b>Difference</b>		£3,618.80

Most items cost is known or can be reliably estimated - where this is less assured italics have been used or if agreement has not yet been reached - only one cost is unknown entirely at present

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## **Choirs Festival Proposal 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

### **Background**

The Festival Committee, which is made up of approximately 10 local organisations, has held approximately three meetings and has established a working group to organise the first festival of its kind in the area, at various locations in Pontypridd. The organising committee is made up of representatives from Pontypridd Town Council, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council as well as numerous local choir leaders.

The dates of the festival are Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May and will be made up of a variety of different events and activities. These dates have been chosen to miss other festivals and events planned for Pontypridd and to kick off the Town Council's Tymor Yr Haf programme of events through the summer months.

The festival has a Facebook page and has put a call out for choirs in other local areas to be involved to make the festival vibrant, inclusive and intergenerational.

The aim is to create a festival that can grow each year, and fill Pontypridd with uplifting singing for all to enjoy during the festival weekend attracting people of all ages from the local areas and beyond.

Various workshops at the festival will allow many participants to see what is involved in being part of a choir, which will hopefully lead to more local choir members making any future festival bigger and better. The workshops will feature activities for new singers and will also focus on the inclusive ethos of the festival.

Various locations will be used throughout the town with schools' choir being incorporated on the first day, a choir's event in Pontypridd Museum on Friday night and also a concert at the Muni on the Saturday evening.

We are hoping that Pontypridd Museum can be the home of the festival with information leaflets and events being held here throughout the festival.

### **Outline plan for the festival**

The organising committee are currently working on the plan and draft budget for the festival. Here is the initial plan for the festival which will be developed in the next couple of months.

**Friday** – schools choir event during the daytime at the Bandstand in Ynysangharad Park. A choirs music event in the evening at Pontypridd Museum at a cost of £3 per ticket.

**Saturday** – Free workshops during the daytime (Pontypridd Museum/Yma) Choirs in the town during the day at the promotional spaces, Clwb Y Bont and the Bandstand. An evening concert in the Muni which will be a ticketed event at a cost of £5 per ticket

**Sunday – Choirs at the Bandstand, Ynysangharad Park with Yma as a backup venue in case of inclement weather.**

### **Draft Budget**

Financial support is sought from PTC to run the first choir's festival, and it will be the first event of their Tymor Yr Haf programme.

<b>Day/Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Friday daytime	Bandstand – no cost	0
Friday evening	Museum music event - 3 choirs (£100 per choir) inc refreshments (£50)	£350
	PRS licence	£150
Saturday daytime	Workshop @ YMA – room hire 2 hours	£28
	Workshop @ Yma – facilitator	£150
	Workshop @ Pontypridd Museum - facilitator	£150
	Choirs at promotional spaces in Pontypridd Town – 4 choirs (£100 per choir)	£400
	RCTCBC licence (approx. cost)	£50
	Pontypridd museum – no cost	0
Saturday evening	Muni concert – 5 choirs	£500
	Muni hire	£850
	PRS(4.2% of income/CC (2.5% of income)	£33.5
Sunday	Bandstand – no cost	0
	Yma cost of room hire (weather contingency)	28
	4 choirs (£100 per choir)	£400
	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>£3089.50</b>
<b>Income</b>		
	Anticipated income from the museum ticket sales 40 tickets @ £3 per ticket	£120
	Anticipated income from the Muni ticket sales 100 tickets @ £5 per ticket	£500
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£620</b>

In the first year of the festival the organising committee are requesting the full funding from the Town Council as they are unsure of what the success rate would be from other sources. The profit eg income from ticket sales, that is made will be given back to the Town Council. We will also need the Town Council to administer the financial accounts of the festival.

The Choir Festival committee are also asking for administrative and finance support in the organisation of the festival to ensure that all health and safety and licensing procedures are followed. The festival also request assistance from the Town Council's school's liaison officer postholder to engage with local schools for the school choirs event on the first day of the festival.

We will engage with local media and radio outlets eg GTFM, Ponty Pages etc to ensure that the festival will have a wide coverage of publicity, encouraging local people to attend and to get involved.

The festival committee realise that more help may be needed in the initial year as they establish their organising committee, but they hope to build on the success of the first year to grow the festival into an annual event in the Pontypridd cultural calendar. By asking for the full amount of funding and support from the Town Council, it will secure the festival for the first year, allowing the committee to use the success of the first festival to look for funding from other sources in forthcoming years.

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## **Proposal for funding support from Pontypridd Town Council. Version 3.**

### **Rhydyfelin and Pontypridd Jazz Festival 2026**

#### **Summary:**

This is a proposal for grant funding from Pontypridd Town Council (PTC) to build on the success of the 2024/25 Jazz Festivals. The day-to-day management/organisation will be provided by Bev Frowen (festival organiser) and Victor Partridge (professional jazz musician). The festival will be earlier than previous years and run from **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July, Saturday 01 August and conclude on Sunday 02 August**. This date has been chosen to miss other festivals and events planned for Pontypridd and to take advantage of summer weather.

An initial draft programme consists of 6 musical events, 3 in the evenings and 3 during the day. It is envisaged that bands will play indoors and outdoors in prominent places in the centre of town and nearby localities. The excellent facilities of the Museum will be the base for the festival and act as an information point and kick off the festival on the Friday.

Costs have been based on a no or small fee for entry. The financial support from PTC will provide sufficient funds to secure the professional jazz musicians who will play a range of Traditional/ Swing/New Orleans Jazz. Our aim is that the bands will attract people from the local area and beyond. There is nothing of a similar nature in South-East Wales, even the Capital city fails to attract high quality Jazz. Thus, we think that enabling this festival to go ahead is a golden opportunity to position Pontypridd as an annual weekend for supporting live Jazz. Our national jazz contacts will also be exploited to promote the event.

So, the benefits of this festival will give local people a chance to hear and engage with musicians, attract people to visit the area, give local businesses an added opportunity to promote what they have to offer and provide further evidence that PTC supports a varied range of events for people to enjoy. We will engage with other event organisers to exploit partnership opportunities once initial grant funding is secured. For example, the weekend in question is earmarked for the "Big Bite". Initial discussions with RCT events officers have identified an opportunity to interweave jazz into the weekend event. Our aim is to put a top jazz band on the bandstand in the park on the Sunday, whilst visitors enjoy the food festival.

If this proposal is approved, it will provide certainty to underwrite the booking of musicians and enable further funding opportunities to be found including confirming the venues and final costs.

Initial budget required is £2,850 from PTC together with their guidance, support for administration, promotion and help with practicalities of holding events drawing on the council's extensive experience and knowledge and the success of the previous two years.

Further details and a draft financial plan are included below.

### **Rhydyfelin and Pontypridd Community Council (PTC) - Jazz Proposal 2026.**

#### **Background**

The previous two years ('24 and '25) saw jazz events predominately in Rhydyfelin. They were very enjoyable and were well supported by the community and visitors. The overall conclusion of a report to PTC stated "*the Rhydyfelin Jazz was worth doing and may well be worth repeating and extending.* Where music events took place, there was strong support for a repeat in the future" A report to Ty Cerdd said "*It was clear from the feedback that audiences greatly enjoyed all the sessions. People were brought into unfamiliar surroundings and had the chance to engage with 'real musicians and jazz. This led to strong requests for a repeat next year"*

It would be a shame to lose the momentum generated in Rhydyfelin, the engagement of local people and to aim to extend the reach of the festival in 2026 to include events in Pontypridd town centre and strengthen attempts to engage the younger generation so that they can hear a form of live music otherwise unfamiliar to them.

At the festival in 2025, Vic Partridge played at two of the events. Vic is a UK wide professional traditional jazz and New Orleans guitar and banjo player, currently working with many professional bands throughout the UK. His contacts and experience of leading bands and arranging bespoke musical elements to fit different venues and purposes will be invaluable. On hearing that help was needed to ensure that the momentum generated in 2024 and 2025 was not lost, he has volunteered his services to source and coordinate the musical element of the festival.

His partner Bev Frowen is a retired local government officer and civil servant. Bev has volunteered to help with administration, overseeing the event and working in partnership with other agencies and the council. Bev has a background in organising conferences and partnership working in the public sector in Wales.

#### **Aims of the Festival**

The Aims of the festival are to:

- provide lively and entertaining jazz sessions to all ages of residents and visitors in the Pontypridd locality,
- promote PTC and its facilities to promote the locality as a good place to visit with family and friends during the summer for limited financial cost,

- give local businesses the chance to increase revenue and promote their products and services,
- compliment and work in partnership with other events planned in 2026 thus adding to the overall aim of promoting Pontypridd as an attractive place to visit,
- cement the foundations achieved from the last two years, and improve the chances of holding further jazz festivals in the future
- increase the involvement and engagement of young people and their exposure to music and its opportunities in all its forms.

### **Engagement with local youth**

Working with Education officers, a poster competition will be promoted in the local schools. This competition entitled “What does Jazz mean to you?” will attract some prizes, be displayed at the Museum and we would invite the incoming Mayor to judge the competition and hope that education officers would help us to engage with schools. We will use our contacts to discuss with the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and band leaders of youth bands to secure a youth band to play during the festival at a prominent place in the town centre (for example, Museum or Fountain location).

Local radio and social media will promote the competition and the festival. Vic and Bev will use their jazz network to promote the event.

### **A draft programme**

#### **Friday 31<sup>st</sup>July 2026 - Opening of festival**

- Festival launch in afternoon in the Museum. Display and judging of posters. Volunteers to promote list of events during the weekend.
- Jazz trio playing in Museum 2pm-4.30pm
- Jazz trio playing in *The Griffin Rhydyfelin*, 7.30-10pm

#### **Saturday 01 August 2026 – main day of festival**

- Youth band playing in centre of town 2pm-4pm town centre
- ***Headline six-piece band as main attraction*** playing traditional and New Orleans Jazz. 7.30pm-10pm. Suitable local venue to be found – small ticket entry on the door. Possible venues include Gelliwastad Club and Institute.

#### **Sunday 02 August – the final day of festival**

- Ynysangharad Park bandstand – six-piece band 2pm-4.30pm dovetailing with the Big Bite. (TBC)
- ***“Sing Gospel and Jazz”*** in St Luke’s church Rhydyfelin, 5pm-6.30pm. A trio of jazz musicians playing gospel jazz with audience participation. Possibly inviting dementia and vulnerable groups to attend along with local congregation.

## **Conclusion.**

This festival programme will have something for everyone and hopefully combine with a major event already planned for the centre of Pontypridd. It will reach out and engage with the youth, involve local people, young and old and with good promotion, will also attract outside visitors. Everyone will be able to hear for little or no cost top UK wide professional jazz musicians.

It has realistic aims that fit with the Council's ambitions and plans for 25/26. If baseline financial support can be found and the initial costs secured, as set out in appendix 1, this will provide certainty for the event. It will enable more detailed planning and discussions to take place, to secure additional monies and other resources in kind to make the event even more enjoyable and successful. Partnership working and grant applications with other organisations such as Ty Cerdd and via the Business Improvement District (BID) group will be explored and direct contact with local venues who wish to participate and corporate sponsors.

## **Appendix 1 – Draft financial plan**

### **Costs**

Musicians based on a flat fee of £90 per musician per event.

Six sessions - total cost is £2,250

£200 for nominal travel and subsistence

Cost of bandstand (TBC) estimate £200

Cost of venue for Saturday evening estimate of £200

### **No charges**

The Griffin Pub, Rhydyfelin

St Luke's Church, Rhydyfelin

Museum and Fountain locations

Printing of programme and publicity for events

Use of Gazebo for youth band in centre of town

Help from education officers to promote poster competition

Prizes for poster competition to be secured from corporate sponsors

**Total Grant Required £2,850.**

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**From:** Natalie Bowen Hello@rctpride.org   
**Subject:** RCT Pride – Pride Month 2026 Funding Proposal Submission (£1,970 Requested)  
**Date:** 3 December 2025 at 13:15  
**To:** tony.graham@Pontypriddtowncouncil.gov.uk  
**Cc:** carol.hindley@Pontypriddtowncouncil.gov.uk, lynda.davies@Pontypriddtowncouncil.gov.uk, Jacquee Gabriel jacqueegabriel85@gmail.com

NB

Dear Tony,

I hope you are well.

Please find attached RCT Pride's full project plan and draft budget for our Pride Month 2026 programme across Pontypridd, submitted ahead of the Committee's January meeting in line with your guidance.

We are formally requesting £1,970 from Pontypridd Town Council to support the installation of bilingual banners, bunting and Pride flags throughout Pontypridd town centre during June and July 2026. These visual elements will ensure that the town presents itself as welcoming, inclusive and vibrant throughout the Pride period, while enhancing the visibility of the 6-week programme leading up to our main Pride Day on 25 July 2026.

As outlined in the proposal, we have already secured £5,000 in confirmed match funding from local businesses, and we have active applications totalling a further £26,000 submitted to Welsh Government, The National Lottery and other cultural funding streams. We are also working closely with Pontypridd BID and a wide range of local venues to keep footfall circulating through the town.

We are also pleased to confirm that several high-profile queer artists and performers are already committed to taking part in Pride Month and Pride Day 2026. These performers have established followings and will draw audiences into Pontypridd from across RCT and wider South Wales, increasing visibility, community engagement and economic activity for local businesses.

Our intention is to ensure that this year's Pride programme benefits residents, supports the local economy, aligns with Pontypridd's wider summer events calendar, and operates with minimal administrative impact on Town Council staff.

If there is any additional information you require ahead of the Committee papers being prepared in early January, please let me know.

Thank you again for your guidance and support. We appreciate the opportunity to deliver an inclusive, community-focused Pride Month for Pontypridd.

Kind regards,  
Natalie Bowen  
RCT Pride

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

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## RCT PRIDE – PRIDE MONTH 2026

### FUNDING PROPOSAL / CYNIGION CYLLIDO MIS BALCHDER 2026

#### Executive Summary / Crynodeb Gweithredol

RCT Pride is requesting financial support from Pontypridd Town Council to deliver a 6-week Pride Month programme across Pontypridd leading up to the main Pride Day on Saturday 25 July 2026. The funding will enable the installation of high-quality bilingual banners, bunting and Pride flags throughout the town centre, ensuring Pontypridd presents itself as an inclusive, welcoming and visible LGBTQ+-affirming town.

This investment will strengthen community cohesion, celebrate Welsh queer culture, create vibrant town-centre visibility, and maximise economic benefits for local businesses by drawing significant footfall into Pontypridd throughout June and July.

Mae RCT Pride yn gofyn am gymorth ariannol gan Gyngor Tref Pontypridd i gyflwyno rhaglen Mis Balchder 6 wythnos ar draws Pontypridd yn arwain at y Brif Ddiwrnod Balchder ddydd Sadwrn 25 Gorffennaf 2026. Bydd y cyllid yn galluogi gosod baneri dwyieithog o ansawdd uchel, bynting a baneri Balchder ar draws canol y dref, gan sicrhau bod Pontypridd yn ymddangos yn gynhwysol, yn groesawgar ac yn gefnogol i'r gymuned LHDTQ+.

Bydd y buddsoddiad hwn yn cryfhau cydlyniant cymunedol, yn dathlu diwylliant cwiwr Cymreig, yn creu gweledeedd bywiog yn nghanol y dref ac yn sicrhau budd economaidd i fusnesau lleol drwy ddenu nifer sylweddol o ymwelwyr i Pontypridd.

#### Programme Overview / Trosolwg o'r Rhaglen

Over six weeks RCT Pride will deliver a wide-ranging programme of bilingual community, cultural, artistic and nightlife events across Pontypridd. Key partners include:

- Menter Iaith RCT – Welsh-language Pride workshops & cultural sessions
- Clwb y Bont – Queer Welsh-language art exhibitions
- YMA – Gender Swap project, sewing/upcycling classes, Welsh queer history

### workshops

- Y Muni – Pride cabaret and film screenings
- The Tipsy Owl – Monthly socials and fundraising cabarets
- Mill Street Quarter – Family activities & Pride Day market
- Club ICE – Queer club nights
- The Brown Trout (Llantwit Fardre) – Mini-Pride community outreach event

This 6-week programme will culminate in the main Pride Day on 25 July 2026 at Ynysangharad Park.

Dros chwe wythnos bydd RCT Pride yn darparu rhaglen eang o ddigwyddiadau cymunedol, diwylliannol, artistig a nosweithiau adloniant dwyieithog ar draws Pontypridd. Partneriaid allweddol yw:

- Menter Iaith RCT – gweithdai Balchder Cymraeg a sesiynau diwylliannol
- Clwb y Bont – arddangosfeydd celf Cwiad Cymraeg
- YMA – prosiect Gender Swap, dosbarthiadau gwnïo/uwchgylchu, gweithdai hanes LHDTQ+ Cymreig
- Y Muni – cabaré Balchder a dangosiadau ffilm
- The Tipsy Owl – cymdeithasu misol a chabaréau codi arian
- Mill Street Quarter – gweithgareddau teuluol a marchnad Diwrnod Balchder
- Club ICE – nosweithiau clwb cwiad
- The Brown Trout – digwyddiad Mini-Pride cymunedol

Bydd y rhaglen hon yn arwain at y Brif Ddiwrnod Balchder ar 25 Gorffennaf 2026 ym Mharc Ynysangharad.

### **Impact on Pontypridd / Effaith ar Bontypridd**

**Economic Impact:** Pride Month and Pride Day will bring significant footfall into Pontypridd. The parade route will run through the pedestrianised town centre, ensuring businesses benefit from increased trade. Fringe events held across multiple venues will keep visitors circulating throughout the day.

**Community Impact:** Pride Month promotes inclusion, wellbeing and visibility for LGBTQ+ residents. The programme supports Welsh language use, provides safe social spaces and uplifts underrepresented queer Welsh artists.

**Cultural Impact:** The 6-week programme increases cultural participation and highlights Pontypridd as a leading town in equality and Welsh queer representation.

**Effaith Economaidd:** Bydd Mis Balchder a Diwrnod Balchder yn dod â throedffyrdd sylweddol i Bontypridd. Bydd llwybr yr orymdaith yn rhedeg drwy ganol y dref sy'n droedblyg, gan sicrhau bod busnesau'n elwa ar gynnydd mewn masnach. Bydd digwyddiadau ymylol ar draws gwahanol leoliadau'n cadw ymwlwyr i symud drwy'r dref

trwy'r dydd.

**Effaith Gymunedol:** Mae Mis Balchder yn hyrwyddo cynhwysiant, llesiant a gwelededd i drigolion LHDTQ+. Mae'r rhaglen yn cefnogi'r iaith Gymraeg, yn darparu mannau diogel ac yn codi proffil artistiaid Cwiar Cymreig sydd dan gynrychiolaeth.

**Effaith Ddiwylliannol:** Mae'r rhaglen 6 wythnos yn cynyddu cyfranogiad diwylliannol ac yn tynnu sylw at Bontypridd fel tref flaenllaw mewn cydraddoldeb a chynrychiolaeth Cwiar Cymreig.

### Draft Budget / Cyllideb Ddrafft

Item / Eitem	Quantity	Cost	Notes
Large Printed Banners	10	£700	High visibility / dwyieithog
Small Directional Banners	20	£270	Wayfinding
Town Centre Bunting	~300m	£450	Reusable
Pride + Trans Flags	70 total	£350	50 Pride / 20 Trans
Graphic Design	-	£200	Professional bilingual design
Staging & Artists	-	£6,000	Funded via other applications
Venue Hire	-	£1,500	YMA, Clwb y Bont, Muni etc.

### Match Funding / Cyllid Cydwedd

Funding Source	Status	Amount
Local Business Pledges	Confirmed	£5,000
Welsh Government	Applied	£15,000
National Lottery	Applied	£5,000
Other Cultural Grants	Applying	£6,000+
Pontypridd Town Council	Requested	£1,970

### **Administrative Notes / Nodiadau Gweinyddol**

This proposal is submitted ahead of the 23 December deadline, allowing inclusion in the Committee papers issued on 5–6 January for the Regeneration, Events & Museum Committee scheduled for 12 January 2026.

Mae'r cynnig hwn yn cael ei gyflwyno cyn y dyddiad cau 23 Rhagfyr, gan ganiatáu iddo gael ei gynnwys yng nghanllawiau'r Pwyllgor ar 5–6 Ionawr ar gyfer y Pwyllgor Adfywio, Digwyddiadau ac Amgueddfeydd ar 12 Ionawr 2026.

## Pipe Organ Restoration

The Pipe Organ project moves forward – the organ has been fully stripped out, and the first parts to be reinstalled are due to be returned over the next few weeks. These include the two drawstop machines along with the Great Open Diapason drawstop slide which was damaged by woodworm, the pedal board and the pedal piston sweep.

One of Wintle Organs craftsmen is still working on the key and stop tab sweep but that is all well under way. Cables are mostly made and will be ready to install when they return in January. Parts from KA lever arm magnets, stop tab units etc and suppliers in Germany and America have arrived and have and are being fitted.

The Organ chamber has been painted and sealed before Christmas, and I have spoken with them regarding the new electrical requirements – ie maintenance lighting and power sockets in the organ. The blower box has been altered to allow the end panel to be removed for maintenance.

The Organ builders feel everything is going to plan, with a completion date at the end of February.

Half the decorative pipes have been conserved, and the other half are being collected today or tomorrow.

And next week we will tackle the stained ceiling – making use of the scaffold.

Budget is good and we are on target to add new like for like carpet beneath the baptistry and I'm hoping to repair the benches around the edge.

## Community Room Ceiling/ Roof Garden Project.

Several delays have taken place, first in part caused by the scaffolder Gunite engaged letting them down last minute and secondly by Gunite's failure to acquire the necessary materials at appropriate times, meaning works could not be undertaken as scheduled. This has meant the project has significantly overrun. Currently half the roof has been completed with the other half waiting for its final coats and fibreglass seals.

We have signed off on our chosen tiles and await their arrival from Italy and subsequent installation.

We have found funds within the grant budget to replace the defective floor slabs used to access the community rooms and we await the completion of the roof works and removal of the scaffold for this work to be undertaken. Likewise, the ramps require the tiles to be laid so that the correct floor heights can be

measured, our separate contractor awaits that completion to get started.

We still have time to complete the works before the end of the grant period – although our frustration and patience with Gunite is increasingly strained.

Fortunately, the quality of the work so far completed appears good – and has protection from Sika 25 year guarantees.

Best wishes

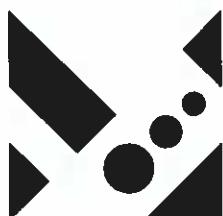
Nigel

Nigel Blackamore  
Museum Business &  
Partnerships Manager

Rheolwr Busnes a  
Phartneriaethau'r Amgueddfa

Pontypridd Museum  
Pontypridd Town Council

Amgueddfa Pontypridd  
Cyngor Tref Pontypridd



AMGUEDDFA  
PONTYPRIDD  
MUSEUM



CYNGOR TREF  
PONTYPRIDD  
TOWN COUNCIL

133 Berw Road  
Pontypridd  
CF37 2AB  
T: 01443 490740  
W: [www.pontypriddtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.pontypriddtowncouncil.gov.uk)

133 Heol Berw  
Pontypridd  
CF37 2AB