



2025-26

ANNUAL REPORT



MAYOR'S FOREWORD



It is both a privilege and an honour to present this Annual Report on behalf of Blackwood Town Council.

As Mayor, I am proud to serve a community that continues to demonstrate resilience, generosity, and a strong sense of shared purpose. Blackwood is a town with a rich heritage and a distinct identity, shaped by its people, its history, and the strength of its community spirit. Throughout the year, we have worked collectively to build upon these foundations, ensuring that Blackwood remains a welcoming, inclusive, and vibrant place in which to live, work, and visit.

The Town Council remains committed to working in partnership with residents, local organisations, and key stakeholders to enhance the wellbeing of our community. From supporting local initiatives and improving community facilities, to championing inclusive engagement and sustainable development, our work is driven by a clear commitment to delivering positive outcomes for all.

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to the many volunteers, community groups, local businesses, and residents who give their time and energy so generously. Their continued dedication plays a vital role in strengthening community cohesion and enriching life across our town.

I am also particularly proud of the strong and enduring support shown within Blackwood for the Royal British Legion. In my capacity as Mayor, and through my personal involvement with the local branch, I have had the privilege of supporting the Poppy Appeal and wider activities that honour and assist our Armed Forces community. The respect and recognition shown by the people of Blackwood stand as a testament to our town's deep appreciation for those who have served and sacrificed. This report reflects the collective efforts of the Council and our partners over the past year.

It highlights not only our achievements, but also our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, transparency, and service to the community. Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to my fellow councillors for their professionalism, dedication, and hard work throughout the year. Together, we will continue to build a strong and prosperous future for Blackwood.

Cllr George Etheridge
Mayor



TOWN COUNCILLORS

Our Mission

To serve the community of Blackwood by providing community-based services and activities that fills the gap or adds value to those of other organisations.

To preserve green spaces, public services and publicly owned assets within Blackwood and the wider area for the benefit of current and future generations of Blackwood residents.

To Support the continued economic prosperity of Blackwood, particularly our town centre and its strong tradition of independent retailers.

Our Vision & Values

To be recognised as a valued and trusted community organisation by our residents and by partners with a shared community, social, and economic interest in Blackwood. We strive to create a healthy and welcoming environment that fosters economic growth, promotes social well-being, and supports environmental responsibility.

To be an inclusive, diverse and fair democratic organisation, supporting all Blackwood residents, volunteers, staff, elected members and partners equally, irrespective of age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, disability or wellbeing status.

*A FAIR, INCLUSIVE AND DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION
PROMOTING EQUALITY, DIGNITY AND RESPECT FOR ALL*

A Year in the Life of Blackwood Town Council

It has been an exceptionally busy and rewarding year, marked by a programme of successful annual events that have been strongly supported by the community, bringing people together in a spirit of unity and shared pride.



This year also saw the welcome return of the Civic Awards evening, which had not been held for several years. The event received a high number of nominations and was a resounding success. It was both inspiring and humbling to hear the stories of individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the community. These included volunteers, local business owners, and those working within educational settings, all of whom go above and beyond in their daily roles to make a meaningful difference. Entertainment throughout the year was provided by a diverse and talented range of performers, including:

- Blackwood Primary School Choir
- Libanus Primary School Choir
- Mynyddislwyn Ladies Choir
- Patrick Jones
- Tredegar Male Voice Choir
- Solo vocal performers



The Winter Fair, Lantern Parade and Carol Concert continue to be among the most cherished events of the year. These occasions are always well attended by councillors and residents alike, bringing together people from across Blackwood's diverse neighbourhoods and reinforcing a strong sense of community cohesion.

The involvement of local schools during the festive season is particularly noteworthy. By actively engaging younger generations alongside older members of the community.



A Year in the Life of Blackwood Town Council

Town centre events continue to hold particular significance, providing important opportunities for inclusivity, social connection and community celebration. These events play a vital role in fostering a sense of belonging for residents of all ages and backgrounds.



The Beach Party as highlighted above, remains one of the most popular highlights in the events calendar, attracting families not only from within Blackwood but also from surrounding areas. It consistently delivers a vibrant and engaging day of local entertainment from local organisations such as Studio 54, KLA Dance and many more with activities, offering something for everyone regardless of age.

These events help to strengthen intergenerational bonds and lay the foundations for a cohesive, inclusive and vibrant future for Blackwood.

Anniversary Celebration for 50 Years of Marriage

On 7th June 2025, Mr and Mrs Williams of The Oaks, Blackwood, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, marking an incredible milestone of 50 years of marriage.

On behalf of Blackwood Town Council, Deputy Mayor Cllr Jan Griffiths visited the couple to extend congratulations and present a bouquet of flowers in recognition of their special occasion.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity to spend time with Mr and Mrs Williams, during which they shared fond reflections on their life together, including memories of music, popular bands, and how the local area has evolved over the years. Their recollections offered a meaningful insight into both personal and community history, highlighting the richness of shared experience within the town.

This visit formed part of the Council's ongoing commitment to recognising and celebrating significant milestones within the community, acknowledging the importance of such occasions in strengthening local identity and community spirit.

A Year in the Life of Blackwood Town Council

Gwent Poppy Appeal Launch – Blackwood

Thursday 23 October 2025 marked a significant milestone as Blackwood proudly hosted the launch of the Gwent Poppy Appeal for the second time.

The event was well attended by a wide range of dignitaries and community representatives, including the Mayor of Blackwood, Local Councillors, Members of the Senedd, local residents, school children, and representatives from the Royal British Legion, The Armed Forces, Emergency Services, High Sheriff and The Lord Lieutenant.



Proceedings commenced at St Margaret's Church, where the opening elements of the service took place. Attendees then participated in a ceremonial march to Dragon Circle, where the service was brought to a close in a respectful and dignified manner.

Following the conclusion of the service, guests returned to Blackwood Miners' Institute, where refreshments were provided and a number of awards were presented.

The event demonstrated strong community engagement and highlighted the continued importance of remembrance across all generations.

A Year in the Life of Blackwood Town Council



The Big Welsh Festival, held on Saturday 28th February 2026,

proved to be a highly successful and well-attended event, attracting visitors from across the borough.

The festival offered a vibrant and enjoyable experience for attendees of all ages. Children in particular thoroughly enjoyed the wide range of entertainment on offer, while a diverse selection of street traders added to the lively atmosphere and appeal of the day.

There was something for everyone to enjoy, creating a real sense of community spirit and celebration. The event was further enhanced by excellent weather, contributing to a truly memorable day for all who attended.

Blackwood Remembrance 2025

Remembrance Service – Blackwood Market Place

Blackwood held its annual Remembrance service on Friday 7th November in the Market Place, with the participation of Libanus Primary School and Blackwood Primary School.

The event was very well attended by Senedd Members, Ward Councillors parents, residents, and visitors, alongside representatives from the Royal British Legion and Blackwood Town Council.

Both schools delivered beautifully performed songs, each presenting their own contribution with great care and respect. The performances were warmly received by all in attendance and added a meaningful and poignant element to the occasion.



Blackwood Cenotaph Service of Remembrance

On Sunday 9th November 2025, the annual Remembrance Service was held in Blackwood at 10:30am, drawing a strong and respectful turnout from across the community.

The service was attended by veterans, representatives of the Royal British Legion, members of Blackwood Town Council, Army Cadets, local schools, community organisations, ward councillors, representatives of the emergency services, and members of the public. This broad representation reflected the collective commitment of the town to honouring those who have served and sacrificed.

Wreaths were laid by a wide range of organisations and individuals, each act serving as a poignant tribute to those who gave their lives in service of their country. The presence of younger generations, particularly through the participation of schools and cadets, demonstrated the continued importance of remembrance within our community.

The service was conducted with dignity and respect, providing an opportunity for reflection, unity, and remembrance. It remains one of the most significant civic occasions in the town's calendar, reinforcing Blackwood's enduring commitment to honouring the Armed Forces community and preserving the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.



Author of the Poem of Hope



Mr Patrick Jones

Engagement and Support with Local Community Groups and Projects Supporting local community groups and projects remains an important priority for the Town Council.

In 2025, the Town Council supported a Welsh Government-funded mental health project led by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board in partnership with the Jacob Abraham Foundation, Papyrus and CHAMPS. This included workshops led by local poet and playwright Patrick Jones for people with lived experience of suicide. The outcome of these workshops was the Poem of Hope, which was launched at the Mayor's Concert. The Jacob Abraham Foundation is now developing plans for a mural in the town centre.

Partners also produced a mental health support z-card for distribution across Gwent, alongside awareness posters developed with CHAMPS members. Copies are available from the Town Council Offices. This publication is the first publication in this format in the UK. It is now being rolled out across other areas in Wales.

Further preventative work has included the planned installation of a wellbeing bench in the north of the town, funded by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. The bench features a QR code linking people in crisis to support services.

Poem of Hope

Stop. Pause. Breathe

*Look around for a moment Notice how the trees That
stand so quietly, Remind us That to withstand storms We
have to bend a little*

*Listen, Can you hear the birds? They invite us to sing
Just for the singing No matter who hears*

*Look up, To the stars They let us know Our light May
take a while to reach others But that's alright We can
still shine And though we may sometimes Have black
holes in our minds Mostly we glitter like galaxies*

*And you Human, being Look at your hands What
miracles have they performed What beauty they have
crafted*

*Yes, you have bled But trace the contours of your scars
And feel These testaments to transcendence These
hieroglyphs of your healing*

Stop, pause, breathe

*Can you hear the throb of your heart? It has been your
faithful companion Since conception Carried you
through fear, loss and love It can beat 2 billion times in
a lifetime Listen to its song Its determined drumbeat
That signals Carry on, carry on*

*See, there, beneath your feet A flower rising through the
concrete's cracks A portal of possibility Telling you that
tomorrow will come*

*Within and all around you Nature's semaphore Is
guiding you home Reassuring you that you are not alone*

*So, as the mist clears Walk in your own Unique golden
light For Somewhere
The sun Is always rising*

WALES AIR AMBULANCE



Your local lifesaving Charity

The Wales Air Ambulance delivers advanced lifesaving medical care to people across Wales 24/7.

We are the only air ambulance charity, based in, and dedicated to, the people of Wales and rely entirely on your charitable donations to raise £13 million every year to keep the helicopters in the air and fleet of rapid response vehicles on the road.

The Charity was formed on St. David's Day, 1 March 2001 and operates from bases across Wales. Since our inception, we have attended over 50,000 missions and are on standby to attend those suffering a life or limb-threatening injury or illness.

Our service is delivered via a unique Third Sector and Public Sector partnership. The Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service (EMRTS) supplies highly skilled NHS consultants and critical care practitioners, who work on board the Charity's vehicles.

With bases across Wales, the highly skilled crew on board can carry out medical procedures which would usually only be available within a hospital setting. They can deliver blood transfusions, administer anaesthesia and undertake emergency operations at the scene of an incident, before taking the patient directly to specialist care. For the patient, this can mean hours saved in receiving the appropriate treatment when compared to standard care.

As a pan-Wales service, the dedicated crews will travel the length and breadth of the country to deliver emergency lifesaving care.

We are there for the people of Wales, whenever and wherever, they need



£3,545

THE APPROXIMATE COST OF ONE MISSION (A COMBINATION OF BY AIR AND BY RAPID RESPONSE VEHICLE).



£1,950

THE COST OF JUST ONE CREW HELMET.

us.



£195

THE COST TO 'TAKE OFF'.



£48

ONE WEEK'S SUBSCRIPTION TO CRUCIAL FLIGHT PLANNING SOFTWARE.



£31

ONE HOUR OF AFTERCARE SUPPORT.

Grants and donations 2025 - 2026

Inner Wheel Club in Collaboration with Bonmarché & Blackwood Town Council for the Breast Cancer Unit at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr



Blackwood Town Council was pleased to donate £250 to the Inner Wheel Club in support of their fundraising efforts for the Breast Cancer Unit at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr.

The fundraising event, held at Bonmarché on Blackwood High Street, was well attended by members of both the local community and the Inner Wheel Club, demonstrating strong community spirit and support for this important cause.

Such contributions play a vital role in supporting the continued provision and upkeep of essential healthcare services within our community, and the Council is proud to support initiatives that make a meaningful difference to residents.

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church - Outing to Weston-Super-Mare

Each year, the Lunch Club organises a day trip for members; however, rising costs meant we were concerned this year's trip might be out of reach for some. Thanks to the generous support of Blackwood Town Council, who provided funding covering almost the full coach hire cost, we were able to offer free transport to all attendees—something greatly appreciated by everyone.

Despite a last-minute change of venue and an unexpected delay on the day, members were warmly welcomed at our destination in Weston and enjoyed a delicious lunch. The outing was a great success, with some members venturing out for a little shopping while others relaxed at the hotel.

A memorable and enjoyable day was had by all.



Grants and donations 2025 - 2026

BLACKWOOD BOWLS CLUB
FOR PURCHASE OF
JACKS AND MATS

BLACKWOOD COMPREHENSIVE
SCHOOL HISTORY CLUB
FOR PURCHASE OF
SCREEN & PROJECTOR

BRAVEHEARTS
FOR PURCHASE OF
DUMBBELLS

BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB
FOR PURCHASE OF
WATER BOTTLES

BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB
FOR PURCHASE OF
WICKET CUTTER

BLACKWOOD RFC JUNIORS
FOR PURCHASE OF
FOOTBALL KIT

BLACKWOOD RFC
FOR PURCHASE OF
FLOOD DEFENCES



Civic Awards Evening

The Civic Awards are a highlight of Blackwood Town Council's annual calendar, recognising the exceptional contributions of individuals, community groups, and businesses who make a meaningful and lasting difference within our town.

These awards celebrate acts of kindness, dedication, and achievement that may otherwise go unnoticed, yet play a vital role in enriching community life.

By acknowledging and honouring these contributions, the Council not only showcases the values that define Blackwood but also inspires others to become involved, fostering a stronger sense of community pride, connection, and shared purpose.



Mayors Annual Concert 2025

The Mayor's Concert was held at the Blackwood Miners Institute on Tuesday 25th November. The evening was a great success and filled with a variety of outstanding performances.

We were delighted to welcome contributions from Libanus Primary School, the Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir, Mynyddislwyn Ladies Choir, and the Oakdale Silver Band, all of whom captivated the audience with their talent and professionalism.

The evening was further enhanced by beautiful solo performances from Louie Doyle and Ellie Roberts, whose voices truly added something special to the occasion.



Your Town Council

Are you interested in getting involved in something new?
Ever thought of becoming a local Councillor?
There are lots of ways you can help out.

May 2027 is the next Local Election when 16 Blackwood Town Council seats will be filled

Town Councillors are elected local representatives who live or work within the community they serve. Their role is to improve the quality of life for residents by listening to local needs, supporting individuals and communities with issues and concerns, shaping local plans and decisions, and working collaboratively with community groups and partner organisations.

How to become a Town Councillor

Town Councils rely on committed local people to represent their local communities. You can become a Councillor by standing for election, being co-opted to a vacant seat, or filling a casual vacancy.

Six Quick steps to stand for Election

Check upcoming elections in your area:
www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/your-election-information

Submit your nomination to the CCBC Returning Officer.
Wait for confirmation your nomination is accepted.
Your nomination is published by the principal authority.
Begin your campaign.
Polling Day.

Thursday May 6th 2027



Our Town Council Office Facilities and What We Provide



Our offices on Blackwood High Street are open to the public Tuesday to Friday, 10:00am – 3:00pm.

Residents and visitors are welcome to call in for support and services, including:

- *Provision and supply of food caddie bags*
- *Access to free Period Dignity products*

We are also pleased to host Citizens Advice every Tuesday from 10:00am to 1:00pm, with no appointment necessary.

We are here to serve our community—providing help, support, and guidance—working in collaboration with Caerphilly County Borough Council.



Town Council Meeting Information

Town Council meetings are held on the first Monday of each month, with the exception of August when the Council is in recess.

Meetings commence at 6:30pm.

Full details of meeting dates, along with additional information and details of Council services, can be found on our website.

Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings and will need to notify the Clerk/Deputy Clerk who are happy to assist.

Defibrillators

Public Access Defibrillators – Blackwood High Street

Blackwood Town Council has provided four publicly accessible defibrillators at key locations along Blackwood High Street to support emergency situations.

These life-saving devices are located at:

- Maxime Cinema
- Blackwood Market Place
- Blackwood Methodist Church
- Blackwood Miners' Institute

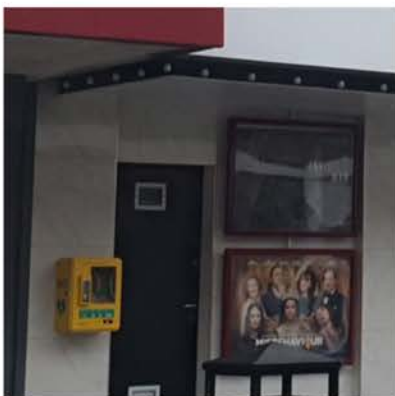
In the event of a medical emergency where a defibrillator may be required:

👉 Always call 999 first

The emergency operator will:

- Confirm the nearest defibrillator location
- Provide the access code (if needed)
- Guide you step-by-step on how to use the device
- Defibrillators are designed to be easy to use, with clear voice instructions to assist you.

Your quick action could help save a life.



Your Councillors

Mayor
Cllr George Etheridge
Blackwood Northward
george@blackwoodtown.gov.uk



Deputy Mayor
Cllr Jan Griffiths
Cefn Fforest East Ward
jangriffiths@blackwoodtown.gov.uk



Cllr Leanne Perkins
Blackwood North Ward
leanneperkins@blackwoodtown.gov.uk



Cllr Delwyn Davies
Cefn Fforest East Ward
delwyndavies@blackwoodtown.gov.uk



Cllr Kirsty Williams
Blackwood North Ward
kirstywilliams@blackwoodtown.gov.uk



Cllr Kevin Etheridge
Cefn Fforest East Ward
kevinetheridge@blackwoodtown.gov.uk



Cllr Donna Box
Blackwood South Ward
donna@blackwoodtown.gov.uk



Cllr Rhys Mills
Blackwood South Ward
rhysmills@blackwoodtown.gov.uk



Cllr Kevin Jones
Blackwood Central Ward
kevinjones@blackwoodtown.gov.uk



Cllr Carol Erasmus
Blackwood North Ward
carolerasmus@blackwoodtown.gov.uk



Cllr Patricia Cook
Blackwood Central Ward
patriciacook@blackwoodtown.gov.uk



Cllr Andrew Short
Blackwood Central Ward
andrewshort@blackwoodtown.gov.uk



Cllr Andrew Farina-Childs
Cefn Fforest East Ward
andrewfarina@blackwoodtown.gov.uk



Cllr Nigel Dix
Blackwood South Ward
nigeldix@blackwoodtown.gov.uk



Cllr Cathrine Clark
Blackwood Central Ward
cathrineclark@blackwoodtown.gov.uk



Cllr Mark Gwynne
Cefn Fforest East Ward
markgwynne@blackwoodtown.gov.uk



Financial Information as at 31.03.2026

Members Attendance

FC P & F

GE	12/12	9/9
JG	11/12	5/9
AFC	10/12	
MSG	4/12	
KE	11/12	
DD	10/12	6/9
CE	11/12	9/9
KW	9/12	7/9
LP	3/12	
CC	11/12	6/9
PC	10/12	
KJ	10/12	
AS	8/12	
RM	7/12	3/9
DB	10/12	4/9
ND	7/12	4/9

F = Full Council Meeting;

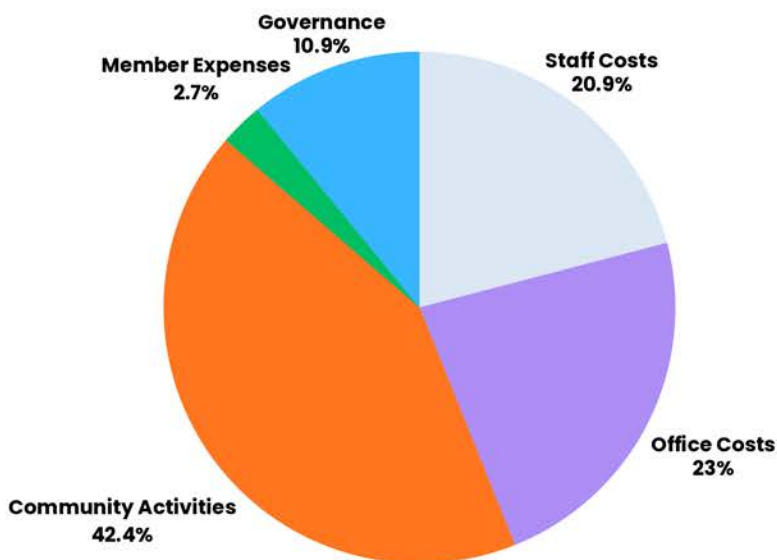
P&F = Policy & Finance Committee;

Cells with no content indicate no committee membership.

The primary income for a local council is the 'precept', which is the element of council tax that is paid to the council. In addition, local councils may have other sources of income such as bank interest, grants and donations.

For 2025-26 the **precept** was £92,593.50

Income		Expenditure	
Precept	92,593.50	Staff Costs	33,436.51
Bank Interest	1,490.11	Community Activities	67,786.23
Grants/Other	8,745.14	Office Costs	36,731.86
Total Income	102,828.75	Members Expenses	4,343.00
		Governance/Other	17,466.92
		Total Expenditure	159,764.52



Members Expenses

Total Work From Home (WFH)	Total Consumables	Mayor's Personal Allowance	Deputy Mayor's Allowance	Total Financial Loss Payments	Total Travel Costs	Total Payments	Members who declined WFH	Members who declined consumables
£2115.00	£728.00	£1000.00	£500.00	£0	£0	4,343.00	2	2

Additional Financial Information



The Town Council has experienced higher than usual running costs during the 2025/26 financial year.

This increase is primarily attributed to the establishment of fully operational office facilities, including the purchase of furniture, office equipment, materials, and essential consumables required to support a public-facing service.

In addition, the Council has incurred necessary expenditure to implement Health and Safety measures, additional security internally and externally, along with fire safety compliance works.

These improvements were essential to ensure that the Town Council meets its statutory obligations and is able to operate its premises safely and effectively for both staff and members of the public.

Setting Our Budget

One of the key statutory responsibilities of a council is the preparation and adoption of an annual budget.

Budgeting is an annual process and Town/Community Councils must calculate their budget requirements taking into account existing and planned new expenditure, any contingencies and likely income whilst also having consideration to the levels of any usable (non committed) reserves. The budget and precept requirement must then be formally approved and notified to Caerphilly County Borough Council in advance of the new financial year, normally late January/early February.

Once approved, the budget serves as an active and essential tool for the effective management of the Council's financial resources and supports the maintenance of sound financial control arrangements.

The Clerk is responsible for presenting all relevant financial information and regular budget monitoring reports to the Council. These reports provide a clear comparison of actual income and expenditure against the approved budget and form part of the council's system of internal controls, ensuring transparency, accountability, and compliance with proper financial governance.

In line with recognised audit guidance and governance expectations, regular budget monitoring enables members to review financial performance, identify any variances, and take appropriate corrective action where necessary. This continual oversight supports effective decision-making, prudent financial management, and the safeguarding of public funds.

Through the consistent review and scrutiny of financial information, members are able to make informed, evidence-based decisions regarding current and future expenditure, ensuring that resources are used efficiently, effectively, and in a manner that delivers measurable benefit to the community.

Audit & Reserves

Section 12 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 requires Town and Community Councils in Wales to make up their accounts each year to the 31st March and to have those accounts audited by the Auditor General for Wales.

Regulation 14, of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 states that smaller Local Government bodies, i.e. those with an annual income and expenditure below £2.5 million, must prepare their accounts in accordance with proper practices.

After undergoing a full audit for the year ending 31st March 2025 the Town Council received an Unqualified Audit Report from Audit Wales on March 3rd 2026

Why it is important that the Council has reserves?

Purpose of Reserves

Reserves are maintained to support the Town Council's financial stability and strategic objectives. Specifically, they are held:

- To enable growth and development by supporting new projects and services that benefit the community.
- To provide a contingency for unforeseen events, ensuring the Town Council can respond effectively to unexpected occurrences without disruption to services.
- To manage the cost of significant planned renewals, allowing expenditure on major items—such as festive lighting—to be spread over time and funded sustainably.
- To cover committed liabilities, including goods and services where invoices have not yet been received at the financial year-end.

As of March 31st 2026 Blackwood Town Council held total reserves of £86,974.54

2025/26 Priorities & How We Performed

The Town Council is committed to organising and delivering high-quality events that are accessible and enjoyable for residents and the wider community. In doing so, the Council will also seek to support and promote local businesses by increasing footfall within the town centre.

In conjunction with the Events Team at CCBC, Blackwood hosted a programme of highly successful and well-attended community events throughout the year. These included the Beach Party, Christmas Market, Carol Service and Lantern Parade, and the Big Welsh Festival, all of which attracted significant participation and brought visitors into our town increasing footfall.

To work collaboratively with the County Borough Council, Police, and relevant partner agencies to deliver a coordinated and evidence-led approach to reducing anti-social behaviour across the town. This approach will prioritise prevention, early intervention, enforcement, and community reassurance, with the aim of mitigating the significant adverse impact on the wellbeing of residents, businesses, and visitors.

The Town Council has continued to work in partnership with the County Borough Council, Gwent Police and other key agencies through regular meetings, effective information sharing, and participation in joint initiatives. This has included active involvement in multi-agency discussions, raising local concerns on behalf of residents and businesses, and supporting coordinated approaches to tackling anti-social behaviour in the town centre and surrounding areas.

To continue working in partnership with the Blackwood Branch of the Royal British Legion to ensure that Remembrance Day Services at the Blackwood Cenotaph are maintained to their current high standard and enhanced further where possible, as we honour and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Also to deliver improvements to the Remembrance Garden, including the installation of a flagpole and associated enhancements, in order to preserve and strengthen its role as a place of reflection and commemoration.

The Town Council has continued to work closely with the Blackwood and District branch of the Royal British Legion to support and deliver the annual Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph. This ongoing partnership ensures that the service is maintained to a high standard, remaining a well-attended and respectful occasion of significant importance to the community.

In addition, the Council has supported improvements to the Remembrance Garden. This has progressed plans for the installation of a flagpole and the installation of a resin poppy for continual display opposite the Town Library. These enhancements will further strengthen the area as a dignified and reflective space for remembrance.

2025/26 Priorities & How We Performed

Town Council will look to increase its profile with its presence on the High Street, and also look to work with other organisations to make the Offices a small Community Hub, by undertaking a marketing campaign for local groups and potential small businesses to Share Our Space.

The Town Council has continued to take proactive steps to strengthen its presence within the High Street, recognising the importance of visibility and accessibility to the local community. This has been supported through maintaining an active and consistent presence on social media platforms, helping to raise awareness of the Town Council's role, services, and ongoing initiatives.

In parallel, work has commenced to develop the Town Council offices as a small but effective community hub. A key aspect of this initiative has been the introduction of weekly sessions delivered by Citizens Advice, providing residents with access to essential support services in a convenient and familiar town centre location. This partnership represents an important step in enhancing local service provision and ensuring residents can access advice and assistance when needed.

The Town Council will continue to explore various options available in an effort to ensure public toilet facilities are available in the town for residents and visitors alike.

The Town Council continues to actively explore options to ensure the provision of accessible public toilet facilities within the town. This work is being undertaken in collaboration with the County Borough Council and relevant stakeholders, with a view to identifying viable solutions and emphasising the importance of this issue on behalf of both residents and visitors to the Town.

To consult with the residents on our Strategic Plan, and gather views on their priorities for future spending priorities.

The Town Council has undertaken a range of measures to engage with residents regarding its future priorities. This has been facilitated through the distribution of a survey, supported by a variety of communication channels to maximise awareness, participation, and feedback. These efforts have actively promoted opportunities for residents to share their views on local priorities and to help inform decisions on future spending.

2026/27 Priorities

Looking Ahead: Our Priorities and How We Will Deliver Them

Over the coming year, the Council has identified a number of key priorities that will guide our work and decision-making. These priorities reflect our continued commitment to serving the community of Blackwood with transparency, inclusivity, and ambition.

Our Key Priorities

We aim to focus on the following areas:

- Strengthening Community Wellbeing & Engagement
- A Healthier Safer Community
- Supporting Local Organisations, Volunteers & Partnership working
- Environmental Responsibility
- Improving Governance and Transparency

How We Will Achieve These Priorities

To ensure these priorities are not only aspirational but deliverable, the Town Council will take a structured and proactive approach:

1. Clear Planning and Measurable Objectives

Each priority will be supported by defined actions, realistic timelines, and measurable outcomes to track progress effectively.

2. Partnership Working

We will continue to collaborate with key stakeholders, including Caerphilly County Borough Council, local organisations, community groups, and residents, recognising that strong partnerships are essential to long-term success.

Maintaining and strengthening our relationship with the Blackwood and District Branch of the Royal British Legion, ensuring that Remembrance Day Services at the Blackwood Cenotaph continue to meet the highest standards, with a commitment to continuous improvement in the act of remembrance for those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

3. Responsible Financial Management

All initiatives will be delivered with careful consideration of available resources, ensuring value for money while maximising community benefit.

4. Community Involvement and Inclusion

We will actively engage residents to ensure that our work reflects the needs and aspirations of the whole community, promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion in line with our statutory duties.

The Town Council aims to enhance its visibility and engagement through an active and accessible presence on the High Street. In doing so, it will also seek to collaborate with partner organisations to develop the Town Council Offices into a welcoming and functional Community Hub.

2026/27 Priorities

The Town Council will continue to provide in partnership with Caerphilly County Borough Council a range of essential community items, including food caddy bags and Period Dignity products, all of which are available free of charge to residents and visitors.

This ambition will be supported by a targeted marketing campaign designed to promote the availability of shared space within the Offices. The campaign will be directed towards local community groups, voluntary organisations, and small businesses, encouraging them to make use of the facilities and Share Our Space.

Through this initiative, the Town Council intends to foster greater community interaction, support local enterprise, and maximise the use of its assets for the benefit of the wider community.

5. Monitoring and Accountability

Progress against each priority will be regularly reviewed by Town Council, with updates provided through meetings, reports, and public communication to maintain transparency and accountability.

Closing Statement

The Town Council through these priorities and the actions that support them, will remain committed to delivering meaningful improvements for Blackwood. By working collaboratively and maintaining a clear focus on outcomes, we are confident in our ability to build on this year's achievements and continue serving our community effectively.



Contact us



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Opening Times

Tuesday to Friday

10:00am to 15:00pm

***"A fair, inclusive and democratic organisation
promoting equality, dignity and respect for all"***