



# LALESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

“WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY”

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022

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# Laleston Community Council – Who are we?

Community Councils are the level of local government closest to the needs of local people. Laleston Community Council is dedicated to maintaining and improving the wellbeing of the community by providing a range of services and amenities that benefit the area. The Community Council comprises three electoral wards, Cefn Glas Ward 1, Cefn Glas Ward 2 and Laleston/Bryntirion Ward (incorporating Broadlands). There are currently 13 councillors representing the three ward areas.

## Cefn Glas Ward 1



<p><b>Cllr Jon-Paul Blundell</b> Labour <a href="mailto:Jonpaul4cefnglas@gmail.com">Jonpaul4cefnglas@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Cllr Daniel Woodridge</b> Labour <a href="mailto:Dan_wooly@hotmail.com">Dan_wooly@hotmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Cllr Gail Richards-Hemming</b> Labour</p>	<p>Vacancy</p>
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## Cefn Glas Ward 2



<p><b>Cllr Tony Berrow</b> Independent <a href="mailto:tony.berrow@btinternet.com">tony.berrow@btinternet.com</a></p>	<p><b>Cllr Pam Davies</b> Labour <a href="mailto:cllr.pam.davies@bridgend.gov.uk">cllr.pam.davies@bridgend.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Cllr Tom Green</b> Liberal Democrat <a href="mailto:tgreen@aclwebsite.co.uk">tgreen@aclwebsite.co.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Cllr Charles Smith</b> Labour <a href="mailto:cllr.charles.smith@bridgend.gov.uk">cllr.charles.smith@bridgend.gov.uk</a></p>
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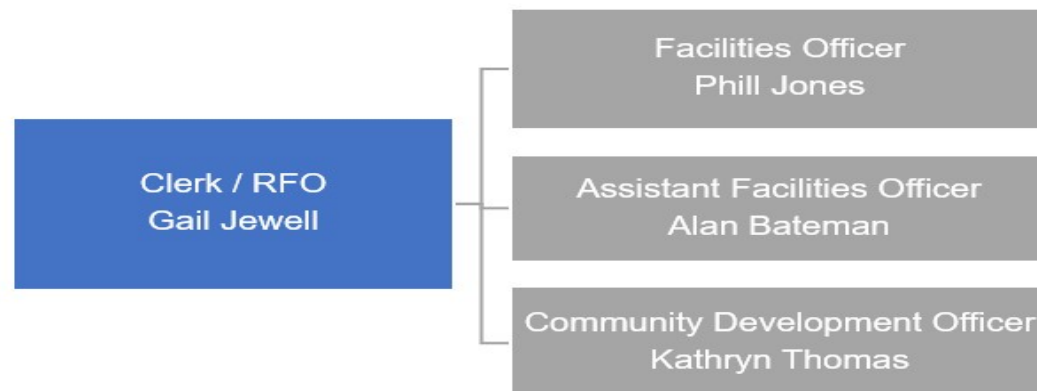
## Laleston/Bryntirion Ward (incorporating Broadlands)



<b>Cllr Briony Davies</b> Liberal Democrat <a href="mailto:Briony.davies@btinternet.com">Briony.davies@btinternet.com</a>	<b>Cllr Colin Davies</b> Labour <a href="mailto:Colindavies62@icloud.com">Colindavies62@icloud.com</a>	<b>Cllr Cheryl Green</b> Liberal Democrat <a href="mailto:cllr.cheryl.green@bridgend.gov.uk">cllr.cheryl.green@bridgend.gov.uk</a>	<b>Cllr Nathan Adams</b> Welsh Conservative <a href="mailto:nathanforlaleston@hotmail.com">nathanforlaleston@hotmail.com</a>	<b>Cllr Ian Spiller</b> Independent <a href="mailto:ian.spiller@broadlandshub.co.uk">ian.spiller@broadlandshub.co.uk</a>
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At the head of the Council is the Chair, who is elected annually from amongst its serving Councillors. The Chair for 2021-2022 was Councillor Briony Davies and the vice chairman was Councillor Colin Davies.

The Community Council also employ 4 members of staff on part-time basis.



## How are we funded – and what for?

Laleston Community Council is funded by an annual precept, which is paid by Bridgend County Borough Council through the Council Tax. The funds are used to pay for administrative costs, support and development of assets, the environment and community projects.

Currently our assets include:

Bryntirion & Laleston Community centre, Blandy Hall, Laleston Allotments, Broadlands Teenage Park, Wordsworth Teenage Park, Bryntirion Field Play Park and two multi use games areas sited in Llangewydd Junior School and Trelales Primary School.

In 2021-2022 the Community Council had an expenditure budget of £246,696 and the Council's precept was set at £218,246 with further money generated via income raised for the provision of a range of services including allotments, Bryntirion & Laleston Community Centre and Blandy Hall. The Council also hold money in ear marked reserves for special projects such as traffic calming and additions to play parks that Laleston Community Council maintain.

A summary of the main areas of income and expenditure for 2021-2022 are shown below:

### Income

Allotments	747.26
Bryntirion Community Centre	14,609.98
Precept	218,246.00
Blandy Hall	340.00
Administration	30.09
Community Pantry	2,064.00
	<b>236,037.33</b>

### Expenditure

Administration	85,990.30
Allotments	4,404.33
Blandy Hall	10,153.83
Broadlands Steps	46.31
Bryntirion & Laleston OAP	1,000
Bryntirion Community Centre	48,525.39
Communication Budget	4,062.50

Community Pantry	1,713.33
Defibrillation Units	12,635.00
Events	5,126.00
Floral/Christmas Lighting	12,034.80
Grants and Donations	10,880.14
Laleston Stone Trail	189.57
Members Expenses	5,300.00
Parks/Play Areas and Outdoor Spaces	39,056.27
Pound	16,797.00
Road Traffic Controls	1,963.19
Scout Hall Rent and Donation	1,250.00
	<b>260,127.96</b>

### **General Fund**

Balance at 01 Apr 2021	21,806.83
ADD Total Income	238,037.33
	257,844.16
DEDUCT Total Expenditure	260,127.96
Balance	-2,283.80
Total Taken from Reserves	<b>-2,283.80</b>

Every Community Council in Wales is required to prepare year end accounts and have them audited by both an internal auditor and the Auditor General for Wales. Audit is important as it provides assurance on the effective management and safeguarding of public money. In 2020-2021 Laleston Community Council received an 'no issues to report' from the internal auditor and an 'unqualified' external audit, which outlines that no matters have come to the attention giving cause for concern.

## Our aims and Objectives

Aims and objectives	Action	Completion date
<p><b>To improve communications within the whole community and encourage wellbeing, equality, diversity, and inclusion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all events are advertised as widely as possible</li> <li>• Encourage the public to attend council meetings</li> <li>• Review the council's Communication Strategy</li> <li>• Update LCC webpage and create pages and links to Bryntirion Community Centre, Blandy Hall and allotments</li> <li>• Continue to interact with public by means of social media, website and notice boards</li> <li>• Increase engagement with residents and service users so that our community feel included and able to participate.</li> <li>• Continue to provide services and advice with an open-door policy.</li> <li>• Seek to work with organisations involved locally in inclusion and equality of minority groups to eliminate all forms of discrimination and provide an understanding of diverse communities.</li> <li>• To combat social isolation and engage in community mapping initiatives.</li> <li>• To use social prescribing and connect with local services.</li> <li>• To identify problem areas, sites of neglect and in need of upgrading, improving or removing.</li> <li>• To hold monthly drop-in sessions at community centre and Blandy hall to allow more open discussions with residents.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing Ongoing 2022 2022</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing</p> <p>2022/23</p>
<p><b>To ensure value for money</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review insurance policies for both Laleston Community Council and Bryntirion Community Centre and renew accordingly.</li> <li>• Review utilities contracts for both Blandy Hall and Bryntirion Community Centre and renew accordingly.</li> <li>• Ensure all rules and procedures as outlined in the council's Financial Regulations are adhered to.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing - annually</p> <p>Ongoing – every 2 years</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>To make the ward areas of Laleston Community Council greener</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Laleston Community Council's Biodiversity Plan.</li> <li>• Obtain advice on ecological issues and biodiversity planning.</li> <li>• To reform the Biodiversity Group and set out its aims.</li> <li>• Source grants for biodiversity improvements and green projects.</li> </ul>	<p>Monitor annually and submit a plan every 3 years.</p>

<p><b>To make the ward areas of Laleston Community Council safer</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with local Police and Community Groups</li> <li>• Replace speed bumps on Banc Yr Allt with lower speed cushions.</li> <li>• Introduce 20 mph signs on Gypsy Lane</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing 2022/23 2021/22</p>
<p><b>To make the ward areas of Laleston Community Council attractive</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review current stock of Christmas lights and utilise budget for additional lights throughout the ward areas</li> <li>• Review current stock of hanging baskets and utilise budget for additional hanging baskets throughout the ward areas.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing - annually Ongoing - annually</p>
<p><b>To support community life</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide grants and donations to local groups and organisations</li> <li>• Hold an annual firework display</li> <li>• Hold an annual OAP Christmas Luncheon</li> <li>• Install outdoor exercise equipment on Bryntirion Playing Fields and near the Teenage Park in Broadlands.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing - quarterly Ongoing - annually Ongoing – annually 2021/22</p>
<p><b>To comply with health and safety legislation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review all relevant risk assessments i.e. legionella, fire, COVID-19 for both Blandy Hall and Bryntirion Community Centre</li> <li>• Undertake maintenance checks of both Blandy Hall and Bryntirion Community Centre – PAT testing and fire equipment</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing – annually Ongoing - annually</p>
<p><b>To comply with local government legislation to ensure openness and transparency</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold an annual meeting of council during May</li> <li>• Prepare monthly financial reports for council</li> <li>• Prepare quarterly budget reports for council</li> <li>• Compile and submit VAT claim to HMRC</li> <li>• Compile Members allowances and publish on website and submit to IRP for Wales</li> <li>• Complete Annual Governance Report for submission to external auditor</li> <li>• Agree a budget and submit precept demand to BCBC</li> <li>• Produce a Wellbeing Annual Report</li> <li>• Renew ICO Membership</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing - annually Ongoing - annually Ongoing – quarterly Ongoing – quarterly Ongoing – annually  Ongoing – annually Ongoing – annually Ongoing – annually Ongoing - annually</p>
<p><b>To promote and preserve local Heritage, Culture and Tourism</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To build on the Laleston Website. To increase and improve local access to comprehensive information about the local historical environment.</li> <li>• To identify potential historic buildings or places of interest that may need repair or improvement initiatives that promote site or inform of significance</li> <li>• To organise local events to encourage interest in local area and inspire local people and groups to participate.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing  Ongoing  2022/23</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage local business to become part of the promotion of the area.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<b>To increase Sustainability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council to 'save energy' by making council buildings as energy efficient as possible.</li> <li>To offset any carbon usage with tree planting that links in with biodiversity plan.</li> <li>To work in conjunction with green transport initiatives and promote sustainable travel and 'shop local' enterprises and fair trade.</li> <li>Promote re-use/ recycling with repair cafés or swapping schemes.</li> </ul>	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing 2022/23
<b>To identify and Improve Accessibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve council resources by making available accessible formats of communication council matters on request.</li> <li>Identify mobility restrictions in area.</li> <li>Create gold star awards for local services that are accessible and provide positive reviews.</li> <li>Review statutory obligation and work with Disability Wales for advice and review of present status.</li> <li>Sign up for Dementia Friendly Community status.</li> </ul>	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing

# Laleston Community Council 's Well-being Plan

In 2015 Welsh Government made a new law called Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act that prescribes that we need to work in a way that improves well-being for people today whilst being mindful not to do anything that could make things worse for future generations. Research shows the main areas that concern people and affect their wellbeing are covered by the seven wellbeing goals for Wales which are outlined on the right.



Bridgend has a Public Service Board (PSB) which is formed from members of the public, third and business sectors who are committed to working together to improve wellbeing in Bridgend County now and in the future. The PSB undertook a wellbeing assessment which analysed data and information prior to producing their wellbeing plan whereby they developed four wellbeing objectives, which are detailed on the left. As a community council, it is now our role to actively embed the four Public Service Boards well-being objectives into its ways of working whilst contributing to the seven wellbeing goals for Wales.

## The first well-being objective is 'Best Start in Life'

### The steps taken by LCC during 2021/2022 to contribute to this local objective:

LCC is aware of the benefits to outdoor play, whereby it helps children to sleep, eat and live more healthily and encourages people to form healthy habits for life. LCC currently own and maintain 3 playparks and 2 multi use games areas within the ward areas and plan to undertake asset transfers of further playparks to ensure continuity with the running and management of play areas. During 2021/2022 LCC also installed play equipment in the grounds of Bryntirion & Laleston Community Centre which is utilised by the Welsh Medium Playgroup and other hall hirers.

### How does this local objective link to the seven wellbeing goals for Wales?

**Objective 3 – A healthier Wales.** *Improve physical and mental well-being.*

**Objective 4 – A more equal Wales.** *Improving early years experiences.*

**Objective 5 – A Wales of cohesive communities.** *As all equipment is installed in the community, it encourages social interaction.*

**Objective 7 – A globally responsible Wales.** *Playparks and outdoor play have very low, if not zero carbon impact.*



*Research tells us that 1 in 9 children haven't visited a park or green space at all in the last year and that '74% of children spend less time outdoors than prison in-mates'.*

## The second well-being objective is 'Support Communities in Bridgend to be Safe and Cohesive'

### The steps taken by LCC during 2021/2022 to contribute to this local objective:

Due to receiving safety concerns from residents regarding a stretch of road that is utilised by children walking to Trelales School from the Broadlands area called 'Gypsy Lane', Council funded the installation of advisory 20MPH signs as well as ARAF/SLOW road markings on both approaches to 'Gypsy Lane'.

Members of our Council regularly attend Partnership and Communities Together (PACT) meetings with local PSCO's to highlight any community issues that have been reported, which could impact the quality of life of members of the community.

### How does this local objective link to the seven wellbeing goals for Wales?

**Objective 1 – A Prosperous Wales.** *Provide a cohesive and safe community.*

**Objective 2 – A Resilient Wales.** *Increase involvement in local issues.*

**Objective 3 – A Healthier Wales.** *Promotes involvement in communities*

**Objective 4 – A More Equal Wales.** *Ensuring that everyone has a voice and feel part of their communities.*

**Objective 5 – A Wales of cohesive communities.** *Primary aim of this objective.*

**Objective 7 – A globally responsible Wales.** *Promotes a better knowledge of the local environment.*



*Council would like to make the area safety and a more welcoming local environment for people.*

## The third well-being objective is 'Reduce social and economic inequalities'

### The steps taken by LCC during 2021/2022 to contribute to this local objective:

LCC currently manage an allotment site situated in Laleston and during 2021 made the decision to adapt a currently unused plot to create a useable space to those with mobility problems or disabilities. Council wanted to improve the existing site so that it will become accessible to all who want to discover the benefits of local community growing spaces, learning about growing your own and develop new skills.

In April 2021, LCC opened the Bryntirion Community Pantry. The Pantry was launched to support residents who may have been struggling to get weekly groceries during the Covid Pandemic. The Community Pantry is still in place and is a preventative approach to food poverty and reduces the risk of household hunger.



*"Inequality harms poverty reduction and destroys people's sense of fulfilment and self-worth"*

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## How does this local objective link to the seven wellbeing goals for Wales?

**Objective 1 – A Prosperous Wales.** *Increase productivity and skills.*

**Objective 2 – A Resilient Wales.** *Increase use and awareness of growing spaces.*

**Objective 3 – A Healthier Wales.** *To encourage healthy lifestyles and increased morale amongst users.*

**Objective 4 – A More Equal Wales.** *Focus on disabilities and other equality groups.*

**Objective 5 – A Wales of Cohesive Communities.** *To support members of the public through challenging times.*

**Objective 7 – A Globally Responsible Wales.** *Promote understanding of diversity of communities.*

### The fourth well-being objective is 'Healthy Choices in a Healthy Environment'

#### The steps taken by LCC during 2021/2022 to contribute to this local objective:

During 2021, LCC installed outdoor exercise equipment next to the teenage park in Broadlands and in Bryntirion Playing Fields which Members thought would be beneficial to all users to assist people to stay active and maintain physical and mental health. Due to the close siting of the exercise equipment in Bryntirion to a children's play park, it is a great way for parents with both young and older children to get out and exercise together.

As part of the Council's Biodiversity Improvement Scheme, council commissioned Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales to undertake a survey the ward area who made recommendations to benefit the local wildlife and identified specific areas and projects that could improve their ecological value. In 2020/2022 Council created a Biodiversity Group to implement a Biodiversity Action Plan.

#### How does this local objective link to the seven wellbeing goals for Wales?

**Objective 2 – A Resilient Wales.** *Preserve and protect habitats and mitigate against biodiversity decline.*

**Objective 3 – A healthier Wales.** *Improve the health and fitness of not only the local community but also visitors to the area.*

**Objective 4 – A more equal Wales.** *As the outside equipment is free to the community, it eliminates economic barriers that could hinder individuals from participating in physical activities.*

**Objective 5 – A Wales of cohesive communities.** *As the equipment is installed out in the public, it encourages the community to become more physically active whilst being socially connected.*

**Objective 7 – A globally responsible Wales.** *Due to the equipment not requiring electricity to run, means it has a very low carbon impact.*



*It has been proven that taking part in outdoor activities improves health and happiness as well as reducing emotional and physiological stress.*

# Biodiversity Action Plan

## Background

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (the section 6 or s6 duty) on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions in relation to Wales. The s6 duty requires that public authorities 'must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems'.

## Action Plan

What will we do?	How will we do it?
<b>Embed biodiversity into decision, council policies, planning and working practices</b>	<p>Reduce energy consumption and improve efficiencies of buildings.</p> <p>Comment on all planning applications in the ward areas in support of biodiversity.</p> <p>Working to protect our natural resources and wildlife is a key objective for council and will be reflected in the council decision making process.</p> <p>Contracts that are due to be renewed will adhere to the provisions of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and take opportunities to enhance biodiversity in the area.</p>
<b>Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance</b>	<p>Share any updates with the public via our website and Facebook page. Over this three-year period, Council will seek to liaise with other organisations and individuals to implement councils Biodiversity Improvement Scheme.</p> <p>Encourage the community to volunteer in supporting and promoting biodiversity and reducing the carbon footprint.</p> <p>Develop community growing space with eco/biodiversity initiatives.</p> <p>Promote and support litter picking groups.</p>

<p><b>Safeguard principal species and habitats</b></p>	<p>As part of the Biodiversity Improvement Scheme, council have commissioned Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales to undertake a survey the ward area who made recommendations to benefit the local wildlife and identified specific areas and projects that could improve their ecological value.</p> <p>The recommendations ensure that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) no negative impacts on protected species and the environment occur</li> <li>2) natural pollinators are planted wherever possible</li> <li>3) Reduce or remove the use of herbicides</li> </ol>
<p><b>Restore &amp; create habitats and resilient ecological networks</b></p>	<p>Manage land in the area through the grass-cutting and cutting back regime to incorporate areas that remain natural to increase local wildlife and take into account timings for pollination and bird nesting season.</p> <p>Plant native pollinator friendly flowers and bedding plants.</p> <p>Manage wooded areas and introduce new tree and hedgerow planting wherever possible.</p> <p>Create biodiverse areas to provide nesting and hibernating areas. Change mowing and maintenance regimes to all sites by reducing frequency of cuts to encourage wildflowers and other pollinator friendly plants.</p> <p>Design landscaping to encourage a diverse wildlife population.</p>
<p><b>Tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species</b></p>	<p>As part of the survey undertaken the report highlighted an unnamed stream the appears to be suffering from organic pollution therefore, council plan to contact Environment Agency Wales to investigate the potential sources of pollution.</p> <p>Council plan to undertake a 'Community Clear Up' of the stream as the litter that is gathering is potentially damaging to wildlife which can attract brown rats.</p> <p>The council are currently in the process of implementing a 5-year action plan for the eradication of Japanese Knotweed from the local 'Pound'.</p> <p>The change to cutting regime saves fuel and use of machinery therefore reducing carbon.</p>

<p><b>Use improve and share evidence</b></p>	<p>Work with BCBC Countryside, Cleaner Streets and Streetscene sections to improve the area and reduce waste and pollution.</p> <p>Take advice from BCBC when necessary, on local sites and issues.</p> <p>Share any positive impacts via Laleston Community Council’s website and Facebook page.</p>
<p><b>Support capacity and/or other organisations</b></p>	<p>Provide donations/funding to organisations that are supporting biodiversity as part of their project.</p> <p>Council makes an annual donation to South and West Wales Wildlife Trust (Bridgend Group) towards the maintenance of the wildflower meadow in Broadlands.</p> <p>Support organised litter picks.</p>

### Review of s6 duty in 2022

- What has worked well?
- What have the barriers been?
- What will you change?

How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?

This is a live plan that will evolve during the three years and will be monitored by Laleston Community Council throughout the year.

The next formal report and renewal of the plan will be published no later than December 2022.

## A selection of our achievements during 2021-2022

### ***Bryntirion & Laleston Community Centre***

Following the asset transfer and refurbishment undertaken by LCC on the interior of the Community Centre, Council took steps in 2021 to insulate the building to reduce energy costs and therefore make the building more energy efficient. In addition to improving the thermal insulation, the building is now also more aesthetically pleasing.



***Bryntirion & Laleston Community Centre before cladding***



***Bryntirion & Laleston Community Centre after Cladding***

## ***The Pound***

LCC commissioned renovation works on the 'Pound', which were completed in early 2022. The efforts were initiated to preserve this site of historical interest for many more years.



***The Pound before renovation***



***The Pound following renovation***

## ***Outdoor Exercise Equipment***

During 2021, LCC installed outdoor exercise equipment next to the teenage park in Broadlands and in Bryntirion Playing Fields, which Members thought would be beneficial to all users to assist people to stay active and maintain physical and mental health. Due to the close siting of the exercise equipment in Bryntirion to a children's play park, it is a great way for parents with both young and older children to get out and exercise together.



**Exercise equipment at Bryntirion Playing Fields**



An example of bag contents at the Community Pantry

## ***Bryntirion Community Pantry***

In April 2021, LCC opened the Bryntirion Community Pantry. The Pantry was launched to support residents who may have been struggling to get weekly groceries during the Covid Pandemic, whilst working to reduce waste by redistributing edible produce that would otherwise be sent to landfill.

The Pantry is currently going from strength the strength, with residents volunteering their time to set up and sell food to people at a reduced cost.

*The Pantry is held every Thursday at Bryntirion & Laleston Community Centre between 10.00am and 12.00pm.*

## ***Defibrillators and free training***

Early 2022, Council installed several Mindray defibrillators around the ward area. For reference, this is where they can be found:

- Tesco in Gentle Way, Broadlands
- The Church Hall in Laleston
- Bryn Golau Post Office
- The Cafe on Longfellow Drive
- Bryntirion & Laleston Community Centre, Mount Pleasant
- Pen-Y-Bont Football Club
- The Dance Centre, Elm Crescent

We also hope to install another at Llangwydd Junior School shortly.

In addition, Council held several free training sessions which were open to the community on how to safely use a defibrillator and basic life support.



Defibrillator on Gentle Way, Broadlands



**Bus stop on Merlin Crescent**

### ***Bus stop***

Following appeals from residents, the Community Council submitted a formal request to Bridgend County Borough Council for a bus stop to be situated on Merlin Crescent in Bryntirion. The bus stop was installed in March 2022 and consists of a post, flag, timetable case and the construction of a hard standing area for passengers to board and alight bus services, including a raised platform for accessibility.

## **How to contact us**

**Laleston Community Council are always looking for ways to improve and welcome any comments and or suggestions from members of our community.**

Our website: [www.lalestoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk](http://www.lalestoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk)

Our email: [clerk@lalestoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@lalestoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk)

Facebook: [LalestonCC](https://www.facebook.com/LalestonCC)