Chairs AGM Report – March 2022

Welcome to the Taff Bargoed Development Trusts AGM.
The Trust experienced a difficult time last year due to the pandemic although thankfully that seems to be behind us now. We have rallied on so many occasions and it is now onwards and upwards in helping to support the community we serve.
I wish to thank the variety of tenants we have engaged with and located at the Trust that provides us with the income we need. This has resulted in numerous jobs being created within the Taff Bargoed Valley. It has also helped to generate the local economy which is one of the Trust main aims. We are grateful to Rock UK, Gibbons Coaches, Hawthorne Trees Services, Bea fit UK, MTCBC, Thornacre Limited and Step-Up Recycling for their dedicated association with TBDT.
We must also mention Air Water Pollution who no longer remain a tenant of TBDT. We wish them well in the future endeavours and for supporting the Trust over the past twelve months.
The Trust is always seeking to increase its membership, which will make a positive difference going forward and increase opportunities in receiving funding from supporting bodies. Over the past twelve months we have managed to increase our membership by over four hundred. The Trust now has over sixteen hundred members and much of the increase was achieved by working with Edwardsville School. This will also help to profile TBDT and its work within the local community.
The Trust created a solar array a few years previous in order to provide local groups with the funding they may require. This year's theme was the environment and the three local parks all benefited from this initiative.
Treharris Park received funding to sculpture a dragon. This project has helped to attract more people to the Park and increase activity. The Millennium Park received funding to operate projects involving local school children. This endeavour will help educate the need to reduce our carbon footprint and the issues surrounding climate change. Nant Llwynog Park, in Bedlinog, was also supported by affording informative walks to teach the importance in safeguarding the environment. The Trust is very pleased to support such important issues affecting us all.
The Trust worked closely with the local authority in helping to prevent the flooding of the centre. 'Storm Dennis' highlighted the urgent need of encompassing a system to help prevent the flooding due to four rooms at the centre having been flooded as a result. This endangers the jobs developed onsite and also disrupts business in the process.

The local authority has since included a flood prevention system at the top of the Trusts drive and on the B4255 to alleviate future problems. Work has also been conducted on the road leading to the Graig Cemetery and on the railway line to ensure flooding isn't a disruption in the future. This essential work will protect the Trust's assets and the jobs created onsite and we wish to thank the local authority for supporting TBDT at this time. The total cost of the corrective work was £750,000.
Work has also been conducted on the Trusts industrial units to ensure we comply with health and safety requirements. The work will allow our tenants to work in a safe environment which is extremely important.
I wish to thank Howard, the Trust Manager, for the work he has achieved over the past twelve months. His due diligence and commitment help ensure the Trust remains ever present in the Taff Bargoed Valley when this seemed endangered some years previous.
Finally, I want to thank the Board of Trustees, your endeavour, resolve, and dedication is an example to all. Thanks to you the Trusts future is looking far more appealing and capable in supporting the community we serve.