# DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Cost of living crisis initiatives

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# LOCATION
## DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL IS LOCATED IN THE UPPER-MOST PART OF THE RHYMNEY VALLEY WITHIN THE CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH. THERE IS A POPULATION OF APPROX 2,436



With a small budget and only one part time Clerk Darran Valley Community Council wants to make a difference where it can.

- Welsh index of multiple deprivation puts Darran Valley in the top 10% of deprived areas in Wales.

- A small Council can help by organising events, creating grants for community organisations to increase wellbeing.

- Signposting people to the right places for help.

# CHRISTMAS IS AN EXPENSIVE TIME FOR FAMILIES

- **Pantomimes in both villages as well as inviting the Fire Service to visit the local communities as a 'Santa on a Fire Engine event'.**

- **Free selection boxes were handed out, and the community centres organised a disco, buffet and other activities all free of charge.**

- **The Council used the distribution of the free pantomime tickets to engage with the community and this provided an opportunity for the local residents to get to know their Councillors and vice versa, and find out more about local challenges.**

# COMPETITIONS FOR CHILDREN, AND A CHANCE TO WIN VOUCHERS

There was community engagement when the council invited all the children in local primary schools to enter a competition to design a logo for the community council.

The children really enjoyed this, and the schools were heavily involved.

All entries received an amazon voucher, and the local councillors visited the schools to hand out the prizes.

This engagement with the schools was great as it brought the council and the schools together and allowed the children to look into the history of the area to incorporate into the designs submitted.

The winning logo is magical, and is used on our website and in all correspondence.

# FUNDING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

During the pandemic the Council invested in play packs for the local primary school children as all the local summer schemes were cancelled.

The play packs were a huge success, and the children had skipping ropes, painting, kites, garden sets and balls just to name a few to play with during this difficult time.

In addition to this, extra funds were given to the local youth centres to put on extra activities after the lockdown to support the local community in recovering following the pandemic.

# BUS TRIPS FOR THE ELDERLY AND EXTRA FUNDS TO TARGET ISOLATION FOLLOWING THE PANDEMIC

## Pandemic Recovery

The Council was also concerned about community loneliness following the Covid-19 pandemic and the lack of funds for the community to spend time with their families and neighbours during the cost of living crisis. The Council organised events to specifically target these issues, engage and improve the wellbeing of its residents.



## Social Events for the elderly

Darran Valley also fund Summer and Christmas trips.

# GRANTS

Local Organisations from Deri, Fochriw, Pentwyn and Groesfaen also have access to two grants:

- Section 137 Grants: £150 available and administered via Darran Valley Community Council.

- Wind Turbine: Can apply for up to £1000 (this is administered by GAVO)

**EXAMPLES**

Fochriw OAP holiday club - a coach trips to Tenby and Stratford upon Avon.
St Mary's – St Andrew's Church in Pentwyn -towards church repairs.
Fochriw over 55's club - towards day trips, afternoon tea and taking members for a Christmas meal.
Deri Regeneration Group received towards everyday expenses at the centre, plus computer ink, paper and telephone costs.
Fruity Fridays Craft Club towards the purchase of materials, a new sewing machine, craft supplies and a trip to a craft fair.
Friends of Deri Primary towards activities and resources for the children.
Darran Valley History Group towards the costs of maintaining the group.
Fochriw Social Club received towards events and trips for local people.
Fochriw Allotments received towards the purchase of tools and equipment.