



# History and Community



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“To work with local communities and beyond, to create a centre of excellence to be proud of, in which people can participate , learn, create and be entertained, in keeping with the original ethos of the Ebbw Vale Institute”





# Working in Blaenau Gwent 10 years previously

- Lack of facilities
- Young people desires in the cultural industries
- Researched various building options
- Visited Ebbw Vale Institute – closed.
- Early discussions with local people and double glazing





# Working in Blaenau Gwent 10 years previously

- The Weight of people's history and culture
- WGov - Head of Valleys. Patrick Lewis.
- Community Asset Transfer – still new
- Culture change for Council Staff
- A Champion in the Council - Jane Lee
  
- RISK





# Tips

- Know what you are taking on - liabilities.
- Maximise and Minimise
- Ask what you should not do as much as what you should do – focus on what you do best
- Cherish your champions
- Be prepared to adapt
- Check your experts





# Tips

- Social Business – or a Weatherspoons
- Monitor performance & be prepared to adapt
- Be the right size
- How many marriages ?
- Be hard on your financial projections



# Achievements during CAT Project



- 21 Work placements created
- 60 Volunteers recruited
- 5 paid posts were sustained, 17 casual part time posts were created [7 cafe & 10 bar].
- 32 third sector organisations supported
- 421 NEET young people were engaged
- 47 new partnership-working opportunities were created



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

## YOU SAID ...

▷ CREATE A COMMUNITY GARDEN 57%

▷ DEVELOP OUR LIVE MUSIC VENUE 55%

▷ CREATE ART + PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION SPACE 45%

▷ IMPROVE RECEPTION AREA + TRAINING FACILITIES 40%

▷ IMPROVE HEATING SYSTEM 48%

[DURING A RECENT SURVEY]

# OUR PLANS

## 1. CREATION OF COMMUNITY GARDEN

WE WILL TRANSFORM THE UNUSED LAND OUT THE BACK AND IMPROVE ACCESS TO THE CAR PARK

## 2. IMPROVING RECEPTION AREA + TRAINING FACILITIES

BY CREATING A BOX OFFICE, DECORATING + IMPROVING INTERNET CONNECTION

## 3. IMPROVING LIVE MUSIC VENUE

ATTRACT LARGER ACTS + AUDIENCES THROUGH UPDATING THE DECOR, TOILETS + UPGRADING PA

## 4. CREATING AN EXHIBITION SPACE FOR ART + PHOTOGRAPHY

CREATE A DISPLAY SPACE FOR COMMUNITY ART SHOWS

## 5. IMPROVING HEATING + REPAIRING ROOF

MAINTAINING THE BUILDING + IMPROVING THE COMFORT

## 6. INSTALLING SOLAR PANELS + UPGRADING LIGHTING + HEATING

TO BECOME MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT

# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

① WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE PLANS?

② HOW WILL THESE IMPROVEMENTS IMPACT YOU?

③ HOW WILL YOU USE THE COMMUNITY GARDEN?

④ ANY OTHER IDEAS?



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WE AIM TO RAISE £225,000

Better Internet

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Economic and Social  
Development

Identity

The Community Multiplier Effect





Health & Wellbeing

Social Prescribing

Resilience

Co-production





Economic Realities

We still have to pay the bills

Staff stretched - working hard

Austerity



Social Value

Well Being Hub

Social Prescribing

Resilience

Co-production

The need for us to look  
after each other





# Value for Money





# Nantyglo AFC

Community and Sporting  
Pride

The Multiplier Effect  
Waiting to happen





# Support

# Risk





"It is wonderful place to be, I am so very happy that EVI Cultural Centre is open and here to stay. The renovations are beautiful."

Charlie Evans, local resident

"More communities should have a centre like this... a dynamic, forward thinking creative hub with multi-agencies collaborating and working together for the greater good... a centre of excellence with the community at its heart. Young people in the summer school feel a sense of belonging and feel safe, owning their space, and young Josh would like to come here all the time".

Ed Rees, Tutor at ACT Summer School

