

FAO: Mr E Thomas

Petition Organiser – Aberaman Community Hall Campaign

Ein Cyf/Our Ref: LMD/SW

Dyddiad/Date: 6th January 2026

Annwyl/Dear Mr Thomas

Re: Response to Petition for a Community Hub in Aberaman

Thank you for your petition and supporting documentation requesting the Council to build a 'community hub' on the site of the former Aberaman Hall and Institute. The Council acknowledges that almost 200 people signed the petition requesting action and I am writing to outline the Council's response.

The historical significance of Aberaman Hall, which was lost to fire in 1994, is fully recognised. The Council appreciates the importance of accessible community facilities and the detailed information you have presented as a case for a new community hub in Aberaman.

Previous correspondence to you has explained that the Council recognises 7 Community Resilience Hubs in Rhondda Cynon Taf, many of which are operated by other organisations including the voluntary sector. It is not the case that all wards of RCT have a Community Resilience Hub, and their development in recent years has sought to meet population need and ensure a geographical spread of hubs in areas with good transport links to enable residents from a wider locality to access and benefit from the service they provide. Further information about these hubs is available on our website: [Community Resilience Hubs | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council](#)

That said, as you rightly point out, many wards in RCT benefit from other, long-established community facilities, with most operated independently by voluntary organisations or a management committee on behalf of the Council. While it is acknowledged that Aberaman currently has no dedicated community building there are several community venues in the vicinity with good transport links, including Cynon Linc in Aberdare, which serves residents from across Cynon Valley, including Aberaman.

Cont/...

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Regarding the former Aberaman Hall, I note the 1995 document indicating a predecessor Council's intention to discuss transfer of the freehold of the land with the then-owner however I understand the land remains in private ownership. You have also referenced work done over 30 years ago by the former Cynon Valley Borough Council and provided papers showing the 1998 feasibility study, which estimated the cost of constructing a new community centre on the Aberaman Hall site at £285,262 (excluding professional fees and planning costs), with total projected costs of £320,000–£350,000 at that time.

When adjusted for inflation and updated building standards, the estimated cost for a similar facility today could range between £750,000 and £1,000,000, depending on design specifications, sustainability requirements, and accessibility features. There would also be significant ongoing revenue costs associated with any building. Currently, there is no funding identified for this purpose by the Council or other organisation.

While the Council's policy framework supports strong, vibrant communities and equitable access to services, all new capital projects must be considered within the constraints of available funding and strategic priorities, and this requires a clear evidence base to inform any decision. The Council remains committed to working with community and voluntary organisations to support community led activities and access to facilities and this is the ethos of our Community Development Service [RCT Together - Supporting Communities and Residents to Thrive | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council](#). This does not mean providing Council-owned and managed facilities in every community; any new development must be based on evidence of population need and evaluation of the best option to meet that need.

Recent community venue developments in RCT, including some Community Resilience Hubs, have been possible through external funding secured by community led groups set up as “not for profit” concerns, or by voluntary sector organisations. This has enabled them to apply for and secure capital investment to achieve their objectives and ensure the sustainability of their project. To date, those in Aberaman who engaged in initial discussions with the Council about establishing a formal group for this purpose have not progressed their plans, but the Council remains open to offering advice to any group wishing to do so.

To progress matters as proposed in the petition, Council officers will support local members as community leaders and seek support from voluntary sector partners, including Interlink RCT, to undertake further work with the wider community. This will involve understanding community needs and aspirations and involve residents in discussions about the type of community asset that would benefit them. Our ability to complete this further work will rely on active participation from the community and any recommendations arising from this work will remain subject to further decision by the Council in line with strategic priorities.

As part of this work, the Community Development Team will explore how existing buildings in the locality could be used for those purposes. It is not proposed to undertake any new feasibility work on building a community hall on the site of the former Aberman Hall and Institute.

In conclusion, your petition has been formally recorded and the outcome of the proposed community engagement activity will be considered as part of the Council's strategic planning process as appropriate. This does not constitute any formal commitment by the Council to identify capital funding for this purpose but we are committed to supporting any community ambition to establish a community led organisation capable of pursuing this goal independently.

I have asked my officers to liaise with Councillor S. Evans, Councillor T. Williams and Cllr J. Cook to progress the engagement work. Those who organised and supported the petition will have the opportunity to participate in that work in coming months.

Yn gywir/Yours sincerely



Louise Davies
Director – Community Services

CC

Cllr Sheryl Evans; Cllr Tina Williams; Cllr Julie Cook