GAVO National Play Day 3rd August 2016

Background and purpose of the event

The GAVO National Play Day is run to raise awareness of the importance of play, as well as encourage families of all ages to come outdoors and play together. There is a variety of activities available throughout the day, including water slides, early years play, a foam pit, parent marquee, a climbing wall, a skate park and a bush craft area including den building, pond dipping and open fire cooking.

The theme for this year's event was Play Matters, which looks to highlight the right every child has to play and the importance of play for children, young people and adults alike. The event was organised by GAVO, with funding from Flying start, Communities First, Families First and Supporting People. Families attend from various locations giving us the opportunity to engage with children and adults from across the county borough.

Method

At the Play Day event, over 100 children and adults took part in a WBFG workshop to give their views on the future of Caerphilly, and to describe the Caerphilly They Want in 2040. The workshop was facilitated by Sian Wolf-Williams (Policy Officer), Tracy Evans (Policy Officer), Vicki Doyle (Policy Officer) and Clare Jones (Youth Forum Co-ordinator).

The workshop was split into three sections, which looked at:
- What is the Top (best) thing about where you live
- What is the Pants (worst) thing about where you live
- What would you like your community to be like in 25 years
- If you had one wish to make your community a better place for 2040, what would it be

For the first section, the children and adults looked at what they liked and didn't like about where they live and why. They wrote the Top things about their community (what they liked) on the Tops template and the Pants things (what they didn't like) on the Pants templates, which were then hung on the washing line.

The second section asked the children and adults to draw what they would like their community to look like in 25 years time, and to explain their drawing. This was a difficult

challenge as both children and adults struggled to think 25 years ahead.

The third section asked the children and adults, if they had one wish to do something to make their community a better place for 2040, what would their wish be? They wrote their wish on a coin template and placed it in the wishing well.

Summary of Key Findings
A number of key themes came out during the workshop. The following were seen as some of the key areas:

Jobs
- We need more opportunities for local training
- The young people would like local jobs in the future
- We need more childcare opportunities for working parents

Health
- Improve health facilities within the county borough
- More hospitals needed

Young people
- We need more facilities, activities and opportunities for young people
- We need more after school activities and clubs
- The parks should have areas for different ages (0-8 and 8+ etc.). The young children don't like to play in the parks with the older children.
- The children want everyone to have a clean, safe, quiet home

Facilities
- There are not enough public toilets in the towns and parks
- We have some lovely parks in the county borough, but the parks need more facilities for children, and play areas for different age children
- We need more shops (independent shops, less chains)
- We need more pubs, restaurants and cafes (Independent outlets, less chains)
- We need more sports facilities for children and adults
- We need more evening classes/ facilities for adult learning

Community

- We need more community centres and we need to use the ones we have. Utilise volunteering to help run the community centres
- People would like small, happy, safe communities
- Friendship and being close to friends is important to both children and adults
- Community spirit is important to people. They are keen to revive it in areas where it is missing.
- Lots of noise from young people, animals and neighbours in the area they live is a big issue for both children and adults

Transport
- Access to public transport is important

- It is important to have safe and quiet cycle paths and footpaths
- No parking charges at country parks and footpaths – it stops people using them if they can't afford to pay the fee

Housing
- More affordable, accessible housing
- Clean, safe housing for everyone

Environment
- The countryside is important to people, but we need to include facilities for specific activities (quad bikes/ motor bikes/ skate parks etc.)
- We need more parks and better facilities within the parks
- There is to much dog fouling in the local area, in the parks and playing fields
- There is a big issue with litter in the local environment and a lack of respect from the people who drop it
- People want safe places to live and play

Full details of the workshop can be found in **Appendix 1**.
Photos from the workshop can be found in **Appendix 2**.

Appendix 1

Question 1: What are the best things about the county borough and why?

What	Why	Nos. in agreement
• Playing football in a club		2
• Friendly and helpful people		5
• Lovely parks		17
• Nice pub with Sunday lunch		2
• Variety of classes at community centre		1
• I like to go to the field to play		8
• Because I have friends		11
• Playing in my Wendy house		1
• Local walks		5
• Shops nearby / shopping centre/ Bakery		8
• Lots of open space and fields to play sports		2
• Opportunities and activities for children		1
• Library		2
• Castle		3
• Quiet street to ride our bikes/ play outside		5
• Neighbours / people		3
• Nature/ Animals/ countryside		6
• Calm area		2
• Great for tourists		1
• Lots of places to explore		4
• Football field		4
• Community spirit		5
• Skate park		3
• YMCA		1
• Councillor Lyndon Binding		1
• School		3
• Basketball court		1
• Fantastic views/ Pretty area		5
• Lots of nearby beaches		1
• Long/ big garden		3
• Train station		3
• Organised family group		1
• Less litter around play areas		1
• Playgroup (0-2yrs)		1
• Splash pad and pyramid		1

Question 2: What are the worst things about the county borough and why?

What	Why	Nos. in agreement
• No public toilets		4
• Lots of rubbish in the countryside		11
• Dog fouling		11
• Not enough classes for adults in the evening		3
• Not enough activities for young children (usually for 8+ years)		7
• Nowhere to ride motorbikes and quads safely		1
• Hills (going up the hill)		1
• No after school activities		8
• Friends live far away		1
• Lots of fighting in my street		2
• Drugs		2
• Parking charges at parks/ walking areas		4
• Improve park facilities		13
• Noise		7
• Not much music activity		1
• Dark lanes		1
• Street is too big		1
• No skate parks		4
• Not enough play days		1
• Lack of funding		1
• Community centre		1
• No childcare for working parents		2
• Vandalised parks		2
• Bullies		3
• Busy road/ speeding		3
• Animals/ cats		2
• House is too small/ has issues		3
• Town centre needs improving		2

Question 3: What do you want YOUR Caerphilly to look like in 2040?

What would you like your community to be like in 25 years when you're an adult?

What	Why	Nos. in agreement
• Despite the world is getting worse, I would like everyone to have the chance to live in a clean, safe and healthy environment		1
• Lots of shops (like Cardiff) and a cinema		1
• A quiet street		1
• Lots of sports facilities		1
• Lots of houses		1
• Make sure each home is in a good condition		1
• I want to be a teacher and learn how to be a teacher in Caerphilly		1
• I want it to stay like it is now, with a shop at the end of the road		1
• I don't want the world to explode, we need to look after it		1
• A better park		1
• A good school		1
• A water park and skate park		1
• Somewhere safe to ride motorbikes, we need a motocross track		1
• Zero crime		1
• Better hospitals		1
• More green areas		1
• Affordable housing		1

Question 4: What would your wish be, to do something to make your community a better place for 2040?

Wish	Why	Nos. in agreement
• Keep Caerphilly Castle		1
• Butterflies to fly everywhere		1
• Lots of friends close by		2
• Friendly postman/ people		2
• More facilities for teenagers		3
• More activities for children		7
• More dog wardens		2
• More community policemen		2
• More jobs / opportunities		3
• Own house / more housing		3

• Calm community/ greater sense of community (like years ago)		4
• Happy community		2
• More music activities		1
• Look after the workingman's hall		2
• More facilities in the park		3
• Cinema		1
• A Thomas the tank bus		1
• World peace		3
• More play day events		2
• Somewhere safe for children to play		5
• A safe place to live		4
• Skate park		2
• A community centre		2
• Youth club		1
• Safer roads/ streets/ community		3
• More hospitals		1
• 25 year regeneration grants for all		1
• Parents helping to make the community better		1
• Beautiful countryside		2
• A ramp world		1
• More sports shops / shops (individual shops – not chains)/ food shops		8
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• People helping out/ volunteering		2
• Support for homeless people/ people on drugs		2
• Stop environment issues (pollution etc.)		2
• Remove brambles		1
• Improve health facilities		3
• More facilities such as restaurants/ cafes (not chains)		4
• Local beaches		1

Appendix 2