

# BLAENAVON TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF BLAENAFON

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4th September 2024

Blaenavon Town Council  
101 High Street  
Blaenavon  
Torfaen  
NP4 9PT

The Board of Directors  
Hafod Group  
St Hilary Court,  
Cophorne Way,  
Culverhouse Cross,  
Cardiff  
CF5 6ES

## **Proposed Closure of the Arthur Jenkins Residential Home**

Dear Members of the Board,

Blaenavon Town Council is publishing this open letter to express our deep concern and strong opposition to the proposed closure of Arthur Jenkins Nursing Home in Blaenavon. The decision to cease the provision of residential care services at this facility is not only devastating for the residents and their families but also poses a significant threat to the well-being and cohesion of the Blaenavon community.

For over 50 years, Arthur Jenkins Nursing Home has been a cornerstone of care and support for some of the most vulnerable members of our community. The home provides not just care, but also a sense of stability, familiarity, and security for its residents many of whom have lived there for years and have strong personal and emotional ties to Blaenavon.

The closure of this home will have a negative impact on staff, residents, their families, and the wider community. It will displace elderly and vulnerable individuals, forcing them to move away from their homes, familiar surroundings, and the social networks they depend on.

This disruption is likely to cause significant distress and may lead to a deterioration in their health and well-being. For some, it means leaving a town where they have lived their entire lives, which can be particularly distressing for those with deep roots in Blaenavon.

Blaenavon Town Council recognises the value that the Arthur Jenkins Home brings to Blaenavon and has been proud to work on projects that support residents, including initiatives such as the Shining Stars Dementia Choir, which is funded by the Council.



Additionally, residents have been involved in intergenerational projects, and activities with Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School, enhancing their quality of life and keeping them connected with the community. The loss of the home will also mean the loss of this vital community-based support.

Arthur Jenkins is the last remaining residential care home in Blaenavon. Its closure will leave our town without any local provision for those in need of residential care. Residents may be forced to relocate to facilities far from their families and support systems, which is both unjust and unacceptable.

Torfaen is predicted to see a 70% increase in those aged 85 years or above by 2043. This demographic shift highlights the growing need for residential care within our community. The closure of Arthur Jenkins Nursing Home runs counter to this future demand, potentially leaving Blaenavon ill-prepared to support its aging population.

While we acknowledge that the decision has been made based on the long-term viability and sustainability of the service, we believe that with adequate support, Arthur Jenkins can continue to serve the community effectively.

We urge you to reconsider the decision, perhaps exploring alternative models of funding or management that could keep the home operational. We note that the recent inspection by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) resulted in priority action notices.

However, we believe that the focus should be on addressing these issues collaboratively rather than closing the facility. The ongoing efforts by Torfaen County Borough Council to work with Hafod to implement a corrective action plan demonstrate a willingness to improve the service, which should be given time to succeed.

We, therefore, call upon Hafod Group to reconsider the closure of Arthur Jenkins Nursing Home, explore all possible avenues to keep this vital service in operation, and provide transparency around the decision-making process and the factors considered, allowing for community input and alternative proposals to be evaluated. We trust that you will engage in meaningful dialogue with stakeholders to find a sustainable solution that prioritises the needs of our vulnerable residents.

Blaenavon cannot afford to lose such a critical resource, and we urge you to take our concerns seriously as you move forward.

We await your prompt response.

Yours faithfully,



Cllr Dr Nathan Matthews  
Mayor of Blaenavon  
On Behalf of Blaenavon Town Council