

Membership Policy



1. Background and scope

This policy sets out the organisation's intentions to operate democratically by recruiting members and how it will involve members in the running of the organisation. The membership jointly own Bron Afon and will play an important role in holding Bron Afon to account.

2. Who can be a member of Bron Afon?

2.1 Tenants

All tenants of Bron Afon have a right to membership. Where there are joint tenants, each tenant may join as a separate member.

2.2 Residents

Anyone whose principal home is in Torfaen can apply for membership. This includes family members who live with tenants as well as leaseholders and housing applicants who live in the Borough.

Residents will be encouraged to apply for membership, provided there are a sufficient number of tenant members to ensure that the majority of the total membership of the organisation is always tenants.

Where there are insufficient tenants as members to permit residents to join, residents will be placed on a waiting list in date order pending extra places becoming available. This will not make them members under the organisation's rules and they will not gain any rights to vote at a general meeting until they are confirmed as Bron Afon members.

2.3 Board members

Board members will automatically become members of Bron Afon and will remain as members during the period they are on the Board. If they cease to be Board members, they can remain as members of the organisation if they are tenants or residents. Independent Board Members are the only Members of Bron Afon who do not need to be resident within Torfaen.

3. Paying for shares

Membership shares in Bron Afon cost 10p each, with each member being entitled to one share. The contribution of 10p for share membership of Bron Afon will not be collected.

4. Benefits of membership

4.1 In addition to being able to attend Bron Afon's annual general meeting, membership of Bron Afon will mean:

- Jointly owning Bron Afon and playing an important role in holding Bron Afon's Board to account.
- Individuals being able to choose their own level of involvement.
- Individuals receiving a welcome pack and membership certificate.
- Individuals receiving a regular newsletter.
- Individuals being invited to all members meetings.
- Electing the Membership Committee.
- Electing the tenant Board members if the membership reaches 500 and the Board approves this method of election.
- Individuals being invited to participate in forums and groups.
- Individuals being invited to any relevant training events, open days, conferences held by Bron Afon.
- Individuals having access to a private website devoted to members.
- Individuals receiving reports on the performance of Bron Afon.
- Individuals receiving out-of-pocket expenses to cover the cost of involvement (e.g. travel costs to a meeting venue).
- Individuals being invited to participate in community walkabouts with Community Housing Officers.
- Individuals having the opportunity to develop tenant and resident groups in local communities and receiving financial and staff support to do so.

4.2 We will work with other local organisations and business to try and negotiate other tangible benefits of becoming members of Bron Afon.

5 Increasing the membership

5.1 We will take all available opportunities to promote membership of Bron Afon to tenants and residents.

5.2 We will set a target for increasing the membership each year and will also develop targets for increasing membership amongst groups that are under-represented in comparison with the tenants of Bron Afon and their households for example in particular areas or age groups.