

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE CAPEL BETHEL

Bethel Action Group (BAG) was formed in late 2023, to act on findings from the Dolwyddelan community consultation undertaken during 2022-2023. The intention is to re-purpose the now unused Bethel Chapel, on the corner of Church Street and the A470 into a valued community asset. After discussions with existing community groups, BAG constituted as a small charity in January 2024.

BAG's vision is to take advantage of Bethel's prominent position and cultural heritage to create a financially self-supporting, multi-functional community space, that can support and complement other organisations and businesses within the village, including the recently renovated Gwydyr Hotel. A vision shared by many individuals attending this year's Gwyl Gwanwyn and Open Garden events.

To date, the group has:

- Sent an official expression of interest to purchase Capel Bethel to the solicitors acting on behalf of the Trustees (those currently responsible for the building).
- Completed a Pre-Application planning enquiry to Eryri National Park Authority (ENPA).
- Made initial approaches for funding to the Welsh National Heritage Lottery and are now beginning the process of a full application.

BAG have received positive feedback on these early activities from the local community, during consultations at local public events. ENPA responded with a formal letter of support confirming Capel Bethel's inclusion on their list of buildings of historical interest. To facilitate future grant applications BAG are now starting to collect information about the chapel and its historic use by the community.

There is concern, both from the group and the local community about the deteriorating condition of the building. The group are open to exploring all options that could help with stabilisation, whilst fundraising continues for the purchase, renovation and re-purposing of the building as a community asset. BAG are looking for historical information, stories and pictures regarding Capel Bethel. We are also looking for people with a shared passion, vision and skills to help take this project forward. If you have any information about the history of the chapel, or if you can help in any way, please contact:

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