

To Members of the Town Council,

My name is Dafydd Rees, I am 18 years old and currently live in the Morfa ward and I would like to apply for the role of Co-Opted Youth Member on the Bridgend Town Council.

I believe I would be a suitable choice for this position as I am a very confident individual who often puts the needs of his peer group and local community before his own.

Over the past two years, I have been a Student Ambassador for Bridgend Music Service. This role involves regularly talking with and helping the younger students in the music service and passing on any concerns as well as praises they have in a meeting with the Head of the Music Service along with the other student ambassadors.

When I am not actively taking part in the music service you will usually find me in school at Brynteg where I am studying for my A Levels. In school, I am one of seven year 13 students on the Senior Prefect team. Meeting regularly, I have the opportunity to talk and listen to my fellow students and the Senior Leadership Team on what we can do collectively to make school a more enjoyable place for all. Recently, I felt that the worries of young people in Wales were not being considered when our Education Secretary, Kirsty Williams was making plans that had a direct impact on our future. In response, I created a Wales-wide survey to make sure the voices of students were heard and as a result, I am now in talks with Lindsay Harvey and the Children's Commissioner for Wales to share the results and to see what actions we can take to improve this stressful time for students.

My local area is a massive part of who I am and wherever possible, I always search for ways to give back to the community where I have spent my childhood. I try to give back in a multitude of ways, from shopping at the market when I walked home from school, going down to town and supporting the Wartime Bridgend events or even just smiling and saying hi to the residents as I pass by them, I believe every little thing helps, and I think that's what makes Bridgend special to me. Charity also plays a big part of my life, growing up and getting to attend a school like Brynteg has given me the chance to learn about and give back to the less fortunate in our town. For example, every Christmas we pride ourselves as a school on fundraising and buying presents for the Santa Appeal.

Over the past few years in Bridgend, I feel like the links between the youth and the older population have been strengthened massively, but I am always looking for ways to improve and strengthen what we have and that is why I am so passionate about this role within the Town Council.

If you want someone young who is open-minded, creative and constantly striding forward to bring fresh, new ideas from the younger population in Bridgend then I am that person. I will make sure the local views of my generation are heard in a respectful and democratic way.

I thank you for taking the time to read my application and I hope we can work together to make Bridgend a community for everyone.

Dafydd Rees