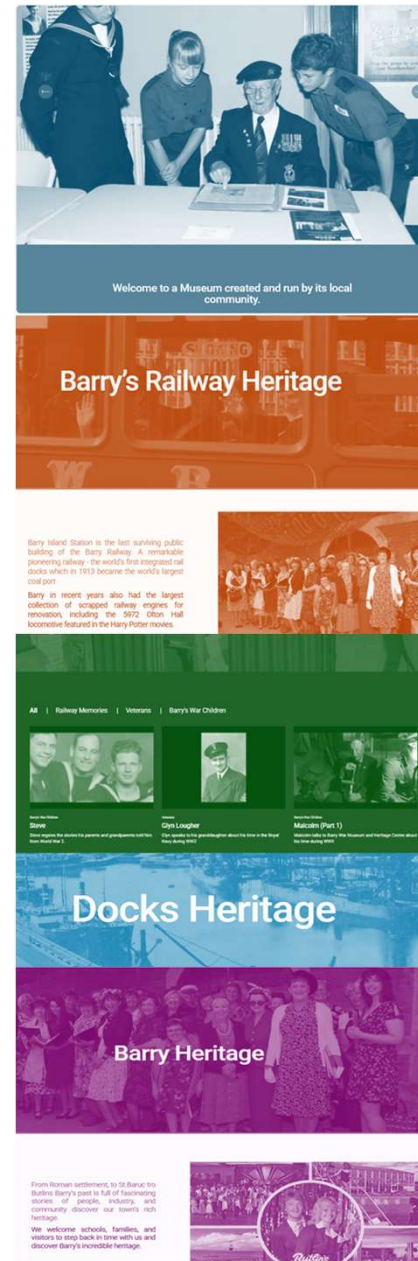


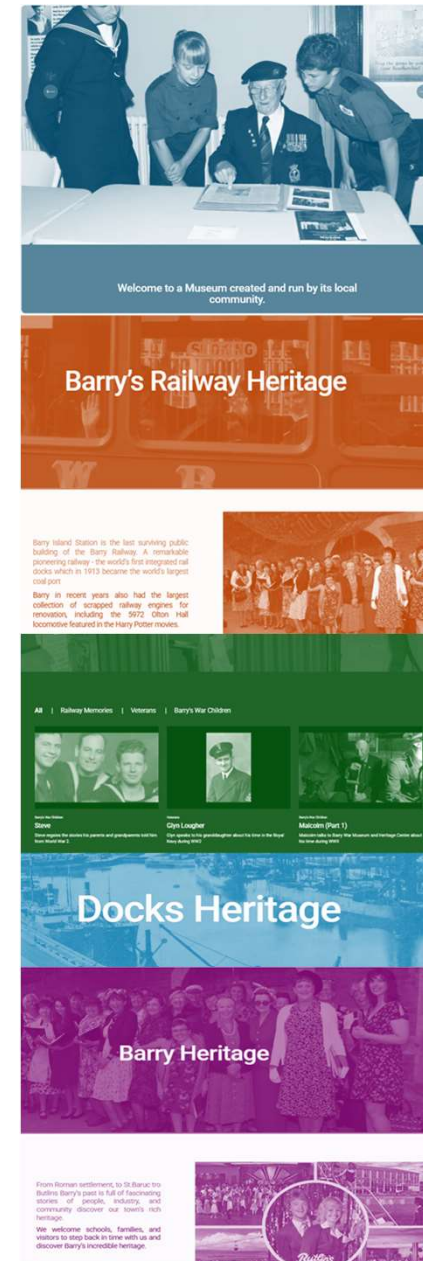
# 7up! Ideas for an even better Barry

Barry War Museum & Heritage Centre CIC  
- at the heart of a more vibrant, cohesive community



# A museum created by its community

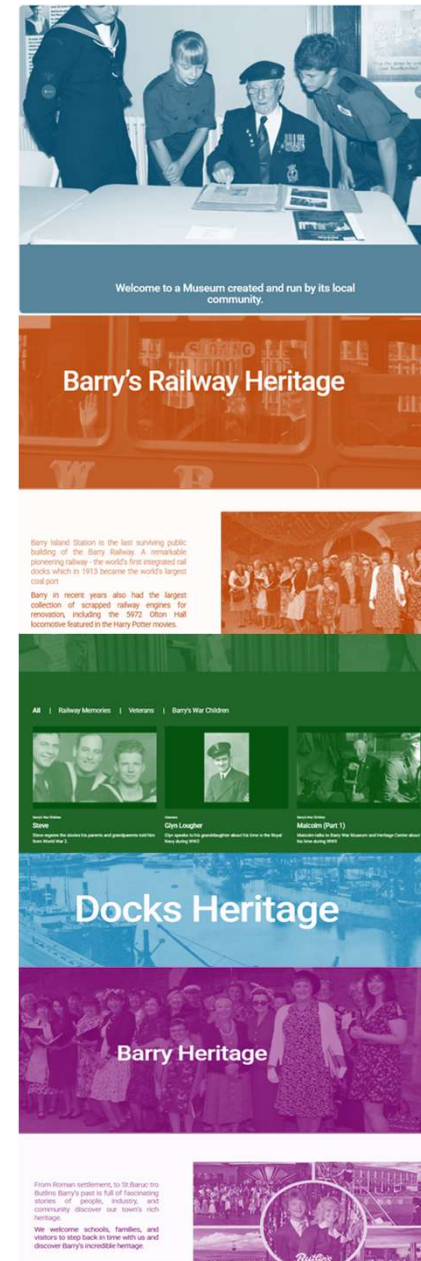
- The Barry War Museum & Heritage Centre CIC is Barry's only museum, created and run by its community, over the last 13 years attracting visitors from around the world, school groups across Wales, and featured on national TV.
- The museum's Barry Island Station home is the last surviving public building of the Barry Railway Company. It served as a reception point for evacuee children during World War 2, escaping the Nazi air raids and bombing of their homes.
- More recently, an incident with a museum volunteer dressed in World War 2 Home Guard outfit (like you see on TV's *'Dad's Army'*) while putting up a banner outside promoting the museum's VE Day celebrations, was shouted at by two young women, without any hint of irony, called him 'Fascist!' - that's why the war museum works to promote peace and commemorate the sacrifices made by previous generations.
- Going forward, the museum now has an expanded role beyond its original remit, beyond its original function as War Museum to be the hub for the wider story of the Barry community's rich heritage.
- The launch of the Plan for Neighbourhoods initiative is dedicated to making a long-term, positive difference to the town. The museum has a critical role to play at the heart of a more vibrant, cohesive Barry.
- This report highlights its significant role and potential with an outline of its own contributions it seeks to make with seven ideas to make Barry even better.



# Playing a critical role in Barry's future

The Barry War Museum & Heritage Centre CIC is critical to the future activities of Barry placemaking in three key ways:

- **Uses Asset-based community development (ABCD)** to create a sustainable community future. It is based on the community's strengths and potentials. It harnesses available resources, skills, and experience, using the community's own assets and resources as the basis for development, empowering local people by encouraging them to use what they already possess. This is an essential strategy for any future Barry placemaking.
- **A community's story and narrative is central to driving change.** Barry's story is not just about its past but its future, a tomorrow that celebrates with pride its heritage and uses its values to go forward with greater confidence, self-belief, and cohesion. The museum works to co-create new stories and values-driven narratives for Barry's future.
- **An exemplar of community self-help.** The museum was created by local people who share their passion and commitment to their community by giving up their time, experiences, and expertise to celebrate their shared heritage. The museum is an exemplar of community self-help to inspire others in transforming Barry's future. Any successful partnership needs to celebrate its museum as an inspiration for others.



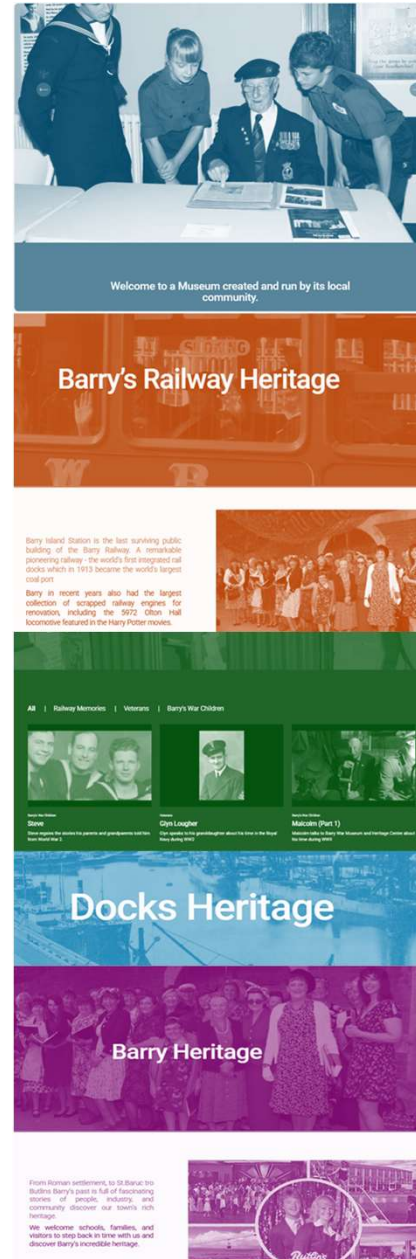
# The museum is changing...

- The museum became a Community Interest Company in November 2023. It has expanded its remit from its original function as a war museum to a community heritage hub that works with local people and historical experts to make the most of their collective assets.
- Barry War Museum & Heritage Centre CIC will be providing a virtual museum as well as a physical one, with online resources and new outreach activities.
- The museum is working to grow its army of volunteers to expand its opening times, do even more school visits, and encourage greater research, study, and celebration of Barry's heritage
- The revitalised museum is planning to evolve its status and title from a community not-for-profit social enterprise to a charity.
- The museum seeks to be a committed partner to the new Barry Plan for Neighbourhoods project. By realising the museum's full potential together an even better Barry can be created.

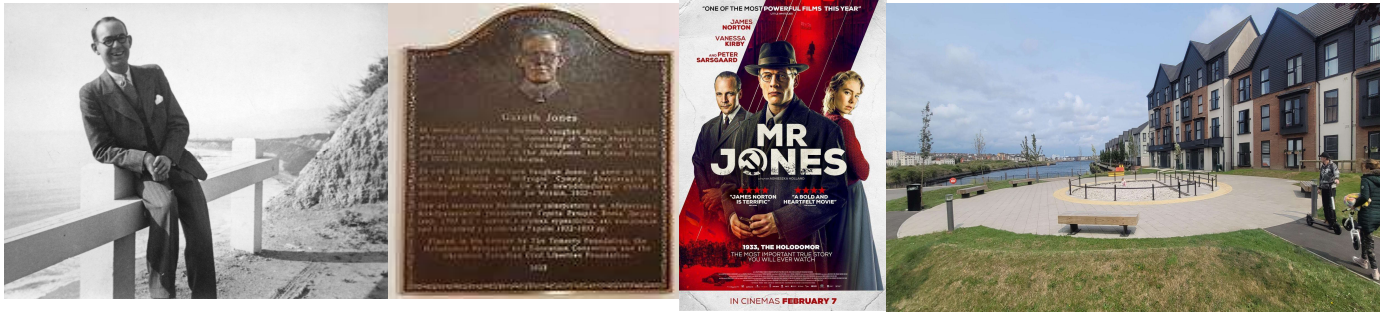




# 7 ideas for an even better Barry



# #1. Gareth Jones Square



Gareth Jones, the journalist and subject of the film *'Mr. Jones'* (starring James Norton) is celebrated as a national hero in the Ukraine, respected for his bravery in being the journalist who told the world about the Stalin-created famine, known in the Ukraine as the 'Holodomor' that killed millions.

Although globally celebrated - there are five towns and cities in the Ukraine with streets and lanes named after Gareth - he is largely unknown and uncelebrated in his hometown with just a plaque and memorial stone in Merthyr Dyfan graveyard honouring his story.

There is potential in Barry or example, to rename the un-christened public space on the Waterfront as a 'Gareth Jones Square'.

The square could feature a public art on the theme of the 'Gareth Jones Cwmpas' highlighting four key themes to Gareth's inspiring story of his love for the Truth, Internationalism, Peace, and Cynefin ( a Welsh word describing an intimate emotional, cultural, and historical connection to place, where a person or creature feels instinctively at home).

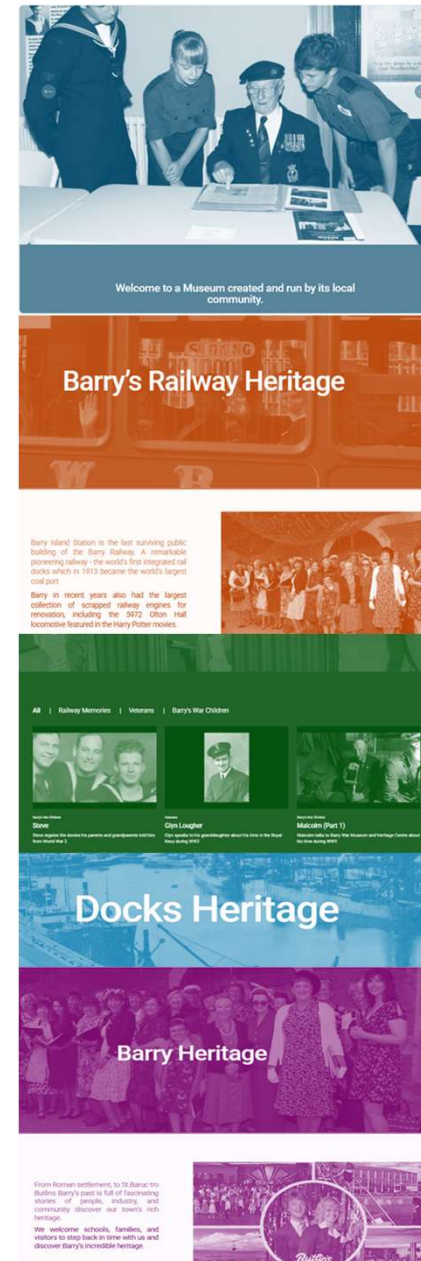
The Barry Placemaking partnership provides an ideal opportunity for Gareth's home town to properly respect one of its greatest sons.



# #2. Uncelebrated Barry anniversaries

Barry has a wealth of uncelebrated anniversaries or themed celebratory dates to commemorate its heritage. Harnessing these would generate significant pride, publicity, and engagement.

- **Gavin & Stacey Week** (May 13<sup>th</sup> 2007)
  - Included in special events a conference featuring:
    - Academic speaker on regional British humour
    - 'How to speak like Nessa - the Barry accent'
    - The show's background story
    - Barry people's memories of the filming
    - Performers appearances?
- **Opening of Butlins** (June 18<sup>th</sup> 1966)
- **Opening of docks** (July 18<sup>th</sup> 1889)
- **St.Baruc's day** (September 27<sup>th</sup> )
- **David Davies birthday** (December 18<sup>th</sup> 1818)





# #3. Evacuees' commemoration

The Barry Island Station building served as an evacuee point during World War 2.

In 1943 a nine-year old boy and his sister arrived at the Barry Island Station building, as evacuees, escaping Nazi bombing of their homes.

Unfortunately, no one came forward to house them, so they went home with the Stationmaster.

One of the museum's most popular activities is the '*Evacuee Experience*' where local schools reenact arriving, with luggage labels on their coats, as evacuees and be told, through reenactors, the wartime story of evacuees and children like themselves

Known as Operation Pied Piper, which began on 1 September 1939, over the course of the war, 6 million evacuees including children, mothers with infants, and the infirm were accommodated usually by strangers, in a remarkable episode of British history.

New education resources could enable the story helps to commemorate community and helping others in need, at a time when the issue of offering asylum, providing help and support for other families is very much in the news.





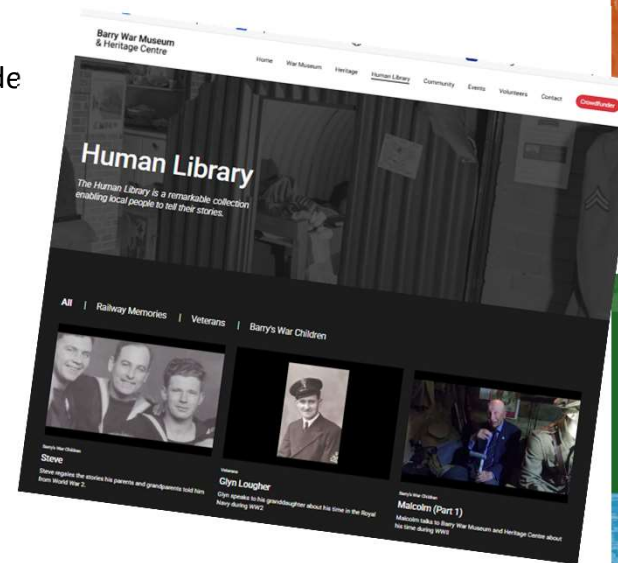
# #4. Human Library - expansion

Everyone of us has a story. The museum's new website will feature its 'Human Library' - recorded interviews with local people sharing their stories.

The first collection of stories tells the stories of Barry's very senior citizens sharing anecdotes, experiences and memories of growing up during World War 2 to provide a fascinating unique window into Barry's past.

With further support, the museum wants to capture the rich variety of Barry's heritage with future 'Human Library' projects telling the stories of:

- **Barry's docks and railway heritage** - the stories of the world's first integrated rail docks port, and world's largest coal exporting docks in 1913.
- **Barry Race Riot 1919** - learning from history
- **Memo memories** - many of the major bands and performers played in Barry in the 60s and 70s, creating warm good times recollections.
- **Barry Town United's European adventures** - the amazing exploits of Barry's football club on and off the pitch playing in Europe.
- **How the Barry community saved its football club** - the incredibly inspiring stories of how a community saved its football club, Barry Town United FC, from extinction.
- **Butlins Barry Island** - the holiday camp with a million memories
- **Evacuee recollections** - the real memories and stories of Barry's evacuee experience.
- **The making of 'Gavin & Stacey'**



# #5.Inspiration from the Home Front

Barry War Museum & Heritage Centre CIC works to promote a story of peace, paying tribute to the sacrifices made by others so we can live safe from harm, and also the stories of the 'Home Front' - the impact war had on children, families, and homes away from the frontline - a relevant story for today's society facing issues such as adversity, austerity, climate change, and growing social division.

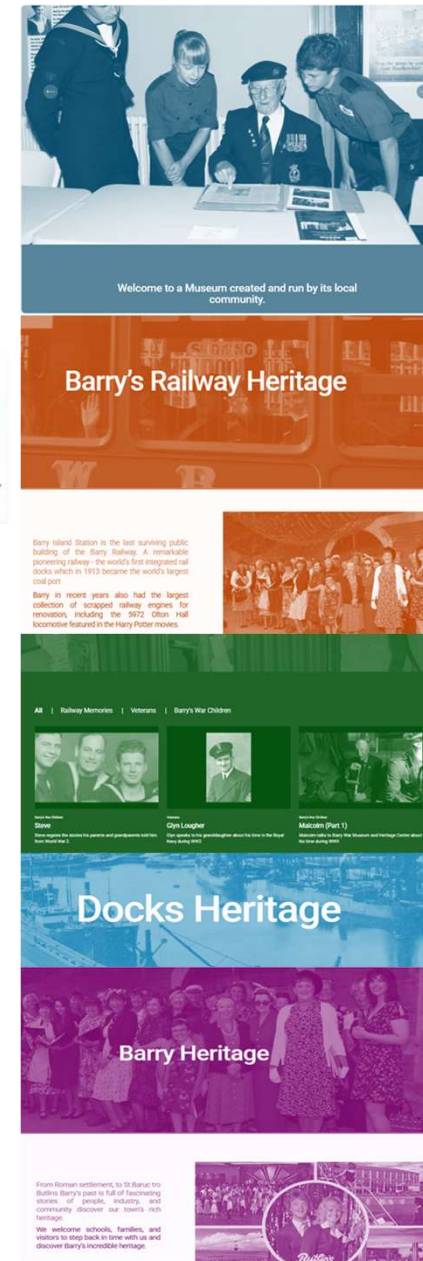
Some of the ideas the museum would like to develop include:

- **Wartime Christmas** - how was Christmas celebrated at home during the war years. What inspiration for a less materialistic festive period can we learn from this era?
- **Fashion on the ration** - how could you look cool and stylish when cloth, materials, and nylons were severely rationed or unavailable? A celebration of human ingenuity and creativity over adversity.
- **Living on rations** - education pack providing a teaching resource of the practical lessons and stories of how families coped with war-time rationing to make the best use of available resources, and how this story is an inspiration for today's generation facing tough challenges with the need to address climate change.



# #6 A. Co-creating Barry's story together

- There's an incredible opportunity to engage the Barry community, to bring them together to tell their collective story by co-creating and co-producing a 'pocket museum' telling *'The Story of Barry in 50 objects'*.
- 'Objects' can be artefacts, cultural motifs, emotional connections, famous sons and daughters, landmarks etc. Local people can share their ideas at events and online. A curation panel of community partners curates the chosen 50 objects.
- The 'pocket museum' is manifested in a range of creative media including a deck of cards (each card tells a story of an individual object), posters featuring all 50 objects, mini posters containing selected objects, and online, all providing accessible ways of telling a community's story. Like a mosaic it creates profound impact from many small parts.
- Project partners, including Barry Town United AFC, Barry, Cadoxton J&I School and opportune piggybacking on other community events enable people share their individual and communal stories, from the bottom-up, defining who they are, what brings them together, their passions, challenges, hope and dreams.
- Experience from similar projects (in London and Splott, Cardiff) reveal few know the story of their place, everyone knows something - often real gems of information - as well adding extra detail or colour to others' stories, while providing benefits of 'identity', 'dignity', 'anchoring', 'memory', 'belonging', 'social cohesion', 'your position in the world', 'neighbourliness', 'mental well-being', 'family connections'.
- The project enables the museum to reach out beyond the boundaries of its building to the wider community





# #6B Use co-creating the Barry story for wider engagement

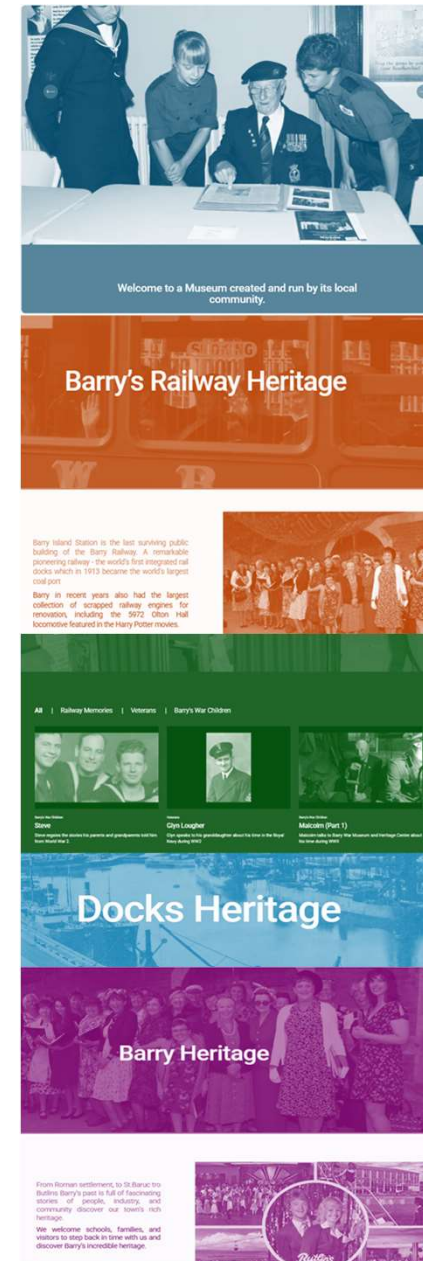
Engaging the public in co-creating the story of their town provides an opportunity for wider consultation for the Barry Partnership's community engagement for its Neighbourhood Plans.

This process was successfully used by a project partner in a community project in Splott, Cardiff, where co-creating the community's story successfully integrated with a wider civic consultation being run by Cardiff Council and Cardiff University for the Cardiff Structure Plan.

Community partners, such as Barry Town United FC can conduct engagement at matchday, but also can engage with Soccer Moms and Dads at the Club's Saturday morning children's football (where there are 10 mini pitches on the Jenner Park 3G pitch and several hundred in attendance), midweek Barry Town Walking Football Club (where 30 of its members adjourn after games to the Club Bar) and more.

Quiz and Bingo nights have proved to be good events for piggybacking consultation - all made possible because it is led by the fun element of identifying objects for our town's story, from which more formal consultation engagement activity is added.

Historic bus tours, using the Barry-based Cardiff Transport Preservation Group vehicles and using the museum as a base, will attract family groups who are normally difficult to reach in engagement activity.



# #7. Volunteer recruitment campaign

Harnessing the commitment, passion, and shared dreams of the Barry community will be at the heart of any future success of the Plan for Neighbourhoods for Barry.

The museum provides a vehicle for local people to do their bit for their community.

The worst question you can possibly ask is *'Can you volunteer?'* (followed by *'Do you want to join the Committee?'* and *'Can you be Treasurer?'*).

If however, you ask instead:

- *Do you fancy helping out with our school visits, including opportunities to dress up in historical costume and be a re-enactor?*
- *Can you help us source content on Barry's history for our website?*
- *Could you spare the odd hour using your professional skills in accountancy, building maintenance, HR, PR, video production to help your museum?*
- *Do you fancy just coming along and see how you can help?*

All provide more positive responses.

The Museum will be working with the Barry Plan for Neighbourhoods to support efforts for getting more people involved in their community.



# Going forward



1. The Barry Plan for Neighbourhoods will hopefully recognise how the Barry War Museum & Heritage Centre CIC is a vital partner in its efforts to create an even better future for Barry.
2. The Plan for Neighbourhoods matches actions with words in creating sustainable development through Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD).
3. The new partnership will work with the museum and other local groups and people in realising the seven ideas shared here and welcoming representatives of the museum as members of its partnership groups.

An even better future awaits Barry - by working together.





# Parch

# Dysgu

# Ysbrydoli

# Respect

# Learn

# Inspire

**Barry War**  
Museum & Heritage Centre

**Barry War**  
Museum & Heritage Centre

**Barry War**  
Museum & Heritage Centre



Welcome to a Museum created and run by its local community.

## Barry's Railway Heritage

Barry Island Station is the last surviving public building of the Barry Railway. A remarkable pioneering railway - the world's first integrated rail docks which in 1913 became the world's largest coal port.

Barry in recent years also had the largest collection of scrapped railway engines for renovation, including the 1912 Class Hall locomotive featured in the Harry Potter movies.



Barry's Railway Heritage

Barry's Railway Heritage

Barry's Railway Heritage

Barry's Railway Heritage

Barry's Railway Heritage

## Docks Heritage

## Barry Heritage

From Roman settlement, to St Baruc: the Barry's past is full of fascinating stories of people, industry, and community. Discover our town's rich heritage.

We welcome schools, families, and visitors to step back in time with us and discover Barry's incredible heritage.

