

## **Afan Lodge:**

### **Refinanced – Restructured – Re-energized**

1. Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm Community Fund CIC (PyC CIC) is pleased to announce that it has worked with the owners and others to ensure Afan Lodge's continued contribution to the prosperity of the Afan valley and wider communities. PyC CIC has done this as part of its remit and mission to help stimulate and regenerate economic activity throughout the Fund's area of benefit.
2. Following an approach from the owners of Afan Lodge and appropriate due diligence, PyC CIC has successfully agreed, with the owners and their bankers, an option which will maintain the facility as a key business in the valley. This will enable it to realise its strategic potential, preserving local employment and allowing for future broader developments, for the benefit of all stakeholders.
3. Afan Lodge has offered good quality and reasonably priced accommodation in the area for a number of years and is uniquely placed in its strategic importance in developing the wider economic future of the area. It is now a subsidiary business of PYC CIC and will be managed and run on PYC CIC's behalf by local staff - unleashing its potential to expand its offering in a variety of ways.
4. It is clear from our own analysis and from discussion with other stakeholders that the development of tourism in the Afan Valley is perceived to be of fundamental importance in shaping the local economy. It is also clear that development is hampered by a lack of sufficient visitor accommodation to attract and retain visitors who wish to stay for longer periods.
5. This investment reflects the value PyC CIC places upon the need to secure quality visitor accommodation in the Afan Valley as a cornerstone of further economic development in the area. It also reflects the value we place upon the work and leadership shown to date by the current proprietors in their development of the business and our confidence and excitement about its future potential.
6. PYC CIC would like to thank all those concerned with working toward this solution: the Lodge owners, Nat West Bank, our legal team at Capital Law, David & Snape and Menzies accountants. Without their perseverance and flexibility this positive outcome would not have been possible.

January 2020