

## Presentation for twinning conference

1. Pontypool is a town with several small areas in it with a total population of about 50,000. The places people most like to visit are the Park which is known as the best in Wales, its indoor market and the Rugby ground. Some years ago Pontypool was the best Rugby team in Wales but things have changed now so that the top teams are regional rather than based on towns. Nevertheless we'd like to present you with the famous shirt of our team.
2. A small river, the Afon Llwyd (Afon is river in Welsh) runs through the town and a canal goes past which is used for holidays not for carrying coal and iron as it used to in the past.
3. The national plant is the daffodil and many wear it on our Saint's day – Saint David's Day, 1st March. Our national animal is the Welsh Dragon and the young people have one they'd like to present to you.
4. It is said that the climate is very wet but actually it isn't. This year, in particular has been very dry. In summer its average warmest month is about 18 Degrees C and its coldest winter month average is about 5 degrees C. However, this year we have seen temperatures of 30 degrees C. For many years we have had very little snow and when we do get snow it doesn't stay very long on the ground.
5. There is definitely a change towards warmer weather both in the winter and the summer.
6. Pontypool is a part of an area called Torfaen which is responsible for all the major issues such as Education, Social Services, Housing and refuse collection.

These are some examples of some projects to improve the climate that are happening in Torfaen, an area of 95000 people

- 10 double electric vehicles charging points installed for public use in council owned car-parks.
- Renewable technology installed across council owned buildings including a micro-hydro scheme in Blaenavon, providing power to the World Heritage Centre.
- A low carbon energy assessment to set renewable energy targets
- 7 electric vehicle chargers installed for the council's fleet of vehicles
- 13 electric vehicles introduced into the council's fleet.
- A Community Climate Ambassadors Network has been established to be the voice of their communities and help the council to identify difficulties and solutions to reducing carbon emissions.

- 7 Local Nature Reserves established that are managed to benefit nature and for people to enjoy them
- Less grass cutting and creating new meadows to improve biodiversity.
- Promoting cycling and walking links. Torfaen is only 18km long and has approximately 36km of cycle routes plus a network of walking routes
- Our recycling nt has a 'Re-use Shop' where things that can still be used are given away
- We are trying to re-cycle plastic bags and plastic film
- Torfaen works with children in schools on how to deal better with waste

Torfaen sees climate and Nature as an emergency and has

- Set up a high level committee of councillors
- Employed a high level member of staff to promote it
- Set up an action plan <https://getinvolved.torfaen.gov.uk/net-zero-torfaen>