

Budget plans approved

Caerphilly County
Borough Council
approved a series of
budget proposals for
the forthcoming year
at a Special Meeting
of Council recently
(26th February).

Faced with unprecedented financial pressures, like local authorities right across Wales, Members approved a series of budget proposals which will see savings across the council for 2014/15 in excess of £14.2 million.

Cllr Keith Reynolds, Deputy Leader said, "There certainly is no getting away from the fact that local government in Wales faces a period of severe austerity, however despite this, our budget remains wholly deliverable, efficient and manageable, and is keeping to an absolute minimum the impact of the severe cuts imposed by the UK government upon our residents."

The setting of the budget for 2014/15 and the budget proposals contained within it were agreed following a process of consultation with a range of audiences - including councillors as part of the Scrutiny and Cabinet functions, trade unions, tenants, partners and Caerphilly county borough residents.

Cllr Reynolds is keen to highlight that these views and concerns were taken into account in determining the budget.

He said, "Although they may not necessarily always be popular decisions, and there undoubtedly have been compromises made in order to ensure the financial pain is shared fairly, we have always sought throughout to minimise the impact that these cuts have upon our residents, local businesses and council staff."

"In the setting of this budget, every effort has been made to limit the saving requirements on the key services which directly support our core priorities, including reinforcing our commitment to protecting the most vulnerable members of our communities."

Continues on page 2.



How does the council budget affect me?

Caerphilly council, like all local authorities across Wales, is faced with unprecedented financial challenges as a result of UK Government cuts. Last month councillors approved a series of budget proposals which will lead to savings in excess of £14.2 million in 2014/15.

Cllr Keith Reynolds, Deputy Leader said, "Residents and staff will be relieved that here in Caerphilly we have not seen the type of deep cuts that are being announced in other parts of Wales. We are managing this difficult process through effective financial planning and our commitment remains to protect services and protect jobs."

Here we look at some of the specific proposals which have been approved for 2014/15.

One of the lowest Council Tax rises in Wales

At the Special Meeting of Council, a 3.9% increase in Council Tax was approved, which in monetary terms equates to just 69 pence per week increase for a Band D property in Caerphilly county borough.

Council Tax Band	Weekly Increase
Band A	46 p
Band B	54 p
Band C	61p
Band D	69p
Band E	84 p
Band F	99p
Band G	£1.15

The majority of homes in the county borough fall into Council Tax Bands A, B or C.

Cllr Reynolds commented, "Admittedly, this increase is higher than we would have liked, but it is important to note that it still makes Caerphilly's council tax increase among the lowest in Wales."

"We also continue to help to protect the most vulnerable through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which will mean that 15,000 homes across our county borough will pay no council tax, and a further 5,000 households will receive partial support."

Listening to YOUR views on savings

Before agreeing the budget, the council carried out a major public consultation exercise to gather views about the proposals. Almost 800 people had their say and this feedback was taken into account during the decision-making process.

Cllr Keith Reynolds said, "It was inevitable that some budget proposals were not going to be popular, but we have listened to feedback and made compromises, where appropriate, in order to ensure the financial pain is shared fairly. We have sought to minimise the impact these UK Government cuts have upon our residents, local businesses and council staff."

Some of the savings proposals withdrawn following consultation include:

- Retaining Voluntary Sector support to CAB and GAVO (£19,000).
- Increasing Meals on Wheels charge by 25p per meal instead of the originally proposed £1 increase per meal (£60,000).
- Increasing outdoor facilities charges by 10% instead of the originally proposed 20% (£10,000).
- Reducing weekend park cleansing (£10,000).
- Charging for replacement waste containers (£63,000).
- Charging for garden waste collection (£80,000).
- Closing Rhymney Civic Amenity site (£65,000).
- Charging to treat rat infestations (£19,000).

Cllr Reynolds continued, "We have had to make some difficult and controversial decisions, but I want to make it clear that we really have listened to feedback and have taken these views into account in determining a budget which minimises the impact on our residents."

However a number of savings proposals were agreed as part of the 2014/15 budget, some of which generated concern from community members following the consultation process.

These included:

 Closure of Caerphilly Leisure Centre cafeteria (£20,000 saving).

The only centre in the county borough to have such a facility, it is unprofitable and required the replacement of equipment in the region of £130,000. The space will be used to provide improved exercise facilities and a high quality vending machine will be installed in line with the facilities available at other leisure centres. In addition, the seating space will still be available at certain times of the week, for example as a viewing area for children's swimming lessons.

Closure of 3 public conveniences at Nelson, Newbridge and Fleur De Lys (£24,000 savings).

While members recognise the importance of public conveniences within town centres, these three sites are the least used. The council, through the Welsh Government, operates a Public Convenience Grant Scheme, which encourages local businesses to make their toilet facilities available for free public use.

 Cease domestic support to people in receipt of Supporting People commissioned service only (£183,000 savings).

This will only affect residents receiving a cleaning service in isolation, and not as a wider package of care.

Reduced provision of management grants to Bowls Clubs and ceasing financial contribution to Senghenydd Splash Pad (£10,000 savings).

While the grants to the four Bowls Clubs have been reduced, they have not been removed completely, and will now be administered on an equitable basis.

In terms of the Splash Pad, the council contribution has been removed but other funding sources can continue to be utilised by the community partnership.

The full report on Budget Proposals for 2014/15 can be found at www.caerphilly.gov.uk

News**Line** | Savings agreed

In line with savings proposals across the council, members agreed to reduce the frequency NEWSLINE from six editions per



year to four editions, which will generate savings in excess of £25,000.

Your next edition of NEWSLINE will be produced in June, with further regular editions published in September, December and March of each year.

Residents' Recycling

Residents are being encouraged to 'Co-operate - Don't contaminate' when it comes to their household recycling.

Caerphilly County Borough Council are sending out an A4 flyer, with detailed guidance of recyclable materials to residents across the county borough, and we've also included a handy 'cut out and keep' version of the guide (right) in this edition of Newsline. A video detailing recycling best practice is also available on the council's YouTube channel (caerphillycbctv).

The recycling reminder comes as the Council tries new methods to increase recycling rates and reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill. Although the Council has one of the best recycling rates of local authorities in Wales, every year the Council spends thousands of pounds removing household waste that has been incorrectly placed in the recycling bin. The Council has a responsibility to meet recycling targets set by the Welsh Government, and is subject to a £200 fine for every tonne of waste that exceeds this target and is sent to landfill.

As part of new efforts to improve recycling rates and cut down on contamination, properties that put out contaminated recycling for collection will see an advisory sticker placed on their bin and their waste will not be collected until the non-recyclable materials are removed.

Waste Advisory Wardens will be offering advice and support to help residents, writing to properties not complying with their recycling responsibilities and following up with house visits if no action is taken.

Persistent offenders could incur a £75 fixed penalty notice (reduced to £50 if paid within 14 days).

For more information about recycling and household waste recycling centres, please visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk or call 01443 866533.



recycle for Caerphilly

www.caerphilly.gov.uk

COOL! Caerphilly's oldest fridge is found!

The Caerphilly RDP Sustainable Energy Team have been on the hunt for the oldest fridge freezer in Caerphilly County Borough.

The winners of this brrrr-illiant competition were Diane and Phillip Creedy from Trethomas, who proudly own a retro, cool-looking G.E.C fridge, with a small freezer section, dating from the early 1950's.

The 60 year old fridge, previously owned by Eileen Williams, Diane's Aunt, was an object of amazement. Diane said, "I remember seeing the fridge as a toddler and being fascinated by opening the door and seeing the light come on. It was really exciting to be allowed to go to the fridge and take out the milk. Very few people had fridges at this time - they were seen as a status symbol, only owned by the well-off."

Fridges and freezers are on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and are among the highest energy consuming appliances in the home. Cllr Ken James, Cabinet Member Regeneration, Planning & Sustainable Development said "Residents may think they're saving money by holding onto an old appliance - but older models actually use more energy. Have a look at the rating on your fridge freezer and see if you could be saving energy and money."

Visit www.electrolux.co.uk

to learn more about the latest energy efficient appliances.









Electrolux



Working to prevent flooding

As residents will be aware through the recent news reports, Britain has faced one of the wettest winters in over 200 years, and the worst flooding in decades.

The council's pro-active management and a positive investment in drainage and flood alleviation schemes has meant that, in comparison, the impact felt by Caerphilly county borough residents has been minimal.

To help ensure this continues, the council has set up a programme for the cleansing of gullies bi-annually and has set up an inspection/cleansing regime for its culverts and ditches that are deemed to cause the greatest risk to the public, properties and the highway.



These culverts and ditches are cleansed prior to any severe weather forecast so that the water stays underground or in ditches as they are designed to do, and not to affect other areas.

Some useful contacts numbers: Natural Resources Wales:

General enquiries - tel: 0300 065 3000

(Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm)

Floodline: (24 hour service) - tel: 0845 988 1188 / 0345 988 1188

Welsh Water: Sewerage enquiries tel: 0800 085 3968

Caerphilly County Borough Council:

Highway Customer Care - tel: 01495 236 511 (Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 5pm, Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm)

Emergency out of hours - tel: 01443 863445

Met Office: Weather update information www.metoffice.gov.uk

Report underage sales

The council's Trading Standards department has a duty to enforce laws designed to protect the health and wellbeing of children and young people from harmful and damaging products.

The team is urging residents to help them enforce these laws by reporting instances of underage sales to them, so that targeted enforcement action can be taken.

Instances can include underage sales of:

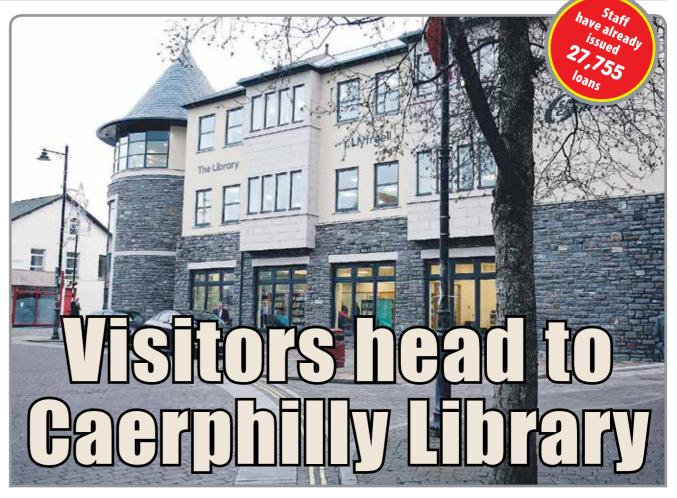
- Alcohol
- Cigarettes
- Solvents & butane lighter refills
- Fireworks
- Aerosol spray paints
- Knives
- Age restricted DVDs
- Petrol



If an age-restricted product is sold to an underage person, the retailer and the sales person can be guilty of a criminal offence. This applies even if the underage person claims they are buying the item for an adult.

Reports to the Trading Standards team will be handled confidentially. To report an issue, please contact the team on **01495 235 291** or email tradingstandards@caerphilly.gov.uk

Local traders who want to find out more about preventing underage sales can also contact the team on **01495 235 291**.



More than 38,000 visitors have flocked to the new Caerphilly Library and Customer Service Centre since the building opened.

The new building, on The Twyn in Caerphilly town centre, houses a museum point, customer service payments and dedicated learning spaces.

In just two months a staggering 38,197 visitors have visited the facility and staff have already issued 27,755 loans, 12,339 of which have been to children and young people.

Cllr Rhianon Passmore, Caerphilly County Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning, said: "I'm thrilled to hear that so many people are visiting the new library and utilising the services available, and it's particularly pleasing to hear that issues of books and other media are so high. I'm sure this building will continue to be an asset for the community for many years to come."

The Library operates Monday to Friday, 9.30am - 6pm, closing at the slightly later time of 7pm on Wednesday, and Saturday 9.30am to 4pm.

The Customer Service provision is available Monday to Thursday 8.45am - 4.45pm, Friday 8.45am - 4.15pm and Saturday 9am - 1pm.



Risca gives medics a rousing welcome home

Thousands of residents and visitors lined the streets of Risca earlier this month to cheer the heroic medics of the 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital unit.

The squadron received a heroes' welcome as they marched through the town in an event to mark the unit's homecoming following a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

The unit, who are Caerphilly county borough's designated partners for the Armed Forces Community Covenant scheme, were welcomed to the town for a homecoming parade and medal presentation ceremony.

More than 100 Reserve soldiers, who work in hospitals and local health boards across Wales and beyond, took part in the ceremony.

Colonel Tina Donnelly TD DL CCMI, Commanding Officer for 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital said, "The parade was absolutely superb from our point of view. To come back from our tour of duty and have so many people turn out to support us was very special. When we were out in Afghanistan on operations we had a job to do. We've completed that job, and a ceremony like this has been the perfect closure."



Heroes Welcome

Over 700 retailers across Caerphilly county borough also recently became the first in Wales to embrace

a national initiative which promises to offer Armed Forces community members a warm welcome in shops and other retail outlets The national initiative aims to provide a sustainable and simple vehicle to allow communities and organisations to express their quiet acknowledgement and gratitude to Armed Forces communities in a direct and positive manner.

For further information on the scheme, please visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk

Updates from Armed Forces partners



The Royal British Legion has recently launched a telephone helpline, which

can offer advice and support on a wide range of topics including war pensions, benevolent/ welfare help, benefits and money advice and information on independent living. The helpline number is **0808 802**

8080. Open 8am until 8pm, 7 days a week and calls are free from UK landlines and main mobile networks.

SSAFA are also looking to recruit volunteer caseworkers, to support the charity by calling on serving and ex service personnel and supporting them by filling in forms and contacting the relevant military charities to provide help as required. Training and an induction is provided. For further information, please contact Keith on

01633 246 269 (Mon, Wed, Fri 9.00am – 11.30am).



The Big Spring Clean!

Residents, community groups and schools are being encouraged to grab their litter pickers, spades and wheelbarrows and join forces with Caerphilly County Borough Council for the Big Spring Clean 2014.

Now in its third year, the Big Spring Clean campaign is about showcasing and celebrating the county borough's stunning scenery and natural beauty. Last year, over 49 tonnes of litter and fly-tipped waste was collected during the 3-month long initiative.

Throughout the months of March, April and May this year, the council, in addition to the daily routine frontline maintenance and improvement works it carries out, is encouraging people to take pride in their local environment by getting involved in clean up projects, helping to make Caerphilly county borough an even cleaner and greener place.

Cllr David Poole said, "The Big Spring Clean is a great opportunity for residents, schools and community groups to celebrate all that

our county borough has to offer, and also to work alongside us to make sure we all do our bit to ensure Caerphilly county borough remains a clean, green and pleasant place to live, work and visit."

Litter pickers and refuse sacks are available to residents and community groups wishing to get involved in the clean up. To register an interest in getting involved, please call **01443 873 758**. The council can also arrange for the litter to be collected

following the clean ups.





A hard hitting drama, aimed at raising awareness of the dangers of synthetic drugs has been premiered recently.

The 60 minute film **"The Good Drug Dealer"** focuses on the impact of drugs including Mephedrone, also known as meow meow or MCAT, across the communities of Wales and the devastating impact that addiction can have on families and local communities.

The film stars Gareth David Lloyd (Torchwood) and Darren Evans (My Big Fat Diary) and is designed for use in PSE lessons in schools across Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent county boroughs to highlight the often devastating effects of synthetic drug addiction.

The project was part funded by the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership and was awarded £5,000 from the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner's Partnership Fund, which supports community led initiatives that aim to prevent crime and tackle anti-social behaviour throughout Gwent.

Cllr David Poole said, "I am full of praise for this excellent production, which will play a key role in helping to educate young people across both Caerphilly & Blaenau Gwent county borough's about the very real dangers and potentially devastating consequences associated with such substances."

Anyone concerned about the use of drugs should call DAN 24/7 for advice:

Freephone: 0808 808 2234

Facebook: DAN 24/7 Wales Drug & Alcohol Helpline

Text: DAN to 81066

Website: www.dan247.org.uk

Tenancy Support Officers provide a helping hand

The Council's team of Tenancy Support Officers have been out and about supporting Council tenants around the county borough.

One such tenant is Denise Wilkins of Gilfach, who had fallen into rent arrears as a result of under occupancy (bedroom tax) and a non-dependent charge for her son.

However, when friendly Tenancy Support Officers (TSOs) Sherell McLaughlan and Jo Thomas visited Denise and investigated her situation they discovered that she should not have been paying the nondependant charge, which resulted in money being credited to her rent account and removed the arrears. The helpful TSO duo also informed Denise that she was eligible to claim an exemption from the removal of the spare room subsidy from April 2013, and she was awarded backdated housing benefit. The TSOs also saved Denise money on her water rates and offered her energy advice on her gas and electric bills.

Denise admitted that she had ignored the TSOs' previous attempts to help her, as she feared she was going to be moved to a smaller home or chased for rent arrears. But after reading in Newsline about a fellow tenant who received the support of the TSO team, she thought she'd give it a go herself – and she couldn't be happier that she did.

She explained: "The support has been fantastic. The TSO team have been so friendly and they couldn't have been anymore helpful.

"It's taken so much off my mind, because you do worry about it. My life is completely different - I can live a little bit now and I don't have to watch every single penny when I go shopping. It's made everything a lot better.

"I've told all my friends about the help I've received and encouraged them to get in touch too."

Council TSO Jo Thomas, added: "We are passionate about putting our tenants first and we want to get the message out there that our friendly, face-to-face advice and support is only a phone call away."

For more information about the Tenancy Support Officers please call **01495 235600**, or if you are a Council tenant text **RENTHELP** to **81400**. Other tenants and homeowners can also access support by calling **01443 864548** or texting **HOUSUPPORT** to **81400**.



■ Tenancy Support Officers Jo Thomas and Sherell McLaughlan chat to tenant Denise Wilkins.

Early birds catch the fitness bug

Customers at Caerphilly Leisure Centre can now power their day with an early morning workout thanks to new opening times!

Customers have praised the earlier opening times, which give them the chance to swim a length or two, train in the fitness suite or get involved in a class from 6:15am.

Gareth Hutcherson, 25, from Bedwas, is a Quantity Surveyor. He commented: "It is a lot easier to get exercise in before I start work now. I think the new opening times are great, they should have done this ages ago!"

Martin Duddridge, 65, from Senghenydd, uses the fitness suite almost every morning. He commented: "Being able to get an hour and a half of exercise this early really sets me up for the day."

Investment has also been made to purchase brand new static bikes for both Caerphilly and Risca Leisure Centres. These are being used for the new, very popular, group cycling classes.

Cllr Dave Poole, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services, commented, "Where other authorities are cutting Sport and Leisure provision, Caerphilly County Borough Council are highlighting the importance we think leisure plays in improving our communities by investing time and money."

Do you accept the challenge?

The popular Caerphilly **Challenge Series** returns for 2014 on Saturday 10th May, with an exciting series of new walks starting and finishing at Rhymney



School and walkers of all abilities are invited to join in.

The walks vary, from a 1 mile stroll along the banks of the Rhymney River to the Wild Boar challenge, a monstrous 22 mile walk - and everything in between!

Visitors can choose whether to take part in a led or self-led walk - the 1-5 mile "Let's Walk Challenge" is led and Ramblers Cymru are leading a 9 mile walk as part of the Challenge, while the Wild Boar Challenges are self-led and participants can run, jog or walk the 14 or 22 mile routes.

Entrants can sign up for the "Lets Walk Challenge" on the day for free but will need to sign up for the Ramblers Cymru and Wild Boar walks prior to 22nd April. These challenges are £10 per person. Under 18's receive a £2 discount, but younger participants must be over 12 years old and accompanied by an adult.

To book a place on the Caerphilly Challenge Series, visit www.caerphillychallengeseries.co.uk

For more information on the event visit the website or contact the Countryside Department on 07.95285

1-5 MILE • 9 MILE • 14 MILE • 22 MILE

A smarter way to save

Did you know that you can access a range of useful financial services through a local organisation called a Credit Union?

In the Caerphilly County Borough there are three Credit Unions:

BAG Credit Union Ltd

(covers Ystrad Mynach north into the Upper Rhymney Valley).

- Islwyn Community Credit Union (covers Islwyn area plus parts of Ystrad Mynach).
- Smart Money Cymru

(covers whole area).

Once you become a member of a credit union you can access loans with competitive interest rates and join savings schemes. All the population that live or work within the Caerphilly county borough have access to the Credit Union service. To date there are over 7,000 members across the three organisations, but they are keen to get even more people involved. Credit Unions are financial co-operatives and there are also opportunities to help run the organisations as they rely heavily on voluntary support as well as full-time staff.







For more information please contact the following numbers:

BAG Credit Union Ltd

01443 838605

Islwyn Community Credit Union

01495 222832

Smartmoney Cymru

02920 88 3751

Adult placement scheme changing lives

Since its launch in April 2012 The South East Wales Adult Placement 'Shared Lives' Scheme has made a huge difference to the lives of people across the region.

The South East Wales Adult Placement (SEWAP) 'Shared Lives' Scheme offers a service for vulnerable adults with adult placement carers living in their local area. The scheme offers long term, short term, respite, emergency and sessional support placements.

Among the many people to have already benefited from the flexible, person centred scheme are Jackie and John Mills.

Around a decade ago Jackie's husband John had a cardiac arrest that damaged his brain and left him with short-term memory loss. Initially John would visit residential homes, but his surroundings weren't really appropriate for his condition and his environment wasn't physically or mentally challenging. Jackie admitted respite care was a



■ Jackie Mills with husband John.

'big problem' for the couple. However, around a year ago, Jackie and John found a solution that worked for them in the form of the SEWAP 'Shared Lives' Scheme, which includes care for vulnerable adults. John now visits an adult placement carer, providing Jackie, who normally cares for John, with vital respite time.

She explained: "When John comes back from his stay with his carers it's obvious that during the day he has been doing things. Living in their home, he will do everyday things like take their dog for walks, go to the local pub for a meal or a drink, or perhaps go and do the shopping. All the little things that make his life more enjoyable - he seems a lot physically and mentally happier because of it.

"I'm getting much more of a break than I ever had over the last nine years because I'm happier with where John is going. It's been so good for us as the scheme is flexible. He gets what he needs and I get what I need. It's a win win situation."

The SEWAP 'Shared Lives' Scheme is managed by Caerphilly County Borough Council on behalf of six local authority areas: Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Monmouthshire, Torfaen and Merthyr Tydfil.

For more information contact: 01443 864586 or email: adultp@caerphilly.gov.uk

Safe Cycling

Recent improvements to the surface of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Crumlin Arm towpath has seen the number and type of user increase.

As a result, a 'Cycling Code' has been introduced for the use of the canal towpath, which is designed to raise awareness and improve the safety for cyclists and other users of the towpath.

Advice for users of the towpath includes:

- Slow down when approaching other users and be prepared to dismount or wait for people to get out of your way.
- Always have a bell fitted and use it when approaching other users.
- Be considerate to all other users of the towpath.
- Slow down when approaching bridges or barriers, especially when there is a blind bend and be prepared to stop.
- Be aware that occasionally the towpath crosses a road.
- Watch out for hazards on the towpath; allow anglers time to move their tackle before you try and pass.
- Wearing headphones is not recommended.
- Avoid cycling in large groups or having races with fellow cyclists.



Experience the county borough's countryside more interactively using the two new apps launched by the council's Countryside and Landscape Service.

Aberbargoed Grasslands National Nature Reserve (NNR) and the Upper Sirhowy Valley have been linked up to free apps that can be accessed on a smartphone.

Mission: Butterfly turns a walk at Aberbargoed Grasslands / NNR into an incredible outdoor adventure game. The app, available to download in Android format, allows visitors to search for secret butterfly hotspots using GPS and camera functions on their smartphones and collect 11 hidden butterfly species!

Experience the historical region of the Upper Sirhowy Valley using the fascinating **Upper Sirhowy Historical Cycle Trail** app. The area is steeped in industrial history and this app, which can be downloaded in Android format, allows visitors to view historical photographs at different points along the former railway which is now a cycle trail and compare them to the modern view of the Valley. There are also 4 butterflies hidden along the cycle path in Markham - don't miss those secretive creatures either!

Both apps have been produced by **audiotrails.co.uk** on behalf of Caerphilly County Borough Council's Countryside and Landscape Service. For more information, visit **http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/countryside/media/apps.**

Same Sex Marriages

The first same sex weddings will take place in England and Wales from 29th March.

The Government is also working hard to ensure that couples who want to convert their civil partnerships into marriages - and married people wanting to change their legal gender while remaining married - are able to do so before the end of 2014.

Couples will be able to marry in a civil ceremony at register offices, hotels, stately homes, castles and other licensed venues, as now.

For couples who wish to have a religious same sex marriage, the church or other religious building will have to 'opt in'. Trustees or proprietors of religious buildings may 'opt in' to marriages for same sex couples providing they have the consent of their governing body.

For further advice, please contact the Superintendent Registrar on 01443 863 478 or email: registrars@caerphilly.gov.uk



Useful**Numbers | Rhifau**Defnyddiol

MAIN SWITCHBOARD PRIF SWITSFWRDD

22 01443 815588

Minicom Minicom

2 01443 873626

Emergency number for all services:

Rhif argyfwng ar gyfer pob gwasanaeth:

~ 01443 875500 (Out of hours only • Allan o Oriau yn ui

Adults' Social Services Gwasanaethau

Cymdeithasol i Oedolion

🕿 0808 100 2500

StreetPride BalchderStryd **2** 01443 866566

Blue Badge Bathodyn Glas 2 01443 866571

Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i Blant

2 0808 100 1727

Children's Social Services

Consumer Advice Cyngor i Ddefnyddwyr

2 08454 04 05 06

Council Tax Enquiries Ymholiadau Treth y Cyng

12 01443 863002

Furniture Recycling Ailgylchu Dodrefn

~ 01685 846830

Housing & Council Tax Benefits Budd-daliadau Tai/Treth y Cyngo

New Claims: Hawliau Newydd: **01443** 866567 Existing Claimants: 01443 864099

New relief schemes announced

The Welsh Government has introduced two new rate relief schemes on a temporary basis.

Under the unoccupied **New Developments** scheme, a ratepayer may apply for a 100% rate relief lasting up to 18 months on a qualifying unoccupied new structure (completed less than 18 months previously) that is subject to non-domestic rates. The **Open for Business** scheme encourages long term vacant retail properties to be re-occupied. Eligible businesses will be entitled to claim 50% rate relief for up to 12 months. For more information, please visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk/business or call **01443 863 006** or email: nndr@caerphilly.gov.uk

Cynlluniau rhyddhad newydd wedi'u gyhoeddi

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cyflwyno dau gynllun rhyddhad ardrethi newydd dros dro.

O dan y cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi **Datblygiadau Newydd** gwag, gall talwyr ardrethi wneud cais am adeiledd newydd gwag gymhwysol (wedi'i gwblhau llai nag 18 mis yn flaenorol) sydd yn dibynnu ar ardrethi annomestig.

Mae'r cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi **Ar Agor am Fusnes** ryn annog ail-feddiannu eiddo adwerthu sydd wedi bod yn wag am gyfnod hir dymor. Bydd busnesau cymwys â hawl i geisio rhyddhad ardrethi o 50% am hyd at 12 mis.

Am ragor o wybodaeth, ewch i www.caerffili.gov.uk/busnes, ffoniwch 01443 863 006 neu e-bostiwch trethiannomestig@caerffili.gov.uk

Operation Jasmine Review

The Operation Jasmine Review is underway and being chaired by Dr Margaret Flynn and would like to consider the experience of those people and their families in residential services in the Caerphilly and Gwent areas that came to be known as Operation, Jasmine. The Review will outline the key events and set out the actions taken by the various agencies involved and set out lessons for the future in terms of reducing the likelihood of abuse and mitigating the effects of abuse and neglect in terms of practice, policies and legislation. The Review will start from the facts and draw attention to the implications and consequences of agencies seeking to deal with failing services. The Review recognises that there are different perceptions and interpretations and its approach seeks to deepen understanding of these and this period.

If you have information which you would like to share with the Review Team, please call 029 2082 6460 or email Rhian.thompson@Wales.gsi.gov.uk.

What's ON / Digwyddiadau

www.caerphilly.gov.uk/events • www.caerffili.gov.uk/digwyddiadau

Sign up to receive regular information about local events by e-mailing: events@caerphilly.gov.uk

The Caerphilly Players Amateur Dramatics Society perform Frank Vickery's "Trivial Pursuits" **Cymdeithas Drama Amatur** "Caerphilly Players" yn perfformio "Trivial Pursuits" gan Frank Vickery 26-28/03 - 7pm

Caerphilly Workmen's Hall • Neuadd y Gweithwyr Caerffili A local treasure written by comedian Frank Vickery. Tickets are £10 and are available to purchase from Caerphilly Visitor Centre or on the door.

Trysor lleol a ysgrifennwyd gan y comediwr Frank Vickery. Cost tocynnau yw £10 ac maent ar gael i brynu o'r Canolfan Ymwelwyr Caerffili neu wrth y drws.

02920 880011

Pop Factor O Y Ffactor Pop 26/04 - 2:30pm

Blackwood Miners' Institute • Sefydliad y Glowyr Coed Duon Led by a professional cast, Pop Factor is a high energy ride of singing and dancing and great fun for all the family. Tickets are £12 (£10 for concessions) or £40 for a family of 4. Visit www.blackwoodminersinstitute.com or call to book.

Dan arweiniad cast proffesiynol, mae'r Ffactor Pop yn daith egnïol yn llawn canu a dawnsio a hwyl i'r teulu cyfan. Mae tocynnau'r £12 (£10 i gonsesiynau) neu £40 am deulu o 4. Ewch i www.blackwoodminersinstitute.com neu ffoniwch i archebu

01495 227206



Ffair Gwanwyn Bargod 12/04 - 10am-4pm Hanbury Square, Bargoed • Sgwâr Hanbury, Bargod

Baraoed Spring Favre

A selection of Easter themed activities will offer fun for all the family. Activities include an Easter treasure hunt, Easter crafts, Punch & Judy shows, food and craft stalls and pottery and face painting. Entry to the fair is free. For more information visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk/events

Bydd ddewis o weithgareddau thema'r Pasg yn cynnig hwyl i'r teulu cyfan. Mae gweithgareddau'n cynnwys helfa drysor y Pasg, Crefft y Pasa, sioeau Pwnsh a Siwan, stondinau bwyd a chrefft a chrochenwaith a phaentio wynebau. Mynediad i'r ffair am ddim. Am ragor o wybodaeth ewch i **www.caerffili.gov.uk/digwyddiadau**

029 2088 0011

01443 822666

Activi-Time Easter Crafts • Gweithgareddau Crefftau'r Pasg 18/04 - 11:00am

Windina House • Tŷ Weind Get creative with some eggs-cellent Easter crafts at the Winding House. A small charge will apply and booking is essential. Byddwch yn greadigol â chrefftau g-ŵy-ch y Pasg yn Nhŷ Weindio. Mi fydd cost fach ac mae archebu yn hanfodol.

Easter Activities at Cwmcarn Forest Drive • Gweithgareddau'r

Pasg yn Ffordd Goedwig Cwmcarn 19 - 20/04

Cwmcarn Forest Drive Visitor Centre • Canolfan Ymwelwyr Ffordd Goedwig Cwmcarn Take part in fun Easter Activities at Cwmcarn Forest Drive.

Join Megan for the Easter Story Trail, a magical journey of stories and fables on the Easter Trail. on Saturday 19th April at 1pm. Watch out for the Easter Bunny at the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday 20th April at 10am. Follow the clues

around the Easter Trail and gather all the answers to claim an egg-stravagant prize. The events are suitable for ages 4-9 years. Booking is essential for both and the Easter Story Trail may be held indoors if the weather is poor. For further details visit **www.cwmcarnforest.co.uk**.

Cymrwch ran mewn Gweithgareddau'r Pasg yn Ffordd Goedwid Cwmcarn Ymunwch â Megan am y Llwybr Straeon y Pasq, taith hudol o straeon a chwedlau ar y Llwybr Pasg. Ar ddydd Sadwrn 19eg Ebrill am 1pm. Edrychwch am Gwningen y Pasg yn yr Helfa Wyau Pas gar ddydd Sul 20fed Ebrill am 10am. Dilynwch y cliwiau o amgylch y Llwybr Pasg a chasglwch yr holl atebion er mwyn ennill gwobr g-ŵy-ch. Mae'r digwyddiadau yn addas i blant 4-9 oed. Mae archebu yn hanfodol ar gyfer y

ddau, gall y Llwybr Straeon y Pasg gael ei gynnal dan do os bydd y tywydd yn wael. Am fanylion pellach ewch i www.cwmcarnforest.co.uk.



Valleys Bat Group walk • Taith Grŵp Ystlumod y Cymoedd 03/05 - 8-10pm The Education Centre, Parc Penallta Country Park

Join the Valleys Bat Group for a walk around Parc Penallta Country Park looking and listening out for bats. Learn how these fascinating animals hunt for insects in the dark. This event is weather dependent. Booking is essential please telephone to book a place on the walk.

Y Ganolfan Addysq, Parc Gwledig Penallta

Ymunwch â'r Grŵp Ystlumod y Cymoedd am dro o gwmpas Parc Gwledig Penallta i edrych a gwrando am ystlumod. Dysgwch am y ffordd mae'r creaduriaid diddorol yn hela pryfed yn y tywyllwch. Mae'r diawyddiad yma yn dibynnu ar y tywydd. Mae archebu'n hanfodol - ffoniwch i archebu lle ar gyfer y daith.

Maypoles and Music -

05/05 - 10am

Family Fun Day including

Mad Hatter's Tea Party •

Bedw Mai a Cherddoriaeth -

Diwrnod o Hwyl i'r Teulu gan

gynnwys Te-Parti'r Hetiwr Hurt

Llancaiach Fawr Manor • Maenordy Llancaiach Fawr

Visit Llancaiach Fawr Manor for May Day fun, including

traditional games and dancing and picnic boxes available

Tickets must be pre-booked. £10 per adult and £8 per child

or family ticket costs £30 for two adults and two children,

including entry, participation in the activities and picnic

providers). Normal Manor entry of £7.50 for adults and £6

for children or concessions applies without the tea party.

For further details visit www.llancaiachfawrmanor.co.uk

Dewch i Faenordy Llancaiach Fawr ar gyfer hwyl Calan Mai,

can gynnwys gemau traddodiadol a dawnsio a bocsys picnic

ar gael i brynu ar gyfer Te-Parti'r Hetiwr Hurt am 3pm. Rhaid

archebu tocynnau ymlaen llaw. £10 i oedolion ac £8 i blant

neu docyn teulu am £30 ar gyfer dau oedolyn a dau blentyn,

gan gynnwys mynediad, cyfranogiad i weithgareddau a bocsys

picnic (gyda chost ychwanegol ar gyfer reidiau o ddarparwyr

allanol). Mynediad arferol i'r Maenordy yw £7.50 i oedolion a

£6 i blant neu aonsesivnau heb v te-parti. Am fanylion pellach

ewch i www.llancaiachfawrmanor.co.uk

boxes (with an additional cost for rides from external

to purchase for the Mad Hatters Tea Party at 3pm.

Caerphilly Food Festival Gŵyl Fwyd Caerffili 10/05 - 10am - 5pm Caerphilly Town Centre • Canol Tref Caerffili The town centre will be filled with a variety of food stalls and

there will also be craft stalls, activities, street entertainers and funfair rides available. Entry to the Food Festival is free. For more information contact the Visit Caerphilly Centre or visit **www.caerphilly.gov.uk/foodfestival** Bydd canol y dref wedi'i lenwi ag amryw o stondinau bwyd ac yn ogystal fe fydd stondinau crefft, gweithgareddau, diddanwyr stryd a reidiau ffair ar gael. Mynediad i'r Ŵyl Fwyd am ddim. Am ragor o wybodaeth cysylltwch â'r Canolfan Croeso Caerffili neu ewch i **www.caerffili.gov.uk/gŵylfwyd**

Ffiliffest 2014 • Ffiliffest 2014 28/06 - 11am-3pm

Caerphilly Castle · Castell Caerffili

029 2088 0011

Ffiliffest, the annual summer event celebrating Welsh language and culture organised by Menter Caerfilli and in partnership with Cadw, will be held at Caerphilly Castle and offers a variety of activities suitable for all ages, including live music, arts and crafts and sporting workshops. Local businesses will be selling their produce on the day and traditional Welsh folk dances will be performed by local school children. For more information, contact Ffion Rees at Menter Caerfilli or ffionrees@mentercaerffili.org.

Bydd Ffiliffest, y digwyddiad haf blynyddol sy'n dathlu'r iaith a diwylliant Cymreig wedi'i drefnu gan Fenter Caerffili ac ar y cyd â Chadw, yn cael ei gynnal yng Nghastell Caerffili ac yn cynnig amrywiaeth o weithaareddau sydd yn addas i bob oedran, aan gynnwys cerddoriaeth fyw, celf a chrefft a gweithdai chwaraeon. Bydd busnesau lleol yn gwerthu eu cynnyrch ar y diwrnod a dawnsio gwerin Gymreig draddodiadol wedi'i berfformio gan blant ysgolion lleol. Am ragor o fanylion, cysylltwch â Ffion Rees ym Menter Caerffili neu ffionrees@mentercaerffili.org

01443 820913

Cofrestrwch i dderbyn gwybodaeth reolaidd am ddigwyddiadau lleol drwy e-bostio: digwyddiadau@caerffili.gov.uk

Have your say on Scrutiny • Dweud eich dweud ar Bwyllgorau Craffu

Residents in the Caerphilly county borough can now have their say on the issues that will be discussed by the council's five Scrutiny Committees.

New for 2014, the council is developing a quarterly **Forward Work Programmes for each of the committees:**

- Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee
- **Education For Life Scrutiny Committee**
- Health Social Care & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
- Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee
- Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee

Part of this process involves a period of public consultation where residents can comment on a topic in the Forward Work Programme or suggest an issue they would like a Scrutiny Committee to discuss. The next period of consultation takes place week commencing Monday 14th April. Residents will have 7 days to have their say and can submit their views by filling in a form, which can be found at www.caerphilly.gov.uk

All suggestions received will be considered by a Scrutiny Leadership Group who will determine if the issue is eligible to be included on a future meeting agenda.

For more information, or to request a hard copy of the form, please call 01443 864279. Gall trigolion ym mwrdeistref sirol Caerffili bellach dweud eu dweud ar y materion a fydd yn cael eu trafod gan bum Pwyllgor Craffu'r cyngor.

Yn newydd ar gyfer 2014, mae'r cyngor yn datblygu Blaenraglenni Gwaith chwarterol ar gyfer pob un o'r pwyllgorau:

- Pwyllgor Craffu Trosedd ac Anrhefn
- Pwyllgor Craffu Addysg Gydol Oes
- Pwyllgor Craffu lechyd Gofal Cymdeithasol a Lles
- Pwyllgor Craffu Polisi ac Adnoddau
- Pwyllgor Craffu Adfywio a'r Amgylchedd

Mae rhan o'r broses hon yn cynnwys cyfnod o ymgynghori cyhoeddus lle gall trigolion roi sylwadau ar bwnc yn y Blaenraglen Waith neu awgrymu mater yr hoffent weld Pwyllgor Craffu yn trafod. Mae'r cyfnod ymgynghori nesaf yn cymryd lle yn yr wythnos sy'n dechrau dydd Llun 14eg Ebrill. Bydd gan drigolion 7 diwrnod i ddweud eu dweud ac fe allent gyflwyno eu barn trwy lenwi ffurflen, sydd ar gael o **www.caerffili.gov.uk**

Bydd yr holl awgrymiadau a dderbynnir yn cael eu hystyried gan Grŵp Arweinyddiaeth Craffu a fydd yn penderfynu os yw'r mater yn gymwys i'w gynnwys ar agenda cyfarfod yn y dyfodol.

Am ragor o wybodaeth, neu i gael copi caled o'r ffurflen, ffoniwch 01443 864279.

The council's Public Protection team aims to ensure that the county borough is a healthy, safe and fair place for people to live, work & visit.

One of the team's key tasks is to expose and bring before the courts those individuals and businesses we discover acting illegally. **Below are examples of recent prosecutions:**

EICH DIOGELU CH

Nod tîm Diogelu'r Cyhoedd y cyngor yw sicrhau bod y fwrdeistref sirol yn lle iach, diogel a theg i bobl fyw a gweithio ynddo ac ymweld ag ef.

Un o brif dasgau'r tîm yw datgelu'r gwir am yr unigolion a'r busnesau hynny sy'n gweithredu'n anghyfreithlon, a'u dwyn gerbron y llys.

Isod ceir enghreifftiau o erlyniadau diweddar:

Trading Standards prosecutions

Erlyniadau Safonau Masnach

Defendant	Offence	Court Decision
Warren James Davies, Pontllanfraith.	17th January 2014 at Newport Magistrates Court. As a Director of WD Cars Limited of Cross Keys, by virtue of his negligence.	£1400 fine, £562 costs to the Local Authority, £1300 compensation to the consumer and £70 victim surcharge.
	Gave a consumer an indication on an invoice that their rights were less than they were.	Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.
	2. Failed to indicate that the airbags on a Fiat 500 had been deployed and needed replacing.	
John Jones Trading as Maerdy Garage of Rhymney.	10th January 2014 at Newport Magistrates Court. Offering to supply of a dangerous motor vehicle.	£250 fine, £850.50 costs to the Local Authority, and £25 victim surcharge. General Product Safety Regulations 2005.
Melvin Kitchen trading as Val's Wool Shop of Aberbargoed.	The offence was heard on 10th January 2014 at Newport Magistrates Court Possession of cigarettes which were counterfeit, possession of cigarettes that did not have required health warnings printed on the packs.	£120 fine, £500 costs to the Local Authority, £20 victim surcharge. Trade Marks Act 1994. The Tobacco Products (Manufacture, Presentation & Sale) (Safety) Regulations 2002.

To view the full list, visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk/prosecutions local residents. Information provided must not be reused in any form without the agreement of CCBC.

Gellir gweld y rhestr yn llawn ar www.caerffili.gov.uk/erlyniadau

yniadau eu dangos am gyfnod cyfyngedig i ddangos i drigolion lleol bod y ewn modd agored. Ni ddylid ailddefnyddio gwybodaeth mewn unrhyw fodd heb ganiatâd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili.

Fees are changing

From 6th April 2014, the UK **Government has determined** that council tax payers and business rate pavers who have a magistrates' court liability order made against them will have to pay a different set of fees if their case is passed to enforcement agents (formerly bailiffs) for collection.

Under the new regulations, you could pay considerably more in fees if enforcement agents become involved. If you are having difficulties paying your bill on time, please contact the Council Tax Section on **01443 863002**, e-mail: counciltax@caerphilly. gov.uk or contact the Business Rates Team on **01443 863006**, e-mail: nndr@caerphilly.gov.uk.

Ffioedd vn newid O'r 6ed Ebrill 2014, mae Llywodraeth

y DU wedi penderfynu y bydd rhaid i dalwyr treth y cyngor a thalwyr ardrethi busnes sydd â gorchymyn atebolrwydd gan y llys ynadon yn eu herbyn, dalu set wahanol o ffioedd os bydd eu hachos yn cael ei drosglwyddo i asiantau gorfodi (beilïaid yn flaenorol) i'w casglu.

O dan y rheoliadau newydd, gallech dalu cryn dipyn yn fwy mewn ffioedd os bydd asiantau gorfodi yn dod yn rhan o'r broses. Os ydych yn cael trafferth talu eich bil mewn pryd, cysylltwch ag Adran Treth y Cyngor ar **01443 863002**, e-bost trethycyngor@caerffili.gov. uk neu cysylltwch â'r Tîm Ardrethi Busnes ar **01443 863006**, e-bost: trethiannomestig@caerffili.gov.uk.