



# We

# Caerphilly!

**Through March, April and May, the council, in addition to the daily routine frontline maintenance and improvement works it carries out, is encouraging people to take pride in their place by getting involved in clean up projects, and help make Caerphilly county borough an even cleaner and greener place.**

The campaign, which proved extremely popular with county borough residents last year, is about showcasing and celebrating the county borough's stunning scenery and natural beauty. A large number of schools and local community groups have already signed up to take part – and the council is appealing for even more people to get involved in the campaign.

Cllr David Poole, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services said, "The Big Spring Clean provides a real

opportunity for residents of all ages to celebrate all that our county borough has to offer, while making sure that alongside the council, we all do our bit to ensure Caerphilly county borough remains a very clean, green and safe place."

Litter pickers and other clean up materials are available to residents or community groups wishing to get involved in the clean up – to sign up and get involved, please call **01495 235 178**.

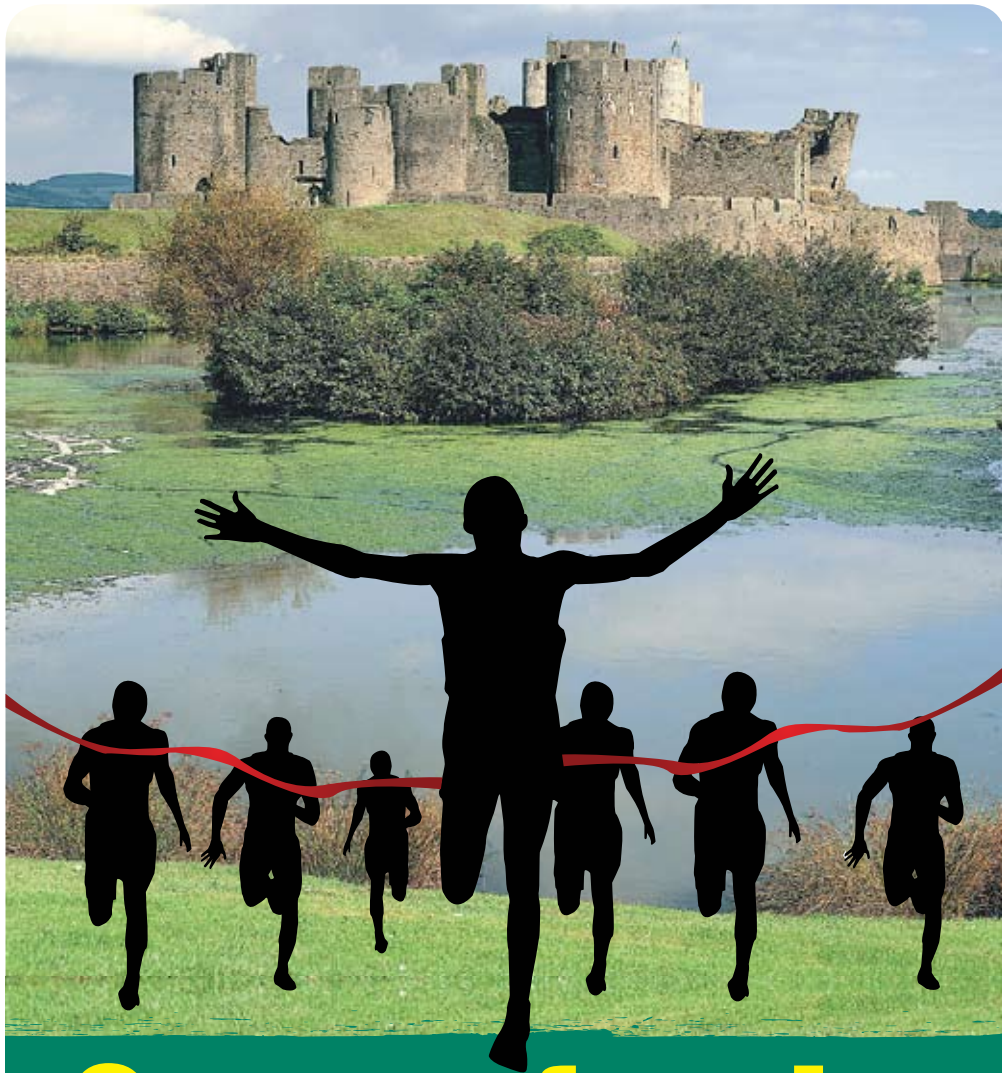
The council can also arrange to collect the litter collected following the clean ups.

**Further information on the Big Spring Clean can be found at [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk).**

To report an environmental concern in Caerphilly county borough, please contact Caerphilly StreetPride on **01443 866 566** or visit [www.caerphilly.gov.uk/streetpride](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/streetpride)







# Get set for the Caerphilly 10k!

**Caerphilly Castle will provide the breathtaking backdrop for a new ten kilometre road race being organised for the first time this year.**

The council has announced plans to hold the first ever Caerphilly 10k Run this summer. The 6.2mile course will lead participants in and around the town centre, with the start and finishing line located in the shadow of the magnificent medieval castle.

Cllr Dave Poole, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services said, "This exciting new event will offer runners of all abilities an opportunity to get involved. It will be a well organised run through our historic town and we hope to attract as many people as possible for our inaugural race."

As well as the main race there will also be a 3k junior course for under 16s, making the event a day out for the whole family. This proposal has been developed by Caerphilly council and is supported by Welsh Athletics, Sport Wales and Welsh Government. More details about the route and entry process will be announced by the council in the near future.

## Your Newsline

"Newsline is produced by the council to bring you all the latest news and information from across the county borough. We are keen to hear your views about the publication and we welcome any feedback.

Please contact me if you have any queries about the information featured in Newsline and I will pass on your comments to the relevant department. Don't forget – Audio and large print versions of Newsline are also available on request."

**Stephen Pugh - Editor e-mail:** pugh@caerphilly.gov.uk

**Post:** Communications Unit, Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed, CF82 7PG.



## Schools meals frozen

**School meal prices in the county borough have been frozen for the third consecutive year.**

Currently primary school meals are priced at £1.80 and secondary school meals at £2.05 with no increase since 2010, making Caerphilly head of the table when compared with neighbouring authorities.

All of the schools catered by the council's catering service also now meet the Welsh Government's Appetite for Life nutritional standard; Caerphilly being the first local authority in Wales to achieve this standard in the secondary school sector.

Cllr Dave Poole, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services, commented, "As a leading local authority catering service we are proud that we have been able to provide our children with nutritious and delicious meals for prices that won't break the bank."

The council's catering team won the prestigious 'Welsh Catering Management Team of the Year' Award at the LACA Wales Recognition of Excellence Awards in February.



## Green flag for community project

**Cefn Fforest & Pengam Eco-Park has been awarded a prestigious Green Flag Community Award by Keep Wales Tidy.**

The award, presented by the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, John Griffiths AM, recognises high quality green spaces managed by voluntary and community groups and forms part of the Green Flag Award scheme that sets a national standard for quality parks and green spaces.

Cefn Forest & Pengam Eco-Park is run in partnership with the council, the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations, Groundwork Caerphilly and Friends of the Eco-Park and is Wales' only community run Eco-Park.

Cllr Chris Hawker, local member for Cefn Forest said, "The committee and members were overjoyed with this award. A lot of work over the years has gone into maintaining the park for the public."

Caerphilly County Borough also has five Green Flag Accredited parks and over 40 schools fly the Eco-School Flag.



# Budget will bring major benefits



■ Bargoed New Multiplex Cinema



■ Caerphilly Library & Customer service centre



■ Blackwood Refurbishments at Miners' Inst.



## Caerphilly County Borough Council agreed a 'robust and ambitious' budget for 2013/14 at a Special Meeting of Council on Wednesday 27th February.

Despite the difficult financial pressures facing public services at the moment, the council is proposing a **£52 million** programme of capital investment which will bring benefits to communities across the county borough including:

- **£900,000 towards major flood alleviation works in Risca**
- **An exciting £10 m state-of-the-art Leisure Centre for Caerphilly**
- **New £5 million multiplex cinema development in Bargoed**
- **A new Library and Customer Service Centre in Caerphilly**
- **£74 million improving homes under the Welsh Housing Quality Standards**
- **Ongoing refurbishment works at Blackwood Miners' Institute**



Cllr Keith Reynolds, Deputy Leader of Council said, "It gives me great pleasure to present to Council a robust and ambitious budget that aims to create and protect jobs, stimulate the local economy and protect the vulnerable in our society."

"Residents can rest assured that, thanks to the council's sound financial planning, we are in a strong position. Our robust Medium Term Financial Plan is paying dividends and we are currently at the helm of **a very steady ship during these turbulent financial times**," he added.



Cllr Harry Andrews, the Leader of Council is optimistic about the future thanks to the strong financial position of the organisation, "**Caerphilly is one of the leading local councils in Wales** and we believe this budget proposal will put us in a solid position to build on our success to date and continue to deliver improved services to our communities."

The council approved a **2.35%** increase in council tax rates. This approach was agreed in 2012 and forms part of a long-term plan to ensure the council can balance its books and maintain services. This modest increase, which equates to just 40.5p per week for band D properties, will help us achieve our financial targets.

This year, Caerphilly became the **first council in Wales to implement the Living Wage**, which has significantly benefitted more than 3,000 of its lowest paid employees – and financial provision has now been put in place to increase the living wage by an additional 25p to £7.45 per hour.

The council will also make an extra investment of **£1.2m in Social Services** to meet the increasing demographic pressures in Social Care, particularly of the elderly and frail who require care and support to retain their dignity and independence.

An additional £80,000 has been invested to allow the council to **freeze the price of school meals** and an additional £100,000 will **enhance youth service** provision.

Residents will welcome the news that the council has made a commitment to reintroduce **a free-of-charge bulky waste collection service**.

The budget allocates more than **£2 million of funding for our schools**, in line with Welsh Government requirements.

Efforts are also continuing to get more people into training and employment through the innovative "**Passport Scheme**" (Apprenticeship Initiative) and the **Welsh Housing Quality Standard Procurement Strategy**.

These have been designed to attract people into employment and to return, wherever possible, job opportunities locally.

**For more information visit [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)**



# ↑ PASSPORT TO EMPLOYMENT



SC231 SOCIAL CARE  
 MC578 MECHANIC  
 CA923 CATERING  
 HE447 HEALTH  
 EN190 ENGINEER  
 MN361 MANAGER



**An innovative training and employment scheme in Caerphilly is leading the way in Wales. The Caerphilly PASSPORT Programme, aimed at ensuring young people have the right skills to get a job, has received a £372,000 funding boost.**

The PASSPORT Programme has been developed by the Caerphilly Local Service Board, consisting of Caerphilly Council, Gwent Police, Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Caerphilly Business Forum and the Voluntary Sector. It is aimed at addressing local skills gaps by providing employment opportunities for young people.

The £372,000 funding has been awarded to the programme through the Welsh Government's Local Service Board (LSB) initiative which is backed by the European Social Fund and aims to maximise the impact of public services through collaborative projects. Funding will also be provided by the Council themselves, while the programme will be delivered in partnership with Communities First and Jobcentre Plus. The job centre have also provided funding from their Flexible Support Fund.

Cllr Harry Andrews, Chair of the Caerphilly Local Service Board (LSB) said, "This money will be used to give young people a route into employment through quality work placements and training opportunities. The LSB is working in close partnership to help improve our communities and this is an excellent example of how we can access resources to deliver real benefits to our residents. The scheme has been fully endorsed by all partners in the Caerphilly Local Service Board and is best practice that should be replicated across Wales."

Minister for Local Government and Communities Carl Sargeant said "This is a good

example of how local collaboration is flourishing with the help of the European Social Fund and Welsh Government.

"This investment will help young people to take the next steps into employment through routes such as Jobs Growth Wales. It provides an excellent way of better preparing people in Caerphilly to find work and plays a part in our drive to tackle poverty."

Deputy Minister for Skills, Jeff Cuthbert said: "Our absolute priority in these tough times is to create jobs and enable growth. I am pleased that through our Jobs Growth Wales programme we are able to support this innovative project to create 150 job opportunities between now and December 2014.

"Opportunities for our young people are being limited by the supply of jobs and the competition for those available. It is crucial that we are providing young people with the experience and skills they need to succeed in this competitive market."

**The PASSPORT key targets are to:**

- Create a minimum of 150 work experience opportunities p/a.
- Create a minimum of 25 apprenticeship opportunities p/a
- Create a minimum of 40 employment opportunities p/a.
- Reduce the number of people aged 16-24 claiming JSA and the number unemployed for more than 26 weeks by 3%.

More than 280 young people have signed up to the scheme.

The scheme will also have a positive impact on plans to improve council homes over the next few years. Over £200 million will be spent on properties across the county borough in line with the Wales Housing Quality Standard and the PASSPORT scheme will provide increased opportunities for young people to get involved in this huge programme of works.

Caerphilly county borough council is leading the way in the UK by offering hundreds of young people the opportunity to join an ambitious Apprenticeship and Training programme.

Over the past year alone more than 280 young people have benefitted from the popular scheme as a work placement, apprenticeship or trainee, helping them get onto the career ladder and gain valuable work experience.

**For more information contact:  
01443 866752**



CCBC already operates a hugely successful apprenticeship and training scheme.



# Honouring our volunteers!

It is time again to nominate your local heroes for the recognition they deserve with the Voluntary Sector Achievement Awards 2013!

The annual award ceremony, sponsored by Campaign Newspapers, Groundwork Caerphilly and Gwent Police, is organised by the council and GAVO and rewards local volunteers for their contribution to the community.



The categories for this year's Voluntary Sector Achievement Awards are:

- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Record Breaking Volunteer
- Environmental Volunteer
- Fundraising Volunteer
- Employer Supported Volunteer
- Inspirational Volunteer Retired Senior Volunteer
- Practical Service Adult Volunteer (Individual)
- Practical Service Adult Volunteer (Group)
- New Volunteer

**Closing date for all applications is Friday 26th April 2013**

The closing date for all applications is Friday 26th April 2013 – all individual and group volunteers must carry out their voluntary work within Caerphilly County Borough.

The award ceremony will take place at Penallta House on 19th June 2013. Nomination forms are available from [www.gavowales.org.uk](http://www.gavowales.org.uk) or by calling **01443 863540**.

## Together for Mental Health

An integrated mental health strategy for the communities of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport & Torfaen was recently launched in Deri Community Centre.

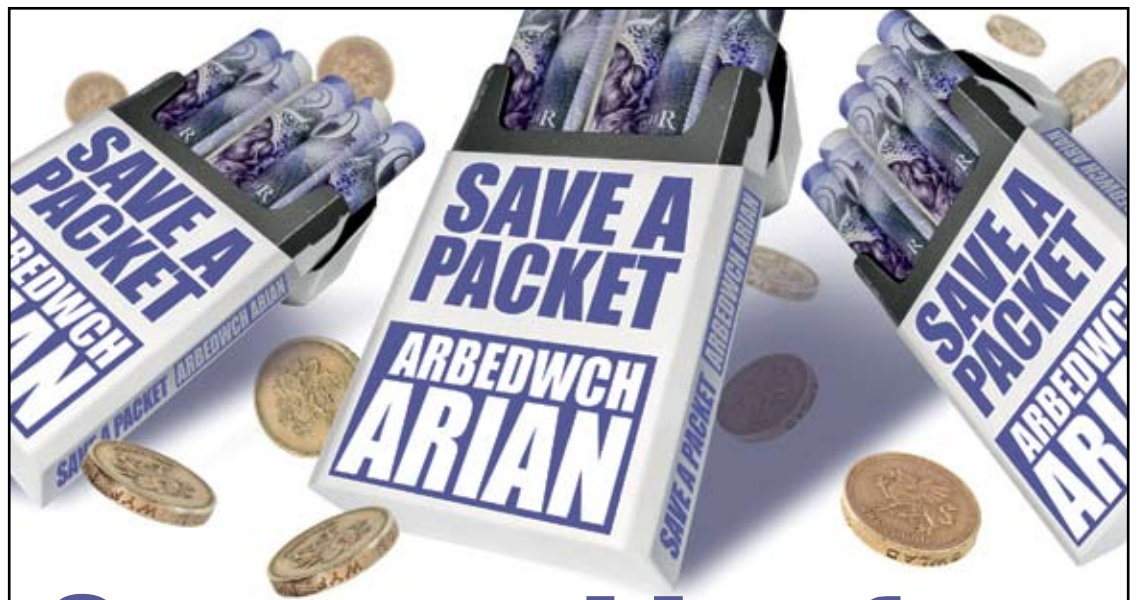
The five authorities, in partnership with the Aneurin Bevan Health Board, have worked together over the past 2 years to develop the strategy. The document has been informed by the views of service users, carers, staff and stakeholders and is based on the principles of 'recovery' and person-centred care.



The strategy has 8 main priorities:

- Work alongside service users, carers, staff and communities on the planning, monitoring and provision of mental health services.
- Develop a wide range of services that support community well-being.
- Enable the provision of a wide range of accommodation options.
- Ensure services based in the community offer support, advice and treatment.
- Provide specialist services that are available to people where and when they need them.
- To facilitate an appropriate response from across organisations to the needs of people with dementia.
- To ensure the best use of mental health resources.
- To work across the 6 organisations to establish a set of rules and a structure that supports excellent mental health services.

For more information visit [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk) or call **0808 1002500**



## Stop smoking for...

1 week and  
SAVE £49

1 month and  
SAVE £210

6 months and  
SAVE £1260

1 year and  
SAVE £2555



Money saved is based on smoking 20 cigarettes a day.

**For free, friendly help to quit smoking, speak to your GP or contact Stop Smoking Wales on 0800 085 2219**  
[www.stopsmokingwales.com](http://www.stopsmokingwales.com)



## Injury claim cheat jailed

**An Abertyswg man was jailed last month after being found guilty of attempting to defraud taxpayers' money through a personal injury claim.**

29-year-old Leon Wells received a four-week custodial sentence for trying to misappropriate over £40,000 from the council after claiming he fell on steps situated on land owned by the local authority.

Cllr Keith Reynolds, deputy leader of Caerphilly Council, said the case set alarm bells ringing from the outset. "Our fraud investigation team screens every insurance claim and uses fraud indicators to look for questionable claims.

**Our fraud investigation team screens every insurance claim**

Mr Wells' claim raised many questions, which required further detailed investigation."

Caerphilly is leading the way on punishing fraudulent insurance scammers, as evidenced back in 2005 when 26-year-old Matthew Hughes made national headlines after being photographed playing football only an hour after claiming injury from falling over a pothole.

"Every penny paid out to fraudsters is a penny less to spend on vital local services to the people of Caerphilly," says Cllr. Reynolds.

Since 2006, Caerphilly Council's hard line on fraudulent claims has seen a significant £12.3m from its claims fund pumped back into frontline public services such as education, highway maintenance and social services.

**Anonymous Fraudline - 0800 328 9270**



# Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr - The First Year

**The 10 bedded Medical Assessment Unit is open in Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr 24/7 with a doctor available at all times.**

## First rate medical care

It sits within the Local Emergency Centre and accepts patients directly from GPs, ambulance 999 calls, and some patients present themselves. Most patients attend with chest pains, minor heart attacks, respiratory problems, asthma, and COPD. Dr Kai Gazal is a Clinical Fellow in Gastroenterology and has worked on the unit since April, 'Even to us as health professionals this model of care is a new concept and everyone here is working hard to ensure it works and we deliver the best possible care. We have access to a wide range of diagnostic tests and can usually get a patient scanned very quickly here.'

We work closely with colleagues in all the big neighbouring hospitals, so there is no shortage of expertise available. We have a strict admission criteria and any decision we take about transferring a patient out of the hospital is made in their best interest."

Consultants carry out 2 ward rounds every day and patients from the unit are usually transferred to a short stay ward, rehabilitation ward, stroke ward or frailty ward within the hospital.

Dr Justin Okeke is a Specialist Registrar in Care of the Elderly, Justin has worked on the unit since August. "We have a very good discharge rate here, around 40% of patients that are assessed in the Medical Assessment Unit will go home with an appropriate care package within 24 hours, but we have a range of options within the hospital, and in other hospitals, if a patient requires further specialist treatment. I'm really enjoying working here and I see a wide range of conditions which ensures all my training needs are being met."

Dr Gazal is also the President of the Doctor's Mess in Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr, "One of the good things about working in a hospital of this size is that you get involved with a range of things, for example managerial issues, so you get to see the whole picture. We are also fortunate to have some excellent



Infection control has been greatly improved with the number of Clostridium Difficile cases almost halved to 24 cases between November 2011 to October 2012, compared to 43 cases for the same period the previous year in Caerphilly District Miners and Ystrad Mynach Hospital.

## Minor Injuries Unit

In its first year around 9,000 more people were treated in Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr than by the previous service in Caerphilly District Miners Hospital and it's open 24/7.

specialists in this hospital, for instance the Palliative Care Team is one of the best I've seen anywhere."

## A successful first year

**More than 100,000 patients were treated in Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr during its first year of operation.**

The highest number of patients were seen in the Minor Injuries Unit which is open 7 days a week for 24 hours. More than 28,000 people were treated for minor injuries during the year.

Staff in the Medical Assessment Unit assessed, on average, around 470 patients every month.

The GP Out of Hours Service dealt with a total of 16,858 calls throughout the year.

In the Midwifery-Led Birth Unit 320 babies were born in the first 10 months of 2012, this compares with 271 in Caerphilly District Miners Hospital during the same period in 2011.

Outpatient clinics are seeing double the number of patients than were previously seen at the Miners' – around 4,000 outpatient appointments each quarter, compared to 2,000.

Children's outpatient appointments have also doubled and are now close to 2,500 for the year.

New services have also moved in that were not previously available in the county borough, rheumatology outpatient services previously provided from Cardiff - 46,000 patient attendances for therapies including physiotherapy / rehabilitation and speech and language therapy. Orthopaedic surgery, general surgery and gynaecological operations are also now taking place.

Ophthalmology clinics also now taking place and Ear Nose and Throat surgery will be provided in the near future, with around 4,300 operations planned for each year.

Single rooms have provided more privacy, dignity and quiet for patients' which is improving recovery.

Emergency Nurse Practitioners rotate into Accident and Emergency at the Royal Gwent Hospital to ensure skill levels are kept at the highest possible level. Waiting times in Minor Injuries Units will be much shorter than in busy Accident & Emergency Units.

Minor Injuries are defined as injuries that have been sustained in the last 48 hours, beyond this period patients should access their own GP or Practice Nurse.

## These include:

- Cuts, grazes and bruising.
- Recent wounds (since 48 hours) that might include gluing, stitching or steri-strips.
- Minor burns and scalds.
- Fractures, sprains and strains.
- Tetanus immunisation after injury.
- Removal of foreign bodies from eyes, nose or ears.
- Minor eye problems including removal of contact lenses.
- Insect bites or other animal bites.
- Minor head injury (no loss of consciousness).
- Removal of rings, earrings or studs.
- Limb injuries where patient can still weight bear through their foot or move fingers.



Aneurin Bevan Health Board is the operational name of Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board

## Helpful Numbers

**Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr: 01443 802200**

**NHS Direct: 0845 46 47**

**GP Out of Hours: 0845 600 131**

**Dental Helpline: 01633 488389**



# Day in the Life of a Community Safety Warden

**As a Community Safety Warden, Don Pearson is an integral member of the team working to keep Caerphilly County Borough a safer and more pleasant place to live, work and visit.**

Community Safety Wardens provide a reassuring uniformed presence in our communities, reducing the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour by complementing the services already provided by police, rangers and other types of wardens.

**This is how Don spends his average day:**

**1:30pm** First thing to do is check all of my personal protective equipment (PPE) is in working order, such as my radio and the body worn CCTV camera that we wear on our hi-vis jackets.

**2:15pm** I cover five wards during my patrols; Blackwood, Cefn Fforest, Pontllanfraith, Ynysddu and Risca West. I drive to the wards using a Safer Caerphilly County Borough marked van.

**2:30pm** Undertake high visibility patrols in known problem areas.

**3:30pm** Using my pocket book I write down any issues that I come across. This can be instances of graffiti, fly tipping, street lighting problems or highways issues that we come across.

**4:30pm** Visit the parks and playing fields in my ward to ensure dog owners are acting responsibly and picking up their mess. If they still allow their dog to foul they will be issued with a £75 fixed penalty notice.

**5:30pm** Issue fixed penalty notices to members of the public who drop litter. Again this anti-social behaviour warrants a £75 on the spot fine.

**6:00pm** Head back to the office for a refreshment break and to continue with any admin duties.

**7:00pm** I'm back out in the van, driving to as many of the known problem areas within my wards as possible.

**8:00pm** Engage with young people who are hanging about in gangs in the hotspots in my wards.

**9:00pm** If we come across underage youngsters who are drinking alcohol in the street we will confiscate the alcohol and take their details. I would then report any problems which are beyond control to Gwent Police and refer any anti-social behaviour into the 4 strike anti-social behaviour system.

**9:45pm** Return to the office and place all PPE securely away. I then fill in my daily report form and check emails before heading home at 10:00pm.



## COMMUNITY SAFETY RECRUITS JUNIOR WARDENS

**The Safer Caerphilly Partnership has been recruiting Junior Wardens to assist in keeping Caerphilly County Borough a safer and happier place.**

Year 4 pupils from schools across the county borough have been meeting Community Safety Wardens and finding out what it takes to keep the streets of Caerphilly safe and free from crime and anti-social behaviour.

Cllr Dave Poole, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services, commented, "This is a great scheme which aims to educate our young people about the essential work that Community Safety Wardens do. It will encourage youngsters across the county borough to make a pledge not to drop litter and to respect others by not taking part in any anti-social behaviour; a message which they can in turn take home to their families and their community, ultimately resulting in a happier, safer Caerphilly for everyone."

**Visit [www.caerphilly.gov.uk/saferccb](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/saferccb) for more information about the Safer Caerphilly Partnership.**

## Smarter cemeteries

**Over recent years there has been an increase in cases of 'grave personalisation' in the county borough, where unauthorised items such as solar lights, wind chimes, ornaments and fencing have been placed on graves.**

Concerns have been expressed about this practice and the council has received numerous complaints. In light of this, the authority agreed to adopt a 'Lawn Policy' in its cemeteries where the appearance of graves are consistent and appropriate.

Last year the council faced opposition from families of loved ones buried at Bedwellty Cemetery over the way it managed this new Lawn Policy. The authority agreed to review the approach, but it has now been agreed that the policy will continue to be applied in all council-run cemeteries.

"This is an extremely emotive issue, but we firmly believe that a cemetery should be a place of quiet reflection in well-maintained, dignified surroundings" said Cllr Dave Poole. "We recognise there is opposition to our approach, so we want to address the matter in a way which will not cause offense or distress to any families"

Inspections will take place over the coming months and, if appropriate, letters will be sent to relatives respectfully asking them to remove any unauthorised items that have been identified.

Grave personalisation also causes a health and safety risk to staff and visitors because of trip hazards caused by the small fences and ornaments etc. They also cause problems during grass cutting and maintenance of cemetery sites.



**Safer Caerphilly County Borough**  
**Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili Saffach**

## £400,000 Improving Your Community

**It's the details that make the difference - which is why we have invested £400,000 from the Community Asset Programme to help improve our towns and villages.**

At Risca's Tredegar park a new improved events space has been created with electricity, water and artwork, as well as more seating, a new bus shelter and improved toilet facilities.

In Caerphilly security has been improved at Morgan Jones Park with decorative gates which have reduced the number of antisocial behaviour incidents and littering of the park.



Café Culture is thriving at Pentrebane St following new road surfacing street lighting and placement of street furniture.

Around the borough planting projects have been springing up and a special 'Community Response Team' have been tending to items not normally picked up in other mainstream budgets.

It's not just the towns that are benefiting from this wide arching funding, two officers are committed to resolving on-going problems encountered in rural areas across the borough.

Cllr. David Poole, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services said, "This allocation of funding reflects the ambitions of the council to keep the county borough clean and attractive and to support local communities in their efforts to maintain and enhance their local area."





**Useful Numbers Rhifau Defnyddiol**

<b>MAIN SWITCHBOARD</b> PRIF SWITSWFRDD ☎ 01443 815588	<b>Children's Social Services</b> Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i Blant ☎ 0808 100 1727
<b>Minicom Minicom</b> ☎ 01443 873626	<b>Consumer Advice</b> Cyngor i Defnyddwyr ☎ 01495 235111
<b>Emergency number for all services:</b> Rhif argyfwng ar gyfer pob gwasanaeth: ☎ 01443 875500 (Out of hours only - Allan o Oriau yn unig)	<b>Council Tax Enquiries</b> Ymholiadau Treth y Cyngor ☎ 01443 863002
<b>Adult's Social Services</b> Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i Oedolion ☎ 0808 100 2500	<b>Furniture Recycling</b> Ailgylchu Dodrefn ☎ 01685 846830
<b>StreetPride BalchderStryd</b> ☎ 01443 866566	<b>Housing &amp; Council Tax Benefits</b> Budd-daliadau Tai/Treth y Cyngor
	<b>New Claims:</b> Rawfau Newydd: ☎ 01443 866567 <b>Existing Claimants:</b> Rawfau Preswyl: ☎ 01443 864099

# What's ON / Digwyddiadau

[www.caerphilly.gov.uk/events](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/events) • [www.caerffili.gov.uk/digwyddiadau](http://www.caerffili.gov.uk/digwyddiadau)  
Sign up to receive regular information about local events by e-mailing: [events@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:events@caerphilly.gov.uk) • Cofrestrwch i dderbyn gwybodaeth reolaidd am ddigwyddiadau lleol drwy e-bostio: [digwyddiadau@caerffili.gov.uk](mailto:digwyddiadau@caerffili.gov.uk)



**Powering the World -**  
Looking at Welsh Industry through Archives  
**Darparu pŵer i'r byd -**  
Edrych ar ddiwydiant yng Nghymru trwy'r archifau  
**12/03/2013 - 14/04/2013 - 10am**  
Winding House • Tŷ Weindio  
A travelling exhibition organised by the Archives and Records Council Wales. What can documents and archives tell us about Wales' industrial past?  
Arddangosfa deithiol a gaiff ei threfnu gan Gyngor Archifau a Chofnodion Cymru. Beth y gall dogfennau ac archifau ei ddweud wrthym am offennol diwydiannol Cymru?  
**01443 822666**

**Using the Cloud with Confidence • Defnyddio'r 'Cwmwl' yn hyderus**  
**13/03/2013 - 8am**  
Calon Restaurant, Britannia House, Caerphilly Bus-Bwyty Calon, Tŷ Britannia, Parc Busnes Caerffili  
A Caerphilly Business forum event - Join us for an overview of how businesses can affectively use The Cloud with Steve Lloyd, Channel Manager for Dell Sonic Wall and Andrew Beer, Company Director at Excellence IT. This is a FREE event for Caerphilly Business Forum members. £10 for non-members.  
Digwyddiad a drefnir gan Fforwm Busnes Caerffili - ymunwch â ni i weld sut y gall busnesau ddefnyddio'r 'Cwmwl' yn effeithiol, yng nghwmni Steve Lloyd, Rheolwr Sianel gyda Dell Sonic Wall ac Andrew Beer, Cyfarwyddwr Gwmni Excellence IT. Mae hwn yn ddigwyddiad RHAD AC AM DDIM i aelodau Fforwm Busnes Caerffili, ac mae'n costio £10 i'r sawl nad ydynt yn aelodau.  
**07901 303439**

**Caerphilly Delivers!**  
You can help shape the future of the Caerphilly county borough by giving us your views on a major 5 year plan.  
A draft strategic delivery plan has been produced by the Caerphilly Local Service Board setting out how the public, private and voluntary sector organisations will work together with communities.  
Visit [www.caerphilly.gov.uk/communityplanning/caerphillydelivers](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/communityplanning/caerphillydelivers)

**An Evening with Terry Walton • Nosen yng nghwmni Terry Walton**  
**15/03/2013 - 6pm**  
Abercarn Library • Llyfrgell Aber-carn  
An evening with Terry Walton with Radio 2's resident gardener. Free admission by ticket only. Please contact the library for tickets and further details.  
Nosen yng nghwmni Terry Walton, garddwr preswyl Radio 2. Mynediad yn rhad ac am ddim trwy docyn yn unig. Cysylltwch â'r llyfrgell i gael tocynnau a manylion pellach.  
**01495 244393**

**Acoustic Sessions at the 'Stute • Sesiynau Acwstig yn Sefydliad y Glowyr**  
**15/03/2013 - 8pm**  
Blackwood Miners Institute • Sefydliad y Glowyr Coed Duon  
Chill out, relax and enjoy an evening of live music in the intimate setting of The 'Stute bar with Canadian Fingerstyle Champion 2007 Craig D'andrea.  
Tickets £8.00/£11.00 on the day.  
Cyfle i ymlacio a mwynhau noson o gerddoriaeth fyw ym mar cartrefol Sefydliad y Glowyr yng nghwmni Craig D'andrea sy'n Bencampwr Plycio Gitar yng Nghanaada. Tocynnau: £8.00 / £11.00 Ar y diwrnod.  
**01495 227206**

**Bargoed Open Air Cinema • Sinema Awyr Agored Bargod**  
**22/03/2013 - 7.30pm**  
Bargoed (Emporium Car Park) • Bargod (Maes Parcio'r Emporium)  
The popular outdoor cinema returns to Bargoed. The evenings have provided great entertainment for the whole family. Bring your picnic, blanket & chair and sit back with the family to enjoy the open-air cinema experience. Free Event. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.  
Mae'r sinema boblogaidd hon yn yr awyr agored yn dychwelyd i Fargod. Mae'r nosweithiau wedi darparu adloniant ardderchog i'r teulu cyfan yn y goffennol. Dewch â'ch picnic, eich blanced a'ch cadeir eich hun ac eisteddewch yn ôl gyda'r teulu i fwynhau'r profiad o fod mewn sinema awyr agored. Mae'r digwyddiad yn rhad ac am ddim. Rhaid i blant dan 16 oed fod yng nghwmni oedolyn.  
**02920 880011**



**Easter Spring Flower Basket Making • Creu Basgedi Blodau'r Gwanwyn ar gyfer y Pasg**  
**23 - 26/03/2013 - 11am**  
Cwmcarn Forest Drive • Rhodfa Coedwig Cwmcarn  
Suitable for ages 6 plus.  
Chill out, relax and enjoy an evening of live music in the intimate setting of The 'Stute bar with Canadian Fingerstyle Champion 2007 Craig D'andrea.  
Yn anaddas i blant dan 6 oed.  
**01495 272001**

**Easter Pottery Workshop • Gweithdy Crochenwaith y Pasg**  
**27/03/2013 - 11am**  
Cwmcarn Forest Drive • Rhodfa Coedwig Cwmcarn  
Suitable for ages 6 plus.  
Yn anaddas i blant dan 6 oed.  
**01495 272001**

**Easter Rag Flower Decorations • Creu Blodau o Gadachau ar gyfer y Pasg**  
**28/03/2013 - 1pm**  
Cwmcarn Forest Drive • Parc Cwm Darran  
**01495 272001**

**Farm open Day • Hwyl y Pasg ar y Fferm**  
**29/03/2013 - 1pm - 3pm**  
Ynys Hywel Farm • Fferm Ynys Hywel  
**01495 235219**

**Easter Eggs and April Fool! • Wyau Pasg a Ffŵl Ebrill!**  
**29/03/2013 - 10am**  
Winding House • Tŷ Weindio  
**01443 822666**

**Easter Eggstravaganza! • Miri Wyau Pasg!**  
**29/03/2013 - 10am**  
Llancaich Fawr Manor • Maenordy Llancaich Fawr  
**01443 412248**



**Easter Bunny Workshop • Gweithdy Cwningod Pasg**  
**30/03/03/2013 - 10am**  
Cwmcarn Forest Drive • Rhodfa Coedwig Cwmcarn  
Suitable for ages 6 plus.  
Yn anaddas i blant dan 6 oed.  
**01495 272001**

**Easter Egg Hunt! • Helfa Wyau Pasg!**  
**31/03/2013 - 10am**  
Cwmcarn Forest Drive • Rhodfa Coedwig Cwmcarn  
**01495 272001**

**Make a Bug Box! Creu blwch i ddal chwilod!**  
**03/04/2013 - 2pm-4.30pm**  
Aberargoed Grasslands Education Centre • Canolfan Addysg Glaswelltiroedd Aberargod  
Open your very own bed and breakfast by making a fantastic bug box and find out more about these fantastic creatures. For further details please telephone Aberargoed Grasslands Education Centre.  
Dyma gyfle i ddysgu mwy am chwilod trwy agor eich llety gwely a breuwast eich hun a chreu blwch ardderchog i ddal y creaduriaid gwych hyn. I gael rhagor a fanylion, dylech ffonio Canolfan Addysg Glaswelltiroedd Aberargod.  
**01443 834317**

**Caerphilly Challenge! Her Caerffili!**  
**11/05/2013 - 7.30pm**  
Following 2012's hugely successful Caerphilly Challenge Series with the Twmbarlwm Trek, the challenge continues along the equally famous Rhymney Valley Ridge with its challenging terrain and commanding views. From a 1 mile stroll along the banks of the Rhymney river to taking up the challenge of the monstrous 22 mile 'Ridgeway', there will be a Challenge walk to suit you - no matter how fit you are!  
Yn dilyn Cyfres Her Caerffili hynod lwyddiannus 2012 gyda'r Daith Twmbarlwm, mae'r her yn parhau ar hyd Cefn Cwm Rhymni enwog gyda'r dir heriol a golygfydd awdurdodol. O dro 1 filltir ar hyd glannau'r afon Rhymni i dderbyn her 'Cefnffordd' anferthol 22 milltir, fe fydd yna daith heriol addas i chi - beth bynnag eich fitrwydd!  
Visit: [Your.Caerphilly.gov.uk/countryside/caerphillychallenge](http://Your.Caerphilly.gov.uk/countryside/caerphillychallenge)  
Ewch i: [Your.Caerphilly.gov.uk/countryside/caerphillychallenge](http://Your.Caerphilly.gov.uk/countryside/caerphillychallenge)  
**01495 235092 / 0778 8547350**



## FOSTER APPEAL

**The Council needs foster carers to care for children over the age of 10.**  
We offer extensive support, comprehensive training and attractive fees. If you have room in your home and time in your life, why not call **0800 587 5664** or visit [www.caerphilly.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/fostering)

## Council Tax Benefit Changes

**As from 1st April 2013, as a result of UK legislation, council tax benefit is being abolished and the responsibility for council tax support has passed to the Welsh Government.**  
The Welsh Government has introduced a national scheme which the council have adopted. Although the funding from the UK Government has been reduced, the Welsh Government have met the shortfall of £22 million for 2013/14. This will ensure that those eligible will continue to receive up to 100% of the agreed entitlement for 2013/14. The Welsh Government will be reviewing both the scheme and the levels of funding for 2014/15.  
**Further details are available on our website - [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)**

## Cord Warning

**Trading Standards are warning parents of toddlers and young children of the serious safety risks associated with window blinds operated by looped, hanging cords.**  
Free hanging looped cords can easily get wrapped around the necks of young children who can become accidentally strangled. Parents may not realise what is happening until it's too late.  
Blinds manufactured since July 2011 should be safe in that they should not have any hazardous looped cords and they should be fitted with a child resistant safety device. Unfortunately though, large numbers of old window blinds may still exist in people's homes.  
**Steps you can take to help make your home safer include:-**  
■ Install blinds that do not have a cord, particularly in a child's bedroom.  
■ Do not place a child's cot, bed, playpen or highchair near a window.  
■ Pull cords on curtains and blinds should be kept short and kept out of reach.  
■ Tie up the cords or use one of the many cleats, cord ties, clips or ties that are available.  
■ Do not hang toys or objects that could be a hazard on the cot or bed.  
■ Don't hang drawstring bags where a small child could get their head through the loop of the drawstring.  
**For more information visit [www.rospa.com/blindcords](http://www.rospa.com/blindcords)**



## Housing Benefit Reduction

**The UK government is reducing the amount of housing benefit some people can claim based on the size of the rented property and the people who live there.**  
These new rules will only apply to social landlord tenants of working age (working age is where a person has not yet reached pension credit age) & will be effective from the 1st April 2013.  
If you have more bedrooms than this new rule allows this is called "under occupying". If you are **under-occupying by 1 bedroom** your housing benefit will be **reduced by 14% of the rent amount** and if you are **under-occupying by 2 or more bedrooms** your housing benefit will be **reduced by 25% of the rent amount.**  
You may have already received a letter from the housing benefit section indicating that you will be affected by these changes. We understand that this will be an uncertain and worrying time for some tenants. If you think you are going to be affected and would like advice you may want to contact the number of your landlord provided below.  
**Here to help YOU - Who to contact**  
**Council Tenants**  
Call: **01495 235600**  
e-mail: [rents@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:rents@caerphilly.gov.uk)  
**Tenants of a Registered Social Landlord**  
Contact your landlord. The main ones are listed below:  
Wales and West Housing Association Call: **0800 0522526**  
United Welsh Housing Association Call: **0800 2940195**  
Linc-Cymru Housing Association Call: **029 2047 3767**  
Charter Housing Association Call: **01633 212375**  
Aelwyd Housing Association Call: **029 2048 1203**  
**Further useful information can be found on the Council website: [www.caerphilly.gov.uk/underoccupation](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/underoccupation) [www.caerphilly.gov.uk/benefitschanges](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/benefitschanges)**

