



21st Century Schools Plans

Ambitious plans have been developed by Caerphilly County Borough Council to improve education provision across the area and build new schools that are fit for the 21st Century.

A major consultation exercise is currently underway to seek views on 'Phase 1' of the council's Secondary Rationalisation Programme which relates to the Islwyn West region.

Phase 1 will focus on Blackwood, Oakdale and Pontllanfraith Comprehensive Schools. Under the proposals, a new school will replace Oakdale and Pontllanfraith so that Islwyn West will then be served by Blackwood and the new school. The Council has secured funding of £20 million to deliver this exciting project which will include a review of catchment areas.

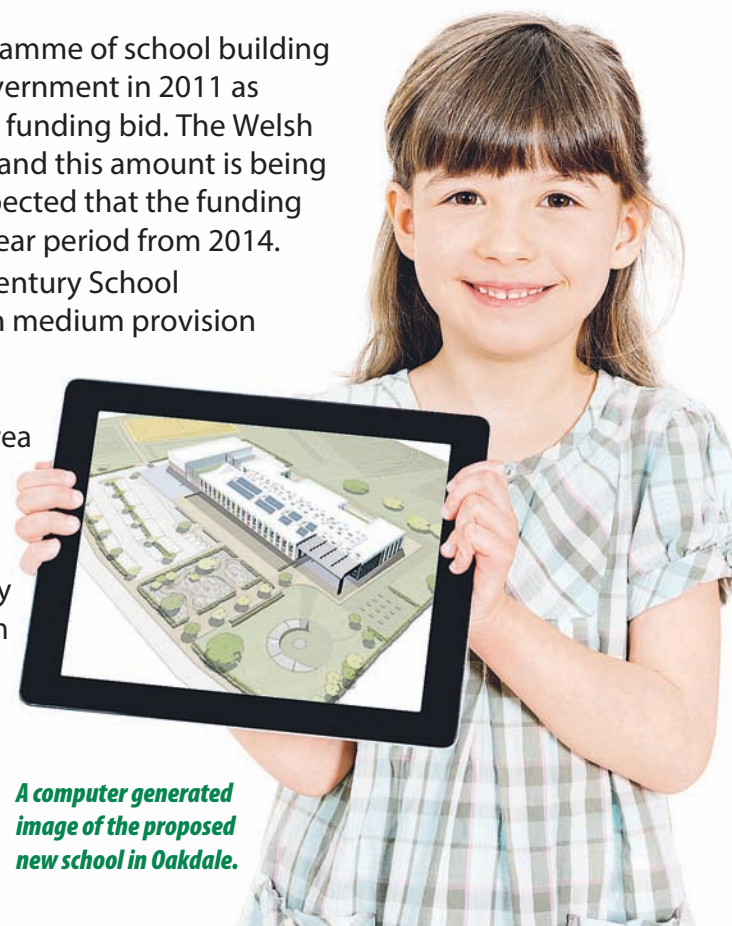
Cllr Rhianon Passmore, CCBC cabinet member for education said, "These are very exciting plans for the future of education in the area. If they are agreed, pupils will be able to enjoy top class educational facilities in modern, fit for purpose buildings."

"I'm sure local parents and the wider community will welcome the news and recognise the exciting opportunity this presents for pupils now and in the future."

The council submitted a programme of school building improvements to the Welsh Government in 2011 as part of its '21st Century Schools' funding bid. The Welsh Government is providing £26m and this amount is being matched by the council. It is expected that the funding will be made available over a five year period from 2014.

Another key part of the 21st Century School programme is to enhance Welsh medium provision within the county borough. Previously there was only one Welsh secondary school in the area - Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini in Fleur de Lis. The council is now developing the former St Ilan Comprehensive site in Caerphilly as an exciting new Welsh medium school called Y Gwyndy.

For more information about the 21st Century Schools Programme please contact Sara Powell: telephone **01443 864355**; e-mail: powelsm@caerphilly.gov.uk



A computer generated image of the proposed new school in Oakdale.

2013 - A year of achievements!

Over the past 12 months there have been many positive developments across the county borough and these are helping to bring real benefits to our communities. Here are just a few examples of these success stories.

Cleaner and greener

- We continue to lead the way in Wales with a Recycling Rate of **60.44%** (April – Sept 2013).
- Our waste management team scooped **5** prestigious national awards in 2013.
- **76** Schools signed up to taking part in a new Battery Recycling Initiative.
- **61** have also become Eco Schools by proudly displaying a 'Green Flag'.
- Kids Go Green! – New interactive website launched <http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/kidsgogreen/>



Transport

- Access for all – **100%** of pelican and puffin crossings, **90%** of signalised junctions with pedestrian facilities and **94%** of zebra crossings are disabled compliant.
- Major improvements along Rhymney Valley Rail Line including construction of a new station at Energlyn / Churchill Park.
- Around **14,000** Households targeted to take part in a Personalised Travelling Planning service.
- **1,523** schoolchildren completed Kerbcraft lessons in 2012/13 academic year to improve road safety awareness.
- **8,906** carriageway potholes filled and **70.9km** of roads resurfaced.



A safer place to live

- **31%** reduction in instances of police recorded anti-social behaviour for 2012/13.
- **64%** of respondents to the 2013 Household Survey agreed that the council and police are dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour.
- **438** fixed penalty notices issued for dog fouling and littering offences (compared with 159 the previous year).
- **327** people have received support and advice from the Safer Caerphilly Victim's Champion.
- **38** No Cold Calling Zones have been introduced across the county borough to protect some of our most vulnerable residents.
- **148** CCTV cameras monitor and provide coverage to 28 different town centres and villages across the county borough.
- **£1.2 million** – the amount that our Trading Standards team have assisted consumers to obtain redress and enforce their rights in relation to faulty goods and substandard services.



Boost for tourism

- The county borough attracted **1,602,500** visitors in 2012, generating an estimated **£97.66M** for the local economy.
- Winding House success – Huge crowds enjoy the high profile attractions such as 'Coalfaces' and 'Titanic' exhibitions.
- Llancaiach Fawr – Work begins in earnest in January 2014 on the **£1,064,100** Heritage Lottery and Cadw Funded project to improve access to the Manor.
- Blackwood Stute - The refurbishment of the Blackwood Institute is nearing completion. The cost of the improvements will total nearly **£1 million** that has transformed both the external and internal appearance of this popular arts facility.
- **220,000** Visitors to Cwmcarn Fforest Drive visitor centre with a new cross country and downhill cycle trail planned.



Improving Caerphilly Homes

- **£200+million** improvement scheme to transform council homes across the area as part of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard.
- Total spend (April – September 2013) around **£3.3 million**.
- Work carried out in 2013 includes **231 Kitchens, 115 Bathrooms, 200 Rewires and 74 heating systems**.



Library Success Story

- Library improvements at Aberbargoed, Abercarn, Bedwas, Newbridge and the completion of the new flagship site in Caerphilly.
- **896,022** physical and 'virtual' visits to local Libraries.
- **644,582** books & other materials were borrowed by customers.
- **94,976** hours of public computer use took place at local Libraries.
- **42,627** books and other items were purchased for Libraries in 2012/13.



Get fit - get active

- Almost **£500,000** invested in improvements at Risca, Newbridge, Cefn Fforest, New Tredegar and Heolddu Leisure Centres.
- Over **100,000** residents now have a SmartCard. Every time they visit their local Leisure Centre they are gaining brand new SmartReward points.
- A massive **1.25 million** visits were paid to Leisure Centres in 2012/13. **11%** more than in 2011/12.
- **96%** of our schools took part in the Sport Wales School Sport Survey in 2013. It revealed that **63%** of children enjoy PE lessons 'a lot' and a whopping **74%** of children play a sport outside of school.



Caring Communities

- **£48.1 million** - the amount spent of Adult Social Care services.
- **81%** of adults surveyed say that receiving a service had made a big difference to their life.
- CCBC signed the **Dublin Declaration 2013** for Age Friendly Communities and Cities.
- **£19.3 million** - the amount spent of Children's in 2012/13.
- **88%** of Looked After Children told us that they felt that their Social Worker listened to what they said.
- **£168,000** additional income generated for clients by CCBC Income Maximisation Team.
- Opening of the new residential establishment for children and young people in Caerphilly county borough.



Top Marks for Education

- **£10.5 million** spent on school improvements across the county borough.
- **92.4%** achieved Level 1 threshold (5 GCSE A – G) ; **69.1%** achieved Level 2 threshold (5 GCSE A-C); **46.3%** achieved Level 2+ threshold (5 GCSE includes English / Welsh first language and Mathematics).
- **96.2%** achieved Level 3 threshold A Levels.
- Opening of new Welsh medium school at Y Gwyndy in Caerphilly.
- Consultation starts on the ambitious 21st Century Schools proposals.
- **8816** young people engaged by the Youth Service.
- **1317** young people achieved accredited learning.
- **5256** adult enrolled on community education courses.



Your Newslines

"Newslines 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 Newslines and I will pass on your comments to the relevant department.
Don't forget – Audio and large print versions of Newslines are also available on request."

Stephen Pugh - Editor e-mail: pughs@caerphilly.gov.uk **Post:** Communications Unit, Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed, CF82 7PG.

Cwmearn High School returns home

Pupils and staff at Cwmearn High School have returned home for the start of the new term.

The council worked closely with the school's leadership to ensure a smooth transition from their temporary accommodation at Ebbw Vale back to the school site in Cwmearn.

The building reopened on Monday 6th January and the whole school community is delighted to be back. Headteacher Jacqui Peplinski said: "It was fantastic to welcome staff and pupils home to Cwmearn and I would

like thank everyone involved for their hard work and commitment over the last few months."

Cllr Rhianon Passmore, Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning, said: "The return to Cwmearn signals the end to what has been a challenging 12 months for all concerned, but thanks to our joint working we have dealt with the issues and the school can now move forward."

For more information about Cwmearn High School visit www.cwmearnhigh.co.uk



Cllr Rhianon Passmore hands over keys to Cwmearn High School to Headteacher Jacqui Peplinski, watched by School Governor and Abercarn Member Cllr Denver Preece and Chair of Governors Gary Thomas.

Blue Badges Improving our service

The council is improving the way it deals with applications for Blue Badges in order to make the service more efficient for local people.

From Monday 6th January 2014 all applications must be made in person before a Blue Badge request can be considered for approval. This will ensure that improved assessments can be carried out and Blue Badges are only issued to people who qualify.

Eligible residents will be able to visit any of the council's Customer Services sites - including our new site in Caerphilly which opens on 6th January.

An appointments system will be introduced to help reduce waiting times and ensure customers who require an assessment have a choice of time and location to suit them.

If you wish to apply for a Blue Badge or have any queries regarding the scheme, please contact us on our **new number 01443 866571**.

If you are an existing Blue Badge holder and wish to renew your Blue Badge, please contact us on 01443 866571 approximately four weeks before your existing badge expires.



Scrap metal dealers targeted

As part of a national day of action, Gwent Police and Caerphilly Country Borough Council teamed up on Thursday 5th December to target metal theft and raise awareness of the new licensing legislation for scrap metal dealers.



The new Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013, that came into force in October this year means that dealers, when applying for a licence from the local authority, will have to prove they are a suitable person before they are issued with one.

Collectors will be issued with a licence that contains a current photograph of the holder and a copy will need to be displayed in any vehicle used. A dealer who holds a site licence must display a copy at each site identified in the licence. In all cases, dealers must keep records of transactions for three years.

The day of action saw scrap metal dealers stopped across Abercarn and, while the focus was raising awareness of the new legislation, the dealers were also checked that they complied with the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013.

Targeting metal theft is a Force priority for Gwent Police and, as such, in April 2011 Operation Ignite - a Gwent specific operation - was established, it later became part of a national initiative called Operation Tornado. Throughout the operation Gwent Police worked in partnership with various agencies including VOSA, Department for Work and Pensions, British Transport Police, Trading Standards, Environmental Health and HMRC.

Leading the operation, Sergeant Simon Clark explains: "This day of action highlights that along with our partner agencies we are still disrupting this type of criminal activity in Caerphilly and across Gwent. Metal theft is declining in the Caerphilly Local Policing area but we will continue to target the criminals involved in the theft of scrap metal."

Cllr David Poole, Caerphilly County Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Community & Leisure Services, said: "I'm delighted to see that this collaborative operation has been a success in reinforcing the message that scrap metal dealers and site operators must hold the correct permits/licences and keep accurate records. This is another great example of the rewards of partnership working, and our Trading Standards and Environmental Health teams will continue to work with Gwent Police to tackle crime in the county borough."

RESULTS INCLUDED:

- 1 person arrested for non-payment of a fine.
- 2 vehicles seized for using red diesel - the vehicle owners will now face a fine.
- 2 loads of scrap metal seized.
- 3 people reported for failing to keep records, contrary to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013.
- 9 Prohibitions by VOSA - defects found in vehicles which saw the immediate recovery or roadside repairs on all vehicles before being allowed back on to the road. (1 vehicle had 14 defects and was in such a dangerous condition it was scrapped by the owner).
- 8 Fixed Penalty Tickets issued - for traffic offences such as failing to wear a seatbelt.
- 5 referrals made to the Department of Work and Pensions for benefit offences.
- 20 motorists breathalysed - all provided a negative result.
- 3 people interviewed in relation to waste issues.
- 2 people issued with warning letters in relation to the use of loudspeakers in the street.
- 1 person had their waste (including scrap) removed.



A day in the life of...

An Adult Placement/Shared Lives Worker



As an Adult Placement Shared Lives Worker, Sam supports approved adult carers who support vulnerable adults with a range of needs, helping them to live active lives in their communities.

The South East Wales Adult Placement Shared Lives Scheme, which works across the counties of Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Torfaen, Monmouthshire and Merthyr Tydfil, offers three main services: long term care, respite care and sessional support.

This is how Sam supports Adult Placement Carers in the community or from their own home on an average day:

8.30am "I arrive at work and check through my emails, look through any outstanding paperwork and check my to-do list. I check in with my line manager to discuss my workload and any issues. I also spend time assessing my schedule, and rearranging any meetings that have to be cancelled due to emergency appointments.

9.30am Today I'm going over an annual carer review. I've already completed visits with the carers to gather the information; the review summarises the work that has been carried out by the carer over the year supporting vulnerable adults. This review will be taken to an Independent Adult Placement Panel, made up of professionals from across the six local authority areas.

12.30am After an early lunch at my desk and preparing paperwork for my afternoon visits, I'm out on the road for a contact visit with an Adult Placement Carer who provides sessional support in the Blackwood area. We discuss the people they support in the community using the care support plan we have previously put together. I also check that the service users are being supported to meet their agreed service plan outcomes, this could be anything from completing a shopping list to cooking a healthy meal. We then discuss any actions or concerns they may have, and I will take these to the appropriate Care Management Team or health professional.

3pm I'm back on the road again, picking up a respite and long-term adult placement carer for a network meeting in Newport. We're joined by the service user, education staff, support workers and the person's social worker. Following this review I will take the service user and carer back home, and pop back to the office one last time to check my emails before heading home at around 6pm.

It's a very rewarding job and we get to meet all sorts of people from across South East Wales; we support vulnerable adults with a range of needs including mental health problems, physical disabilities, drug and alcohol issues, people with learning disabilities and older people living in our communities. Our carers come from all backgrounds, from recently married 20-somethings to older people who want to open up their home to help someone.

The main thing I love about my job is making a difference to someone's life. In my role I'm not offering front line support for service users, but I'm supporting the adult placement carers to help our service users make positive changes, develop new skills, engage in new activities and be involved in their community."

*If you're interested in making a difference to someone's life by becoming an adult placement carer, please call the South East Wales Adult Placement Shared Lives scheme on **01443 864586**, email adultp@caerphilly.gov.uk or visit www.sewaps.org.uk.*

Calling all landowners

The Council resolved in October last year to begin working on the first review of the Local Development Plan (LDP).

As part of this review, Caerphilly County Borough Council is seeking to re-assess the development potential of sites within the county borough all types of land uses.

The council is inviting developers, landowners and others with an interest in land to submit sites they want to be considered for development through the LDP review process. Any candidate sites submitted as part of the call for candidate sites in 2005/6 or through subsequent stages of the previous LDP process will need to be resubmitted as part of the review process.

For more information or to submit a site, go to www.caerphilly.gov.uk/ldp - following the link to the LDP First Review. Alternatively, please contact the LDP team for more information on 01495 235376.

Completed submission forms should be received by the council no later than **6th March 2014**.



New cycle route gives town pedal power

Cyclists are being encouraged to get on their saddles and pedal a new cycle route running through Rhymney.

The new cycle track completes a route from Rhymney Comprehensive School to the National cycle network at the Head of the Rhymney Valley. The completion of this section of the Rhymney Valley Linear Route will provide greater opportunities to walk and cycle for local journeys and to access the Rhymney Railway Station for longer distance travel.

The scheme is funded by the Welsh Government's Regional Transport Consortia Grant and was delivered by Caerphilly County Borough Council's Engineering Services Division. The improvement will help local children use a safe route to school and adopt a healthy lifestyle. The cycle track provision in the area can now be accessed by pupils from all nearby schools along the route these including Abertysswg Primary School, Pontlottyn Primary School, Bryn Awel Primary School, Ysgol y Lawnt, Upper Rhymney Primary School and Rhymney Comprehensive School.

Cllr Tom Williams, Caerphilly County Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Transportation & Engineering, said, "Ensuring that our children can travel safely to school is of utmost importance and this new track will enable pupils attending schools along the route to make a hazard free passage to school whether they are walking or cycling. I hope the whole community embraces this new route as a healthy and environmentally-friendly way of travelling the local area."

Flagship sports centre progress

An exciting project to construct a top class sports facility in Ystrad Mynach is taking shape.

Caerphilly County Borough Council's new £6.8m Rugby/Football Centre of Excellence, which features 3G rugby and football pitches and a gymnasium, is currently being developed on the site of the former Ystrad Mynach Hospital.

The first phase of the project to demolish the former hospital buildings at the site has been completed, while the construction of two grandstands, the formation of new rugby and football pitches and the building of changing facilities, a conditioning suite and community facility have already commenced.

It is expected that the 3G rugby pitch will be laid in the New Year,



with construction of the 3G football pitch expected to follow soon after.

As part of the usage proposals for the complex, key partners such as Gwent Dragons, Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) and Cardiff City Football Club will share use of the facility during the day between Monday and Friday, while community clubs will have use of the Rugby/Football Centre of Excellence in the evenings and at weekends.

Cllr David Poole, Caerphilly County Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Community & Leisure Services, said, "The new Rugby/Football Centre of Excellence is really going to put Caerphilly county borough on the map as a top destination for high class sports facilities. It can only benefit our local, regional and national teams to have a superb facility like this on our doorstep."

Air quality - Have your say!

Residents are being invited to take part in a consultation about air quality in Caerphilly town centre.

In September 2008, an area in Caerphilly town centre was designated as an 'Air Quality Management Area' after higher than normal levels of nitrogen dioxide (a traffic related pollutant) were monitored in the area.

More recently, other areas in and around Caerphilly town centre have also shown nitrogen dioxide levels above the normal level, and in November last year, the 'Air Quality Management Area' was extended to also include parts of Nantgarw Road and Ton-y-Felin Road.

An air quality 'action plan' has been developed, and the council is calling on residents to have their say on this important document.

A copy of the draft action plan and details of how residents can have their say can be found at the council's website: www.caerphilly.gov.uk. The closing date is 5th March.

We can all also do our bit to help reduce pollution and help improve air quality. Some simple tips include:

- Avoid using a car for short journeys where possible.
- Avoid revving the car engine unnecessarily.
- Avoid allowing the car to idle where possible, only start the engine when ready to move off.
- Why not give public transport a go?
- Avoid burning materials of any kind.

For further information on air quality, or to request a hard copy of the consultation, please contact Maria Godfrey on **01495 235279** or email: godfrm@caerphilly.gov.uk

Inspirational sports volunteers recognised

Sports coaches and volunteers from across Caerphilly County Borough were celebrated at a special awards ceremony with Scrum V legend Rick O'Shea, Paralympic Athlete, Hollie Arnold and the Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council, Cllr Michael Gray.

On Wednesday 27th November, the Sport Caerphilly Volunteer Awards Evening rewarded the volunteers and coaches that give up so much of their time inspiring people to take part in sport.

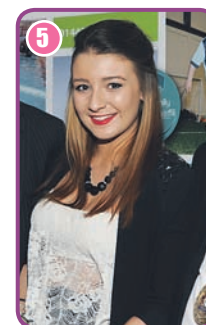
There were six winners announced during the evening:

- Young Volunteer of the Year - **Holly Horton** ①
- Volunteer of the Year - **Tyler Smith** ②
- Coach of the Future of the Year - **Jack Mullen** ③
- Coach of the Year - **Lowri Edwards** ④
- Coach to Disabled Athletes of the Year - **Katie Bunston** ⑤
- Special Achievement Award - **Tom Morgan** ⑥

Cllr Dave Poole, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services, presented the Young Volunteer of the Year Award and commented, "At Caerphilly County Borough Council one of our priorities is to improve awareness, access, variety and use of leisure, community and sporting facilities. We can only do this through the hard work and dedication of our Sport and Leisure Services Team, and of course you; the coaches and volunteers who motivate, inspire, mentor and train people in our county borough."



■ Tom Morgan (centre) with Rick O'Shea (L) and Cllr Michael Gray.



Plans in place for Winter!

The council's grit supplies have been fully stocked – at 10,000 tonnes – so that we are well prepared to tackle any severe snow and ice problems throughout the winter months.

In addition to the 10,000 tonnes of salt in storage, the council also has more than 800 salt bins located across the county borough, which have already been filled ready for the winter.

The council is has also recently taken delivery of two new gritters, to supplement its fleet, which now stands at 13 gritters ready for the winter. The council's highways network totals over 1,150 kilometres. A standard gritting run covers 485 kilometres on 9 gritting routes. When circumstances arise, the council has 54 trained personnel available using 13 specialist vehicles.

Each standard gritting run uses around 80 tonnes of salt, and in times of severe weather, the council can use up to 400 tonnes per day.

Once again this year, parents and guardians will be able to access up-to-the-minute information on school closures in the county borough by visiting www.caerphilly.gov.uk/schoolclosures. For further information on winter maintenance arrangements across Caerphilly county borough, please visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk/wintermaintenance/



Supporting our Armed Forces

Various organisations that represent communities across Caerphilly county borough have pledged to support local Armed Forces communities as members of the Caerphilly county borough Armed Forces Community Covenant Forum.

Last year, organisations including the Council, Gwent Police, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, GAVO, Wales Probation Trust and other organisations including the Royal British Legion and SSAFA signed the Caerphilly county borough Armed Forces Community Covenant, a voluntary agreement of mutual support between the Caerphilly county borough civilian community and its Armed Forces community.

Caerphilly county borough's designated Armed Forces Community Covenant partners are the 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital, who are currently on active service in Afghanistan.

The Armed Forces Community Covenant is underpinned by the daily work of the Council and its partner agencies to deliver and protect frontline services for those Armed Forces personnel (both serving and veterans) who need them the most.

Members of the Armed Forces community are now also able to access free swimming at all of the council's leisure centres' public swim sessions and are eligible for discount on Leisure membership.

Any customer who can provide proof of current service (including reservists) with the Armed Forces or proof that they are in receipt of a war pension or are a veteran, and are a Smartcard holder, can attend all public swim and aquatic classes in swimming pools for FREE and sign up for membership at their local Leisure Centre for a reduced price across the county borough.

Projects that bring the local community and Armed Forces communities together are also being encouraged to apply for a funding grant. The Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Scheme, administered by the Ministry of Defence, makes money available to projects that strengthen the ties between members of the local Armed Forces community and the wider community in which they live.

For further details about the Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Scheme, please contact Howard Rees on 01443 864754 or email reesh4@caerphilly.gov.uk

For further information on the Caerphilly county borough Armed Forces Community Covenant, please visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk/armedforcescovenant/



Community Pride celebrated at awards

Taraggan Educational Gardens have been crowned Pride in Your Place champions.

The annual Pride in Your Place awards sponsored by SEDA (the locally based International Packaging Group), celebrate the individuals, groups and businesses that strive to help make Caerphilly County Borough a greener, cleaner and safer place for everyone.



The Tenants and Residents Green Gym and Nursery (TARAGGAN) aims to encourage people living in Greater Bargoed to get involved in conservation and gardening by using the green space site for exercise and outdoor recreation.

TARAGGAN have reclaimed and transformed a demolition site into a haven of activity for all the community. This intergenerational scheme has helped stimulate a feel good factor amongst local residents.

Caerphilly County Borough Council Leader, Cllr Harry Andrews said, "The entries this year were of an outstanding level making it a very tough decision for the judges. Congratulations to Taraggan and all the other award winners whose projects have made such a positive impact across the community."



A full list of winners can be found at www.caerphilly.gov.uk/prideinyourplace

Useful Numbers Rhifau Defnyddiol

MAIN SWITCHBOARD PRIF SWITSWRDD ☎ 01443 815588	Children's Social Services Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i Blant ☎ 0808 100 1727
Minicom Minicom ☎ 01443 873626	Consumer Advice Cyngor i Ddefnyddwyr ☎ 01495 235111
Emergency number for all services: Rhif argyfwng ar gyfer pob gwasanaeth: ☎ 01443 875500 (Out of hours only - Allan o Oriau yn unig)	Council Tax Enquiries Ymholiadau Treth y Cyngor ☎ 01443 863002
Adults' Social Services Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i Oedolion ☎ 0808 100 2500	Furniture Recycling Ailgylchu Dodrefn ☎ 01685 846830
StreetPride BalchderStryd ☎ 01443 866566	Housing & Council Tax Benefits Budd-daliadau Tai/Treth y Cyngor New Claims: Rawlau Newydd: ☎ 01443 866567 Existing Claimants: Rawlau Presweld: ☎ 01443 864099
Blue Badge Bathodyn Glas ☎ 01443 866571	

Annual Performance Report

The performance of Caerphilly County Borough Council for 12/13 has been documented in a report which shows how the Council has performed against the priorities it set itself, service performance and how it compares against other local authorities.

Positively, six of the Council's eight improvement objectives for 2012/13 were successfully delivered, while work to improve skill levels for children and young people was partially successful. Work to enhance citizen engagement fell behind schedule within the year, but outstanding work in this area has been completed since.

Performance against other authorities has been mixed. Of the 44 indicators used to create the national picture of performance, 13 of those indicators put the Council in the 'upper quartile' of Welsh local authorities, with the same number of indicators putting the Authority in the 'lower quartile' in Wales.

The Council's Performance Report can be found online at www.caerphilly.gov.uk, while paper copies can be viewed at Council receptions and libraries. For more information please contact Ros Roberts, Performance Manager on 01443 864238.

Night shelter scheme

A scheme that sees the council work with local churches to support rough sleepers is to return for a second year. Seven Churches in the Blackwood and Caerphilly areas will open their doors as part of The Caerphilly Churches Night Shelter initiative.

The scheme commences from Monday 6th January 2014 and runs through until 27th March. Each church will be able to accommodate a maximum of six people and doors will open at 7.00pm, offering rough sleepers a warm meal, a safe place of rest and breakfast in the morning before leaving. Rough sleepers must be referred and cannot arrive unannounced. Referrals must be received by 4pm each afternoon to the Housing Advice Centre.

For more information or to refer a homeless applicant please call David Francis on 01443 873549, email francd1@caerphilly.gov.uk or contact the Housing Advice Centre on 01443 873552.

If you would like to volunteer at one of the churches, please contact Reverend Sue Phillips, Church Coordinator on 07817 238608.

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

Risca Male Voice Choir • Cŵr Meibion Rhisga 18/01 - 7pm

Blackwood Miners' Institute • Sefydliad y Glowyr Coed Duon
With their unique sound quality alongside a varied programme content, visitors to the 'Stute are guaranteed an evening of quality music making. Tickets £7 (£6 concessions). Visit www.blackwoodminersinstitute.com or call to book. Gyda'u swm o ansawdd unigryw ynghyd a rhaglen cynnwys amrywiol, roedd ymwelwyr i'r 'Stiwt' yn gallu fod yn sicr o gael noson o ansawdd gerddorol. Tocynnau £7 (£6 consesynau). Ewch i www.blackwoodminersinstitute.com neu ffoniwch i archebu lle. ☎ 01495 227 206

Big Garden Bird Event • Digwyddiad Mawr Adar yr Ardd 25/01 - 11am

Parc Cwm Darran • Parc Cwm Darran
Learn more about the many different birds at Parc Cwm Darran. Also enjoy making bird boxes and feeders and exploring the park. Event is weather dependant. Dysgwch fwy am y gwahanol adar ym Mharc Cwm Darran. Helyd, mwynhewch wneud bocsys adar a pheth bwydo adar ac archwilio'r parc. Mae'r digwyddiad yn dibynnu ar y tywydd. ☎ 01945 235 450



Toy and Train Fair • Ffair Teganau a Thrên 18/02 - 6.30pm - 9pm

Llancaich Fawr Manor • Maenordy Llancaich Fawr
Appealing to both the avid collector and the beginner, the Fair has many tables of high quality new and pre-loved Hornby, Scalextric, Airfix and other well known models and toys available to buy or simply to admire. Entry to Fair - £1.50. Gan apelo at y casglwr awyddus a'r dechreuwr, mae gan y Ffair nifer o fyrdau yn cynnwys Hornby, Scalextric, Airfix, modelau a thegannau adnabyddus newydd a rhai oedd yn eiddo annwyl i rywun yn flaenorol, o ansawdd uchel ar gael i'w prynu neu eu hedmygu. Mynediad i'r Ffair - £1.50. ☎ 01443 412248

Showaddywaddy • 21/02 - 7.30pm

Blackwood Miners' Institute • Sefydliad y Glowyr Coed Duon
Having recently celebrated their 40th anniversary, they have sold more than 20 million records and have toured the world. Their live show features all of their biggest hits, and tickets cost £19. Visit www.blackwoodminersinstitute.com or call to book. Ar ôl dathlu eu 40fed pen-blwydd, maent wedi gwerthu mwy na 20 miliwn o recordiau ac wedi teithio'n byd. Mae eu sioe bysw yn cynnwys yr holl ganeuon mwyaf poblogaidd, a chost tocynnau yw £19. Ewch i www.blackwoodminersinstitute.com neu ffoniwch i archebu lle. ☎ 01495 227206

Court Sessions in the Manor • Sesiynau Llys yn y Maenordy 25/02-28/02 - 10am-5pm

Llancaich Fawr Manor • Maenordy Llancaich Fawr
See 17th Century justice delivered at the iconic Llancaich Fawr Manor. For more information call or visit www.llancaichfawr.co.uk. Gweld cyfiawnder 17eg Ganrif yn cael ei ddangos ym Maenordy eiconig Llancaich Fawr. Am fwy o wybodaeth ffoniwch neu ewch i www.llancaichfawr.co.uk. ☎ 01443 412248



Fat ball making workshop • Gweithdy gwneud Pêl Fraster 28/02 - 12pm-3.30pm

Cwmarn Forest Drive Visitor Centre • Canolfan Ymwelwyr Ffordd Goedwig Cwmarn
Pop along to this drop-in workshop and make your own fat ball for the garden, and help make sure the birds are well fed this winter. Just bring along a yoghurt pot. Suitable for ages 3 plus. Cost 50p per child. Call for more information. Dewch i'r gweithdy galw i mewn yma a gwneud pêl fraster eich hun ar gyfer yr ardd, a helpu gwneud yn siŵr bod yr adar yn cael eu bwydo'n dda yn ystod y gaeaf. Dewch a phot iogwrt. Yn addas ar gyfer plant 3 oed a hyn. 50c seiniog y plentyn. Ffoniwch am fwy o wybodaeth. ☎ 01495 272001

St David's Day Walk • Taith Gerdded Dewi San 01/03 - 11am

Parc Cwm Darran • Parc Cwm Darran
Enjoy a stroll around the northern Darran Valley, taking in the views up to the Carreg Maen Hir. Length 3-4 miles with some steep hill sections. Please bring packed lunch and appropriate outdoor clothing. Call for more information. Mwynhewch daith gerdded ymlaciol o amgylch Cwm gogleddol Darran, gan weld y golygfeydd hyd at garreg hynafol Rochie. 3-4 milltir o hyd gyda rhannau serth i'w fyny'r bryn. Dewch â chinio wedi'i lapio gyda chi a dillad awyr agored addas. Ffoniwch am fwy o wybodaeth. ☎ 01443 875557



The Wild Boar 2014 • Y Baedd Gwylt 10/05

Caerphilly Leisure Centre • Canolfan Hamdden Caerffili
From a one mile stroll along the banks of the Rhymney River to taking up the challenge of the monstrous 22 mile 'Wild Boar', there will be a Challenge walk to suit all abilities. Are you up for the challenge? Visit www.caerphillychallenge.com. O un daith gerdded milltir o hyd ar hyd glannau Afon Rhymni i wneud her o'r 22 milltir 'Baedd Gwylt' anferth, bydd taith gerdded Heriol ar gyfer pob gallu. Ydych chi'n barod am yr her? Ewch i www.caerphillychallenge.com.



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

Cash up for grabs • Arian ar gael

Community groups based in the Caerphilly county borough can apply for capital grants of up to £5,000 from the Community Improvement Fund.

Caerphilly County Borough Council has set aside £50,000 per year, over a five year period, to provide grants to support community groups in delivering local projects and initiatives.

The Community Improvement Fund will support projects that directly contribute towards the council's aim of transforming homes, lives and communities and to one or more of the following Communities First priorities: developing prosperous communities, learning communities and healthier communities.

There are a wide range of projects that could be supported through the Community Improvement Fund.

Projects could include, for example:

- Improving the appearance of estates
- Community gardening initiatives
- Play areas
- Activities that bring communities together

The fund has been set up as part of the council's Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) programme, which will see around £200 million spent over the next six years improving the homes of council tenants throughout the county borough.

To apply or for more information please contact Owain Morgan on 01443 866493 or by emailing: morgao@caerphilly.gov.uk



Gall grwpiau cymunedol ym mwrdeistref sirol Caerffili wneud cais am grantiau cyfalaf o hyd at £5,000 allan o Gronfa Gwella'r Gymuned.

Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili wedi neilltuo £50,000 y flwyddyn, dros gyfnod o bum mlynedd, i ddarparu grantiau i gefnogi grwpiau cymunedol wrth gyflwyno prosiectau a mentrau lleol.

Bydd y Gronfa Gwella'r Gymuned yn cefnogi prosiectau sy'n cyfrannu'n uniongyrchol tuag at nod y cyngor o drawsnewid cartrefi, bywyddau a chymunedau, ac i un neu fwy o'r blaenoriaethau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf canlynol: datblygu cymunedau ffyniannus, cymunedau sy'n dysgu a chymunedau iachach.

Mae amrywiaeth eang o brosiectau y gellid eu cefnogi drwy'r Gronfa Gwella'r Gymuned.

Gallai prosiectau gynnwys, er enghraifft:

- Gwella golwg ystadau
- Mentrau garddio cymunedol
- Ardaloedd chwarae
- Gweithgareddau sy'n dod â chymunedau at ei gilydd

Mae'r gronfa wedi ei sefydlu fel rhan o raglen y Cyngor Safon Ansawdd Tai Cymru (SATC), a fydd yn gweld tua £200 miliwn yn cael ei wario yn ystod y chwe blynedd nesaf i wella cartrefi tenantiaid y cyngor ar draws y fwrdeistref sirol.

I wneud cais neu am ragor o wybodaeth, cysylltwch ag Owain Morgan ar 01443 866493 neu drwy anfon e-bost: morgao@caerffili.gov.uk

PROTECTING YOU

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 CHI

Nod tîm Diogelu'r Cyhoedd y cyngor yw sicrhau bod y fwrdeistref sirol yn lle iach, diogel a them 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'n ymwneud â safonau masnach

Defendant	Offence	Court Decision
Mark Anthony Griffiths of Penyrheol, Caerphilly.	29th November 2013 at Newport Magistrates Court. Storage of fireworks in unregistered premises.	£500 fine, £238 costs to the Local Authority. Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations 2005. Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.
Wendy Faulkner of Aberbargoed.	Driving a Licensed Hackney Carriage without being licensed by the Local Authority to drive such a vehicle. 15 November 2013 at Newport Magistrates Court.	£400 fine, £40 victim surcharge and £438.20 costs to the Local Authority. Town Police Clauses Act 1847.
David Thomas Rawlinson of Cheltenham.	As a Manager of MP Global Trading Limited, promoting a house to house collection for a charitable purpose without a licence having been obtained from the local authority, by virtue of his neglect. 8 November 2013 at Newport Magistrates Court.	24 months conditional discharge, £845 costs to the Local Authority, £15 victim surcharge. House to House Collections Act 1939.

Environmental Health prosecutions
Erlyniadau'n ymwneud ag iechyd yr amgylchedd

Defendant	Offence	Court Decision
Carol Telling of Fareham Close, Swindon.	Discarding litter (cigarette butt) onto the highway at Main Street, Newbridge. The case was held at Newport Magistrates Court on 22 November 2013.	She was proved in her absence and was fined a £110 and ordered to pay costs of £120 and a victim surcharge of £20. Environmental Protection Act 1990 section 87.
Catherine Pritchard of Coronation Buildings, Cwmfelinfach.	Allowing her dog to foul and failing to remove forthwith from the highway. The case was held at Newport Magistrates court on 25 October 2013.	Proved in her absence. Fined £120 and ordered to pay costs of £120 and a victim surcharge of £20. Dogs (fouling of land) Act 1996.

To view the full list, visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk/prosecutions
Prosecution results are provided for a limited period to promote the openness of the council's actions to 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
Caiff canlyniadau erlyniadau eu dangos am gyfnod cyfyngedig i ddangos i drigolion lleol bod y llys yn gweithredu mewn modd agored. Ni ddylid aildefnyddio gwybodaeth mewn unrhyw fodd heb ganiatâd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili.

Foster Appeal Apêl Maethu

The Council needs foster carers to care for children over the age of 10. We offer extensive support, comprehensive training & attractive fees.

If you have room in your home and time in your life, why not call 0800 587 5664, text 78866 or visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk/fostering. Texts cost the standard network rate.

Mae'r Cyngor angen gofalyddion maeth i ofalu am blant dros 10 oed. Rydym yn cynnig cymorth helaeth, hyfforddiant cynhwysfawr a ffioedd deniadol. Os oes gennych le yn eich cartref ac amser yn eich bywyd, pam na wneud chi ffonio 0800 587 5664, anfon neges destun 78866 neu ymweld â www.caerffili.gov.uk/maethu. Bydd negeseuon testun yn costio pris safonol y rhwydwaith.