



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

GWŶS I GYFARFOD O'R CYNGOR

C.Hanagan
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf
2 Llys Cadwyn
Stryd Taf
Pontypridd, CF37 4TH

Dolen gyswllt: Sarah Handy - Swyddog Craffu a Ymchwil I Aelodau (07385 401942)

DYMA WŶS I CHI i gyfarfod rhithwir o **Pwyllgor CRAFFU - MATERION YR HINSAWDD, GWASANAETHAU RHENG FLAEN A FFYNIANT** yn cael ei gynnal ar **Dydd LLUN, 4YDD MAWRTH, 2024** am **5.00 PM**.

Caiff Aelodau nad ydyn nhw'n aelodau o'r pwyllgor ac aelodau o'r cyhoedd gyfrannu yn y cyfarfod ar faterion y cyfarfod er bydd y cais yn ôl doethineb y Cadeirydd. Gofynnwn i chi roi gwybod i Wasanaethau Democrataidd erbyn Dydd Iau, 29 Chwefror 2024 trwy ddefnyddio'r manylion cyswllt uchod, gan gynnwys rhoi gwybod a fyddwch chi'n siarad Cymraeg neu Saesneg.

AGENDA

Tudalennau

1. YMCHWIL A CHRAFFU

Mae cyfleuster ymchwil craffu ar gael yn Uned Busnes y Cyngor i gynorthwyo Aelodau â'u cyfrifoldebau craffu a'u rolau'n Aelodau Etholedig. Mae ymchwil o'r fath yn cryfhau rhaglenni gwaith y Pwyllgorau Craffu er mwyn sicrhau bod pynciau sy'n seiliedig ar ddeilliannau yn cael eu nodi. Os oes gyda chi unrhyw ymholiadau ynghylch gwaith ymchwil, e-bostiwch: Craffu@rctcbc.gov.uk

2. DATGAN BUDDIANT

Derbyn datganiadau o fuddiannau personol gan Gynghorwyr, yn unol â gofynion Cod Ymddygiad y Cyngor.

Nodwch:

1. Mae gofyn i Aelodau ddatgan rhif a phwnc yr agendwm y mae eu buddiant yn ymwneud ag ef a mynegi natur y buddiant personol

hwinnw; a

2. Lle bo Aelodau'n ymneilltuo o'r cyfarfod o ganlyniad i ddatgelu buddiant sy'n rhagfarnu, rhaid iddyn nhw roi gwybod i'r Cadeirydd pan fyddan nhw'n gadael.

3. COFNODION

Cadarnhau cofnodion o gyfarfod y Pwyllgorau a gynhaliwyd ar 18 Ionawr 2024 a 1 Chwefror 2024 yn rhai cywir.

5 - 16

ADRODDIADAU'R CYFARWYDDWR GWASANAETH – GWASANAETHAU DEMOCRATAIDD A CHYFATHREBU

4. YMGYNGHORIADAU

Gwybodaeth mewn perthynas ag [ymgyngoriadau](#) perthnasol i'w hystyried gan y Pwyllgor.

5. YMGYSYLLTU AG AELOD O'R CABINET DDWYWAITH Y FLWYDDYN

Craffu ar unrhyw faterion gyda deiliad y portffolio sy'n gyfrifol a sicrhau bod y mecanweithiau priodol yn eu lle i graffu'n effeithiol ar yr Adain Weithredol.

17 - 22

ADRODDIADAU'R SWYDDOGION

6. CYFLAWNIAD AILGYLCHU RHCT 2023/24

Derbyn diweddariad ar ddatblygiad y strategaeth a chynnydd tuag at fwrw targed ailgylchu 80% y Cyngor, gyda chanolbwynt arbennig ar gasgliadau gwastraff bob 3 wythnos.

23 - 30

7. GWASANAETHAU TREFTADAETH

Derbyn trosolwg o wasanaethau treftadaeth yn RhCT.

31 - 56

8. ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL HAWLIAU TRAMWY CYHOEDDUS

Diweddariad mewn perthynas â phroses gwaith cynnal a chadw cyffredinol Hawliau Tramwy Cyhoeddus.

9. MATERION BRYS

Trafod unrhyw faterion sydd, yn ôl doethineb y Cadeirydd, yn faterion brys yng ngoleuni amgylchiadau arbennig.

10. ADOLYGIAD Y CADEIRYDD A DOD Â'R CYFARFOD I BEN

Myfyrio ar y cyfarfod a'r camau gweithredu i'w dwyn ymlaen.

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democraidd a Chyfathrebu
Cylchreliad:-

Cadeirydd ac Is-gadeirydd:

(Y Cynghorydd C Middle a Y Cynghorydd G L Warren)

Y Cynghorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol:

Y Cynghorydd J Barton, Y Cynghorydd P Binning, Y Cynghorydd V Dunn,
 Y Cynghorydd E L Dunning, Y Cynghorydd G Holmes, Y Cynghorydd W Hughes,
 Y Cynghorydd G Jones, Y Cynghorydd A O Rogers, Y Cynghorydd W Treeby,
 Y Cynghorydd R Yeo, Y Cynghorydd P Evans and Y Cynghorydd G O Jones

Swyddogion:

Christian Hanagan, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democraidd a Chyfathrebu

Stephen Williams, Pennaeth Materion Buddsoddi Strategol

Simon Gale, Cyfarwyddwr Materion Ffyniant a Datblygu

Nick Kelland, Prif Lyfrgellydd

Keith Nicholls, Pennaeth Hamdden, Chwaraeon a Pharciau

Darren Macey, Rheolwr Gweithredol Dros Dro'r Gwasanaethau Treftadaeth

Tudalen wag

**PWYLLGOR CYNGOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF
PWYLLGOR CRAFFU - MATERION YR HINSAWDD, GWASANAETHAU RHENG FLAEN A
FFYNIANT**

Cofnodion o gyfarfod rhithwir y Pwyllgor Craffu - Materion yr Hinsawdd, Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen a Ffyniant a gynhaliwyd Dydd Iau, 18 Ionawr 2024 am 5.00 pm ym Hybrid.

**Y Cyngorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol – Roedd y Aelodau Pwyllgor Craffu - Materion yr
Hinsawdd, Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen a Ffyniant canlynol yn bresennol yn Siambr y
Cyngor:-**

Y Cyngorydd C Middle (Cadeirydd)

Y Cyngorydd G L Warren Y Cyngorydd P Binning
Y Cyngorydd V Dunn Y Cyngorydd G Holmes
Y Cyngorydd W Hughes Y Cyngorydd G Jones
Y Cyngorydd A O Rogers Y Cyngorydd R Yeo
Y Cyngorydd P Evans

Swyddogion oedd yn bresennol

Mr C Hanagan, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democraidaidd a Chyfathrebu
Mr A Stone, Head of Flood Risk Management and Strategic Projects
Mr S Williams, Pennaeth Materion Buddsoddi Strategol

Ymddiheuriadu am absenoldeb

Y Cyngorydd J Barton Y Cyngorydd E L Dunning
Y Cyngorydd G O Jones

33 Ymchwil a Chraffu

Cyfeiriodd y Swyddog Ymchwil a Materion Craffu'r Aelodau at y cyfleusterau ymchwil sydd ar gael i Aelodau yn Uned Busnes y Cyngor. Rhoddwyd gwybod i Aelodau os oes gyda nhw unrhyw ymholiadau penodol, mae modd iddyn nhw e-bostio Craffu@rctcbc.gov.uk.

34 Ymddiheuriadau

Nodwyd ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan Gyngorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol Geraint Jones, E. Dunning a J. Barton.

35 Datganiadau o Fuddiant

Yn unol â'r Cod Ymddygiad, doedd dim datganiadau o fuddiant ynglŷn â'r agenda.

36 Cofnodion

Cafodd cofnodion y cyfarfod ar 22 Tachwedd 2023 eu **CADARNHAU'N** rhai cywir.

37 **Ymgynghoriadau**

Cyfeiriodd y Swyddog Ymchwil a Materion Craffu'r Aelodau at y dolenni ymgynghori sydd ar gael trwy wefan 'Craffu RhCT'. Cafodd Aelodau eu hatgoffa bod gwybodaeth yn cael ei rhannu mewn perthynas ag ymgynghoriadau priodol i'w trafod gan y Pwyllgor bob mis a'i diweddarau bob pythefnos.

38 **Rhag-graffu mewn perthynas â'r Strategaeth Ddiwygiedig Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd Lleol a'r cynllun Gweithredu.**

Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth, Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu wrth yr Aelodau mai pwrpas yr adroddiad oedd rhag-graffu ar y Strategaeth Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd Lleol (LFRMS) ac y bydd sylwadau'r Aelodau'n cael eu rhannu gyda'r Cabinet. Yn dilyn hyn, cyflwynodd y Pennaeth Materion Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd ei adroddiad i'r Aelodau a dywedodd y byddai'r strategaeth wedyn yn cael ei chyflwyno i Lywodraeth Cymru i'w chymeradwyo gan y Gweinidog.

Yn dilyn hyn, cafodd Aelodau gyfle i ofyn cwestiynau. Diolchodd y Cadeirydd i'r Swyddogion am drosolwg manwl a chanmolodd y strategaeth. Holodd Aelod arall a oes modd i'r gwynt waethygu llifogydd. Cadarnhaodd y Pennaeth Materion Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd fod y gwynt yn chwythu cynifer o falurion o gwmpas, ac mae modd i'r rhain rwystro cyrsiau dŵr mewn ceuffosydd. Yn ogystal â hynny, mae modd iddyn nhw effeithio ar ardaloedd llanw ac ati a chynyddu'r perygl o lifogydd.

Roedd sgwrs i ddilyn, a dywedodd Aelod y byddai'n ddefnyddiol pe bai'r adroddiad yn cynnwys llai o fyfodau a mwy o fanylion am y geiriau a ddefnyddir. Dywedodd y Pennaeth Materion Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd fod hyn bob amser yn her ac na fydd y ddogfen gryno, sydd ar ffurf drafft ar hyn o bryd, yn cynnwys acronymau o gwbl. Bydd y ddogfen gryno wedi'i hanelu at aelodau'r cyhoedd.

Holodd Aelod arall sut mae'r Cyngor yn annog trigolion i roi rhagor o gynlluniau atal llifogydd eu hunain ar waith, er enghraifft yn eu gerddi eu hunain, a hefyd sut mae'r Cyngor yn annog datblygwyr preifat i fabwysiadu rhagor o strategaethau atal llifogydd? Nododd y Pennaeth Materion Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd fod dwy ardal dan sylw; yr ardaloedd sydd eisoes ag adeiladau arnyn nhw, a'r ardaloedd lle bydd gwaith adeiladu. O ran yr ardaloedd sydd eisoes ag adeiladau arnyn nhw, nododd y Pennaeth Materion Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd fod cyfathrebu yn hollbwysig, yn ogystal ag adnoddau ar-lein a sicrhau mynediad didrafferth. Mae hefyd angen ystyried materion gorfodi, sef y rheolau a'r rheoliadau y mae'r isadeiledd bresennol yn ddarostyngedig iddyn nhw. Mae'n rhaid canolbwyntio'n bennaf ar addysg. O ran adeiladu tai, mae'n rhaid i bopeth fodloni safonau Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer draenio cynaliadwy sydd, i bob pwrpas, yn dod o dan isadeiledd gwyrdd. Cadarnhaodd y Pennaeth Materion Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd fod hyn wedi'i gynnwys yn y Strategaeth Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd Lleol. Mae'r Cynllun Datblygu Lleol yn ystyried Canllawiau Cynllunio,

ac mae hyn hefyd wedi'i ymgorffori yn Strategaeth y Cyngor ar Newid yn yr Hinsawdd. Mewn perthynas â hyn, holodd y Cadeirydd a oedd darpariaeth ar gyfer cynnal a chadw yn cael ei sicrhau wrth ddatblygu prosiectau adeiladu. Dywedodd y Pennaeth Materion Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd fod Safon 6 o Safonau Llywodraeth Cymru i gyd yn ymwneud â'r cyfnod Adeiladu a chynaliadwyedd, a chafodd yr Aelodau sicrwydd bod hyn i gyd bellach wedi'i ymgorffori yn y Strategaeth.

Parhaodd y drafodaeth a dywedodd Aelod y byddai'n ddefnyddiol pe bai'r ddogfen yn cynnwys dadansoddiad o ba mor agored i'r perygl o lifogydd yw pob ward. Holodd yr Aelod hefyd pa gyfrifoldeb sydd gan gwmnïau preifat i sicrhau bod eiddo preswylwyr yn ddiogel rhag llifogydd, gan ofyn sut mae'r trigolion yn cael eu paratoi ar gyfer rhybuddion llifogydd. O ran graffeg fesul ward, dywedodd y Pennaeth Materion Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd fod dadansoddiad fesul ward yn rhan o'r cynllun presennol ar y wefan, ond nid yw'n cyd-fynd â'r data cyfredol a'r meddylfryd o ran dalgylchoedd (nid yw dŵr yn ufuddhau i ffiniau wardiau er enghraifft). Nododd fod y Strategaeth Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd Lleol bresennol yn gweithio yn ôl ardaloedd strategol, ac mai nod hyn yw galluogi RhCT i weithio gyda chwmnïau mwy fel CNC a Dŵr Cymru mewn dull mwy strategol sydd wedi'i dargedu. O ran cwmnïau preifat a'u hatebolrwydd, dywedwyd wrth yr Aelodau bod gan rai cwmnïau fel Trafnidiaeth Cymru rwymedigaeth i reoli perygl llifogydd, bod prif rwymedigaethau cwmnïau preifat yn ymwneud ag esgeulustod a bod gyda nhw rwymedigaethau o dan gyfraith sifil. Ymhellach, mewn perthynas â chyfathrebu â'r cyhoedd, mae gwefan y Cyngor wrthi'n cael ei diweddarau er mwyn rhoi rhagor o wybodaeth am faterion ymwybyddiaeth llifogydd, a bydd yr adnoddau yma'n cynnwys dolenni a fydd yn mynd â'r defnyddiwr i wefan Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru. Holodd yr Aelod sut mae hyn yn cael ei rannu â thrigolion er mwyn sicrhau eu bod nhw'n effro i'r sefyllfa ddiweddaraf? Dywedodd yr Uwch Swyddog Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd fod y Cyngor yn arbrofi gydag is-gynlluniau yn y gymuned, a'i fod yn awyddus i weld rhagor o waith ymgyrchu ac achlysuron sy'n ymgysylltu â thrigolion.

Parhaodd y trafodaethau a holodd Aelod sut mae'r strategaeth yma'n cymharu ag Awdurdodau Lleol eraill, gan ofyn beth arall y byddai'r Awdurdod yn ei wneud pe bai'r adnoddau ar gael? Holodd yr Aelod hefyd a oes gyda ni'r adnoddau i orfodi rheoliadau adeiladu a chynllunio perygl llifogydd yn ystod y broses gynllunio. Dywedodd y Pennaeth Materion Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd fod ganddo garfan Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd da iawn a dywedodd fod yr Awdurdod mewn sefyllfa dda iawn. O ran adnoddau ychwanegol, dywedwyd wrth yr Aelodau ein bod ni mewn sefyllfa dda iawn o fewn cyfyngiadau gwariant Llywodraeth Cymru, a bod Cyngor RhCT yn gefnogol iawn o ran dyrannu'r adnoddau sydd eu hangen i reoli perygl llifogydd. Mewn perthynas â gorfodi, dywedwyd wrth yr Aelodau bod swyddog gorfodi wedi'i ddyrannu i'r garfan ac ers i'r swyddog hwnnw gael ei benodi, bu cynnydd amlwg yng ngweithgarwch y Cyngor o ran gorfodi. Yr awdurdod cynllunio sy'n gyfrifol am faterion gorfodi sy'n ymwneud â chynllunio. Cefnogodd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen yr asesiad yma, a dywedodd fod gan yr Awdurdod lawer o arbenigedd mewnol, sy'n ein rhoi mewn sefyllfa dda iawn o ran perygl llifogydd. Pwysleisiwyd hefyd fod llifogydd weithiau y tu allan i gyfrifoldeb y Cyngor ac weithiau yn gyfrifoldeb ar awdurdodau rheoli risg eraill megis Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru.

Dilynodd trafodaethau a chyfeiriodd Aelod yn ôl at y byrfoddau a ddefnyddiwyd yn yr adroddiad, gan awgrymu y dylid defnyddio rhestr termau ar ddechrau'r strategaeth i sicrhau ei bod hi'n hawdd i'r cyhoedd ei darllen. Holodd yr Aelod beth yw'r sefyllfa gyfreithiol o ran defnyddio byrfoddau mewn dogfen statudol?

Dywedodd Pennaeth y Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol fod angen byrfoddau i wneud y ddogfen yn fwy hylaw, neu fel arall byddai'r ddogfen yn mynd yn llawer rhy hir ac ailadroddus. Dywedodd Pennaeth y Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol fod y rhestr termau yng nghefn y ddogfen, ac y byddai ei symud hi i du blaen y ddogfen yn syniad da. Roedd yr Aelodau'n cefnogi'r argymhelliad yma.

Holodd Aelod arall a oedd Swyddogion yn meddwl bod y strategaeth yn addas at y diben wrth symud ymlaen, yn enwedig gan fod yr hinsawdd yn newid mor gyflym ac yn enwedig yn wyneb toriadau yn y gyllideb a mesurau cyni. Aeth Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen ati i egluro y gallai ardaloedd nad ydynt yn cael eu heffeithio ar hyn o bryd wynebu perygl llifogydd yn y dyfodol, a bod adnoddau'n gyfyngedig. Serch hynny, pwysleisiwyd bod y ddogfen yn nodi strategaeth gyffredinol y Cyngor ac yn ein rhoi ni mewn sefyllfa dda wrth edrych i'r dyfodol Dywedodd y Pennaeth Materion Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd fod y Strategaeth yn sefydlog am tua 5-6 mlynedd, ond nid yw'r Cynllun Gweithredu wedi'i ddiwygio hyd yma, felly bydd yn cael ei ddiwygio i adlewyrchu grantiau cyllid cyfredol ac ati. Pwysleisiwyd hefyd bod Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru'n diweddarau'r data dadansoddi risg, yn enwedig y mapiau, bob 6 mis.

Holodd y Cadeirydd ymhellach a oedd yr holl gamau o ran Adran 19 wedi'u hymgorffori yn y strategaeth a'r cynllun gweithredu yma. Dywedodd y Pennaeth Materion Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd fod yr holl gamau gweithredu sy'n weddill bellach wedi'u hymgorffori yn y Cynllun Gweithredu.

Holodd Aelod arall a oes modd i sefyllfa gofi yn y dyfodol lle gallai'r Cyngor storio'r dŵr sydd dros ben er mwyn helpu'r trigolion trwy fisoedd sych yr Haf. Dywedodd y Pennaeth Materion Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd mai Dŵr Cymru sy'n rheoli'r cyflenwad dŵr mewn gwirionedd, ond roedd y Swyddog yn cydnabod y gallai hyn fod yn bosiblwydd yn y dyfodol. Holodd y Cadeirydd ymhellach sut mae'r Strategaeth yn cyd-fynd â Strategaeth y Cyngor o ran Newid yn yr Hinsawdd. Dywedodd yr Uwch Swyddog Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd fod Pennod 4 yn y Strategaeth yn canolbwyntio'n benodol ar ymgorffori heriau o ran Newid yn yr Hinsawdd a Pherygl Llifogydd. Mae manylion hefyd yn y strategaeth ar sut y bydd y Cyngor yn manteisio i'r eithaf ar fuddion bioamrywiaeth wrth symud ymlaen ac ati.

Dilynodd trafodaethau a holodd Aelod a yw'r Cyngor yn gweithio ar y cyd ag Awdurdodau Lleol eraill i fynd i'r afael â materion tebyg? Dywedodd y Pennaeth Materion Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd mai RhCT sydd â'r perygl llifogydd dŵr wyneb mwyaf yng Nghymru. Mewn perthynas â gweithio ar y cyd â phartneriaid, dywedwyd wrth yr Aelodau bod Awdurdodau Lleol cyfagos a sefydliadau partner yn cyfarfod bob ychydig fisoedd i drafod materion trawsbynciol a chael dogfennau polisiau/canllawiau ar y cyd. Holodd Aelod arall a oedd gan Gyngor RhCT fap o geuffosydd ledled y Fwrdeistref Sirol. Holodd yr Aelod hefyd am amser ymateb y Cyngor pan ddaw'r Cyngor yn effro i lifogydd. O ran y ceuffosydd, dywedwyd wrth yr Aelodau bod dros 60% mewn perchnogaeth breifat ar hyn o bryd. Lle bo problem, y bwriad yw y bydd y Cyngor yn targedu adnoddau i gasglu a rhoi trefn ar yr wybodaeth honno. O ran amseroedd ymateb, dywedwyd wrth yr Aelodau bod yn rhaid gosod galwadau yn nhrefn blaenoriaeth, a bod yn rhaid i'r garfan weithio o fewn yr adnoddau sydd ar gael. Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen wrth yr Aelodau y byddai croeso iddyn nhw ymweld ag ystafell reoli'r Cyngor ac fe'u cynghorwyd i drefnu hyn trwy garfan Uned Busnes y Cyngor. Cyfeiriodd Aelod arall o'r Pwyllgor at gyfeiriad yn yr adroddiad at Ddeddf Iechyd y Cyhoedd 1946 a nododd fod y ddeddfwriaeth hon wedi'i diddymu. Dywedodd y

swyddogion y bydden nhw'n e-bostio'r Aelod ar wahân i roi gwybod am yr adran benodol o'r ddeddfwriaeth y cyfeirir ati yn y Strategaeth. Holodd y Cadeirydd ymhellach a oedd gan y Cyngor gynlluniau wrth gefn ac a oedd y cynlluniau yma'n cynnwys gweithio gyda gwasanaethau brys allanol. Dywedodd y Pennaeth Materion Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd fod y Strategaeth yn cynnwys cynlluniau at argyfwng a chynlluniau wrth gefn.

Yn dilyn trafodaeth, **PENDERFYNWYD:**

- i. Rhag-graffu ar Strategaeth Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd Lleol Diwygiedig y Cyngor a'r Cynllun Gweithredu sydd ynghlwm yn Atodiad A; a,
- ii. Rhoi sylwadau ar yr adroddiad a chyflwyno adborth i'r Cabinet, yn ei gyfarfod i'w gynnal ar 24 Ionawr 2024.

39 Materion Brys

Doedd dim mater brys i'w drafod.

40 Adolygiad y Cadeirydd a dod â'r cyfarfod i ben

Diolchodd y Cadeirydd i'r Aelodau a'r Swyddogion am ddod i'r cyfarfod. Cadarnhaodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth, Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu, y byddai sylwadau'r Aelodau'n cael eu bwydo'n ôl i'r Cabinet ac y byddai llythyr yn cael ei lunio yn crynhoi'r argymhellion a ddaeth i law.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 6.13 pm

**Y Cynghorydd C Middle
Cadeirydd.**

Tudalen wag



PWYLLGOR CYNGOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF
PWYLLGOR CRAFFU - MATERION YR HINSAWDD, GWASANAETHAU RHENG FLAEN A
FFYNIANT

Cofnodion o gyfarfod rhithwir y Pwyllgor Craffu - Materion yr Hinsawdd, Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen a Ffyniant a gynhaliwyd Dydd Iau, 1 Chwefror 2024 am 5.00 pm

Y Cyngorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol – Roedd y Aelodau Pwyllgor Craffu - Materion yr
Hinsawdd, Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen a Ffyniant canlynol yn bresennol yn Siambr y
Cyngor:-

Y Cyngorydd G L Warren Y Cyngorydd P Binning
Y Cyngorydd V Dunn Y Cyngorydd W Hughes
Y Cyngorydd G Jones Y Cyngorydd A O Rogers
Y Cyngorydd R Yeo Y Cyngorydd P Evans

Swyddogion oedd yn bresennol

Mr S Gale, Cyfarwyddwr Materion Ffyniant a Datblygu
Mr C Hanagan, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu
Mr S Williams, Pennaeth Materion Buddsoddi Strategol

Y Cyngorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol yn bresennol

Y Cyngorydd A Crimmings, Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion yr Amgylchedd a Hamdden
Y Cyngorydd M Norris, Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion Ffyniant a Datblygu

Ymddiheuriadu am absenoldeb

Y Cyngorydd C Middle Y Cyngorydd J Barton
Y Cyngorydd E L Dunning Y Cyngorydd G Holmes

41 Croeso

Croesawodd yr Is-gadeirydd yr Aelodau a'r Swyddogion i'r cyfarfod

42 Ymddiheuriadau

Daeth ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb oddi wrth Gyngorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol
C. Middle, J. Barton ac E. Dunning.

43 YMCHWIL A CHRAFFU

Cyfeiriodd y Swyddog Ymchwil a Materion Craffu'r Aelodau at y cyfleusterau
ymchwil sydd ar gael i Aelodau yn Uned Busnes y Cyngor. Rhoddwyd gwybod i
Aelodau os oes gyda nhw unrhyw ymholiadau penodol, mae modd iddyn nhw e-

bostio Craffu@rctcbc.gov.uk.

44 **DATGAN BUDDIANT**

Datganodd y Cyngorydd Yeo y buddiant canlynol mewn perthynas ag eitem 5 ar yr agenda:

"Rydw i'n cael fy nghyflogi gan 'National Grid Energy Distribution' (Western Power Distribution gynt). Rwy'n gweithio i garfan Projects East, sy'n gyfrifol am adeiladu Prosiectau Mawr. Mae'r rhain yn tueddu i fod yn brosiectau ar raddfa fawr. Felly, dydw i ddim yn ymwneud yn uniongyrchol â Gwefru Cerbydau Trydan. Rydw i hefyd yn gweithio mewn swydd weinyddol, a dydw i ddim yn gyfrifol am wneud penderfyniadau yn rhan o hynny. Felly, 'Buddiant Personol' yw hwn.

45 **YMGYNGHORIADAU**

Cyfeiriodd y Swyddog Ymchwil a Materion Craffu'r Aelodau at y dolenni ymgynghori sydd ar gael trwy wefan 'Craffu RhCT'. Cafodd Aelodau eu hatgoffa bod gwybodaeth yn cael ei rhannu mewn perthynas ag ymgynghoriadau priodol i'w trafod gan y Pwyllgor bob mis a'i diweddarau bob pythefnos.

46 **'HINSAWDD YSTYRIOL RHCT' – STRATEGAETH MYND I'R AFAEL Â NEWID YN YR HINSAWDD Y CYNGOR 2022-2025**

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth – Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu ei adroddiad ar Strategaeth Newid yn yr Hinsawdd 2022-2025 y Cyngor. Rhoddodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth drosolwg gan nodi cynnydd y Cyngor o ran cyflawni Strategaeth Newid yn yr Hinsawdd y Cyngor, '[Hinsawdd Ystyriol RhCT](#)', fel y cytunwyd ym mis Mehefin 2022.

Roedd trafodaeth i ddilyn, a holodd yr Is-gadeirydd sut mae'r Cyngor yn gweithio gyda'r sector preifat i leihau'r Ôl Troed Carbon ledled y Fwrdeistref Sirol. Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y gallai hwn o bosibl fod yn ddarn o waith i'r Pwyllgor ymchwilio iddo yn y dyfodol, gan bwysleisio bod yr Uwch Reolwyr yn cytuno, er bod modd i'r Cyngor leihau ei Ôl Troed Carbon, ei bod hi'n bwysig gweithio ar y cyd â'r sector preifat i gyflawni nodau o ran Newid yn yr Hinsawdd.

Yn dilyn trafodaeth, **PENDERFYNODD Aelodau:**

- i. Trafod yr wybodaeth oedd wedi ei chynnwys yn yr adroddiad;
- ii. Mynegi barn ar unrhyw feysydd posibl i'w trafod ymhellach yn rhan o Raglen Waith y Pwyllgor Craffu – Materion yr Hinsawdd, Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen a Ffyniant;
- iii. Nodi'r gwaith i'w ddatblygu ac ymgorffori ymateb y Cyngor i'r Newid yn yr Hinsawdd ymhellach ym musnes y Cyngor, a hynny'n rhan o ddatblygiad Cynllun Corfforaethol newydd y Cyngor.
- iv. Trafod a yw Aelodau'n dymuno craffu'n fanylach ar unrhyw faterion a gynhwysir yn yr adroddiad yn unol â Chylch Gorchwyl y Pwyllgor.

47 **SEILWAITH GWEFRU CERBYDAU TRYDAN AR SAFLEOEDD ASED AU'R**

CYNGOR

Cyflwynodd Cyfarwyddwr Eiddo'r Cyngor a Phennaeth Materion Ynni a Lleihau Carbon yr adroddiad i Aelodau a rhoddwyd diweddariad mewn perthynas â'r cynnydd ym maes gwefru cerbydau trydan yn asedau'r Cyngor, a hynny o ran gweithio tuag at nodau gwefru cerbydau trydan y Cyngor sydd wedi cael eu datgan yn gyhoeddus. Rhoddodd y Cyfarwyddwr gyflwyniad PowerPoint i Aelodau mewn perthynas â manau gwefru cerbydau trydan ledled y Fwrdeistref Sirol.

Roedd trafodaeth i ddilyn a holodd Aelod pa mor agos y mae'r Cyngor yn gweithio gyda chynhyrchwyr ceir i ddarganfod sut mae'r maes Gwefru Cerbydau Trydan yn datblygu ac yn dod yn ei flaen. Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr Eiddo'r Cyngor ein bod ni'n cydweithio â Chyfarwyddwr Prifddinas-ranbarth Caerdydd, sy'n gwneud llawer o waith ymchwil yn y maes yma, a dywedodd hefyd fod gan y Cyngor ddarn o feddalwedd sy'n ei alluogi i fesur a rheoli'r galw am wefrwyr cerbydau trydan. Dywedodd y Pennaeth Materion Ynni a Lleihau Carbon hefyd fod y Cyngor yn gweithio'n agos gyda Trafnidiaeth Cymru yn y maes hwn a bod y feddalwedd yn rhagweld tueddiadau'r dyfodol o ran Gwefru Cerbydau Trydan a thrafnidiaeth yn gyffredinol. Dywedwyd wrth yr aelodau bod cwmni o'r enw Senex, sy'n cael ei noddi gan Lywodraeth y DU, yn gweithio gyda'r holl gyrff gweithgynhyrchu hefyd i fonitro tueddiadau yn y maes yma. Defnyddir y canllawiau yma i lywio proffil buddsoddi'r Cyngor ar gyfer y dyfodol. Holodd yr Aelod beth mae'r wybodaeth yma'n ei ddweud wrthyn ni o ran y 5 mlynedd nesaf. Dywedodd y Swyddogion y bydden nhw'n casglu'r data perthnasol ac yn anfon yr wybodaeth at yr Aelod.

Roedd trafodaeth i ddilyn, a holodd Aelod a oedd un pwynt gwefru cerbydau trydan ym maes parcio Tŷ Elái yn ddigonol. Holodd hefyd a fyddai manau gwefru cerbydau trydan ym mynwent Trealaw at ddefnydd y cyhoedd neu swyddogion yn unig. Mewn perthynas â Thŷ Elái, dywedwyd wrth yr Aelodau bod pwyntiau gwefru cerbydau trydan wedi'u gosod yn ddiweddar, a fydd ar gael ar gyfer y Fflyd a'r cyhoedd. O ran Trealaw, dywedwyd wrth yr Aelodau ei bod y pwynt gwefru wedi'i fwriadu ar gyfer defnydd Fflyd, ond bod dau fae yno a fydd hefyd ar gael i'r cyhoedd.

Parhaodd y trafodaethau a holodd Aelod a oedd cynllun hirdymor i gael pwyntiau gwefru cerbydau trydan mewn Ysgolion, ysbytai a meddygfeydd teulu. Holodd hefyd a oedd cynllun yn ei le i ddarparu pwyntiau gwefru cerbydau trydan i gymunedau sydd heb feysydd parcio cyhoeddus. Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr Eiddo'r Cyngor fod gyda ni ganllawiau dylunio ar gyfer pob Ysgol newydd yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol a bod proses hefyd o gyflwyno system gwefru cerbydau trydan i Ysgolion addas eraill ar y cyd â chydweithwyr o'r Gwasanaeth Addysg. Mewn perthynas ag ysbytai/meddygfeydd, cadarnhaodd y Cyfarwyddwr fod y Cyngor yn gweithio ar y cyd â'r Bwrdd Iechyd, ond fydd y Cyngor ddim yn gyfrifol am osod y pwyntiau gwefru cerbydau trydan. O ran cymunedau nad oes gyda nhw feysydd parcio cyhoeddus, cadarnhaodd y Cyfarwyddwr fod digon o bwyntiau gwefru cerbydau trydan hyd yma, ac y bydd y gwaith gosod yn parhau i fynd rhagddo. Cadarnhaodd y Cyfarwyddwr hefyd fod y Cyngor wrthi'n gosod manau gwefru cyflym iawn yng nghanol trefi hefyd. Cadarnhawyd hefyd bod trafodaethau ar y gweill i gysylltu â chanolfannau yn y gymuned er mwyn gosod pwyntiau gwefru cerbydau trydan.

Holodd Aelod arall beth yw cyfreithlondeb gosod llinell wefrw cerbydau trydan mewn tŷ teras. Mewn perthynas â gwefru cerbydau preswylwyr preifat,

dywedwyd wrth yr Aelodau nad yw hyn yn rhan o gylch gorchwyl y Cyngor. Dywedwyd hefyd bod y Grid Cenedlaethol wedi dweud bod modd i unrhyw un sydd am wefru ei gerbyd gartref dderbyn pŵer i wneud hyn. Y broblem ar gyfer y rheiny sy'n byw mewn tai teras yw diffyg lle parcio penodol y tu allan i'w heiddo, ac mae modd i hyn godi pryderon lechyd a Diogelwch o ran ceblau gwefru. Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen y gallai rhywun wefru ei gar o dŷ teras o bosibl, ond nid oes lle parcio dynodedig, sy'n golygu y gallai hyn arwain at berygl baglu neu greu sefyllfa lle mae cerbydau brys yn cael eu cyfyngu rhag mynd i'r stryd deras. Pwysleisiodd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen fod y cymhlethdodau o'i gwmpas yn sylweddol a bod dyletswydd ar y Cyngor hefyd i ddiogelu defnyddwyr priffyrdd.

Holodd Aelod arall beth yw'r gost fesul uned i'r Cyngor o ran gosod pwyntiau gwefru cerbydau trydan . Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr Eiddo'r Cyngor nad oedd yr wybodaeth ganddyn nhw wrth law ond y byddai'n cael gafael ar yr wybodaeth ac yn ei dosbarthu drwy e-bost yn dilyn y cyfarfod. Hysbyswyd yr aelodau bod y Cyngor wedi bod yn ffodus hyd yma i gael cyllid grant gan Brifddinas-ranbarth Caerdydd a Llywodraeth Cymru.

Croesawodd yr Is-gadeirydd sylwadau pellach gan y Blaen Swyddog Lleihau Carbon mewn perthynas â thrafodaethau cynharach. Cadarnhawyd y bydd hi'n ofynnol cael ychydig dros 1500 o bwyntiau gwefru yn RhCT erbyn 2030, ac ar hyn o bryd mae tua 110 yn RhCT.

Parhaodd y trafodaethau a dywedodd Aelod y byddai angen uwchraddio pŵer sylweddol i rywun gael gwefru cerbydau trydan yn ei dŷ. Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr Eiddo'r Cyngor ei fod wedi cyfarfod yn ddiweddar â Swyddog o'r Grid Cenedlaethol a'i fod wedi cael sicrwydd bod ei gynllun 5 mlynedd yn cael ei adolygu'n rheolaidd, a bod cyfoeth o wybodaeth am wefru cerbydau trydan ar gael ar wefan y sefydliad. Hysbyswyd yr aelodau hefyd fod y Grid Cenedlaethol wedi gwneud addewid cysylltedd a bod hyn yn ei gwneud hin haws i bob cwsmer osod pwyntiau gwefru cerbydau trydan a phymptiau gwres.

Cyfeiriodd Aelod arall at ba mor gyflym y mae technoleg fodern yn datblygu a holodd a yw'r Cyngor yn monitro'r datblygiadau oherwydd efallai nad fydd angen pwyntiau gwefru cerbydau trydan mwyach yn y dyfodol. Cydnabu Cyfarwyddwr Eiddo'r Cyngor pa mor gyflym y mae cynnydd yn digwydd yn y diwydiant, a bod y newidiadau yn gymesur yn yr hyn rydyn ni'n ei wneud. Mae pob penderfyniad a wneir yn cael ei lywio gan y data sy'n dod yn ôl o'r pwyntiau gwefru presennol ar gyfer cerbydau trydan.

Yn dilyn trafodaeth, **PENDERFYNWYD:**

- i. Nodi cynnwys yr adroddiad yma, a chyflwyniad cysylltiedig, yn rhan o'r gwaith parhaus mewn ymateb i uchelgeisiau'r Cyngor o ran gwefru cerbydau trydan a gafodd eu pennu gan y Strategaeth Newid yn yr Hinsawdd a'r Strategaeth Gwefru Cerbydau Trydan a Chynllun Gweithredu; a
- ii. Derbyn adroddiad(au) pellach sy'n rhoi diweddariadau ar gynnydd pan fydd hi'n addas.

48 **Cyflwyno Terfynau Cyflymder 20mya Llywodraeth Cymru**

Cyflwynodd y Pennaeth Traffig a Chludiant ei adroddiad i'r Aelodau a rhoddodd

Gyflwyniad Power Point mewn perthynas â Chyflwyno Terfyn Cyflymder 20mya Llywodraeth Cymru yn RhCT.

Yn dilyn hyn, cafodd Aelodau gyfle i ofyn cwestiynau. Holodd Aelod a oedd yna gost fawr i'r Awdurdod mewn perthynas â fandaliaeth arwyddion a holodd a fyddai preswylwyr RhCT yn cael mwy o fewnbwn o ran cyfyngiadau cyflymder ar ffyrdd yn eu cymunedau eu hunain. Dywedwyd wrth yr Aelodau bod y Dirprwy Weinidog wedi cynghori preswylwyr yn ddiweddar i ymgysylltu'n weithredol ag Awdurdodau Lleol ynghylch eu barn ar gyfyngiadau ffyrdd yn eu hardaloedd. Mewn perthynas â fandaliaeth, dywedodd y Pennaeth Traffig mai chwistrell paent oedd wedi achosi'r difrod pennaf yn ffodus, felly bychan iawn oedd y gost i'r Awdurdod.

Parhaodd y trafodaethau a nododd Aelod ei bod hi'n bwysig i'r Pwyllgor gael adolygiad pellach ymhen 12 mis o ran gweld yr effaith ar ddamweiniau ffyrdd a marwolaethau yn ein cymunedau. Pwysleisiodd yr Aelod hefyd bwysigrwydd adolygu'r effaith ar leihau amseroedd teithio ar gyfer bysiau a gyrwyr tacsis, a'r effaith a gaiff hyn ar eu hincwm.

Holodd Aelod arall a oedd cyfle i osod mwy o arwyddion ffyrdd. Dywedwyd wrth yr Aelodau bod y Cyngor wedi ymrwymo i osod arwyddion wrth y fynedfa a'r marciau ffordd, fel yr hen arwyddion 30mya, ac na all y Cyngor godi arwyddion 20mya ailadroddus oni bai fod dim goleuadau stryd.

Yn dilyn trafodaeth, **PENDERFYNWYD:**

- i. Trafod cynnwys yr adroddiad; a
- ii. Trafod a ydy'r Aelodau'n bwriadu craffu ymhellach ar yr effaith y mae'r cynllun wedi'i chael ar breswylwyr Rhondda Cynon Taf (RhCT); a,
- iii. Derbyn adroddiad pellach i'r Pwyllgor Craffu yn ystod Blwyddyn y Cyngor 2024/25 sy'n amlinellu'r effaith y mae'r cynllun yn ei gael ar drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus a phreswylwyr yn Rhondda Cynon Taf.

49 Cynllun Buddsoddiad y Priffyrdd

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth, Priffyrdd a Pheirianneg ei adroddiad i'r Aelodau mewn perthynas â'r Cynllun Buddsoddiad yn y Priffyrdd yn RhCT. Rhoddwyd Cyflwyniad PowerPoint i'r Aelodau.

Yn dilyn hyn, cafodd Aelodau gyfle i ofyn cwestiynau.

Holodd Aelod pa gyfiawnhad sydd ei angen i aelod o'r cyhoedd ofyn am fuddsoddiad neu osod wyneb newydd ar ffordd benodol yn ei ardal. Mewn perthynas â phriffyrdd mabwysiedig, dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth mai'r ffordd orau o fynd ati yw i'r Aelod Etholedig Lleol ysgrifennu at y Cyngor, a bydd y Cyngor wedyn yn ymchwilio ac yn asesu cyflwr y ffordd. Bydd yr Arolygwyr Priffyrdd hefyd yn asesu'r priffyrdd yn rheolaidd. Ychwanegodd yr Aelod bod modd i'r Cyngor elwa ar atgyweirio'r tyllau yn y ffordd gan y byddai hyn yn arwain at lai o breswylwyr yn cymryd camau cyfreithiol am gost atgyweirio eu cerbydau. Cydnabu'r Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth hyn ond

ychwanegodd hefyd fod y cyfan yn dibynnu ar yr arian sydd ar gael, a bod y swm o arian sydd ei angen i gadw'r priffyrdd fel y maen nhw ar hyn o bryd yn sylweddol yn y cyfnod hwn o fesurau cyni.

Yn dilyn trafodaeth, **PENDERFYNWYD:**

- i. Craffu ar yr wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am seilwaith priffyrdd yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol gan gyfeirio'n benodol at y strategaeth rheoli asedau a'r strategaeth fuddsoddi; a,
- ii. Craffu ar y gwariant sydd ei angen i gynnal a chadw asedau seilwaith y briffordd.

50 Adroddiad Blynyddol Y Gronfa Ffyniant Gyffredin a'r Gronfa Ffyniant Bro

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth, Materion Ffyniant a Datblygu ei adroddiad i'r Aelodau a rhoddodd ddiweddariad mewn perthynas â darparu'r Gronfa Ffyniant Gyffredin a'r Gronfa Ffyniant Bro.

Yn dilyn hyn, cafodd Aelodau gyfle i ofyn cwestiynau. Holodd yr Is-gadeirydd a ydyn ni'n yn debygol o barhau i gael cyllid ar ôl 2025. Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaeth fod hon yn rhaglen i gymryd lle cronfeydd yr UE ac felly mae'r Cyngor yn hyderus y bydd rhywfaint o arian ar ôl 2025, fodd bynnag mae llawer o ansicrwydd yn parhau ynghylch hyn ac mae'r Cyngor yn gweithio'n agos gyda CLILC i godi'r cwestiynau yma gyda Llywodraeth y DU.

Yn dilyn trafodaeth, **PENDERFYNWYD:**

- i. Trafod cynnwys yr adroddiad; a
- ii. Trafod a ydy'r Aelodau yn dymuno ystyried unrhyw faterion pellach sy'n codi o'r adroddiad yn fanylach.

51 MATERION BRYS

Doedd dim mater brys i'w drafod.

52 ADOLYGIAD Y CADEIRYDD A DOD Â'R CYFARFOD I BEN

Diolchodd yr Is-gadeirydd i'r Swyddogion am ddarparu adroddiadau mor fanwl ac atgoffodd yr Aelodau y cynhelir y cyfarfod nesaf ar 4 Mawrth 2024.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 6.34 pm

Is Cadeirydd G Warren



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24

CLIMATE CHANGE FRONTLINE SERVICES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4TH MARCH 2024

BI-ANNUAL CABINET MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To scrutinise any arising matters with the portfolio holder responsible for Development and Prosperity and to ensure that the appropriate mechanisms are in place to effectively scrutinise the Executive.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 Scrutinise the Cabinet Member for Development and Prosperity in respect of matters considered and agreed by Cabinet, and any key decisions taken, during the period 11th May 2023 – 4th March 2024; and,
- 2.2 Identify any areas arising from those matters determined within this period which Committee wish to further scrutinise, as part of revisions to the committees published work programme, in relation to Development & Prosperity.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. To provide the Climate Change and Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge the Cabinet in respect of the decisions taken in the defined decision-making period.
- 3.2. The recommendations seek to provide a structure to these sessions, to enable discussion and challenge to be focused upon a defined period and those individual decisions taken.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1. As part of this Council's ongoing commitment to improve the function of Scrutiny as a critical friend of the Council, this item is being brought before the Climate Change Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee as part of Cabinet and Scrutiny engagement.
- 4.2. Such an approach will provide Scrutiny Members with the opportunity to further challenge the Executive, as the Cabinet Members can provide details relating to the investments being taken forward within the portfolio and the challenges faced by the Council.

5. SCRUTINY OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

- 5.1. The role that the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee can play in holding the Council's decision-makers to account makes it fundamentally important to the successful functioning of local democracy. Scrutinising the Executive serves an important purpose in ensuring that decision makers of the Council are held accountable for their actions and decisions.
- 5.2. By Scrutinising the Cabinet Member for Development & Prosperity, the public can gain a better understanding of their decision-making process and hold them accountable, which will promote openness and transparency within the Council. It will also ensure that those in Leadership positions are acting in the best interests of their constituents.
- 5.3. Scrutiny can also identify areas for improvement and drive positive changes, strengthening our governance arrangements. Effective scrutiny helps secure the efficient delivery of public services and drives improvements within the authority itself. Conversely, poor scrutiny can be indicative of wider governance, leadership, and service failure.
- 5.4. Under the [Terms of Reference](#) of the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee, Members have the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge areas that fall under the remit of the Cabinet Member for Development & Prosperity. The main responsibility areas of the Cabinet Member for Development & Prosperity cover the following areas:
 - Inward Investment
 - Enterprise & Economic Regeneration Funding
 - Town Centres
 - Business Support
 - Planning and Development

- Planning Strategy
- Building Control
- Housing Strategy & Policy
- Tourism

5.5 Scrutiny in various forms is essential to ensuring accountability, transparency and fairness and ensures that political decisions are taken in the best interests of our residents.

5.6 **Decisions taken forward by the Portfolio holder for Development & Prosperity under the Committee's Terms of Reference during the period 11 May 2023 - 4th March 2024:**

The decisions can be found by clicking on the following links below:-

- 18/12/23 [Aberdare Town Centre Strategy](#)
- 20/11/23 [Management of the Council's Land and Buildings Portfolio: Interim Update on Progress](#)
- 23/10/23 [CIL Annual Monitoring 2022/2023](#)
- 18/09/23 [Acquisition of Land to the East of Cenarth Drive Cwmbach, Aberdare](#)
- 17/07/23 [Renovation and Redevelopment of the Rock Grounds Buildings, Aberdare](#)
- 17/07/23 [Cardiff Capital Region Housing Viability Fund](#)
- 28/06/23 [Aberdare Town Centre - Draft Strategy](#)
- 15/05/23 [The Council's Office Accommodation Strategy Workspace Plan: Fit for the Future and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Operating Model and Working Arrangements Policy](#)
- 15/05/23 [Pontypridd Placemaking Plan - Southern Gateway Project Progress Update](#)

The following Officer Delegated Decisions were also taken forward to which the Cabinet Member was a consultee:

- 08/09/24 [Energy Company Obligation](#)
- 26/07/23 [Re-development of the 42-43 High Street, Former Rates Building, Aberdare](#)

- 23.05.23 [RCT Observations To Welsh Government Regarding Proposed Amendment Of Planning Policy Wales](#)

5.7 Questions should be focussed in respect of the above decisions taken by the Cabinet Member, to enable effective scrutiny of those decisions by committee members.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO ECONOMIC DUTY

6.1 None arising as a direct result of this report.

7 CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

7.1 There are no consultation requirements emanating from the recommendations set out in this report.

8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

8.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

9.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with paragraph Part 4 of the Constitution (Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules).

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 To provide the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to scrutinise, challenge and make recommendations for policy improvement under the remit of the Cabinet Member for Development & Prosperity.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**CLIMATE CHANGE, FRONTLINE SERVICES AND PROSPERITY
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

4th March 2024

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

Tudalen wag



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/24

**CLIMATE CHANGE, FRONTLINE
SERVICES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

4th MARCH 2024

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF
HIGHWAYS, STREETCARE, AND
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

Agenda Item No: 6

**REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S
RECYCLING PERFORMANCE
2023/24**

Author: Alistair Critchlow – Temporary Head of Streetcare Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members of the Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on the Council's Recycling performance for the year 2023/24.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report:
- 2.2 Consider whether they wish to scrutinise, in greater depth, any further matters.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Council's Corporate Plan, ***Making A Difference (2020 - 2024)*** sets out the Council's commitments to Keeping RCT clean through efficient street cleaning services, minimising the amount of waste we send to landfill, achieving our recycling targets through weekly recycling and regular refuse collections, and reducing our carbon footprint.
- 3.2 Additionally, the Welsh Government's strategy to make the circular economy in Wales a reality, ***Beyond Recycling***, stipulates the next minimum target for the recycling of household waste is 70% by 2025, as we look to maintain our trajectory towards a zero waste nation by 2050.
- 3.3 Furthermore, the Council strategy; ***Making Rhondda Cynon Taf Carbon Neutral by 2030***, commits the Council to ensuring it recycles or reuses 80% of all municipal waste by 2025 by supporting residents and businesses on initiatives that promote waste minimisation and reuse of materials, as well as investing in technology to increase the amount of waste we recycle and reuse locally.
- 3.4 All Welsh Local Authorities work towards recycling targets set by Welsh Government and as noted above, the next milestone target is for 2025 where 70% of waste collected must be recyclable. (Failure to reach these targets will result in the Council being issued with heavy financial penalties).

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Council collects recycling and waste as follows:

Type of Recycling / Waste	Collection Frequency	Container
Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR)	Weekly	Clear bag
Food Waste	Weekly	Food waste bag
Green Waste	Weekly (Summer)	Green sack
Absorbent Hygiene Products, (AHP), / Nappies	Weekly	Purple bag
Refuse	3-weekly	Black bag / wheelie bin

- 4.2 The current situation sees domestic waste in the Rhondda collected via black bags with the Cynon and Taf having collections via wheelie bins.
- 4.3 The Council's Recycling and Waste Service comprises 165 operational staff based in 3 main depots – Rhondda, (Dinas Depot, Porth), Cynon, (Ty Amgen Depot, Llwydcoed) and Taf, (Ty Glantaf, Treforest Estate), and is responsible for the collection and management of household waste and related services.
- 4.3 The Council also provides 6 Community Recycling Centres and 3 Re-Use facilities for residents to take their household items not collected as part of normal kerbside collection service for recycling, re-use or disposal.

5. **UPDATE AND CURRENT POSITION**

- 5.1 The Council continues to exceed the current Welsh Government recycling target of 64% as we work towards the next target of 70% by 2025.
- 5.2 However, after a slight drop in recycling tonnages from 2021-22 to 2022-23, the current year, 2023-24 has seen the Council's recycling rates markedly improve.
- 5.3 There were a number of reasons and mitigating factors for the previous fall in recycling rates, including: -
- Fewer awareness raising campaigns, (e.g., door knocking), to further highlight awareness of recycling services available to residents, as the Service continued to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The ongoing cost of living crisis, which impacted some specific materials that contribute to higher recycling levels – namely wood and rubble – this challenge remains.
 - Less food waste being presented for collection.
- 5.4 To help combat some of these issues and increase recycling performance, the Waste Management and Enforcement Service have implemented a number of key strategic and operational changes in the 2023-24 year to date, including: -
- The introduction of the collection of residual household waste on a 3-weekly basis for all domestic waste collections. (More information: <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Newsroom/PressReleases/2023/January/CabinethaveagreedChangestoWasteandRecycling.aspx>).
 - The implementation of a free online booking system for the collection of green waste during the winter months, (November – February): <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/RecyclingandWaste/WhatcanIrecycle/KerbsideRecycling/GreenWaste/GetaGreenWasteCollection/WinterGreenWasteCollections.aspx>.

- The introduction of revised, more efficient, AHP, collections. (Further information: (<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/RecyclingandWaste/WhatcanIrecycle/KerbsideRecycling/NappyRecycling.aspx>).
- The employment of a dedicated team of Waste Awareness Officers to work in the community raising awareness of the importance of recycling, (especially with regard to the importance of food recycling, in relation to which there has been a dedicated media campaign involving a local celebrity; more information regarding this can be found here: (<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Newsroom/PressReleases/2023/November/BOXINGChampionJoinsFIGHTAgainstWASTE.aspx>).
- The introduction of small Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment, (WEEE) recycling facilities at the seven main Leisure for Life Leisure Centres across RCT. (More information on this can be found here: <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/RecyclingandWaste/WhatcanIrecycle/OtherRecycling/SmallElectricalItemsWEEERecycling.aspx>).

5.5 The table below shows the Council’s recycling performance during the **full year 2022/23 as 64.97%**, with performance improving to **67.44% for April to December of 2023/24**.

Year / Recycling Stream	Recycling Rate	Food Waste	Absorbent Hygiene Products, (AHP)	Green Waste
2020-21	66.74%	12,957.46	2,154.82	8,449.49
2021-22	67.23%	12,306.52	1,949.88	7,163.12
2022-23	64.97%	11,483.92	1,890.30	5,655.03
Q1-Q3 2023-24	67.44%	8,884.80	1,500.53	5,115.73

5.6 The Materials Recovery Facility, (MRF), at Bryn Pica has gone a long way in helping us maintain our performance and recover high levels of recycling.

5.7 The tables below illustrate the tonnages for **food waste, AHP, and green waste**.

Food Waste	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2020-21	3,218.88	3,064.56	3,301.48	3,372.54
2021-22	3,080.86	2,970.98	3,171.60	3,083.08
2022-23	2,816.72	2,743.40	2,969.58	2,954.22
Q1-Q3 2023-24	2,742.34	2,905.34	3,237.12	-

AHP	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2020-21	522.16	511.08	534.94	586.64
2021-22	497.50	462.10	499.64	490.64
2022-23	460.16	465.98	460.34	503.82
Q1-Q3 2023-24	481.46	538.75	480.32	-

Green Waste	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2020-21	2,827.43	3,496.82	1,034.57	1,090.67
2021-22	2,685.15	2,678.68	1,076.82	722.47
2022-23	2,090.50	2,185.04	912.84	466.65
Q1-Q3 2023-24	2,141.58	2,055.66	918.49	-

6. REVISED WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – 3-WEEKLY REFUSE COLLECTIONS

6.1 Since July 2023, the collection of residual household waste has been undertaken on a on a 3-weekly basis, including strict volume controls, namely:

- (a) A maximum of 3 black bags per household, (for those properties with existing black bag waste collections),
- (b) A prohibition of “side waste” for those households with large 240L wheelie bins, (with 1 bag of side waste being permissible, for those with the standard 120L bins).

- 6.2 It was recognised early in the planning process that such a significant service change affecting all residences, (approximately 115,000), across RCT, would have implications that cut across many different Council functions. Consequently, a Project Board consisting of Senior Council Officers from across a range of different Council departments, (Frontline Services, HR, Finance, Procurement, Corporate Communications, ICT, Customer Care, etc.), and also the Cabinet Member as well for political oversight, was set-up to help deliver the change.
- 6.3 As a result, the service change was successfully delivered and included a comprehensive communications plan with the launch of our “up our recycling game” campaign.
- 6.4 A full review of the collection rounds, (recycling as well as refuse), was also carried out in order to balance the rounds and the workload between our 3 waste depots, altering routes to make them more efficient and to reduce the number of vehicles required to undertake the revised collection rounds.
- 6.5 Furthermore, the service change was greatly assisted by significant digital innovations, which make better use of all the data gathered from collection rounds via in-cab technology; this helped the Service make more informed decisions based on robust quantitative information.
- 6.6 Following the introduction of 3-weekly refuse collection, on average, each week, around 100t less residual waste tonnage is being presented for collection, with corresponding rises in dry mixed recycling, (no Council in Wales collects more than RCT does), and food waste in particular. This equates to an average weekly recycling performance increase of 4.83% since the beginning of Q2 2023/24.

7. FUTURE WASTE TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- 7.1 Looking ahead to 2024 and beyond, the Service is now seeking, via a new Waste Transformation Board, to introduce further operational efficiencies and strategic changes to its waste management strategy, with a view to achieving further financial savings, whilst at the same time increasing the overall efficiency of the service in line with Welsh Government and the Council’s priorities.
- 7.2 Future operational efficiencies will consider initiatives and service changes to commercial cardboard collections, trade waste charges and collections as a result of new Welsh Government legislation being introduced from April 2024, green waste and refuse collections via black bags.

8. CONSULTATION AND INVOLVEMENT

8.1 There are no requirements for consultation in respect of this report.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY)

9.1 Under the Public Sector Equality Duty as set out in the Equality Act 2010, Local Authorities are required to have due regard to the need to:

1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination.
2. Advance equality of opportunity.
3. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

9.2 There are no equality, diversity or socio-economic duty implications associated with this report.

10. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no Welsh language implications as a result of the recommendations in this report. However, although the recommendations with regards to the update on the Council's recycling performance do not have any direct impact on the Welsh language, opportunities for the Service to maintain, grow or upskill Welsh speaking staff will remain a priority.

11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are financial implications, (heavy financial penalties), if the Council fails to achieve the Welsh Government's statutory recycling target of 70% by the end of March 2025.

12. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

12.1 The Council, as a designated Waste Collection Authority, has a duty to collect household waste, under section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended (EPA 1990).

13. LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN, NATIONAL PRIORITIES, AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015.

- 13.1 The Council has committed to minimising the amount of waste we send to landfill, achieving our recycling targets through weekly recycling and regular refuse collections, and reducing our carbon footprint. This supports the priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan 'Making a Difference' – 2020-24.
- 13.2 This report reflects the Sustainable Development principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, and its work contributes to all seven national goals.

14. CONCLUSION

- 14.1 The Council is proud of its recycling services and how it continues to perform well in delivering services for our residents and meeting statutory targets against the backdrop of ongoing financial challenges and cost of living pressures.
- 14.2 The Council continues to exceed the current Welsh Government recycling target as we work towards the next target of 70% by 2025 and, after a drop in recycling tonnages in previous years, the Council's recycling rate has increased by almost 5% since the beginning of Q2 2023/24.
- 14.3 To help further improve recycling performance, the Waste Management and Enforcement Service have implemented a number of key strategic and operational changes in the 2023-24 year to date, with further service transformation initiatives planned for 2024-25 and beyond.



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24

**CLIMATE CHANGE FRONTLINE
SERVICES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

DATE: 4th MARCH 2024

**The Climate Change Frontline Services &
Prosperity Scrutiny Committee**

Agenda Item No 7

AN OVERVIEW OF HERITAGE
SERVICES WITHIN RHONDDA
CYNON TAF

Author(s): Keith Nicholls - Head of Leisure, Sport and Parks, Chris Richards - Visitor Attractions, Events and Heritage Services Manager, Darren Macey – Heritage Operations Manager,

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide the opportunity for Members to scrutinise the Heritage Services in RCT including:

- An overview of the progress on the War Memorials project,
- Blue Plaques
- Digitisation at The Rhondda Heritage Park Museum,
- Current community regeneration projects
- Creation of a new heritage strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members

- 2.1 Scrutinise the progress made in safeguarding, preserving and making accessible heritage attractions, collections, artefacts, War Memorials and monuments as a direct result of the investment programme throughout the County Borough as noted in this discussion paper.

3. **BACKGROUND**

This year has seen the Heritage and Outreach Services continue to support the delivery of significant external funding in RCT. In doing so the Service has provided technical and tactical advice to numerous community groups across the authority seeking to commemorate and regenerate their own built environment. In addition, the Service has been successful in obtaining substantial grant funding both for The Rhondda Heritage Park Museum, and for RCTCBC's own public history projects.

Broadly speaking the Heritage Service operates with two guiding principles uppermost in our minds.

- **Heritage should be a tool for both Income and 'interest' generation.**
- **Heritage should be relevant, relatable, and progressive.**

Well-being of Future Generations Act

This Welsh Government Act offers RCTCBC heritage services several development opportunities:

- Alignment of goals: The Act's seven well-being goals (prosperity, resilience, improved health, greater equality, cohesive communities, vibrant culture and Welsh language, and global responsibility) can all inspire innovative heritage programming and activity.
- Legitimacy in local planning: RCTCBC, like all Welsh councils, must work towards these goals. Heritage cannot be dismissed when there is a direct goal to promote cultural vibrancy and cohesive communities.
- Collaboration potential: The act encourages significant opportunities for partnerships inside and outside of the council.
- Long-term survival: The Act requires considering the long-term impact of all its goals. RCTCBC's heritage services are ideally positioned to showcase positive, multi-generational benefits. This can strengthen budget justifications by reframing expenditure as long-term investment in RCTCBC's social and cultural wealth.
- Funding streams: Showcasing how heritage activity aligns with the Act increases access to funding opportunities against those that offer vague notions of community benefit. The Heritage Service has seven broad aims.

- 3.1 To increase Civic Pride by making Heritage accessible and relevant to the borough's residents and visitors through a range of exciting community focused projects and community partnerships. Providing a sustainable, innovative and cost-effective heritage output, by working with Partner organisations and a diverse combination of funders across the heritage sector and beyond. Examples of this can be seen in (**Appendix: Heritage Overview - 3.1**).
- 3.2 To manage the boroughs significant artefact collection in line with National Museums Accreditation Standards. Examples of this can be seen in (**Appendix: Heritage Overview - 3.2**).
- 3.3 To contribute to the success of the borough's heritage tourism offer by working closely with Visitors Attractions Managers and Economic Development colleagues in developing the quality of heritage interpretation. Examples of this can be seen in (**Appendix: Heritage Overview - 3.3**).
- 3.4 To manage the boroughs War Memorials, Monuments and Blue Plaque scheme, ensuring that they are recorded, accessible and safeguarded for future generation and through working with national bodies such as the National War Graves Commission and the boroughs Armed forces Officer. Examples of this can be seen in (**Appendix: Heritage Overview - 3.4**).
- 3.5 To develop the boroughs heritage educational offer through close partnerships with educational bodies and to meet with the opportunities presented within the Curriculum for Wales. Examples of this can be seen in (**Appendix: Heritage Overview - 3.5**).
- 3.6.1 Engaging with residents across RCT to inform RCT's approach to heritage delivery. With reference to the creation of a new Heritage Strategy. Examples of this can be seen in (**Appendix: Heritage Overview – 3.6**).
- 3.7 To engage with, and provide context for, RCT's Heritage in terms of previously underrepresented groups. (**Appendix: Heritage Overview - 3.7**).

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 There is no requirement for consultation in respect of this report as the contents of the report are for information purposes only at this stage.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 5.1 There are no financial implications as the contents of this report are for information purposes only at this stage.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Members scrutinise the content of the report and the work being undertaken by the Heritage Service team in safeguarding, preserving, and making heritage accessible to the residents and visitors of the County Borough.

Tudalen wag

Appendix 3.1

In order to deliver a diverse heritage programme for the residents and visitors of the County Borough, the need for employing a team of heritage professional with a diverse range of skills became evident when the service transferred to the Visitor Attractions Service in 2018.

In 2020, the opportunity arose to undertake a staff restructure and utilising existing budgets, the process began in creating a new heritage service team who could deliver for the future.

Our Educational officer left the Service in July, as all other team members are on parttime contracts as stopgap these hours were redistributed between the other team members. It is however our intention to fill the post as soon as we are able.

Heritage Service Team:

- **Darren Macey** - Heritage Operations Manager, P/T – Qualified & experienced historian, specialist in race & equality heritage, educational specialist & lecturer, and funding.
- **Rhiannon Seymour** – Memorials & Monument Officer P/T – qualified and experienced Archaeologist, community engagement and funding.
- **Rhian Hall** – Collections & Artefact Manager P/T – qualified historian and in Collections Care. Experienced curator and in funding applications.
- **Kath Lewis** – Outreach Officer P/T – experienced schools and community outreach

The following information are examples of exciting community focused projects delivered by the Heritage Service.

Community engagement

Lead – Darren Macey

As a service we are acutely aware of both the financial restrictions and statutory responsibilities of the Authority. We see our role in terms of both income generation, supporting and advising funding bids across RCT and 'interest' generation. Addressing the latter we consistently seek the most cost effective way to generate interest via

external funding, working with colleagues across the Authority including in our town centre regeneration, highways and engineering teams. To that end we are supporting the delivery of heritage interpretation on the following projects.

- Robertstown Bridge
- Castle Bridge
- Rhondda Fach Active Walkway

We are, as per the below examples display, focused on working with community groups across the Authority seeking to use heritage as a tool for regeneration and community cohesion.

Rhondda Radio Heritage Trail

When, some months ago, Rhondda Radio won a major grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop a Rhondda Heritage Trail and associated broadcast and audio archive, the support of Rhondda Cynon Taf Heritage and Outreach Services was absolutely crucial.

Not only did we receive a really helpful letter of support, but the whole ethos of our application was inspired by a number of discussions we were privileged to have with RCT's Heritage and Outreach team before submitting our bid, and especially by the guiding principle which they talked about of transforming heritage 'from nostalgia to relevance'.

I believe it was this idea which gave our bid its convincing coherence in the estimation of the NHLF and won the grant.

Since the award of the grant, RCT's Heritage and Outreach Services has continued to offer us a fantastic level of support, as a sounding board for our ideas, as a guarantor that our plans accorded with Council strategy and policy, and at a very practical level in determining where to locate the 'Heritage Stations' which are at the heart of our Project.

Operational Manager Darren Macey and the team could not have been more helpful in making themselves available on numerous occasions, and often at short or no notice, to give us advice, to pass on useful local contacts and for site meetings etc.

We are truly grateful to them.

Dr John Geraint

Project Overview

The **Rhondda Heritage Project** is funded by a major grant awarded to Rhondda Radio, the Valley's community radio station, by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The grant was secured with a letter of support from Rhondda Cynon Taf Heritage and Outreach Services, and we have been in constant dialogue with council officers, both before and since the award of the grant.

The Project has three interconnecting strands: a **physical Heritage Trail**; a **training programme** upskilling volunteers to identify and record oral testimony related to Rhondda's heritage; and a year-long 'festival' of **heritage programmes** which will be broadcast by Rhondda Radio in 2024, and available online in perpetuity.

The **training programme** is now complete, and more than 100 pieces of oral history have been recorded and prepared in audio form for broadcast and online publication.

Broadcasts of the weekly 'live' **heritage programmes** began on 3 January 2024. We are liaising with RCT's Heritage Project Co-ordinator to incorporate the online archive of our audio within a dedicated website which is being developed for the 'Altered Images' project.

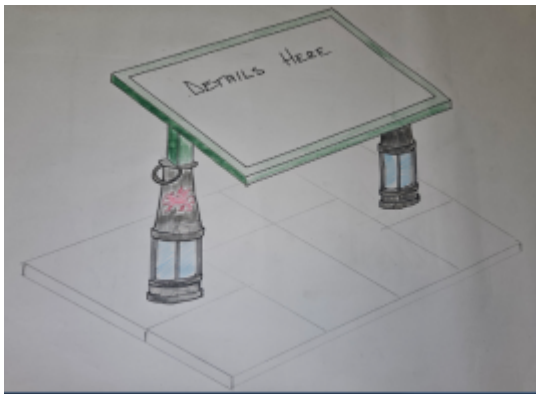
The **physical Heritage Trail** is intended to reconnect this iconic mining valley to its past. We are confident that it will prove to be an attractive, popular and educational feature, for both residents and visitors alike.

The Trail will be organised thematically with twelve 'Heritage Stations' at key locations throughout both Rhondda Valleys.

This document gives details of the proposed sites.

At each site, the Project will install an information board similar to many already in place throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf, but with a distinctive design element incorporated into the box section legs. At each site, the design of the legs will reflect a particular heritage theme, appropriate to the location.

The frames, including the box section legs, will be manufactured in stainless steel. Sitting atop the legs will be an aluminium panel measuring approximately 1200mm wide by 850mm (covered by 3mm sheet of acrylic for protection). This surface board



will carry fully bilingual information (in Welsh and English) specific to the site and a QR code linking to the online audio archive.

An impressionistic drawing of one of the information boards – the one intended for the Rhondda Heritage Park site – is pictured

here.

The design element on the legs is purely illustrative and will be varied from site to site. The following pages detail the suggested locations for the twelve 'Stations'.

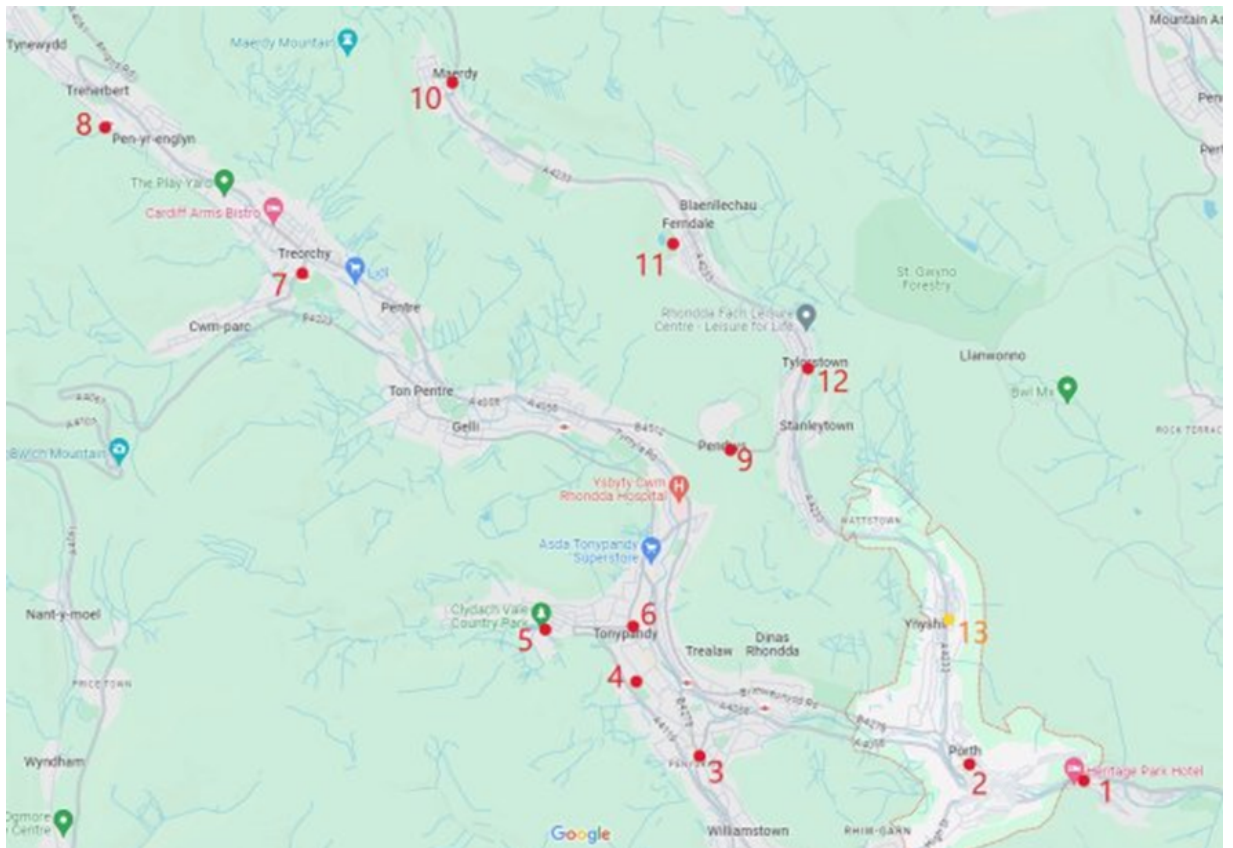
1. Rhondda Heritage Park Mining Museum at Trehafod
2. Porth Transport Hub
3. Soar Centre, Penygraig
4. Mid-Rhondda Athletic Field, Tonypandy
5. Cambrian Lakes, Clydach Vale
6. Pandy Square, Tonypandy
7. Treorchy Park and Dare Theatre
8. Welcome to the Woods, Treherbert
9. Penrhys Statue Car Park
10. Maerdy Gateway Miners' Memorial

11. Darran Park, Ferndale

12. Tylorstown Welfare Hall

Bonus station

13. Workers Gallery, Ynyshir (this will not be a physical structure, but an image displayed in the Gallery)



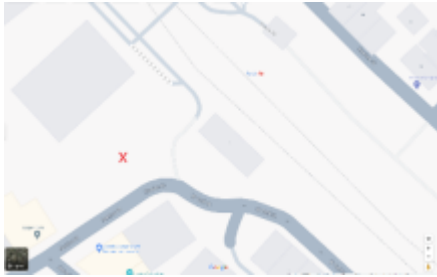
1. Rhondda Heritage Park Mining Museum at Trehafod



Off the public highway, adjacent to the main entrance doors of the Museum

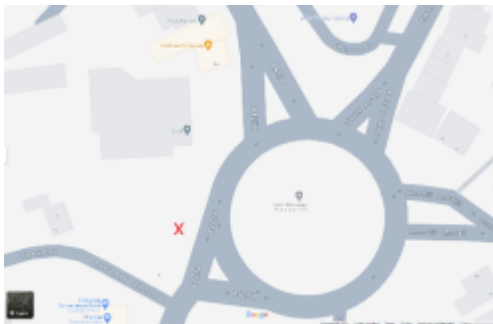
(exact location to be discussed)

2. Porth Transport Hub



On the 'island' outside the passenger terminal building

3. Soar Centre, Penygraig



Off the public highway, near the entrance gate, within the perimeter of the Valleys Kids property.

4. Mid-Rhondda Athletic Field, Tonypany



Off the public highway, within the perimeter of the Athletic Field.

(Exact location to be discussed)

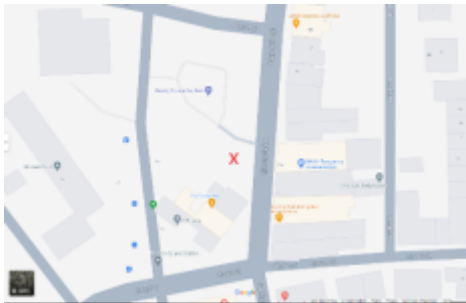
5. Cambrian Lakes, Clydach Vale



Off the public highway, within the Cambrian Village Trust site.

(Exact location to be discussed)

6. Pandy Square, Tonypany



Set back from the public highway, on the paved area next to the existing visitor information board.

7. Treorchy, Park and Dare Theatre



Set well back from the public highway, against the back or side wall of the existing open and paved seating area between the north-east side of the Theatre and the bridge over the river.

8. Welcome to the Woods, Treherbert



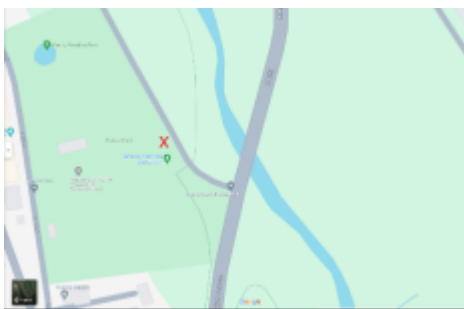
Off the public highway, on the Welcome To The Woods site, beyond the railway level crossing.

9. Penrhys Statue Car Park



On the grass verge, next to the existing visitor information board.

10. Maerdy Gateway Miners' Memorial



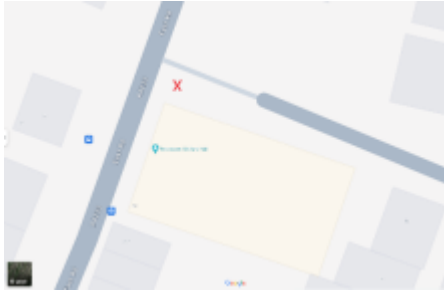
On the slightly flatter grass area uphill beyond the pit wheel and planters.

11. Darran Park, Ferndale



Near the entrance opposite Tudor Street, on the grass near the existing information board.

12. Tylorstown Welfare Hall



Over or behind the grey railings, so as not to obstruct the pathway.

Project outcomes include:

- Oral history recordings
- Educational output - education materials.

Mid Rhondda partnership

The Heritage Service are supporting several organisations writing an initial funding bid for £250,000 with the intension for a further bid of £4-5 million in 2027.

Tylorstown Welfare Hall

The Heritage Service are currently supporting a funding bid if £5 million.

Appendix 3.2

The following information gives an indication of the duties carried out by the Collections Manager.

Raising the care standards - National Museum of Wales Accreditation Status.

It was important that in 2018 at time when the management of Heritage transferred to Visitor Attractions that the change signified a change in direction and aspiration within the service.

Achieving a national standard of excellence had been discussed since the opening of Rhondda Heritage Park Museum in 1993 but had never achieved despite previous support from National Museums Wales.

In 2018, after working with advisors from the National Museum Service, significant work was undertaken, creating safeguarding systems and processes, which ensured that the Museum now operates to the highest of nationally recognised standards and once implemented were subject to a quality audit by NWS inspectors.

Rhondda Heritage Park achieved National Museum Accreditation status for the first time in 2018 and continues to maintain and retain this status.

Managing work of the Collections Manager consists of managing the three museum artefact collections based at Rhondda Heritage Park, Cynon Valley Museum and National Lido of Wales, consisting of over 34,155 artefacts.

Managing and maintaining the Rhondda Artefact Collection to National Museum Accreditation standards, and to ensure reaccreditation in 2025.

Undertaking a rationalisation programme to better improve the quality of the Rhondda Collection.

To work with the Cynon Valley Museum Trust in managing and presenting the artifacts of the Cynon Collection.

To provide guidance and support to public enquiries in relation to managing artefacts.

To develop volunteer opportunities in support undertaking maintenance and research of the Councils Collections.

Collections and Museum interpretation

Lead- Rhin Hall

The Rhondda Heritage Park Museum received Capital Transformation funding of £150,000 from the Welsh Government in March 2023 to upgrade the 'Black Gold' (coal history) exhibition and develop a digital exhibition space. This exhibition will consist of

touch screens containing interactive digital content (interpretation text in timeline and map formats, relevant images of objects from our collection, historical videos, and audio files) mirrored on to large TV screens. For example, one screen will cover the female experience of the 1984-85 miners' strike and feature portraits of the women and oral history interview files of their memories. Visitors will be able to interact with this in multiple inclusive ways, via multiple languages and BSL, which will improve access and understanding for current and new users.

Furthermore, the digital equipment will improve collections care practice by providing the opportunity to share digitised objects that cannot be displayed due to fragile condition, allowing access and preservation for future generations.

The digital format will improve the efficiency and speed of creating and manipulating content in a way that would be impossible with physical interpretation. This will also create endless opportunities to collaborate with regional and national museums and organisations by featuring their content and objects in the exhibition, or as part of events, workshops, and lectures.

Appendix 3.3

Following the transfer of management responsibilities of Rhondda Heritage Park Visitor Attraction in 2016, it was found that the infrastructure at the Council's main heritage visitor attraction was in desperate need of safeguarding and product development.

The Council's cabinet committed to safeguarding, preserving and developing the facility for its visitors and future generations, and a significant investment of £500k was undertaken in 2016/17, which resulted in significant improvements to both the visitor experience as well as safeguarding the facility's key heritage infrastructure.

This investment and subsequent improvements led to a significant increase in visitor numbers as well as a reduction in operational costs as indicated below, and the expectations are for this trend to continue.

In addition to reducing costs and increasing visitor numbers, the attraction benefits from superb customer feedback.

As part of the development, the introduction of cutting-edge technology was introduced as part of the guided tour, enhancing the visitors experience and presenting heritage in a new and interactive manner.

Temporary Exhibitions

This permanent exhibition space was designed in a manner that also created a temporary exhibition space at its centre. This space would enable the development of a range of temporary exhibitions that delve deeper into the subject matter and enable a celebration of the mining and community heritage in a wider sense.

Fourteen exhibitions have been produced so far and are displayed on a rotational/ seasonal basis in order that the heritage offer at the facility remain fresh for visitors, as indicated below.

1. Land of Bards and Singers
2. Miners Fortnight
3. Women of the Valleys
4. Wildlife and industry
5. Making Medicine
6. From Pit to Port
7. Education: A Class Act
8. Rhondda Remember
9. A Christmas Carol 2019
10. When war came to the Rhondda
11. Last Voices of Rhondda
12. Proud Valley
13. Hidden Voices
14. Lewis Merthyr Colliery 60th Anniversary

March 5th, 2024 sees the opening of an exhibition featuring the sights and sounds of the 1984-85 Miners' Strike. The exhibition features images taken by Richard Williams, a young photographer working for the Western Mail at the time. The photographs are combined with a soundscape that includes contemporary music, speeches, news reports and oral testimony created by former BBC producer John Geraint.

The Coal Society Exhibition area.

The creation of the Coal Society Exhibition area outlines the impacts that came with the creation of new communities including home life, religion, births deaths and marriages and unionism. The use of digital technologies again features throughout the exhibition space.

Current projects

The following outlines a range of the key projects that are currently being undertaken.

Safeguarding the Miner's story - Digitisation of guided tour

One of the biggest challenges that lay ahead in terms of customers and future generations getting to hear the real-life experiences of former colliers.

Due to the fact that the majority of Coal Mining finished in the early 1990's in South Wales, the vast majority of those who worked as miners are well beyond retirement age. The current tour guides age range from 65yrs - 82yrs of age.

Recruitment of former miners has proved almost impossible in recent years, and it is anticipated that we are likely to lose half our current staff to retirement within the next two years, and before the end of this decade there will be no former coal miners available to act as guides.

The Visitor Attractions service have embarked on an ambitious project to safeguard the precious heritage, by digitally capturing the existing guides delivering their tour, in a way that that will ensure that at the point in the near future when the last of our guides retire, we will still have the ability to ensure

that customers of the future will be able to digitally meet with, see, and listen to the experiences of our current guides, providing a very similar experience to that currently available, albeit through a self-led tour.

3.4 Memorialisation in RCT

Lead Rhiannon Seymour

The recently created post of Monuments and Memorials Officer has begun the process of cataloguing all the memorials, scheduled monuments, blue plaques and listed buildings within RCT.

The purpose of the role is to document all Monuments and Memorials, recording details of all listings, undertaking conditional surveys, producing long-term safeguarding maintenance processes, undertaking funding applications and also creating engagement and interpretational opportunities for residents and visitors and in particular working with armed services personnel, both serving and veterans along with Royal British Legion and other interested parties.

This year the Councils Cabinet has supported the creation of this new post, along with an additional £100k capital fund that will be used to undertake essential maintenance on Memorials, create community engagement projects and friends' groups in support of maintaining and celebrating memorials.

In addition, the creation of a dedicated website that will enable greater engagement, interpretation, and research opportunities for future generations.

Blue plaques

The Heritage Service works with a committee made up of representatives from our community, the Blue Plaque Committee. Applications are made directly to the Heritage Service who pass these on to the Blue Plaque Committee which sits biannually, April and October, to consider applications. All decisions regarding the recipients of Blue Plaques are made independently of the Heritage Service by this autonomous committee. Applications received between October and March are assessed in April, with those received between April and September assessed in

October. Each application is considered on its own merit as evidenced by any and all information provided to the committee.

Usually, the council fund four blue plaques per year but during September 2024 round, two plaques were tied. It was decided that, on this occasion, the council would fund an additional blue plaque to represent the views of the blue plaque committee.

The blue plaques funded during the last year are for:

Name of person plaque dedicated to	Date of person plaque dedicated to	Location of plaque	Date of unveiling	Information regarding person
Gwilym Elfed Davies	1913-1992	Stanleytown	14/10/2023	Lord and Baron of Penrhys Labour Party Cabinet Minister Advocate for mineworkers' rights Chair of Tylorstown Colliery N.U.M. Lodge
John Haydn Davies	1905-1991	Treherbert	21/10/2023	Headteacher, historian, and conductor of the Treorchy Male Choir
James Egan	1858-1916	Treforest	24/01/2024	A Rorke's Drift defender in the Anglo-Zulu war (22 nd -23 rd January 1879).
Keith Gregory	1936-2004	Pontygwaith	Waiting for date of unveiling	The Rhondda Valley's only apprentice cooper at Fernvale Brewery, Pont-y-Gwaith, in 1957

Ceridwen Brown	1896-1976	Aberdare	08/03/2024	Activist, campaigner, and community organiser
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To be considered for one of the four blue plaques the council fund a year, there is a set of criteria which must be met. The blue plaque officer will check this basic criterion before the application can be sent to the blue plaque committee - criteria outlined in table 1. Once it is determined these have been met, the blue plaque committee will take additional evidence into consideration to determine who has been successful. These applications are decided on twice a year (April and September). The monuments and memorials officer will then have to decide on the wording for the blue plaques, ensure this is translated, design the plaque, liaise with highways to ensure it is placed on the correct building at the correct time and liaise with the applicant to insure there is a successful unveiling event. The blue plaque coordinator will also ensure all relevant councillors are invited to the event.

Blue plaque type	Criteria
Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evident the person has completed work worthy of lasting recognition. - Prominent in a public sphere. - Deceased for at least 10 years. - Strong connection with the building/structure plaque is being placed on.
Place/ location/ building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be locally or nationally recognise as having special significance worthy of lasting recognition.
Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 10 years must have lapsed since the event. - Event must be demonstrably important on a local or national scale.

War memorials

The monuments and memorials officer has set up a programme ensuring all war memorials are visited and checked annually. This ensures any issues regarding the structure can be identified early.

Example

The Maerdy war memorial head was removed and required replacing. Due to the urgency in replacing the memorial and that unfortunately, no financial help was available from the war memorials trust the Authority has had to fully fund a replace memorial. A local stone mason is currently working on the memorials to ensure it is placed in Maerdy within the next couple of months.

Due to the work on memorialisation being predominately focussed on military personnel, there has been close collaborative work between the monuments and memorials officer and local veterans. The memorials officer regularly attends veterans meeting to discuss how they can work together to ensure memorials are protected. A group of volunteers from the veteran community, alongside the memorials officer, have begun cleaning the memorials within RCT. The volunteers focus of memorials where inscriptions have been obscured by mould. The volunteers use soft cleaning techniques to ensure there is no damage to the memorial. They also sand/ paint any metal railings and weed the area surrounding the memorial. For more technical issues, the memorial officer liaises with the trees department to cut back trees surrounding memorials and the highways department to repoint the area and replace slabs. It was during one of the cleaning sessions it was noticed the railings from Ynyshir cenotaph had been damaged. The memorials officer liaised with the highways department and replaced the railings with funding from the war memorials funding.

The primary focus of the monuments and memorials officer, regarding war memorials, is the war memorial digitisation project. This was launched in November 2023 with the aim to digitise all war memorials within RCT and provide each person with a base line level of information. This project is an extremely successful initiative with where there are almost 200 volunteers taking part. These volunteers range from school year groups to WI groups, and individuals. The role of the monuments and memorials officer is to project manage and fact check all the research. Two regular research groups have been set up in local libraries, school visits including object handling, and a guest speaker from the women's peace petition has been arranged for the volunteers.

Young archaeologist club

A monthly, free, archaeology club is run by the monuments and memorials officer. This club had been partly subsidised by the council of British archaeology, to ensure the club is free for participants. The club is open for participants aged 5-15 and each session focusses on a different archaeological theme each month. During the session participants will then complete a complimentary craft to take home. There are currently 15 participants who attend the club.

3.5 Education projects delivered at Rhondda Heritage Park Museum

Lead- Kathrin Lewis

A range of educational workshops are delivered by the Heritage team. The new Curriculum for Wales provides a real opportunity for both RHP and the Heritage team to significantly increase schools' engagement as the new curriculum is adopted within schools.

Range of school's workshops and loan box scheme.

List of school workshops & loan boxes

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. A Head for Heights | 11. Victorian Household |
| 2. Coal - A Titanic Story | 12. Victorian Schools |
| 3. Coal Scientists | 13. Meet the Romans |
| 4. Gallery Worksheet | 14. Tudor's |
| 5. Making a Miners' Helmet | 15. WWI |
| 6. Mrs Thomas' Washday | 16. WWII |
| 7. Rhondda Landscapes | 17. Mr Thomas' Day |
| 8. Rhondda Portraits | 18. Women's' Voices |
| 9. Tramroad Walk | 19. Paul Robeson |
| 10. Victorian Toys | |

'Pwll Back Cwm Rhondda: Virtual Interactive Coal Mine'.

Funded via a successful Heritage Lottery Fund application (£50,000) the first educational virtual reality mining experience in the UK. The VR mine consists of a valley vista, a lamp room, and an outside courtyard area. The drift mine itself

consists of over 200 meters of tunnels, which includes an interactive coalface, two horse stables, and five short educational films.

<https://www.visionfountain.com/virtualengagement-3d-vr/>

Project outcomes included:

- Educational materials- the VR Equipment is now offered to schools as a loan following a site visit to RHPM.

Technology and heritage engagement

Richard P Jones of Vision Fountain.

In our commitment to modernizing education and aligning with the evolving priorities of the Welsh curriculum, we embarked on a multifaceted approach to integrate virtual reality (VR) and 3D modelling into educational settings whilst collaborating with museums (namely Rhondda Heritage Park and Amgueddfa Cymru). Our initial extension and outreach efforts saw us bring VR experiences to various educational settings, including Zen Fest, local primary schools, youth groups, and additional learning needs (ALN) environments, as well as libraries in the valleys. Approximately 700 children were able to engage with virtual reality, with overwhelmingly positive feedback indicating its popularity among young people.

Building upon these outreach endeavours, our subsequent pilot program, in collaboration with RHS funded by GEM (Group for Education in Museums), further explored the potential of VR and 3D modelling in education. Engaging 40 young learners from year groups five and six, alongside five teachers, our program centered on Welsh paleontological history, emphasizing the concepts of "place" (cynefin) and the digital competency framework (Cymhwysedd digidol).

Through the "Welsh Fossil Library," students had the unique opportunity to immerse themselves in high-resolution 3D scans of Welsh fossils using Oculus Quest 2 headsets. Despite challenges such as age-related restrictions for VR usage and varying levels of technological familiarity among teaching staff, the program yielded promising results, highlighting the potential of XR technologies in enhancing learning outcomes.

However, alongside the successes emerged challenges and considerations. While VR offers an immersive and highly engaging educational tool, questions arise regarding its effectiveness compared to traditional teaching methods.

Moreover, there is a clear need to bolster digital competency among teachers and museum staff to fully leverage gaming technology and XR in education. Technical and operational challenges, such as managing VR headsets and ensuring software updates, underscore the importance of collaboration with third-party organizations to facilitate smooth operation. This could be overcome with an increase in capacity specifically with regard to provision and understanding of XR tech systems within schools and museum staff.

Looking ahead, there is a pressing need for further exploration of XR integration in education and the cultural sector, particularly to attract new and younger audiences. An expert in the field of XR on returning from Scotland estimated Wales to already be five years behind. We have found, almost universally, that the young love this technology and love to engage with it. Despite logistical constraints and funding challenges, we remain optimistic about the transformative potential of XR and virtual engagement in enriching educational experiences and fostering a deeper connection with our cultural heritage. Furthermore, virtual engagement offers huge potential for those who are geographically or physically isolated to engage with their culture. As we navigate the digital revolution, seizing these opportunities is paramount in addressing societal challenges and ensuring inclusive access to knowledge and learning. - ends

Vision Fountain have collaborated with Rhondda Heritage Services (RHS) on several Virtual Reality community-based projects.

See supporting documents - GEM Cymru Learning Support Grant funded project.

3.6 Heritage Strategy

The Heritage Services, working in collaboration with colleagues from the Libraries Services, have been successful in their application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund that will contribute towards the development of Heritage based activities across RCTCBC. The total project cost is approximately £250,000 and will look at the theme of Altered Images – How views of the past change over time and how understanding the past can challenge our assumptions about where we come from and how our communities developed.

A key 'Project Purpose' is the development of a formalised heritage strategy that will build upon both existing and new partnerships within the heritage and cultural sectors (£37,000).

The Heritage Service are currently in the process of creating a new Heritage Strategy.

Heritage strategy engagement

- Snap survey One (June- August 2023) – 87 responses. (See attached)
- Snap survey two (November – February) – 420 responses. (See attached)
- 'Bagsy: Between the Lines' Heritage and art sessions at Cynon Valley Museum, Rhondda Heritage Park Museum and Calon Taf Pontypridd.
- Craft of Arts sessions at Rhondda Heritage Park Museum. X 3
- Vision Fountain VR Schools and YEPS engagement sessions (See attached)

With several sessions still to run, over 700 residents with ages ranging from 10-94 years old have offered their opinions concerning the future of heritage in RCT.

3.7 Inclusive heritage

Building on our previous projects we strive to work with and represent all sections of our community.

We're collaborating with Myya Helm, Cardiff University Postgraduate Researcher, 2022 British Marshall Scholar. Who is currently creating a database of Black colliers who worked across South Wales from 1861-1980. This database forms part of her comparative PhD research "Beneath the Surface: A Case Study on Migration, Labour, and the Legacy of Black Coal Miners in West Virginia and South Wales,"

which explores the untold stories of Black workers in two areas rich with coal mining heritage.

Her objectives are,

- to investigate the historical and socio-economic factors influencing the migration of Black coal miners.
- to analyse the working conditions, labour dynamics, and community life of Black coal miners.
- And to understand the lasting impact and enduring legacy of Black coal miners on local histories and cultural memory.



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/24

CLIMATE CHANGE, FRONTLINE SERVICES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PROW)

4 MARCH 2024

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT, IN
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNCILLOR
MARK NORRIS**

AUTHOR: Jason Bragg

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members of the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on Public Rights of Way work within the County Borough.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Scrutinise the information contained in the report; and,
- 2.2 Consider whether they wish to scrutinise specific areas of Public Rights of Way work.

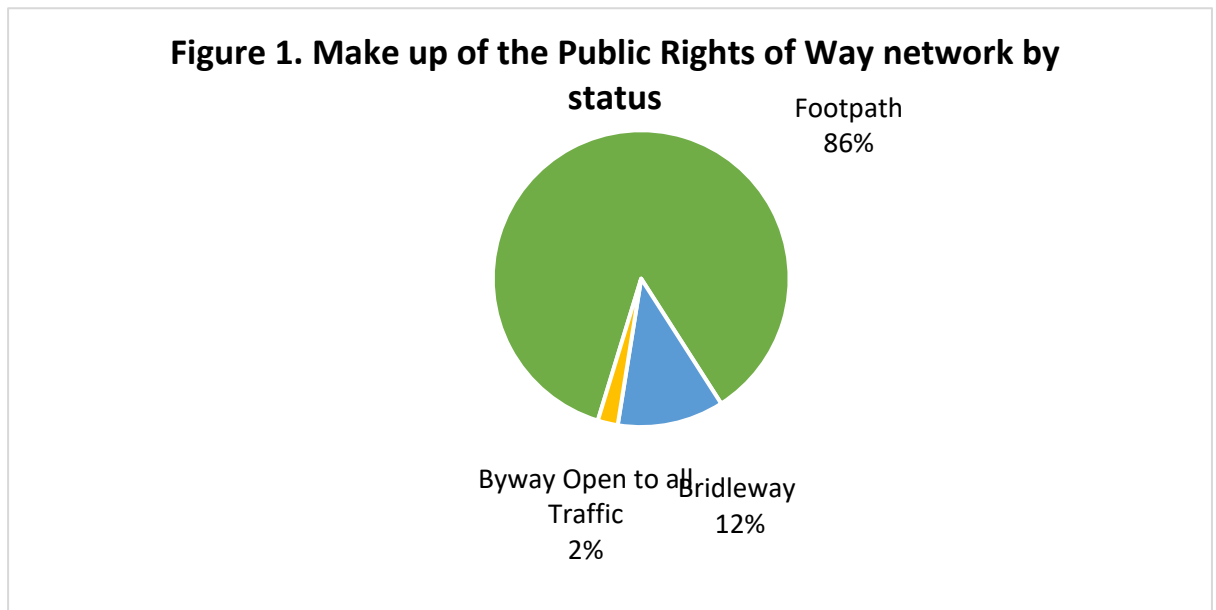
3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A Public Right of Way (PRoW) is a specific route registered on the Definitive Map and Statement under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. It is a path or way over which the public have the right to pass and re-pass.

3.2 There are three different statuses of PRow present in the County Borough:

- Public footpaths that are for pedestrians only.
- Public bridleways that are for pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists.
- Byways open to all traffic (BOAT) that can be used by pedestrians, horse riders, cyclists and motor vehicles (but they must be taxed, insured, have a MoT and used by a licensed driver)

3.3 The PRow network looked after by the Council consists of 758 kilometres of PRow, and approximately 86% of that is public footpath.

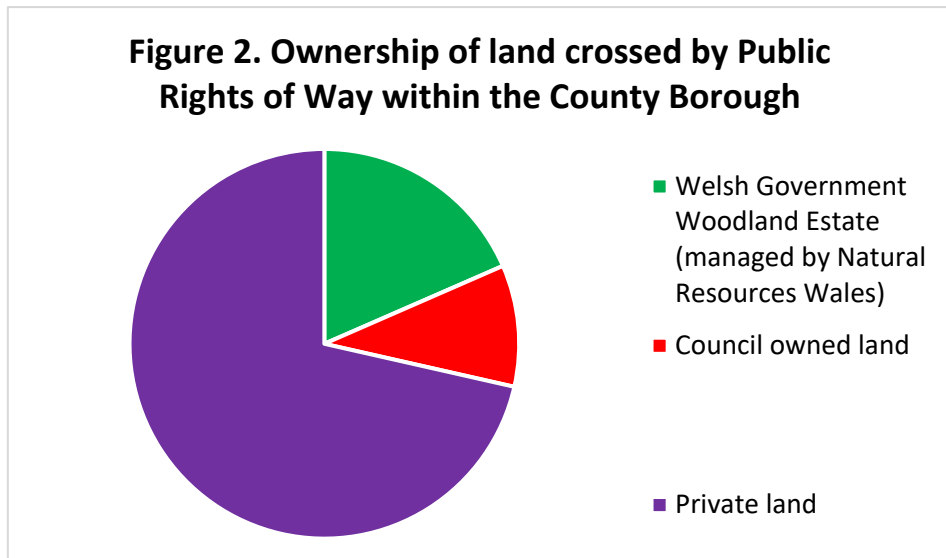


3.4 There are number of permissive paths in County Borough that are not PRow, but instead a path (which are for walkers, horse riders, cyclists, or any combination) whose use by the public is allowed by the landowner.

3.5 The Council's interactive map shows PRow recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement, in addition to any legal authorised changes to Public Rights of Way. It is available for the public to view online ([RCT CBC Maps](#)). It is intended to be used only for leisure purposes and is not suitable for checking the legality of PRow lines.

3.6 It is worth noting that a significant proportion of PRow cross privately-owned land and that both land owners and occupiers and the Council have a shared statutory responsibility to maintain Public Rights of Way as open, accessible, and safe for public use.

Figure 2. Ownership of land crossed by Public Rights of Way within the County Borough



- 3.7 PRow are a valuable public resource giving people access to the countryside, parks, open space, local shops. The popularity of the path network and its importance for physical and mental health was highlighted during the Council's consultation on the draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan in 2018, and more recently, during the COVID pandemic where we saw a huge increase in use.

OUT & ABOUT 2': THE RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (ROWIP)

- 3.8 The Council's ROWIP is a 10-year strategic document that sets out how the Council intends to work with others to help manage and improve the PRow network to make it more useful for the public. The current ROWIP, 'Out & About 2' has been drawn up in accordance with the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and takes account of guidance published by the Welsh Government. It was adopted by the Council in April 2019.

- 3.9 Monitoring meetings of the ROWIP are held periodically to report on the progress towards the objectives under the Statement of Action (section 5 of the ROWIP) and to consider the detail of the annual Delivery Plan.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

- 3.10 In 2010, the Council commissioned Exegesis, a spatial data management company, to create a Countryside and Access Management System (CAMS) for the Council. CAMS is a complete database and map management system for PRow. As part of the project, the company undertook a full condition survey of the PRow network and produced a digital working copy of the Definitive Map. CAMS holds detailed path inventories, condition survey data, a record of legal changes, a record of maintenance issues, and it is used to generate practical work programmes. CAMS has been used to manage and maintain the PRow network since 2011 to help the Council fulfil its statutory obligations.

- 3.11 CAMS has become an increasing integral system in managing all remits of PRow work, in turn helping improve the accuracy of PRow data, the

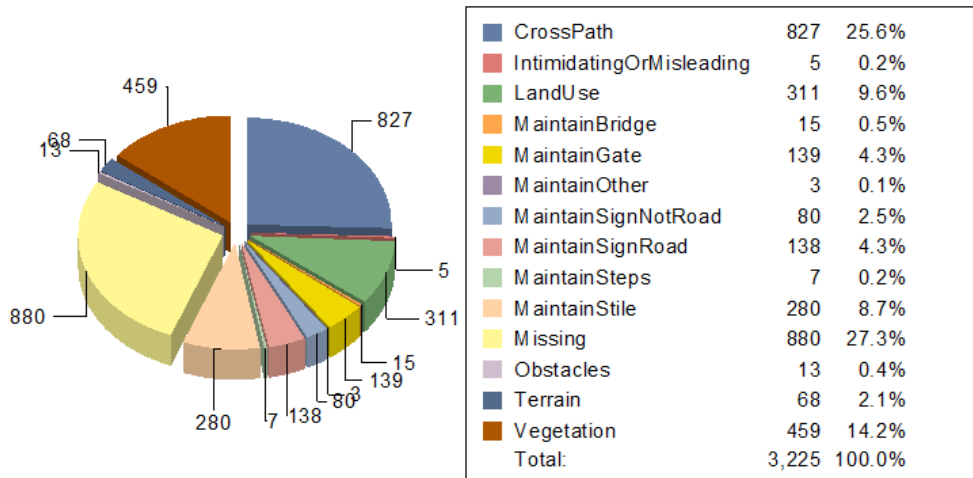
management and maintenance of the PRow network, to target improvements and resources, and to monitor progress.

- 3.12 The size of the PRow network in RCT is vast and significant resources would be required to keep up to date with all maintenance and enforcement issues. As such, there is currently a backlog of cases which are yet to be investigated and/or resolved. We have limited data on the usage and current condition of the full network and as such we rely on reports from the public, user groups and community councils and the findings from Officer investigations to develop practical work programmes which are then prioritised based on Health & Safety, public interest and benefit.
- 3.13 As can be seen from the data, a large proportion of obstructions relate to 'cross-path' and 'land use' issues. Many of these will be substantial (i.e. of considerable size, importance or worth and requiring major engineering works to remove or to reinstate public passage) and longstanding. In such a case, the land owner or occupier will have the opportunity to apply for the path to be diverted satisfactorily instead.
- 3.14 Many PRow cross privately-owned land, which can complicate maintenance as the ranger team and our contractors frequently need to arrange site access (to a potentially remote location) with a land owner or occupier in order to carry out essential maintenance or improvement works to a PRow. However, over the years, the Ranger Team has built longstanding relationships with many landowners and occupiers. Most works carried out on privately-owned land often requires landowner consent and is often the outcome of either enforcement action or the product of negotiations with landowners, which can be a timely process.
- 3.15 The Council continues to operate maintenance agreements with three community councils (Llanharan, Llantrisant and Pontyclun) to assist with the maintenance of footpaths in their areas. Additionally, the Council operates a delegated agreement with the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority relating to our Public Rights of Way within the Park Authority area. The Park Authority is responsible for delivery of all Public Rights of Way functions until the agreement is terminated by either authority.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION/UPDATES

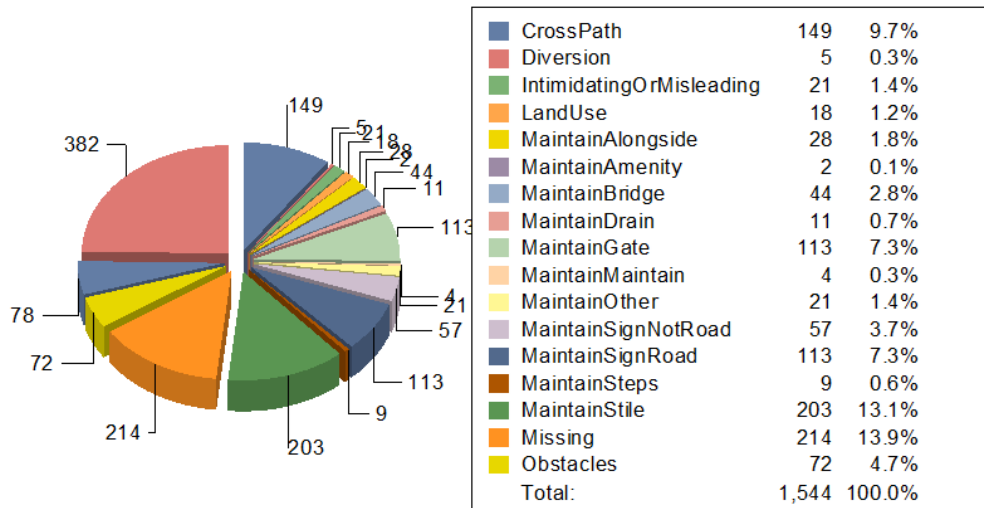
- 4.1 The Countryside Section has continued to invest in CAMS and receives external technical support to maintain and update it.
- 4.2 During the full condition survey carried out in 2010/11, 3225 issues were picked up and recorded on CAMS.

Figure 3. Issues type across the PRow network recorded from the full condition survey



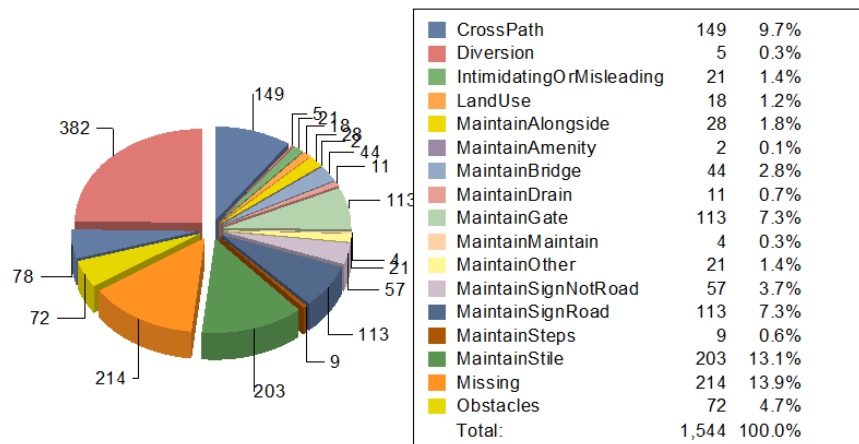
4.3 Since the completion of the survey in the summer of 2011, a further 1315 issues have been logged as of 01 January 2024.

Figure 4. Issues type across the PRow network added post survey

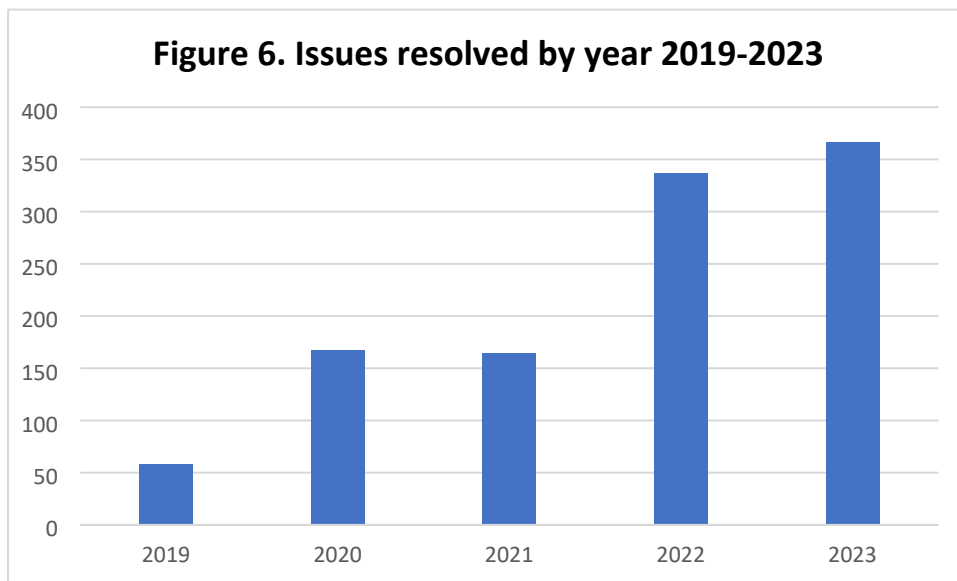


4.4 A total of 1,544 issues have been 'resolved' as of 01 January 2024.

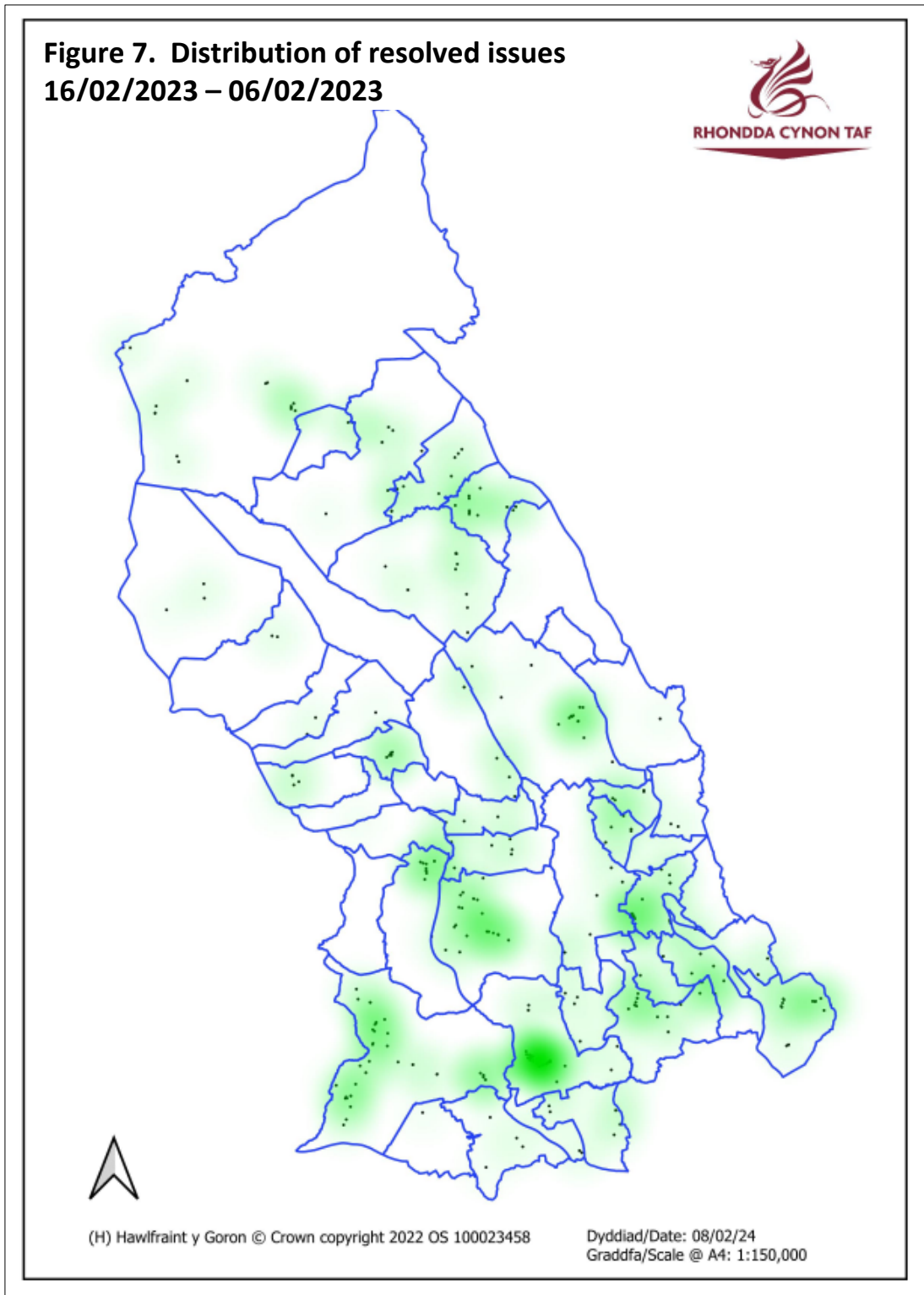
Figure 5. Resolved issues type across the PRow Network



4.5 A total of 366 CAMS issues were resolved in 2023, more than any previous year.



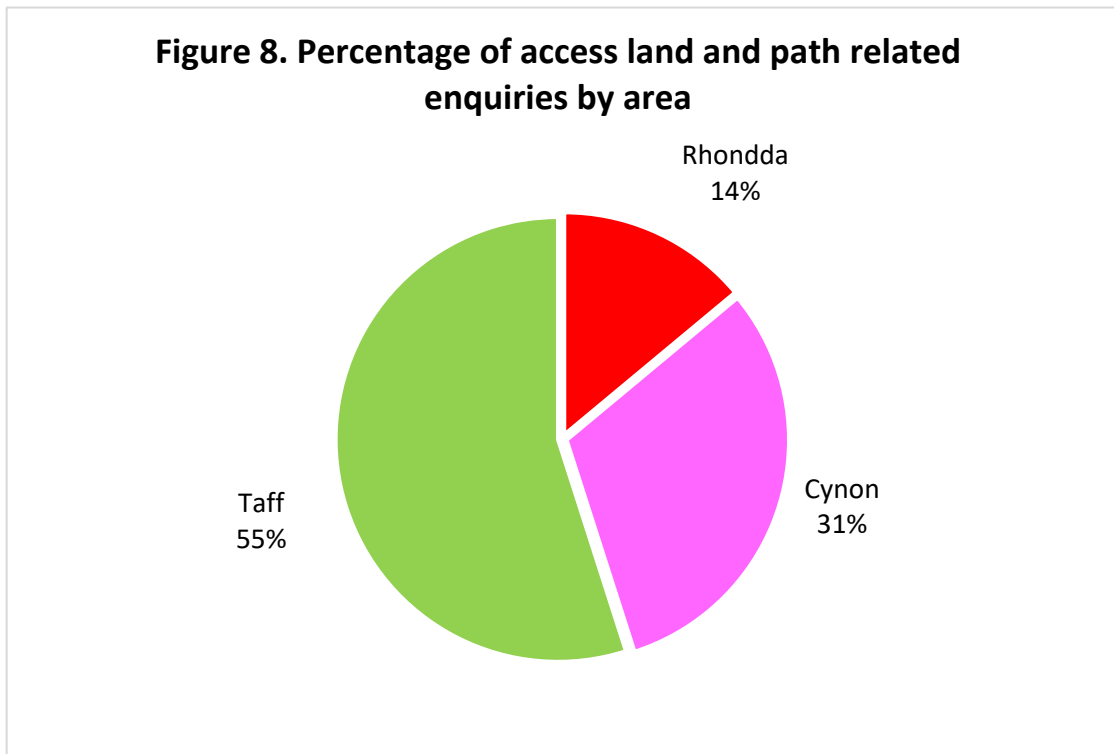
4.6 The heat map below (Figure 7) shows the geographic distribution of CAMS issues which were resolved between 16 February 2023 (the date of the previous Scrutiny Committee) and 06 February 2023.



VOLUME OF CUSTMER ENQUIRIES

4.7 In 2023, the Countryside Section investigated 389 customer enquiries. 293 related to PRow, alleged rights of way or access land and 56 related to permissive paths. (The figure stated only includes enquiries logged as CRMs on the Council’s Customer Services management system.)

- 4.8 Over half of all access land and path related enquiries were generated from the Taf Ely area of RCT.



TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS

- 4.9 A Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) is a legal process used to implement temporary restrictions e.g. closure to a road, footway or a PRow in the interests of public safety. TTROs can be in place for one day up to 6 months for PRow, and extensions can be sought from Welsh Government. Also, the Council has the power to close a road, footway or a PRow with immediate effect for up to 5 or 21 days by way of Emergency Notice.
- 4.10 There are currently 21 closures in operation on the PRow network. In 2023, 15 TTROs and 6 emergency closures were processed, and 37 TTRO extensions were requested from Welsh Government.
- 4.11 10 closures alone are in connection with major infrastructure schemes, which has resulting in major disruption to the PRow network. Key community links affected by the A465 Heads of the Valleys widening works includes the Cynon Trail (using Footpaths 3 Penywaun and 23 Hirwaun) which is a designated Active Travel Route and part of the National Cycle Network. Significant railway infrastructure upgrades to transform the Core Valley Lines, such as works to install overhead line equipment and modify level crossings and bridges, has impacted to varying degrees, all PRow interactions with the railway.
- 4.12 Approval is being sought to increase the charge to applicants for processing TTRO applications to ensure the Council recovers advertisement costs and other costs associated with making of a TTRO.

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDERS

- 4.13 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 ('WCA 81') places a duty on the Council to keep the Definitive Map and Statement (DMS) under continuous review and to modify the records by the making of Definitive Map Modification orders (DMMOs).
- 4.14 A DMMO may be applied for by any person wishing to claim a new PRoW, re-classify or delete an existing one. The Council maintains a register of duly made DMMO applications and deals with them in accordance with the Council's adopted Policy Guidelines for determining claims under section 53 of the Wildlife Countryside Act 1981. However, the duty to make a DMMO is sometimes not triggered by an application but is triggered by the discovery of evidence which when considered with all other available relevant evidence shows that an Order should be made.
- 4.15 There are currently 5 on-going DMMO cases. A summary of the live cases is shown in the tables below. The DMMO application cases have been prioritised under the adopted Policy Guidelines.

Figure 9. DMMO application cases

Reference	Location	Intended Effect	Status
A763/3/54	Pond Place/Morgan Row to Bleanant-y-groes Road, Cwmbach	PRoW addition	Order made - Awaiting PEDW decision
A763/3/55	St John's Street, Aberdare	PRoW addition	Decision yet to be made
A763/3/56	Footpath 21 Aberdare/The to Dare Valley Country Park	PRoW addition	Investigation on-going

Figure 10. Non-application DMMO cases

Reference	Location	Intended Effect	Status
PON/111	Footpath 111 Pontypridd	PRoW addition	Decided - Order to be made
ANT/341	Footpath 341 Llantrisant	PRoW deletion (Part)	Decided - Order to be made

PUBLIC PATH ORDERS

- 4.16 The Council has discretionary powers to permanently divert or stop up Public Rights of Way (footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways other than byways open to all traffic) by a legal process known as a Public Path Order.
- 4.17 PPOs for planning purposes are made under the provision of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. PPOs for any other purpose are made under the provisions of the Highways Act 1980.
- 4.18 Upon receipt of a complete application, the Council will consult with key stakeholders to gauge opinion on the proposal.
- 4.19 Before deciding to make an Order, the Council must be satisfied that the legal tests relevant to the particular type of Order can be satisfied. If an Order is made and objections are received and not withdrawn, the Council may decide to refer it to Planning and Environment Decision Wales for a final decision.
- 4.20 A summary of the current PPO cases is shown in the table below. This includes proposals from Transport for Wales/Amey Infrastructure Wales to stop up or divert 3 footpath level crossings along the Core Valley Lines due to the increased safety risks associated with the railway infrastructure upgrades /electrification.

Figure 10. PPO cases

Path Code	Intended Effect	Reason	Status
Footpath 94 Caerphilly (Portabello Level Crossing - CVL)	Railway Crossing Extinguishment	In the interests of the safety of those using or likely to use the crossing due to the electrification of the Core Valley Lines.	Opposed Order confirmed by PEDW.
Footpath 27 P- S-M	Diversion	In the interests of the landowner	Order confirmed
Footpath 21 Llanharan	Diversion	Residential Development	Order confirmed
Footpath 314 Llantrisant	Diversion	Residential development	Order made
Footpath 20 Llanharan (Trenos Level Crossing - South Wales Main Line)	Railway Crossing Diversion onto new multi-user bridge	In the interests of the safety of those using or likely to use the crossing	Decided – Order to be made
Footpath 48 Llantwit Fardre	Extinguishment (Part)	Residential Development	Decided – Order to be made

Footpath 22 Mountain Ash (Glenboi Level Crossing - CVL)	Railway Diversion Order onto new footbridge	In the interests of the safety of those using or likely to use the crossing due to the electrification of the Core Valley Lines.	Decided – Order to be made
Footpath 21 Mountain Ash (Bruce's Upper Level - CVL)	Railway Diversion Order onto new footbridge	In the interests of the safety of those using or likely to use the crossing due to the electrification of the Core Valley Lines.	Decision yet to be made
Footpath 9 Tylorstown	Diversion	Development – Tylorstown Tip Remediation	Decision yet to be made
Footpath 17 Llanharan	Extinguishment (Part)	No longer needed for public use	Decision yet to be made
Footpath 47 Pontypridd	Extinguishment (Part)	No longer needed for public use	Commence pre- order consultation
Footpath 223 Llantrisant	Diversion	Development	Applicant amending proposal

- 4.21 Consideration is being given to increase the charge to applicants, but this time in respect of PPO applications, to ensure the Council recovers advertisement costs and other costs related to the making of PPOs.

RHONNDA CYNON TAF LOCAL ACCESS FORUM (LAF)

- 4.22 Part I of the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act) requires the Council to appoint a Local Access Forum to advise the Council, Natural Resources Wales and other bodies about making improvements to public access for outdoor recreation and sustainable travel in the Council's area. These bodies must, by law, have regard to relevant advice given by the Forum.
- 4.23 Following a recruitment drive in 2022/3, the Forum's sixth term began in March 2023; 5 full meetings of the Forum have taken place since.
- 4.24 The Forum meets at least twice-a-year, and the membership is balanced to reflect the concerns of local farmers and land managers, as well as the interests of recreational users in the countryside.
- 4.25 The Forum assists with the implementation of *'Out & About 2': The Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf 2019-2029* and considers a wide range of issues and advises on improvements to public access for open air recreation and enjoyment in the Council's area, including PRow and the right of access to open country and registered common land. The Forum will

consider all forms of access, horse riding, cycling and off-road driving, and not just access on foot. The exact nature of this work is decided upon by the LAF itself, in agreement with the Council.

- 4.26 To date, the Forum's work has been focussed on their Annual Report and compiling a Directory of groups and organisations in the County Borough with the specific aim of improving physical health and wellbeing through outdoor recreation. The Forum will be mobilising to input into the revised Local Development Plan once the consultation on the preferred strategy opens.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY COUNCIL WEBPAGES

- 4.27 The new PRoW webpages have been launched on the Council website. A more user-friendly layout and updated content are intended to make it easier to find advice and information on PRoW and report issues.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY SEARCHES

- 4.28 During 2023, the Countryside Section dealt with 27 commercial search requests which are subject to a professional fee. These are in addition to the search requests processed via the Council's central Local Land Charges search system.

THE GREAT GLAMORGAN WAY PROJECT

- 4.29 Originally set up as the Green Trails project with the support of Welsh Government's Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being (ENRaW) Grant funding, the project has been rebranded the Great Glamorgan Way. It was developed by the Vale of Glamorgan in collaboration with Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf with the specific aim of expanding the bridleways of the South-Central Wales Region to create a new regional trail ideal for long distance mountain biking and horse riding. ENRaW funding for the project ended in June 2023 and no comparative alternative sources of funding has been identified to continue the project in County Borough. Nevertheless, a dedicated project team is still employed by the Vale of Glamorgan to roll out and promote the project across the five counties, and the Countryside Section continue to support the project where possible as it is considered a major asset for tourism and outdoor recreation within County Borough.

- 4.30 The new Great Glamorgan Way website has been launched in which it promotes several routes within the County Borough.

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME UPDATES

- 4.31 Devil's Bridge replacement carrying Footpath 17 Llantwit Fardre was opened on 09 February 2024.



(Photograph supplied by Transport for Wales/Amey Infrastructure)

- 4.32 Penydarren Trampoad bridge carrying Footpath 35 Aberdare opened in October 2023 following its restoration. A4059 underpass which forms part of the same path was renovated as part of the scheme.



Tuesday, 17 October 2023
Rhondda Cynon Taff



Tuesday, 17 October 2023
Rhondda Cynon Taff

4.33 New multi-user bridge constructed over the new A465 road carrying the Cynon Trail and National Cycle Route 46 using Footpath 23 Hirwaun, opened in April 2023.



(Photograph supplied by Future Valleys Construction)

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENTS

4.34 Examples of paths and sites which have been improved and made more accessible by the Countryside Section can be viewed on the [PRoW](#) webpages.

5.0 INVESTMENT STRATEGY

5.1 The Welsh Government has awarded the Council funding over three years to make access improvements to Public Rights of Way and open access land: £63,241 in 2022/23, £77,639 in 2023/24, and £77,639 in 2024/25.

5.2 An additional one-off £60,000 has been invested in Public Rights of Way infrastructure from Council capital funding. The budget is supporting the main Public Rights of Way revenue.

5.3 £42,000 was granted to the Council as part of the ENRaW grant funded Cwm Taf Nature Network project to make access improvements at specific Countryside Section managed sites before the expiration of the project in June 2023.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

6.1 The report is for information purposes as such there are no negative or adverse equality or diversity implications associated with this report.

7.0 CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

7.1 There are no consultation implications aligned to this report.

8.0 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 This report is for information purposes as such a Welsh Language Impact Assessment is not required.

9.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

9.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

10.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

11.1 LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/SIP

11.1. The well-being objectives set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015; the Council's Corporate Plan, and Out & About 2: The Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf 2019-2029.

12.0 STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS

12.1 The Public Rights of Way network is of strategic importance across the whole of RCT.

13.0 CONCLUSION

13.1 Members scrutinise the contents of the report and agree that further Public Rights of Way updates are provided on an annual basis.