

# WELCOME TO RCT TOGETHER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM NEWSLETTER

ISSUE: 03  
Q3 OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023



RCT Together | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council  
([rctcbc.gov.uk](http://rctcbc.gov.uk))

## Content:

Resident Support, Community Resilience Hubs, and Neighbourhood Networks - Page 2

Community Asset Transfers – pages 3 - 4

Funding & Resources – page 5 - 7

Age Friendly Communities – page 8

Upcoming Events - page 9

Contact Details – page 10

# Resident Support & Assistance



Residents of RCT can ask for support when they need it most at any time. Community Co-ordinators engage with trusted partners from the Community Support Steering Group and local community groups and organisations who can help. Anyone can ask for support at any time, either for themselves or some-one they know by completing the simple online form here: [Resident Support | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council \(rctcbc.gov.uk\)](http://rctcbc.gov.uk)

So far this year the team have received **846** individual requests for support.

Residents requested help with:

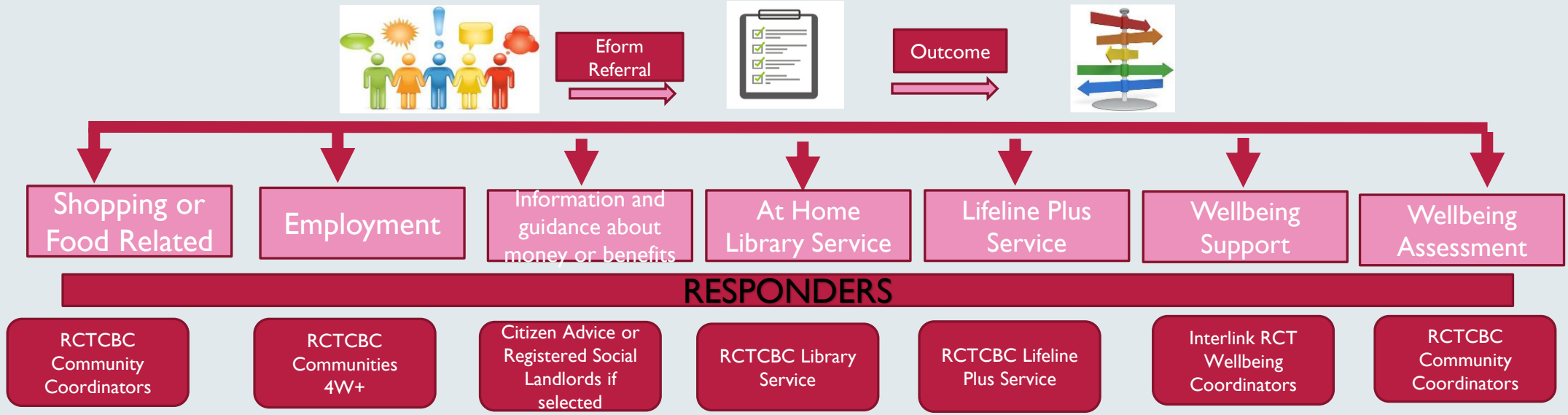
Food or food related support – 605

Information and guidance about money or benefits – 219

Received one-off supermarket voucher – 210

Fuel Vouchers - 14

## Pathway for Resident Support – How it Works:



## Community Resilience Hubs, Neighbourhood Networks

During Quarter 3 a total of 22 Neighbourhood Network meetings have taken place with 176 community groups and organisations represented from across RCTCBC.

# Community Asset Transfers

## HWB CANA



October 2021                      October 2023  
Ymddiriedolaeth Adfywio Meysydd Gŵ  
Coalfields Regeneration Trust  
wales@coalfields-regen.org.uk  
01495 367680

Ymddiriedolaeth Adfywio Meysydd Gŵ  
Coalfields Regeneration Trust

### HWB CANA

Open Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm

**WHAT IS AVAILABLE?**

- Affordable loans, ethical savings and fair banking support from Smart Money Cymru Community Bank
- Free use of IT and Wi-Fi
- Support to people impacted by cancer
- Information, support and training
- Photocopying and scanning services
- Room hire

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

wales@coalfields-regen.org.uk  
01495 367680

One Community Asset Transfer completed this quarter with a long term lease agreed for Lee Gardens Pool Group who will now manage **Penrhawceiber OAP Welfare Hall.**

The group have successfully levered in circa £86,000+ of capital funding to refurbish the hall and car park area, with work due to complete by 31/3/24



## Spotlight on.... “Hwb Cana” - Penywaun

Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) secured the freehold of the former Cana Centre (Penywaun) back in 2021.

Since then, they have levered in capital funding of £346,000+ to transform the centre which was officially re-opened on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023 as a **Skills and Training Centre**. CRT continue to engage and consult the community to help shape future courses and services available from the Hwb.

<https://www.facebook.com/HwbCanaPenywaun/>

They have also secured 3 long term tenants 1) **Smart Money Cymru Community Bank** 2) **CRT Together - Improving the Cancer Journey** and 3) **Tower Colliery** all offering a diverse range of services to help meet the needs of residents in Peynwaun.

The group advised positives was the support received from both the RCT Together Team and Corporate Estates who understood the process and challenges and were on hand for support and guidance.

Challenges have included timescales, increased refurbishment costs post covid, grant funding being paid in arrears and delays in installing the lift to make the building accessible.

CRT were fortunate to receive funding from UKG Community Ownership Fund, Welsh Government Community Facilities Programme, Pen Y Cymoedd Windfarm Fund and UKG Shared Prosperity Funding – RCT Community Grant along with a generous donation of furniture and IT equipment from General Dynamic UK

See video link to Vikki Howells MS and Jane Hutt – Social Justice Minister discussing the impact of re-opening Hwb Cana in Penywaun

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=199883826218112>

This quarter we have advertised 2 surplus Council assets for potential Community Asset Transfer via the 30 Day Window of Opportunity Process [Buildings - Asset transfer opportunities](#)

- 1) **Llantwit Fardre Leisure Centre** and
- 2) **Cambrian Avenue Community Centre** in Gilfach Goch.

5 Expressions of Interest were received in total for the both sites and key organisations have been invited to the next stage to submit costed and evidenced business cases by April 2024.

This quarter the team received 40 enquiries for information and support. Staff engaged with 49 community groups and facilitated 74 meetings. 52 CAT enquiries are ongoing. 11 enquiries for support have been completed & closed. 4 CAT Monitoring visits have taken place

To see more examples of successful Council Community Asset Transfers please click on the link to the RCT Together CAT webpage [Successful Transfers](#)



**Spotlight on....**  
**“Friends of Cap Coch Primary”**

Secured UKG Shared Prosperity Funding to create a Community Garden. The volunteers worked with Customer Dealership Services in Motonovo Finance Cardiff ‘to give back to the community’ by volunteering to prepare the ground ready for laying the foundations for raised planters.

In September 2023 Landscapes for Learning began the work of renovating and creating the outdoor learning and planting pod. Work begins in early 2024 by Keep Wales Tidy and parent volunteers for the final stages of our community garden. Keep Wales Tidy provided £9000 of match funding for the Community Garden. We are hoping to have our grand opening at the end of March 2024.



**Spotlight on....**  
**“Valley Veterans”**

In addition to Valley Veterans (Rhondda) current activities, the group have secured Welsh Church Act Funding of circa £46,000 to construct a Menage horse training area adjacent to their current community land. The development includes land preparation, drainage systems, fencing and surface area, and provides an exciting opportunity for the group to be able to allow residents access to equestrian-related facilities and therapy services which will benefit members and the wider community.

Valley Veterans Sectary said “I cannot express my gratitude to all in RCTCBC who supported us in receiving this news, thank you all for your help and support to us throughout this process. Of all the grant funding we have received, this one means the most as it will enable us to fulfil one of our members dreams of creating an equine area”.

Work has now started on the land – watch this space!



## Funding & Resources - Grants



### UKG Shared Prosperity Fund – RCTCBC Community Grant



To Date 18,824 more RCT residents engaged with community support or activities because of UKG Shared Prosperity RCTCBC Community Grant Funding awarded

### UKG Shared Prosperity Fund – RCTCBC Community Grant – Round 3



3 Community Engagement events hosted by Interlink RCT, were held in January 2024 with over 206 registered individuals/community groups attending.



**Round 3 – opens on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024, for 2024-2025 project.** [UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund RCTCBC Community Grant | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council](#)



### WG Period Dignity in Communities Grant – OPEN

Contact the team to receive free Period Dignity Bundles and attend an information workshop

[rcttogether@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:rcttogether@rctcbc.gov.uk)

**Food Support Grant - Currently OPEN for applications.**

[rcttogether@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:rcttogether@rctcbc.gov.uk)

**Contact the Team for More Information**

[rcttogether@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:rcttogether@rctcbc.gov.uk)

[spfrcctbccommunitygrant@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:spfrcctbccommunitygrant@rctcbc.gov.uk)

**FFYNIANT  
— BRO —**

**LEVELLING  
— UP —**



**UK Government Wales  
Llywodraeth y DU Cymru**



# Funding & Resources - Grants

## RCTCBC Cost of Living Support Scheme

### Community Facilities Support Grant –

community-based facilities which are run by not-for-profit organisations known to the team, and who provide a combination of activities and/or sporting activities have been contacted to apply for £540 – 90 groups have benefited so far.

**Winter Welcome Centres – 86** currently open across RCTCBC offering residents:

- A safe, warm space
- Free hot food and drinks
- Winter Warm packs
- A place to charge mobile devices.

Winter Hardship Fund to support WWCs - Total funding provided to Community Organisations - **£111,228.**

- [Winter Welcome Centres | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council \(rctcbc.gov.uk\)](https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/winter-welcome-centres)

CANOLFANNAU  
**Croeso** YN Y GAEAF

WELCOME  
WINTER  
CENTRES

CANOLFAN GROESO  
Y GAEAF YDW I. FE  
GEWCH CHI  
GROESO CYNNES  
IAWN. DEWCH I  
MEWN AM BANED,  
SGWRS A MWY.

I'M A DESIGNATED  
WINTER WELCOME  
CENTRE. YOUR  
WARM WELCOME  
AWAITS. COME IN  
FOR CUPPA, SNACK,  
A CHAT AND MORE.

HELPU I GADW PAWB YN GYNNES  
AC YN DDIOGEL Y GAEAF YMA.  
HELPING TO KEEP RCT RESIDENTS  
WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER.

WWW.RCTCBC.GOV.UK/CANOLFANNAU.CROESO.YN.GAEAF  
WWW.RCTCBC.GOV.UK/WINTER.WELCOME.CENTRES

RHCT GYDA'N GILYDD  
HELPU CYMUNEDAU I FEYNNU

RCT TOGETHER  
SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES TO THRIVE

RHONDDA CYNON TAF





# Funding and Resources - Continued



## Sustainable Food Places – Bronze Award

The RCT Food Partnership achieved the National Sustainable Food Places Bronze Award during November 2023.

A celebration event for the Bronze Award will take place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 10am – 1pm at Bryncynon Community Revival Strategy.

New Sustainable Food Coordinator now in post. Please contact Rhiannon [Rhiannon.Edwards1@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:Rhiannon.Edwards1@rctcbc.gov.uk) for further information.

## Gilfach Goch Community Facility

### Sustainable Food Places – Revamping the Food Offer

Continues to provide an average of 150 subsidised two-course meals per week to residents aged 50+.

Activities run daily from the venue including bingo, sewing, crochet, pilates, men's social group, Adult Community Learning & a Winter Welcome Centre

On the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 75 residents attended the Christmas Lunch with pupils from Tonyrefail Community Schools attending to provide entertainment.





# Age Friendly Communities

(World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Network)



## Community Dementia Programme Fund

Grants of up to £2000 were made available under a pilot project to a small sample of invited groups for a range of activities which are supportive of dementia prevention.

Activities are now up and running in communities across RCT and 51 new Dementia Friends have been created because of the pilot

## Local Toilets Strategy

Following Cabinet approval in Autumn 2023, the revised Local Toilet Strategy is now being implemented with plans in place for increased promotion of available facilities including user friendly mapping on our website

## Changing Place – Maerdy Community Centre

The Community Changing Place has been installed and available for public use.

## RCTCBC Dementia e-learning module

Corporate Induction delivered to 180 new Council staff.

## Dementia Friends

Session held with Bryncynon Strategy







# Watch out For - Upcoming Developments



**RCT Together – Neighbourhood Network Survey**

We would like to find out more about what is important to individuals and their communities. The findings will be used to shape future developments.

Keep your eyes peeled for more information.

**RCT Together Website Developments**

New website coming soon!

**SPF Round 3**

UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund RCTCBC Community Grant | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council



UK Government Wales Llywodraeth y DU Cymru

## CONTACT THE TEAM



For **Community Asset Transfers** and General enquiries please contact -



[rcttogether@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:rcttogether@rctcbc.gov.uk)



01443 425368

For **Community Resilience Hubs, Neighbourhood Networks and Resident Support** please contact -



[communityresiliencehubs@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:communityresiliencehubs@rctcbc.gov.uk)

For RCTCBC **Community Grants** please contact the Community Programmes Team -



[spfrcbcommunitygrant@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:spfrcbcommunitygrant@rctcbc.gov.uk)

Or visit the RCT Together **Web page**



[RCT Together | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council \(rctcbc.gov.uk\)](http://rctcbc.gov.uk)