

WELCOME TO RCT TOGETHER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM NEWSLETTER

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Q1 APRIL - JUNE 2023



RCT Together | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough
Council (rctcbc.gov.uk)

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Community Resilience Hubs, Neighbourhood Networks and Resident Support

Neighbourhood Networks are established partnerships set up around 7 Community Resilience Hubs.

The aim of Neighbourhood Networks is to bring local partners together to help better connect our communities enabling groups and residents to have a say in shaping local priorities, and providing a place for local groups and partners to talk about things that are important to the community and identify solutions to any issues.

During Quarter 1 a total of 20 Neighbourhood Network meetings have taken place with 249 community groups and organisations attending across RCTCBC.

To find out more:

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

Feedback from Neighbourhood Networks this quarter:



Resident Support & Assistance

Residents of RCT can ask for support whenever they need it most from their community. Community Co-ordinators engage with local community group and organisations who can help with:

- Support with shopping/Food Needs
- Friendly telephone call to maintain social contact
- Support to find work or receive work related training
- Information and guidance about money or benefits
- Information about the 'At Home' library service
- Information about the Lifeline Plus Service
- Wellbeing support if you are feeling lonely or isolated or would like to be put in contact with a local Community Group in your area.
- Wellbeing Assessment – can include home visit to discuss your needs.

Anyone can ask for support at any time, either for themselves or someone they know by completing the simple online form here:

[Resident Support | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council](https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk)
([rctcbc.gov.uk](https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk))

Last Year (April 2022 to March 2023) the team responded to 672 resident requests for advice, information and support

64% of the people asking for support told us that they needed help due to the direct impact of the Cost-of-Living Crisis

This Quarter (April – June 2023) the team received:

153 resident requests for support to:

Support to go Shopping – 63



Information and guidance about money or benefits – 53



Received one-off- supermarket voucher - 79



Thank you so much for listening and offering us support. I never knew the community centre had a food Pantry and that they could help me the same day. Thanks for sorting this out

Although I've had help from my mother, I'm so glad she put me in touch with you as we are all struggling with bills and food shopping at the moment

Thank you for this voucher I'm not sure how I would have managed

Community Asset Transfers

Community Asset Transfer involves the transfer of the management of Council buildings/and or land to a “not for personal profit” community organisation, social enterprise or Town and Community Council.

Other news - The official launch of “Hwb Cana” in Penywaun in April 2023 after the building was transferred to Coalfields Regeneration Trust in November 2021.

The building has been transformed into a state-of-the-art Training and Skills Centre, with Smart Money Community Bank as one tenant and also a base for the new Coalfields Community Champions Programme in Partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support which will focus on raising awareness of cancer support and improving outcomes.



68 enquiries for support; 52 of which are active CAT cases

Successful Transfer of Council Land in Treherbert to ‘Welcome to Our Woods’ via a 25-year Lease:

- Piloting a Community Orchard and Agroforestry Project – range of innovate food growing and horticultural activities across the sites.
- The group are working in partnership with Valleys Kids – Penyrenlyn Project and Black Mountain College Students who will manage and maintain the site as part of their NVQL2 in Sustainable Horticulture.



Successful Transfer of the Former Ferndale Library site to ‘Y Siop Fach Sero’ via a 10-year Lease:

- Social Enterprise levered in funding over £393,711 to renovate the buildings and provide staff provision.
- First Zero Waste shop in Rhondda Fach providing locally sources items via its café, hold regular repair café activities, recycle sports kits and provide workshops on how to live more sustainable.

Rhondda Litterpickers
A ENVIRONMENT

LITTER PICK

Saturday 1 July
Y Siop Fach Sero
72 High St, Ferndale
CF43 4RR

THE ACTIVITIES
Litter Pick
10:30 am until midday
Pick up your free plants and free plastic plant pots
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

EVERYONE WELCOME
ALL EQUIPMENT & PPE PROVIDED

Let us know if you have any access requirements.

We'll be collecting plastic bottle tops to donate to local sustainable company, Soaring Supersaurus.

What's On * Digwyddiadau

SPOTLIGHT*
- Hanging Basket Flower Workshop SAT 12th MAY 10am-12pm
WE WILL BE CLOSED THU 25th MAY FOR A PRIVATE EVENT

COMING UP
- Living Meadow Workshop 21st June 7-9pm £30 pp

RECURRING
- Repair Café Every Other Tuesday 10am-12pm
- Digital Support Every Wednesday 3pm-5pm
- Games Night Every Other Wednesday 5pm-7pm
- Family Arts & Crafts Every Thursday 7pm-9pm

WE ARE OPEN TUESDAY-SATURDAY 9:30am-4pm
WE ARE CLOSED SUNDAY & MONDAY

REPAIR RHONDDA
ESTD 2021

REPAIR CAFE RHONDDA

SATURDAY 15th April

Repair Cafes are pop-up events where volunteers fix household items for free in order to reduce waste, teach skills and bring the community together.

10:00-1:00

Y Siop Fach Sero
72 High Street, Ferndale

Electrical items eg. toasters, kettles, vacuum cleaners
Clothing eg. jeans, bags, shirts
IT eg. PCs, laptops
General eg. toys, ornaments, small furniture
Bikes eg. basic bike maintenance

If you would like to volunteer please contact us on repairs@ferndale.org.uk

Proud partners of
CARRIBIAN CARIBBEAN, REPAIR CAFE WALES, People's Work, RHA, ENERGY EFFICIENT

Funding & Resources - Grants

UKG Shared Prosperity Fund - RCTCBC Community Grant

Round 2

The UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund has been made available to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) to enable places to invest in capacity building and infrastructure support to restore community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for social, environmental, economic and cultural development at the neighbourhood level.

RCTCBC has made a Community Grant available with the intention to:

- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost.

Over a 3-year period ending in March 2025, £4.3m will be invested locally.



Throughout this Quarter (April – June) the team have supported:

73 funded Lower Level Awards – delivery underway across communities

Medium & Higher Level Awards – being issued contracts to commence delivery during Quarter 2 (July onwards)

The next Round of the main UKG Shared Prosperity Fund RCTCBC Community Grant will be open in January 2024 – keep an eye out, with Micro Grants being available from July 2023.

WG Period Dignity in Communities Grant

We are currently taking orders for bundles of period products. Products are 70% reusable/sustainable. Order a Bundle **NOW** and access a free information workshop regarding raising awareness of sustainable period products & menopause. Bundle orders can be made via rcttogether@rctcbc.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Network Fund

The Neighbourhood Network Fund is now paused for applications.

UKG Shared Prosperity Fund RCTCBC Community Micro Grant

Micro Grants of up to £1,000 will be available soon to deliver community activities and project that contribute to Sustainable Food Places.

FFYNIANT
— BRO —



UK Government Wales
Llywodraeth y DU Cymru

LEVELLING
— UP —

Funding & Resources

Age Friendly Communities

The work of the team to ensure Rhondda Cynon Taf is recognised as an Age Friendly Community as an affiliate member of the World Health Organisation's Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities continues with guidance from the Older People's Commissioners Team

Quarter 1 (April – June) Spot Light on Dementia

An E-Learning Dementia Awareness Module has been developed and made available to all Staff and Members of RCTCBC.

Dementia Action Week – Dementia Friendly Pontypridd – 'Turning Ponty Blue' – The team supported the community effort with blue ribbons, bows and bunting a plenty with a range of information stalls and activities on offer, including:

- Dementia Listening Campaign – "Street Sofa" – safe space for those with lived experience of dementia to share their stories to build a picture of what Dementia Care looks and feels in RCT – more to come on this



Underpinned by:

- Ongoing engagement and consultation with Older People's Community Groups
- Access to Funding to provide Age Friendly activities and Initiatives



Funding & Resources

Sustainable Food Places

RCT Food continues to work towards creating a more sustainable food system in RCT. With our ongoing efforts and valuable partnerships, we continue to make significant progress in promoting a greener and more environmentally friendly approach to food.

Successful Community Growers' Event

On the 11th of May, we had the pleasure of hosting a highly successful community growers' event at Down To Zero. This gathering brought together 11 partners who are equally passionate about sustainable food practices. It was a fantastic opportunity to exchange ideas, share experiences, and strengthen our collective commitment to building a greener future for RCT.

Food Business Breakfast Networking Event

In collaboration with Cywain, we supported the Food Business Breakfast Networking Event held at Mallow Beverages in Coed Ely. This event saw the participation of 9 food businesses from across RCT. By fostering connections and fostering dialogue among local food entrepreneurs, we aim to nurture a thriving network that values sustainability and embraces climate-friendly practices.



Gilfach Goch Community Facility

Sustainable Food Places – Revamping the Food Offer

Working closely with the dedicated staff, service users of Gilfach Goch Community Venue, and RCT CBC's Older Persons Coordinator, we have been diligently exploring ways to enhance the food offering at the centre while reducing its carbon impact. Our joint efforts have yielded exciting results!

We recently held an open day on the 28th of June, which showcased our progress in creating a lighter bite taster menu. This menu was carefully crafted to incorporate small climate-friendly swaps, allowing us to significantly reduce the carbon footprint of the food served at the venue. The service users had the opportunity to sample this delightful and sustainable menu, which was met with great enthusiasm and positive feedback.



CONTACT THE TEAM



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