

WELCOME TO RCT TOGETHER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM NEWSLETTER

ISSUE: 02
Q2 JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023



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

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Community Resilience Hubs, Neighbourhood Networks

During Quarter 2 a total of 22 Neighbourhood Network meetings have taken place with 252 community groups and organisations represented from across RCTCBC.

Shining a spotlight this quarter on the Community Dementia activities, below are just a few of the events RCT Together have supported., as well as some 'fun' and healthy activities.

North Rhondda:
Action for Maerdy held their first 5k Community Fun Run/Walk or Push on a very cold and wet Sunday morning, with 26 participants and several supporters rooting along the way



North Cynon:
Over 50+ Forum secured Neighbourhood Network Funding to visit the Royal Mint – “thank you, you are one in a million for helping and checking our grant, the outing was very much appreciated”



South Cynon:
Abercwmbol OAP Group SPF/NN Funding to provide activities for those who are isolated – “thank you RCT Together Team for all your support our group thoroughly enjoyed the activity”



Thank You 😊

South East Taf Ely

Thank You 😊

South West Taf Ely

Thank you 😊

North East Taf Ely:
Dementia Pop Up Hub

Brilliant event, I have had five referrals today all needing support with a family member living with Dementia”

“Could we replicate this in other areas as I really do believe people need to meet our team face to face”

South Rhondda:
All members are now Dementia Friendly Trained



Resident Support & Assistance

Residents of RCT can ask for support when 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 some-one 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 year so far (April 2023 to September 2023) the team have received:

337 Resident requests for support with :



Food or food related support – 156



Information and guidance about money or benefits – 86



Received one-off supermarket voucher – 205

thanks so much for the phone call and for listening to me. I don't know what I would have done if I didn't have your help

this makes a huge difference choosing the food your kids can eat

Thanks for your help, I'll take this information to my father if thing's change. You and the Adult services team have been great!"

Community Asset Transfers

Never underestimate the Social Value Of Community Activities (Well-being Impact)

The Team uses “**Value Insight**” which is an evidenced based online toolkit which can provide the Social Value (Wellbeing Value) of a range of activities., which can be used to support decisions when applying for market rent concessions, funding decisions and during asset transfer discussions. Examples of some sample outcomes and their associated social values are:

- Regular volunteering = £3,741 per person
- Member of a social group = £1,717 per person
- Infrequent mild exercise = £3,638 per person
- Infrequent moderate exercise = £4,284 per person
- Relief from depression/anxiety (adult) £20,711 per person

This period Social Value Reports have been provided for 5 community groups, and are available via the team for free!!

See video link to one of our recently completed CATS “Little Lounge Basement” at Cilfynydd Community Centre [Little Lounge Basement](#)

30 Day Window of Opportunity

When Council assets become surplus and available for a Community Asset Transfer (usually by way of a lease), we will advertise these assets for 30 days on the Councils and Connect RCT webpage so that any “not for personal profit” community organisation, social enterprise or Town and Community Council is able to submit an “Expression of Interest”. This is a fair and equitable way of enabling proposals from community groups to be considered. During August, we advertised a plot of Land in Fernhill (former polytunnel site). No Expressions of Interest were submitted during the period. See link to webpage [Land - Transfer opportunities](#) and [Connect RCT](#)

43 general enquiries for support were received during period. 38 enquiries were completed. 47 CAT enquiries are ongoing with 3 CATS nearing completion.

Llantrisant Tennis Club – “I just wanted to formally write to you and express my gratitude for the support and guidance you provided in helping me to compile the recent grant applications. You are without doubt one of the most helpful, polite and obliging individuals I deal with in RCT and your efforts are appreciated. We have all the money we need to complete the final phase of our development plan and you have helped us achieve that goal. Once again a big thank you.”

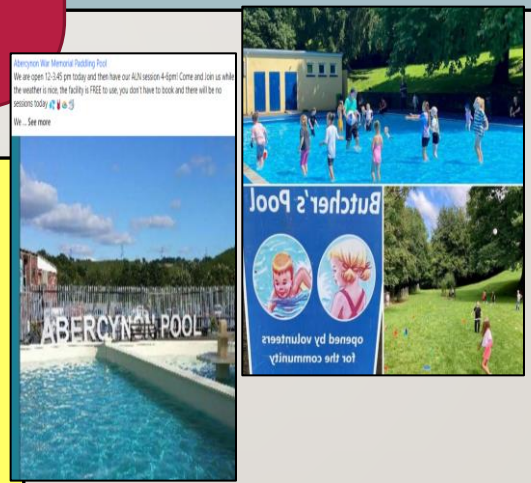
Fit 4 Funding Workshops
Working with Interlink and a range of funders and support partners, the team supported 3 x Fit For Funding workshops in July in venues across RCT. In total 124 people attended across the 3 sessions. See link to funding presentation [Fit For Funding Presentation](#)

We can also provide a **Community Insight Reports** which provide details on the key demographics of local communities . Contact the team for more info

Working Together...to Support Community Paddling Pools & Splashpad

Again this summer, the RCTCBC Together CAT team along with colleagues from Leisure and Corporate Estates helped and supported community groups in Abercynon, Mt Ash, Penrhiwceiber, Treorchy and Ynysybwll to open their paddling pools and the Friends of Aberdare Park Splashpad for another summer season. The all year-round hard work of everyone is considerable, to prepare the pools for the hundreds of children and their families from communities across RCT who benefit from the positive experiences and enjoyment the pools and splashpad provide.

In October, Cllr Harris, officers from Leisure, Corporate Estates & the Community Development Team met with the existing paddling pool/splashpad groups to review this years summer activities and plan for 2024. Plans are now being developed to help groups prepare for 2024, and become more sustainable for the future. If you are interested in volunteering for 2024, please contact Interlink or your nearest pool group...[Volunteering - Interlink](#)




Funding & Resources - Grants

UKG Shared Prosperity Fund - RCTCBC Community Grant

- Between April 2022 and September 2023, 121 organisations were awarded Capital grants to the value of £183,262 and Revenue grants to the value of £1,746,651.
- With further awards made for 2024-25 to 31 organisations for Capital and Revenue grants. Capital £45,500 Revenue £814,831.
- The application window for 2023-24 is closed, but keep an eye out for our usual community events, hosted by Interlink RCT, for the final release for 2024-25

2022-23 Update

8893 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 Micro Grants

Grants of up to £1,000 providing community activities/food related support to residents.

92 organisations have been awarded grants to the value of £85,714.00

WG Period Dignity in Communities Grant

Awards (products) to the value of £30,065 provided to 31 community organisations.

Limited bundles of products are still available until March 2024.

Winter Welcome Centres/ Winter Hardship Fund - Open for Expressions of Interest

Awards of up to £2,000 available. Applications window closes Friday 10th November 2023. The Winter Hardship Fund is available to support registered Winter Welcome Centres across RCT.

Neighbourhood Network Fund

Award of up to £1,000.
Community activities.

To date 69 organisations have received a total value of £49,046.

Food Support Grant - Currently open for applications.

Award of up to £1000.
Direct food support for residents.

To date 13 organisations have received a total of £12,534 of grant awards.

The Food Support Fund is partially match funded by Trivallis

Contact the Team for More Information

FFYNIANT
— BRO —

LEVELLING
— UP —



UK Government Wales
Llywodraeth y DU Cymru



Funding and Resources - Continued

Sustainable Food Places – Bronze Award

RCTCBC's application to the Bronze Award was submitted on the 5th September 2023. We are hopeful of achieving the award, and await the outcome due in November 2023.

New Sustainable Food Coordinator

We are delighted to welcome our new Sustainable Food Coordinator Rhiannon, who will join the team in December 2023., continuing the work of Sam Evans.

Gilfach Goch Community Facility

Sustainable Food Places – Revamping the Food Offer

The Community Facility in Gilfach Goch continues to go from strength to strength.

Healthy, Sustainable meals are served 5 days per week. Meals are subsidised at £4.50 for 2 courses.

Activities and classes such as sewing, coffee mornings and bingo are there throughout the week. A newly established 'Friends of Gilfach Goch Day Centre' group has been recently established to work with Council officers to develop the facility further for the benefit of the local community.



Age Friendly Communities

(World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Network)



Rhondda Cynon Taf Council is working with community partners towards being recognised as an Age Friendly Community and affiliate member of the WHO's Age Friendly Cities and Communities.

Many of the activities undertaken make contribution to that endeavour including those that follow:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg – Community Engagement workstream

- A new Chair has been appointed - Syd Dennis, from Councils Community Development team
- Next meeting 29th November 2023 - Please let us know if you would like to join this workstream group.

Local Toilets Strategy

The Local Authority undertook a statutory review of the Local Toilets Strategy by May 2023, the Revised Local Toilets Strategy 2023-2028 was presented for Cabinet consideration in September 2023. and received full approval.

Changing Place – Maerdy Community Centre

Working in partnership with The Arts Factory, a Community Changing Place is being installed at Maerdy Community Centre, with developments well under way., we hope this new community facility will be open early next year.

RCTCBC Dementia e-learning module -

Corporate Induction delivered to 150 new Council staff.

Dementia Friends - A total of 34 external staff and volunteers have been trained as Dementia Friends in the period April-September 2023

Dementia Listening Campaign

- Recruited 7 volunteers
- Consulted with 26 patients at GP Practices in NE Taf Ely
- Consulted with 8 Community Groups

Watch out For - Upcoming Developments

Local Cost of Living – Resident Support

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council and key partners want to support residents experiencing significant financial difficulties as a result of the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

Visit our Resident Support Page and click 'Request Assistance' to get started

Local Cost of Living Support – Community

Building upon the success of last Winter, we will be working with community groups and not for profit organisations providing support for Winter Welcome Centres.

Keep an eye on our page on where RCT's Winter Welcome Centres are

Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Policy

A revised Community Asset Transfer Policy will be presented to Cabinet soon, in conjunction with the RCTCBC Corporate Asset Management Plan 2024-2030.

Visit our CAT web-page for details of Council assets which are being managed by community partners **Community Asset Transfers**

CONTACT THE TEAM



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