

Caerphilly County Borough **Delivers**



Library Success Story

Almost 30,000 visitors have flocked to the new Caerphilly Library and Customer Service Centre since it opened in January. The new building, on The Twyn in Caerphilly town centre, houses a museum point, customer service payments and dedicated learning spaces.

Protecting Jobs Protecting Services

Caerphilly county borough council has agreed one of the lowest Council Tax increases in Wales (3.9%) as part of its recent budget announcement.

Faced with unprecedented financial pressures as a result of UK Government cuts, the council has approved a series of budget proposals which will see savings in excess of £14.2 million for

2014/15.

Cllr Keith Reynolds, Deputy Leader said, "Thanks to sound financial management our budget remains wholly deliverable and is minimising the impact on our residents. We are committed to protecting jobs and protecting key services for our communities."

Llancaiach Fawr under wraps

Work is underway on exciting new improvements at Llancaiach Fawr Manor. Scaffolding covers the much loved valleys landmark to completely encase it temporarily to enable the roof to be removed and the new one to be laid. The scheme is being funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (£943,200) and Cadw (£30,000) to create the servants quarters in the attic spaces.



Fighting Floods

Britain was battered by rain last winter, but the council's pro-active management and positive investment in drainage and flood alleviation schemes has meant that, in comparison to other parts of the country, the impact felt by Caerphilly county borough residents has been minimal. To help ensure this continues, the council has set up a regular cleansing and inspection regime for gullies and culverts.



Risca honours our heroes



Thousands of residents and visitors lined the streets of Risca on St David's Day to cheer the heroic medics of the 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital Unit. The squadron received a heroes' welcome as they marched through the town in an event to mark the unit's homecoming following a tour of Afghanistan as part of Operation HERRICK. More than 100 Reserve soldiers, who work in hospitals and local health boards across Wales and beyond, took part in the ceremony.

Fancy a challenge

The popular Caerphilly Challenge Series returns for 2014 on Saturday 10th May, with an exciting series of new walks starting and finishing at Rhymney Comprehensive School and walkers of all abilities are invited to join in. To book a place contact the Countryside Department on 01495 235092 or visit www.caerphillychallengeseries.co.uk



Your voice counts

Feedback from residents is helping to shape council services in the Caerphilly county borough. During a meeting of the council's Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee in March, Members were told citizen engagement was playing a key role in how the council delivered and prioritised its services. Residents get the chance to have their say through the Household Survey, Viewpoint Panel and by taking part in a range of consultations across the authority.



Centre of Excellence on track

A new £6.8m Rugby and Football Centre of Excellence, which features 3G pitches and a gymnasium, is nearing completion at the site of the former Ystrad Mynach Hospital. John Griffiths AM, Minister for Culture and Sport visited the development recently and was impressed with the progress to date. Key partners including Gwent Dragons, the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) and Cardiff City Football Club will share use of the facility.



Caerphilly 10k returns

The Caerphilly 10K is set to return for the second consecutive year on Sunday 22 June. 1700 runners from the length and breadth of the country travelled to Caerphilly last year to take on the challenge of the undulating Caerphilly 10K, starting and finishing the course in the shadow of the spectacular Caerphilly Castle. Information about entry and prices will be announced by the council on the Caerphilly 10k website in the near future.



Supporting tenants

The council is working hard to provide support and advice to tenants in light of recent changes to benefits. A team of Tenancy Support Officers are out and about in the community supporting Council tenants across the county borough. They are making a real difference to many people's lives - to find out more call 01495 235600.



Big Spring Clean

Residents, community groups and schools are being encouraged to grab their litter pickers, spades and wheelbarrows and join forces with the council for the Big Spring Clean 2014. Now in its third year, the Big Spring Clean campaign is about showcasing and celebrating the county borough's stunning scenery and natural beauty. Last year, over 49 tonnes of litter and fly-tipped waste was collected during the 3-month long initiative. To register an interest in getting involved, please call **01443 873758**.

Award winning catering

Every year the LACA (Lead Association for Catering in Education) Awards acknowledge individuals and teams of people who continue to make a difference to Education Catering. Caerphilly Catering Team were nominated for four awards and out of those nominations won an impressive two awards at this prestigious event.

21st Century Schools

Ambitious plans have been developed by the council to improve education provision across the area and build new schools that are fit for the 21st Century. Phase 1 will focus on Blackwood, Oakdale and Pontllanfraith Comprehensive Schools. Under the proposals, a new school will replace Oakdale and Pontllanfraith so that Islwyn West will then be served by Blackwood and the new school. The Council has secured funding of £20 million to deliver this exciting project which will include a review of catchment areas.



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