



communities first cymunedau yn gyntaf  
**Maerdy**

# **Maerdy Community Newsletter**

**Funded by Communities First**

**Volume 2 Issue 8 August 2003**



RHONDDA-CYNON-TAF  
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## **The Road to Nowhere**

We are told that the new Rhondda Fach relief road is due for completion as far as Pontygwaith in 2006. **The road, if and when it is ever started, should be extended to Maerdy immediately.** The volume of traffic being attracted into the valley is forecast to increase with the completion of the road as far as Pontygwaith. This has raised concerns that the road up from Tylorstown will be overloaded and the traffic will be travelling too fast after a trouble free journey along the new road. RCT council are planning to create traffic calming measures between the Welfare Hall in Tylorstown and the Catholic Church in Ferndale. This will further cut off the Maerdy and Ferndale communities and cause chaos with the inevitable traffic tail back onto the new road.

**The only industry in the Fach is sited in the Ferndale/Maerdy Area.** This is resulting in very large articulated lorries using the narrow valley road or the equally dangerous mountain road into Aberdare. This heavy traffic, and all other traffic trying to come through the biggest bottleneck in the Fach, Ferndale, will be further impeded by these traffic-calming schemes.

**There is a strong economic case for extending the road.** Maerdy and Tylorstown are amongst the most deprived areas in Wales – according to the Welsh Assembly. This has resulted in both areas being awarded Communities First and Objective One European status; to tackle problems like environmental improvements, long-term employment prospects and health concerns.

**In both communities there is a large dependency on State benefits** - whether sickness, unemployment or invalidity. Extending the road and transport systems will help open up areas outside the valley for job seekers and encourage new investment into the area.

This should improve the employment opportunities and provide employment for our young people. It will also help to improve their self-esteem and help break the cycle of their dependency on benefits.

**Plans are being developed to encourage tourism and make use of the old colliery site.** The success of these plans will depend on visitor access. This will put further strain on the over used road.

**The case to extend the road may be summarised as follows:**

- **The safety of residents require good road links**
- **Full employment prospect for our residents require good road links.**
- **Visitors to the area require good road links**
- **New Industry will require good road links.**

The extension of the road is vital. If we do not get the extension immediately after the first phase we will never get it. This is not seen as a political issue. It is seen as a basic requirement to help with the regeneration of all 3 villages and to prevent them becoming more isolated that they are already.

## **Where do we go from here?**

A meeting was held in Ferndale that brought together representatives from Maerdy, Ferndale and Tylorstown to discuss this issue. Our newly elected Assembly Member, Mr Leighton Andrews, was present and voiced his support to the road extension. **What are your views? Should we take this issue further?**

### **Please let us know your thoughts.**

If there is sufficient support we can decide on the next steps that may be taken.

You can write or visit us at Teify House or contact one of the Communications Group; **Jean John or Carolyn Richards from Oxford Street, Dave Chapman from Richard Street, or Lynda Lewis from Morris Terrace. You can also e-mail us at [davechapmancf43@hotmail.com](mailto:davechapmancf43@hotmail.com)**

This article does not necessarily reflect the views of the Communities First Partnership but are the opinions of the Communications Group that edit this newsletter.

## **Maerdy Kidz-R-Us**



Debra Hanney the Communities First Youth Co-ordinator, together with several volunteers, organised a Summer Play Scheme during the first week of the school holidays. It was held in the Community Centre.

By the third day word had spread throughout Maerdy and over 120 children, young people and adults were taking part in the activities.



Debra and the organisers, who call themselves Kidz-R-Us, would like to thank all the volunteers who turned up and stayed to help and everyone from the Community Centre who helped to make it such a success.





Special thanks go to Sid and Roy who joined in with everything as well as providing First Aid cover.



Two more sessions are planned at the Community Centre later in the holidays and volunteers from the community are desperately needed to help Debra and her team continue to hold future Play Schemes.



The dates of the next Play Schemes at the Community Centre are on:

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday -- 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> August  
Wednesday/Thursday/Friday -- 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> August

The morning session are for the under 10s from 10.30 ~ 12.25  
The afternoon sessions are for the over 10s from 1.30 ~ 2.25

**Please make every effort to attend. All are welcome**

*Maerdy Surgery*

	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Well Woman Clinic	Child Health Surveillance Clinic
<b>Tuesday</b>	Asthma Clinic	-----
<b>Wednesday</b>	Routine Blood Clinic	Ante-Natal Clinic Well Elderly Clinic
<b>Thursday</b>	Well Elderly Clinic	-----
<b>Friday</b>	Diabetic Clinic	Well Woman Clinic

**All Clinics are by Appointments Only**

*Ferndale Medical Centre*

	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Well Woman Clinic Physiotherapy Clinic	Anti-Natal Clinic Well Elderly Clinic
<b>Tuesday</b>	Routine Blood Clinic Diabetic Recall Clinic Minor Surgery Clinic	INR Clinic CPN Clinic COPD Clinic Well Woman Clinic Asthma Recall Clinic
<b>Wednesday</b>	Routine Blood Clinic Asthma Clinic	Child Health Surveillance Clinic Well Elderly Home Visits
<b>Thursday</b>	Diabetic Clinic	-----
<b>Friday</b>	Well Woman Clinic CHD Clinic	CHD Recall Clinic

**All Clinics are by Appointments Only**

**Maerdy Clean-up Campaign**



A clean-up campaign was organised in July by Communities First in partnership with the Community School.



Although the day was cut short by the weather, it was a great success and fun was had by all – young and old. A massive amount of litter was collected from the area around the Maerdy Community Woodlands and the riverbank.

We need your news, views and insights as to what is going on in Maerdy. We also need information on groups, clubs, societies and whatever other organisations you belong to. Tell us what to you do, when you're going to do it and why. We're here to promote as well as report the life that goes on in the Maerdy Ward that often goes on mainly unseen and often not reported.

But do please keep in mind that we have limited time and so we need you to come to us. You can contact us at Teify House or a member of the Communication Group. You can also e-mail us at [davechapmancf43@hotmail.com](mailto:davechapmancf43@hotmail.com)

**Remember – if we don't know about it we can't tell you about it**