



communities first cymunedau yn gyntaf

Maerdy Community Newsletter

Funded By Communities First



RHONDDA-CYNON-TAF
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Maerdy

Volume 1 Issue 1

October 2002

Welcome to Communities First—Maerdy



Community First covers from North
Road Motors up to the top of
Maerdy

Welcome to the first issue of the newsletter for the Communities First, a programme to develop projects that will be planned by you, the people of Maerdy. Some of you will wonder what it's all about. Well in this issue we bring you an interview with the recently appointed coordinator, Rosalind Davis, who will explain. We want this newsletter to be your newsletter. We will bring you updates on the happenings within Communities First—Maerdy but if you have information you want to tell us about we will try to fit it in. Over the next few months, we will bring you the progress being made on the

various committees that have been set up. The back page of this issue brings you useful information from the Safety Group and we hope that this will become a regular feature.

As an introduction, we are planning a fun day out for all the family. There'll be bouncy castles, face painting, circus acts and many more things for the young while the older members of the community can relax with the Archive Society and other stands. Our own celebrity, Lynn Howells, coach of the Pontypridd Rugby Club will be opening the event. So come along on the 9th November and have some fun.

Opening/Fun Day Out on the 9th November

Come and learn more about Communities First—Maerdy by attending our opening fun day at the Ferndale Comprehensive School on the **9th of November**. There's something for everyone from toddlers to teenagers to adults. There will be lots to do and see for the youngsters along with stalls, quizzes and information for the adults. Refreshments and free transport will be available from the top and bottom of the Maerdy ward. Come and have fun with all your friends and family at the **Barn and main hall at Ferndale Comprehensive School on the 9th November**.

It starts at **10 o'clock and goes on until about 2**. **Mr. Lynn Howells will be opening** the event. Look out for the posters around the village and pamphlets that will be coming through your door in the next week or so.



What's it all about? Dave Chapman from Richard Street met Rosalind Davis, the newly appointed Coordinator for Maerdy Communities First Project, to find out a little more about what Communities First is all about. Here is an extract from the interview:

DC What is Communities First? What's it all about?

RD The Welsh Assembly recognised that some **areas** were not getting a fair deal. They identified the 100 most needy areas in Wales and, (surprise, surprise!) Maerdy came out almost top of the list!

(Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, [2000] Maerdy ranked the second most deprived in Rhondda Cynon Taff and the 5th most deprived in Wales)

Communities First, is a new kind of programme which will enable the Maerdy Community to identify its own priorities for change and to be actively involved in managing new developments.

DC What's your role in Communities First?

RD We are currently in the preparatory stage. I am the Communities First Co-ordinator. Deborah Hanney the Youth Co-ordinator comes into post shortly and we have Lesley Young, providing administrative support. Our role is to help pave the way for future projects and to support the work of the community and the Maerdy Communities First Partnership. The Partnership is made up of members of the community, members of voluntary groups serving the community and statutory organisations like the local Council, the Police and Health Authority. Focus Groups will look at the particular strands of Communities First Employment, Environment, Community Safety, Education and Training, Health and Well-being and Active Community.

DC Are all these Focus Groups set up and working?

RD Most of them are. The Health and Well-Being group is in the process of being set up. Active community is a theme that runs through everything.

DC Who sets the programme? Does each committee decide what they want to do?

RD No not really. It incumbent on the Partnership to find out what the whole community needs and wants. The Focus Groups are at present working as, think tanks, generating new ideas but the Partnership will shortly be undertaking a big consultation exercise in which the whole community is going to be asked about its needs. The Partnership will then work on producing an action plan. There will then be further consultation before it is finally approved. The action plan will help us secure new funding and may get other service providers to work more effectively with Maerdy.

DC What sort of time span are you looking at?

RD It's a 10-year programme. This preparatory or "capacity building" phase aims to build confidence and enable the people of Maerdy to take control of the process.

DC Are businesses assisting you?

RD There are only 2 major employers in Maerdy but there are several smaller businesses. Personally, I would like to see the smaller enterprises get involved as well. Maybe the way forward for Maerdy will be to build up on people's entrepreneurial skills. Businesses are not involved at the moment but we are trying to get them interested.

DC What about local amenities – Teify House, Community Centre, churches, local clubs etc?

RD We are very grateful to Teify House because they have rented us office space. All the schools, the Church and Sion Chapel are involved. We would welcome the involvement of all existing groups and organisations already working in Maerdy

DC How are you going to promote Community First to the people of Maerdy?

RD There is a launch day set for November 9th and we hope that that will be a fun day for all the family. It is also the chance for organisations that are already up and running in Maerdy to celebrate what they are doing.

DC How can people in the community get involved?

RD We need as many people as possible to get involved so I would urge people to get in touch with me. My temporary telephone number is 755687. We need people who are interested in making things happen it is not just about sitting on committees. New volunteers are coming forward all the time, like the group who are organising our launch day and people like you who are helping to get this newsletter started.

DC When do the committees meet? What time of day?

RD At present they tend to meet at around 5pm on a Tuesday or Wednesday. The dates of Partnership meetings are available in the Library.

DC When are people going to see something tangible coming from the Community First?

RD I think people are going to have to be patient. There are not going to be massive changes overnight.

DC The final question is really where do you see Communities First—Maerdy being in 3years time?

RD The community will have a clearer idea of what it wants and needs. People will be more confident and able to take control of matters. I believe that the mechanisms will be in place to achieve a better future for Maerdy.

If anyone has other questions they would like to put to me they can write, phone on 01443 755687 or call in to see me at Teify House.

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"We need as many people as possible to get involved"

MAERDY COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

Home Security

The Rhondda Crime Prevention Panel have secured **£243,000** worth of funding for the **RECTIFY SCHEME** and Community First areas such as Maerdy will be getting priority! The money pays for extra security devices such as window and door locks, front door intercom systems etc.

There are no catches and no costs to individual householders. Eligible people are:

The Elderly

The Vulnerable

Victims of Crime

Referral is made through the police or social services. Contact your Community Constable **Marc HOPKINS on 01443 743762.**

If you have already applied. please contact

Anti Social Behaviour Orders—bringing peace to our community.

Did you know that anti social behaviour orders (ASBOs) may be used against any person 10 years or older?

If a person acts in a “manner that caused or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons” an ASBO may be applied for.

This can include verbal abuse, public disturbance, noise, harassment , threats graffiti or criminal damage.

If you are suffering or have suffered contact your Community Constable **Marc HOPKINS on 01443 743762**

Is Your Car taxed?? If it's not then beware. The DVLA Clamping unit is patrolling the area. If your vehicle is not taxed and is on the public roads it will be clamped.

Full details from Community Constable **Marc HOPKINS on 01443 743762**

Fun Day Events

At the fun day on the 9th of November will be :

A bouncy castle and assault course for the toddlers

Face painting

Mosaics

Clay modeling

Circus acts

Hair dressing display (still being arranged)

Achieve Society and quiz

Communities First Information

Environmental Group

Sion Chapel

Young Mothers

Taff Ely Drugs support

Police Information

Free Transport will be running throughout the event to ferry you from Morris Terrace and the top of Maerdy. The programme of events are still being planned and may differ slightly from the above.