

SHELTERED HOUSING NEWS

SHELTERED HOUSING AWARD SUCCESS

Sheltered housing tenants and staff took home a number of awards at a recent Caerphilly Homes celebration event; held at Llancaich Fawr on 13th September.

During the event, winners were announced of both the Tenant Gardening Contest and Transforming Lives and Communities Awards. There were sheltered housing winners and runners up in a number of categories, including:

Best sheltered housing communal garden

Winner - Maesteg, Pentwynmawr.

2nd place - Ty Melin, Crospenmaen.

3rd place - Highfield Court, Newbridge.

Best hanging basket / pot / container

2nd place - Colleen Phillips, Castle Court, Pontywaun.

3rd place - Steven Perkins, Glynsyfi, New Tredegar.

Transforming Lives and Communities - Individual Award

Winner - Mike Barugh, Maesteg.

2nd place - Gary Pritchard, Alexandra Court, Ynysddu.

The Extra Mile Employee Award

Winner - Older Persons' Housing Team.

Congratulations to you all!



Award winners.

THE FUTURE OF OLDER PERSONS' HOUSING

On 12th September the council's Cabinet approved plans for the future of older persons' housing in the county borough, including several of our sheltered housing schemes.

Cabinet approved officers' recommendations to incorporate **Britannia Court**, Risca into the current Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) improvement programme with completion by March 2020 and, if feasible, decommission the external blocks of flats at **Britannia Close** (this means that the flats would no longer form part of the sheltered housing scheme and could be designated as older persons accommodation). Further investigative work and tenant consultation will be carried out initially to see if this is feasible.

Officers' recommendations were also approved for

remodelling of **Ty Melin**, Crospenmaen to provide 23 units of accommodation and carry out WHQS improvements. **Ynyswen** in Pontllanfraith will also be remodelled, providing 13 units of accommodation.

Cabinet approved a recommendation to reclassify **Hafod y Bryn**, Risca from sheltered housing to designated older persons' and general needs accommodation subject to investigating the technical feasibility and consultation with tenants.

A decision was made to remove the extra care classification from **Tredegar Court**, Crosskeys. This means the scheme will revert back to sheltered housing.

We currently have a large number of sheltered housing schemes in the Risca and Crosskeys area, with several containing a large number

of bedsits. We often have a large number of empty properties in these schemes which we are unable to fill. As a result of these issues, and difficulties in remodelling some of the schemes, a decision was made by Cabinet for the programmed closure of **St Mary's Court** in Risca, **Castle Court** in Pontywaun and **Waunfawr House** in Crosskeys. A new build alternative will be developed within the locality to replace the three schemes.

Tenants in all affected schemes have been informed of the decisions and meetings will be held at each of these schemes to provide more detail on what will happen and when. Tenants with questions or concerns can contact the Older Persons' Housing Team on 01443 811431.

UPDATE ON SERVICE CHARGES

Letters containing details of this year's service charges have now been sent out and all tenants should have received their copy.

If you have not received your letter or if you have any queries, please contact the Older Persons' Housing Team on 01443 811431.



What can I recycle?



Paper	Plastic	Cans	Cardboard	Glass

If you have a brown bin for recycling - please place items loose in the bin and refrain from placing items in bags.

DO NOT place items listed below in your recycling container:

Crisp packets	Textiles	Toys & hard plastic	Nappies	Animal excrement
Black bags	Electrical items	Garden waste	Food waste	Carrier bags & plastic film/wrap

The following items can be taken to one of our household waste recycling centres:

small appliances	discs	scrap metal	plastics
batteries	tetrapak	textiles	garden waste

Failure to recycle or placing inappropriate materials in your recycling container may result in prosecution.

recycle for Caerphilly

www.caerphilly.gov.uk
Tel: 01443 866533

IF IN DOUBT, KEEP THEM OUT

The door entry system fitted at your scheme is there to protect the safety of you and your neighbours. Do not allow anyone access to the scheme unless they are visiting you and you're expecting them. Visitors should only be given access by the tenant they are visiting. This helps protect you and your neighbours from unwanted callers.

All council staff or contractors who have been appointed by us should carry identification and will not mind if you ask to see it. Also be aware that you should never be asked for payment by any of our staff or contractors for repairs or improvements carried out at your home.

If you're concerned about any callers to your home or sheltered housing scheme do not allow them access and contact the Older Person's Housing Team on 01443 811431.



PETS IN SHELTERED HOUSING

In sheltered housing schemes where there are no communal corridors, for example bungalows or walk up flats where each property has its own front door, tenants can keep one domestic pet. For tenants living in sheltered homes adjoined by communal corridors they must ask their local housing office for landlord's consent to keep a pet.

Pets are not allowed to roam freely in any communal areas, including gardens, and are not permitted in communal lounge areas, other than guide or assistance dogs. Dogs must be kept on a short lead when entering or leaving any communal garden and accompanied at all times.

Owners must take full responsibility for cleaning up after their pets and must ensure that they do not cause any nuisance or annoyance to other residents or visitors.

MIKE IS TRANSFORMING LIVES AND COMMUNITIES

Over the past two years Mike Barugh has raised over £2,500 for cancer charities through a number of events he's organised at Maesteg sheltered housing scheme in Pentwynmawr, where he lives with his wife Glenys. Together Mr and Mrs Barugh have held afternoon teas, table top sales, raffles and competitions with the proceeds benefitting cancer charities Macmillan and Velindre.

Mr Barugh became keen to fundraise for these charities after his own cancer diagnosis in 2013. Despite his health issues Mr Barugh is also a keen gardener. He's

worked with other tenants in Maesteg to transform the scheme's communal garden. Their dedication has been rewarded with first place, for two consecutive years, in 'Best sheltered housing communal garden' category at our annual tenant gardening contest.

This year's ceremony also saw Mr Barugh presented with the Transforming Lives and Communities Individual Award. He was nominated by Tenant Liaison Officers from our Welsh Housing Quality Standard team who were so impressed by his never ending positivity, enthusiasm and

commitment to helping others.

If you have an amazing neighbour who goes over and above to help others contact Kelsey Watkins, Communications Officer, on 01443 864262 to include them in a future edition of this newsletter.



Mike Barugh

FREE HOME EYE TESTS

If you're unable to make it out to an optician, you could have an eye examination carried out in the comfort of your own home. Home visits are carried out by fully qualified optometrists and dispensing opticians and all eye tests are free to patients aged 60 or over and those on eligible NHS benefits.

Patients with a reduced visual acuity of N6 or worse can also receive a Low Vision Assessment free of charge. A low vision dispensing optician will talk to each patient individually about what they would like the most help with – this could be reading, looking at photos, paying bills, dealing with medicine or even working on hobbies. The patient can then try out a selection of low vision aids such as magnifiers and task lights, and any aid that is found to be beneficial to the patient can then be provided on loan free of charge.

Contact @Home Eyecare on 0333 335 0068 to find out if you're eligible for a free NHS funded home sight test and to book your appointment.



USEFUL CONTACTS

Older Persons' Housing Team **Tel: 01443 811431**

Email: olderpersonshousing@caerphilly.gov.uk

LOCAL HOUSING OFFICES:

Eastern Valleys **Tel: 01495 235974**

Email: eastvalleyaho@caerphilly.gov.uk

Upper Rhymney Valley **Tel: 01443 873535**

Email: urvaho@caerphilly.gov.uk

Lansbury Park **Tel: 02920 860917**

Email: lansburyparknho@caerphilly.gov.uk

Graig-y-Rhacca **Tel: 02920 853050**

Email: grraigyrhaccanho@caerphilly.gov.uk

Report a Repair **Tel: 01443 864886**

Email: dlopbe@caerphilly.gov.uk

WHQS enquiries **Tel: 01443 866497**

Email: whqsenquiries@caerphilly.gov.uk

Rents / Tenancy support **Tel: 01443 811450**

Email: rents@caerphilly.gov.uk

Out of hours emergencies **Tel: 01443 875500**

If you suspect a gas leak call **Wales and West Utilities**

on **0800 111 999**

FUNDRAISING UPDATES

Congratulations to tenants at Woodland View, Wattsville whose recent sponsored walk raised £196 for the British Lung Foundation. Tenants who took part would like to thank members of the WHQS team and The Crosskeys pub, Swansea for their sponsorship.

Well done also to tenants at Castle Court in Pontywaun who raised £101.85 for the Stroke Association at their recent coffee morning.

Jean Sheldon, our Senior Floating Support Officer, also raised a huge £880 for Macmillan cancer support by bravely shaving her hair off!



Trips

Lots of you came along on a number of trips that were organised over the summer, including trips to Tenby, Barry, Weston and Porthcawl.

Trips planned for the rest of this year:

14/11/18 - McArthur
Glen Designer
Outlet,
Bridgend

05/12/18 - Gloucester
Christmas
Market

We're also planning a number of talks over the coming months including crime prevention, fire safety and falls prevention.

For more information on any of these trips, or if you have suggestions for future places to visit contact Victoria Roper, Activities Co-ordinator, on 01443 866449.

WELSH HOUSING QUALITY STANDARD (WHQS) IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

The sheltered housing WHQS programme is continuing to progress very well, we have now completed works in 8 schemes including Horeb Court in Trinant, Waunrhydd in Gelligaer and The Willows, Bedwas.

Works are currently taking place at Gwyddon Court in Abercarn, Maesteg in Pentwymawr and Oaklands, Bargoed. Works are also ongoing at Woodland View in Wattsville. Hazel Vaux and Gloria Dalton are both tenants at Woodland View who have recently had internal improvements completed by our in-house team as part of the programme.

Mrs Vaux's home benefitted from a new kitchen, bathroom, and electrical rewire. She said "I've had my kitchen and bathroom completely re-done through the programme and I can't fault any of the work. I'm particularly happy with the new flooring that's been fitted. All the staff that worked here were really helpful."

Improvements in Mrs Dalton's flat included a new kitchen, works to the bathroom and electrical rewire. Mrs Dalton commented "I'm really pleased with the WHQS work that's been carried out so far here, at Woodland View. I sent a card to thank the workforce; they deserved it for all their hard work."

Schemes scheduled to begin receiving improvement this year include Ty Mynyddislwyn, Pontllanfraith and St Gwladys Court, Bargoed.



IS YOUR HOME SAFE?

Did you know that you could have a free Safe and Well visit carried out in your home by firefighters from your local Fire Station and South Wales Fire and Rescue's Home Safety Team.

The visit takes around 30 minutes; during this time your home will be inspected for fire safety, you'll be given life-saving advice on fire hazards, what to do in the event of a fire and how to make a fire escape plan.

To find out more visit www.southwales-fire.gov.uk, speak to your Sheltered Housing Officer or contact the Older Persons' Housing Team on 01443 811431.



50+ Forum news

Members of the Caerphilly 50+ Forum are currently out and about visiting older persons' groups in the county borough to provide information on what the Forum has to offer people.

If you belong to an organisation, society, club or group interested in finding out more about the 50+ Forum contact Mandy Keenan on 01443 864277 or email 50plusforum@mail.com.

As well as telling you about the Forum, the things they have been doing and what they might do in the future, they would also love to discuss what you would like them to do. The Forum also now has regular meetings with council officials and the council's Older Persons' Champion, Cllr Barbara Jones, to look at where there are joint goals that could be achieved together.



Date for your diary...

The next Caerphilly Over 50 'Share a Smile' event is being held on 1st November at Lewis Boys' School in Pengam. This is a free event featuring entertainment, dancing and afternoon tea; to book a place contact 07561 826972.

Word search

A	N	E	W	B	R	I	D	G	E	R
B	R	L	M	E	N	I	O	P	T	H
E	A	C	R	D	A	L	S	M	N	Y
R	C	A	G	W	Q	H	Y	C	E	M
D	R	T	W	A	U	L	Y	D	A	N
I	E	K	I	S	F	D	R	G	J	E
N	B	A	R	G	O	E	D	E	Z	Y
E	A	R	H	B	I	W	U	Q	N	M
R	Z	P	C	R	G	H	R	B	K	Y
P	U	D	O	O	W	K	C	A	L	B
S	I	A	F	M	L	P	Q	V	B	S

Find the Caerphilly county borough place names in the word search.

Words to find:

Fochriw
Risca
Newbridge
Abercarn
Bargoed
Rudry
Blackwood
Rhymney
Bedwas