



See page 2  
for full details of  
the festive events  
programme

Choose the  
**HIGH STREET**

Town Centres - Unique Places



## Have your say on savings

**Caerphilly County Borough Council's Cabinet has agreed a list of draft savings proposals totalling £12.8 million for the next financial year (2015/16).**

The council needs to make the savings following a reduction in its financial settlement from Welsh Government.

In the last edition of Newsline we included a budget questionnaire asking readers to prioritise discretionary council services in light of these financial pressures. Over 1,700 residents completed the survey, which was also available online, and this feedback has helped the Cabinet agree its savings targets.

A **3.9%** Council Tax increase for the 2015/16 has also been proposed, which if approved, would result in a weekly increase of 48p for Band A properties and 71p for Band D properties.

These proposals are now subject to a further period of consultation prior to the final budget for 2015/16 being presented to the Council in the New Year.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Keith Reynolds said, "I want to give a very strong message that it is our overwhelming intention to protect front line services where we possibly can."

"I am confident that with everyone's full support, we can ensure a balanced, fair budget with the best interests of the people of our county borough at its core."

"The savings targets are tough, and we will need to take some difficult decisions, but I am confident we will continue to deal with these challenges with a measured and balanced approach" he added.

**The full draft savings report & appendices can be found at [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)**



**Cllr Keith Reynolds**  
Leader of the Council



See the  
centre page  
pullout for more  
information

# A Christmas Cracker of Festive Events!

The festive season is upon us, and the council is once again offering a magnificent Christmas events programme for visitors from near and far.

## Blackwood Christmas Market Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th December

Kick-starting the festivities is the Blackwood Christmas Market. The High Street will be bursting with food and craft stalls, as well as funfair rides, traditional entertainment, a Santa's grotto, real reindeers and even donkeys in the nativity scene!



## Risca Christmas Market & Lantern Parade Saturday 6th December

Risca will also be joining the festivities with the Risca Christmas Market and Lantern Parade. Tredegar Park will come to life with stalls, entertainment, funfair rides and traditional music, creating festive memories for people of all ages.



## Bargoed Ice Rink Wednesday 10th to Sunday 14th December

The popular Bargoed Ice Rink will return to St Gwladys Car Park once again this year, for a five day stint from Wednesday 10th to Sunday 14th December. For just £3 per person, skate in style and leave the cold outside at this popular all-weather attraction.

## Caerphilly Christmas Fayre Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th December

Experience the sights, sounds and smells of the Caerphilly Christmas Fayre. With over 100 traders descending on the town selling unusual festive gifts, along with activities and entertainment – there is something for all the family to enjoy. Enter the Castle to discover a Victorian Christmas where visitors can enjoy entertainment including Victorian ghost stories, Punch and Judy shows, a flea circus and a Victorian fairground as well as a chance to see Father Christmas himself. Children enter the castle free of charge, adult entry fees apply.

## Caerphilly River of Light Lantern Parade Thursday 18th December at 6.30pm

To round off the festivities is the annual River of Light Lantern Parade on Thursday 18th December at 6.30pm starting at Caerphilly railway station. See the streets come to life as hundreds of people with their lanterns cascade through Caerphilly town centre, followed by a spectacular fireworks display above the skies of Caerphilly Castle.

## Free River of Light lantern making workshops

Workshops will take place at Caerphilly Leisure Centre on 6th / 7th December and 13th / 14th December between 10am and 5pm.

For more information about these and all other Christmas events taking place across Caerphilly county borough, please visit

[www.caerphilly.gov.uk/christmas](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/christmas)

or contact the Visit Caerphilly Centre on  
**029 20 88 00 11**



## Giving residents a Lift into work

An innovative scheme is offering residents a helping hand to find employment.

The Lift Project, administered by Communities First with funding support from the Welsh Government, focuses on supporting individuals towards employment.

The scheme is primarily aimed at those who are:

- Aged 16+
- Have been unemployed for six months or more
- Living in a house where no-one works
- Living alone/single parent and unemployed
- Not currently on the Work Programme.
- Living in one of the following areas:  
Lansbury - Porset Park – Churchill Park –  
Penyrheol – Treceenydd - Abertridwr -  
Senghenydd – Graig Y Rhacca – Trethomas

The Lift project provides one to one tailored support, skills training, anxiety/confidence building workshops, vocational tasters and ongoing progression support to help users find work. There is also a special disclosure workshop to support residents who have a previous conviction that are looking to gain employment.

For more information about the Lift Project please call Sheila on **07808 203658** or Rachel **07808 203659**.

Cut out and keep

[www.caerphilly.gov.uk/christmas](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/christmas) or call **029 2088 0011**

## CHRISTMAS EVENTS CALENDAR

What's on in the County Borough of Caerphilly

### DECEMBER

**Risca Christmas Market**

6th December

**Blackwood Christmas Market**

6th & 7th December

**Bargoed Ice Rink**

10th - 14th December

**Caerphilly Christmas Fayre**

13th & 14th December

**River of Light Parade Workshops**

6th/7th & 13th/14th December

**Caerphilly River of Light Lantern Parade**

18th December



Visit Caerphilly

A greener place to live, work and visit  
Man gwyrddach i fyw, gweithio ac ymweld



# Ready...Steady...Grit!!

**As the colder weather conditions descend, Caerphilly County Borough Council is ready to react to weather conditions and grit the roads at a moment's notice.**

Staying one step ahead of the game, the Highways team receive daily updates from the Met Office and in the case of low temperature forecast, are ready to send out the gritters. With 10,000 tonnes of grit in storage and a fleet of 15 gritters, the team are fully prepared to tackle harsh weather this winter should the need arise.

In the case of severe weather conditions the vehicles will concentrate on the main network arteries and are on hand to respond to emergencies. To help tackle smaller side roads not on the schedule, a total of 875 roadside grit bins have been filled for residents to use.

Cllr Tom Williams, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, said: "The Highways team have been busy making provisions to ensure that they are fully prepared to tackle any severe weather conditions this winter."

In an effort to retain business as usual where possible, the council has also updated its Winter Service Plan which outlines the various key actions that will be undertaken by staff during bad weather to keep the major roads throughout the county borough moving.

Cllr Williams added: "It is of paramount importance to ensure the safety of our residents during bad weather periods and retain vital services for the most vulnerable members of our community."



**For more information on winter preparations across Caerphilly county borough, please visit [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)**

## A licence to perform

**The Christmas countdown has begun, and with that comes a season of panto and festive shows.**

**If your child is taking part in a show, Did you know...?**

- All children need a licence to perform, although there are exemptions and you should refer to guidance available on the CCBC webpage;
- The law lays down strict rules about the hours children can perform;

- All children should be supervised by their parent or a registered chaperone when performing;
- Without a performance licence, children may not be covered by insurance.

For further information about child performance licensing and the times and types of work young people can do while they are still at school, please visit [www.nncee.org.uk](http://www.nncee.org.uk) or [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk) or contact the council's Education Welfare Service, by calling **01443 815588**.

## Local Development Plan consultations

**The Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan (LDP) indicates where new developments such as housing, employment and schools are proposed up to 2021. The current plan was adopted by the council in 2010 and is now in the process of being reviewed to roll the plan forward to 2031.**

### What this means for you:

A series of events to help inform how the Caerphilly county borough should develop in the plan period up to 2031 have already been held and have informed the 'Draft Strategy for Development.' In the New Year we'll be looking for residents to have their say on this draft strategy, as the council wants your views on where new development should be allowed in the future. Public consultation events will be held early in 2015 that will include a series of exhibitions in various locations across the county borough.

Consultation details will be advertised in the local press, on the council's website and social media networks. Documents will be available for display in all libraries, Customer Service Centres and in Pontllanfraith House during consultation periods. For more information, or to be added to the LDP database, please contact the LDP hotline on **01495 235376** or email: [ldp@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:ldp@caerphilly.gov.uk)

**BLACKWOOD MINERS' INSTITUTE SEFYDLIAD Y GLOWYR COED DUON**

# CINDERELLA

## 10 - 31 December

Starring...  
**OWEN MONEY** as **BUTTONS**

**Blackwood Miners' Institute, High Street,  
Blackwood, NP12 1BB**  
Tickets £6.00 - £15.00  
01495 227206  
[www.blackwoodminersinstitute.com](http://www.blackwoodminersinstitute.com)

# Cwmcarn Forest - open for business!

**Cwmcarn Forest is very much open for business despite the felling works currently taking place at the Forest Drive.**

The Cwmcarn Forest Drive road closed to traffic last month to allow Natural Resources Wales to carry out felling works to take place on diseased larch trees infected by a fungal disease called *Phytophthora ramorum* (larch disease).

While the Forest Drive road itself is closed to traffic, all other facilities at Cwmcarn Forest remain very much open for business as usual for visitors to enjoy throughout the year.

The Visitor Centre is open as usual, featuring a gift shop with a great offering of locally produced crafts and Welsh goods and the Raven's café which provides a wide range of food and drinks.

The fishing lake, play area for under 7s and camping pods remain open, as do the cross country and downhill bike trails and pump track.

Natural Resources Wales are organising the felling works so that it has as little impact on visitors as possible.

Once the infected larch trees have been cleared and the ground is ready, the re-planting of a wide range of native broadleaf woodland trees, such as oak, hazel and rowan will begin.

For further information on the works, please visit [www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](http://www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk) and search for 'Cwmcarn'



For information on forthcoming events and attractions at Cwmcarn Forest, please visit [www.cwmcarnforest.co.uk](http://www.cwmcarnforest.co.uk)



## What is larch disease?

**78% of the trees along Cwmcarn Forest Drive are infected by the fungal disease *Phytophthora ramorum* (larch disease).**

The fungus like disease can cause extensive damage and mortality to a wide range of trees and other plants.

Larch disease spreads through airborne spores from tree to tree. It poses no threat to human or animal health.

However, visitors to woodlands can help reduce the spread of the disease by taking some simple actions such as removing any mud, plant material or leaves from boots, clothing, dogs and car tyres.

## Changing the way we do business



NEW WEBSITE

[www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)

A greener place to live, work and visit  
Man gwyrddach i fyw, gweithio ac ymweld



## Crumlin Junction scheme

**Works to improve a signalised junction on the A467/A472 in Crumlin, with the aim of reducing existing congestion problems in the area is scheduled to begin in January.**

The works, which have been made possible thanks to grant funding from Welsh Government, are scheduled to begin on 5th January 2015 and are anticipated to last 34 weeks.

In order to implement the works, traffic management will be in place throughout the duration of the works during off-peak times 9.30am until 3.30pm and after 6.30pm on weekdays. During these times, the number of lanes available may be reduced which could lead to some delays to journey times.

For further information, please call **01443 866 511** or email [engineering@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:engineering@caerphilly.gov.uk)

# Excitement is building for the Urdd

## Excitement is building for the Urdd National Eisteddfod coming to Caerphilly county borough next May.

On Saturday 4th October, the Caerphilly and District Urdd National Eisteddfod Proclamation Ceremony saw Ysgol Ifor Bach in Abertridwr win first prize for the best banner displayed in the parade through the centre of Caerphilly to the Castle.

The event was sponsored by Western Power Distribution (WPD), and as part of the sponsorship the Urdd were able to offer £500 for the banner that best portrayed their school, area, the Urdd or a combination of all three.

Around 4,000 children and adults took part in the parade, and numerous colourful banners could be seen. Dyfrig Davies, Chair of the Eisteddfod Board and Jason Whitehead from WPD

had the difficult task of judging the banners. The Urdd National Eisteddfod will be held on the grounds of Llancaiach Fawr Manor, between 25th and 30th May 2015.

Aled Sion, Director of the Urdd Eisteddfod said, "We had a great day in Caerphilly with a great number of local children joining in the parade to announce that the Urdd National Eisteddfod is coming to the Caerphilly area. The enthusiasm here is outstanding and we have a great number of hard working volunteers. If the Eisteddfod is as successful as the Proclamation Ceremony, we will have an Eisteddfod to remember in Caerphilly and the District in May 2015."

**For more information about the Eisteddfod please visit [www.urdd.org/eisteddfod](http://www.urdd.org/eisteddfod)**



## Volunteer & make a difference

Have you ever thought about using your spare time to help someone else?

### The Volunteer Service is looking to recruit new volunteers to support vulnerable adults throughout the county borough.

The service is offering opportunities for volunteers to be introduced to a vulnerable adult who shares similar interests, hobbies or values.

What you do depends very much on how much spare time you can give – it could be a trip to the leisure centre, cinema or shops, or maybe just meeting up for a coffee, or popping into someone's home for a chat.

Anyone over the age of 16 can become a volunteer, and volunteering can be undertaken on a long or short-term basis. Relevant checks will be made to ensure you are suitable, and

free ongoing training and guidance will be offered to support your volunteering.

### For more information about volunteering to support a vulnerable adult, please call 01443 864482 or email:

[volunteerserviceadults@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:volunteerserviceadults@caerphilly.gov.uk)

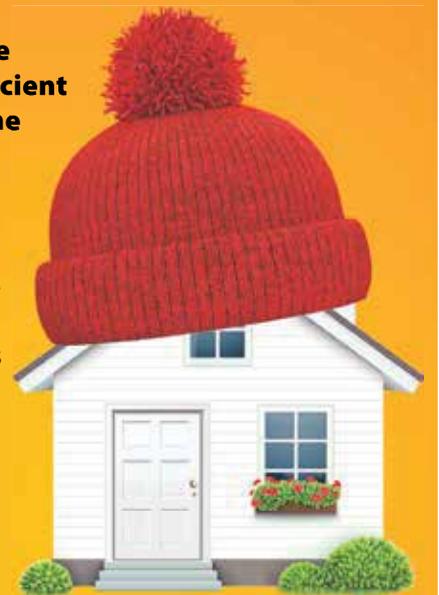


## Keep Well and Warm This Winter

### Help is available to residents who are struggling to heat their energy inefficient homes this winter, thanks to a scheme from the Welsh Government.

The Nest scheme offers free support and advice on saving energy and lowering household heating bills. In addition to free advice, if residents own or privately rent their home and receive a means tested benefit, they may be eligible for home improvements at no cost. These may include a new central heating boiler, loft insulation, or cavity wall and solid wall insulation.

Over the past year over 900 residents of Caerphilly county borough have benefitted from free advice, with 129 households also receiving free home improvements.



Nest can be contacted on Freephone 0808 808 2244 for advice on reducing fuel bills and to find out if you qualify for a free package of energy saving home improvements or visit [www.nestwales.org](http://www.nestwales.org)

## COUNCILS PERFORMANCE REPORT PUBLISHED

### A report assessing the performance of the council's services has been published.

The Annual Performance Report for 2013/14 is designed to measure performance and ensure that the standards the council sets itself are met. This year's report shows that

the council has made a number of improvements to many areas of its work.

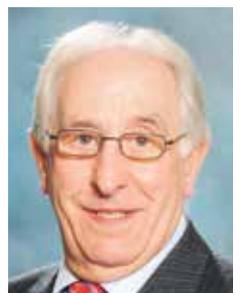
CLlr Keith Reynolds said, "There are huge positives to take from this report as we track progress of our ongoing improvement, but there are other areas that we acknowledge need further attention

and we will turn our attention to improving these areas as we strive towards delivering efficient and effective council services."

"I would like to thank staff and residents for their efforts in helping us to drive forward the improvement agenda."

Copies of the report are available in libraries across the county borough and in council office reception areas.

An online version of the Annual Performance Report for 2013/14 is also available at [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)



**Cllr Keith Reynolds**  
Leader of the Council

# Choose the High Street @ Christmas!

Residents and visitors to Caerphilly county borough are being encouraged to "Choose the High Street" this festive season, as the council's Town Centre Management team launches the next phase of its campaign to raise awareness of the uniqueness of what is on offer in each of its town centres.

Following the successful launch of the Choose the High Street campaign in June this year, this initiative focuses on raising awareness of consumer choice and aims to encourage people to use their local high streets more often – particularly during the crucial pre-Christmas trading period.

The Town Centre Management team has joined forces with retailers across the county borough to unveil a special Choose the High Street @ Christmas discount voucher booklet scheme, which offers shoppers almost 100 fantastic discounts across over 70 stores throughout December.

The voucher booklet, which can be picked up from visitor attractions, libraries and customer service centres, can be used between Monday 1st December and Wednesday 24th December 2014.

Cllr Ken James said, "The pre-Christmas trading period is a crucial time for retailers, and through this campaign we are really encouraging residents and indeed visitors to our county borough to utilise our unique town centres. In doing so, they can

make use of this excellent voucher booklet scheme and grab some real bargains in over 70 different stores."

He continued, "This scheme, together with the large programme of festive events we have planned for our town centres over the pre-Christmas period,

I hope will go a long way in supporting our traders, and attracting more people to sample the unique offering in our county borough town centres."

A full list of retailers and their festive discounts and offers can be found at [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)



For further information on the **Choose the High Street @ Christmas** campaign, please call **01443 866 213**

## 'After Dark' celebrates first anniversary

One year on and the Safer Caerphilly After Dark initiative is in full swing and preparing for the festive months again.

Nighttime Economy Officer, PC Adam Lang who works across the Caerphilly county borough, targeting Blackwood and Caerphilly town centres in particular focuses his work on bringing together a number of different organisations including local taxi companies, takeaways, late night restaurants, pubs, door supervisors and street pastors, as well as Gwent Police and Caerphilly County Borough Council.

The overall aim of 'Safer Caerphilly After Dark' is to make sure that by offering a coordinated approach, visitors to these town centres are able to have a safe and enjoyable night out as well as further reduce instances of violent and anti-social behaviour in the town centres and encourage responsible drinking and improve safety awareness. Since starting the role, Adam has been visiting local pubs and off licenses talking about any on-going issues. Pub Watch online is now up and running in both Caerphilly and Blackwood.



PubWatch offers licensed premises in the towns the opportunity to share best practice across the industry and provides a forum for Gwent Police and Caerphilly County Borough Council to understand issues and discuss problems with a group. The PubWatch Banning Scheme has proved to be an effective tool and tactic to

supplement a positive step forward to remove those intent of causing a problem on all PubWatch premises and not just the one where they caused the problem.

Each licensed premise signed up to PubWatch will have a picture and details of the offender at their fingertips. This will provide staff an early identification of those banned or excluded by the courts, an excellent step forward by the licensee to improve the service they provide to the community. In the run up to Christmas, further multi agency operations will continue to target pubs and clubs in the area, focussing on illegal drug taking, underage sales and health and safety checks.

For further information on Safer Caerphilly After Dark visit <http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/safercbb>

**Safer Caerphilly County Borough**  
**Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili Saffach**

## Mobile Customer Service Centre timetable

The council's Mobile Customer Services Centre now makes accessing council services much easier for thousands of residents.

The vehicle offers a wide range of services including, paying council tax/rent, council tax enquiries, requesting a council housing repair, searching for current council job vacancies and submitting requests e.g. reporting a pothole etc.

The Centre visits the following locations every week:						
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>DERI</b> Riverside Walk	<b>09.30 - 11.00</b>	<b>FOCHRIV</b> Car park on Cae Glas Newydd	<b>11.30-13.00</b>	<b>RHYMNEY</b> Fire Station	<b>14:00 - 15.30</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>NELSON</b> Car park opposite the bus station	<b>09.15 - 10.45</b>	<b>GELLAGAER</b> Rear of shops on Heol Penallta	<b>11.00 - 12.30</b>	<b>TRINANT</b> Trinant Terrace Square	<b>14:00 - 15.30</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>YNYSDDU</b> Car park on High Street	<b>09.30 - 11.00</b>	<b>PANTSIDE</b> Rear of shops on Heol Penallta	<b>11.30 - 13.00</b>	<b>NEW TREDEGAR</b> Lay-by on White Rose Way	<b>14:30 - 16.00</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>TY-SIGN</b> Near bottom shops on Elm Drive	<b>09.30 - 11.00</b>	<b>TRETHOMAS</b> Lay-by on Llanfabon Drive	<b>11.30 - 13.00</b>	<b>ABERTRIDWR</b> Opposite YMCA on Brynhafod Road	<b>14:00 - 15.30</b>
<b>For more information, please call 01443 864 143 or visit <a href="http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk">www.caerphilly.gov.uk</a></b>						



# Use of van permits over the Christmas period

## Arrangements for the purchase/issuing of van permits to dispose of waste at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) will change slightly over the Christmas period.

Residents requiring permits for Saturday 27th December 2014 to Monday 4th January 2015 will be able to choose a site as normal. However, residents will be able to use the permit at any time during the opening hours (9:00am – 4:30pm) between the 27th December 2014 and 4th January 2015. Please note Household Waste Recycling Centres will close on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

### The existing time slots will resume on Tuesday 5th January 2015.

If residents wish to use a van at one of the county borough's Household Waste Recycling Centres over the Christmas period, the council would recommend that a permit is acquired in advance due to the closure of the Council's Customer Service Centres.

The majority of the Customer Service Centres will close at 12pm on Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December and reopen on Friday 2nd January. However three sites – Caerphilly Library, Risca Palace and Hanbury Chapel will open between 9:30am and 4:30pm on Tuesday 30th December and New Year's Eve Wednesday 31st December.

**For more information, please contact the Waste Management Team on 01443 866533**



## Work starts on Age and Dementia Friendly communities



### Caerphilly County Borough Council is continuing to deliver its promise of creating and supporting age friendly communities after signing a Europe wide pledge known as the Dublin Declaration in June 2013.

Key staff have recently attended a conference looking at good practice from across Wales with a view to considering how we can develop this work across the borough. Social Services have already developed a Dignity and Respect Code of practice for our residential care homes and invested in Reminiscence resources for care homes and libraries.

Our first key Ageing Well in Wales project will bring the council's Communities First team and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board together to look at how we can help make Rhymney a dementia friendly community.

**For more information about support and advice available to residents visit [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk) or call 0808 100 25 00**

## Dyffryn House plans on display

### A planning application which would see the existing Dyffryn House facility in Dyffryn Business Park redeveloped to provide a range of municipal services has been submitted.

Caerphilly County Borough Council needs long term plans in place to deal effectively with its municipal waste, and councils across Wales are under increasing pressure to meet tough recycling targets set by the Welsh Government.

The Dyffryn House redevelopment proposal has already been endorsed by the council's Cabinet and Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. A formal planning application has now been submitted for consideration, and a final decision about the development will be taken at a meeting of Planning Committee in the future.

The council is keen to ensure that residents have the opportunity to learn more about the proposals, therefore detailed plans and further information will be available in the form of a public exhibition, which will be at the following locations:

- w/c 1st December – Ystrad Mynach library
- w/c 8th December – Llanbradach Library
- w/c 15th December – Dyffryn House

The exhibition will then remain in situ at Dyffryn House for residents to view for a number of weeks. Hard copies of the planning application and associated information is also available to view at Pontllanfraith House, Ystrad Mynach Library and Llanbradach Library. An online copy of the plans is also available to view at [www.caerphilly.gov.uk/planning](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/planning)

As part of the consideration of the planning application, formal objections can be submitted by any interested parties. Residents wishing to submit a comment or objection can do so at [www.caerphilly.gov.uk/planning](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/planning) or by calling 01495 235 298.

For more news visit [www.caerphilly.gov.uk/news](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/news)

## Local Housing Survey

### Have Your Say on the New Social Housing Allocation Policy

The Council is working with all housing associations in the county borough to improve and simplify the way people apply for social housing in the future and the way properties will be allocated. As part of this work, we want to consult with local people on the changes being proposed in the new policy.

You can have your say by taking part in a survey, by visiting [www.caerphilly.gov.uk/housing](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/housing). If you are unable to get on-line, you can pick up a survey questionnaire from one of the Council's main offices or by telephoning 01495 235198.

**The closing date for returning the questionnaire is Wednesday, 4th February 2015.**

Only one completed questionnaire per household is permitted. Every household that responds will be entered into a **£50 cash prize draw**.



## Useful Numbers Rhifau Defnyddiol

<b>MAIN SWITCHBOARD</b> PRIF SWITSWFRDD ☎ <b>01443 815588</b>	<b>Children's Social Services</b> Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i Blant ☎ <b>0808 100 1727</b>
<b>Minicom Minicom</b> ☎ <b>01443 873626</b>	<b>Consumer Advice</b> Cyngor i Ddefnyddwyr ☎ <b>08454 04 05 06</b>
<b>Emergency Number for Council Services:</b> Rhif argyfwng ar gyfer Gwasanaethau'r Cyngor: ☎ <b>01443 875500</b> (Out of hours only • Allian o Oriau yn unig)	<b>Council Tax Enquiries</b> Ymholiadau Treth y Cyngor ☎ <b>01443 863002</b>
<b>Adults' Social Services</b> Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i Oedolion ☎ <b>0808 100 2500</b>	<b>Furniture Recycling</b> Ailgylchu Dodrefn ☎ <b>01685 846830</b>
<b>StreetPride BalchderStryd</b> ☎ <b>01443 866566</b>	<b>Housing &amp; Council Tax Benefits</b> Budd-daliadau Tai/Treth y Cyngor New Claims: Rawlau Newydd: <b>01443 866567</b> Existing Claimants: Rawlau Preswyl: <b>01443 864099</b>
<b>Blue Badge Bathodyn Glas</b> ☎ <b>01443 866571</b>	

## Christmas Refuse & Recycling Collections

### Casgliadau Ailgylchu a Sbwriel y Nadolig

**Normal collection Day**  
Diwrnod casglu arferol

**Week 1 Wythnos 1**

- Mon 22nd ◦ Llun 22ain
- Tues 23rd ◦ Maw 23ain
- Wed 24th ◦ Mer 24ain
- Thurs 25th ◦ Iau 25ain
- Fri 26th ◦ Gwe 26ain

**Revised Collection Day**  
Diwrnod Casglu Diwygiedig

**Week 2 Wythnos 2**

- No Change ◦ Casgliad arferol
- No Change ◦ Casgliad arferol
- No Change ◦ Casgliad arferol
- Sat 27th ◦ Sad 27ain
- Sun 28th ◦ Sul 28ain
- No Change ◦ Casgliad arferol
- No Change ◦ Casgliad arferol
- No Change ◦ Casgliad arferol
- Fri 2nd ◦ Gwe 2il
- Sat 3rd ◦ Sad 3ydd

Please ensure all waste and recycling is placed out for collection prior to 6am  
Household Waste Recycling Centres will close on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Sicrhewch fod eich holl wastraff ac ailgylchu yn cael eu gosod tu allan ar gyfer casgliad cyn 6am  
Bydd CAGCau yn cau ar Ddydd Nadolig, Gŵyl San Steffan a Dydd Calan.



# What's ON / Digwyddiadau

Sign up to receive regular information about local events by e-mailing: [events@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:events@caerphilly.gov.uk)

For information about upcoming talks, book clubs and craft sessions at your local library visit [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk) or call **01443 864068**



## Festive Films Free Ffilmiau'r Wyl Am Ddim 6 & 13/12 - 2pm

**Winding House • Tŷ Weindio**

Join us for a classic Christmas family film to get into the festive spirit! See website for film titles. Booking essential.

Ymunwch â ni am ffilm Nadoligaidd glasurol ar gyfer y teulu er mwyn eich paratoi ar gyfer yr wyyl! Gweler y wefan am deitlau'r ffilmiau. Mae archebu lle'n hanfodol.

**01443 822 666**



## Bargoed Ice Rink Llawnr Sglefrio Iâ Bargod

10-14/12 - 10am-7pm

**Bargoed Town Centre • Canol Tref Bargod**

Creating a fantastic festive feeling! £3 per person.

Creu naw Nadolig arbennig! £3 y person.

**02920 880 011**

## Cinderella

10-31/12

**Blackwood Miners' Institute Sefydliad y Glowyr Coed Duon**

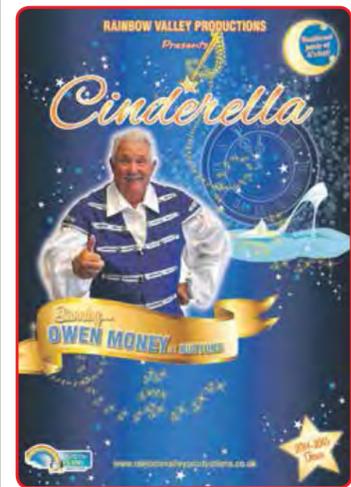
Owen Money stars in a magical production of family favourite 'Cinderella' this December at Blackwood Miners' Institute. Expect music, comedy, dancing and lots of audience participation as you meet Cinderella, her best friend Buttons and her two terribly ugly sisters! Throw in a fairy godmother, a glass slipper and a handsome prince and 'Bippity Boppity Boo' you get fantastic festive magic that the whole family can enjoy.

Mae Owen Money yn serennu mewn perfformiad hudol o sioe sy'n ffefryn i deuluoedd 'Cinderella' y mis Rhagfyr hwn yn Sefydliad y Glowyr Coed Duon. Disgwylwch gerddoriaeth, comedi, dawnsio a llawer o gyfranogiad gan y gynulleidfa tra byddwch yn cwrdd â Cinderella, ei ffrind gorau Buttons a'i dwy chwaer hyll ofnadwy! Cymysgwch hwn â dewines dda, esgid gwyrdd a thywysog golygus ac ychydig o 'Bippity Boppity Boo' yna cewch chi hud Nadoligaidd gwych y gall y teulu cyfan ei fwynhau.

[www.blackwoodminersinstitute.com](http://www.blackwoodminersinstitute.com)

Performance times and prices vary  
Gall amseroedd a phrisiau'r perfformiad amrywio

**01495 227 206**



## Tudor Treats Pethau Cywain Tuduraidd 14+21/12 - 10am-5pm

**Llancaich Fawr Manor • Maenordy Llancaich Fawr**

Step back in time to 1645 and be welcomed into the manor by costumed servants who are busily preparing for Christmas, making candles, soap balls and pomanders. As guests to the home of Colonel Prichard visitors are encouraged to join in these festivities and take these delightful Christmas items home to give to friends and family.

Camwch yn ôl mewn amser i 1645 a chewch groeso i'r Maenordy gan weision mewn gwisgoedd sydd wrthi'n brysur yn paratoi ar gyfer y Nadolig, gwneud canhwyllau, peli sebon a pherbelenni. Fel gwesteion yng nghartref Cymol Pritchard byddwch yn cael eich annog i ymuno yn y rhialtwch a mynd â'r pethau Nadoligaidd hyfryd hyn adref i'w rhoi i'ch ffrindiau a'ch teulu.

**01443 412 248**



## River of Light Lantern Parade Free Gorymdaith Lusernau Afon y Goleuni Am Ddim

18/12/14 - 6.30pm  
**Caerphilly Town Centre • Canol Tref Caerffili**

Starting at Caerphilly Railway Station enjoy a festive parade through town, followed by a spectacular fireworks display above the skies of Caerphilly Castle.

Cychwynwch yng Ngorsaf Drenau Caerffili a mwynhewch orymdaith Nadoligaidd drwy'r dref wedi'i ddilyn gan arddangosfa odidog o dân gwyllt uwchben Castell Caerffili.

**02920 880 011**

## ActiviTime: History Mysteries Amser Gweithgaredd: Dirgelion Hanes

16-20/02/15 - 11am-12pm

**Winding House • Tŷ Weindio**

Fun family crafts based on different historical periods. A small charge will apply. Booking essential.

Crefftau hwyli i'r teulu sy'n seiliedig ar wahanol gyfnodau hanesyddol. Bydd tâl bychan. Archebu'n Hanfodol.

**01443 822 666**



## Have a go at Hedge laying Rhowch gynnig ar osod Gwrychoedd 21/02/15 10.30am-2.30pm

**Aberbargoed Grasslands National Nature Reserve**

Gwarchodfa Natur Genedlaethol Glaswelltiroedd Aberbargoed. Learn the ancient art of hedgelaying at Aberbargoed Grasslands National Nature Reserve this winter.

Booking essential. £1.50 including tea / coffee. Dysgwch y grefft hynafol o osod gwrychoedd yng Ngwarchodfa Natur Genedlaethol Glaswelltiroedd Aberbargoed y gaeaf hwn.

**01443 834 317**



## St David's Day Free Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Am Ddim 01/03/15 - 7pm

**Winding House • Tŷ Weindio**

Celebrate St David's Day at the museum with our specially themed gallery trail. Free slice of Bara brith with every hot drink purchased.

Dathlhwch Ddydd Gŵyl Dewi yn yr amgueddfa gyda'n llwybr oriel thema arbennig. Tafell o Fara brith yn rhad ac am ddim gyda phob diod boeth a brynwyd.

**01443 822 666**

## Protecting You

The council's Public Protection team aims to ensure that the county borough is a healthy, safe and fair place for people to live, work & visit.

One of the team's key tasks is to expose and bring before the courts those individuals and businesses we discover acting illegally.

Below are examples of recent prosecutions:

## Eich Diogelu Chi

Nod tim Diogelu'r Cyhoedd y cyngor yw sicrhau bod y fwrdeistref sirol yn lle iach, diogel a theg i bobl fyw a gweithio ynddo ac ymweld.

Un o brif dasgau'r tim yw datgelu'r gwir am yr unigolion a'r busnesau hynny sy'n gweithredu'n anghyfreithlon, a'u dwyn gerbron y llys.

Isod ceir enghreifftiau o erlyniadau diweddar:

### Trading Standards prosecutions Erlyniadau Safonau Masnach

Defendant	Offence	Court Decision
Anthony Thomas Douglas Jones	17 October 2014, Newport Magistrates Court  Aggressive Commercial Practice and misleading Commercial practice re Roof Repairs Failure to give Cancellation Rights.	£450 fine, £368.75 costs to the Local Authority, £20 victim Surcharge.  Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Practices Regulations 2008. The Consumer Protection (Cancellation of Contracts Made in a Consumers Home or Place of Work etc) Regulations 2008.
Silas Jamie Lee	17 October 2014, Newport Magistrates Court  Misleading Commercial practice re Roof Repairs Failure to give Cancellation Rights.	£300 fine, £368.75 costs to the Local Authority, £20 victim Surcharge.  Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Practices Regulations 2008. The Consumer Protection (Cancellation of Contracts Made in a Consumers Home or Place of Work etc) Regulations 2008.

### Environmental health prosecutions Erlyniadau'n ymwneud ag iechyd yr amgylchedd

Defendant	Offence	Court Decision
Tara Lee Williams	Newport Magistrates Court on 31st October 2014.  Allowing household waste to be disposed of, which was subsequently found dumped at Nelson/Senghenydd mountain.	Six-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £132.82 costs and a £15 victim surcharge - both payable within 14 days.  Section 34 (2A) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

To view the full list, visit [www.caerphilly.gov.uk/prosecutions](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/prosecutions)  
Prosecution results are provided for a limited period to promote the openness of the council's actions to local residents. Information provided must not be reused in any form without the agreement of CCBC.

Gellir gweld y rhestr yn llawn ar [www.caerffili.gov.uk/erlyniadau](http://www.caerffili.gov.uk/erlyniadau)  
Caiff canlyniadau erlyniadau eu dangos am gyfnod cyfyngedig i ddangos i drigolion lleol bod y cyngor yn gweithredu mewn modd agored. Ni ddylid aildefnyddio gwybodaeth mewn unrhyw fodd heb ganiatâd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili.

## Foster Appeal Apêl Maethu

The Council needs foster carers to care for children over the age of 10. We offer extensive support, comprehensive training & attractive fees.  
Mae angen gofalyddion maeth ar y cyngor i ofalu am blant dros 10 oed. Rydym yn cynnig cymorth helaeth, hyfforddiant cynhwysfawr a ffioedd deniadol.

If you have room in your home and time in your life, why not call **0800 587 5664**, text **78866** or visit [www.caerphilly.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/fostering). Texts cost the standard network rate.  
Os oes gennych le yn eich cartref ac amser yn eich bywyd, beth am ffonio **0800 587 5664**, anfon neges destun at **78866** neu ewch i [www.caerffili.gov.uk/maethu](http://www.caerffili.gov.uk/maethu). Mae negeseuon testun yn costio'r gyfradd rhwydwaith safonol.

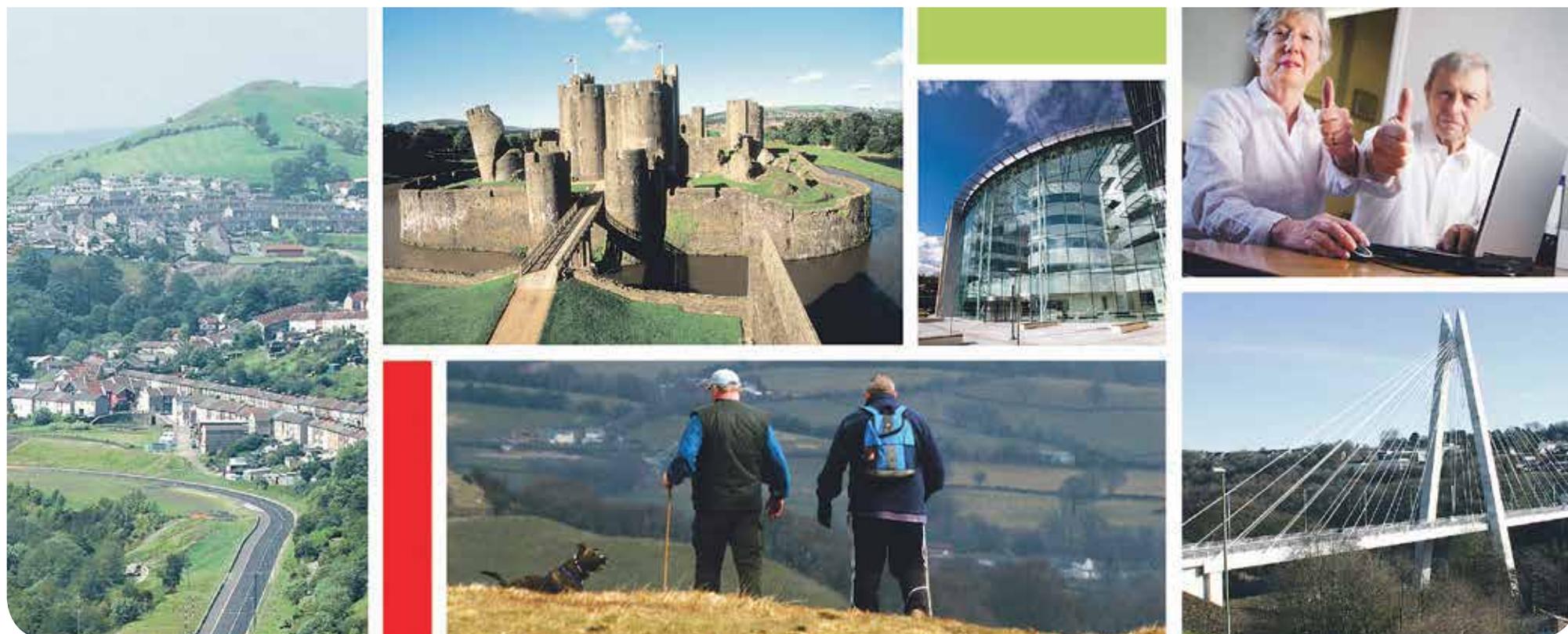


[www.caerphilly.gov.uk/events](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/events)  
[www.caerffili.gov.uk/digwyddiadau](http://www.caerffili.gov.uk/digwyddiadau)

Cofrestrwch i dderbyn gwybodaeth reolaidd am ddigwyddiadau lleol drwy e-bostio: [digwyddiadau@caerffili.gov.uk](mailto:digwyddiadau@caerffili.gov.uk)

I gael gwybodaeth am sgysiau, clybiau llyfrau a sesiynau crefft sydd ar y gweill yn eich llyfrgell leol ewch i [www.caerffili.gov.uk](http://www.caerffili.gov.uk) neu ffoniwch **01443 864068**

# Savings proposals 2015/16 – Have your say



## The table below details the comprehensive list of savings proposals agreed by the council's Cabinet in October this year.

The majority of the £12.8 million cuts that have been identified will have **no direct impact on public-facing services**. This has been achieved through effective budget management involving departments across the authority. The council has worked hard to identify savings, manage vacancies and create a culture of delivering 'more for less'.

Please take time to consider the savings proposals and let us have your feedback by either returning this form to any of the main council offices or your nearest library, leisure centre, cash office, housing office or customer first centre.



**If you prefer, you can also return the survey in the post to:**

Liz Sharma, Consultation and Public Engagement Officer,  
Communication Unit, Caerphilly County Borough Council,  
Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed, CF82 7PG

Alternatively, you can complete the online survey at [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)

**The closing date for this consultation is Friday 2nd January 2015.**

Savings Proposal	Actual Saving 2015/16	Description
<b>General Savings</b>	<b>£2.312m</b>	<b>Savings that have no direct impact on service users</b>
CCBC apprentice/trainee costs	<b>£345k</b>	Reduce budget to £150k
Assistance to voluntary sector	<b>£30k</b>	11% reduction in budget
'Project Gwyrdd' savings	<b>£1.169m</b>	Savings associated with joining a new waste management partnership with neighbouring authorities
Staff mileage rate reduction	<b>£101k</b>	Reduction in expenses for staff who use their cars for work to fall in line with HMRC rates
<b>Total savings for whole authority</b>	<b>£3,957,000</b>	
<b>Education &amp; Lifelong Learning</b>		
<b>General Savings</b>	<b>£692k</b>	<b>Savings that have no direct impact on service users</b>
Public Libraries	<b>£67k</b>	Review of opening hours – full year savings £131k
Recoupment (SEN Out of County / LAC / Inter Authority)	<b>£50k</b>	Review of provision of special educational needs from outside the borough
<b>Total savings for Education &amp; Lifelong Learning</b>	<b>£809,000</b>	

<b>Savings Proposal</b>	<b>Actual Saving 2015/16</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Social Services</b>		
<b>General Savings</b>	<b>£1.568m</b>	<b>Savings that have no direct impact on service users</b>
Reduction in number of social workers	<b>£219k</b>	This will be managed and achieved through vacancy management
Removal of £1m demographic growth for 15/16	<b>£1.0m</b>	Money set aside to enable social services to react to changing demographic (eg aging population). Anticipated that this will not be required for 15/16
Review of shopping service	<b>£40k</b>	Removal of shopping support for people who have mobility problems. Alternatives to be explored
Meals on Wheels	<b>£88k</b>	Increase in charge of £1 per meal
Review of day centre provision	<b>£128k</b>	Relocation of service provision within the same community and reconfiguration of service. The full year saving will be £255k
Review of domiciliary care provision	<b>£85k</b>	Review provision of domestic, laundry and sitting support and explore alternatives
<b>Total savings for Social Services</b>	<b>£3,128,000</b>	
<b>Environment</b>		
<b>Regeneration, Planning &amp; Economic Development</b>		
<b>General Savings</b>	<b>£530k</b>	<b>Savings that have no direct impact on service users</b>
Removal of Bargoes ice rink from December 2015	<b>£20k</b>	Reduced events availability to local residents who visit the ice rink
Area Forum Budget removal	<b>£72k</b>	Impact, in the longer term, would be reduction in small community schemes delivered and the availability of funds to provide match funding for community facilities
<b>Total Savings For Regeneration Planning &amp; Economic</b>	<b>£622,000</b>	
<b>Engineering Division</b>		
<b>General Savings</b>	<b>£179k</b>	<b>Savings that have no direct impact on service users</b>
Street Lighting	<b>£100k</b>	Use of new technologies/management systems. This may require some part-night lighting in residential areas. Full year savings will be £450k
Reduction in planned road resurfacing budget	<b>£300k</b>	Mitigate by increasing use of preservation techniques
Reduction in planned footway resurfacing budget	<b>£60k</b>	Mitigate by increasing use of preservation techniques
The treatment of gully machine waste using reed bed technology	<b>£10k</b>	Increase income by promoting facility to other authorities and private sector
Reduce highways reactive maintenance budget by 4%.	<b>£50k</b>	Mitigate by use of new techniques
Reduce highway/land drainage planned maintenance budget by 11%	<b>£30k</b>	Prioritise available resources
Reduce gritting routes from 9 to 8	<b>£60k</b>	Reduce number of routes, but maintain existing coverage area
Reduce 'aids to movement' budget by 25%	<b>£25k</b>	This will reduce work to road markings, signs, crossing points etc.
Reduction in highways/land drainage reactive maintenance budget by 4%	<b>£20k</b>	Prioritise resources available
Reduction in structures and retaining walls budget by 10%	<b>£50k</b>	Only the highest priority work will be undertaken
Christmas lighting	<b>£35k</b>	Remove financial support for Christmas lighting in towns and villages.
Highways adoption and agreement fees - Increase in fees	<b>£15k</b>	Raise fees in line with neighbouring councils.
Cease holding events in pay & display car park sites	<b>£20k</b>	These events can lead to loss of income
Increase car parking charges	<b>£30k</b>	Increase car parking charges by typically 10p per hour. Similar actions are being considered by other councils.
Management of off-street car parks	<b>£25k</b>	Increase excess charge notice from £30 to £40
Management of off-street car parks	<b>£10k</b>	Introduce Sunday charges
Passenger Transport - Concessionary pass replacements	<b>£7k</b>	Increase charges - currently £5 for second and subsequent. Revise to £5 for first and £10 for subsequent replacements
Review of Passenger Transport Services	<b>£24k</b>	Review of a range of passenger transport services which, for a full year, will achieve savings of £150k
<b>Total Savings For Regeneration Planning &amp; Economic</b>	<b>£1,050,000</b>	

<b>Savings Proposal</b>	<b>Actual Saving 2015/16</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Public Protection</b>		
<b>General Savings</b>	<b>£22k</b>	<b>Savings that have no direct impact on service users</b>
Licensing Service	<b>£8k</b>	Licensing fees will be increased to recover costs as appropriate
Registrars Service	<b>£10k</b>	Registrars fees will be increased to recover costs as appropriate
Health Improvement team	<b>£77k</b>	Reduce staffing levels
Enforcement team	<b>£45k</b>	Reduction of Environmental Health Officers from 3 to 2
<b>Total savings for Public Protection</b>	<b>£162,000</b>	
<b>Community &amp; Leisure Services</b>		
<b>General Savings</b>	<b>£338k</b>	<b>Savings that have no direct impact on service users</b>
"Bands in the Park"	<b>£2k</b>	Cease the annual 'Bands in the Park' event programme
Waste bins and containers	<b>£60k</b>	Charging for all replacement containers.
Street Cleansing	<b>£13k</b>	Reduced cleaning on bank holidays. Cleansing will be reduced to same levels as weekends.
Weed removal	<b>£100k</b>	Reduction in weed removal budget.
Removal of flower beds in parks & open spaces	<b>£40k</b>	Second phase (Phase 1 agreed and completed)
Reduction in playing field maintenance	<b>£30k</b>	Remove 2 fertilizer applications & cease end of season renovation works or reduce pitch marking frequency
Increase outdoor facility (outdoor sport) charges by an average of 20%.	<b>£20k</b>	
Cwmcarn Leisure Centre	<b>£25k</b>	Closure of site
Review park ranger service	<b>£40k</b>	Reduction of staff levels from 18 to 12.
Street Cleansing - Reduce number of pedestrian sweepers	<b>£14k</b>	Rationalisation of the number of small sweepers from 4 to 3
Litter picking - Parks and Playing Fields	<b>£12k</b>	Cessation of litter picking at 14 parks on Saturdays.
Parks & Playing Fields - removal of Barrier Attendants at 5 locations	<b>£14k</b>	Car parks (at parks) will remain open.
Bedwas swimming pool	<b>£10k</b>	Closure of Bedwas swimming pool on Sundays.
Leisure centre fees	<b>£100k</b>	Average price increase of 5% on leisure centre fees
Civic Amenity Sites	<b>£100k</b>	Closure of Civic Amenity Sites for 2 days/week + 1 hour on other days
Reduction in cleansing budget by reducing staff numbers in street cleaning service	<b>£100k</b>	Review of staffing and service levels. Full year saving of £300k anticipated.
<b>Total savings for Community &amp; Leisure Services</b>	<b>£1,018,000</b>	
<b>Corporate Services</b>		
<b>General Savings</b>	<b>£986k</b>	<b>Savings that have no direct impact on service users</b>
Council Tax Pensioner's Grant	<b>£246k</b>	Withdrawal of 'additional help for pensioners with their Council Tax' funding. This will not affect entitlement under the Council Tax Reduction Scheme
Twinning	<b>£5k</b>	Withdrawal of Twinning budget although Twinning links will continue
Review of Customer Services	<b>£125k</b>	Will involve reducing opening hours in Customer First centres. Full year savings £250k
Closure of Pontllanfraith House council offices	<b>£100k</b>	Closure of building and relocation of services currently based at the site. Full year savings - £700k
<b>Total savings for Corporate Services</b>	<b>£1,462,000</b>	

## COUNCIL TAX

**Increase Council Tax by 3.9% for the 2015/16 financial year**

**£658k**

An indicative increase of 2.35% was included in previous budget proposals. This proposed increase to 3.9% will generate additional revenue of £658k

**This equates to the following increase per week:**



£0.48



£0.56



£0.64



£0.72



£0.88



£1.03



£1.19



£1.43

## Your Feedback

Please give us your views on the above savings proposals. You may wish to indicate if you strongly agree or disagree with any of the cuts listed above, giving reasons for your views.

**How do you feel about the following general approach being taken by the council:**

**AGREE**

**DISAGREE**

Protecting frontline services and reducing management/admin costs



Reduce office accommodation costs by rationalising council-owned buildings



Increase fees and charges



Trying to reduce rather than remove services where possible



Focusing on priorities and being prepared to reduce other things



Do you agree with the idea of looking at alternative ways of delivering services (such as through trusts, community organisations, outsourcing or through partnerships and collaborations etc)



Please let us have any ideas you may have about how we can limit the impact on any of these proposals or do things differently to achieve further savings.

If you feel that budget cuts in a specific area will affect you as an individual (positively or negatively) because of any of the following (your ethnic origin, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, religious beliefs or non-belief, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality or responsibility for any dependents) please give details below.

To ensure that we achieve a representative sample, it would be useful if you could answer the following questions about yourself. I am completing this survey as...

As a resident of the County Borough

As a business person

Other (please write in) \_\_\_\_\_

Representing a third sector organisation

As an elected member

My Post Code is:

*Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.*

**A Welsh language version of this budget consultation is available online at [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)**

A hard copy is also available upon request by calling 01443 864354 or by emailing [communicationsunit@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:communicationsunit@caerphilly.gov.uk)

**Mae fersiwn Cymraeg o'r ymgynghoriad hwn ar-lein ar safle'r cyngor [www.caerffili.gov.uk](http://www.caerffili.gov.uk)**

Mae copi caled ar gael hefyd ar gais drwy ffonio 01443 864354 neu dros ebost at [unedgyfathrebu@caerffili.gov.uk](mailto:unedgyfathrebu@caerffili.gov.uk)