

CONTACT



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TYDFIL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

Community Magazine for the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil

Winter 2024



**MEET THE NEW
LEADER AND
CABINET**


Page 2

**NEW BLESSED
CARLO ACUTIS
BUILD BEGINS**


Page 4


**BEDLINOG
COUPLE SCOOP
GOLD AWARD**

Page 5

 [MerthyrTydfilCBC](#)

 [MerthyrCBC](#)

 [MerthyrTydfilCBC](#)

 [merthyr.gov.uk](#)

All information contained in this publication was correct at time of print: November 2024

New Leadership for MTCBC

At a Full Council meeting on 18 September, it was approved to appoint Labour Councillor Brent Carter as the new Leader of the Council.

This followed the September by-election in the Bedlinog and Trelewis Ward, which saw Councillor Gill Preston gain a seat for the Labour Group.

At the meeting, Councillor Carter also confirmed his new Cabinet:

- **Cllr David Jones** Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services
- **Cllr Gareth Lewis** Cabinet Member for Education
- **Cllr Jamie Scriven** Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing and Public Protection
- **Cllr Anna Williams-Price** Cabinet Member for Governance & Resources
- **Cllr Louise Minett-Vokes** Cabinet Member for Social Services



The Future of Council Services: Your Voice Matters

In the current financial climate this Council, like many other Councils across the country, will constantly be looking at opportunities to save money, whilst continuing to provide value for money services to the public.

High inflation is driving up our core costs, the level of need within our communities is rising and in response, we are increasing and enhancing our support to the most vulnerable in the County Borough, particularly in social care, welfare support and the homeless.

We continue to face significant challenges following a prolonged period of government funding reductions. This year we find ourselves with a substantial budget gap of approximately £8.8M.

It's more important than ever to have your say, so please take the time to complete our budget consultation (see page 8) to help us prioritise Council services and set Council Tax for the coming financial year.



Cllr Brent Carter
Leader of the
Council

As the new Leader of the Council, it is my pleasure to welcome you to your winter edition of Contact.

It's an honour and a privilege to serve as Leader and I assure you that I will give everything to this role.

As an administration we are introducing a change in leadership style; one that will be resilient and dynamic, and ready for the challenges ahead. We will be honest and transparent and actively listen to your opinions, while being open about the difficult choices we may face.

Within this edition you can meet our new Cabinet, learn about the new Blessed Carlos Acutis school build and read about two of our wonderful care workers who have won an award.

You can also find out about Christmas recycling, free town centre parking and be winter ready with free emergency numbers.

Wishing you a wonderful festive season.

B. Carter

Hello from Halo!

We are the social enterprise and registered charity operating Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre, Aberfan Community Centre and the splashpad, park & cafe at Cyfarthfa Park.

Looking back on the initial months of the partnership between Halo Leisure and the Council, we have cause to celebrate – we really are helping more local people to be more active more often!

Fitness in Figures; We've had 117,000 total visits, including:

- 29,200 gym sessions
- 27,000 swims
- 700 children enjoying swimming lessons



Cllr Jamie Scriven
Regeneration
Cabinet Member



Want a piece of the action?

Claim your **FREE 7-day guest pass** to gym, swim and group exercise classes!

Visit: haloleisure.org.uk/7daypass

You can also visit our website to find out what's available at your local facility.



Shared Prosperity Fund invests £27m in Merthyr Tydfil

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) provides Councils with funding for communities, places, businesses, people and skills. In Merthyr Tydfil this has amounted to a huge £27m investment.

Cllr Jamie Scriven, said: *"SPF funding has been a welcome injection of money for community projects, investments in decarbonisation, and quality training programmes, among many other things."*



"We have already seen the positive impact these projects have had; helping people to become more employable and supporting them to reach their full potential, as well as making businesses more sustainable for the future, and we look forward to seeing even more of the long-term benefits they hold for Merthyr Tydfil."



Cllr Gareth Lewis
Education
Cabinet Member

Work has officially started on the Blessed Carlo Acutis (BCA) Catholic School, which was officially marked by a ground-breaking ceremony on Friday 25 October and officiated by the Catholic Archbishop of Cardiff Menevia.

Willmott Dixon will undertake the work to build the new school, which will comprise of 525 full time primary school places, 63 full time equivalent nursery places and 600 secondary school places.

The new build project will create a brand-new state of the art school building for BCA on the current Bishop Hedley Campus, allowing the school to operate on a single site.

Inspiring Young Leaders Event held at Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre

The initiative, headed up by Active Merthyr, MTCBC's Sport Development department, saw up to 8 pupils from each primary school recruited to support sport provision in their schools, managed by their teachers and supported by Active Merthyr.

Young Leaders forms the first stage of Active Merthyr's sporting leadership pathway, which includes a new pilot programme that will see GCSE PE students have the opportunity to gain additional qualifications and then go on to feed into the joint Sport, Employability, Training and Upskilling Programme (SETUP).



Pre-loved school uniforms...

Are available to collect **free of charge** from :
The New Lease of Life Shop during every school holiday.

Bywyd Newydd
A New Lease of Life

Unit 20, Merthyr Tydfil Industrial Park,
Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 4DR

Donations of clean uniforms that are
still in good condition are welcome.

Merthyr Tudful yn ailgylchu
Merthyr Tydfil recycles

Check if your child is eligible
for **Free School Meals** and up
to **£200 for School Essentials.**

MTCBC has successfully secured Welsh Government funding of nearly £4M from the 'Early Years & Childcare Capital Programme'.

Four new developments will be located here:



SCAN ME

- Cylch Meithrin, Trefechan
- Cylch Meithrin, Ysgol Santes Tudful Primary
- Cylch Meithrin, Ysgol Rhyd y Grug Primary
- Pre-school provision, new Goetre Primary

Foster with your local authority

There are children in Merthyr who need a foster home. A safe place, a place to learn, and a place to laugh. A place to be loved.

Maethu gyda'ch awdurdod lleol

Mae yna blant ym Merthyr angen cartref maeth. Lle diogel, lle i ddysgu, a lle i chwerthin. Lle llawn cariad.

maethu cymru
Merthyr Tudful

foster wales
Merthyr Tydfil



beth allwch chi ei gynnig?
what will you bring to the table?

We currently have **83 children and young people** in foster care in Merthyr Tydfil; and we need more foster carers to ensure that all our children have the care and support they deserve.

In January the national network of 22 Welsh local authority fostering teams, Foster Wales, launched a campaign to recruit an **additional 800 foster families by 2026.**

01443 425007

merthyrtudful.maethucymru.llyw.cymru
merthyrtydfil.fosterwales.gov.wales



Cllr Louise Minett-Vokes
Social Care
Cabinet Member



Couple from Bedlinog win GOLD in 'Outstanding Service' category



Gary and Michelle Jones, who have been described as "going over and above the role of a carer", have cared for twin brothers with significant additional needs for nearly 30 years, since they were three months old.

Gary has even donated a kidney to one of the twins after his own organs deteriorated.

In addition to this, Michelle and Gary also won the 'Spirit of Care Award'.



Thank you to everyone who supported Operation Santa 2024!

Your generosity has always been exceptional, and once again - you didn't disappoint.

You've given presents to children who may have missed out this Christmas.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you, and **Merry Christmas.**

MTCBC's Social Services Department



Be Winter Ready Know Your FREE Emergency Numbers!

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 105 | Power Cut Emergency |
| 0800 111 999 | Gas Emergency |
| 01443 425011 | Social Care & Welfare Services |
| 01685 385231 | Out of Hours Emergency |
| 01685 384489 | Flooding Emergency |



Real Christmas Tree Collections will run from Tuesday 7 – Friday 17 January, 2025.

Bookings will open Monday 2 December and close Friday 3 January. Visit: merthyr.gov.uk/book-a-christmas-tree-collection

Trees must be placed at the kerbside, please remove lights and ornaments.



Cllr David Jones
Deputy Leader &
Neighbourhood Services
Cabinet Member

Refuse Collection

For some residents, your refuse collection day might change between **23 December 2024 and 3 January, 2025.**

Please take a look at the revised collection days for your refuse and recycling during the festive period.

Normal Collection Day	Festive Collection Day
Monday 23 December	No Change
Tuesday 24 December	No Change
Wednesday 25 December	Friday 27 December
Thursday 26 December	Saturday 28 December
Friday 27 December	Sunday 29 December
Monday 30 December	No Change
Tuesday 31 December	No Change
Wednesday 1 January	Thursday 2 January
Thursday 2 January	Friday 3 January
Friday 3 January	Saturday 4 January

We must recycle **70%** of the waste we collect

We currently recycle just **64%**



We still have a long way to go...

Last year we sent **10,000 tonnes** of wheeled bin waste to incineration at an **Energy from Waste plant**

5,000 tonnes of which could have been recycled instead

3,000 tonnes of this was **food waste**



If everyone in Merthyr Tydfil recycled food waste at home our recycling rate would increase by

10%



As residents, we have a collective responsibility to recycle as much as we can.



Saving these valuable resources for future generations.

If we fail to achieve the 70% target, the Council will be fined £52K for every 1% under the target.

FINED

This may impact other services.

You can prevent this by using the recycling services provided.



ORDER YOUR RECYCLING CONTAINERS TODAY!



Remember...

- ✓ Prevent waste by choosing to reuse, donate or repair before recycling.
- ✓ Never place recyclables in your refuse bin, you could receive a fine and those resources are lost forever.





Did you know....

-  Cards can be recycled. Please remove the front part of the card or any parts containing glitter, bows, ribbons or embellishment before recycling in the cardboard recycling box.
-  Wrapping paper can be recycled as long as it's not foil based – to check this, scrunch it in your hand. If it springs open it will be foil based and cannot be recycled. If it stays scrunched, it can be recycled. Please place recyclable wrapping paper with your paper.

Important Information - Household Recycling Centres

Our Household Recycling Centres will be closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.



Winter Opening Hours are 9.00am - 4.30pm

Please note: Dowlais HRC is closed every Tuesday and Aberfan HRC is closed every Wednesday.



Use Your Shower-Caps!

Cardboard and paper, when wet, is more difficult to recycle as moisture significantly weakens the fibres making them harder to mesh together to create new materials.

It is important we keep materials dry by using the covers provided for your boxes.

If you require any additional covers, contact us on **01685 725000**



91% of all the plastic ever produced has not been recycled



Recycle your plastic tubs and trays and bottles in the blue bag including those from the bathroom and cleaning products

Merthyr Tudful yn ailgylchu
Merthyr Tydfil recycles

HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING LOTS OF DELIVERIES READY FOR CHRISTMAS?

Remember to recycle your brown paper and cardboard boxes in your cardboard recycling box...

...Please break down boxes so they fit into the recycling box



Merthyr Tudful yn ailgylchu
Merthyr Tydfil recycles

Be a bright spark and recycle your electrical items this Christmas

Place small electrical items in a carrier bag next to or on top of your recycling box
Larger electrical items can be recycled at the local household recycling centres

Merthyr Tudful yn ailgylchu
Merthyr Tydfil recycles



A recent study found food waste accounts for 30% of the contents of some refuse bins.

Order your food recycling bin today!

Merthyr Tudful yn ailgylchu
Merthyr Tydfil recycles





Have Your Say

Your views matter to us. Complete our surveys and consultations by visiting: merthyr.gov.uk/HaveYourSay



Cllr Anna Williams-Price
Governance & Resources
Cabinet Member

Join our **Citizens' Panel** and play a part in improving the lives of those within our County Borough.
merthyr.gov.uk/CitizensPanel



Our Budget Consultation is live!

We want to know what your service priorities are and how you think the Council should set **Council Tax for 2025/26**.

Our survey is available until **19 Jan 2025**

smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MTCBCBudget25-26

Paper copies are available at Council buildings.

Ymgynghoriad Cyllideb
Budget Consultation
2025/26

SCAN ME

PENSION CREDIT FUND

COULD YOU BE ELIGIBLE?
Check online:
gov.uk/pension-credit
Or
Call the helpline:
0800 99 1234

Free parking

From Saturday 16th November, then every Friday and Saturday until 28th December.

Cyfarthfa

In 2025, Cyfarthfa Castle will be celebrating its bicentenary.

During the year a programme of fun, exciting and informative events and exhibitions will be taking place to highlight its national and international importance and to celebrate the history of the people and communities.

cyfarthfafoundation.wales/cyfarthfa200

We're excited to announce the launch of the **Multiply Merthyr Tydfil Cozy Corner Initiative**. This will provide funding to local community venues to establish cozy corners within their areas, serving as welcoming spaces where community members can gather, stay warm, and engage in various activities during the colder months.

Bedlinog Inn, CF46 6TG 01443 553208	Twyn Community Hub, CF47 0TD 01685 709430	Hope Church, CF47 8UG 01685 370745
Bedlinog & Trelewis Comm Council, CF46 6TF 07800 708532	Gellideg Foundation, CF48 1ND 01685 383929	Willows Centre, CF48 4DX 01443 692198
Dowlais Engine House, CF48 3HA 01685 375318	Treharris Boys & Girls Club, CF46 5HG 01443 410841	HFactor, CF48 4QL 01443 699236
Dowlais Community Centre, CF48 3LP 01685 375331	Merthyr Valley Homes, CF48 1HA 01685 727772	

