

CONTACT



Community Magazine for the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil

Summer 2025

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NEW MAYOR FOR
2025/2026**


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 [MerthyrTydfilCBC](#)

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 merthyr.gov.uk

All information contained in this publication was correct at time of print: June 2025

Councillor Paula Layton appointed Mayor 2025/2026

Councillor Paula Layton was elected Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil at the Council's Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 14 May 2025, taking over from the immediate past Mayor, Councillor John Thomas, as First Citizen of the County Borough.

"It means the world to me to become Mayor of somewhere that has such a special place in my heart. I will cherish this role and the responsibilities that come with it and do my upmost to represent the residents of Merthyr Tydfil."

Paula's Consort for the municipal year 2025/26 is her husband, Declan Sammon.

Read more: merthyr.gov.uk/mayoral

If you would like to invite the Mayor to an event, or donate to the Mayor's appeal, please contact mayoral@merthyr.gov.uk

Meet our new Cabinet

Since May 2025, the Council has had a new Cabinet structure.



Cllr Brent Carter



Cllr David Jones



Cllr Anna Williams Price



Cllr Declan Sammon



Cllr Gareth Lewis



Cllr Jamie Scriven



Cllr Louise Minett Vokes

For information on what each Cabinet area covers; democracy.merthyr.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=160&LLL=0



Cllr Brent Carter
Leader of the
Council

Welcome to your summer edition of Contact.

It's been a busy few months since the last edition, with lots of changes happening.

We have a new Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil, Cllr Paula Layton, and since May we've had a new Cabinet.

Saturday 28th June saw the first ever Redhouse Festival event – the Day Fever Festival – bringing over 2,000 people to the town centre. We really hope to do more of these events in the future!

In this edition you can read about some exciting Regeneration projects, including the relocation of the town centre's Indoor Market, the new Skatepark located in Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Village and the incredible new 3G pitch at Afon Taf High School (p3).

Also you'll find some information on the National Resident's Survey that starts in July (p7), and the annual Budget Consultation (p8), which we're doing a little differently this year.

If you can't wait for the next edition for updates, please like and follow us on social media, where I do a weekly video update.

Have a great summer!

B. Carter

New 3G pitch at Afon Tâf High School

The new £976K Fit-For-Future facility was made possible thanks to funding from the Cymru Football Foundation, the UK



Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, Welsh Government and Sport Wales.

Councillor Brent Carter, Leader of the Council said:

"Two of our Council priorities are to enhance our recreational spaces and develop key sports pitches."

"The development of the Afon Taf 3G not only helps meet the needs of the local community but is also the cornerstone facility of what is now a fantastic multi-purpose provision, that can cater for a range of sports and users alike."



Cllr Jamie Scriven
Economy, Regeneration,
Leisure & Tourism
Cabinet Member

Work has started on Merthyr Tydfil's new skatepark!

Located at Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Village, the expertly designed park promises to be a hub for budding skateboarders, BMX riders, and scooter enthusiasts alike — with its cutting-edge facilities way exceeding the size and scope of the previous park.

Please keep an eye out on our website and socials for completion date!



**2025:
CELEBRATING 1 YEAR**

Since Halo Leisure Teamed up with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council to create healthier communities

JUST LOOK AT THOSE NUMBERS!

TOTAL PARTICIPATION ACROSS THE CENTRES

220,000

Merthyr Tydfil Indoor Market update

Work is underway to relocate Merthyr Tydfil's Indoor Market to the ground floor of the former Wilko premises in St Tydfil's Shopping Centre.

An exciting concept plan has been drawn up for a multifaceted, modern marketplace, with traditional elements. The space will also feature a sensory area, separate performance area and even a food hall.

Cllr Jamie Scriven, said: *"We've shared these plans with our current tenants and are working closely with specialist architects to bring this vision to life. Our aim is to have the new indoor market ready and operational by Christmas this year."*

2025 marks the 200th birthday of Cyfarthfa Castle



To celebrate, a series of exciting events and exhibitions have been planned as part of the Cyfarthfa200 celebrations. You can find out more; visitmerthyr.co.uk.



Cllr Gareth Lewis
Education, Culture &
Welsh Language
Cabinet Member

Additionally, BBC Cymru Wales has commissioned a collection of programmes to celebrate the history, culture and people of Merthyr, which aired earlier in June.

A special **Birthday Weekend** is planned for **5th and 6th July**. This will be a weekend of **FREE** family activities across Cyfarthfa Park and Castle. It's a great opportunity to enjoy its gardens, lake, play area, and cultural, heritage, learning and leisure activities.

Keep checking back as more Cyfarthfa200 events will be added throughout the year including exciting Halloween and Christmas activities!

Cyfarthfa200 has been co-ordinated and delivered by the Cyfarthfa Foundation, MTCBC and has been part-funded by the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund.

For more about the Cyfarthfa Foundation visit: cyfarthfafoundation.wales

Celebrate the Welsh Language at Diwrnod Shwmae Saturday 18 October!

Join us for a fantastic day of fun, culture, and community at Penderyn Square for Diwrnod Shwmae – a vibrant celebration of the Welsh Language and everything that makes it special. Whether you're a fluent speaker or just starting out with your first 'Shwmae', this event welcomes everyone with open arms.

Come along, bring your friends and family, and say 'Shwmae' with pride!



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 Tydfil yn ailgylchu
Merthyr Tydfil recycles

ADDYSG CYMRU
EDUCATION WALES

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

Gwneud i bob dydd gyfri

Make every day count

#CollwchYsgolCollwchAllan
#MissSchoolMissOut

MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

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

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



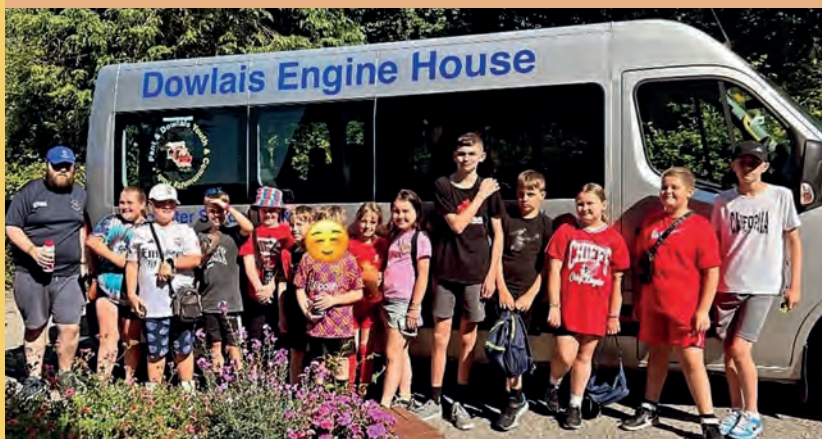
Cllr Louise Minett-Vokes
Social Care, Health &
Youth Participation
Cabinet Member



Dowlais Engine House begins process of applying for Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) registration as an open access play provider.

Play registration ensures that the environment is safe, that the setting operates to a high standard, and that the staff are competent and qualified, to care for and support children and young people.

The Council in partnership with Cymryd Rhan, supported the setting with their application. Through staff training in Playwork, reviewing of policies and procedures, and alterations to the building, the organisation fulfilled all registration requirements and in May 2025, they became the first CIW Registered Open Access Play Provider in Merthyr Tydfil.



Partneriaeth Gofalwyr Di-dâl
MERTHYR TUDFUL



MERTHYR TYDFIL
Unpaid Carers Partnership

Do you provide care and support to someone who is ill, older, has a physical or mental health condition or has a disability and you're not paid to do so? This might be a friend, family member or neighbour.

Would you like support, information or advice? Our Merthyr Tydfil Unpaid Carer Partnership could help!

Get in contact with Merthyr Tydfil Carer Support Co-ordinators:

Caitlin Matthews – 07762 408368

Caroline Lamont – 07561 601917

Or call into The Town Centre Hub to see us.

Playground Refurbishment Programme Continues

The Council manages 51 fixed play areas throughout Merthyr Tydfil, many of which are coming to the end of their useful life and are in need of refurbishment.

It is recognised by the Council that outdoor play is vital for children's health, wellbeing and development.

In 2022, the Council committed a capital spend of £518K over 5 years.

To date, the funding programme has allowed the Council to complete the refurbishment of 14 play areas.

In 2025, the refurbishment of a further 4 play areas; **Millennium Parc (Taf Bargoed), Haydn Terrace, Clare Street and Abercanaid** have been completed.

merthyr.gov.uk/news-and-events



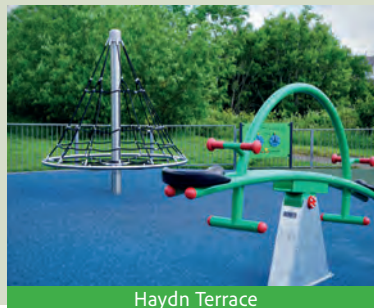
Cllr David Jones
Deputy Leader
Climate Change & Communities
Cabinet Member



Abercanaid



Clare Street



Haydn Terrace



Parc Taf Bargoed

YOUR RECYCLING AND WHAT HAPPENED TO IT... in 2023/24

Merthyr Tudful yn ailgylchu
Merthyr Tydfil recycles



64% of waste
was recycled.



16,000 tonnes of waste
were recycled.



£2m saved by recycling
instead of disposal.



8,000 tonnes of CO2
emissions were avoided.

In 2023/24, residents demonstrated a strong commitment to the environment by recycling an impressive 64% of their waste.

These figures highlight the importance and effectiveness of local recycling schemes. Every item sorted and recycled plays a vital role in reducing pollution, conserving resources, and protecting our planet for future generations.

With the Welsh Government's ambitious target of **70% recycling rate 2024/25**, Merthyr Tydfil is making solid progress. At 64% we are well on our way – but continued effort from everyone will be the key to reaching this ambitious and important goal. **Keep up the great work!**

You recycled...

Food waste	Glass	Metal	Plastic	Cardboard and paper	Textiles	Garden waste	Other recyclables
2,574 tonnes	1,212 tonnes	1,373 tonnes	1,036 tonnes	2,644 tonnes	224 tonnes	1,575 tonnes	Everything else

Storm Recovery Schemes: Website Hub

For the latest updates, information leaflets for residents, FAQs and more, please visit our Storm Recovery Hub to learn about the flood schemes taking place within the borough:

merthyr.gov.uk/resident/storm-recovery-schemes





Cllr Declan Sammon
Transformation, Governance
& Social Partnership
Cabinet Member

Have your say with our Resident's Survey!

We want to hear from you about living in Merthyr Tydfil, including your experiences of your local area, your views on council services – such as education, social care, transport and recycling – and how we can improve things to make Merthyr Tydfil an even better place to live.

The survey will be open from **1 July - 30 September 2025**.

surveys.data.cymru/s/542ArolwgPreswylwyr_ResidentSurvey



Residents of Merthyr Tydfil are being urged to report off-road vehicles in a bid to crack down on anti-social behaviour.

The Council is working in partnership with South Wales Police, Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association and Merthyr Valley Homes to raise awareness and ask for support from members of the community to share intelligence.

If you see an illegal off-road vehicle, you can report it to the police by calling 101, and where possible, provide a description of the vehicle and the person driving (for example, their clothing, colour of the helmet etc.)

You can also do this anonymously through Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111 or via the Crimestoppers website.



Transformation Programme Launch

Cllr Declan Sammon, Transformation, Governance & Social Partnership Cabinet Member said; *"As the recently appointed Cabinet Member for Transformation, Governance and Social Partnership, I am proud and excited to be working closely with my fellow Cabinet members and Council Officers as we strive to become a council that's ready for tomorrow."*

"This is a critical moment for us to focus on a future that is responsive, inclusive, and built on the strengths of those who contribute to it every day. To do this, we have engaged with 'Local Partnerships', who will help us identify and develop areas to allow us to transform."

"Please keep an eye on our website and social media to follow our journey over the coming months."



Have Your Say

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



Cllr Anna Williams-Price
Financial Sustainability,
Assets & Commercial
Cabinet Member

Annual Budget Consultation

This year we'll be doing our budget consultation in **two phases**.

In phase one (August/September) we'll be asking you to prioritise the services that are most important to you, with a question on Council Tax setting.

In phase two (November/December), based on your response to phase one, we'll be putting forward our cost-saving proposals for you to have your say on.

More information on this will be published on our website in the coming months; merthyr.gov.uk/council/have-your-say

Paper copies will be available at Council buildings.



Panel Dinasyddion Citizens' Panel

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

merthyr.gov.uk/CitizensPanel



GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL

Did you know...

You can ask a **question**, add an item to a **forward workplan**, or attend a **public meeting** in person?



merthyr.gov.uk/council/have-your-say/the-councils-participation-strategy