CONTACT

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

Newspaper for the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil *Issue 63* *December 2022*

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YOUR COUNCIL

Welcome to the latest edition of Contact Newspaper.

It is an honour and privilege to be Leader of the Council in the town where I was born and grew up.

I've learned a great deal about public service over the past five years as an elected member. As the new Leader, I am confident that I can, with the support of my fellow elected members and officers deliver the necessary improvements required to improve the lives of those working and living in our County Borough.

In the current financial climate, this is an extremely challenging time for the public sector with limited budgets. Myself and other Leader's across Wales will continue to lobby Welsh Government for better funding packages to be able to provide value for money services to our communities.

Since the last edition of Contact we've had the May Local Elections. Please see the page adjacent to this column for information on your local councillors. We are fortunate enough to have dedicated and committed members who want to do the best for their communities.

Also adjacent to this column, you'll see an article on the new Cabinet. Our aim as Cabinet Members is to build on our success in transforming the Council and work alongside our excellent officers in making Merthyr Tydfil the best it possibly can be.

We are acutely aware of the current cost of living crisis, and the anti-poverty agenda will be high on our list of priorities. Council colleagues recently organised a summit with various partners to discuss the cost-of-living crisis and what we can do to support our residents. It was very clear from the meeting that there is a lot of work going on in the communities and a lot of support available via multiple agencies. We're now pulling all that information together to bring you a special edition of Contact Newspaper, highlighting all the relevant support available to assist you during these unprecedented times. The publication will be delivered to all residents in the next few weeks and will also be available for you to access on the Council website and social media sites.

In this edition of Contact, we're celebrating some successes from our schools (see page 4), updating you on exciting Regeneration projects (pages 6 & 7), and bringing you your Christmas recycling information (p5). I hope you enjoy reading all the great things happening in our beautiful County Borough.

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas, and a healthy and happy 2023.

Councillor Geraint Thomas
Leader

An Irishman who fell in love with Merthyr Tydfil...

...on a visit 21 years ago has been elected Mayor of the county borough for the municipal year 2022-23.

Cllr Declan Sammon, who lives in Dowlais and has represented the Dowlais electoral ward since 2017, took office at the council's Annual General Meeting in May.

Declan was born in Clarecastle, a village just south of Ennis in County Clare, and first came to Merthyr Tydfil in 2001 in search of a business property to buy.

"I just fell in love with it," he said. *"I've lived in quite a few different places, all of them wonderful, but none compared to Merthyr Tydfil - which I now call home. The people are honest, friendly and welcoming, and it's been a pleasure to work for the residents in my role as a councillor over the past five years."*

The new Mayor is supporting two local charities: Cancer Aid Merthyr Tydfil, which helps cancer patients and their families, and the Merthyr Cynon Foodbank.

Declan's Consort for the year is Cllr Paula Layton, his partner of 18 years and elected to the Council this month.

Deputy Mayor for 2022/23 is the previous year's Mayor, Bedlinog ward member Cllr Malcolm Colbran, who saw his term of office severely curtailed by the pandemic.

To invite the Mayor to an event contact mayoral@merthyr.gov.uk

Merthyr Tydfil's historic new Cabinet

For the first time in Merthyr Tydfil's history, women now make up half of the County Borough Council's Cabinet

The Council has a new Leader following this spring's election and Annual General Meeting, and three of the six Cabinet members are female, two of them new councillors.

The Leader is Cllr Geraint Thomas, who served as Deputy Leader for the previous 16 months, while Cllr Julia Jenkins has been appointed Cabinet Member for Social Services, and Cllr Michelle Symonds Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Crime and Disorder.

Cllr Thomas said: *"This is the most diverse Cabinet in the county borough's history. I'm thrilled to see two talented and ambitious people join our hard working and experienced team, and welcome back Cllr Andrew Barry to his role as Cabinet Member for Governance and Resources, Cllr David Hughes as Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Cllr Michelle Jones Cabinet Member for Education."*

Cllr Thomas retained his portfolio for Housing and Regeneration, while Cllr Barry also became Deputy Leader.

Residents invited to have their say on Council budget

Residents are being asked for their opinions on how the Council should spend its 2023/24 budget.

A public consultation exercise is currently underway and over the next few months the Council's Cabinet will be out and about across Merthyr Tydfil asking you, our residents, what services should be prioritised, as well as how you think Council Tax should be set for the coming year. Cabinet Members will be available to listen to and answer questions and will take your suggestions back to colleagues for discussion.

At the time of print, details of the face-to-face roadshows were being finalised. For the latest information on these please visit our website and social media pages.

An online survey is available at smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Budget2023-2024

Alternatively, you can request a paper copy by calling 01685 725000 or emailing: Corporate.Communications@merthyr.gov.uk

The survey will close at Midnight on Wednesday 18th January 2023.

Your Council

Following this year's spring Election, below is a list of Councillors by Ward:

BEDLINOG & TRELEWIS WARD

Councillor
Malcolm Colbran
Independent
Deputy Mayor

Councillor Michelle Symonds
Independent
Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Crime and Disorder

CYFARTHFA WARD

Councillor
Claire Jones
Independent

Councillor
Geraint Thomas
Independent
Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

Councillor Michelle Jones
Independent
Cabinet Member for Education

DOWLAIS & PANT WARD

Councillor David Hughes
Independent
Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services

Councillor
Declan Sammon
Independent
Mayor

DOWLAIS & PANT WARD CONT.../

Councillor Paula Layton
Independent

GURNOS WARD

Councillor Jeremy Davies
Independent

Councillor Lee Davies
Independent

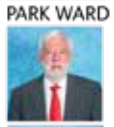
Councillor Bill Smith
Labour Party

MERTHYR VALE WARD

Councillor Darren Roberts
Labour Party
Leader of the Opposition

Councillor Scott Thomas
Labour Party

PARK WARD


Councillor Clive Jones
Labour Party
Deputy Leader of the Opposition

Councillor Louise Minett-Vokes
Labour Party

PENYDARREN

Councillor Kevin Gibbs
Labour Party

Councillor David Isaac
Labour Party

Councillor Jamie Scriven
Labour Party

PLYMOUTH WARD

Councillor Brent Carter
Labour Party

Councillor Gareth Lewis
Labour Party

Councillor Anna Williams-Price
Labour Party

TOWN WARD

Councillor Andrew Barry
Independent
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Governance and Resources

Councillor Julia Jenkins
Independent
Cabinet Member for Social Services

TOWN WARD CONT.../

Councillor David Jones
Labour Party

Councillor John Thomas
Independent

TREHARRIS WARD

Councillor Ernie Galsworthy
Labour Party

Councillor Gareth Richards
Labour Party

Councillor Ian Thomas
Labour Party

VAYNOR WARD

Councillor Lisa Mytton
Independent

Councillor Clive Tovey
Independent

Council achieves Armed Forces Awards

At a meeting of Full Council on Wednesday 5th October, MTCBC's Armed Forces Champion, Cllr Andrew Barry, congratulated the Authority on achieving two coveted Ministry of Defence (MoD) Awards.

In August the Council was awarded the MoD Silver Award for its Defence Employer Recognition Scheme in acknowledgement of its support to our Serving, Reservist, Veterans and their families within the Armed Forces Community.

And in September, Cyfarthfa High School achieved the Armed Forces Friendly Schools (AFFS) Cymru bronze status, in recognition of the level of support and the range of activities offered to students whose parents are either serving or have served with the British Armed Forces.

Councillor Barry said: "We are extremely proud to have been recognised by these prestigious Awards in expressing our pledge, demonstration and advocacy support to our defence and the Armed Forces Community and our aligned values to the Armed Forces family.

"I sincerely thank everyone involved for their hard work and commitment to this very worthy cause."

All information contained within this publication was correct at time of print.

SOCIAL CARE

Thank you to everyone who supported Operation Santa 2022!

Your generosity has always been exceptional, and once again – even during these challenging times – you didn't disappoint.

You've given presents to children who are otherwise likely to have missed out at Christmas time.

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

From all the staff in MTCBC's Social Services Department

'Listen' to our website if you'd prefer!

Residents with disabilities now have the option to 'listen' to the Council's website, rather than just having to read it

We now have the 'Recite Me' accessibility 'toolbar' on the home page of the website, making it much easier to read, hear and understand how to to find information about council services.

Even before we introduced this sophisticated computer software, merthyr.gov.uk was ranked joint first out of all the 403 UK websites tested for accessibility.

The Recite Me toolbar can be used to:

- Have the text on our website - including most PDFs - read aloud
- Download the text as an MP3 file to play when and where suits you
- Change font sizes and colours
- Customise background colour
- Translate into different languages

Cllr Gareth Richards, the Council's Equalities and Diversity Champion said: *"Some people who access our information may have impaired vision, motor difficulties, deafness, or impaired hearing; others may simply prefer their information in an alternative language. It is therefore important that our website, content, and documents work for everyone.*

"It's vital to continue to work towards digital accessibility when producing information on pages and documents for our website. Through this fantastic new software, the information we provide is more inclusive for you, our residents."

Are you a parent who is working, in education or training? You could be eligible for the Childcare Offer for Wales!

You could receive up to 30 hours of funded early education and childcare for your 3 to 4 year old, for up to 48 weeks of the year.

Visit merthyr.gov.uk/30hoursto find out more.

LEARNING

Coed Y Dderwen Eco Warriors

Pupils at Coed Y Dderwen Primary School have been embracing post-lockdown classroom time using polytunnels and forests in their personal war against climate change. Under the leadership of the school's eco-committee, pupils develop strong practical sustainability skills, such as growing vegetables, fruit, and plants in their large polytunnel ecosystem. They also care for insects and birds within the school grounds, take on forest conservation activities, and regularly learn about recycling, waste reduction and water conservation, which they put into action throughout the school.

Headteacher Sarah Townsin, said: *"At Coed-Y-Dderwen, the importance of sustainability is fully embedded throughout our current and future curriculum plans. Our aim is that all our pupils have an awareness of the world around them and how they impact on its future. We utilise our fantastic outdoor space and forest school area to enrich our curriculum, growing our own fruit and vegetables to inspire the wider community to be more sustainable".*

New Welsh language nursery Safle'r Gurnos begins a new chapter for Welsh education

Safle'r Gurnos Nursery has opened - a big step forward for Merthyr Tydfil in expanding Welsh language education into the North of the county borough and developing the Welsh language environment. The Council has been working hard for many years to ensure that Welsh language provision and communications are visible across the whole of the Borough, and this is another leap forward in achieving that.

Director of Education Sue Walker said: "The opening of this seedling third Welsh medium school in Merthyr Tydfil is a landmark occasion and comes as the first Welsh medium school – Ysgol Santes Tudful - goes into its 50th year. The growth of Welsh medium education in Merthyr Tydfil is a priority for the Council and we are really pleased to see this provision on the map."

Young leaders push for a greener future at the Young People's Charter conference

An important Climate change conference took place at Merthyr Tydfil College this year, where pupils from across the county borough came together to discuss ideas for the Young People's Charter. Many pupils spoke at the event and highlighted the visions they had for a sustainable Merthyr Tydfil. Cabinet Member for Learning, Cllr Michelle Jones, said *"I am so happy with the passion and dedication pupils from across Merthyr Tydfil have for climate change and taking on sustainable practices. The young people of our borough are the future in ensuring we continue to practice and promote these green initiatives, well done all".*

Diversity a grand slam at Edwardsville

Girls at Edwardsville Primary School tackled their way to the semi-final of the Urdd eisteddfod tournaments, playing in a TAG rugby team and championing diversity in sport. The school encourages anyone with a passion for rugby to join regardless of gender, and the rugby sessions involve tackling and TAG sessions which also improve bonding skills. The girls can decide which sessions they want to take part in and what they are comfortable doing, with a mix of no contact and contact rugby games.

Cllr Michelle Jones, Cabinet Member for Learning, said: *"As a Mam who has personally championed my daughter and son to play whatever sports they want, it's so wonderful to see this representation happening across the board for all genders in sports within schools. Rugby has always been a massive part of my life having also previously been the Secretary of the Mini & Junior Section of Merthyr RFC for 5 years. It's incredibly important that we see diversity in our schools, further enabling students to pursue their dreams and getting rid of any barriers preventing them from competing. Edwardsville is an example of this, and I will be championing more of this across our schools."*

Merthyr pupils' triumph at the Eisteddfod

Earlier this year, pupils from Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Santes Tudful, Pen Y Dre High School, and The College Merthyr Tydfil shared their winning performances from the Denbighshire Urdd Eisteddfod with Councillors.

Welsh Champion, Cllr Michelle Symonds, said: *"It was fabulous to see the children and young people perform incredible pieces of music and speeches. I continue to be impressed by the promotion of the Welsh language within our schools in Merthyr Tydfil. I really believe the WESP education strategy is in full swing and this is another example of that. Da iawn pawb!"*

Pen Y Dre shoots film shining light on homophobia

Students at Pen Y Dre High School in collaboration with Ffilm Cymru took part in a short film called 'Look at Us' highlighting the issue of bullying, based on sexual orientation. Pupils, with the support of their drama department went on to produce and direct a short film taking on a variety of roles such as acting, camera operating, make-up and post editing, honing their creative skills throughout the process. Cllr Gareth Richards, Equalities Champion, said *"I'm delighted to see one of our Schools - Pen Y Dre being involved in the making of this film. Bullying of any sort is not acceptable and I am aware that schools go to great lengths to address it. However, research seems to evidence that bullying frequently occurs for someone's sexual orientation. This can take many forms from name calling, banter or actual violence. Films like this can only lead to improved understanding, well done Pen Y Dre High School."*

GCSE and A Level success for the young people of Merthyr Tydfil

Young people across Merthyr Tydfil collected their GCSE results earlier this year – the first cohort to sit formal exams since 2019.

Leader Cllr Geraint Thomas, said: *"It was a privilege to visit all the secondary schools and share the excitement with our young people as they received their results. This cohort have experienced so much disruption during the past two years, and to have achieved what they have is all credit to their resilience and to the teachers and parents who have supported them. We instigated a Raising Aspirations Raising Standards strategy in Autumn 2020 and are pleased to see the ambitions of this strategy already bearing fruit."*

Cllr Michelle Jones Portfolio Lead for Education also commented: *"I am so pleased to see the good results the young people have achieved, despite the challenging few years they have had. It is wonderful to see that their hard work has paid off and I wish them every success as they go on to further education, employment, or training."*

Climate conscious pupils create app 'Train 2 Sustain'

In the summer, Year 5 pupils from Ynysowen and Troedyrhiw primary schools worked together to create an Apple Store app with interactive advice on sustainable practices to tackle climate change.

The idea came from pupils at Troedyrhiw who had been inspired by the National Climate Conference and wanted to raise awareness of the need for changes in behaviour to support this agenda.

The pupils worked with external company Value-Added Education to create it. Within the app they used augmented reality features for a more interactive approach which can be seen particularly in their artwork.

The app also has blogs on living a more sustainable life and songs on climate change. Pupils also used 'Minecraft' to create net-zero infrastructure and included maps showing potential locations across Wales for the buildings to be placed.

Cabinet Member for Learning, Cllr Michelle Jones, said: *"The creation of this app has allowed pupils from both schools to develop essential skills and supports the four purposes of the Welsh curriculum, ensuring our young people are ambitious, enterprising, ethically informed and healthy individuals."*

The app is available to download for free on the AppStore: apps.apple.com/gb/app/train2sustain/id1625103646

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

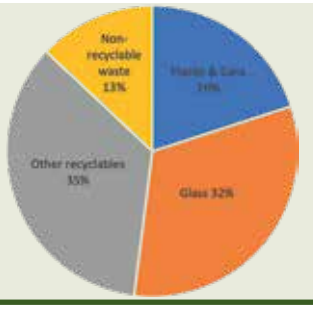
Over 80 % of litter waste recycled thanks to Recycling on the Go bins!

You may have noticed our teams installing new Recycling on the Go (RotG) litter bins around Merthyr Tydfil over the past year to help residents recycle whilst out and about.

Feedback from our collection crew is that the bins are being used as intended, so we'd like to thank residents and visitors for managing their waste sustainably and depositing materials in the correct slots!

Since installing the bins 89 tonnes of extra materials were captured for recycling, which would have previously been sent to landfill.

Here is a breakdown of materials found in RotG litter bins:



Solar Panels helping reduce greenhouse gasses

Solar panels were installed at Aberfan and Dowlais HWRCs last summer and in the last year each site has managed to reduce its carbon production by 2,000kg – the equivalent of a large diesel car driving 6,000 miles!

This is a positive step towards tackling climate change and WG's target for all Council's to be Carbon Neutral by 2030.

A465 UPDATE: Jones Street and Rocky Road works

As part of Welsh Government's A465 Heads of The Valleys Road dualling project, the contractor Future Valleys Construction – has confirmed works at Jones Street and Rocky Road involving road closures from Monday 22nd August until 22nd February 2023.

Jones Street closure – a full road closure is in place at Jones Street, Dowlais between Guest Cottages and The Hafod for major construction works to start on the new bridge. Pedestrian access is not permitted.

Pant Road diversion – to reduce congestion on Pant Road whilst the Jones Street closure is in place, there is no entry (except buses) south towards Pant Road and Victoria Street from the Pant Industrial Estate/Pant Road junction.

Rocky Road closure – a full road closure from its junction with the roundabout at Bryniau Road in an easterly direction to its junction with the A465 slip road.

Bus services 33 and 35 are affected by these works visit **stagecoachbus.com** for information.

For full details on the works being carried out visit **gov.wales/a465-section-5-and-6-dowlais-top-hirwaun**

Thank you for your continued patience during these works.

Do you own, or are you responsible for, an Air BnB?

If so, we encourage you to contact wasteservices@merthyr.gov.uk or call 01685 725000 so that we can advise you how you can sustainably deal with waste generated at these properties, to ensure we are maximising recycling. The recycling service is free of charge so please contact us to have your containers delivered.

Your collection days will be one day later over the festive period:

NORMAL COLLECTION DAY:	WILL BE COLLECTED ON:
Monday 26th December	Tuesday 27th December
Tuesday 27th December	Wednesday 28th December
Wednesday 28th December	Thursday 29th December
Thursday 29th December	Friday 30th December
Friday 30th December	Saturday 31st December
Monday 2nd January	Tuesday 3rd January
Tuesday 3rd January	Wednesday 4th January
Wednesday 4th January	Thursday 5th January
Thursday 5th January	Friday 6th January
Friday 6th January	Saturday 7th January

Bulky household waste collections
There will be no bulky collections throughout the Christmas period. The last day of collections will be Friday 23rd December and they will resume on Wednesday 11th January.

Christmas Tree recycling
Real Christmas trees will be collected on a request basis only. Booking is available from Monday 19th December until Wednesday 4th January.

How to book:
Online: merthyr.gov.uk/book-a-christmas-tree-collection
Telephone: 01685 725000
Collections will begin on Monday 9th January 2023.
Trees must be cut into manageable pieces, no longer than 1.5meters and no heavier than 25kg.

Household Waste & Recycling Centres (HWRCs)
Our HWRCs will be closed on Sunday 25th and Monday 26th December, and Sunday 1st January. Normal winter opening times (9am – 4.30pm) apply on all other dates.

Recycling
Please recycle all you can over the festive period at the kerbside or HWRCs

Top tips:
- Brown paper is classed as packaging and can be recycled in your cardboard box only
- Christmas cards and wrapping paper must be placed in the non-recyclable bin due to the variety of mixed materials found on these products
- Reduce food waste and save money by planning meals with leftovers
- Fold down or break up cardboard boxes so they fit in the recycling box, please remove all other packaging before recycling

Help name our fleet and you could win a £50 Amazon voucher

In the summer, the Council purchased 10 new recycling vehicles and we want your help to name them!

Our recycling fleet has been updated to include more efficient vehicles with additional capacity for card, and an upgraded onboard route optimiser, meaning that rounds can be carried out more effectively.

We heard of an English Council giving its residents the opportunity to name their gritting fleet, with some wonderfully creative names being suggested; David Plowie, Gritty Gritty Bang Bang, Walter The Salter and Spreaddie Mercury, to name just a few. So, we didn't want to let this opportunity pass without having some fun with it!

The competition is open to Merthyr Tydfil residents of any age and closes on Tuesday 31st January 2023.

The chosen names will be proudly displayed above the cab of each vehicle and winners will be gifted a £50 Amazon voucher each.

To submit your suggested name(s) visit: smartsurvey.co.uk/s/VehicleNames or call 01685 725000 with your suggestion.

Electric Car Owners get High Voltage Support with EV chargers

The Council is speeding up the growth of electric vehicle charging network points across Merthyr Tydfil to facilitate the growth of electric vehicles, supporting our commitment to becoming a Net Zero Local Authority by 2030. The Council will have 13 chargers built at various public car parks across the County Borough with the support of the Cardiff Capital Region Transport Authority and Connected Kerb Ltd who will install the chargers. With the Welsh Government's *"Climate Emergency"* declaration, the Council have an important role in supporting net zero ambitions and strengthening sustainable practices across the County Borough.

Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing & Regeneration, Cllr Geraint Thomas, said "The installation of the electric charging points is another example of our commitment to achieving net zero ambitions for Merthyr Tydfil. Not only will the state-of-the-art infrastructure support the wider community of electric vehicle users in the Borough, but it will also take us further into the future in our pursuit of achieving our goals.

Are you considering submitting a planning application?

Did you know the Council offers a pre-application advice service that – as well as telling you what you need to submit – will provide guidance on how to ensure a quick and smooth application process, saving you time and money.

Charges start at just £25 (depending on the type of development). For information visit merthyr.gov.uk/resident/planning-and-building-control/make-a-planning-application/

REGENERATION

Merthyr Tydfil welcomes Casa Bianca

Casa Bianca, an award winning family-run Italian restaurant chain, has arrived in Merthyr Tydfil.

The new eatery is occupying a prime town centre location, having moved into the former H Samuel jeweller's on the corner of Glebeland Street and High Street, providing a new lease of life for one of the town's empty historical buildings.

Casa Bianca's sister restaurants in Abergavenny and Monmouth won two Blue Ribbons at the 2022 Good Food Awards, and the chain offers outstanding food quality, service and value.

The Merthyr Tydfil venture was made possible through investment from Welsh Government's Transforming Towns Placemaking scheme, delivered in conjunction with the Council.

Owner Andreas Christou said: "We have had great success with La Piccola in Monmouth and Casa Bianca in Abergavenny, and we hope to achieve the same in Merthyr Tydfil, ahead of further expansion across Wales.

"Since opening in 2018, Casa Bianca in Abergavenny has developed a particularly loyal, tight-knit customer base — many of whom regularly travel to dine with us from Merthyr Tydfil.

"In recognition of this, it has been my ambition to open a Merthyr Tydfil branch for some time, and I can't thank the Council enough for helping to make it happen. Merthyr Tydfil town centre is developing at an incredible pace and we're thrilled to be a part of it."

Leader Cllr Geraint Thomas said: *"It's great to see another fan-favourite restaurant open in the town centre, and I have no doubt that Casa Bianca will be just as popular here as it is in Abergavenny.*

"Andreas Christou is the latest business owner to benefit from Council funding, with his personal ambition — alongside the many other local entrepreneurs we've helped — feeding directly into our long-term masterplan for the town."

Swimming pool redevelopment work begins

Work on redeveloping the swimming pool at Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre is set to begin in December, with completion expected by next autumn.

The nearby skate park will be included in a refurbishment project costing around £5.3m in total. Designs for the skate park will be consulted on this winter, with work on relocating it closer to the centre due to commence next spring with completion in summer 2023.

The Council secured £4,652,621 from Welsh Government's Transforming Towns programme, with an interest-free loan of £788,697 from Salix Finance and £707,572 from the Council.

We are now also working with Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Trust and leading UK leisure development experts Alliance Leisure Services on implementing a full decarbonisation programme for the centre based on potential energy savings, and refurbishment of its changing rooms.

"Welsh Government has an ambition for the public sector to be carbon neutral by 2030 in response to climate change," said Leader Cllr Geraint Thomas. *"We'll be supporting this ambition by carrying out a number of initiatives that reduce the carbon emissions of our operations and impacts on climate change.*

"As greenhouse gases have increased, Merthyr Tydfil has experienced all of the key symptoms of man-made climate change including erratic weather patterns, air pollution, heatwaves and changes in biodiversity," Cllr Thomas added.

"This has also come with associated economic and social costs as businesses and residents have struggled with issues like flood damage and interruption to their daily lives."

Snap up the perfect office space

Businesses looking for a small but perfectly formed office space geared to meet to all their requirements will find just the ticket in the Council's Orbit Business Centre.

The centre, which opened in 2008, offers a state-of-the-art building and facilities, free parking and ICT support – all included in one dynamic package. It has a total 60,000 sq ft of flexible open plan high quality office space, an executive boardroom, training and conference rooms with hybrid meeting technology and superfast fibre broadband.

There are rooms suitable for all sizes of business, from two to 30 staff available for rent, furnished with desks and chairs and including telephone system and administration and ICT support.

The tenancy also includes access to print, scan, photocopy. News 24 entertainment, dedicated teams offering on-site business and administrative support and advice, and kitchen and staff room facilities.

Please call 01685 352700 or email info@orbitbusinesscentre.co.uk if you're interested in renting the office.

Off to a flying 'art' — Aimie's gallery draws the punters

A local portrait artist who opened the first independent/private studio and art gallery in Merthyr Tydfil has been bowled over by the response.

Aimie Sutton is fully booked until February 2023 after launching 'The Art of Aimie' in the summer, bringing a new burst of colour and culture to the town centre.

It all began after a running injury, which kept Aimie off work for two weeks in 2017. Unable to leave the house, she delved back into her childhood love of art and drew pencil sketches to pass the time, later posting them online for the enjoyment of friends and family.

Aimie soon began to take pencil, acrylic and oil painting commissions from a dedicated Facebook page, which quickly attracted followers from across Merthyr Tydfil, the wider Valleys and beyond.

As word spread, her order book grew, and eventually, the mother-of-three was able to become a full-time artist — requiring a permanent space for art production and display, now positioned on Glebeland Street.

The venture was made possible by support from the Council's 'Meanwhile' scheme, which supports new enterprises to open in vacant town centre properties.

The Art of Aimie received funding from Welsh Government's Transforming Towns Business Fund, while Tydfil Training provided Community Renewal Fund (CRF) funding and Merthyr Tydfil Enterprise Centre (MTEC) gave business support.

Aimie said: *"It's been brilliant to discover how much of an artistic community there is in Merthyr Tydfil — I've met so many people who have popped in to discuss their love of art and share their work with me. The support of the council has been so helpful during my journey and I feel very grateful to live in a town that places so much importance on supporting new local businesses."*

REGENERATION

Seven years of start-up success in MTEC

2022 has marked the seventh anniversary of Merthyr Tydfil Enterprise Centre (MTEC) — a collaborative project between the Council and Tydfil Training, designed to support the needs of start-ups and existing businesses in the county borough.

Born from the need to create a business hub in the town centre, MTEC provides a fresh approach to business support in Merthyr Tydfil — physically providing the facility for test trade, incubation and growth facilities as well as mainstream support. This is all aided by a dedicated on-site support team.

This year, MTEC has seen a huge 36% increase in the number of business support registrations received compared with 2021. In turn, this has resulted in a 20% rise in the number of actual businesses started — with 2022 on track to be MTEC's best year on record.

Over the years, MTEC has aided more than 200 successful start-ups from a multitude of sectors — including retail, manufacturing and hospitality, thereby helping to change the face of Merthyr Tydfil town centre.

The Council's Economic Development team has supported the successful seven-year delivery of MTEC as a pivotal partner, offering additional services such as the Meanwhile Programme, which creates opportunities for business owners to set up in vacant town centre properties.

Tydfil Training CEO Paul Gray said: "Over the years, MTEC has worked to encourage enterprise, entrepreneurship and employment in Merthyr Tydfil – becoming a central point of contact for new and existing businesses. All aided by a dedicated onsite support team, MTEC ensures that business owners can access the right support at the right time from the right partner.

Adam Smith, owner of Niche Website Development, said: *"With thanks to support from MTEC and the Council, I was able to open my business in March 2019. Since then, MTEC has continued to be a fantastic resource – ensuring that I not only opened my business, but that it stayed open, for good. The team are dedicated to helping businesses of all kinds and I can't thank them enough."*

Leader Cllr Geraint Thomas said: *"The pandemic was a tricky time for local businesses in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales and beyond – so I'm heartened to hear about MTEC's significant rise in business registrations and start-ups for 2022."*

For more information on MTEC please contact Karl Griffiths on 01685 727509.

Active Travel improvements

The past year has seen the Council complete work on a series of walking and cycling improvement projects as part of its Welsh Government-funded Active Travel programme.

These include:

- A shared route for pedestrians and cyclists running alongside Avenue de Clichy from Caedraw roundabout to the gyratory system; a new parallel crossing; widening of the footpath from 1.3m to 3m; and the installation of a rain garden throughout the length of the scheme ready for the planting of 2,500 trees.
- Construction of a 3.5m wide shared use path for pedestrians and cyclists running alongside Bethesda Street.
- Upgrading the existing crossing point on Victoria Street to a zebra crossing.
- Pedestrian improvements at the Tesco roundabout to make crossing the road safer for pedestrians.
- Introducing a signalised crossing point on Lower High Street between the car park and the shops.
- Improved safety and a crossing point for pedestrians on Court Street.

Tesco Roundabout

Court Street

Chapel Banks

Bethesda Street

Avenue De Clichy

Exciting times for town centre begin

Merthyr Tydfil's Town Centre Masterplan has got off to a flying start, with a number of major components set to reach fruition in the next few years.

Redevelopment of the railway station/lower High Street and the old bus station site at Glebeland are two of the key projects set to take the centre to the next level in its transformation.

In the meantime, the refurbishment of two prominent once-derelict historic buildings is complete in one case, and nearing completion in the other: the former H Samuel jeweller's is now the Casa Bianca Italian restaurant, and the old Howfield's Bakery will open as a boutique hotel, flats and a bistro/bar in spring 2023.

There will be a continued revival of the traditional townscape, with specific focus on prominent Listed Buildings of social, historic and/or architectural merit - for example, the Synagogue, which is now owned by the Foundation for Jewish Heritage who are aiming to transform it into a Museum for Jewish Heritage.

And at the northern end of High Street, the Pontmorlais Townscape Heritage Programme will see the continued renovation and façade enhancement of important buildings, and the redevelopment of Pontmorlais Park.

Long-term projects to be completed over the 15-year lifespan of the Masterplan are: the General Hospital, on which the Council is collaborating with the private developer to consider options for the site; Theatre Royal, for which funding has been secured from Welsh Government for a feasibility study and options appraisal; the YMCA, where capital works are currently ongoing; and the former St Tydfil's Hospital Site, where it is proposed to create 70 new homes.

Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration Cllr Geraint Thomas said: *"The impressive award-winning new bus interchange has kick-started the transformation of our town centre, and - with the help of residents, businesses, shoppers, and the wider community - we can shape further development.*

"By 2035, Merthyr Tydfil will have bucked the national trend of high street decline and transformed into a thriving town centre. The work has begun in earnest."

Taf Bargoed Catchment restoration progressing

The major element of a project to improve the waterways of the Taf Bargoed - the water flows of the lake at Parc Taf Bargoed - has been completed on time.

The lake has been made deeper in several places, particularly the canoe training pitch and the north end of the lake, with the silt which had built up over the years deposited into a new bund in the water.

"That we met the deadline was due in the most part to the participation of the stakeholders, local canoe and angling clubs, Council ward members and officers," said Project Manager Rachel Morton.

"We encountered some unexpected barriers to completion, but everyone worked together to maximise the outcomes," she added. *"The contractor Salix will be back in the spring to plant up this island area - with protection against the geese!*

"For now, protective fencing with safety signage has been put in to stop people and dogs from accessing the bund. It may look solid but underneath the surface, it will be like quicksand for some years to come.

"We are still working upstream to get some fencing and erosion protection put in and a tyre dump removed from the very top of the river. The project is due to finish in the next few months."

Take the sting out of leasing with help from us!

Are you a landlord with a property to rent? Did you know that you can lease through the Council?

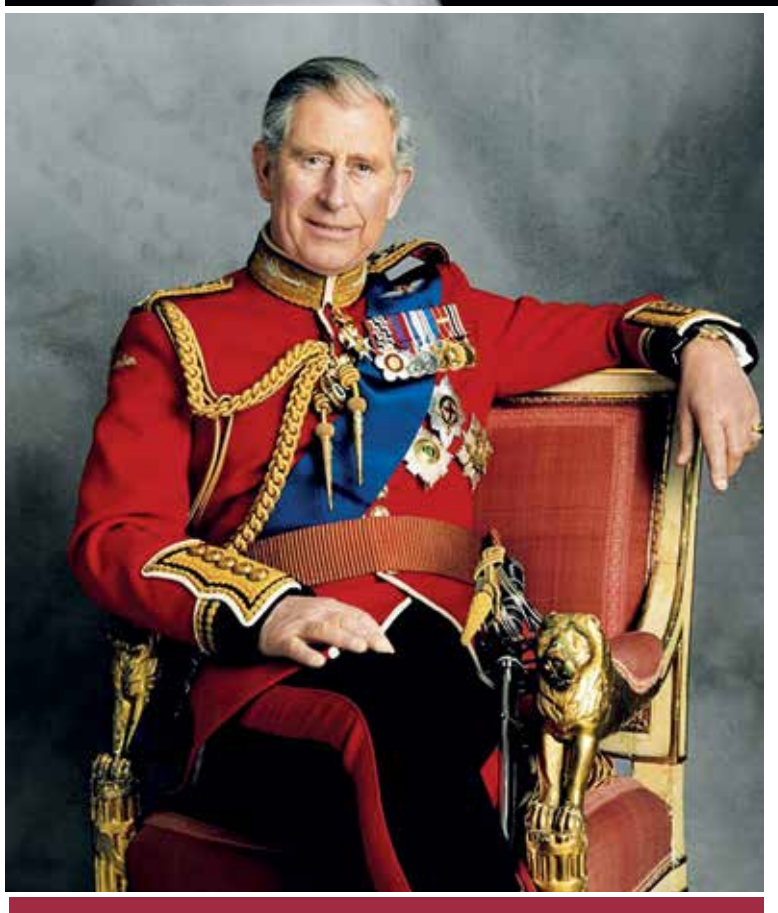
The Welsh Government-backed Leasing Scheme Wales offers guaranteed rental income for between five to 20 years, maintenance, repairs and improvement grants, with benefits including:

- Guaranteed rental income for the period of the lease.
- The property returned to you at the end of the lease in the same condition as it was at the beginning of it, less fair wear and tear.
- All maintenance and repairs managed by the local authority for the term of the lease.
- Rent equal to Local Housing Allowance rate minus an agreed management fee.
- Grants of up to £5,000 for improvements required to bring the property up to Welsh Government standards, or up to £25,000 for empty properties.
- Tailored tenancy management and ongoing housing support provided by Council support workers, helping the tenant to maintain their tenancy and the condition of the property.

To find out more contact Craig Hughes

☎ 07598404368

✉ craig.hughes@merthyr.gov.uk



In September we joined people around the world in expressing our great sadness on the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Merthyr Tydfil residents were quick to pay their respects to the late Queen, laying floral tributes, signing books of condolence, and attending services in her memory.

During her reign, she was a symbol of stability through decades where the world has seen many changes.

The Queen visited Merthyr Tydfil on a number of occasions, most notably shortly after the Aberfan Disaster, a place she held dear to her heart.

We can look back with gratitude and look forward in offering our support and loyalty to our new King Charles III.

COST OF LIVING

SUPPORT & ADVICE

If you're concerned about the current Cost of Living crisis, we want you to know that the Council is doing all it can to support residents through these difficult times.

We are currently producing a special edition of Contact Newspaper specifically to cover what support is available, from where, and when.

The publication will be delivered to all households in the next few weeks. In the meantime you can visit merthyr.gov.uk/cost-of-living or call 01685 725000 for information.

The Council wants to engage with residents aged 50+ about support and services available within the Community.

To complete our online survey visit: smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MTCBC50PlusSurvey

Paper copies are available at the Civic Centre reception or by emailing ageingwell@merthyr.gov.uk

For any comments or specific feedback, please contact ageingwell@merthyr.gov.uk

The Council is supporting engagement with our local 50+ Forum. The Forum is designed to represent the rights and views of people aged 50+ across Merthyr Tydfil to challenge age discrimination, to consult with and inform people aged 50+ on matters of interest to them and to help tackle loneliness and isolation.

To get involved please contact ageingwell@merthyr.gov.uk

BEDLINOG AND TRELEWIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

An update for residents of Bedlinog and Trelewis:

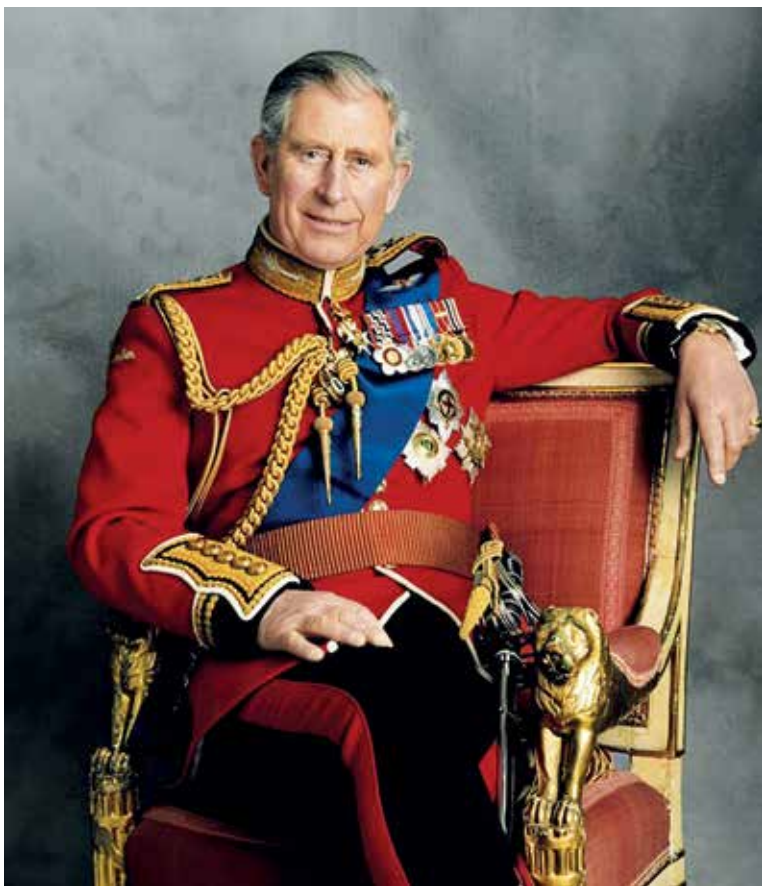
We have a new website address bedlinogtrelewis-cc.gov.wales where you can find out information on meeting dates, agendas and minutes, financial information, contact details for your Community Councillors and much more! Our Annual Report for financial year 2021-22 was published on the website in September so take a look to find out what work we carried out within the community.

In October 2021 we launched our **Community Engagement Survey**. 51 % of responses were from Bedlinog residents and 49 % from Trelewis residents. We asked how you would like budget prioritised next year and the top four responses were:

- To make more money available to award grants to community groups
- Tackling loneliness within the community
- More provision for young people within the community
- Tackling litter

The Community Council have again funded the Bedlinog and Trelewis **Christmas lights** this year. The cost of the lights has increased so we were not able to install quite as many as last year, although residents told us from feedback in the survey that this was not the main priority for how they wanted budget spent.

We will be working on a newsletter for residents going forward and you can find our latest updates on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



Ym mis Medi fe wnaethom ymuno â phobl ledled y byd i fynegi ein tristwch mawr ar farwolaeth Ei Mawrhydi y Frenhines Elizabeth II.

Bu trigolion Merthyr Tudful yn gyflym i dalu teyrnged i'r ddiweddar Frenhines, gan osod teyrngedau blodau, arwyddo llyfrau cydymdeimlad, a mynychu gwasanaethau er cof amdani.

Yn ystod ei theyrnasiad, roedd hi'n symbol o sefydlogrwydd trwy ddegawdau lle mae'r byd wedi gweld llawer o newidiadau.

Ymwelodd y Frenhines â Merthyr Tydfil nifer o achlysuron, yn fwyaf nodedig yn fuan ar ôl Trychineb Aberfan, lle a oedd yn annwyl i'w chalon.

Gallwn edrych yn ôl yn ddiolchgar ac edrych ymlaen at gynnig ein cefnogaeth a'n teyrngarwch i'n Brenin Siarl III newydd.

COST OF LIVING

SUPPORT & ADVICE

Os ydych chi'n pryderu am yr argyfwng Costau Byw, rydym am i chi wybod bod y Cyngor yn gwneud popeth y gallwn i gefnogi'r preswylwyr trwy'r amseroedd caled hwn.

Ar hyn o bryd rydym yn cynhyrchu rhifyn arbennig o Cyswllt yn nodi yn benodol y cymorth sydd ar gael, o ble a phryd.

Bydd y cyhoeddiad yn cael ei anfon i bob cartref yn yr wythnosau nesaf. Yn y cyfamser gallwch ymweld â merthyr.gov.uk/cost-of-living neu ffonio 01685 725000 am wybodaeth.

Mae'r Cyngor am ymgysylltu â thrigolion 50+ oed ynghylch y cymorth a'r gwasanaethau sydd ar gael yn y Gymuned.

I gwblhau ein harolwg ar-lein ewch i: smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MTCBC50PlusSurvey

Mae copïau papur ar gael yn nerbynfa'r Ganolfan Ddinesig neu drwy anfon e-bost at ageingwell@merthyr.gov.uk

Am unrhyw sylwadau neu adborth penodol, cysylltwch ag ageingwell@merthyr.gov.uk

Mae'r Cyngor yn cefnogi ymgysylltu â'n Fforwm 50+ lleol. Mae'r Fforwm wedi'i gynllunio i gynrychioli hawliau a barn pobl 50+ oed ar draws Merthyr Tudful i herio gwahaniaethu ar sail oed, i ymgynghori â phobl 50+ a rhoi gwybod iddynt am faterion sydd o ddiddordeb iddynt ac i helpu i fynd i'r afael ag unigrwydd ac arwahanrwydd.

I gymryd rhan, cysylltwch ag ageingwell@merthyr.gov.uk

BEDLINOG AND TRELEWIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Diweddariad i breswylwyr Bedlinog a Threlewis:

Mae gennym gyfeiriad gwefan newydd bedlinogtrelewis-cc.gov.wales <http://www.bedlinogtrelewis-cc.gov.wales> ble gallwch ddod o hyd i wybodaeth am ddyddiadau cyfarfodydd, agenda, munudau, gwybodaeth ariannol, manylion cyswllt eich Cynghorwyr Cymunedol a llawer mwy! Cyhoeddwyd ein Hadroddiad Blynyddol ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol 2021-22 ar y wefan ym mis Medi, felly ewch i weld pa waith sydd wedi ei wneud yn ein cymuned.

Ym mis Hydref 2021 lansiwyd **Arolwg Ymglymiad Cymunedol.** Cafwyd ymateb gan 51% gan breswylwyr Bedlinog a 49% o Drelewis. Gofynnwyd sut fyddech chi'n hoffi gweld yr arian yn cael ei wario a'r pedwar prif fater oedd:

- i wneud mwy o arian ar gael i grwpiau cymunedol
- Taclo unigrwydd yn y gymuned
- Mwy o ddarpariaeth i bobl ifanc yn y gymuned
- Taclo sbwriel

Mae'r Cyngor Cymuned wedi ariannu **Goleuadau Nadolig** eto eleni yn Nhrelewis a Bedlinog. Mae costau'r golau wedi cynyddu felly nid ydym yn gallu gosod cymaint â llynedd, er bod preswylwyr wedi dweud nad oedd hyn yn flaenoriaeth gwariant.

Byddwn yn gweithio ar gynhyrchu taflen newyddion i breswylwyr ac mae'r diweddariadau i'w gweld ar Facebook, Twitter ac Instagram.

ADFYWIO

7 mlynedd o lwyddiant sefydlu busnesau

Mae 2022 yn dynodi saith mlynedd ers sefydlu Canolfan Fenter Merthyr Tudful (MTEC) — prosiect cydweithredol rhwng Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful a Tydfil Training, sy'n cefnogi anghenion busnesau newydd a busnesau sy'n bodoli eisoes ym Merthyr Tudful.

Wedi'i chreu o'r angen i greu hwb busnes yng nghanol y dref, mae MTEC yn cynnig dull newydd o gefnogi busnesau ym Merthyr Tudful - gan ddarparu cyfleuster corfforol i brofi masnach, meithrin a chyfleusterau twf yn ogystal â chefnogaeth prif ffrwd. Cefnogir hyn i gyd gan dîm cymorth penodol ar y safle.

Heddiw, y 12fed o Awst — a dim ond wyth mis o'r flwyddyn wedi bod — mae MTEC wedi cyhoeddi cynnydd enfawr o 36% yn nifer y cofrestriadau am gymorth busnes a dderbyniwyd o gymharu â 2021. Yn ei dro, mae hyn wedi arwain at gynnydd o 20% yn nifer y busnesau a ddechreuwyd — gyda 2022 ar y trywydd iawn i fod yn flwyddyn orau MTEC ar gofnod.

Dros y blynyddoedd, mae MTEC wedi helpu dros 200 o fusnesau newydd llwyddiannus o sawl sector — gan gynnwys manwerthu, gweithgynhyrchu a lletygarwch, a thrwy helpu i newid wyneb canol tref Merthyr Tudful.

Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful wedi bod yn gefnogol gyda'r gwaith o ddarparu MTEC dros gyfnod o saith mlynedd — fel partner hollbwysig sy'n cynnig gwasanaethau ychwanegol megis y Rhaglen 'Yn y Cyfamser', sy'n creu cyfleoedd i berchnogion busnes sefydlu mewn eiddo gwag yng nghanol y dref.

Dywedodd Paul Gray, Prif Weithredwr Tydfil Training: *"Dros y blynyddoedd, mae MTEC wedi gweithio i annog menter, entrepreneuriaeth a chyflogaeth ym Merthyr Tudful, gan ddod yn bwynt cyswllt canolog ar gyfer busnesau newydd a'r rhai sy'n bodoli eisoes. Gyda chefnogaeth y tîm cymorth penodol ar y safle, mae MTEC yn sicrhau bod perchnogion busnes yn gallu cael mynediad i'r cymorth cywir ar yr adeg gywir, a hynny gan y partner cywir.*

Dywedodd Adam Smith, perchennog Niche Website Development: *"Gyda diolch i gymorth MTEC a'r Cyngor, roeddwn i'n gallu agor fy musnes ym mis Mawrth 2019. Ers hynny, mae MTEC wedi parhau i fod yn adnodd gwych - gan sicrhau fy mod nid yn unig wedi agor fy musnes, ond ei fod yn aros ar agor hefyd. Mae'r tîm yn ymroddedig i helpu busnesau o bob math a galla i ddim diolch digon iddyn nhw."*

Dywedodd Arweinydd y Cyngor, y Cynghorydd Geraint Thomas: *"Bu'r pandemig yn gyfnod anodd i fusnesau lleol ym Merthyr Tudful, Cymru a thu hwnt – felly mae'n galondid i mi glywed am gynnydd sylweddol MTEC mewn cofrestriadau am gymorth busnes a busnesau newydd ar gyfer 2022."*

Am fwy o wybodaeth am MTEC, cysylltwch â Karl Griffiths ar 01685 727509.

Gwelliannau Teithio Llesol

Mae'r flwyddyn ddiwethaf wedi gweld y Cyngor yn cwblhau'r gwaith ar gyfres o brojectau gwella cerdded a seiclo fel rhan o'i rhaglen Teithio Lesol a ariennir gan Lywodraeth Cymru.

Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys:

- Llwybr wedi ei rannu i gerddwyr a seiclwyr yn rhedeg ar yr Avenue de Clichy o gylchdro Caedraw i'r system gylchol; croesfan parallel newydd; lledu'r llwybr o 1.3m i 3m; a gosod gardd law ar hyd y cynllun yn barod i blannu 2,500 o goed.
- Adeiladu llwybr i'w rannu 3.5m o led i gerddwyr a seiclwyr ar hyd Stryd Bethesda.
- Diweddaru'r groesfan ar Stryd Fictoria yn groesfan sebra.
- Gwelliannau i gerddwyr ar gylchdro Tesco er mwyn gwneud croesi'r ffordd yn haws.
- Cyflwyno croesfan ar y Stryd Fawr Isaf rhwng y maes parcio a'r siopau.
- Gwella'r diogelwch a chroesfan i gerddwyr ar Stryd y Llys.

Cylchdro Tesco

Stryd y Llys

Chapel Banks

Stryd Bethesda

Avenue De Clichy

Amseroedd cyffrous i ganol y dref

Cafodd Cynllun Canol Tref Merthyr Tudful gychwyn gwych, gyda nifer o rannau yn cael ei wireddu dros y blynyddoedd nesaf..

Mae gwelliannau i'r Orsaf Drenau a gwaelod y Stryd Fawr ac ailddatblygiad yr hen orsaf fysiau ar Stryd y Clastir yn ddau o'r projectau allweddol i drawsnewid lefel nesaf canol y dref.

Yn y cyfamser, mae'r gwaith o ailwampio dau adeilad amlwg a fu'n wag bellach wedi ei gwblhau ac ar fin ei gwblhau: mae'r cyn siop H Samuel bellach yn fwyty Eidalaidd Casa Bianca, a bydd hen Fecws Howfield yn agor fel gwesty moethus, fflatiau a bistro/bar yng ngwanwyn 2023.

Bydd golygfa ganol y dref yn cael ei adfywio gyda ffocws arbennig ar adeiladau amlwg Rhestredig o werth cymdeithasol, hanesyddol a/neu bensaernïol- er enghraifft y Synagog, sydd nawr yn berchen i Sefydliad Dreftadaeth Iddewig sy'n bwriadu ei drawsnewid yn Amgueddfa Dreftadaeth Iddewig.

Ar ochr ogleddol y Stryd Fawr, mae Rhaglen Treflun Dreftadaeth Pontmorlais yn parhau i adnewyddu wyneb adeiladau pwysig, ac ailddatblygu Parc Pontmorlais.

Rhai o'r projectau hirdymor dros 15 mlynedd y cynllun yw: Yr Ysbyty Cyffredinol, ble mae'r Cyngor yn cydweithio gyda datblygwr preifat i ystyried opsiynau ar ddatblygu'r safle; Y Theatre Royal, ble mae cyllid wedi ei ddiogelu ar gyfer astudiaeth dichonoldeb a gwerthuso opsiynau; y YMCA, ble mae gwaith cyfalaf yn digwydd ar hyn o bryd; a chyn Safle Ysbyty Santes Tudful, ble mae bwriad o adeiladu 70 o dai newydd.

Dwedodd Arweinydd y Cyngor ac Aelod y Cabinet dros Adfywio'r Cyngh Geraint Thomas: *"Mae'r gyfnewidfa fysiau trawiadol, sydd wedi ennill gwobrwyon wedi cychwyn y trawsnewid i ganol y dref, a gyda help preswylwyr, busnesau, siopwyr a'r gymuned ehangach- gallwn siapio'r Datblygiad ymhellach.*

"Erbyn 2035, bydd Merthyr Tudful wedi ei thrawsffurfio yn ganol tref ffyniannus yn wahanol i'r tuedd sy'n gweld canol trefi yn dirywio. Mae'r gwaith wir wedi cychwyn."

Adferiad dalgylch Taf Bargoed yn dod yn ei flaen

Mae elfen bwysig o broject i wella dyfrffordd Taf Bargoed -sef llif y dŵr i'r llyn ym Mharc Taf Bargoed- wedi ei gwblhau ar amser.

Mae'r llyn wedi ei ddyfnhau mewn sawl lle, yn arbennig yr ardal hyfforddi canŵ ac ochr ogleddol y llyn, gyda'r silt a oedd wedi adeiladu yn cael ei ffurfio yn fwnd newydd yn y dŵr.

"Roedd y cydweithrediad rhwng budd ddeiliaid, y clybiau can a physgota lleol a swyddogion ac Aelodau'r Cyngor yn allweddol wrth i ni gwblhau'r gwaith ar amser," meddai Rachel Morton Rheolwr y Project.

"Fe wnaethom ni wynebu sawl rhwystr annisgwyl, ond gweithiodd pawb yn gytûn," meddai ac ychwanegodd. "Bydd y contractwyr Salix yn ôl yn y gwanwyn i blannu ardal yr ynys- a diogelu yn erbyn y gwyddau!

"Am nawr, mae ffensys ac arwyddion wedi eu gosod er mwyn stopio pobl rhag mynd ar y bwnd. Efallai ei fod yn edrych yn gadarn ond o dan y wyneb bydd fel traeth byw am flynyddoedd i ddod.

"Rydym yn dal i weithio i fyny'r afon i osod ffens a diogelu yn erbyn erydiad a chael gwared a theiars sydd wedi eu gadael. Mae disgwyl i'r project ddod i ben yn y misoedd nesaf."

Cynllun Prydlesu Cymru

Ydych chi'n landlord sydd ag eiddo i'w rentu? A ydych wedi meddwl am brydlesu drwy eich awdurdod lleol?

Cynllun Prydlesu Cymru, Mae'r cynllun prydlesu a gefnogir gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn cynnig incwm rhent gwarantedig am rhwng 5 ac 20 mlynedd. Mae'r manteision ychwanegol yn cynnwys:

- incwm rhent gwarantedig ar gyfer cyfnod y brydles
- bod eich eiddo wedi'i ddychwelyd atoch ar ddiwedd y brydles yn yr un cyflwr ag yr oedd ar ddechrau'r brydles, llai o ôl traul deg
- yr holl waith cynnal a chadw ac atgyweirio a reolir gan yr awdurdod lleol am gyfnod y brydles
- rhent sy'n hafal i gyfradd Lwfans Tai Lleol heb ffi reoli y cytunwyd arni
- rhoi hyd at £5000 ar gyfer unrhyw welliannau sy'n ofynnol i godi'r eiddo i safonau Llywodraeth Cymru. Neu hyd at £25,000 ar gyfer eiddo gwag
- rheoli tenantiaethau wedi'u teilwra a chymorth tai parhaus a ddarperir gan weithwyr cymorth o fewn yr awdurdod lleol. Helpu'r tenant i gynnal ei denantiaeth a chyflwr yr eiddo.

I gael gwybod mwy, cysylltwch â Craig Hughes ar

☎ 07598404368

✉ craig.hughes@merthyr.gov.uk

ADFYWIO

Merthyr Tudful yn croesawu Casa Bianca

Casa Bianca, an award winning family-ruMae'r gadwyn o dai bwyta Eidalaidd Casa Bianca, sydd wedi ennill gwobrau wedi cyrraedd Merthyr Tudful.

Bydd y bwyty, sydd wedi ei leoli yng nghanol y dref yn agor ar safle cyn siop H Samuel ar gornel Stryd y Clastir a'r Stryd Fawr, gan roi bywyd newydd i un o adeiladau hanesyddol canol y dref.

Mae bwytai eraill Casa Bianca yn y Fenni a Threfynwy wedi ennill dau Ruban Glas yng Ngwobrwyon Bwyd 2022, ac mae'r gadwyn yn cynnig bwyd o safon, gwasanaeth da a gwerth am arian.

Mae'r fenter newydd yn bosibl diolch i fuddsoddiad cynllun creu lleoedd Llywodraeth Cymru, Trawsnewid Trefi, ar y cyd â Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful.

Dywedodd perchennog y bwyty, Andreas Christou: *"Rydyn ni wedi cael llwyddiant aruthrol gyda La Piccola yn Nhrefynwy a Casa Bianca yn y Fenni — a gobeithio y gallwn gyflawni'r un peth ym Merthyr Tudful, cyn ni ehangu ymhellach ar draws Cymru.*

"Ers agor yn 2018, mae Casa Bianca yn y Fenni wedi datblygu sylfaen o gwsmeriaid teyrngar a chlos – gyda nifer yn teithio'n rheolaidd i fwyta gyda ni o Ferthyr Tudful.

"I gydnabod hynny, bu'n uchelgais agor cangen ym Merthyr Tudful ers peth amser - ac ni allaf ddiolch digon i'r cyngor am helpu i'w wireddu. Mae canol tref Merthyr Tudful yn datblygu'n gyflym dros ben, ac rydyn ni'n falch iawn o fod yn rhan o hynny."

Dywedodd Arweinydd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful, Y Cynghorydd Geraint Thomas: *"Mae'n wych gweld bwyty poblogaidd arall yn agor yng nghanol y dref, a does dim dwywaith y bydd Casa Bianca yr un mor boblogaidd fan hyn ag ydyw yn y Fenni.*

"Andreas Christou yw'r perchennog busnes diweddaraf i elwa o gyllid y Cyngor, gyda'i uchelgais personol - ochr yn ochr â'r llu o entrepreneuriaid lleol eraill rydym wedi'u helpu - gan gyfrannu'n uniongyrchol at ein uwch gynllun hirdymor ar gyfer y dref".

Gwaith ailddatblygu'r pwll nofio ar gychwyn

Mae'r gwaith o ail ddatblygu'r pwll nofio yng Nghanolfan Hamdden Merthyr Tudful ar gychwyn ym mis Rhagfyr, gyda'r gwaith yn cael ei gwblhau erbyn yr Hydref nesaf.

Bydd y parc sglefr fyrddio gerllaw hefyd yn cael ei adnewyddu gyda'r project yn costio tua £5.3m yn gyfan gwbl. Bydd cynlluniau ar gyfer y parc sglefr fyrddio yn digwydd dros y gaeaf gyda'r gwaith o'i ail leoli yn nes at y ganolfan i gychwyn ddiwedd y gaeaf gyda dyddiad agora r ddechrau haf 2023.

Llwyddodd y Cyngor i dderbyn £4,652,621 o raglen trawsnewid trefi Llywodraeth Cymru, gyda £707,572 yn dod o'r Cyngor.

Rydym nawr yn gweithio gydag Ymddiriedolaeth Hamdden Merthyr Tudful a'r arbenigwyr cynllunio hammden Alliance Leisure Services ar weithredu rhaglen di garboneiddio llawn ar gyfer y ganolfan ar arbedion ynni, ac ailwampio'r ystafelloedd newid.

"Mae gan Lywodraeth Cymru uchelgais i'r sector gyhoeddus fod yn garbon niwtral erbyn 2030 er mwyn ymateb i newid hinsawdd", meddai'r Cyngh Geraint Thomas. *"Byddwn yn cefnogi hyn trwy gynnal nifer o gamau i leihau allyriadau carbon y gwaith sy'n effeithio ar newid hinsawdd.*

"Fel mae nwyon t gwydr wedi cynyddu, mae Merthyr Tudful wedi profi'r holl symptomau o newid hinsawdd sydd wedi ei greu gan ddyn gan gynnwys, tywydd cyfnewidiol, llygredd aer, tywydd poeth a newid mewn bioamrywiaeth," ychwanegodd.

"Mae costau ychwanegol wedi dod gyda hyn, ac mae preswylwyr a busnesau wedi brwydro gyda difrod a achoswyd gan lifogydd a tharfu are u bywyd pob dydd."

Bachwch y gofod gwaith perffaith

Mae busnesau sy'n chwilio am y gofod gwaith perffaith sy'n ateb pob angen yn gallu dod o hyd i'r lleoliad delfrydol ym Merthyr Tudful.

Mae gan y ganolfan , a agorwyd yn 2008 gyfanswm o 60,000 troedfedd sgwâr o swyddfeydd, ystafell bwyllgor, ystafelloedd cynadleddau a hyfforddiant gyda thechnoleg cyfarfodydd hybrid a band llydan ffibr cyflym iawn.

Mae ystafelloedd i'w rhentu addas i bob maint busnes rhwng dau a 30, wedi eu dodrefnu gyda desgiau, cadeiriau, system ffon a chefnogaeth weinyddol a TG.

Mae'r denantiaeth yn cynnwys mynediad at wasanaeth argraffu, sganio a llungopïo. Mae teledu gydag adloniant a Newyddion 24, a thimau yn cynnig cefnogaeth busnes, gweinyddu a chegin a chyfleusterau ystafell staff.

Ffoniwch 01685 352700 neu e-bostio info@orbitbusinesscentre.co.uk os oes gennych ddiddordeb mewn rhentu'r swyddfa.

Dechrau da - Artist lleol yn agor yr oriel gelf, breifat gyntaf ynghanol tref Merthyr Tudful

Mae Aimie Sutton, artist portreadau lleol wedi agor y stiwdio ac oriel gelf annibynnol/breifat gyntaf ym Merthyr Tudful a hynny yn dilyn llwyddiant ei busnes ar-lein yn ystod y ddwy flynedd ddiwethaf.

Agorodd 'The Art of Aimie,' yn swyddogol ddechrau Gorffennaf ac mae wedi bod yn brysur ers hynny gan ddod â lliw a diwylliant i ganol y dref.

Dechreuodd y cyfan wedi i anaf rhedeg gadw Aimie o'r gwaith am bythefnos yn 2017. Nid oedd fodd iddi adael y tŷ ac ailgydiodd yng nghariad ei phlentyndod a dechrau darlunio â phensiliau a'u postio ar-lein er mwyn i'w theulu a'i ffrindiau eu gweld.

Yn dilyn hyn, dechreuodd Aimie dderbyn comisiynau gwaith pensil, acrylig ac olew ar ei thudalen Facebook - denodd hyn nifer fawr o ddilynwyr, ledled Merthyr a'r Cymoedd.

Yn raddol, tyfodd ei llyfr archebion a llwyddodd Aimie, sydd yn fam i dri o blant ddyfod yn artist llawn amser. Roedd angen lle parhaol arni i greu ac arddangos ei chelf ac mae'n awr ar Stryd y Clastir.

Cafodd y fenter ei gwireddu yn sgil cymorth gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful a Chynllun 'Yn y Cyfamser' sydd yn hwyluso mentrau newydd sydd o fudd i drigolion ac ymwelwyr Merthyr Tudful i agor mewn eiddo gwag yn y dref.

Derbyniodd 'The Art of Aimie' gefnogaeth yn ogystal gan Ganolfan Fentergarwch Merthyr Tudful (CMMT) – prosiect cydweithredol rhwng Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful a Hyfforddiant Tudful, sydd yn cefnogi anghenion busnesau newydd a busnesau sydd yn bodoli'n barod.

"Mae wedi bod yn wych i ddarganfod cymuned artistig Merthyr Tudful. Rwyf wedi cwrdd â chymaint o bobl sydd wedi galw heibio i drafod eu hoffter o gelfyddyd a rhannu eu gwaith â mi. Mae cymorth y Cyngor wedi bod yn wych yn ystod fy nhaith ac rwy'n ddiolchgar i fyw mewn tref sydd yn gosod cymaint o bwysigrwydd ar gefnogi busnesau lleol, newydd."

GWASANAETHAU CYMDOGAETH

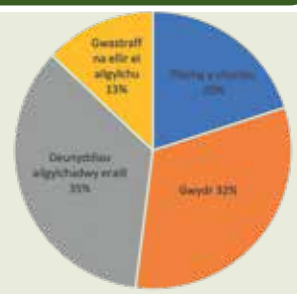
Mae dros 80 % o wastraff sbwriel yn cael ei ailgylchu diolch i finiau Ailgylchu Wrth Fynd!

Efallai eich bod wedi sylwi ar ein timau wedi gosod biniau sbwriel Ailgylchu wrth Fynd (AwF) newydd o amgylch Merthyr Tudful dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf i helpu trigolion i ailgylchu tra allan.

Yr adborth gan ein criw casglu yw bod y biniau'n cael eu defnyddio fel y bwriad, felly hoffem ddiolch i drigolion ac ymwelwyr am reoli eu gwastraff yn gynaliadwy a rhoi deunyddiau yn y slotiau cywir!

Ers gosod y biniau cafodd 89 tunnell o ddeunyddiau ychwanegol eu casglu i'w hailgylchu, a fyddai wedi cael eu hanfon i safleoedd tirlenwi yn flaenorol.

Dyma ddadansoddiad o ddeunyddiau a ganfuwyd mewn biniau sbwriel AwF:



Paneli Solar yn helpu i leihau nwyon tŷ gwydr

Gosodwyd paneli solar yng Nghanolfannau Ailgylchu Gwastraff Domestig Aberfan a Dowlais yr haf diwethaf ac yn y flwyddyn ddiwethaf mae pob safle wedi llwyddo i leihau ei gynhyrchiant carbon gan 2,000kg – sy'n cyfateb i gar diesel mawr yn gyrru 6,000 o filltiroedd!

Mae hwn yn gam cadarnhaol tuag at fynd i'r afael â'r newid yn yr hinsawdd a tharged LIC i bob Cyngor fod yn Garbon Niwtral erbyn 2030.

DIWEDDARIAD A465: Gwaith Stryd Jones a Rocky Road

Fel rhan o broject ffordd ddeuol Ffordd Blaenau'r Cymoedd yr A465, mae'r contractiwr Future Valleys Construction – wedi cadarnhau y bydd y gwaith ar Stryd Jones a'r Ffordd Greigiog yn cynnwys cau'r ffyrdd o Ddydd Llun Awst 22ain 2022 am 6 mis.

Cau Stryd Jones – Mae'r ffordd ar gau yn gyfan gwbl rhwng Bythynod Guest a'r Hafod er mwyn i'r gwaith adeiladu pont newydd ddigwydd. Ni fydd mynediad i gerddwyr.

Gwyriad Heol Pant – er mwyn lleihau traffig ar Heol Pant tra bod Stryd Jones ar gau, ni fydd mynediad (ond i fysiau) i'r de tuag at Heol Pant a Stryd Victoria, o gyffordd Ystâd Ddiwydiannol Pant/ Heol Pant.

Cau'r Heol Greigiog Mae'r ffordd ar gau yn gyfan gwbl o'r gyffordd gyda'r cylchdro ar Heol Bryniau i'r dwyrain at y gyffordd gyda slipffordd yr A465 ar gyfer gwaith adeiladu.

Bydd gwasanaethau bysiau rhif 33 a 35 yn cael ei heffeithio gan y gwaith hwn – ewch i stagecoachbus.com am wybodaeth.

Gellir derbyn manylion llawn am y gwaith ar:

gov.wales/a465-section-5-and-6-dowlais-top-hirwaun

A ydych yn berchen ar, neu a ydych yn gyfrifol am, Gwely a Brecwast Awyr?

Os felly, rydym yn eich annog i gysylltu â wasteservices@merthyr.gov.uk neu ffonio 01685 725000 fel y gallwn eich cynghori ar sut y gallwch ymdrin yn gynaliadwy â gwastraff a gynhyrchir yn yr eiddo hyn er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn ailgylchu cymaint â phosibl. Mae'r gwasanaeth ailgylchu yn rhad ac am ddim felly cysylltwch â ni i gael eich cynwysyddion wedi'u dosbarthu

Bydd eich casgliad ddiwrnod yn hwyrach dros gyfnod y Nadolig:

DIWRNOD CASGLU ARFEROL:	YN CAEL EI GASGLU:
Dydd Llun Rhagfyr 26ain	Dydd Mawrth Rhagfyr 27ain
Dydd Mawrth Rhagfyr 27ain	Dydd Mercher Rhagfyr 28ain
Dydd Mercher Rhagfyr 28ain	Dydd Iau Rhagfyr 29ain
Dydd Iau Rhagfyr 29ain	Dydd Gwener Rhagfyr 30ain
Dydd Gwener Rhagfyr 30ain	Dydd Sadwrn Rhagfyr 31ain
Dydd Llun Ionawr2il	Dydd Mawrth Ionawr 3ydd
Dydd Mawrth Ionawr 3ydd	Dydd Mercher Ionawr 4ydd
Dydd Mercher Ionawr 4ydd	Dydd Iau Ionawr 5ed
Dydd Iau Ionawr 5ed	Dydd Gwener Ionawr 6ed
Dydd Gwener Ionawr 6ed	Dydd Sadwrn Ionawr 7fed

Casglu gwastraff cartref mawr
Ni fydd casgliadau gwastraff mawr dros gyfnod y Nadolig.
Y diwrnod olaf fydd Dydd Gwener Rhagfyr 23ain a byddant yn ail gychwyn ddydd Mercher Ionawr 11eg.

Ailgylchu Coed Nadolig
Bydd Coed Nadolig Iawn yn cael eu casglu ar gais yn unig. Gellir archebu casgliad rhwng dydd Llun Rhagfyr 19eg ac Ionawr 4ydd.

Sut i archebu:
Ar-lein: merthyr.gov.uk/book-a-christmas-tree-collection
Rhif Ffôn: 01685 725000
Bydd casgliadau yn cychwyn ddydd Llun Ionawr 9fed.
Rhaid torri'r coed yn ddarnau llai,
dim hirach na 1.5 metr a dim trymach na 25kg.

Canolfannau Ailgylchu a Gwastraff Cartref (CAGC)
Bydd ein CAGC ar gau ddydd Sul a dydd Llun Rhagfyr 25ain a 26ain, a dydd Sul Ionawr 1af . Bydda r agor yn ystod oriau agor y gaeaf (9am – 4.30pm) ar bob dyddiad arall.

Ailgylchu
Ailgylchwch bopeth gallwch dros gyfnod y Nadolig, ar y pafin neu'r CAGC.
Awgrymiadau defnyddiol:

- Ailgylchwch bapur lapio brown yn y blwch cardfwrdd
- Rhaid gosod cardiau Nadolig a phapur lapio yn y bin gwastraff cartref na ellir ei ailgylchu oherwydd natur amrywiol y deunyddiau
- Beth am leihau gwastraff bwyd ac arbed arian trwy gynllunio bwyd gyda bwyd sy'n weddill
- Plygwch neu rhwygwch flychau cardfwrdd fel eu bod yn ffitio yn y blwch ailgylchu, tynnwch yr holl becyn cyn ailgylchu

Enwi'r fflyd a gallech ennill taleb Amazon £50

Yn ystod yr haf, prynodd y Cyngor 10 cerbyd ailgylchu newydd ac rydym angen eich help i'w henwi!

Mae ein fflyd ailgylchu wedi eu diweddaru i fod yn gerbydau mwy effeithlon gyda mwy o le i gardfwrdd, a system gwneud y daith orau, i wneud pob taith yn fwy effeithiol.

Mae un Cyngor yn Lloegr wedi rhoi cyfle i breswylwyr ddewis enwau i'w fflyd graeanu gydag enwau fel; David Plowie, Gritty Gritty Bang Bang, Walter The Salter and Spreaddie Mercury, yn cael eu cynnig. Felly, dyma gymryd y cyfle i gael hwyl gyda'n fflyd ailgylchu!

Mae'r gystadleuaeth ar agor i breswylwyr Merthyr Tudful o bob oed ac yn cau ddydd Mawrth Ionawr 31ain 2023.

Bydd enw pob cerbyd yn cael ei arddangos ar flaen pob un a bydd pob enillydd yn derbyn taleb Amazon £50.

i gynnig enw(au) ewch at:smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Vehicle Names neu ffoniwch 01685 725000 gyda'ch awgrymiadau.

Perchnogion Ceir Trydan yn Cael Mwy o Fannau i Wefru'u Cerbydau

Mae'r Cyngor yn cynyddu nifer y mannau lle gellir gwefru Cerbydau Trydan ar draws Merthyr Tudful er mwyn ymateb i'r twf yn y cerbydau hyn a chefnogi'r ymrwymiad i fod yn Awdurdod Lleol Net Sero erbyn 2030. Bydd y Cyngor yn gosod 13 o fannau gwefru mewn meysydd parcio cyhoeddus yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol gyda chefnogaeth Awdurdod Trafnidiaeth Prifddinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd a Connected Kerb Cyf sef y cwmni fydd yn gosod y gwefrwyr. Gyda datganiad "Argyfwng Hinsawdd" Llywodraeth Cymru, mae gan y Cyngor rôl bwysig i'w chwarae sef cefnogi'r uchelgais net sero a chryfhau arferion cynaliadwy ar draws y Fwrdeistref Sirol.

Dywedodd y Cyng Geraint Thomas, yr Aelod Cabinet dros Adfywio ac Arweinydd y Cyngor: *"Mae gosod y mannau gwefru trydan yn enghraifft arall o'n hymrwymiad i gyflawni'r uchelgais o fod yn net sero ym Merthyr Tudful. Bydd yr isadeiledd o'r radd flaenaf ac nid yn unig yn cefnogi'r defnyddwyr cerbydau trydan yn y Fwrdeistref, ond hefyd yn mynd â ni gam yn nes at gyflawni ein hamcanion."*

A ydych yn ystyried cyflwyno cais cynllunio?

Oeddech chi'n gwybod bod y Cyngor yn cynnig gwasanaeth cyngor cyn ymgeisio a fydd – yn ogystal â dweud wrthych beth sydd angen i chi ei gyflwyno – yn rhoi arweiniad ar sut i sicrhau proses ymgeisio gyflym a llyfn, gan arbed amser ac arian i chi.

Mae'r taliadau'n dechrau ar £25 yn unig (yn dibynnu ar y math o ddatblygiad). Am wybodaeth ewch i: merthyr.gov.uk/resident/planning-and-building-control/make-a-planning-application/

DYSGU

Eco-ryfelwyr Coed y Dderwen

Mae disgyblion yn Ysgol Gynradd Coed y Dderwen wedi bod yn gwneud y mwyaf o'u hamser yn dilyn y cyfnod clo, trwy ddefnyddio twneli poli a choedwig yn eu brwydr bersonol yn erbyn newid hinsawdd. Gydag arweiniad Pwyllgor Eco'r Ysgol, mae'r disgyblion yn datblygu sgiliau cynaliadwy fel tyfu llysiau, ffrwythau a phlanhigion o fewn ecosystem helaeth y twneli poli. Maent hefyd yn gofalu am bryfaid ac adar o fewn tir yr ysgol, yn cynnal gwaith cadwraethol ar y goedwig ac yn aml yn dysgu am bwysigrwydd ailgylchu, lleihau gwastraff ac arbed dŵr - camau y maent hefyd yn eu rhoi ar waith drwy'r ysgol.

Dywedodd Sarah Townsin, Pennaeth Coed y Dderwen: *"Yn Ysgol Coed y Dderwen, mae pwysigrwydd cynaliadwyedd yn rhan annatod o'n cwricwlwm a'n cynlluniau ar gyfer cwricwlwm y dyfodol. Ein bwriad yw sicrhau bod gan bob disgybl ymwybyddiaeth o'r byd o'u cwmpas a'u heffaith ar ei ddyfodol. Rydyn ni'n gwneud yn fawr o'n hardal allanol wych a'r goedwig i gyfoethogi'r cwricwlwm a thyfu ffrwythau a llysiau fel y gallwn ni ysbrydoli'r gymuned ehangach i fod yn fwy cynaliadwy."*

Meithrinfa "Safle'r Gurnos" yn dechrau pennod newydd i addysg Gymraeg

Ym mis Medi, agorwyd Meithrinfa Safle'r Gurnos – cam enfawr ymlaen i Ferthyr Tudful yn yr ymdrech i ehangu'r ddarpariaeth ar gyfer addysg Gymraeg yng ngogledd y sir a datblygu amgylchedd Gymraeg yno.

Mae'r Cyngor wedi bod yn gweithio'n galed ers blynyddoedd i sicrhau darpariaeth a chyfathrebiad gweledol i'r Gymraeg ar draws y Fwrdeistref, a dyma naid arall i'r cyfeiriad hwnnw.

Dywedodd Sue Walker, y Cyfarwyddwr Addysg: *"Mae agor y drydedd ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg ym Merthyr Tudful yn achlysur nodedig ac yn digwydd wrth i'r ysgol gyntaf, Ysgol Santes Tudful, ddathlu'i hanner canmlwyddiant. Mae twf addysg Gymraeg yn flaenoriaeth i'r Cyngor ac rydym yn falch o weld y ddarpariaeth hon ar y map."*

Arweinwyr ifainc yn gwthio am ddyfodol gwyrddach yng Nghynhadledd Siarter Pobl Ifanc

Cynhaliwyd Cynhadledd Newid Hinsawdd bwysig yng Ngholeg Merthyr Tudful eleni, lle daeth disgyblion o bob cwr o'r Fwrdeistref Sirol ynghyd i drafod syniadau ar gyfer y Siarter Pobl Ifanc. Siaradodd llawer o ddisgyblion yn y digwyddiad gan dynnu sylw at eu gweledigaethau ar gyfer Merthyr Tudful gynaliadwy. Dywedodd Michelle Jones, yr Aelod Cabinet dros Ddysgu: *"Rwy'i mor hapus ag angerdd ac ymroddiad y disgyblion hynny ar hyd a lled Merthyr Tudful sy'n mynd i'r afael â newid hinsawdd ac yn mabwysiadu arferion cynaliadwy. Pobl ifanc ein Bwrdeistref yw'r dyfodol o ran sicrhau ein bod ni'n parhau i ymarfer a hyrwyddo'r mentrau gwyrdd hyn - da iawn pawb!"*

Camp Lawn Amrywiaeth i Ysgol Gynradd Trefedward

Mae rhai o ferched Ysgol Gynradd Trefedward wedi taclo'u ffordd i rownd gynderfynol Twrnamaint yr Urdd, gan chwarae mewn Tîm Rygbi TAG a hyrwyddo amrywiaeth mewn chwaraeon. Mae'r ysgol yn annog pawb sy'n angerddol dros rygbi i ymuno waeth beth fo'u rhyw, ac mae'r sesiynau yn cynnwys taclo, TAG a gwella sgiliau. Gall merched benderfynu pa sesiynau yr hoffent gymryd rhan ynddynt, gyda chymysgedd o gêmau cyswllt a digyswllt.

Dywedodd y Cyng Michelle Jones, yr Aelod Cabinet dros Ddysgu: *"Fel mam sydd wedi annog fy merch a fy mab i chwarae unrhyw gamp sy'n ennyn eu diddordeb, mae'n ardderchog gweld hyn yn digwydd i fechgyn a merched o fewn ysgolion. Mae rygbi wedi bod yn rhan enfawr o fy mywyd – fe fues i'n Ysgrifennydd Adran Fini ac Iau Clwb Rygbi Merthyr am 5 mlynedd. Mae'n hynod bwysig ein bod yn gweld amrywiaeth yn ein hysgolion, yn galluogi myfyrwyr i wireddu'u breuddwydion ac yn dileu unrhyw rwystr all eu hatal rhag cymryd rhan neu gystadlu. Mae Trefedward yn enghraifft o hyn a byddaf yn annog mwy o ysgolion y Fwrdeistref i weithredu camau tebyg."*

Buddugoliaeth disgyblion Merthyr yn yr Eisteddfod

Yn gynharach eleni, bu disgyblion o Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Santes Tudful, Ysgol Uwchradd Pen-y-dre a Choleg Merthyr yn rhannu'u perfformiadau buddugol o Eisteddfod yr Urdd Sir Ddinbych gyda Chynghorwyr.

Dywedodd y Cynghorydd Michelle Symonds, Hyrwyddwr y Gymraeg: *"Roedd yn wych gweld y plant a'r bobl ifanc yn perfformio darnau anhygoel o gerddoriaeth ac areithiau. Rwy'n dal i ryfeddu ynghylch y modd y mae'r Gymraeg yn cael ei hyrwyddo yn ein hysgolion ym Merthyr Tudful. Dwi wir yn credu bod hyn yn enghraifft arall o Strategaeth Addysg CSCA ar ei hanterth. Da iawn pawb!".*

Ysgol Uwchradd Pen Y Dre High yn cynhyrchu ffilm fer ar homoffobia

Yn ddiweddar, cydweithiodd disgyblion Ysgol Uwchradd Pen y Dre gyda Ffilm Cymru mewn ffilm fer o'r enw 'Look at Us' i bwysleisio bwlio yn seiliedig ar dueddfryd rhywiol. Cynhyrchodd y disgyblion gyda chymorth yr adran ddram ffilm fer gan action, gweithio'r camera, colur, golygu a datblygu sgiliau creadigol yn y broses. Dwedodd y Cyngh Gareth Richards, Eiriolwr Cydraddoldeb y Cyngor *"Rydw i'n falch bod un o'n hysgolion- Pen y Dre yn rhan o wneud y ffilm hon. Nid yw bwlio o unrhyw fath yn dderbyniol, ac rwy'n ymwybodol bod ysgolion yn gwneud eu gorau i ymateb iddo. Ond , mae ymchwil yn dangos bod bwlio yn digwydd yn aml oherwydd tueddfryd rhywiol rhywun. Gall hyn gymryd sawl math o alw enwau, gwamalu neu ymosod corfforol. Bydd ffilmiau fel hyn yn gwella dealltwriaeth Cymdeithas, da iawn Ysgol Uwchradd Pen y Dre."*

Llwyddiant TGAU a Lefel A pobl ifanc Merthyr Tudful

Casglodd pobl ifanc ar draws Merthyr Tudful eu canlyniadau arholiadau yn gynharach eleni - y garfan gyntaf i sefyll arholiadau ers 2019.

Dwedodd y Cyngh Geraint Thomas, *"Roedd yn fraint ymweld â phob Ysgol uwchradd a rhannu'r cyffro gyda'r bobl ifanc wrth iddynt gasglu eu canlyniadau. Mae'r garfan hon wedi wynebu cymaint o anawsterau dros y ddwy flynedd ddiwethaf ac mae llwyddo fel maent wedi ei wneud yn dysteb i'w dygnwch ac i gefnogaeth athrawon a rhieni. Sefydlwyd strategaeth Codi Dyhead, Codi Safonau yn Hydref 2020 ac rydym yn falch gweld uchelgais y strategaeth yn cael ei wireddu."*

Dwedodd y Cyngh Michelle Jones Arweinydd Portffolio Addysg, *"Rydw i mor falch o weld canlyniadau da'r bobl ifanc, er holl sialensiau'r blynyddoedd diwethaf. Mae'n braf gweld gwaith caled yn talu ar ei ganfed a dymunaf bob llwyddiant iddynt wrth symud i addysg bellach, hyfforddiant neu waith."*

Disgyblion yn cydweithio i greu ap symudol ar faterion hinsawdd sef "Train 2 Sustain"

Yn ystod yr haf, cydweithiodd disgyblion Blwyddyn 5 yn Ysgolion Cynradd Troed-y-rhiw ac Ynysowen i greu ap ar gyfer Apple Store fel modd i gynnig cyngor rhyngweithiol ar arferion cynaliadwy wrth fynd ati i daclo newid hinsawdd.

Daeth y syniad gan ddisgyblion Troed-y-rhiw a oedd wedi'u hysbrydoli gan y Gynhadledd Genedlaethol ar Hinsawdd i godi ymwybyddiaeth o'r angen am newid ymddygiad i gefnogi'r agenda hwn. Gweithiodd y disgyblion gyda chwmni allanol sef Value-Added Education i greu ap ar gyfer rhannu'u neges. O fewn yr ap, defnyddir realiti estynedig i gynnig cyfrwng mwy integredig ac mae hyn i'w weld yn arbennig yn y gwaith celf. Mae gan yr ap flogiau am fyw bywyd mwy cynaliadwy a chaneuon am newid hinsawdd. Gan ddefnyddio "Minecraft" i greu seilwaith sero net, ychwanegodd y disgyblion fapiau sy'n dangos lleoliadau posib ar draws Cymru ar gyfer yr adeiladau hyn.

Dywedodd y Cyng Michelle Jones, yr Aelod Cabinet dros Ddysgu: *"Mae creu'r ap hwn wedi galluogi disgyblion y ddwy ysgol i ddatblygu sgiliau allweddol a chefnogi 4 diben y Cwricwlwm i Gymru, gan sicrhau bod ein pobl ifanc yn unigolion uchelgeisiol, mentrus, egwyddorol ac iachus."*

Mae'r ap ar gael i'w lawrlwytho am ddim o'r AppStore: apps.apple.com/gb/app/train2sustain/id1625103646

GOFAL CYMDEITHASOL

Diolch i bawb a gefnogodd Operation Santa 2022!

Mae eich haelioni wastad yn rhagorol a doedd eleni – hyd yn oed yn ystod y cyfnod heriol hwn – ddim yn gwahanol. Rydych wedi rhoi anrhegion I blant a fyddai o bosib heb gael Nadolig I'w ddathlu.

O waelod calon, diolch yn fawr iawn a Nadolig Llawen.

Oddi wrth staff Adran Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol CBSMT.

'Gwrandewch' ar ein gwefan os byddai'n well gennych!

Yn gynharach eleni, cyflwynodd y Cyngor far offer hygyrchedd ar gyfer ei wefan o'r enw "Recite Me" gyda'r nod o wneud y cynnwys yn haws i'w ddarllen, ei glywed a'i ddeall. Mae bar offer hygyrchedd "Recite Me" yn helpu pobl i gael mynediad i wefan yr Awdurdod er mwyn iddynt fedru gwneud y pethau sydd eu hangen arnynt, fel cyrchu gwasanaethau'r Cyngor. Ym mis Gorffennaf, roedd Cyngor Merthyr Tudful hefyd yn gydradd 1af o blith y 403 o wefannau yn y DU a brofwyd o ran eu hygyrchedd.

At hynny, gellir defnyddio bar offer Recite Me ar gyfer y canlynol:

- darllen yn uchel y testun ar ein gwefan (gan gynnwys ffeiliau PDF)
- lawrlwytho'r testun fel ffeil MP3 i'w chwarae pa bryd a lle bynnag sy'n gyfleus i chi
- newid maint a lliw'r ffontiau
- addasu lliw'r cefndir

Dywedodd llefarydd ar ran y Cyngor: *"Gyda chyflwyniad y feddalwedd soffistigedig hon, dylai trigolion ag anableddau, gan gynnwys defnyddwyr heb anableddau, allu profi ein cynnyrch digidol gyda'r un canlyniad llwyddiannus. Mae'n bosibl y bydd gan rai pobl sy'n cyrchu ein gwybodaeth nam ar eu golwg, anawsterau echddygol, namau gwybyddol, anableddau dysgu, byddardod, neu nam ar y clyw. Mae'n bwysig, felly, bod ein gwefan, ein cynnwys, a'n dogfennau yn gweithio i bawb. Mae'n hanfodol parhau i weithio tuag at hygyrchedd digidol wrth gynhyrchu gwybodaeth ar dudalennau a dogfennau ar gyfer ein gwefan, er mwyn sicrhau bod gan bawb ran i'w chwarae ar hyd ein taith."*

Ydych chi'n rhiant sy'n gweithio, mewn addysg neu hyfforddiant? Gallech fod yn gymwys ar gyfer Cynnig Gofal Plant Cymru!

Gallech dderbyn hyd at 30 awr o addysg gynnar a gofal plant wedi'i ariannu ar gyfer eich plentyn 3 i 4 oed, am hyd at 48 wythnos o'r flwyddyn.

Ewch i merthyr.gov.uk/30awr i ddarganfod mwy.

EICH CYNGOR

Croeso i rifyn diweddaraf Papur newyddion Cyswllt.

Mae hi'n fraint ac anrhydedd bod yn Arweinydd Cyngor y dref y tyfais fyny ynddi.

Rydw i wedi dysgu llawer am wasanaeth cyhoeddus yn y pum mlynedd diwethaf fel aelod etholedig. Fel yr Arweinydd newydd, rydw i'n hyderus y gallaf, gyda chefnogaeth fy nghyd aelodau etholedig a swyddogion wneud y gwelliannau angenrheidiol i wella bywyd y rheiny sy'n byw a gweithio yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol.

Yn yr hinsawdd ariannol bresennol, mae'n amser heriol iawn i'r sector cyhoeddus gyda chyllidebau gyfyngedig iawn. Byddaf i ac arweinwyr eraill yn parhau i annog Llywodraeth Cymru am well pecyn cyllido er mwyn gallu cynnig gwasanaethau sy'n darparu gwerth am arian i'n cymunedau.

Iers rhifyn diwethaf Cyswllt, mae Etholiadau Lleol mis Mai wedi bod. Gweler y dudalen gyferbyn am fanylion eich cynghorwyr lleol. Rydym yn ffodus iawn i gael aelodau mor ymroddgar sydd eisiau gwneud y gorau i'w cymunedau.

Hefyd gyferbyn ceir erthygl am y Cabinet. Ein hamcan fel Cabinet yw adeiladu ar ein llwyddiant o drawsnewid y Cyngor a gweithio ochr yn ochr â'n swyddogion i wneud Merthyr Tudful y lle gorau y gall fod.

Rydym yn ymwybodol iawn o'r argyfwng costau byw, ac mae'r agenda gwrth dlodi yn uchel ar ein rhestr flaenoriaethau. Yn ddiweddar trefnodd cydweithwyr yn y Cyngor gyfarfod gyda phartneriaid i drafod yr argyfwng costau byw a beth allwn ni ei wneud i gefnogi ein preswylwyr. Roedd yn amlwg o'r cyfarfod bod llawer o waith yn mynd 'mlaen yn y cymunedau a llawer o gefnogaeth ar gael trwy amrywiaeth o asiantaethau. Rydym nawr yn dod a'r wybodaeth at ei gilydd a chyflwyno rhifyn arbennig o Cyswllt, yn dangos y gefnogaeth sydd ar gael i'ch cynorthwyo yn yr amseroedd digynsail yma. Bydd yn cael ei gyhoeddi a'i anfon i breswylwyr yn yr wythnosau nesaf ac ar gael ar wefan y Cyngor ac ar gyfryngau cymdeithasol.

Yn y rhifyn hwn o Cyswllt, rydym yn dathlu rhai o lwyddiannau ein hysgolion (gweler tudalen 4), eich diweddaru am brojectau adfywio cyffrous (tudalennau 6 & 7), ac yn dod a gwybodaeth am ail-gylchu dros y Nadolig(tudalen5). Gobeithio y gwnewch fwynhau darllen am yr holl bethau da sy'n digwydd yn ei Bwrdeistref Sirol odidog.

Gan ddymuno Nadolig llawen a 2023 hapus ac iach.

Cynghorydd Geraint Thomas
Arweinydd

Mae Gwyddel a gwympodd mewn cariad gyda Merthyr Tudful...

...ar ymweliad 21 mlynedd yn ôl wedi ei ethol yn Faer y fwrdeistref sirol am y flwyddyn 2022-23.

Cymerodd y Cyng. Declan Sammon, sy'n byw yn Nowlais ac yn cynrychioli ward Dowlais ers 2017 yr awenau yng Nghyfarfod Blynyddol y Cyngor.

Ganwyd Declan yn Clarecastle, pentref i'r de o Ennis yn Swydd Clare, a death gyntaf I Ferthyr Tudful yn 2001 wrth chwilio am eiddo busnes i'w brynu.

"Disgynnais mewn cariad," meddai. "Rydw I wedi byw mewn sawl lle, pob un ohonynt yn hyfryd, ond ddim un yn cymharu gyda Merthyr Tudful- sydd bellach yn gartref i mi. Mae'r bobl yn onest, cyfeillgar a chroesawgar ac mae wedi bod yn bleser gweithio dros y preswylwyr yn fy rôl fel cynghorydd dros y bum mlynedd ddiwethaf."

Mae'r Maer newydd wedi dewis cefnogi dwy elusen leol: Cancer Aid Merthyr Tudful, sy'n cynnig cymorth i gleifion canser a'u teuluoedd a Banc bwyd Merthyr Cynon.

Cymar Declan yn ystod y flwyddyn fydd y Cyng. Paula Layton, ei gymer ers 18 mlynedd ac.

Y Dirprwy Faer ar gyfer 2022/23 yw Maer y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, y Cyng. Malcolm Colbran, sy'n cynrychioli ward Bedlinog a effeithiwyd yn sylweddol ar ei gyfnod fel Maer gan y pandemig.

I wahoddi'r Maer i ddigwyddiad, cysylltwch mayoral@merthyr.gov.uk

Cabinet hanesyddol newydd Merthyr Tudful

Am y tro cyntaf erioed yn hanes Merthyr Tudful, mae dros hanner Cabinet Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful yn awr yn fenywod.

Mae gan y Cyngor arweinydd newydd, yn dilyn etholiad a Chyfarfod Blynyddol Cyffredinol y mis hwn ac mae tri allan o'r chwe aelod o'r Cabinet yn fenywod a dwy ohonynt yn gynghorwyr newydd.

Yr Arweinydd yw'r Cynghorydd Geraint Thomas sydd wedi bod yn Ddirprwy Arweinydd yn ystod yr 16 mis diwethaf. Apwyntiwyd y Cynghorydd Julia Jenkins yn Aelod o'r Cabinet ar gyfer y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a'r Cynghorydd Michelle Symonds yn Aelod o'r Cabinet ar gyfer Tai a Diogelu'r Cyhoedd, Trosedd ac Anhwylder.

Dywedodd y Cynghorydd Thomas: *"Dyma'r Cabinet mwyaf amrywiol yn hanes y fwrdeistref sirol. Rwy'n falch i weld dau unigolyn talentog ac uchelgeisiol yn ymuno â'n tîm profiadol sydd yn gweithio'n galed ac rydym yn croesawu'r Cynghorydd Andrew Barry i'w rôl fel Aelod o'r Cabinet ar gyfer Llywodraethu ac Adnoddau, y Cynghorydd David Hughes fel Aelod o'r Cabinet ar gyfer Gwasanaethau Cymdogol a'r Cynghorydd Michelle Jones fel Aelod o'r Cabinet ar gyfer Dysgu."*

Cadwodd y Cynghorydd Thomas ei bortffolio ar gyfer Tai ac Adfywio a daeth y Cynghorydd Barry yn Ddirprwy Arweinydd.

Gwahoddiad i breswylwyr ddweud eu dweud am gyllideb y Cyngor

Mae preswylwyr Merthyr Tudful yn cael y cyfle i leisio barn am sut y dylai y Cyngor wario eu cyllideb am 2023/24. Mae ymarfer ymgynghori cyhoeddus ar y gweill ar hyn o bryd a tros y misoedd nesaf bydd Cabinet y Cyngor ar hyd a lled Merthyr Tudful yn eich annog chi y preswylwyr pa wasanaethau y dylid eu blaenoriaethu yn ogystal a sut y credwch y dylid gosod y gyllideb am y flwyddyn i ddod. Bydd Aelodau y Cabinet ar gael i wrando,i ateb cwestiynau ac i rannu awgrymiadau gyda cydweithwyr a thrafod.

Ar adeg argraffu, roedd manylion dyddiadau y daith yn cael eu cwblhau. I gael y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y rhain, ewch i'n gwefan a'n tudalennau cyfryngau cymdeithasol.

Mae arolwg ar-lein are gael yma: smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MTCBCBudget23-24

Hefid, gellir archebu copiau papur trwy ffonio 01685275000 neu e-bostio: Corporate.Communications@merthyr.gov.uk

Bydd yr arolwg hwn yn ca ear dydd Mercher Ionawr 18 2023.

Eich Cyngor

Yn dilyn Etholiad y Gwanwyn eleni, gweler isod rhestr o Gynghorwyr gan Adran Etholiadol:

BEDLINOG A THRELEWIS

Cynghorydd Malcolm Colbran
Annibynnol
Dirprwy Maer

Cynghorydd Michelle Symonds
Annibynnol
Aelod Cabinet dros Diogelwch y Cyhoedd, Trosedd ac Anhrefn

CYFARTHFA

Cynghorydd Claire Jones
Annibynnol

Cynghorydd Geraint Thomas
Annibynnol
Arweinydd y Cyngor ac Aelod Cabinet dros Tai ac Adfywio

Cynghorydd Michelle Jones
Annibynnol
Aelod Cabinet dros Dysgu

DOWLAIS A PANT

Cynghorydd David Hughes
Annibynnol
Aelod Cabinet dros Gwasanaethau Cymdogaeth

Councillor Declan Sammon
Annibynnol
Maer

DOWLAIS A PANT

Councillor Paula Layton
Annibynnol

GURNOS

Cynghorydd Jeremy Davies
Annibynnol

Cynghorydd Lee Davies
Annibynnol

Cynghorydd Bill Smith
Llafur Cymru

YNYSOWEN

Cynghorydd Darren Roberts
Llafur Cymru
Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid

Cynghorydd Scott Thomas
Llafur Cymru

PARC

Cynghorydd Clive Jones
Llafur Cymru
Dirprwy Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid

Cynghorydd Louise Minett-Vokes
Llafur Cymru

PENYDARREN

Cynghorydd Kevin Gibbs
Llafur Cymru

Cynghorydd David Isaac
Llafur Cymru

Cynghorydd Jamie Scriven
Llafur Cymru

PLYMOUTH

Cynghorydd Brent Carter
Llafur Cymru

Cynghorydd Gareth Lewis
Llafur Cymru

Cynghorydd Anna Williams- Price
Llafur Cymru

Y DREF

Cynghorydd Andrew Barry
Annibynnol
Dirprwy Arweinydd ac Aelod Cabinet dros Lywodraethu ac Adnoddau

Cynghorydd Julia Jenkins
Annibynnol
Aelod Cabinet dros Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

Y DREF

Cynghorydd David Jones
Llafur Cymru

Cynghorydd John Thomas
Annibynnol

TREHARRIS

Cynghorydd Ernie Galsworthy
Llafur Cymru

Cynghorydd Gareth Richards
Llafur Cymru

Cynghorydd Ian Thomas
Llafur Cymru

VAYNOR

Cynghorydd Lisa Mytton
Annibynnol

Cynghorydd Clive Tovey
Annibynnol

Cyngor yn ennill Gwobrau'r Lluoedd Arfog

Mewn cyfarfod o'r Cyngor Llawn ddydd Mercher 5 Hydref, llongyfarchodd Eiriolwr y Lluoedd Arfog CBSMT, y Cynghorydd Andrew Barry, yr Awdurdod ar ennill dwy wobr clodwiw gan y Weinyddiaeth Amddiffyn.

Ym mis Awst dyfarnwyd Gwobr Arian y Weinyddiaeth Amddiffyn i'r Cyngor am ei Gynllun Cydnabod Cyflogwr Amddiffyn i gydnabod ei gefnogaeth i'n Gwasanaeth, Milwyr Wrth Gefn, Cyn-filwyr a'u teuluoedd o fewn Cymuned y Lluoedd Arfog.

Ac ym mis Medi, enillodd Ysgol Uwchradd Cyfarthfa statws efydd Ysgolion Cyfeillgar i'r Lluoedd Arfog (AFFS) Cymru, i gydnabod lefel y gefnogaeth a'r ystod o weithgareddau a gynigir i fyfyrwyr y mae eu rhieni naill ai'n gwasanaethu neu wedi gwasanaethu gyda Lluoedd Arfog Prydain.

Dywedodd y Cynghorydd Barry: *"Rydym yn hynod falch o fod wedi cael ein cydnabod gan y Gwobrau mawreddog hyn wrth fynegi ein haddewid, ein gwrthdystiad a'n cefnogaeth eiriolaeth i'n hamddiffyniad a Chymuned y Lluoedd Arfog a'n gwerthoedd aliniedig i deulu'r Lluoedd Arfog.*

"Rwy'n diolch yn ddiffuant i bawb a gymerodd ran am eu gwaith caled a'u hymrwymiad i'r achos teilwng iawn hwn."

Roedd yr holl wybodaeth yn y cyhoeddiad hwn yn gywir ar adeg ei hargraffu.

CYSWLLT

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

Papur newydd Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful *Rhifyn 63* *Rhagfyr* 2022

Ailgylchu Nadolig – **tudalen 5**
Amseroedd cyffrous i ganol y dref – **tudalen 7**