



*Craig Gwladus Woods*

## Community Profile – Aberdulais and Cilfrew

The villages of Aberdulais and Cilfrew make up the electoral ward of Aberdulais. It is situated at the bottom of the Neath Valley approximately 4 miles from Neath Town Centre. The villages are covered by Blaenhonddan Community Council most of the area is covered by farmland and woodland.

The population of the area is 2,400 of this 3% is aged over 80 years of age, 20% are aged under 14 and 21% aged 35-50. The majority of the population is of working age. 27.6% of the population is economically

inactive which is lower than the Neath Port Talbot average (29.4%) but higher than the Welsh average of 23%.

24.3% of the working age population has a qualification of level 4 or above, again higher than the NPT average (20.8%) but lower than the Welsh average (29.7%).

### **Aberdulais**

The village is on the River Neath and is located alongside the A465. The village grew around the Aberdulais Falls, which is a historic site of successive industries and now a hydro –electric station – this site is a tourist attraction and is managed by The National Trust.

There are limited community facilities and activities with many people travelling outside of the area to participate. There is a community centre, playground, shop, Chapel and Cricket Club. There is also a successful football club with one team playing in the Welsh League.

There are a couple of businesses based in the village these are Calor Gas and Genquip. There is a Royal British Legion Establishment and Thai Restaurant.

### **Cilfrew**

The village is situated over the mountain from Aberdulais, it has vast woodlands and many farms. There is a Primary School which has a Speech and Language Unit and a Secondary School. There is a Chip shop, Sweet shop, Post Office and Local Shop. There are two chapels with reducing congregations.

The bus services were cut by the commercial operator several months ago, there is now a limited bus service that is operated by DANSA.

There is a large woodland which is managed by the community group Friends of Craig Gwladys Woods. Many people travel to walk in the area and also for rock climbing.

There is Neath Coachbuilders in the village and local farms offer limited employment.

People living in both villages travel out of the area for work, this could be Neath, Port Talbot, Swansea, Cardiff or further afield. There are community centres in both villages, but these are not very well used, this could be because people are used to travelling out of the area for most other things that it is something that they continue to do when it comes to activities.

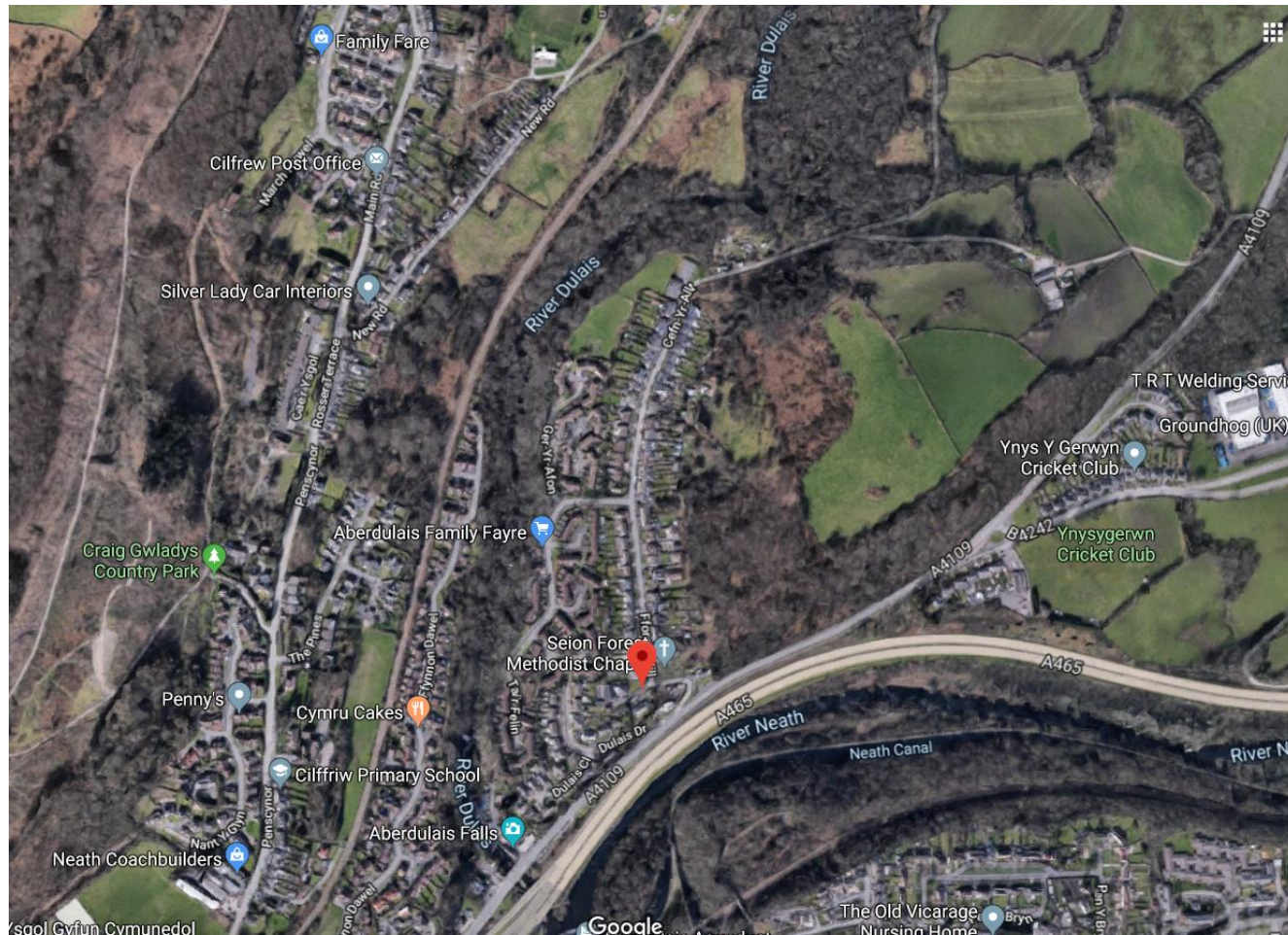
There are very little facilities/activities for children and young people, and it is very difficult to live in either village if you don't have access to a car. Transport is also a big issue locally – there used to be a frequent bus service which would get you to and from work, but this is no longer possible. People also have to travel into Neath to access their GP.

Pen y Cymoedd Community Profile – Aberdulais and Cilfrew/V5/13.10.2019



*Aberdulais Falls*





## PyC Awards

1	Population	2,400 <i>Census 2011</i> This is up from 1938 in 2001																								
2	Demographics	0-17 years      - 585 18-64 years     - 1488 65+ years       - 327 <i>Census 2011</i>																								
3	Deprivation Ranking (WIMD)	WIMD 2014 (where 1 is most deprived and 1909 is least) <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>WIMD</th><th>Income</th><th>Employment</th><th>Health</th><th>Education</th><th>Access to Services</th><th>Community Safety</th><th>Physical Environment</th><th>Housing</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>858</td><td>857</td><td>796</td><td>862</td><td>1,154</td><td>387</td><td>1,439</td><td>318</td><td>1,499</td></tr> </tbody> </table>							WIMD	Income	Employment	Health	Education	Access to Services	Community Safety	Physical Environment	Housing	858	857	796	862	1,154	387	1,439	318	1,499
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858	857	796	862	1,154	387	1,439	318	1,499																		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20% of children are living in poverty which is line with the Welsh average</li> <li>• 1% of households have no central heating which is less than the Welsh average of 2%</li> <li>• Overall crime rate is lower than the Welsh average</li> <li>• 23% of people have a limiting long-term illness which again is in line with the Welsh average</li> <li>• 25% of people have no qualifications compared with 26% across Wales</li> <li>• 17% of households have no car compared with the Welsh average of 23%</li> <li>• 87% of people live in a flood risk area compared with 41% across Wales</li> <li>• 97.5% of people are White British compared with the Welsh average of 93% and 86.6% were born in Wales compared with 72.7% across Wales</li> <li>• 76.5% of the population cannot speak welsh which is higher than the Welsh average of 73%</li> <li>• Of people out of work, 8.2% are receiving incapacity benefits</li> <li>• 19.5% of children are in “out of work” households which is above the Welsh average of 19.8% and 22.5% are living in poverty which is slightly lower than the Welsh average of 20.8%</li> <li>• 21.7% of pensioners have no vehicle</li> <li>• 14.7% of the population are providing unpaid care, which higher than the Welsh average of 12.1%</li> <li>• Personal debt per head is higher than the Welsh average but residential mortgage debt per head is lower than the Welsh average</li> <li>• The air quality score is 55</li> </ul>																								

4	<b>Employment &amp; Local Economy (where do people work)</b>	<p>There are local businesses, but these aren't large employers most people travel out of the area for employment to Neath, Port Talbot, Swansea and Cardiff. It is a rural area with a number of farms which do employ a small number of people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calor Gas Depot</li> <li>• Genquip head office</li> <li>• Neath Coachbuilders</li> </ul> <p>37.9% are in full-time employment (660) compared with 35% across Wales/14.4% are in part-time employment (251) and 7.3% of people are self-employed (127). 34.5% of population are economically inactive which is about the Welsh average.</p> <p>Most people commute to employment in Neath, Port Talbot, Swansea and Cardiff.</p> <p>In order of the most popular jobs according to UK census (2011):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Health and Social Work (15% of working people)</li> <li>· Retail (13% of working population)</li> <li>· Manufacturing (12% of working people)</li> </ul>
5	<b>Active Community Groups</b>	<p>The community council is Blaenhonddan (which also covers the wards of Bryncoch South, Bryncoch North and Cadoxton). The Community Council is responsible for the following community buildings and facilities in Cilfrew and Aberdulais:</p> <p><b>Aberdulais Community Centre</b>, Cefn yr Allt, Aberdulais, Neath SA10 8HE  <b>Cilfrew Community Centre</b>, New Road, Cilfrew, Neath SA10 8LL          Playgrounds situated in Ynysygerwn and Cilfrew including a football pitch at Cilfrew Park.</p> <p>The Council has promoted Fun Days in Cilfrew, and recently worked with local schools on a programme of daffodil planting.</p> <p><b>Cilfrew</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bingo</li> <li>• Cilfrew Old Age</li> <li>• Llangatwg WI (meet in Cadoxton)</li> <li>• Knitting Nannas</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yoga Class</li> <li>• Cilfrew AFC</li> <li>• Llangatwg Health and Wellbeing Group</li> <li>• Friends of Craig Gwladus Woods</li> <li>• Friends of Llangatwg</li> </ul> <p><b>Aberdulais</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdulais Over 50's</li> <li>• Cysgodfa Fellowship</li> <li>• Ynysygerwn Cricket Club</li> <li>• Ynysygerwn Football Club (Junior Section also)</li> <li>• Slimming World Groupx2</li> </ul>
6	<b>Schools – primary, secondary, Welsh, special needs, nurseries (including Cylchoedd Meithrin), childcare providers – number of pupils in each, current Estyn ratings</b>	<p><b>In area</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cilfrew Primary School (has Speech and Language Unit) (Estyn Rating 2015 – adequate)</li> </ul> <p>In Cilfrew, 1.2 miles from Aberdulais – 259 pupils including 44 part time nursery. Learning Support Centre (LSC) that mainly supports pupils with speech and communication difficulties. This specialist unit draws pupils from beyond the catchment area of the school and has 17 pupils taught in two mixed-age classes.</p> <p><b>Closest Welsh Language Schools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ysgol Gynradd Castell Nedd (Welsh Medium aged 3-11) – 3 miles (Estyn Rating March 2016 – good) 312 fulltime 72 part-time Nursey pupils</li> <li>• Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera (Welsh Medium aged 11-18)– 9.1 miles (Estyn Rating 2013 – good) 1,001 pupils</li> </ul> <p><b>Closest English Language Secondary School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Llangatwg Community School (English medium age 11-16) – 0.8 miles from Aberdulais (Estyn ratings April 2018 – Standards: Good; Wellbeing and attitudes to learning: Good; Teaching and learning experiences: Adequate and needs improvement; Care, support and guidance: Good; Leadership and management: Good) 702 pupils</li> </ul>

		<p><b>Closest Special educational school</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ysgol Hendrefelin Neath (aged 5 – 16) – 3.7 miles from area</li> <li>• Ysgol Maes Y Coed Neath (aged 2-19) – 3.7 miles from area</li> </ul> <p><b>Closest Childcare providers</b></p>
7	<b>Leisure facilities and activities for Children &amp; Young People</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming Pool at Llangatwg Community School</li> <li>• PASS 5x60 officers deliver some time limited courses</li> <li>• Play area in Aberdulais</li> <li>• Sports Clubs</li> </ul>
8	<b>Transport Connections</b>	<p>160 households have no cars and there is no train line in the valley. Travel time to key services vary in comparison to the Welsh average.</p> <p><b>Travel Times to Key Services</b></p> <p>Post Office – 11 mins  Library – 50 mins  GP – 51 mins  Pharmacy – 47 mins  Primary School – 12 mins  Secondary School – 15 mins  Food Shop – 9 mins  Leisure Centre – 21 mins</p> <p><b>Roads</b></p> <p>Both villages are located near the A465 and can be accessed from the roundabout by heading in opposite directions.</p> <p>Cilfrew is accessed via the A4230 onto Penscynor (although there is a back lane with limited access from Crynant which connects with Oak View).</p> <p>Aberdulais is accessed via the A4109.</p>

		<p><b>Rail</b></p> <p>There is no rail line in the Valley, the closest train station is Neath</p> <p><b>Buses</b></p> <p>Very poor- the commercial bus operator withdrew its services earlier this year. There is a limited service operated by DANSA on a Monday – Friday 08:35,11:06, 12:40, 14.38 and 15.58 to Neath buses returning 8.55, 11:40, 13.00, 15.30 and 16.15.</p> <p>There is no public transport outside these times.</p>
9	Health Provision (GP practices, hospitals, clinics, other services)	<p><b>In area</b></p> <p>None</p> <p><b>Closest hospitals</b></p> <p>Hospitals are Neath Port Talbot, Singleton, Morriston</p> <p><b>Dentists and opticians</b></p> <p>There are no dentist or opticians located in either of these villages. However, there are dental practices in Crynant and Neath and opticians in Neath.</p> <p>The area is covered by the GP practices in Neath Town Centre (4 miles away)</p> <p>The average life expectancy is just under the Welsh average at 77, but Healthy life expectancy is 66 years of age compared with 65 across NPT and 68 across Wales.</p>
10	External services brought into the area	Nothing currently
11	Community Facilities (including postcodes) Include pharmacies, libraries and petrol stations Main buildings Sports facilities & Clubs	<p><b>Cilfrew</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Centre – Only used twice per week</li> <li>• Primary School</li> <li>• Llangatwg Community School (has swimming pool)</li> <li>• Capel yr Anninbynwyr Pysgah</li> </ul>

	<b>Playgrounds</b> <b>Playing fields</b> <b>Heritage sites</b> <b>allotments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapel</li> <li>• Hermon Calvinistic Methodist Chapel</li> <li>• Football Field</li> </ul> <b>Aberdulais</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Centre – Limited usage – only twice per week</li> <li>• Aberdulais falls and tin plate works</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Seion Fforest Methodist Chapel</li> <li>• Golf Driving Range</li> <li>• Royal British Legion</li> </ul>
11a	<b>Greenspaces</b> <b>Parks &amp; green spaces (and Green Flag Awards where applicable)</b> <b>Footpaths and Active Travel networks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Craig Gwladus Woods – lots of walks</li> <li>• Lots of green open spaces</li> <li>• Lots of footpaths and active travel networks – can link through to the Dulais valley or down to Neath and also up the Neath valley.</li> </ul>
12	<b>Places of worship (description, denomination, how buildings used)</b>	<p>37.8% identify as having no religion which is in line with the Welsh average. 54.1% of remaining people (1,300) identify as Christian.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capel yr Annibynwr Pïsgah, Main Road (Pleasant Hill), Cilfrew, SA10 8LR</li> <li>• Hermon Calvinistic Methodist Chapel Main Road, Cilfrew SA10 8LP Bible Study served by Presbyterian Church of Wales Tawe, Nedd a Crai (jointly with Seion Fforest below)</li> <li>• Seion Fforest Methodist Chapel, Fforest Hill, Aberdulais SA10 8HD – Bible Study served by Presbyterian Church of Wales Tawe, Nedd a Crai (jointly with Hermon above)</li> </ul>
13	<b>Local businesses &amp; shops</b>	<b>Cilfrew</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chipshop</li> <li>• Post office</li> <li>• Local Shop</li> <li>• Neath Coachbuilders</li> </ul>

		<b>Aberdulais</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Shop</li> <li>• Calor Gas Depot</li> <li>• Genquip</li> </ul>
14	<b>Tourism facilities (including tourism websites)</b>	Aberdulais Falls – operated by National Trust
15	<b>Leisure premises, pubs, clubs etc</b>	<b>Aberdulais</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Railway Thai</li> <li>• Golf Driving Range</li> <li>• Royal British Legion</li> </ul>
16	<b>Derelict buildings and areas of land that are problematic or affect people's view of the community?</b>	<p>The Dulais Rock – this has been derelict for a number of years and is an eyesore for residents.</p> <p>There are 24 vacant dwellings – 25% compared with Welsh average of 6%.</p>
17	<b>Housing – current and planned? Who</b>	<p>Make up of Properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detached – 367 (37.6%) Welsh average = 27.7%</li> <li>• Semi-detached – 316 (32.3%) Welsh average = 31.0%</li> <li>• Terraced – 222 (22.7%) Welsh Average =27.8%</li> <li>• Purpose built flat – 70 (7.2%) Welsh average = 9.6%</li> <li>• Flats in converted house – 1 (0.1%) Welsh average = 2.4%</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owner occupied – 660 (69.3%) Welsh average = 67.8%</li> <li>• Social rented – 212 (22.2%) Welsh Average =16.5%</li> <li>• Private rented – 59 (6.2%) Welsh average = 12.7%</li> </ul> <p>Average house price is £149,789 – 44.4% of properties were built between 1945-1999 with 170 properties being built</p> <p>There are a number of relatively new housing estates of 4/5 bedroom homes due to the good transport links (being located next to the A465) many people have moved into the area and have disposable income to travel to and take part in activities outside the community.</p>

		<p>Tai Tarian have properties in both Aberdulais and Cilfrew.</p> <p>Coastal Housing has age exclusive 1 bed flats at Caer Ysgol, Cilfrew</p> <p>Pobl (via Gwalia) have properties in Aberdulais (flats and houses)</p>
18	<b>Analysing all that – what are the main gaps in provision?</b>	<p>The area has limited services, facilities and activities. Transport is a big gap along with activities for children and young people. The villages are situated alongside the A465 and are a short drive from other communities which have the amenities. It is difficult for people in the communities if they don't drive or have access to a car. The pub in Cilfrew closed a number of years ago, there are community centres that are available to hire but there is little demand.</p>
19	<b>What's likely to come up? What might change?</b>	<p>Transport may come up in the future.</p>
20	<b>Politics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Doreen Jones – Welsh Labour</li> <li>• AM – Jeremy Miles - Labour</li> <li>• MP – Christina Rees - Labour</li> <li>• Council – NPT CBC – Labour</li> <li>• Town / Community Council – Blaenhonddan Community Council - <a href="http://www.blaenhonddan-wcc.gov.uk/home/">http://www.blaenhonddan-wcc.gov.uk/home/</a></li> </ul>



## FUND AREA OF BENEFIT

The Fund's area of benefit covers the upper reaches of the Neath, Afan, Rhondda and Cynon Valleys – the main communities are shown on the map.



Applicants can be based outside this area – they need to explain clearly how their proposals will benefit people living in the Fund communities.