



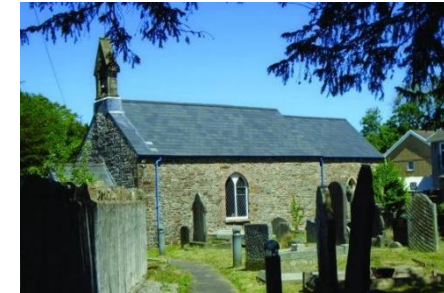
Witch sculpture -Cwmgwrach



Community Profile – Blaengwrach & Cwmgwrach

Version 4 – will be updated and reviewed next on 29.05.20

The electoral ward of Blaengwrach comprises the villages of Blaengwrach and Cwmgwrach, situated in the upper Neath Valley, 11 miles from Neath Town Centre. Cwmgwrach translated to English is “*Valley of the Witches*”. The village itself was once an active commercial centre, servicing the coalmines, but now has one shop, a pub and rugby club along with a Primary School, St Mary's Church in Wales, the 13th Afannedd (Cwmgwrach) Scout group, and the Welfare Hall. For wider services the village is largely dependent upon Glynneath (neighbouring town only a few minutes away but across the busy A465).



St Mary's Church

Blaengwrach is a predominantly upland area, and contains the highest points of three local mountains, Mynydd Resolfen (1257 ft), Mynydd Pen-y-Cae (1880 ft) and Craig-y-Llyn (1970 ft), which offer spectacular views of the valley below and the Brecon Beacons in the distance. Craig-y-Llyn is the highest point in the old county of Glamorgan and is home to a nature reserve containing Llyn Fach and a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The Vale of Neath railway was built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel to carry coal to Swansea docks, and is still used for freight trains, this runs alongside the A465.

11.2 % of the Working age population claim out of work benefits and 29.7% of Children are living in poverty in Blaengwrach. 27.4% of the population have a limiting long-term illness compared with the Welsh average of 22.7%. In addition to this 36.8 % of working age people have no qualifications – this is higher than the Welsh average of 25.9%. 82% of people live in a flood risk area compared to 41% across Wales.

The construction of a petrol stations and fast food outlet has started on the outskirts of the community which has had a mixed reception from local people.

Land surrounding the villages is managed by Natural Resources Wales. There is apparently presently some unrest within the community regarding replanting of the area which is scheduled imminently. There has been recent extensive felling of larch trees due to the disease phytophthora ramorum.

1	Population	1,989 (and has remained steady within 80 of this amount since at least 2001) (source Census 2011 via Stats Wales)																								
2	Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0-17 years 411 18-64 years 1,194 65+ years 384 (source Census 2011 via Stats Wales)																								
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>618</td><td>583</td><td>626</td><td>684</td><td>529</td><td>400</td><td>1,215</td><td>872</td><td>1,003</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27% of children and living in poverty in Blaengwrach compared with 20% across Wales. 1% of households lack central heating compared with 2% across Wales Overall crime rate is lower than the Welsh average 27% of people have limiting long term illness compared with 23% across Wales 37% of people have no qualifications compared with 26% across Wales 21% of households have no car compared with 23% across Wales 82% live in a flood risk area compared with 41% across Wales 98.5% are white British compared to 93.2% across Wales, and 89.2% were born in Wales compared to the Welsh average of 72.7% 73.6% cannot speak Welsh and 10.6% are able to speak, read and write Welsh 31.7% of children are living in “out of work households” significantly higher than the Welsh average of 18.5%, 29.7% of Children are in poverty compared to the Welsh average of 20.8%. 25.3% of pensioners have no vehicle this is lower than the Welsh average of 38.5% 14.7% of people provide unpaid care, compared to the Welsh average of 12.1%, with 5% (99) providing 50+ hours per week. Personal debt and residential mortgage debt per head are lower than Welsh average 							WIMD	Income	Employment	Health	Education	Access to Services	Community Safety	Physical Environment	Housing	618	583	626	684	529	400	1,215	872	1,003
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The air quality score is 33 which is lower than the Welsh average of 48.44, air emissions is high at 73, compared to the Welsh average of 48.87
4	Employment & Local Economy (where do people work)	<p>34% of people aged 16-74 are in fulltime employment. Most people commute to employment in Neath, Port Talbot, Merthyr, Swansea and Cardiff.</p> <p>33.7% are in full time employment (501) compared with 36% across Wales / 13.3% are in part time employment (198) and 5% of people are self-employed (74). 39.3% of population are economically inactive compared with Welsh average of 34.2%.</p> <p>In order of the most popular jobs according to UK Census (2011)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and Social Work (16% of working people) Retail (14% of working population) Manufacturing (13% of working people)
5	Active Community Groups	<p>Blaengwrach Community Council is responsible for the running and maintenance of the Cemetery, the Welfare Park, and it also owns the Welfare Hall. The Hall is a thriving centre of the community and may be booked for many different classes including dance, archery and judo and parties. The Welfare Hall is also used by Blaengwrach Primary School for school concerts and Cwmgwrach Old Age who meet there on a weekly basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cwmgwrach Moving Forward - Community action group The Cabin Cwmgwrach Boxing Club Cwmgwrach OAP's Cwmgwrach Rugby Club Under 8's Football team Blaengwrach Community Council Cwmgwrach Under 8s Rugby team Blaengwrach Community Action Group

6	Schools – primary, secondary, Welsh, special needs, nurseries (including Cylchoedd Meithrin), childcare providers – number of pupils in each, current Estyn ratings	<p>In area</p> <p>Blaengwrach Primary School (0.8 miles) –150 pupils, including 32 pupils who attend the nursery on a part-time basis. There are four mixed-age classes and one single-age class. Estyn Rating(March 2015) Good</p> <p>Closest Welsh Language Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwmnedd Welsh Primary School (2.8 miles) 154 Pupils, Estyn Ratings (October 2016) The school's current performance Good • Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera (Welsh Medium aged 11-18) – (11.7 miles) - Estyn Rating (2013) – Good. 1,001 pupils <p>Closest English Language Secondary School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Llangatwg Community School (English medium age 11-16) – (4.6 miles from area) – 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 <p>Closest Special education school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ysgol Hendrefelin Neath (aged 5 – 16) – 8.5 miles from area • Ysgol Maes Y Coed Neath (aged 2-19) – 8.5 miles from area <p>Closest Childcare providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Blocks Family Centre provide Flying Start provision in Blaengwrach Primary School • Rompers Day Nursery, Glynneath (2.1 miles) • Building Blocks Family Centre, Resolven (3.9 miles)
7	Leisure facilities and activities for Children & Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scouts & Cubs in the village of Cwmgwrach • Under 8s Football team • Cwmgwrach RFC Juniors • Playground and facilities in the welfare park
8	Transport Connections	<p>170 households have no cars (20.8% compared with Welsh average of 22.9%) and there is no train line in the Valley. The travel time to key services varies and in some cases is significantly higher than the Welsh average.</p>

		<p>Travel Times to Key Services Post Office – 13 mins Library – 34 mins GP – 40 mins Pharmacy – 37 mins Primary School – 13 mins Secondary School – 81 mins Food Shop – 11 mins Leisure Centre – 17 min</p> <p>Roads The A465 is adjacent to the villages.</p> <p>Rail There is no rail line in the Valley, the closest train station is Neath or Aberdare</p> <p>Buses The ward of Blaengwrach lies on the bus routes that service nearby Glynneath; The hourly (9:07am -19:00) First Buses service to Swansea via Neath stops here, as does the same companies morning Neath College bus. Community transport organisation DANSA buses from Neath to Glynneath, and Neath To Min Yr Awel.</p>
9	<p>Health Provision (GP practices, hospitals, clinics, other services)</p>	<p>In area Vale of Neath Practice, is based in Glynneath but will soon be moving to its new location near Cwmgwrach</p> <p>Closest hospitals Hospitals are Neath Port Talbot, Singleton, Morriston, Prince Charles</p> <p>Dentists and opticians None in the village but there is a dentist and optician in nearby Glynneath and in Neath</p>

		The average life expectancy is just below the Welsh average at 77, but Healthy Life Expectancy is 65 years of age compared 68 across Wales.
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 Playgrounds Playing fields Heritage sites allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cwmgwrach Welfare Hall and Park (currently being refurbished with help of large Vision Fund grant) • Playground • Tennis Courts • Rugby Club • Garage • Lots of footpaths and cycle routes
11a	Parks & green spaces (and Green Flag Awards where applicable) Footpaths and Active Travel networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
12	Places of worship (description, denomination, how buildings used)	<p>36.2% identify as having no religion which is in line with the Welsh average. 55% of remaining people (1,095) identify as Christian.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Marys Church, Church Crescent, Blaengwrach SA11 5SL. Weekly Sunday church service and used as a community hall. https://parish.churchinwales.org.uk/l351/churches-en/st-mary_-en/
13	Local businesses & shops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cwmgwrach Premier Stores • Dunraven Arms • Ralph & Doherty Building Contractors

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R J Casey Lock Doc <p>Between Glynneath and Cwmgwrach are McDonalds and a soon to open KFC and Petrol Station.</p> <p>There are many shops in Glynneath, around 5-minute drive from Glynneath.</p>
14	Tourism facilities (including tourism websites)	<p>There are some historic buildings and structures in the area and areas of natural beauty. There are also key tourist sites just outside the villages in Resolven, Clyne and Melincourt and then Pontneddfechan.</p> <p>http://www.cavinguk.co.uk/holidays/waterfalls/Blaengwrach.html</p> <p>Zip World Limited are planning to build an adventure tourism activity in the neighbouring village of Rhigos.</p> <p>There are various B&B and self-catering facilities in the villages.</p>
15	Leisure premises, pubs, clubs etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cwmgwrach Rugby Club Dunraven Arms
16	Derelict buildings and areas of land that are problematic and affect people's view of the community?	<p>There is nothing apparent at the moment.</p> <p>There are 35 vacant dwellings – 4.1% compared with Welsh average of 6%</p>
17	Housing – current and planned? Who	<p>Make up of properties: ·</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detached – 127 (14.9%) Welsh average = 27.7% Semi Detached – 467 (54.8%) Welsh average = 31% Terraced – 211 (24.8%) Welsh average = 27.8% Purpose Built Flats – 43 (5%) Welsh average = 9.6% Flats in converted houses or buildings – 2 (0.2%) Welsh average = 2.4% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owner occupied – 567 (69.4%) Welsh average = 67.8% Social rented – 120 (14.7%) Welsh average = 16.5% Private rented – 105 (12.9%) Welsh average = 12.7% <p>Average house price is £92,667 – 87.3% of properties were built between 1900 and 1999.</p>

Blaengwrach has some small terraces of cottages but is predominantly expensive detached houses and bungalows built on hill with lots of garden and land around them.



Cwmgwrach is predominantly terraced housing



		Tai Tarian are responsible for some social housing properties in the area.
18	Analysing all that – what are the main gaps in provision?	There are activities/events/parties for key events throughout the year – but there are limited activities for children and young people. However there are lots of activities that take place in Glynneath but transport is needed to get there.
19	What's likely to come up? What might change?	Euro Garages– a petrol garage and KFC (fast food outlet) are under construction on the land opposite McDonalds alongside the A465. There has been lots of opposition to this locally and it is what impact it will have on the village.
20	Community Benefit Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberpergwm £500-£3,000 • Selar £500 - £15,000
21	Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Carolyn Edwards – Plaid Cymru • AM – Jeremy Miles – Welsh Labour • MP – Christina Rees - Labour • Council – NPT CBC – Labour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town / Community Council – Blaengwrach Community Council - http://www.blaengwrachcommunitycouncil.org/





