

Community Profile – Cymmer & Croeserw

Version 5 – will be updated and reviewed next on 29.05.20



Aerial view of Cymmer looking up the valley

The Villages of Cymmer, Croeserw, Abercregan, Dyffryn Rhondda and Cynonville make up the rural ward of Cymmer. They are situated in the east of the Afan Valley, the villages lying approximately 9 miles from the Towns of Port Talbot and Neath. The area is closer to Maesteg and people often travel there for shopping and services as it is easier to get to than Neath or Port Talbot. The villages are located very close to each other – about three quarters of a mile. The local landscape is wooded hills and some farmland. The area is world renowned for the excellent mountain bike trails.



Entrance to Croeserw

The population is, according to the 2011 Census, 2765. This breaks down as 0 – 17 20.8%, 18 - 64 59.5%, 65 and above 19.7%. 988 working age people are economically inactive, this figure, 47.8% been higher than both the NPT average, (29.4%) and Wales (23.0%). 9.7% of the population holds qualifications of Level 4 and above, with the NPT average been 20.8% and Wales as a whole 29.7%. 36.2% of housing is socially rented which is significantly higher than the Welsh average of 16.5%.

The majority of NPTCBC run facilities are now run and managed by the community. The local comprehensive school closed in July 2019 this has had a devastating impact on the whole valley.

Natural Resources Wales manages the forestry in areas of the ward that houses lots of walking and cycling trails. The ward is also bordered by agricultural land.

Cymmer



Croeserw



Abercregan



Dyffryn Rhondda and Cynonville



PyC Awards

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| 1 | Population | 2,765 (Source Census 2011 via Stats Wales) | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Demographics | 0-17 years 635 18-64 years 1,644 65+ years 486 (Source Census 2011 via Stats Wales) | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Deprivation Ranking (WIMD) | WIMD 2014 (where 1 is most deprived and 1909 is least) | | | | | | | | |
| | | Cymmer | | | | | | | | |
| | | WIMD | Income | Employment | Health | Education | Access to Services | Community Safety | Physical Environment | Housing |
| | | 372 | 552 | 481 | 126 | 412 | 297 | 806 | 1,540 | 612 |
| | | Croeserw | | | | | | | | |
| | | WIMD | Income | Employment | Health | Education | Access to Services | Community Safety | Physical Environment | Housing |
| | | 22 | 64 | 15 | 8 | 30 | 251 | 346 | 1,879 | 1,585 |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41% of children are living in poverty which is above the Welsh average of 20% • 1% of households have no central heating which is less than the Welsh average of 2% • Overall crime rate is higher than the Welsh average • 33% of people have a limiting long-term illness which is above the Welsh average of 23% • 46% of people have no qualifications compared with 26% across Wales • 35% of households have no car compared with the Welsh average of 23% • 32% of people live in a flood risk area compared with 41% across Wales • 98.2% of people are White British compared with the Welsh average of 93% • 86.8% of the population cannot speak Welsh which is higher than the Welsh average of 73% • Of people out of work, 19.3% are receiving incapacity benefits • 43.1% are living in poverty which is higher than the Welsh average of 20.8% • 70.6% of pensioners have no vehicle • 14.9% of the population are providing unpaid care, which higher than the Welsh average of 12.1% | | | | | | | | |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The air quality score is 25 |
| 4 | Employment & Local Economy (where do people work) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a factory, Aluminium Lighting Co in Croeserw, with 27 employees and also Wilkins buses. 25% of people aged 16-74 are in full-time employment compared to 36% across Wales. <p>25.1% are in full-time employment (520) compared with 35% across Wales/13.7% are in part-time employment (283) and 4.9% of people are self-employed (102). 47.8% 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"> Manufacturing (15% of working people) Retail (15% of working population) Health and Social Work (14% of working people) |
| 5 | Active Community Groups | <p>Cymmer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cymmer Bowls Club Cymmer Primary PTA Afan Valley Fresh Start Friends United Senior Citizens Afan Valley Community Leisure Limited Friends of Cymer Afan Community Library Afan Community Gym Gilgal Youth Club Gilgal Foodbank Parent and Toddler Group Youth Club Book Club Needle and Yarn Cymmer Young Firefighters Afan Valley sub-aqua Club Cymmer/Cwmafan Patient Engagement Group Film Club |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coffee Morning ● Art group ● Yoga ● Baby massage ● Tai Chi ● Cymmer Pigeon Club ● Cymmer Historical Society ● Cymmer Coronation Club ● Cymmer Coronation Darts Team ● Cymmer Coronation Pool Team ● Men's Shed (being established) ● Walking Group <p>Croeserw:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Croeserw Bowls Club ● Croeserw Primary PTA ● Croeserw Crochet Group ● Friends of Croeserw ● Croeserw Football Club ● Croeserw Darts ● Croeserw Hotel (The Bog) Darts Team ● Croeserw Carnival <p>Abercregan, Dyffryn Rhondda and Cynonville:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● South Wales Miners Museum |
| 6 | <p>Schools – primary, secondary, Welsh, special needs, nurseries (including Cylchoedd Meithrin), childcare providers – number of pupils in each, current Estyn ratings</p> | <p>In area</p> <p>Cymmer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Cymmer Afan Primary</i> – (Estyn Rating 2011 – Adequate) 63 pupils in 3 mixed age classes. Part of the federated Primary Schools of the upper Afan Valley. |

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| | | <p>Croeserw:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Croeserw Primary School</i> (Estyn Rating 2014 – Adequate) 139 pupils, including 18 in learning support. Part of the Confederated Primary Schools of the upper Afan Valley. <p>Closest Welsh Language Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ysgol Cynwyd Sant, Maesteg (Welsh medium aged 3-11) – 4.2 miles from area. Estyn rating (2016) – Good 306 pupils ● Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd (Welsh medium aged 11-18) – 7.1 miles from area. Estyn rating (2015) – Good- 607 pupils with 110 in sixth form. <p>Closest English Language Secondary School</p> <p>The only secondary school in the (Cymmer Afan Comprehensive) closed down in 2019 after a campaign to save it by all local people was lost. This has had a major impact on the valley. The site will be demolished.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maesteg Comprehensive (4.6 miles from area) (English medium aged 11-18). Estyn rating (2019) – Standards – Adequate and needs improvement; Wellbeing and attitude to learning – Adequate and needs improvement; teaching and learning experiences – Adequate and needs improvement; Care, Support and guidance – Good; Leadership and management – Adequate and needs improvement. 1,036 pupils. ● Ysgol Cwm Brombil, Margam (13.2 miles from area) opened in November 2018, (English medium aged 3-16) no Estyn report available. <p>Closest Special educational school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ysgol Hendrefelin Neath (aged 5 – 16) – 10.2 miles from area ● Ysgol Maes Y Coed Neath (aged 2-19) – 9.1 miles from area <p>Closest Childcare providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flying Start provision is run by a privately-run nursery on grounds of Cymer Afan Primary School ● Flying Start provision by Croeserw and Glyncorwg little Wings Playgroups. |
| 7 | <p>Leisure facilities and activities for Children & Young People</p> | <p>Cymmer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Afan Valley Swim Academy ● Afan valley Sub-Aqua Club |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Young Firefighters ● Youth Club (was in the school now in the Swimming Pool) <p>Croeserw</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Junior Football ● Youth Clubs in Croeserw on Monday evening (one community run for younger children and then NPT Youth Service for Older Children) ● Hype Club (for children with disabilities) Mondays <p>Abercregan, Dyffryn Rhondda and Cynonvile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Youth Club in Gilgal |
| 8 | Transport Connections | <p>420 households have no cars and there is no train line in the valley. Travel time to key services is significantly higher than the Welsh average.</p> <p>Travel Times to Key Services</p> <p>Post Office – 15.3 mins Library – 32.1 mins GP – 26.2 mins Pharmacy – 27.1 mins Primary School – 14.5 mins Secondary School – 24.5 mins Food Shop – 12.1 mins Leisure Centre – 46.3 mins</p> <p>Roads</p> |

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| | | <p>The road system is heavily influenced by the Valley’s topography. Junctions in some locations are difficult, while bridges able to carry heavy vehicles dictate bus and lorry routes. Cymmer is situated on the A4107 the main route from Port Talbot to Treorchy and also the A4603 runs through Croeserw down to Maesteg.</p> <p>Rail</p> <p>There is no rail line in the Valley, the closes train station is Neath or Maesteg</p> <p>Buses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport connections to Neath and Port Talbot are poor. There is a weekday service to Neath College that serves all the Upper Valley villages, this runs once a day in the morning to the college and returns in the evening. • There is an hourly service to and from Port Talbot, which runs Monday to Saturday. Once in Cymmer, it alternates every other hour between continuing on to Glycorrwg and the Gwynfi Villages. Croeserw villagers would need to travel to Cymmer to pick up this bus. Travel to Neath requires changing buses at the lower Afan Valley village of Pontrhydyfen. • Bus services to the next County, Bridgend, are good. They run to the town of Bridgend from Cymmer, running through Croeserw, the town of Maesteg, and passing through a major out of town shopping development, and the major Princess of Wales Hospital on the outskirts of Bridgend. These buses run twice an hour Monday to Saturday, and include late and early buses, and have a reduced Sunday service running hourly. • All buses are run by First Cymru. |
| 9 | <p>Health Provision (GP practices, hospitals, clinics, other services)</p> | <p>In area</p> <p>There is a health centre in Cymmer, part of the Health Board managed practice. This has been the source of some debate with the community, due to the local feeling it is difficult to get an appointment at Cymmer.</p> <p>Closest hospitals</p> <p>Hospitals are Neath Port Talbot, Singleton, Morriston and Princess of Wales Bridgend.</p> <p>Dentists and opticians</p> <p>Cymmer Dental Clinic in Cymmer Health Centre.</p> |

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| | | <p>Opticians are in Maesteg, Port Talbot or Neath</p> <p>The average life expectancy is lower than the Welsh average at 75, but Healthy life expectancy is 58 years of age compared with 65 across NPT and 68 across Wales.</p> |
| 10 | External services brought into the area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mental Health Charity Cardiff Concern runs counselling sessions out of Croeserw Community Enterprise Centre. (CCEC) • The Rhondda based charity Follow Your Dreams runs The Hype Club, and after school activity club for Children with learning difficulties in the CCEC) • Slimming World – currently held in the school but will have to move in July. • Credit Union provide a collection point. CCEC and Croeserw Post Office • Hearing Aid Clinic at Cymmer Community Library • Citizens Advice Bureau at Cymmer Community Library • Communities for Work and Communities for Work+ are based in Croeserw and offer services in all the villages. |
| 11 | <p>Community Facilities (including postcodes) Include pharmacies, libraries and petrol stations</p> <p>Main buildings</p> <p>Sports facilities & Clubs</p> <p>Playgrounds</p> <p>Playing fields</p> <p>Heritage sites</p> <p>allotments</p> | <p>Cymmer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cymmer Pool – community run indoor swimming pool (SA13 3EL) • The Refresh Restaurant and Bar (SA13 3HY) • Cymmer Methodist Church (SA13 3EN) • Community Library and Community Centre (SA13 3HR) • Sports hall • Afan Fitness Gym • Bowling Green in Cymmer and Croeserw • Gilgal Chapel <p>Croeserw:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croeserw Enterprise Centre • Ty Nant Care Home • Croeserw Social Club • The Croeserw Hotel (the Bog) • Hairdressers |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shop ● Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) ● Playgrounds and parks ● Bowling Green in Cymmer and Croeserw ● Football pitches in Croeserw and Cymmer/Abercregan <p>Abercregan, Dyffryn Rhondda and Cynonville:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● South Wales Miners Museum ● Afan Lodge ● Allotments ● Lots of walks and bike trails ● Football pitches in Croeserw and Cymmer/Abercregan ● Dyffryn Community Garden ● The Trading Post (Due to open shortly) |
| 11a | Parks & green spaces (and Green Flag Awards where applicable) Footpaths and Active Travel networks | |
| 12 | Places of worship (description, denomination, how buildings used) | <p>43.1% identify as having no religion which is in line with the Welsh average. 47% of remaining people (1325) identify as Christian.</p> <p>Cymmer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cymmer Methodist Church ● Gilgal Chapel - weekly services and a weekly youth club, the foodbank also runs out of here <p>Croeserw - None</p> <p>Abercregan, Dyffryn Rhondda or Cynonville</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Independent Chapel in Dyffryn Rhondda ● Abercregan Chapel |

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| 13 | Local businesses & shops | <p>Cymmer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cymmer Fish Shop ● Material Shop ● Garage ● Household Recycling Centre ● Cymmer Builders Merchants ● Convenience store <p>Croeserw</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 Convenience stores ● Garage ● Hairdressers and Beauty Parlour ● Post office ● Wilkins Coaches ● Aluminium lighting company <p>Abercregan, Dyffryn Rhondda or Cynonville</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bakers DIY ● The Trading Post (due to open shortly) |
| 14 | Tourism facilities (including tourism websites) | <p>Cymmer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rental cottages ● The Afandale ● Glamorgan House <p>Croeserw</p> <p>Abercregan, Dyffryn Rhondda and Cynonville:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cedars Tearoom at Afan Argoed and South Wales Miners Museum ● Rental cottages |

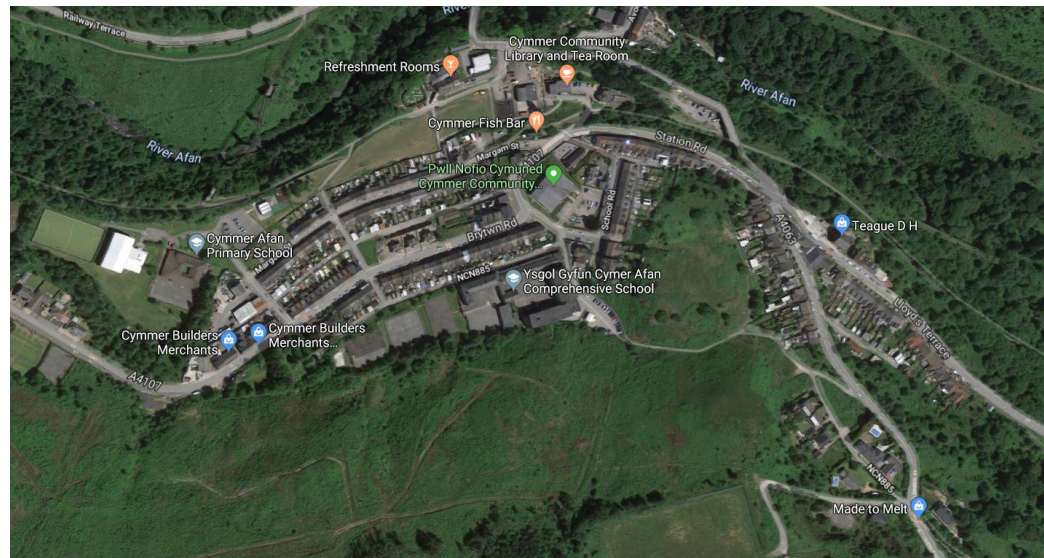
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| 15 | Leisure premises, pubs, clubs etc | <p>Cymmer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Refreshment Rooms <p>Croeserw</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Coronation Club • The Croeserw Hotel (The Bog) • Croeserw Social Club <p>Abercregan, Dyffryn Rhondda and Cynonville</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afan Lodge |
| 16 | Derelict buildings and areas of land that are problematic or affect people's view of the community? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis Courts – adjacent to the bowling green in Cymmer are now in a state of disrepair. • Brynsiriol – is an iconic building in the centre of Cymmer. • Bank in Cymmer <p>There are 74 vacant dwellings – 5.9% 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 – 122 (9.7%) Welsh average = 27.7% • Semi-detached – 752 (59.8%) Welsh average = 31.0% • Terraced – 312 (24.8.0%) Welsh Average =27.8% • Purpose built flat – 58 (4.6%) Welsh average = 9.6% • Flats in converted house – 8(0.6%) Welsh average = 2.4% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner occupied – 664 (56.1%) Welsh average = 67.8% • Social rented – 429 (36.2%) Welsh Average =16.5% • Private rented – 54 (4.6%) Welsh average = 12.7% <p>Average house price is £82,269 – 41.7% of properties were built between 1900-1939 with 10 properties being built since 2000</p> |

Cymmer

Cymmer is largely made up of terraced housing built in the early 20th century but does also have detached farmhouses, cottages and larger new build properties (a lot of which are owned by people from England who have moved into the area).

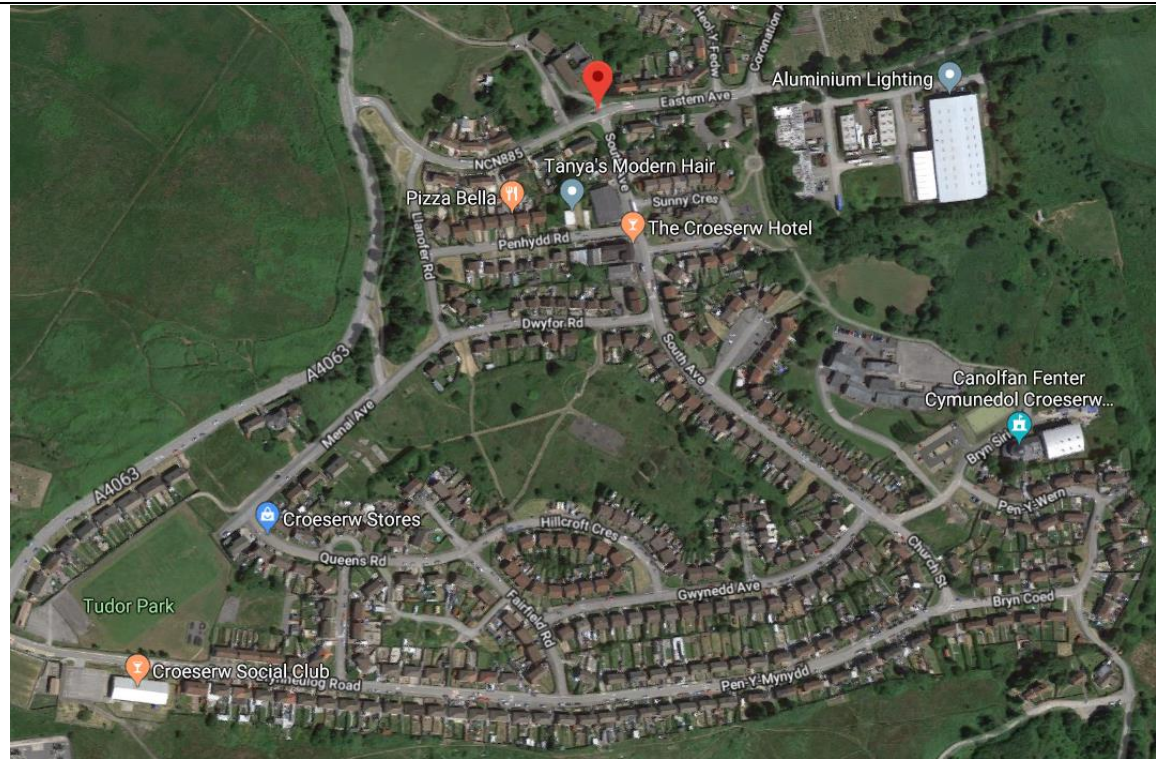
56.1% of housing is owner occupied, 36.2% is social housing which is significantly higher than the Welsh average of 16.5%.

Cymmer, with an overall average price of £68,058 was more expensive than nearby Blaengwynfi (£52,263) and Glyncoed (£57,656) but was cheaper than Tonmawr (£83,400). Overall sold prices in Cymmer over the last year were 4% up on the previous year and 19% down on the 2009 level of £83,562.



Croeserw

Croeserw is almost completely made up of purpose-built houses (with small pockets of flats and maisonettes) that was built as social housing although now around 45% is owner occupied and is surrounded by hills.

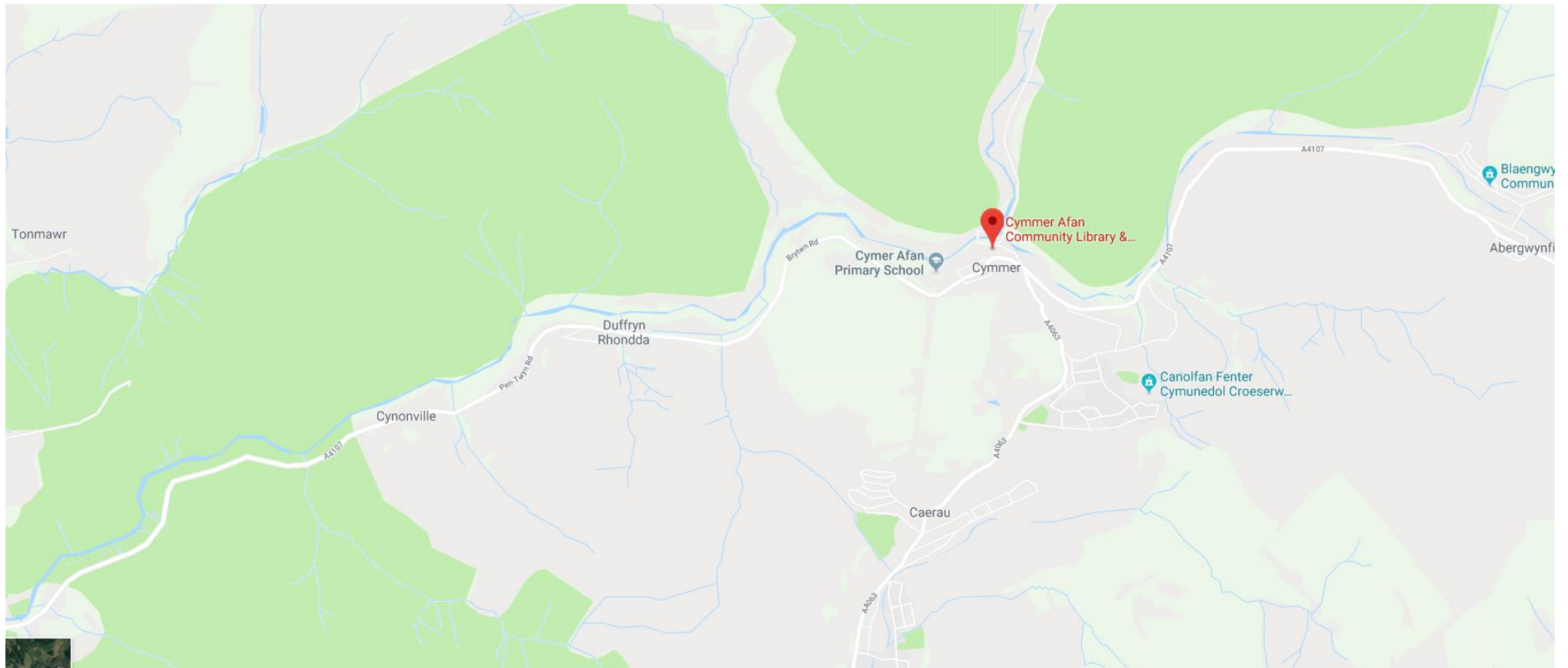


Abercregan, Dyffryn Rhondda or Cynonville

These are sparsely populated villages after Cymmer with much smaller populations and no shops of their own. Abercregan is mostly terraced housing built at the start of the 20th century. Dyffryn Rhondda and Cynonville housing is large detached properties with lots of surrounding gardens and land and just a few streets of semi-detached properties.

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| 18 | Analysing all that – what are the main gaps in provision? | <p>Transport is an issue – there are lots of activities run by the community but there is a cost to providing these which is sometimes a barrier and getting increasingly difficult for some groups.</p> |
| 19 | What’s likely to come up? What might change? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arwelfa Care home closed in 2016 it is now being refurbished and is due to open in 2019 as a respite home for children with learning disabilities (particularly autism). Val’s Place. • Afan Valley Adventure Resort received outline planning in March 2019 – this is now uncertain as the companies of one of the key individuals driving this forward have all gone into liquidation. • Access to GP services – the villages are covered by two GP practices one of which is Health Board Managed, and community members are concerned with access to services. |
| 20 | Community Benefit funds | <p>Llynfi Afan Wind Farm – up to £5,000 Ffynnon Oer Wind Farm – up to £5,000</p> |

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| | | Peoples Health Trust Local Conversation Small Grant Scheme – up to £2,499 |
| 21 | Politics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cllr Scott Jones – Independent (Scott is also Mayor) ● AM – David Rees – Welsh Labour ● MP – Stephen Kinnock – Labour ● Council – NPT CBC – Labour ● Town / Community Council – None |



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.

