

Community Profile – Pontneddfechan/Pontneathvaughan

Version 3 – will be updated and reviewed next on 29.05.20



Pontneddfechan Community Hall



Sgwd Gwladus

Pontneddfechan, spelled **Pontneathvaughan** in English ("bridge over the Little Neath" in Welsh) is the southernmost village in Powys and is the only area in Powys that is included in the area of benefit. It is situated in the Vale of Neath and neighbours Glynneath. The village is in Powys and borders on Neath Port Talbot and Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The area is known as Waterfall country and attracts tourists from across the world. It is home to spectacular waterfalls - Sgwd Gwladus and Sgwd Eira are some of the most well-known. Dinas Rock, a steeply pitched anticline in the limestone rocks at Craig-y-Dinas is also a favourite spot for rock-climbers.

The village has lots of history and heritage, there is an ongoing project on the Gunpowder Works. In 1857, the Vale of Neath Powder Company built a "gunpowder manufactory", having obtained "a licence to erect their mills over a space of two miles including the Upper and Lower Cilliepste Falls". The site was chosen because of its remoteness and because of the availability of both waterpower and of timber for the production of charcoal.

The area is ranked in the bottom 50% in the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, however 22% of children are living in poverty and 31% have a long-term limiting illness. There are limited transport links and very few community facilities and activities taking place in the village, however it is in close proximity of Glynneath. Tourism is significant in the area and has led to Car Parking problems. The community is closely connected to the neighbouring village of Ystradfellte.

PyC Awards

1	Population	340																		
2	Demographics	0-15 years - 40 18-64 years - 190 65+ years - 110																		
3	Deprivation Ranking (WIMD)	<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>1,011</td> <td>980</td> <td>735</td> <td>1,220</td> <td>1,156</td> <td>765</td> <td>1,402</td> <td>278</td> <td>1,624</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	WIMD	Income	Employment	Health	Education	Access to Services	Community Safety	Physical Environment	Housing	1,011	980	735	1,220	1,156	765	1,402	278	1,624
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1,011	980	735	1,220	1,156	765	1,402	278	1,624												
4	Employment & Local Economy (where do people work)	Agriculture is the largest sector that people are employed in, followed closely by Construction and then Arts, Entertainment and recreation.																		
5	Active Community Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pontneddfechan OAPs • Glynneath Golf Club (based in Pontneddfechan) • Pontneddfechan Community Centre (managed by Pontneddfechan and Ystradfellte Community Council) Mainly used for meetings (BBNP, SWOAPG Community council), tearoom, old age group and outdoor pursuits use the hall on a regular basis. <p>Many external businesses bring tourists to the area every weekend and use the centre for getting changed and parking for adventure activities.</p>																		
6	Schools – primary, secondary, Welsh, special needs, nurseries (including Cylchoedd Meithrin), childcare providers – number of pupils in each, current Estyn ratings	<p>In area None</p> <p>Closest Welsh Language Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior - Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwmnedd Welsh Primary School (2.2 miles) - Estyn Ratings October (2016) - Good. 154 Pupils • Comprehensive - Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera (Welsh Medium aged 11-18) – (11.4 miles) - Estyn Rating (2013) – Good. 1,001 pupils 																		

		<p>Closest English Language School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior - Cwmnedd English Primary School (2.2miles) over two Sites - Estyn Ratings (June 2018) – Standards: Good; Wellbeing and attitudes to learning: Good; Teaching and learning experiences: Good; Care, support and guidance: Good; Leadership and management: Good. 217 pupils • Comprehensive - Llangatwg Community School (English medium age 11-16) – (5.7 miles from Resolven) – 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 educational school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ysgol Maes y Coed (Special School aged 3-19) – (13.9 miles) - Estyn Rating (January 2015) – Good. 89 pupils • Ysgol Hendrefelin (Special School aged 7-16) – (13.9 miles) - Estyn Rating (2015) – Good – 132 pupils split over two sites. <p>Closest Childcare providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rompers Day Nursery – registered for 19 children aged 0-8.
7	Leisure facilities and activities for Children & Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playarea/park in village (attached to Community Centre) <p>Not in area but close by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama Group (Ystradfellte) • Ystradfellte Young Farmers Club (10-26) • See Glynneath profile
8	Transport Connections	<p>Roads</p> <p>Pontneddfechan lies one mile away from the A465 linking Merthyr to Neath.</p> <p>Rail</p>

		<p>There is no rail line in the upper Neath Valley, the closest train station is Neath (13.2 miles) or Aberdare (12.86 miles)</p> <p>Buses</p> <p>Buses twice per day Monday to Friday to Neath</p>
9	<p>Health Provision (GP practices, hospitals, clinics, other services)</p>	<p>In area</p> <p>None</p> <p>Vale of Neath Practice, is based in Resolven but will soon be moving to its new location near Cwmgwrach</p> <p>Closest hospitals</p> <p>Hospitals are Neath Port Talbot, Singleton, Morriston - Nearest A&E Morriston Hospital (19.3 miles)</p> <p>Dentists and opticians</p> <p>None in either location. Dentists and Opticians can both be found in Neath and Glynneath</p>
10	<p>External services brought into the area</p>	<p>Mobile Post Office once a week</p>
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>Parks & green spaces (and Green Flag Awards where applicable)</p> <p>Footpaths and Active Travel networks</p> <p>Heritage sites</p> <p>allotments</p>	<p>There are very limited community facilities in Pontneddfechan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pontneddfechan Community Hall • Glynneath Golf Club • Playground/park • Gunpowder trail Walk • Extensive active travel routes, footpaths and walks.
12	<p>Places of worship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ebenezer Chapel

	(description, denomination, how buildings used)	
13	Local businesses & shops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alun H Lewis Funeral Directors • Sian and Jannines Tasty Treats (open 10-2 each Friday and Saturday) in Pontneddfechan Community Hall • Sgwd Gwladys (café bar / restaurant and accommodation) • The Angel
14	Tourism facilities (including tourism websites)	<p>Pontneddfechan Waterfalls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sgwd – yr –Eira • Sgwd Clun –Gwyn • Sgwd Isaf Clun-Gwyn • Sgwd Gwladys <p>Gunpowder Works</p> <p>Walks and trails around the area</p>
15	Leisure premises, pubs, clubs etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sgwd Gwladys • The Angel



16	Derelict buildings and areas of land that are problematic?	Nothing that is apparent
17	Housing – current and planned? Who	<p>Mixture of detached and semi-detached houses. There are a lot of large self-build detached homes as well as older detached houses with surrounding land and the value of these properties is significantly higher than surrounding villages in the PyC area. 83% are owner occupied compared to the Welsh average of 67%.</p> <p>Pontneddfechan, with an overall average price of £186,738 was more expensive than nearby Aberdare (£115,828), Hirwaun (£122,232) and Glynneath (£103,734).</p> <p>During the last year, sold prices in Pontneddfechan were 16% up on the previous year and 17% down on 2007 when the average house price was £225,000.</p>

		
18	Derelict spaces and buildings that affect people’s view of the community	Nothing that is apparent
19	Analysing all that – what are the main gaps in provision?	There are very limited facilities locally, however there is an active community council and there are lots of activities in the neighbouring communities of Glynneath and Ystradfellte.
20	What’s likely to come up? What might change?	<p>There is work taking place on the Gunpowder Works.</p> <p>The <u>waterfalls area</u> of the upper Neath and Rhondda valleys is a special and beautiful landscape, with much potential for positive tourism benefits for its communities and businesses. It is a very popular area for visitors that has internationally important wildlife and a fascinating industrial heritage.</p> <p>Although there are many attractive waterfalls in the region, the area around Pontneddfechan is currently the most visited – and most impacted. Waterfalls in other nearby communities are also attractive and worthy of visiting, but they are relatively unknown and are not promoted. Whilst there are benefits for Pontneddfechan’s local businesses (and these have been developed in recent months), the adverse impact of 400,000 visitors a year on local residents can be significant – there are few amenities (parking, accommodation, shops, appropriate signage and promotion etc.) to support tourism. We estimate</p>

		<p>that these visitors spend some £8 million a year - but not in the area, so little of it benefits local people – the business infrastructure is not sufficiently developed.</p> <p>The CC are undertaking a feasibility study to investigate and identify issues and opportunities, and to devise and develop a strategic plan and delivery options. One outcome may be the establishment of a representative new social enterprise to serve Waterfall Country communities within the Pen y Cymoedd area of benefit – this will be considered and assessed. The vision would see local communities and businesses come together to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undertake and coordinate work on community planning • work to develop the local economy, particularly tourism • support the development of new/existing businesses • work with public sector partners to manage visitors and the minimise adverse impacts • generate community capacity including volunteering to support these objectives
21	Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr – • AM – Kirsty Williams – Welsh Liberal Democrat • MP – Chris Davies - Conservative • Council – NPT CBC – Labour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town / Community Council (shared with neighbouring Ystradfellte which is not within the fund’s area of benefit) <p>Ystradfellte and Pontneddfechan Community Council</p> <p>The Community Council represents the residents of the two villages, providing a range of services, including acting as trustees and leaseholders for the Village Hall and Children’s Play Area.</p>

