Community Profile – Treherbert, Blaencwm, Blaenrhondda, Tynewydd and Penyrenglyn

Introduction from the community

Overview

Situated at the head of the Rhondda Fawr valley in the county borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf – these are former industrial coal mining villages which were at their economic peak between 1850 and 1920. Treherbert is the upper most community of the Rhondda Fawr and encompasses the districts of Blaencwm, Blaenrhondda, Tynewydd and Pen-yr-englyn.

Blaen-y-Cwm and Blaenrhondda are at the head the Rhondda Fawr valley. With Treherbert, Tynewydd, Blaencwm, Blaenrhondda and Pen-yr-englyn it is part of a community of Treherbert. Rhondda Fawr is the larger of the Rhondda Valleys.

The entire upper Rhondda has beautiful outdoor green spaces and although each village is its own community as they mostly run straight into each other communities are well linked. Treherbert has an active busy high street. The very close proximity of towns and village in the Rhondda Fawr mean that people from Treherbert to Blaencwm drive through / visit Treorchy which is the main hub of the Upper Rhondda on almost a daily basis.

The Welcome to our Woods, Create Your Space Programme is a long-term Lottery funded placed based approach to supporting the community improve health and wellbeing and the local economy through better use of the natural assets in the Upper Rhondda working to connect villages - the activities taking place in the area, especially the Welcome to Our Woods activities are connecting people living in the local villages.

Mural at Treherbert train station



Pen Pych Mountain



Treherbert Volunteer Gardening Group









Section 1 - Community Groups, Activity + Key Buildings

Blaencwm			
Community Building	Activities they run	Other groups based there	Other Groups with no physical base
Blaencwm Community Centre	Polling Station / Monthly Bingo Club (closed rest of month)	None	Welcome to our Woods run some activities around Pen Pych area
Hendrewen Hotel	Ladies Darts Team / Weekly quiz night / Christmas events	None	
Blaenrhondda			
Community Building	Activities they run	Other groups based there	Other Groups with no physical base
Blaenrhondda Top Club	Bingo Night / party hire / events and performers	None	 Blaenrhondda FC play on field in mair parc next to Bowls pavilion
Blaenrhondda Bowls Club Pavilion	Bowls Team pre and post matches	None	
Tynewydd			
Community Building	Activities they run	Other groups based there	Other Groups with no physical base
The Bricks Social Club			- Upper Rhondda Angling Association
Treherbert RFC	Large licenced premises / pre- and post-		have a fish farm and on site they have
Clubhouse	game hospitality / weddings / funerals / party hire / Live performers weekly		several sheds and seating areas that provide a communal meeting and socialising environment for members
	Rugby team have seniors / seconds and minis sections and a pitch and training pitch		· ·
Blaen-y-cwm Chapel	Pay as you feel café / Mother + Toddler / Coffee Morning / Food Bank / Community Garden / separate Arts Surgery building / Sunday school / community concerts and events	 Welcome to our Woods use as one of their bases Spectacle Theatre run activities here for young people 	
St Albans's Road Allotment Site	30 plots / allotment stores	Welcome to our Woods have a base hereLocal beekeeper has a base here	

Treherbert			
Community Building	Activities they run	Other groups based there	Other Groups with no physical base
Treherbert OAP Hall	Bingo / Fetes / party hire / coffee mornings / polling station / armchair aerobics	- Slimming World	 Bingo Bashers (tenants group based in Glenrhondda Court)
Treherbert Methodist Church	Normal chapel activities / Craft Class / Flower Festival	BrowniesWI TreherbertWelcome to our Woods runPilates here	 Friends of Ty Ross Nursing Home (group that supports activities in the care home) Treherbert Volunteer Gardening
The Old Library	Welcome to our Woods main base	-	Group (look after two spaces in
Treherbert Boys and Girls Club	BGC regular activities / public gym	 Welcome to our Woods have green gym sessions here 	Treherbert with flowers and lights)
Churchfield Allotment Site	40 plots / allotment stores	 Autism Life Centres have a plot here 	
The Old Treherbert Youth Club	Very large building, derelict except for Cylch Meithrin as tenants.	- Cylch Meithrin Treherbert	
Treherbert Bowls Club Pavilion	Pre- and post-match hospitality / coffee mornings / games mornings /	-	-
Railway Canteen	Members club open on weekends	-	7
Treherbert Band Hall	Band rehearsals and meetings	- Medium / Spiritualist	
Ninian Stuart Conservative Club	Pool and Darts teams / licenced premises / party hire	- Royal Antediluvian Order of the Buffaloes	
Dunraven Pub	Licenced premises / party hire	WI TreherbertBritish Legion Group	
Penyrenglyn			
Community Building	Activities they run	Other groups based there	Other Groups with no physical base
Valleys Kids Penyrenglyn Project	Youth activities / Mental Health Support Group / After School Group / Middle Group / Youth Group / Pre-school Group, mums and toddlers / Drama Group / Wednesday ladies' group	 Treherbert Quilting Club Photoshop Digital Group 	
Carmel Chapel	Normal chapel activities / coffee morning / choir and band concerts		
Baglan Hotel	Licenced premises and food takeaway / popular Sunday lunch venue / Sunday league football team	-	

2	Population	5,730 (this has remained steady since at least	3	Demographics	0-17 years 1,142
		2001) - UK Office of National Statistics, 2011			18-64 years 3,246
		Census (2018)			65+ years 1,126
		(Now estimated to be 5514 - https://www.citypopulation.de/php/uk-wales.php?cityid=W38000056)			UK Office of National Statistics, 2011 Census (2018)

4 Deprivation Ranking

WIMD 2014 (where 1 is most deprived and 1909 is least)

WIMD	Income	Employment	Health	Education	Access to Services	Community Safety	Physical Environment	Housing
499	535	354	186	937	1,089	964	1,444	712
164	141	30	356	401	754	674	1,421	1,260
153	164	73	287	393	259	661	964	419
414	356	299	585	518	1,225	526	589	487

- 34% of children are living in poverty compared with 20% across Wales
- 2% of households have no central heating which is same as Welsh average
- Overall crime rate is lower than Welsh average. There were 523 reported crimes between 2018 and 2019, 94.5 per 1000 population.
- 32% of people have a life limiting illness compared with 23% across Wales
- 41% of people have no qualifications compared with 26% across Wales
- 37% have no car compared with 23% across Wales
- 97.9% of people are White British compared with 93% Welsh average and 90.2% were born in Wales compared with 72.7% across Wales
- 75% of population cannot speak Welsh with only 12.5% able to speak and write Welsh
- Of people out of work, 18.9% are receiving workless benefits and 5.1% people are receiving looking for work benefits. There are around 270 people claiming Universal Credit.
- 2765 people are living in the most deprived 20% of areas in Wales, so 48.5% of the population
- 34.5% of children are in 'out of work households, significantly higher than 17.8% Welsh average and 35.7% are living in poverty compared with 20% Welsh average
- 7.8% of population are receiving mental health benefits (275 people) this does not consider diagnosed mental health conditions who do not receive benefits.
- There are 813 people providing unpaid care (14.2%)
- Personal debt and residential mortgage debt per head are significantly lower than Welsh average
- The air quality score is 25% better than Welsh average and have access to green space and public parks and gardens more readily than Welsh average but 81% live in flood risk area compared with 41% across Wales

5	Employment	42.5% of population a	re economically active	6	Health Provision	In area
	& Local	compared with 65.8%	-			GP Surgery in Tynewydd and 3 chemists
	Economy	1 -	e, 12.2% employed part			Many of the population use GP surgery in Ynyswen – Forest
	,	time and 5.9% self-e	mployed (around 240			View Surgery (1 mile outside Treherbert District)
		people). The largest employment	sector is manufacturing			Closest hospitals
		18% of the 2040 people	e in employment), then			Closest A&E Royal Glam in Llantrisant (15 miles away) under
		health & social care 169	% of the 2040 people in			threat of closure, local campaign in place
		employment and constr people in employment.	uction 14% of the 2040			Llwynypia minor injuries appointment only (6 miles away)
						Dentists and opticians
		Roughly 1/3 of working				The closest dentist is in Treorchy (max distance of 3.37 miles)
		-	2/3 travelling to Cardiff,			with great bus and train links
		* *	the Rhigos to Neath,			There is an optician in area in Treherbert and several more 2
		Swansea and Cynon vall	•			miles down the valley in Treorchy.
		UK Office of National Sta	itistics, (Census, 2011)			The section of the least to Table deed (T. Dave). In Terrories
		In the area there are on	average 33.78 claimants			There is a nursing home in Treherbert (Ty Ross). In Treorchy
		per job, significantly hig	_			(1.5 miles away) there are another 2 nursing homes and Ysbyty George Thomas (health and wellbeing centre for older
		average and the jobs av				person's mental health)
		majority, manufacturing				person's mental neutring
			,			32% of people have a limiting long-term illness in Treherbert
						compared with 23% across Wales (Census, 2011). The
						average life expectancy is 75 compared to 77 across RCT and
						78 across wales. More importantly, healthy life expectancy is
						61 compared with 68 Welsh average.
						75% of the population are living in health deprivation
						hotspots compared with 19.3% Welsh average and 32% of
						population have limiting long-term illness compared to 22.7%
						Welsh average.
7	Transport Conn	ections	,		•	ross Wales (Census, 2011) – and 43.4% of pensioner
			nouseholds have no vehi	cie,	however there are excellent bu	s and train links.
			However the travel time	to L	rev services (walking or nublic to	ransport) are significantly lower than Welsh average across
					lation has good access to key se	
			most categories and 30 p	JPu	iation has good decess to key se	110001

		Travel Times to Key Services Post Office – 8 mins Library – 37 mins GP – 14 mins Pharmacy – 12 mins Primary School – 11.7 mins Secondary School – 43.7 mins Food Shop – 8 mins Leisure Centre – 75.5 mins Roads The main road in the northerly direction out of Treherbert is the A4061 Rhigos Mountain Road towards Hirwaun and the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road. It was built as a relief project for unemployed miners and opened in November 1929. It now serves as main access road for those working in Cynon, Neath and Swansea valleys.
		Rail Treherbert railway station is the last stop on the Transport for Wales Treherbert line, which runs from the capital city, Cardiff. There are trains every 30 minutes, 7 days a week. Prior to the Dr Beeching cuts in the 1960s the railway line continued from Treherbert through Tynewydd to Blaencwm. From here it turned left at Pen Pych into Blaencwm. In Blaencwm, the line descended into a single-track tunnel under Mynydd Blaengwynfi, emerging in the village of Blaengwynfi in the nearby Afan valley. The journey took approximately 8 minutes. Buses A bus service runs every 15 minutes through Treherbert and travels all the way to the top of Blaencwm and Blaenrhondda. Service runs from 06.00 – 23.00.
8	Schools – primary, secondary, Welsh, special needs, nurseries (including Cylchoedd Meithrin), childcare providers – number of pupils in each, current Estyn ratings	In area Blaencwm: None Blaenrhondda: • Pen Pych Community Primary School – Estyn rating 'Good' (2018) - 201 pupils, 33 of which attend full time nursery. Tynewydd: None

Treherbert: None

Penyrenglyn:

• Penyrenglyn Primary School – Estyn rating (2015) – Adequate / 264 pupils, 24 of which attend full time nursery.

Nearest Welsh Language Schools

- Ysgol Gyfun Ynyswen (infant and junior) Estyn rating (2013) Adequate (1 mile out of Treherbert district) 273 pupils, 44 of which attend full time nursery.
- Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda (secondary) based in Cymer, Porth a max distance of 10.2 miles with school buses.

Nearest English Language Secondary School

• Treorchy Comprehensive – a max distance of 4 miles with school buses and trains for transport.

Nearest Special educational school

• Ysgol Hen Felin, Ystrad which is 4.2 miles from Treherbert.

Nearest Childcare providers

• Cylch Meithrin (based in old Treherbert Youth Club – rest of building is empty)

Heavenly Day Nursery - Treorchy is the closet childcare provision, 2.1 miles away from Treherbert – places for 34 children, open from 07.30 – 18.00 Mon-Fri.

Can find childminders through care.com website, there are 3 childminding services located in Treherbert, details of childminder are given once an account has been set up. https://www.care.com/en-gb/join-now?verticalId=childCare

There is no Flying Start provision in this area.

41% of people have no qualifications in Treherbert compared with 26% across Wales, (Census, 2011) and 78.6% of 18-19-year olds are not in Higher education compared with 66.1% Welsh average.

9	Politics	Cllr Geraint Davies – Plaid Cymru / Cllr Will Jones - Independent AM – Leanne Wood – Plaid Cymru MP – Chris Bryant – Welsh Labour Council – RCT CBC – Labour Town / Community Council – None	10	Derelict buildings and areas of land that are problematic or affect people's view of the community?	There have been several groups linked to disused paddling pool which community would like to see reopened. The old Con Club (Con Club moved to new location as major issues with building – a Church is now in situ but not open to the public and building is in state of disrepair) Toilets in Treherbert Park
11	Housing	 Make up of properties: Detached – 111 (3.9%) Welsh average = 27.7% Semi Detached – 366 (12.9%) Welsh average = 31% Terraced – 2098 (74%) Welsh average = 27.8% Purpose Built Flats – 195 (6.9%) Welsh average = 9.6% Flats in converted houses or buildings – 37 (1.3%) Welsh Blaencwm/Blaenrhondda / Tynewydd and Treherbert are almost build / detached properties. Penyrenglyn is a mixture of terraced. There are small blocks of flats dotted around Treherbert and Perbuilt retirement blocks. Owner occupied – 1738 (67.5%) Welsh average = 67.8% Social rented – 368 (14.3%) Welsh average = 16.5% Private rented – 380 (14.8) Welsh average = 15.8%) Average house price is £66,490 – 61.2% of properties were built than Welsh average. Trivallis and Rhondda Housing Association are the social Ty Ross is the only nursing home in Treherbert Treherbert Children's home	t ent I hou nyrer befo	irely terraced hous using and purpose- nglyn (no more tha	built social housing (that used to be known as The Ranch). In 3 stories with 10 flats in each. There are a few purpose-

12	Places of	 Households are made up as follows: Pensioner – 685 (26.6% compared to 22.9% Welsh average) One person – 470 (18.2% compared to 17.1% Welsh average) Lone Parent with dependent children – 235 (33.4% compared to 32.8% Welsh average) Cohabiting – 235 (9.1% compared to 9.7% Welsh average) 47.6% identify as having no religion compared with 32% Welsh 	rage) pared e) e)		average) Treherbert: Welcome to Our Woods are carrying out
12	worship (description, denomination, how buildings used)	average. 43.4% of remaining people (3,090) identify as Christian with 10% Muslim or Sikh. Blaencwm None Blaenrhondda None Tynewydd	13	Tourism	practical work and community engagement to develop woodland area behind Treherbert train station with community hydro and Pixie bridge. Their building The Old Library Social Forestry Hub on main road will give out information on area to visitors and locals. At the very top of Blaenrhondda (land adjoining Rhigos mountain / NRW managed land and Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm), there is a very large area of land now owned by private owner - this was once 'Cowboy Town' and there
		- Blaen-y-cwm Chapel - Welsh Baptist Treherbert - Treherbert Methodist Church - Trinity Gospel Hall – Sunday service only Penyrenglyn - Carmel Chapel / Welsh Independent			have been discussions around developing camping, activities, camping pods etc here as well as housing development over the years. Penpych mountain is a tourist attraction with many people visiting to climb to the top, this is between Blaenrhondda and Blaencwm and Penpych Woodland Park is managed by NRW. At the very top of Blaencwm is disused Rhondda Tunnel joining Blaencwm and Blaengwynfi in the Afan Valley.
		For more information on activities based in all these buildings, see Section 1			There is an active campaign group The Rhondda Tunnel Society working to re-open this. If re-opened it would be second longest cycling tunnel in the world and be a major tourist attraction. There are 5 Air BNB properties in Blaencwm and Blaenrhondda and a sought-after luxury B&B in Tynewydd.

14	Local businesses & shops	Blaencwm Old School Engineering The Hendrewen Hotel (open 3 days per week) Funeral Director Air BnB properties	Blaenrhondda Post Office
		Tynewydd General store (including post office counter) Bits and Bobs (including fruit and veg) Butchers Sweet Shop Hairdresser Charity Shop Takeaway Builders Yard Bakery	Treherbert Post Office General Store 5 x Take Away Florist Funeral Directors 2 x Gift Shops Charity Shop 6 x Spar / General Stores Greengrocer – Paul's bakery, butchers and café
		Funeral directors Penyrenglyn	The Old Library Social Forestry Hub (WTOW) 7 x Hairdresser Bits and Bobs Tattoo Shop Croeso Café
		The closest supermarkets are Lidl and Co-Op in Treorchy / Asda in Tonypandy / Tesco in Aberdare WTOW are working with local shopkeepers to create a Chamber of Trade A fishmonger and veg van visit all villages once a week. There is a weekly meat van in Treherbert.	Croeso Care
15	Leisure premises, pubs, clubs etc	Blaencwm - Hendrewen Hotel (open 3 days a week) / popular Sunday Lunch	venue

		Blaenrhondda - Top Club
		Tynewydd - Tynewydd Labour (The Bricks) - The Wyndham - Treherbert RFC
		Treherbert - The Bute - Ninian Stuart Conservative and Unionist Club - The Dunraven Hotel
		Penyrenglyn - Baglan Hotel - New Inn
		For more information on activities based in all these buildings, see Section 1
16	External services brought into the area	Mobile Library visits Treherbert weekly Meat Van visits weekly Slimming World (in Treherbert OAP Hall) Other organisations that regularly deliver activities / support in area: Music in Hospitals and Care / Shelter Cymru / Manage Money Wales / SNAP Cymru
17	What's likely to come up? What might change?	- Development of tourism in area with Tunnel, Zip World and increase in B&B's / Air BnB

18 Greenspaces

Parks & green spaces (and Green Flag Awards where applicable)

Footpaths and Active Travel networks

Sports facilities & Clubs

Playgrounds

Playing fields

Heritage sites

Allotments

Blaencwm

Penpych Woodland Area NRW Car Park and Paths (CF42 5EB) – Penpych mountain has tabletop formation and is a popular walking / visitor destination. Penpych mountain also boasts 2 large waterfalls and nearby an Iron Age stone hut circle.

Blaencwm is a popular walking attraction for local people and visitors and most weekends tourists are seen around the village and mountains walking the trails.

One small infant playground and one larger with play equipment, grassed play area and skate ramp Informal allotment plots privately owned around village



Blaenrhondda

Blaenrhondda Park is a large green space with play area and bowls and football provision (CF42 5SF). There is an attractive community green on the Brynhellan Estate. People use the Fernhill site for walking, running and cycling though this area is now under private ownership.

Tynewydd

Mainly residential with no play areas or parks but there is a large green space and footpath used for dog walking behind the main road. Blaen-y-cwm Chapel has a small community garden.

St Albans Road Tynewydd Allotments

Treherbert

Treherbert Park – MUGA / play park / tennis court / bowls club and abandoned swimming pool WTOW have community space in woods used for outdoor cooking / exercise / bush craft etc One play equipment park in Treherbert Park MUGA in park

Large football pitch

Churchfield Allotment Society (20 plots)



19 Other Community Facilities (including postcodes)

Include:

Pharmacies
Libraries
Petrol stations

Blaencwm (entirely housing apart from Pub/ small unused community centre and 2 play areas)

Blaenrhondda (entirely housing apart from Top Club / Blaenrhondda Park where play area, bowls and FC are based)

Tynewydd (no play areas, a couple of community use buildings and several pubs and shops) Pharmacy
Post Office

Treherbert (lots of shops and pubs and a variety of community buildings and large park) Mobile library visits weekly Pubs and Shops

Treherbert Boys and Girls Club

Penyrenglyn (mostly housing, some shops and pubs and large playing fields)

Community Recycling Centre in Tynewydd and a newly opened 'The Shed at Treherbert' – mission "to reduce the amount of reusable items being thrown away and make them available for people to buy whilst creating a safe environment for volunteers to reduce social isolation and provide a pathway back into work." The Shed gives residents the opportunity to purchase items left at recycling centre that volunteers and employees work to clean and restore.

		 There are no libraries, the closest is Treorchy (2 miles away) though a Mobile Library visits once per week There are no petrol stations, the closest is in Pentre 4 miles away There are two mechanic garages for servicing and MOTs There are no Council run community buildings or centres remaining open PACT meetings are held at the two primary schools.
20	Leisure facilities and activities	Blaencwm
	specifically for Children & Young	Park and small skate ramp and a small play area for infants further up the village
	People	Blaenrhondda • Football green / Bowls Green and play park all on one site
		Tootball green / bowls dreen and play park all on one site
		Tynewydd
		Treherbert RFC Mini Devils
		Blaen-y-cwm Chapel Sunday school
		Treherbert
		Brownies
		Welcome to our Woods
		• Treherbert Bowls Club
		Treherbert Boys and Girls Club
		Treherbert and District band
		Play park including MUGA for football and basketball
		Penyrenglyn • Valleys Kids – Penyrenglyn project run pre-school / after school and youth activities
		34% of children are living in poverty in Treherbert compared with 20% across Wales (Census, 2011).

Analysing what are the main gaps in provision?

- Perceived lack of activities for young people (some young people would like to see Boxing Gym)
- Community members suggested they would like to see a Bowling Alley in the community a large scale one to bring people to the area (like the one in Nantgarw).
- Range of activities are limited
- There are no shops in Blaencwm or Blaenrhondda and residents feel something is needed further up the valley.
- People feel you have to use the internet to find out what is happening and groups and events should communicate in other ways.
- There were issues of littering and damage in Treherbert park and MUGA areas and the community are working with WTOW to investigate ways of dealing with this
- There are no banks or visiting banks in Treherbert
- People often visit Aberdare as closest large town and would like to see a bus connection.











