

Community Profile – Maerdy, Ferndale and Blaenllechau

Quotes from the community

Maerdy and Ferndale need intergenerational activities, including capitalizing on working age adults to act as mentors and role models for young people and removing barriers and enabling young and older people to share experiences, such as volunteering and open days in residential homes.” – *Residents of Maerdy and Ferndale (Our Community Matters event).*

Opportunities into work “There are more places to work in Ferndale than there are in Maerdy, but not many opportunities for exciting creative jobs. When I think about getting a good job, I always think of going to University and moving away. Although I love where I am from, we don’t have great jobs available.” – *Young person from Maerdy, attending Ferndale Youth Club.*

The Importance of community groups the people of Maerdy and Ferndale recognize the importance of groups and organizations working together and are passionate in ensuring community spirit remains high. – *Our community matters event.*

Environment “The valleys have become a beautiful green environment; the landscape compares to some of the most beautiful places in the world. My young great nieces recently visited from Australia. They are 5 and 3 years old, my sister was driving them up to visit us in Ferndale and they were having a conversation in the back seat and all my sister could hear from them was “wow, my mountain in my window is huge and green,” then “no my mountain is better in my window, it’s all purple and grey and green and its big it’s amazing.” My sister was chuckling in the car all the way up the valleys.”

Overview - Ferndale is a small town in the Rhondda Fach valley. Its neighboring villages include Maerdy and Blaenllechau. Ferndale is 2.1 miles from Maerdy. It is situated at the top at the Rhondda Fach valley, 8 miles from Pontypridd and 20 miles from Cardiff. The villages have magnificent scenery.

Maerdy was the last deep mine in the Rhondda valley and closed in 1985 but the mine was still used to transport men into the mine for coal to be mined to the surface at Tower Colliery until 1990.

The population of the area is 7,255 of this 21% is aged over 65 years of age, 18% are aged under 14 and 61% aged 35-50. Most of the population is of working age. 30% of people aged between 16-74 are in full time employment in Maerdy and Ferndale compared with 36% across Wales. 40% of people have no qualifications in Maerdy & Ferndale compared with 26% across Wales (Census, 2011).

There is a variety of community facilities offering a variety of activities for all ages. There are local community buildings that people access for activities. These are the Maerdy hub and the Arts Factory. Both centre’s offer job clubs, Citizen’s Advice Bureau (CAB) and signposting. There is a sports centre offering football, netball rugby, basketball, tennis and a gym. There is also a boxing club and karate available in Maerdy and Ferndale. Darran Park is a large green area with tennis courts, pond, play areas etc.

Maerdy and Ferndale have a selection of businesses including post office, bank, charity shops, cafes, bakery, pet supplies, windows, opticians, pharmacy, garage, carpet shop, estate agents & design & print. Although there is not a variety of work in the area. Ferndale; there have been issues in Maerdy surgery with locums and can be closed for lengthy periods. There is no train service to Maerdy or Ferndale and a lack of affordable transport in the area. There is a lack of activities for girls and the community have expressed how they would also like to have intergenerational activities provided in the area. The community state that “the natural environment is stunning, there are lots of walks, cycle paths open spaces for running and a reservoir. Stella the Ruth Jones TV series was filmed here and there is lots of community support, community spirit, community groups and welcoming friendly people.”



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Cronfa Gymunedol Fferm Wynt
PEN Y CYMOEDD
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Section 1 - Community Groups, Activity + Key Buildings

Maerdy			
Community Building	Activities they run	Other groups based there	Other Groups with no physical base
Maerdy Community Centre	Can be hired for parties and events	Maerdy Kidz'R'Us Childcare and Parent and Toddler / Pilates / Messy Play / Maerdy MASH / Teifi House OAP Guild / Aikido	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friends of Maerdy Paddling Pool - Maerdy /Ferndale Tenants and Residents Board (CF43 4TL) - Upper Rhondda OAP association (CF41 7SF) - Friends of Maerdy Woodland (no postcode available) - Maerdy Walking Group (Drink Wise Age Well) - SLK Marshal Arts Maerdy - Maerdy Social Club Craft Group (young people)
Maerdy Bowls Clubhouse	Bowls Team		
Maerdy Boxing Club	Boxing Gym		
Seion Chapel	Chapel services / Sunday school / Dementia Friendly Maerdy / Seion First Steps (Parent and Toddler Group) / Coffee Morning /		
The old Maerdy Library	- Maerdy Welsh Group / Maerdy Craft and Card Group / Fern Partnership childcare		
All Saints Church Charity Shop			
Blaenllechau			
Community Building	Activities they run	Other groups based there	Other Groups with no physical base
Carmel Centre	Chapel services		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blaenllechau Involvement Group (no postcode available) – bee keeping • Friends of Ferndale and Blaenllechau (CF43 4NG)
Blaenllechau Youth Project			
Ferndale			
Community Building	Activities they run	Other groups based there	Other Groups with no physical base
The Hwb (Fern Partnership)	Childcare setting / community library	Historical Society / Ferndale library Knitting Group / Ferndale Library	

		Reading Group / Ferndale Library Genealogy Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunrise Community Gardening Club (based on Highfields Ind estate) • Mid Fach River Care group (no postcode available) • Care and Repair (CF43 4ER) • The Trussell Trust food bank (CF43 3DA) • Community sweet shop (CF43 4RH) • Ferndale Grassroots (No postcode available) • Ladies of the Lake Choir • Ferndale footsteps (CF43 4PS) • Ferndale court tenants and residents (CF43 4BT) • Ferndale Walking Group (based at Ferndale Rugby Club)
Arts Factory	Arts Factory Books (social enterprise) / Arts Factory Design (social enterprise graphic design business) / Health and Wellbeing Group / Yoga / Children's Fun factory / ICT Classes /	<p>Citizen's Advice/Autism family Support / Condom Club / Talk Outside the Box Club, workshops focusing on stress, LGBT, depression, suicide prevention etc. (with Owen from Carmel Church) / Managed Workspace availability / Gentle group circuits class / tea dances throughout year.</p> <p>Also based here are OAP Ferndale Pensioner Group Rhondda Rockets Cheerleading EA Sports Group New Horizon's Learning and Training Spectacle Theatre Youth Group Art Group Ferndale and Maerdy Fast Daps Ferndale OAP Club</p>	
Morlais Hall	Cor Meibion Morlais	WI (also starting monthly craft group in Sept) / Slimming World / Tai Chi / Weight for it Cooking / Bingo / Gooseberries Choir / Women's Guild / Cooking with Friends	
Bethel Community Charity Shop			
Ferndale Bowls Club			
Ferndale Rugby Club			
AiM Sports Academy			
Infinity Gym CIC			
Ferndale Boys and Girls Club			

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

Ferndale and Blaenllechau

WIMD	Income	Employment	Health	Education	Access to Services	Community Safety	Physical Environment	Housing
697	706	512	530	854	1,811	596	1,868	262
540	699	430	373	372	1,026	857	1,640	585
393	450	199	349	302	1,603	1,130	1,101	1,091

Maerdy

WIMD	Income	Employment	Health	Education	Access to Services	Community Safety	Physical Environment	Housing
97	118	40	123	157	971	128	1,802	1,025
60	45	26	81	96	503	630	1,873	1,046

Dataunitwales.gov.uk/wimd (2014)

	UK Office of National Statistics, 2011 Census	Estimated 2020	2021
Population	7230 (3120 Maerdy /4110 Ferndale and Blaenllechau) 0-17 years 1345 18-64 years 4355 65+ years 1530	7213 https://www.citypopulation.de/php/uk-wales.php?cityid=W38000056	

Living in poverty	20% of people are classed as living in poverty	32.5%	
Average household income		£XXXXX	
Unpaid care		996 people providing unpaid care	
Air Quality and Green Spaces	41% of population live in flood risk area	The air quality score is 12% better than Welsh average and have access to green space and public parks and gardens more readily than Welsh average. 14% of population live in flood risk area	
Mental Health	7.2% of population are receiving mental health benefits - this does not consider diagnosed mental health conditions who do not receive benefits / 24% of population have GP recognised mental health condition.		
Debt	Personal debt and residential mortgage debt per head are significantly lower than Welsh average		

2	Employment & Local Economy	<p>There are many retail / factory / childcare jobs supported directly in the area itself. Others commute straight out of the Valley to Porth or Pontypridd or over Maerdy Mountain Road to the Cynon Valley or over Penrhys Mountain to Rhondda Fawr. 30% are in full time employment (630) compared with 36% across Wales / 13.3% are in part time employment (710) and 4.9% of people are self-employed (265). 44.2% 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 (17% of working people) • Manufacturing (15% of working people) • Retail (13% of working population) <p>There are on average 102.67 claimants per job in the area.</p>	3	Health Provision	<p>In area</p> <p>Maerdy Ferndale Medical Group Practice – run from two different locations, Ferndale medical centre – reduced hours / Maerdy surgery – Reduced hours</p> <p>Lisa Lewis (interlink) is a GOP social prescriber based here</p> <p>Closest hospitals</p> <p>Royal Glamorgan 10.4 miles (with A&E)</p> <p>Ysbyty Cwm Rhondda – 4.2 miles (with Minor Injuries Unit)</p> <p>Dentists and opticians</p> <p>The nearest dentists and opticians are in Ferndale</p>
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32% of people have a limiting long-term illness in Maerdy and Ferndale compared with 23% across Wales (Census, 2011) • Rhondda community mental health team – available for adults 18 – 65. • GP social prescriber at Arts Factory, Communities 4 Work, Hafal • Ysbyty George Thomas is based in Treorchy and has a specialist Dementia Unit – lots of support for people with dementia and their family and Carers. • Carnegie Clinic in Trealaw - offers Podiatry and children’s outpatients service • Ynyswen Clinic in Treorchy – offers Podiatry, Health Visitors, Diabetic Eye Screening <p>The Ferndale and Maerdy Practices staff do not sign post to local groups to improve people’s health and well-being nor do they sign post to, for example the joint care programme!</p> <p>The average life expectancy is in line with Welsh average, but Healthy Life Expectancy is 61 years of age compared to 64 across RCT and 68 across Wales.</p>
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<p>4 Transport Connections</p>	<p>1140 households have no cars (34.9% compared with Welsh average of 22.9%) and there is no train line in the Valley. However, the travel time to key services (walking or public transport) is significantly lower than Welsh average across all categories and so population has good access to key services.</p> <p>Travel Times to Key Services Post Office – 10.8 mins Library – 15 mins GP – 11.8 mins</p>

		<p>Pharmacy – 12.1 mins Primary School – 10.9 mins Secondary School – 24.4 mins Food Shop – 9.9 mins Leisure Centre – 13.9 mins</p> <p>Roads The A4233 runs from Port to top of Maerdy. From Porth it is a 10-minute drive to Pontypridd and 40-minute drive to Cardiff). The top of Maerdy links straight onto Maerdy Mountain Road which links Maerdy directly to Aberdare in the Cynon valley. This is a very busy commuter route out of the Rhondda Fach.</p> <p>Rail There is no train service through the Rhondda Fach valley. The closest train station is in Porth (9.72 miles away) – from here there are trains to Cardiff every 30 minutes from 6am to 11pm.</p> <p>Buses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First bus from Maerdy/Ferndale is 5.16am to Pontypridd / Last bus arriving back to Maerdy/Ferndale is 9.50pm. • Village and Valleys Community Transport • Fern Partnership have a minibus • Buses stop serving Blaenllechau at 5.45pm • £8.30 return ticket to Cardiff Kingsway from Maerdy weekdays leaving Maerdy at 7am
5	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maerdy Community Primary – Estyn rating (2012) – Adequate / 227 pupils. • Darran Park Primary – Estyn rating (2017) – Good / 340 pupils. <p>Closest Welsh Language Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The closest Welsh Primary School - Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn Y Forwyn (Ferndale) - Estyn rating (2011) – Adequate / 204 pupils, 42 of which are in nursery • The closest Welsh Secondary School - Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda – max distance of 7.7 miles with school transport provided <p>Closest English Language Secondary School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The closest English Secondary School - Ferndale community school (Ferndale) – Estyn rating (2017) – Good / 579 pupils.

		<p>Closest Special educational school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ysgol Hen Felin, Ystrad (aged 3-18) – max distance of 5.5 miles <p>Closest Childcare providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teifi Day Care Centre (CF43 4BE) – Closing soon • Cwtches Day Care Maerdy • Maerdy and Ferndale Flying Start from The Fern Partnership offer wrap around childcare from 7am to 6pm Mon-Fri. <p>This is the most cost-effective care in the Rhondda Valleys £32 per day. 30 free hours for childcare based at their Ferndale Centre.</p> <p>Ferndale Community School is YEPS - Fern Partnership and YEPS work together on outreach within the community.</p> <p>The Fern Partnership in Maerdy and Ferndale Hubs offer Job Clubs and employability and vocational qualifications.</p>
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6	Politics	<p>Maerdy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Jack Harries – Labour <p>Ferndale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Phillip Howe – Independent / Cllr Susan Morgans – Labour (Susan is Deputy Mayor of RCT from May 2019) • MS – Buffy Williams – Welsh Labour • MP – Chris Bryant – Welsh Labour • Council – RCT CBC – Labour <p>Town / Community Council – None</p>	7	Derelict buildings and areas of land that are problematic or affect people’s view of the community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maerdy Workman’s Hall • The Anchor – abandoned pub next to Arts Factory Ferndale, it is visually impactful as right on the Strand and all cars travelling through drive straight towards building which has been in state of disrepair for some time. <p>There are 291 vacant dwellings – 8.2% compared with Welsh average of 6%</p>
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		- Also have access to the Maerdy Wind Fund			
8	Housing	<p>Make up of properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detached – 137 (3.9%) Welsh average = 27.7% • Semi Detached – 381 (10.7%) Welsh average = 31% • Terraced – 2771 (78%) Welsh average = 27.8% • Purpose Built Flats – 197 (5.5%) Welsh average = 9.6% • Flats in converted houses or buildings – 63 (1.8%) Welsh average = 2.4% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner occupied – 2209 (67.8%) Welsh average = 67.8% • Social rented – 531 (16.3%) Welsh average = 16.5% • Private rented – 520 (15.9%) Welsh average = 15.8% <p>Average house price is £59,194 – 65% of properties were built before 1900 with only 10 properties built since 2000</p> <p>Trivallis and Rhondda Housing Association are the social landlords serving the area.</p>			
9	Places of worship (description, denomination, how buildings used)	<p>48.5% identify as having no religion compared with 32% Welsh average. 42% of remaining people (3,090) identify as Christian.</p> <p>Maerdy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seion Chapel – Sunday service 11am – 5.30pm, Bible study mon – 7pm – 8.15pm, parent and toddler morning tues 10am – 11.30am, Seion searchers tues – 5.15pm – 6.30pm, coffee morning wed 9.30am-11am, Seion Youth wed 6.30pm – 7.30pm, Bible study thurs 9.45am – 11am. <p>Ferndale</p>	10	Tourism	<p>Visit Ferndale https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Tourism/Thingstodo/TownsandVillages/Ferndale.aspx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Llanwonno paths – Tourism link • River Paths – Tourism links with Taff Trail • Maerdy Reservoirs with mountain biking trails • Mountain Biking trails linking with Barry sidings • The Pump House next to Maerdy Reservoir • Darran Park Lake <p>There are Blue Plaques throughout Maerdy and Ferndale celebrating the heroes, sporting stars and industrial / cultural achievements of the area (including: Catell Nos - in the forest to the east of Maerdy is all that remains of a medieval Welsh castle / Daniel 'Eos Dar' Evans was a member of Glee)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Dunstan’s Church – 11am Sunday service - Regent Street, Ferndale, CF43 4HB • Ferndale Spiritualist Church – Sunday 6pm divine service, Tuesday 7pm development circle, Thursday evening of mediumship. • Chapel Penuel – Christian faith, newly restored – services plus cinema club for children with Ferndale Grassroots - Duffryn Street, Ferndale • Bethel Baptist Church – no information <p>Blaenllechau</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmel Church - Duffryn Street, Ferndale <p>For more information on activities based in all these buildings, see Section 1</p>	
11	Local businesses & shops	<p>Ferndale Industrial Estates hosting a variety of businesses including gyms / <i>D-Zine</i> Print and Embroidery / Kingsward LTD / INCA Traditional Window and Conservatory Company / DCMS / R L Engineering</p> <p>Busy High Street with a good variety of shops including: Community Sweet shop Co-op supermarket British Red Cross shop</p>	<p>Maerdy Two large factories at top end. Maerdy has a small selection of stores including: Spar / Café / Hairdressers / General store / Newsagents and Takeaways</p> <p>Blaenllechau One general store</p>

		<p>Pitstop Tyre and Exhaust Centre LTD P and J Carpets Dylan's Pets KJS quality meats Greggs bakery Brains General store Bethel community charity shop Harrisons Interiors Douglas Nash and Sons Rosey Stoves Lewis Wyne Davies and Jones optician Sheppard Pharmacy Valley Home electrical Services Megs Cabin North Road Motors Baker Boy Coffee and Sweet shop Central Pharmacy TJ Owen scrap yard SHL Autos Christine's Florist Margaritelli's Fish Bar Marmaris Kebab shop Convenience store Spar Supermarket McColl's Store Car Wash</p>	<p>There are many mechanic garages and tyre fitters and a small independent petrol station.</p>
12	<p>Leisure premises, pubs, clubs etc</p>	<p>Maerdy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maerdy Conservative club • Maerdy social club <p>Ferndale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferndale Labour Club • Ferndale Imperial Workman's club • Ferndale business and professional men's club 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Glyn Rhedyn – Defribillator (outside wall) / Live Music Sat Night / Fish & Chip Shop night weekly / afternoon tea / happy hour every Fri and Sat / Karaoke night • Duke of York <p>Blaenllechau</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blaenllechau Radical Club <p>Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre (run by RCT CBC) is just out of Ferndale but serves all of the Rhondda Fach.</p> <p>For more information on activities based in all these buildings, see Section 1</p>
13	External services brought into the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brownies • Scouts • RSD dance • Karate Little Dragon’s • Basketball Missy Lender • Weight Watchers • Slimming World. • Welcome Friends deliver a befriending service in the area • Lucy Foster is Community Co-Ordinator for Interlink covering the area <p>Communities 4 Work (Maerdy Hub)</p>
14	What’s likely to come up? What might change?	<p>The Fern Partnership will be engaging with the harder to reach individuals from September 2019 with the aim of helping to get people into Apprenticeships.</p> <p>There are no banks in Maerdy and Ferndale now – However there will probably be a Credit Union soon.</p> <p>The Spar in Maerdy will be having a post office</p> <p>Teify House Community Centre in Maerdy has just been confirmed as closing by the Local Authority.</p>

15	Greenspaces	<p>Maerdy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maerdy Miners monument (CF43 4DA)
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	<p>Parks & green spaces (and Green Flag Awards where applicable)</p> <p>Footpaths and Active Travel networks</p> <p>Sports facilities & Clubs</p> <p>Playgrounds</p> <p>Playing fields</p> <p>Heritage sites</p> <p>Allotments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boxing club (CF43 4DA) • Maerdy community centre (CF43 4DD) • Teifi House Day care centre (CF43 4BE) <i>now confirmed as closing</i> • Maerdy Hub • Maerdy Grass Roots • Maerdy Flying Start • Basketball and tennis court recently refurbished next to Maerdy Bowls Club <p>Ferndale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferndale swimming pool (CF43 4AP) • Ferndale RFC, Rugby and Football club (CF43 4NE) • Ferndale Infants school (CF43 4PS) • Arts Factory (CF43 4LY) • Morlais Hall (CF43 4PS) • Maerdy & Ferndale Cemetery • Darran Park (CF43 4LE) – just behind town centre with Lake (with fishing) / Children’s Playground / Football Pitch / Tennis Court / Bowls Green and open play area / MUGA and ancient woodland and cliffs. <p>Blaenllechau</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blaenllechau Youth Project (own Building) • Blaenllechau Community Project – have community beehives which they tend to and produce honey <p>Taff Trail</p> <p>Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre (CF43 3HR) – in Tylorstown 2 miles away.</p>
16	<p>Other Community Facilities (including postcodes)</p> <p>Include:</p> <p>Pharmacies</p> <p>Libraries</p> <p>Petrol stations</p>	
17	<p>Leisure facilities and activities specifically for Children & Young People</p>	<p>Maerdy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferndale Community School (based in Maerdy) - Youth club through YEPS with fern partnership, Tuesday and Thursdays. • Maerdy boxing gym – activities most evenings • Maerdy paddling pool

- Seion Chapel – Sunday service 11am – 5.30pm, parent and toddler morning tues 10am – 11.30am, Seion searchers (4-11years) tues – 5.15pm – 6.30pm, Seion Youth (18+) wed 6.30pm – 7.30pm, Seion pathfinders (10+) fri – 6.30-8.00pm.
- Ferndale**
- Ferndale RFC – Women’s rugby, Over 15s women, over 16s women, 3 youth teams, all age junior teams from under 7s up to under 17s.
 - Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre - Inclusive sports for young people with disabilities or learning difficulties, RSD dance mon – 5pm-6pm, Karate Little Dragon’s – Tues 4.30 – 5.30, Karate WCKA Tues 5.30pm-8.00pm, Basketball Missy Lender sat – 10am – 11am, Rhondda Rockets Cheer Leading Sun 9am – 12.30.
 - Ferndale Youth football club – Mini kickers team, Youth under10’s, under11’s, under12’s, under 14’s, under 15’s.
 - Ferndale Army Cadets – 6.45pm every Thursday at ACF building
 - Brownies
- Blaenllechau**
- **Blaenllechau Youth Project** – Baby Group for young children and families and carers / Junior youth club after school (5 to14 year olds) / Senior Youth Club (11+) twice weekly / Dance Group (5 to 10 year olds) / Dance Group (10+) / Family Engagement evening once weekly / Homework support / Regular performances in Morlais Hall.

Analysing what are the main gaps in provision?





FERNDALE (BLAENLLECHAU IN YELLOW BOX)

MAERDY



Tracking changes in the area

Section	What	What has changed	Date