

Community Profile – Hirwaun



Penaluna's Fish and Chips in Hirwaun

Hirwaun, the meaning in Welsh language as "Long Meadow" is a village and community at the north end of the Cynon Valley in the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf, South Wales. It is 4 miles North West of the town of Aberdare, and comes under the Aberdare post town. The Village is on the heads of the valleys road and at the southern edge of Brecon Beacons National Park.

Hirwaun has an industrial heritage which the Hirwaun Ironworks were the centre of. After the ironworks closed coalmining became the prominent employment for the residents in Hirwaun until the late 20th century.



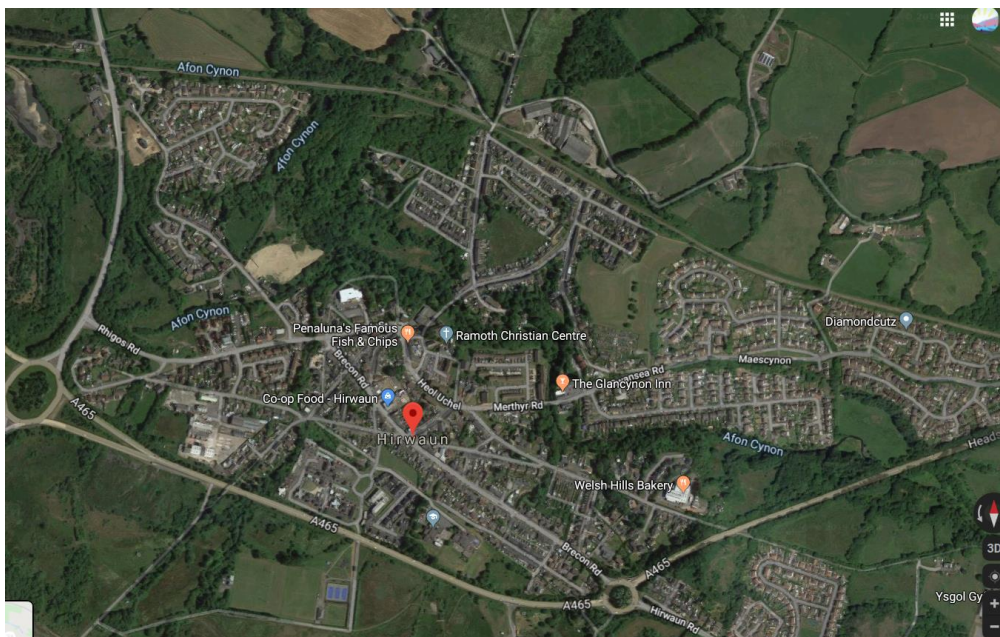
Hirwaun War Memorial

Hirwaun's forefathers fought against poverty and deprivation in the 1831 Merthyr Rising, during which a white flag drenched red by calf's blood was raised on Hirwaun Common. It was the first time the symbolic "Red Flag", a worldwide symbol of socialism, was raised in the world.

4,356 of the population in Hirwaun are of working age, 25% of which either have a long-term illness or are registered as disabled. Over 50% of the population have no qualifications in Hirwaun. The Hirwaun Village Hall is a well-used building on the high street in Hirwaun. The community council office is based at the Hall, Businesses and community groups can hire space to work. There are many clubs that run throughout the week at the Village Hall.

Hirwaun is in the 10% most deprived areas in Wales. Crime-statistics.co.uk (2019) suggest that 34% of crime in Hirwaun is categorized as anti-social behavior. The Hirwaun YMCA have a youth drop in 3 times a week which many young people from Hirwaun and the Penywaun community attend. Hirwaun YMCA, have recently offered opportunities for children to be involved in a Risky Play workshops, Young people have also been part of a project Get Cooking over the last year. The community of Hirwaun state *"there is very little litter, graffiti or dog fouling, people smile and say hello when passing, it is a friendly place to live and people feel like it is not a deprived area at all and are excited about planned regeneration in the area."*

Hirwaun



PyC Awards

1	Population	7,458 (Hirwaun is a growing population due to large new build estates around the outskirts) UK Office of National Statistics, 2011 Census (2018)																																				
2	Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-17 years 1,708 • 18-64 years 4,356 • 65+ years 1,394 <p>UK Office of National Statistics, 2011 Census (2018)</p>																																				
3	Deprivation Ranking (WIMD)	<table border="1" data-bbox="517 545 2128 738"> <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>889</td> <td>1010</td> <td>772</td> <td>931</td> <td>594</td> <td>938</td> <td>1157</td> <td>282</td> <td>1618</td> </tr> <tr> <td>776</td> <td>718</td> <td>596</td> <td>750</td> <td>625</td> <td>1461</td> <td>1029</td> <td>734</td> <td>860</td> </tr> <tr> <td>180</td> <td>181</td> <td>96</td> <td>92</td> <td>313</td> <td>1249</td> <td>622</td> <td>742</td> <td>1701</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>WIMD 2014 (where 1 is most deprived and 1909 is least deprived / Dataunitwales.gov.uk/wimd (2014))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% of children are living in poverty compared with 20% across Wales • 0% of households have no central heating • Overall crime rate is slightly lower than Welsh average. There were 410 reported crimes between 2018 and 2019, 98.1 per 1000 population – the majority of these were ‘anti-social behaviour incidents’ and ‘violent crimes’ • 27% of people have a life limiting illness compared with 23% across Wales • 29% of people have no qualifications compared with 26% across Wales • 22% have no car compared with 23% across Wales • 97.1% of people are White British compared with 93% Welsh average and 89.4% were born in Wales compared with 72.7% across Wales • 73% of population cannot speak Welsh with only 12.2% able to speak and write Welsh • Of people out of work, 14.4% are receiving workless benefits and 2.1% people are receiving looking for work benefits. There are around 40 people claiming Universal Credit. 	WIMD	Income	Employment	Health	Education	Access to Services	Community Safety	Physical Environment	Housing	889	1010	772	931	594	938	1157	282	1618	776	718	596	750	625	1461	1029	734	860	180	181	96	92	313	1249	622	742	1701
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,123 people are living in the most deprived 20% of areas in Wales, so 26.3% of the population • 28.3% of children (245) are in 'out of work households, higher than 17.8% Welsh average and 26.2% are living in poverty compared with 20% Welsh average • 6% of population are receiving mental health benefits (160 people) this does not consider diagnosed mental health conditions who do not receive benefits. • There are 641 people providing unpaid care (15.3%) • Personal debt is equivalent to the Welsh average and residential mortgage debt per head is 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 66% live in flood risk area compared with 41% across Wales
4	Employment & Local Economy (where do people work)	<p>62.8% of population are economically active compared with 65.8% Welsh average, with 37.4% employed full time, 12.8% employed part time and 6.4% self-employed (around 198 people).</p> <p>The largest employment sector is Health and Social care (16% of the 1815 people in employment), then Retail (15% of the 1815 people in employment) and Manufacturing (12% of the 1815 people in employment).</p> <p>In the area, there are on average 1.14 claimants per job, lower than the 3.86 Welsh average and the jobs available in area are in the majority, manufacturing, professional and scientific services and education.</p>
5	Active Community Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhondda Marsh Fritillary Butterfly Conservation Hirwaun • Hirwaun Community Events – new group in place of Hirwaun presents (community group delivering Christmas / Holiday / Summer activities including fetes and fun days) • Hirwaun OAP Association • Hirwaun Drum Majors (actually based in Penywaun) • Cynon Valley Area National OAP'S Association of Wales • Bethel Place Residents Association • Hirwaun Squash Club (actually placed in the Sobell in Aberdare) • Bethel Place Resident's Association (Trivallis) • Ramblers Group meet every Wednesday by Hirwaun Library • St Johns Ambulance Hirwaun Division

- Cefn Don Allotments
- Dyfed and Glamorgan ACF (Army Cadets)
- Hirwaun Garden and Allotment Shop (opposite the Glancynon Pub) - not for-profit organisation open Thursday 5pm – 7pm and Sundays 10am – 12noon only
- Hirwaun Neighbourhood Policing Team provide fee Defibrillator Training in association with the Welsh Ambulance Trust

Hirwaun Village Hall (run by Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council) and based there are:

- Accessible Wales
- Town Council Clerk
- Short Mat Bowls Group
- Older People once a month group
- Boxercise
- Practice Sewing
- Tabata (HIT Training)
- Zumba
- Craft Club
- Welsh Classes
- Dog Training
- Tang Soo Do

Hirwaun Community Sports Association (RFC)

- Senior Rugby Teams
- Hirwaun Football Club Seniors and Minis
- Live entertainment and bar
- Community Venue Hire (for parties / weddings and charity functions etc)
- Welsh Class and Club
- Fishing Club
- Cynon Valley Rugby League Juniors

Also based there are:

- Welsh Language Classes
- Baby and toddler playgroup

- Hirwaun Squash Ladder Meeting
- Darts Team
- Pool Team
- Fishing Group

Hirwaun Library (run by RCT CBC) and based there are:

- New community meeting room
- **Hirwaun Library Arts Group**
- Knit and Natter
- Stories and Rhymes
- Children's Knitting Group)
- Armchair Yoga
- Fibromyalgia Class
- PACT meetings

Hirwaun YMCA (run youth activities) and based there are:

- Radio Club
- Boxercise
- Youth activities including summer play scheme and youth club 3 nights per week (children from Hirwaun and Penywaun)
- Men's Shed
- Work Club (Communities 4 Work)
- Sewing Group
- Salsa Group

St Therese Church Hall (see under Section 12) and based there are:

- Hirwaun Historical Society
- Aberdare Art Society

1st Hirwaun Scouts (own building)

- Plans for private childcare provider to be based there

		<p>St Lleurwg’s Church Hall (see under Section 12) and based there are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tea Dance Bingo Group <p>Ramoth Christian Centre (see under Section 12) and based there are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Lambs Toddlers & Parents • Almond Tree Lunch Club • Foodbank • Reaching Romania charity • Youth Club
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 Hirwaun Primary School – Estyn rating (2018) – Adequate needs improvement / 250 pupils.</p> <p>Closest Welsh Language Schools Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun – (2 miles away) Estyn rating (2016) – Adequate / 961 pupils, 171 of which attend sixth form. (Penderyn Primary School will become a Welsh language School from Sept 2019 and so English Language Pupils from Penderyn will be joining Hirwaun)</p> <p>Closest English Language Secondary School The nearest English Language Comprehensive School is Aberdare community school – a distance of 4.2 miles with school buses for transport or St John the Baptist High School.</p> <p>Closest Special educational school Closest Special educational school is Ysgol Maesgwyn which is 2.4 miles from Hirwaun.</p> <p>Closest Childcare providers Rachael’s Playhouse is a flying start registered setting based in Hirwaun, it is open from 8am – 6pm Monday – Friday. Including school pickups and drop offs in the Aberdare area. Provision is for children from Birth to 12 years old.</p> <p>Hirwaun YMCA – after school club, Mon-Fri, 3 – 11 years.</p>

		29.4% of people have no qualifications in Hirwaun compared with 26% across Wales, (Census, 2011) and 71.5% of 18-19-year olds are not in Higher education compared with 66.1% Welsh average.
7	Leisure facilities and activities for Children & Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramoth Church – Little Lambs, baby and toddler group / youth club • Hirwaun YMCA Youth and Community Centre – Youth 11years+ drop in. Mon, Tues, Thurs – 6.00pm • Hirwaun and Mackworth Juniors FC – Under 12s, under 13s, under 14s, under 16s • Hirwaun RFC - Under 7s, under 8s, under 9s, under 10's, under 17's • Hirwaun Drum Majors – meet 3 times a week, all ages. • Hirwaun Cadets – meet in the cadet hut on Rhigos Rd, Mon and Thurs, 7pm – 9pm aged 12years+ • 1st Hirwaun Scouts – 5 – 8 years • St Lleurwg's Hirwaun – Messy play / Karate club / The Ark Mother and Toddler Group / Youth Club on Mon • 12th Aberdare Girls Guides and Brownies
8	Transport Connections	<p>22.1% of households (390) which is lower than average 23% across Wales (Census, 2011) – and 30.6% of pensioner households (198) have no vehicle.</p> <p>The travel time to key services (walking or public transport) are significantly lower than Welsh average across most categories and so population has good access to key services.</p> <p>Travel Times to Key Services</p> <p>Post Office – 14.2 mins Library – 14.3 mins GP – 9.9 mins Pharmacy – 14.2 mins Primary School – 12.1 mins Secondary School – 20.6 mins Food Shop – 13 mins Leisure Centre – 60.6 mins</p> <p>Roads</p>

		<p>From Cardiff city centre to Hirwaun by car is 29.6 miles and on average takes around 55minutes. Heading North on the A470 to Merthyr Road, follow the A470 to the heads of the valley's road, A465 to Brecon Road in Hirwaun.</p> <p>Rail Transport for Wales run a train from Cardiff to Aberdare train station which takes on average 1hr and 5 mins and has 13 stops. There are on average 28 trains that run the Aberdare line during Monday to Friday which are every 20 minutes. Evenings and weekends the trains run every hour service to Cardiff and Barry Island. A Bus service connecting Hirwaun and Aberdare train station has ceased.</p> <p>Buses The Aberdare bus station is a 10-minute walk from the Aberdare train station. From the Aberdare bus station, there is the number 8 stagecoach bus to Cefn Rhigos, the bus has 25 stops, and takes on average 19 minutes to arrive at Hirwaun. However, there is no number 8 bus service on a Sunday.</p> <p>There is a bus that goes to Castle Bingo in Merthyr in afternoons and evenings for £1</p>
9	Health Provision (GP practices, hospitals, clinics, other services)	<p>In area Dr P K George and Partner, Hirwaun Medical Centre</p> <p>Closest hospitals Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr (7.7 miles away) - Major acute / Major A&E / Open 24 hours Ysbyty Cwm Cynon, Mountain Ash (11.18 miles away) – New Community and minor injuries hospital</p> <p>Dentists and opticians There is a new dentist but no opticians (closest Aberdare town centre)</p> <p>27% of people (1,130) have a limiting long-term illness in Hirwaun compared with 23% across Wales (Census, 2011). The average life expectancy is 76 compared to 77 across RCT and 78 across Wales. More importantly, healthy life expectancy is 63 compared with 68 Welsh average. 26.3% of the population (1,123) are living in health deprivation hotspots compared with 19.3% Welsh average</p>
10	External services brought into the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weight Watchers (meet at Hirwaun Village Hall) • Accessible Wales / Empower Disability and Advice Support Surgery (hold advice surgeries at Hirwaun Village Hall)

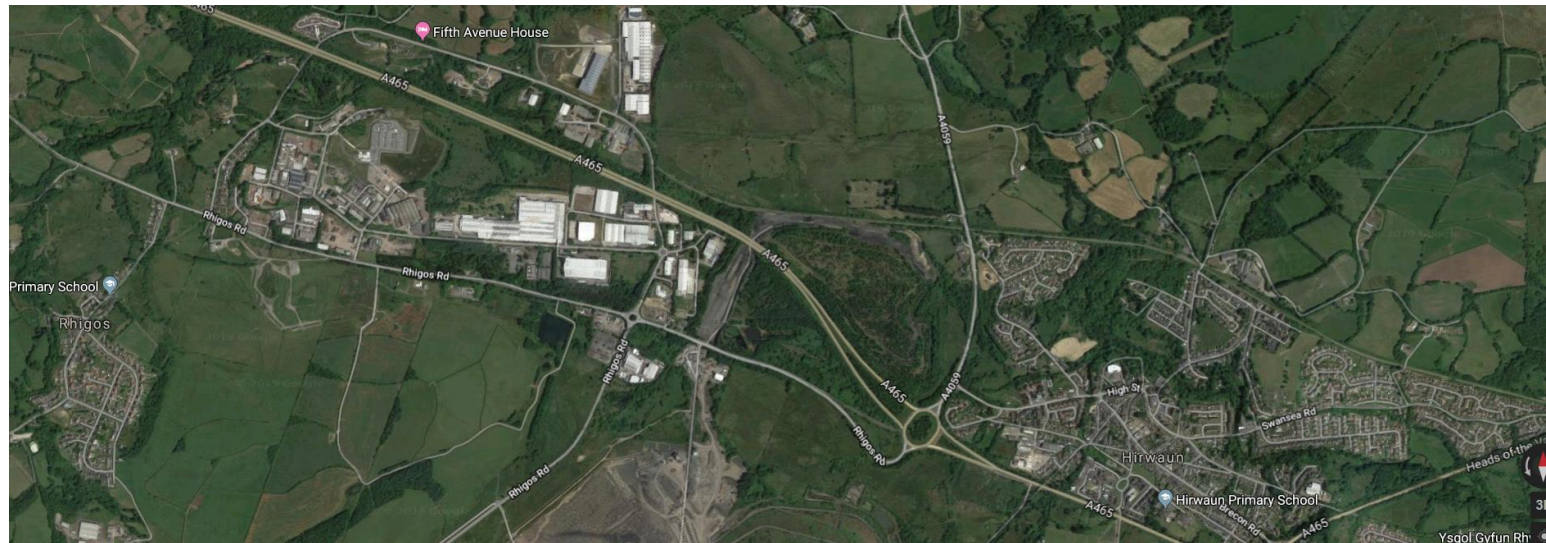
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slimming World (held at St Therese Catholic Church)
11	Community Facilities (including postcodes) Include pharmacies, libraries and petrol stations Main buildings Sports facilities & Clubs Playgrounds Playing fields Parks & green spaces (and Green Flag Awards where applicable) Footpaths and Active Travel networks Heritage sites allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well Pharmacy – High Street • Hirwaun Library – CF44 9SW • Fire Station – CF44 9QG • Hirwaun Common – CF44 9HP • Hirwaun Recreational / Welfare ground, football field, rugby field, Tennis courts, bowling green and children’s play area • Ramoth Church – CF44 9SW • Hirwaun YMCA Youth and Community Centre – CF44 9RB • Hirwaun Village Hall – CF44 9SW • Hirwaun scout Hall – CF44 9PB • Hirwaun clock tower war memorial– CF44 9SL • Cefn Don, Hirwaun allotment – CF44 9NA • Cefn Don (Y Cefndon Centenary Fields Recreational Ground) • Sustrans Cycle Route 478 • Hirwaun Post Office • Hirwaun Village Green • The World of Chimps Wishing well for McMillan Cancer
11a	Greenspaces Parks & green spaces (and Green Flag Awards where applicable) Footpaths and Active Travel networks	

12	Places of worship (description, denomination, how buildings used)	<p>33% identify as having no religion compared with 32% Welsh average. 59.3% of remaining people (2,480) identify as Christian with 40 people identified as Buddhist, Hindu or Muslim.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Lleurwg’s Hirwaun – Church of Wales, Traditional holy communion / Modern Holy Communion / Communion service / Morning prayer / Café church – breakfast and hot drinks Also hosts: New horizons, Mental health and Wellbeing every Friday / Messy play / Karate club / Fitness class / Mother’s Union / Mother’s Guild / Tea Dance Bingo Group / Hirwaun Guides / The Ark Mother and Toddler Group / Youth Club (Mon) • Ramoth Christian Centre - Sunday Morning Worship & Communion / Sunday Evening Praise & Worship / Prayer & Bible Study Also hosts: Little Lambs Toddlers & Parents / Almond Tree Lunch Club / Foodbank / Reaching Romania charity / • Four Seasons Spiritual Church – Clairvoyance every Monday night (meet in Old Age All) • St Therese Catholic Church and Hall also hosts: Hirwaun Historical Society / Aberdare Art Society
13	Local businesses & shops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hirwaun Car Van Hire – CF44 9PS • Ladbrokes – CF44 9SW • Scott Parnell – CF44 9UP • Bush and Griffiths – CF44 9RA • M G R Builders Merchants – CF44 9RA • Digital Building Surveys – CF44 9UP • Roma Roofing Supplies Ltd – CF44 9HR • SLV Home improvements • D. Vivian Jones Building Design Services – CF44 9NS • Hirwaun Stores – CF44 9SN • Hirwaun Post Office – CF44 9SW • Harrigton Hair – CF44 9NP • Co –op food – CF44 9NN • Janet’s Embroidery – CF44 9SW • ARJ Tyres – CF44 9HR

- Sew Perfect – CF44 9SW
- Alison’s Florist – CF44 9SW
- Welsh Hills Bakery – CF44 9NY
- Penaluna's Famous Fish & Chips – CF44 9SW
- Lucky House Takeaway – CF44 9NH
- Memo’s Pizza and Kebab – CF44 9HN
- Good taste Chinese takeaway – CF44 9PS
- Rewind Barbers (and hair loss solutions)
- Hirwaun Handyman Shop
- The Sandwich Bank
- Contours Hair and Beauty
- Etc

Mobile meat Van / Mobile Natwest Van / Dog Groomers

There is also a large industrial estate between Hirwaun and Rhigos



14	Tourism facilities (including tourism websites)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustrans Cycle Route 478 <p>https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Tourism/Thingstodo/WalkingandCyclingTrails/AudioTrails/HirwaunAudioTrail.aspx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tynewydd Country Hotel • The World of Chimps Wishing well for McMillan Cancer
15	Leisure premises, pubs, clubs etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prince of Wales • The Glancynon Inn (serves food in evenings) • The Lamb Pub (offer buffet catering) • Cardiff Arms (food and entertainment coming soon) • Hirwaun Sports Association (Rugby)
16	Derelict buildings and areas of land that are problematic or affect people's view of the community?	
17	Housing – current and planned? Who	<p>Almost half of all the households in Hirwaun are occupied by one person. Hirwaun has a very interesting mix from terraced housing, purpose-built blocks of flats, detached homes with land, many bungalows and now a massive increase in new builds with two large estates. People of Hirwaun describe the issue <i>“a place of two halves – the new estates have brought new families to the area, there appears to be very little engagement from the new residents with the original community. The new estates are much more commuter areas.”</i></p> <p>Make up of properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detached – 505 (27%) Welsh average = 27.7% • Semi Detached – 656 (35%) Welsh average = 31% • Terraced – 567 (30%) Welsh average = 27.8% • Purpose Built Flats – 128 (6.8%) Welsh average = 9.6% • Flats in converted houses or buildings – 17 (10%) Welsh average = 2.4%

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner occupied – 1243 (70.8%) Welsh average = 67.8% • Social rented – 303 (17.3%) Welsh average = 16.5% • Private rented – 160 (9.1%) Welsh average = 15.8% <p>Average house price is £124,128 – 47.7% of properties were built between 1945 and 1999 but importantly, 320 properties have been built since 2000 (5% of all housing) which is higher than Welsh average.</p> <p>Households are made up as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pensioner – 345 (19.7% compared to 22.9% Welsh average) • One person – 250 (14.2% compared to 17.1% Welsh average) • Lone Parent with dependent children – 150 (27.3% compared to 26.8% Welsh average) • Married – 660 (37.7% compared to 32.8% Welsh average) • Cohabiting – 195 (11.1% compared to 9.7% Welsh average) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are social housing landlords in the area, Trivallis / Gwalia and Cynon Taf Community Housing. • Gwalia Housing for Young People • Retirement block of 23 flats 'The Haven' (Trivallis)
18	Analysing all that – what are the main gaps in provision?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There aren't any work/training services • Hirwaun has boys football teams, boy's rugby teams, a drum major group, cadets and scouts which are mainly attended by boys and may indicate a lack of provision for young girls in the area.
19	What's likely to come up? What might change?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A traveller site in Hirwaun (Rose Row Caravan) has been refused permission in March 2019 • Lidl have expressed interest in opening a store • New road will change flow of traffic through the area significantly.
20	Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Karen Morgan – Plaid Cymru • AM – Vikki Howells – Welsh Labour • MP – Beth Winter - Labour • Council – RCT CBC – Labour

Town /Community Council

- Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council - <http://www.hirwaunandpenderyncc.org.uk/>

Hirwaun and Penderyn share a Community Council (based in Hirwaun Village Hall) but not Cllrs – the Cllr representing Hirwaun is Karen Morgan and the Cllr representing Penderyn is Graham Phillips (Cllr for Rhigos and Penderyn)

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.

Web / Social Media links for Hirwaun:

Ty Newydd Hotel - <https://www.tynewyddhotel.co.uk/>

Hirwaun Village Hall: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community-Organization/Hirwaun-Village-Hall-774107845969197/>

Hirwaun Matters 2: <https://www.facebook.com/cllrkarenmorgan/> (From Cllr Karen Morgan)

The Glancyon Inn: <https://www.facebook.com/theglancyoninn/>

Parish of Hirwaun: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Religious-Organization/Parish-of-Hirwaun-167697167066/>

Hirwaun YMCA: <https://www.facebook.com/hirwaun.ymca>

Penalunas Famous Fish and Chips: <https://www.facebook.com/penalunas/>

Hirwaun FC: <https://www.facebook.com/hirwaun.fc/>

