

Community Profile – Rhigos, Cefn Rhigos and Penderyrn

Introduction from the community

Overview

Rhigos is a village in the north of the Cynon valley. It comes under the town of Aberdare for postal purposes, even though it is seven miles away and is closer to Glynneath, which is only two miles away. Cefn Rhigos is to the west of the village of Rhigos and is the most westerly village within the Cynon valley. The border of the Vale of Neath only lies a few hundred yards away from the village. The Tower Colliery was located on the Rhigos Mountain and closed in 2008 - the last of the deep mines in Wales to close.

Penderyrn is a rural village in the Cynon Valley and is within the Rhigos ward. It is located near Hirwaun. Its origins and expansion begun as an agricultural market village, which supplied the ever growing needs of the nearby local Market Town of Aberdare, situated in the Cynon Valley. It lies on the A4059 road between Hirwaun and Brecon and is the last settlement on that road in the county of Rhondda Cynon Taf before the border with Powys to the north. The village sits just within the southern boundary of the Brecon Beacons National Park. The River Cynon passes through the area. Penderyrn is an area of agriculture and hosts seasonal markets. Penderyrn Quarry located in the village is an operating quarry capable of producing 500,000 tonnes of limestone per year.

The Rhigos ward is in the most northerly part of the Cynon valley, and has a rural feel. With a small population of 1,769 residents, the main buildings used for the communities are the Penderyrn Community Centre and the Rhigos Sports Association Hall. The area has a beautiful landscape, there are campsites and bed and breakfasts available. Penderyrn is famous for having the only single malt whiskey distillery in Wales.

Penderyrn Distillery



Rhigos RFC



Penderyrn Community Centre



Section 1 - Community Groups, Activity + Key Buildings

Rhigos and Cefn Rhigos			
Community Building	Activities they run	Other groups based there	Other Groups with no physical base
<p>Rhigos Community Sports Association (also known as Rhigos Sports Hall)</p> <p>Back in 1996 a group of Rhigos people got together a public meeting at the Community Centre and decided to build a Sports Hall – in 1999 the Hall was completed next door to RFC costing half a million pounds, now run as a registered charity</p>	<p>Large multi-purpose hall that can be set out for a variety of different sports, including football, basketball, netball, badminton, bowls etc.</p> <p>Fitness Suite</p> <p>Sauna</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdare Skip Rats Ball Hockey Club • Rhigos Netball Club • 5 a side football • Old Age Bowls • WCKA Rhigos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rhigos Allotment Society (20 plots on land donated by Community Council) - Darts Team – part of Glynneath League, based in New Inn Pub - Rhigos Carnival Society – hold annual events at Christmas and Easter usually
<p>Rhigos RFC</p>	<p>Pitch and large club house that serves as venue for parties and weddings as well as a social club.</p> <p>Men's Senior Team / Walking Rugby Team / Weekly bingo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdare Motorcycle Club • Darts Team 	
<p>Rhigos Community Centre</p>	<p>Hosts 50+ Bingo Group / Rhigos Community Centre Youth Club / Community Council / available for hire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhigos Kids n Youth group 	

Penderyn

Community Building		Activities they run	Other groups based there		Other Groups with no physical base							
Penderyn Community Centre		<p>Free WIFI, defibrillator on site, available for hire</p> <p>They are also leaseholders for Yr Eithin (see Section 18)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penderyn Playscheme • Cylch Meithrin Penderyn • WI Penderyn 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Penderyn Community Council (Work in partnership with Hirwaun community council, promoting and organising events, volunteering – litter picking, advise and support to community, uses social media, radio and promotional material to widen their reach). - Penderyn Neighbourhood Watch 							
2	Population	1,769 - UK Office of National Statistics, Census (2018)	3	Demographics	0-17 years	302	18-64 years	1044	65+ years	423	UK Office of National Statistics, 2011 Census (2018)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		
		696	995	732	709	521	188	973	1528	1140		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15% of children are living in poverty compared with 20% across Wales • 1% of households have no central heating which is same as Welsh average • Overall crime rate is lower than Welsh average. There were 135 reported crimes between 2018 and 2019, 81.4 per 1000 population. • 30% of people have a life limiting illness compared with 23% across Wales • 32% of people have no qualifications compared with 26% across Wales • 18% have no car compared with 23% across Wales • 98.5% of people are White British compared with 93% Welsh average and 87.1% were born in Wales compared with 72.7% across Wales • 70% of population cannot speak Welsh with only 12.5% able to speak and write Welsh • Of people out of work, 11.6% are receiving workless benefits and 1.4% people are receiving looking for work benefits. There are around 10 people claiming Universal Credit. • 0 people are living in the most deprived 20% of areas in Wales 										

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 children are in 'out of work households, lower than 17.8% Welsh average and 17.6% are living in poverty compared with 20% Welsh average • 4.2% of population are receiving mental health benefits (45 people) this does not consider diagnosed mental health conditions who do not receive benefits. • There are 263 people providing unpaid care (15.5%) • 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 and 52% live in flood risk area compared with 41% across Wales
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5	Employment & Local Economy	<p>There are 1,080 at working age of which 761 are economically active (58.6% of whole population) compared with 65.8% Welsh average, with 32.5% employed full time, 12.8% employed part time and 7.9% self-employed (around 102 people).</p> <p>The largest employment sector is health and social care 16% of the 715 people in employment, then manufacturing 13% of the 715 people in employment and construction 11% of the 715 people in employment. UK Office of National Statistics, (Census, 2011)</p> <p>in the area, there are on average 7.5 claimants per job, higher than the 3.86 Welsh average and the jobs available in area are in the majority, manufacturing, construction and mining and quarrying.</p> <p>UK Office of National Statistics, (Census, 2011)</p>	6	Health Provision	<p>In area None</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 are no dentists and no opticians (closest Aberdare town centre)</p> <p>The closest surgery serving the population of the Rhigos ward is the Hirwaun Medical centre which is 2.1 miles away from Penderyn and 2.5 miles away from Rhigos.</p> <p>30% of people (515) have a limiting long-term illness 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.</p> <p>0% of the population are living in health deprivation hotspots compared with 19.3% Welsh average.</p>
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7	Transport Connections	<p>18% of households (135) have no car compared with 23% across Wales (Census, 2011) – and of the 357 pensioner households, 93 have no vehicle, the closest train station is in Aberdare (over 6 miles away). There are good bus links but there are restrictions in evening and on Sundays.</p> <p>The travel time to key services (walking or public transport) are higher than Welsh averages across most categories and so population must travel furthest to access key services of any of the villages in Cynon area.</p> <p>Travel Times to Key Services</p> <p>Post Office – 29 mins Library - 56 mins GP – 56 mins Pharmacy – 56 mins Primary School – 14 mins Secondary School – 58 mins Food Shop – 31 mins Leisure Centre – 53 mins</p> <p>Roads</p> <p>The main road in the northerly direction from the capital city, Cardiff to Rhigos and Penderyn is the A470, which then exits onto 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, Rhondda, Neath and Swansea valleys. Exiting off the A465 onto the A4059 will lead into Penderyn.</p> <p>Rail</p> <p>Aberdare railway station is the last stop on the transport for Wales line, which runs from Cardiff. There are on average 8 trains per day Monday to Friday travelling from Cardiff to Aberdare taking approximately an hour.</p> <p>Buses</p> <p>A bus service runs every 60 minutes from Aberdare bus station stand 2, from 7.30am and travels all the way to the top of Rhigos and Penderyn. The last bus to depart the Aberdare station is at 6.10pm to the Rhigos and Penderyn however buses from Penderyn to Aberdare only run every 2 hours after 5pm.</p>
8	Schools – primary, secondary, Welsh, special needs, nurseries (including Cylchoedd Meithrin), childcare	<p>In area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhigos Primary School – Estyn rating (2012) – Adequate, 70 pupils aged from 3 years to 11 years. The rolling average for the past three years shows that about 32% of pupils are eligible for free school meals. The current proportion is

<p>providers – number of pupils in each, current Estyn ratings</p>	<p>45%. This is well above the national average of 19%. The school identifies around 27% of pupils as having additional learning needs. This is higher than the national average of 21%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penderyn Primary School – Estyn rating (2012) – Adequate, 219 pupils, 146 pupils are in the Welsh language stream. <p>Closest Welsh Language Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nearest Welsh Language Comprehensive School is Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun – a max distance of 4.1 miles with school buses. <p>Closest English Language Secondary School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nearest English Language Comprehensive School is Aberdare Community School – a max distance of 7 miles with school buses for transport. <p>Closest Special educational school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closest Special educational school is Ysgol Maesgwyn which is a max distance of 4.8 miles from villages. <p>Closest Childcare providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhigos Primary School Playgroup for children birth to 3 years • Cylch Meithrin 5 days a week – Penderyn Community Centre • Little Lady Bugs Welsh and English day care, 2.2 miles away from Penderyn and 2.6 miles away from Rhigos – 5 days per week <p>There is no Flying Start provision in this area.</p> <p>31.8% of working age people (455) have no qualifications compared with 26% across Wales, (Census, 2011) and 72% of 18-19-year olds are not in Higher education compared with 66.1% Welsh average.</p>
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9	Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Graham Phillip Thomas - Labour • AM – Vikki Howells – Welsh Labour • MP – Beth Winter - Labour • Council – RCT CBC – Labour <p>Town / Community Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhigos Community Council - http://www.rhigoscc.co.uk/community-council/ • Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council - http://www.hirwaunandpenderyncc.org.uk/ <p>Interestingly, Rhigos and Penderyn are one ward with one Cllr but has 2 of the counties only 3 community councils despite having smallest population of any ward in RCT.</p> <p>Rhigos has its own community council and then Hirwaun and Penderyn share a community council but not Cllrs – the Cllr representing Hirwaun is Karen Morgan and the Cllr representing Penderyn is Graham Phillip Thomas (Cllr for Rhigos and Penderyn)</p>	10	Derelict buildings and areas of land that are problematic or affect people’s view of the community?	
11	Housing	<p>According to Census (2011) the majority of Housing in the Rhigos/Penderyn area is owned and predominately semi-detached, which is an indicator of an affluent neighbourhood.</p> <p>Make up of properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detached – 296 (38.3%) Welsh average = 27.7% • Semi Detached – 384 (49.7%) Welsh average = 31% • Terraced – 76 (9.8%) Welsh average = 27.8% • Purpose Built Flats – 10 (1.3%) Welsh average = 9.6% • Flats in converted houses or buildings – 9 (0.9%) Welsh average = 2.4% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner occupied – 573 (78%) Welsh average = 67.8% • Social rented – 101 (13.7%) Welsh average = 16.5% • Private rented – 61 (8.3%) Welsh average = 15.8% <p>Average house price is £148,2840, though the average price for the detached properties is £260,500</p>			

		<p>Over 60% of housing in Rhigos and Penderyn was built between 1945 and 1999, with only 110 houses from 1900 and 80 houses have been built after 2000 which is 3% higher than Welsh average.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trivallis and Cynon Taf Housing are the social landlords serving the area. <p>Households are made up as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pensioner – 195 (26.5% compared to 22.9% Welsh average) • One person – 95 (12.9% compared to 17.1% Welsh average) • Lone Parent with dependent children – 45 (23.7% compared to 26.8% Welsh average) • Married – 285 (38.5% compared to 32.8% Welsh average) • Cohabiting – 55 (7.3% compared to 9.7% Welsh average) 		
12	<p>Places of worship (description, denomination, how buildings used)</p>	<p>30.4% identify as having no religion compared with 32% Welsh average. 61.6% (1,045) identify as Christian.</p> <p>Rhigos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bethel Rhigos Methodist Church (CF44 9RJ) <p>Penderyn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penderyn-Mellte Church (CF44 9JE) <p>St Cynog Church opposite the Red Lion with a large and very old graveyard is now derelict.</p> <p>For more information on activities based in all these buildings, see Section 1</p>	13	<p>Tourism</p> <p>https://getoutside.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/local/rhigos-rhondda-cynon-taf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penderyn is within the Brecon Beacons National Park and has fantastic views of Rhigos, Pen-y-Fan and the Brecon Beacons. • Penderyn Reservoir (angling run by Mountain Ash Fly Fishing) • Llyn Fawr Reservoir (angling run by Upper Rhondda Angling Association) – is a reservoir in the south of the Rhigos which lies in the Craig-y-llyn, an area which is a designated site for special scientific interest. It lies near the source of the Rhondda River Fawr. The reservoir contains many objects from the Bronze age and several iron objects. A sword found is said to be the earliest iron object that has been found in Wales, dating back to 650 BC. • The Penderyn quarry line - This quiet route is ideal for spotting local wildlife as well as evidence of industrial and social history. The route follows an old tramway that runs from Penderyn to Hirwaun which linked the limestone quarry to the ironworks. The route has a gentle compacted

					<p>stone surface, but it can get muddy in places after long spells of rain. There are also anti-motorcycle barriers at either end of the trail and at points along the trail. The Penderyn Quarry Line leaflet contains details on wildlife and historical features.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ty Newydd Country Hotel • Penderyn Distillery Visitor Centre • The 5th Avenue House – Guest house
14	Local businesses & shops	<p>There is a large industrial estate between Penderyn and Rhigos hosting a variety of businesses including a hair salon and café.</p> <p>Rhigos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhigos Road Motors • Rhigos Convenience Store <p>The following mobile shops visit the village weekly: Sweet Van / Ice Cream Van / Fruit and Veg Van / Meat Van</p>			<p>Penderyn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penderyn Distillery • Black Sun Mobile Recordings • Welsh Tyre Recycling Services • Swantex • DS Plumbing and Heating • Swan Paper Mill LTD • Hot Valley Signs • The Penderyn Furniture Co • Penderyn Limestone Quarry • Penderyn Farm Foods
15	Leisure premises, pubs, clubs etc	<p>Rhigos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The New Inn – Rhigos (Quiz Night and Darts Team) • Rhigos RFC <p>Penderyn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Red Lion - Penderyn • The Lamb Inn - Penderyn <p>For more information on activities based in all these buildings, see Section 1</p>			
16	External services brought into the area	<p>Glynneath Training Centre offer learning opportunities in nearby Glynneath in Computers / Art and Craft / Employability etc and this is advertised to Rhigos residents via Rhigos Community Council</p>			

17	What's likely to come up? What might change?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new £10m building for Hirwaun Primary School being built by 2021 will make Penderyn Community Primary School a purely Welsh medium school and English speaking students in Penderyn will choose whether to go to Hirwaun or Rhigos. • Zip World adventure park planned for top of Rhigos mountain. • Bike Track Cwm Hwnt –Triumph are interested in the project - planning application is being submitted. • Clwb Gwaith – will be organising community engagement events throughout the Cynon to support people over the age of 25 to get back into employment. • There are plans to develop the Dark Sky Wales Planetarium on the Tower Colliery Site, consultation underway. • There is a community action group opposing the development of a gasification Waste Plant on Hirwaun Ind Estate (between Rhigos and Penderyn).
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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	Rhigos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heol-y-Bryn Play Area, regenerated in 2017 (CF44 9JD) • Rhigos RFC (CF44 9HJ) • Rhigos Community Sports Hall (CF44 9HJ) • Rhigos Allotment Society Penderyn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penderyn Community Centre (CF44 9UX) Yr Eithin – Penderyn Community Centre are the lease holders of this community woodland, looked after by a team of twelve enthusiastic volunteers who are prepared to give up some of their time to simply look after the woodlands and in time restore to its former glory. The main volunteer activity is conservation or environmental improvement. This can involve routine maintenance, coppicing, removal of invasive and non-native species, encouraging biodiversity, creating paths and maintaining walls and tree planting. • Penderyn Reservoir (angling run by Mountain Ash Fly Fishers)
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19	Other Community Facilities (including postcodes) Include: Pharmacies Libraries Petrol stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are no libraries, the closest is Hirwaun (2 miles away) ➤ There are no petrol stations, the closest is in Hirwaun ➤ There are two mechanic garages
20	Leisure facilities and activities specifically for Children & Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhigos Kids n Youth group • Rhigos Community Sports Association (Multi sports hall, football, badminton, basketball, bowls, netball, fitness suite/ Kickboxing) <p>Penderyn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penderyn Community Centre (Cylch Meithrin / mother and toddler, Mindfulness for Minis).

Analysing what are the main gaps in provision?

- Range of activities are limited
- Public transport after 6.10pm does not exist





Pen y Cymoedd Community Profile – Rhigos and Penderyn – V6- 15.07.2020

Highlighted **yellow** are organisations or businesses that have had PyC funding