

# People Patrol



**Safer Rhondda Cynon Taf**  
**October 2018**

## Welcome...

to Novembers 2018 addition of People Patrol the Free Community Safety Newsletter. This Newsletter is for anyone who is interested in current events relating to Anti Social Behaviour issues and Crime affecting our communities.

This Newsletter allows the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Community Safety Team in Partnership with South Wales Police and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service to make you more aware of issues such as Crime Prevention, Safety issues and Anti Social Behaviour and how you can report these issues to improve your area where you live if you are being affected.

We hope that by you reading this article and becoming an Email Subscriber, you will be able to safely and confidently report where appropriate to do so any issues that you come across. In addition our Emailing Platform will enable Partner Agencies such as the Police to be able to email you to make you aware of crime taking place in your area that may affect you.

We can readily assure you that by us working together we are helping to make a difference by making agencies and individuals aware of the issues and incidents you report.

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## Issues Affecting your...

### Can you help?

**Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC), South Wales Police (SWP) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW), have all recently identified an increase in Illegal off Road Vehicle activity in our open spaces, streets, parks and lanes.**

Many residents are reporting large numbers of off road vehicles, such as:

- Scrambler
- Pit Bikes
- Quad bikes
- 4x4 off road vehicles

We strongly encourage all persons who ride, to do so at an approved off road bike facility or centre, where all the training, advice, guidance, Safety and emergency cover required, should be readily available. Some people riding illegally are undoubtedly local people or coming from the surrounding towns and villages where we all live, work and visit. There are many travelling from outside Wales i.e. Birmingham and Colchester, travelling here on the presumption it is legal to ride in our forestry's and open spaces.

There are a number of concerned residents who have reported very near misses with both adults and children or been frightened by the aggressive nature of riding or startled by the noise. The last thing we want to see is anyone hurt whilst out walking or riding.

Joint Operations have been ongoing between South Wales Police and the Council in the Hirwaun area in the Cynon Valley. Relating to motor bikes illegally riding on the highway and accessing the Right of Ways in the area known as the Tram Way. This has led to some of the existing barriers being considered to be relocated and damaged barriers to be repaired. Joint Operations will continue until this problem is resolved.





# Community

## **Glasbrook Fields, Penrhiwceiber**

The local community is experiencing problems from illegal off-road bikes accessing the Football Fields causing damage to the fields and on occasion placing people using the Playing fields at risk. As a result a joint meeting was held between the Police and the Local Authority Parks Department. Where it was agreed for additional barriers to be erected around the playing Fields to prevent access to these areas to enable residents to enjoy the playing fields.

## **Ban on Street Drinking Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres**

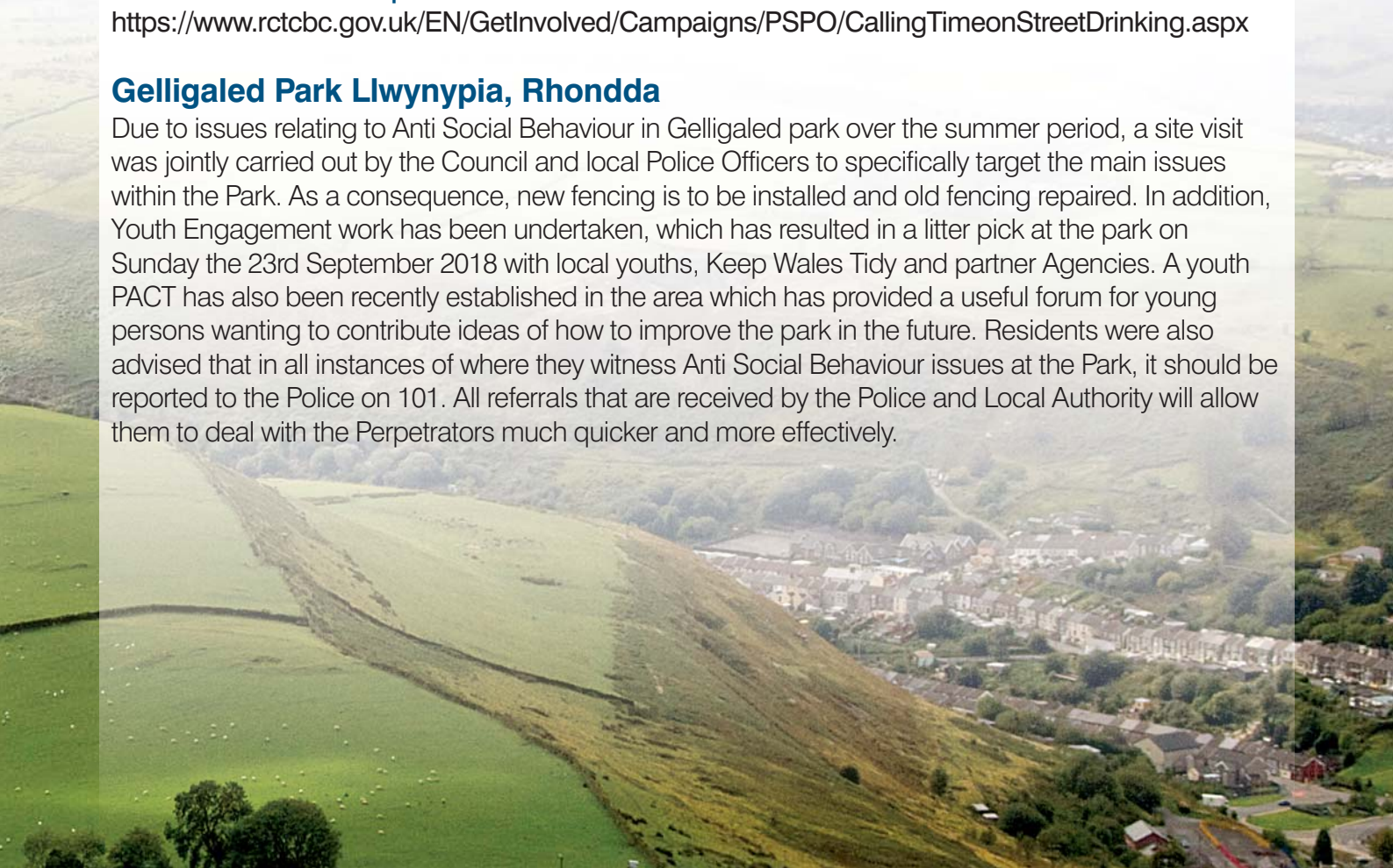
As from the 1st of September 2018 a Public Space Protection Order came into affect prohibiting alcohol being drunk in the streets of Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres. Since coming into effect, joint patrols have been undertaken between the Police and Local Authority. As from the 2nd of October 2018 we can confirm that 6 individuals have been stopped drinking alcohol in the Town Centres so far and had their alcohol confiscated. Had these individuals not complied they would have been issued with a £100 fixed penalty notice.

**For further information please use the link as below:**

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/GetInvolved/Campaigns/PSPO/CallingTimeonStreetDrinking.aspx>

## **Gelligaled Park Llwynypia, Rhondda**

Due to issues relating to Anti Social Behaviour in Gelligaled park over the summer period, a site visit was jointly carried out by the Council and local Police Officers to specifically target the main issues within the Park. As a consequence, new fencing is to be installed and old fencing repaired. In addition, Youth Engagement work has been undertaken, which has resulted in a litter pick at the park on Sunday the 23rd September 2018 with local youths, Keep Wales Tidy and partner Agencies. A youth PACT has also been recently established in the area which has provided a useful forum for young persons wanting to contribute ideas of how to improve the park in the future. Residents were also advised that in all instances of where they witness Anti Social Behaviour issues at the Park, it should be reported to the Police on 101. All referrals that are received by the Police and Local Authority will allow them to deal with the Perpetrators much quicker and more effectively.





## How you might be able to **HELP**

Should you witness incidents of Anti Social Behaviour, you are advised not to approach the perpetrators and maintain your personal safety at all times. Please try to make a mental note of their details and their vehicle which will help the Police in their enquiries.

Call the **Police Non Emergency** number **101** to report all incidents, unless you deem the incident to be an **Emergency**, then you should call **999**

### **Emergency and non emergency numbers**

Emergency **999**

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Non Emergency **101**

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Fire service Non Emergency **01443 232000**

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RCT County Borough Council **01443 425001**

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RCT County Borough Council  
Website Online reporting forms

**[www.rctcbc.gov.uk/reportit](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/reportit)**

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# BONFIRE NIGHT

## Your guide to a safer event



**South Wales Fire & Rescue Service would like to issue the following advice...**

If you intend to have a bonfire, please contact the **Fire Service** on **01268 909408** and give the following information:

- Date, Time and Location of the bonfire,
- Name of responsible person and contact telephone number.
- How you intend to extinguish the fire after the event or if it gets out of control.

### THE DO'S

- ✓ **POSITION** the bonfire well away from houses, garages, sheds, fences, overhead cables, trees and shrubs 15m is usually a safe distance
- ✓ **MAKE** sure the bonfire is stable and will not collapse
- ✓ **ENSURE** everyone is a safe distance (15m) away from the fire and children are supervised at all times
- ✓ **KEEP** buckets of water, a garden hose or a fire extinguisher nearby in case of an emergency
- ✓ **POUR** water on the remains of the bonfire before leaving
- ✓ **KEEP** pets indoors during bonfire night

### THE DON'TS

- ✗ **DO NOT** burn the following:
  - Tyres
  - Cylinders
  - Canisters
  - Aerosols
  - Paints
  - Plastics
  - Rubber & Foam filled furniture
- ✗ **NEVER** use flammable liquids to light a bonfire
- ✗ **NEVER** light or store fireworks near a bonfire
- ✗ **NEVER** leave a bonfire unattended

**DIAL 999 IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY!**  
**DON'T PAY THE PRICE - ATTEND AN ORGANISED DISPLAY**



## Seasonal crime prevention advice... **WINTER**

### **SCAM WARNING**

South Wales Police are warning the public to be cautious and vigilant, after a number of people have reported being contacted by someone claiming to be a police officer, Her Majesties Revenue and Customer and peoples Banks – who then use an elaborate story in an attempt to get the victim to hand over significant amounts of money.

#### **Remember!**

**Government Agencies, the Police, Banks and reputable Businesses will NEVER ask you to share personal information, disclose bank details, or demand payments.**

**STOP** Every time you are asked to send money or give out details.

**CHECK** they are who they say they are. Call them directly on an official number.

**ACT** by call 999 if a crime is ongoing or if you are in danger.

**MENTION** it to your friends and family, and call 101 to tell police if you have not already reported it.

### **SOUTH WALES VICTIM FOCUS**

South Wales Victim Focus is a local service run by the national and independent charity, Victim Support. We provide help and support to anyone in South Wales affected by crime. We are not part of the police, the courts or any other criminal justice agency. Our services are free, confidential and available whether or not the crime has been reported and regardless of when it happened.

Whether you have been directly affected by crime, know someone who has or have witnessed something, we are here for you. Our specially trained staff and volunteers are based locally and can offer you immediate and long term help and support to enable you to cope and recover from the effects of crime.

We understand that everyone's experience is different. You may be feeling a range of emotions, you may have unanswered questions or you may feel confused about what happens next. We will work with you to understand how best we can help and we will be there for you as long as you need us.

**Phone 0300 303 0161 or  
[www.southwalesvictimfocus.org.uk](http://www.southwalesvictimfocus.org.uk)**



**South Wales Victim Focus**  
Ffocws Dioddefwyr De Cymru



## #DrinkLessEnjoyMore

There are many things which could ruin a night out for you and your friends such as being refused entry or service at a bar or club for being too drunk, being fined for buying a drink for someone who is drunk or having to go home early because you've had too much to drink. We've compiled a list of top tips to help you have a great night.

### TIP 1 Don't drink too much at home

It can seem like a good idea to drink at home before you go out. It may make you feel more relaxed and save you money, but it could end up costing you more in the long run. People who drink at home before going out tend to lose track of how much they have had to drink and end up getting more drunk than they had planned. This can often result in a lot of negative consequences and make you more likely to:

- suffer illness due to excessive alcohol intake, including vomiting, which can bring your night to an early unpleasant end
- be involved in a fight
- be injured from falling

### TIP 2 Make sure you don't get alcohol poisoning

Most people aren't aware that alcohol is a poison and drinking too much can have immediate serious implications for your health. If you're out in town and feeling very drunk then a few ways to help you sober up are:

- Stop drinking alcoholic drinks
- Have something to eat
- Drink water
- Ask a friend to take you home or back to your hotel

### TIP 3 Look out for Street Pastors

If you're feeling a little too drunk on a night out, look out for Street Pastors who provide compassionate support in the local area. They work in partnership with South Wales Police in the town centres, they patrol the areas most commonly used by those on a night out. They can provide you with water and practical help if you need it. They wear a blue coat with a street pastors label on the back.

### TIP 4 Use the main taxi ranks

It's really important to us that you get a safe ride home when you're leaving the area after a night out.





## Seasonal crime prevention advice... **WINTER**

Could we all here at the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Community Safety Partnership and Partnership Agencies, take this valuable opportunity to pass on some simple but effective crime prevention advice for the Winter season, as forewarned is forearmed and anything we can do to help deter the would be criminal is always an essential act.

### **Don't give burglars an opportunity or reason to access to your home**

**As the Autumn and Winter nights are drawing in providing longer periods of darkness as cover for opportunistic burglaries. Householders are advised of the following:**

1. Make sure you keep your doors and windows locked at all times.
2. Don't leave presents under your Christmas tree if they are visible from windows or doors.
3. After opening expensive presents, rip up the boxes when disposing of them in the recycle, as this makes it more difficult to see what you have purchased.
4. Never keep large amounts of cash at home.
5. Keys should always be kept out of sight and not left in doors or in view of windows.

### **Burglars like to work undercover, so keep hedges and bushes cut back**

1. Keep hedges and shrubs in your front garden below window sill height to prevent a burglar having a 'screen' to work behind.
2. Use gravel on paths and driveways to help deter burglars from approaching your property.
3. Clever planting can also help – use prickly plants and shrubs close to vulnerable areas such as windows, fences, boundary walls and drain pipes

### **Enjoy your festive holiday but make sure your home looks lived even if you're visiting family for the day**

1. Use timer switches on lights to make your home look occupied in the evenings.
2. If possible leave a car in your driveway or ask a neighbour to park their car on your driveway whilst you're away.
3. Ask a neighbour to check on your home while you're away and move any post out of sight.
4. Cancel any regular delivers such as milk and newspapers.
5. Lock away any valuable items such as pedal cycles – they may be safer in your home than in an outhouse or shed.





## Christmas Shopping and going out during the Autumn and Winter period

1. Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you, especially in busy shops and crowded streets where thieves and pickpockets may well be operating.
2. Keep valuables in inside pockets of clothing or bags. Keep a close watch on them, and try not to keep them all in one place.
3. Only carry the cash and cards that you need. Always shield the PIN pad when entering your PIN into keypads and or ATM's.
4. Be careful where you park your car, especially if you will be returning to it after dark. If parking in a multi-storey car park, choose a well-lit space as close to the exit as possible and away from pillars.
5. Avoid going back to your car to leave your shopping part-way through your trip. If you have to keep presents in the car, make sure they are out of view in the boot, the car is locked, and keep the receipts with you.
6. Deter pickpockets and muggers. Don't overburden yourself with bags/packages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Always carry a purse close to your body and not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front trouser pocket, likewise with your phone and keys.





## Seasonal crime prevention advice... WINTER

### Going out during the Autumn and Winter period

1. Watch your drinks and food to ensure that nothing is added to them. Never leave your drink unattended, even if you are going to dance or to the toilet. If your drink has been left unattended, don't drink any more of it. If something tastes or looks odd, don't eat/drink any more of it. Be aware, though, that some drugs are colourless and tasteless.
2. If someone you don't know or trust offers to buy you a drink, either decline or accompany them to the bar and watch that nothing is added.
3. Know your own limit.
4. If you meet someone new at a party, avoid going home with them or inviting them back to your home/accepting a lift from them. It's safer to arrange a second date in a public place to get to know the person better. If you do find yourself alone with someone you don't know well, make sure that someone knows where you are and who you're with.
5. Pay attention to your instincts. If you feel uneasy about someone, there may be a reason.
6. Make sure someone knows where you are going and when you'll be home.
7. Avoid walking home alone and never with someone you don't know well.
8. Drink responsibly, arrange for a member of your group to be a designated driver.
9. Before you get into a taxi check it has a licence plate at the rear, note the number. Ask to see the drivers identity badge. **DO NOT get into an unlicensed taxi.**
10. All Hackney Carriage vehicles licensed by Rhondda Cynon Taf Council are black in colour. Hackney carriages are public transport vehicles which are licensed to "ply for hire". Hackney carriage vehicles can be found at specified ranks around towns and they can be hailed in the street. The cost of every journey is to be measured on the meter.
11. All Private Hire vehicles licensed by Rhondda Cynon Taf Council are white in colour. Private Hire vehicles cannot ply for hire or stand in a rank. All journeys must be pre-booked. The fare is to be agreed before the journey.
12. Always sit in the back of a cab/taxi and if you get chatting to the driver, do not give away personal details. If you feel uneasy with the driver, ask him to stop at a busy familiar place and get out. If you have a mobile phone let someone know where you are.
13. If using public transport, have your ticket, pass or change ready in your hand so that your wallet or purse is out of sight.
14. Always wait for the bus or train in a well-lit place near other people if possible and try and arrange for someone to meet you at the bus stop or station. If a bus is empty, or it is after dark, you may feel safer on the lower deck as near as possible to the driver. On trains, avoid empty compartments. If you feel threatened on any public transport press the alarm or attract the attention of your fellow passengers or the driver or guard.
15. Take note of where the emergency alarms are and try to sit near them.



## Don't let burglars make easy work of your property keep garden equipment and tools locked away

1. Keep your shed securely locked by using strong hasp and close shackle padlock.
2. Use coach bolts or non-return screws to secure door hinges, hasp and staples.
3. Always put away gardening equipment, tools and furniture away when you've finished using them.
4. Keep your garden fences in good repair and consider having trellis on the top to discourage anyone climbing over.

## Would you be more comfortable being **anonymous**

Did you know there is an anonymous number to report crime?

**CRIMESTOPPERS** is a charity organisation set up to encourage people who want to report anonymously to do so. The number to call is

# 0800 555 111



Wales/Cymru

**CRIMESTOPPERS**

**0800 555 111**

Call anonymously with information about crime

Ffoniwch yn ddiennw os am roi gwybodaeth am drosedd