

People Patrol

Safer Rhondda Cynon Taf Newsletter August 2018

Welcome...

Welcome to the re-launch of the free Community Safety newsletter formally known as Paws on Patrol. This newsletter is for anyone who is interested in current events relating to anti-social behaviour, crime and safety issues affecting our communities.

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's Community Safety Team is working in partnership with South Wales Police and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service to make you more aware of these issues and how you can report them.

Together we are already 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 Countryside

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 and 4x4 off road vehicles.

We strongly encourage all persons who ride these types of vehicles, 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.

A number of concerned residents have reported very near misses with off road vehicles. 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. These operations have focussed on motor bikes illegally riding on the highway and accessing the Right of Ways in the area known as the Tram Way. The results of this operation so far has meant the repair of some of the damaged barriers designed to restrict access to off road vehicles and a plan for the re-location of other existing barriers.





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Joint Operations will continue until this problem is resolved

Werfa Lane, Abernant Aberdare

The local community is experiencing problems with illegal off-road bikes accessing public rights of way and trails in the area. The Local Authority has installed barriers and pillars to try and eradicate the problem along these routes.

Dare Aman Line Cwmaman

The Local Authority is regularly dealing with littering and fly tipping particularly at the Cwmaman end of the line. In May 2018 a litter pick and rubbish purge with Cllr Tina Williams took place in conjunction with Keep Wales Tidy, Street cleansing and Countryside rangers. A lorry load of rubbish was removed from the Cwmaman to Woodland Terrace section. A vandalised field gate close to Blaengwawr Comprehensive school, was also replaced at a cost to the Council's Countryside Department.

Shonis Pond Pontypridd

Countryside rangers met local residents of Graig, Pontypridd. This was coordinated by Cllr Jane Brencher and looked at tackling littering and invasive species in the area. The aim is to form a community group who will be custodians of the Shonis pond area with a view to reduce anti-social behaviour in the area.

Craig yr Hesg / Lan woods Pontypridd

Residents have reported various anti social behaviour including littering, fires and off-road bikes. Countryside Rangers have carried out work on fencing and repairs to signs.

Cwmparc, Rhondda

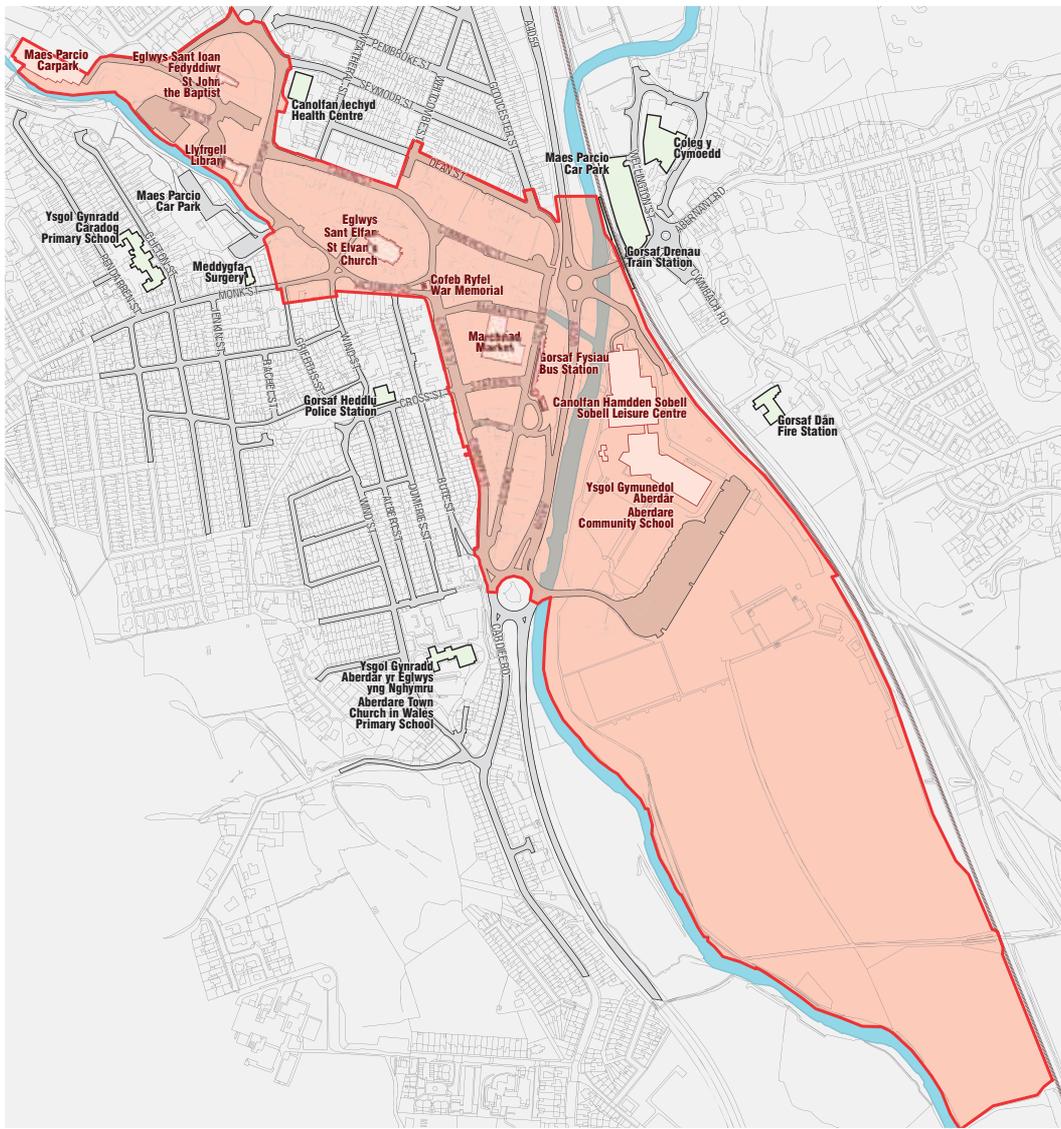
South Wales Police continue to patrol this area as a result of complaints relating to off road motor bikes creating noise nuisance and damaging the environment. This has resulted in riders being apprehended and issued with section 59 notices under the Road Traffic Act.



Alcohol Free Areas in RCT

From 1st September a Public Space Protection Order for Pontypridd & Aberdare Town Centres will be in force in a bid to increase our enjoyment when we go to these areas. The PSPO will be enforced in exclusion zones as per the maps below.

Aberdare





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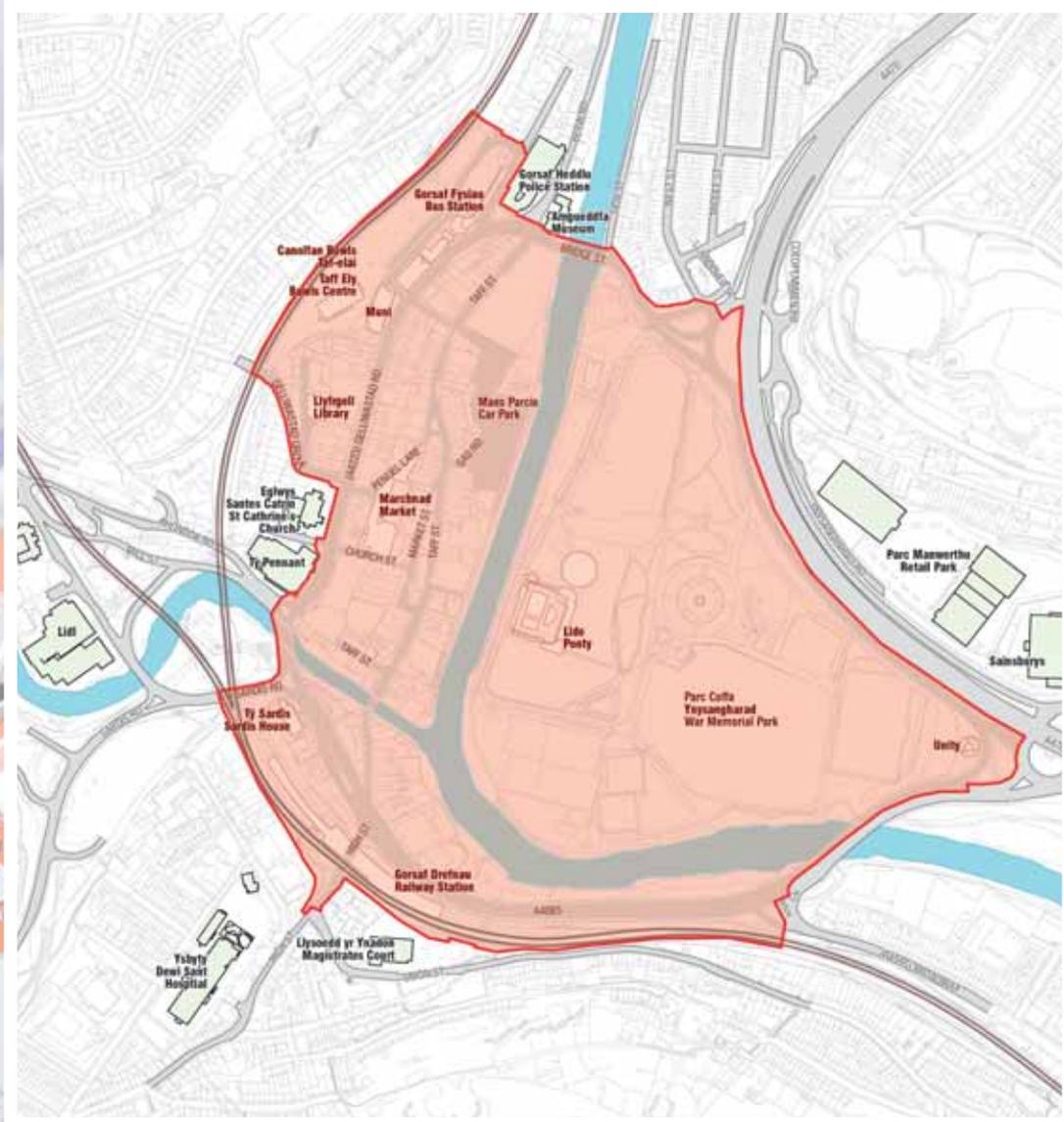
What does this mean?

Nobody wants to stop people from having fun and drinking alcohol responsibly. However, if you are found to have been drinking alcohol in excess or using intoxicating substances you could be subject to a fine of £100. In addition to this, if you are found to be drinking alcohol beyond the boundaries of the establishment where you purchased the alcohol you again could be subject to a fine.

Who will enforce the PSPO?

Council authorised personnel and the Police will enforce the order.

Pontypridd





Respect the Water Campaign

With the warm weather in the summer months there is a temptation for some to want to take a swim to cool off in rivers, lakes and reservoirs in the Rhondda Cynon Taf area. As a result South Wales Fire and Rescue Service are pleased to support the Respect the Water Campaign launched by The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). The RNLI has announced seven people claimed 'floating' helped save their life in 2017, after the charity advocated this as a key survival skill last summer.



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As the RNLI's national drowning prevention campaign Respect the Water enters its fifth year, the charity is urging anyone who finds themselves in trouble in cold water to stay calm and 'float'.

Whatever your activity and your ability, the water can always catch you out. It's easy to underestimate its power.

Stay safe by spotting the dangers. You may swim well in a warm indoor swimming pool but that does not mean you will be able to swim in the cold water of the seas, rivers, quarries or reservoirs.

Don't ignore safety advice, special flags and notices that warn you of any dangers, know what each sign means and what they're telling you to do.

Never swim alone as if you get into danger in open water, there's someone who can get help. Children should always be accompanied by an adult.

You should never go in the water after drinking. Alcohol is a contributing factor to many water related incidents as it seriously impairs your judgement, reactions and ability to swim.

The effect on the body after entering cold water is often underestimated. Cold water shock can be a precursor to drowning.

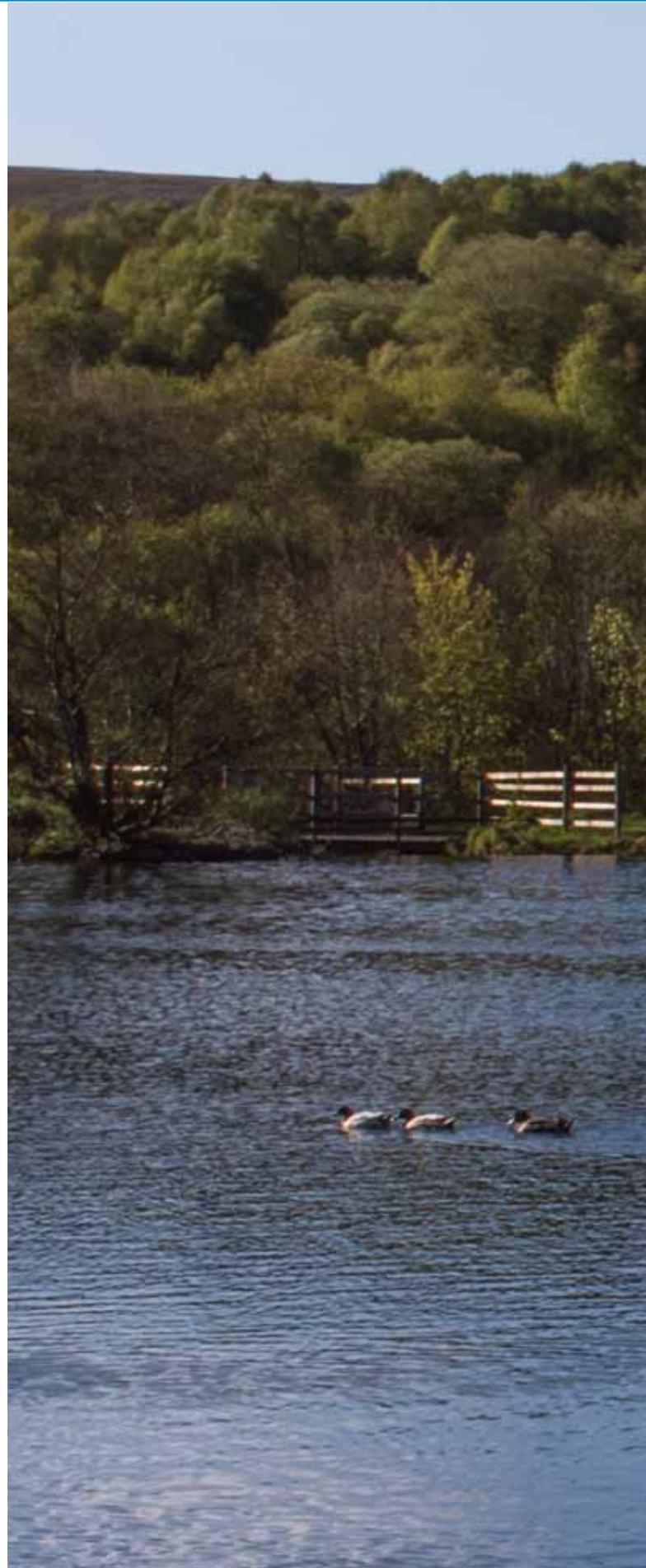
Take a minute. The initial effects of cold water pass in less than a minute so don't try to swim straight away.

Relax and float on your back to catch your breath. Try to get hold of something that will help you float.

Keep calm then call for help or swim for safety if you're able.

Anything below 15°C is defined as cold water and seriously affects breathing, as well as movement.

Did you know the average UK sea temperature is just 12°C? Rivers are colder than that, even in the summer. The risk of cold water shock is significant most of the year.





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

Non Emergency 101

Fire service Non Emergency 01443 232000

RCT County Borough Council 01443 425001

RCT County Borough Council
Website Online reporting forms

www.rctcbc.gov.uk/reportit



SEASONAL CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE SUMMER

Don't let burglars have easy access to your home

During the warm weather people are more likely to leave their doors and windows open to ventilate their properties. Walk-in burglaries do increase during the Summer months, so don't be complacent. If you cannot see the door or window then it should be shut and locked. If you are out enjoying your garden, remember to shut and lock all windows on the front of your property.

Enjoy your summer holiday but make sure your home looks lived in while you are away

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 deliveries such as milk and newspapers.
5. If you have a lawn cut it before you go away and trim back any bushes or shrubs that burglars could hide behind.
6. Lock away any valuable items such as pedal cycles – they may be safer in your home than in an outhouse or shed.





Protect your bike



Mark the frame of your bike with your postcode and house number using a UV pen (Ultra Violet) or tamper proof label. Keep details of the frame number, make, model and type of bike and also take a photograph. Register your bike on www.immobilise.com - a free online property database which the police use to check stolen property. Never leave your bike unlocked – even if you're just popping into the newsagents for a couple of minutes. The best kind of lock is a quality solid steel D-shaped shackle lock.

Always lock your bike to something solid like a lamp post or railings, preferably in a public area. If you have a quick release wheel, take off your front wheel and lock it to the frame and back wheel. If you have a pump or detachable lights, take them with you when you leave your bike.

Make sure you have adequate insurance cover for your bike

Secure Your car



1. Don't leave valuables in your car – even if you know that the bag on the front seat is empty, a thief may still try their luck.
2. Remove your Sat Nav and its holder from your car; don't leave it in the glove box as this is the first place a thief will look and make sure you wipe away any suction markers from the holder.
3. Remember to shut your windows and sunroof when you leave your car.
4. Use an approved steering lock and gear clamp.
5. Set your immobiliser and alarm if you have one fitted.



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Burglars like to work undercover, so keep hedges and bushes cut back this summer

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 pipe

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

1. Keep your shed securely locked.
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.

Make your valuables less attractive to steal

1. Mark garden furniture and DIY equipment with your postcode and house number (or name) by engraving or painting.
2. For heavier metal items such as lawn mowers, use a hammer and set of punches.
3. Photograph valuable garden plants and ornaments to help identify them in the event of a theft.
4. Check your household insurance covers theft from your garden or outbuildings.





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