County Councillors' Report

Police
PCSOs have patrolled *Parish Road* recently and placed off-road bike signage.

Streetcare
Next black bag waste collection is Friday 16th October and Friday 6th November.

We have contacted RCT about overgrowth blocking vision splay at the entrance to *Parish Road* and along *Tramway.*

We have asked for *Heol y Bryn* and *Heol Gwrangfryn* in Rhigos to be more regularly cut.

We have asked RCT to remove green graffiti from pavements in the Rhigos estate.

Highways
We have requested several meetings for an officer to speak with us and the Community Council on Highways issues e.g. double yellows for *Rhigos Road/Pen y Banc* junction. Response- "Unfortunately, due to the current volume of incoming correspondence within the Traffic Management team and a number of competing operational priorities, I am unable to commit to attending a meeting at this time… However, I would be happy to consider any concerns or issues that the Community Council is currently experiencing. If these could be provided to me in writing, I will arrange for them to be reviewed and will provide a written response on each matter where appropriate."

After many months, following our site visit with Highways and the Community Council, RCT have agreed to place safety railings close to the *Rhigos Road/Heol y Graig* junction. There is a steep drop which is a huge safety concern. Works are programmed to begin soon.

Reported pothole on *Pencaedrain Road*

Parish Road
RCT have been asked to review a planning condition in place which relates to the cutting back of overgrowth. The vision splay when exiting *Parish Road* is being impacted by a chain link fence with overgrowth migrating through it. In the meantime, the overgrowth has been added to the Council's schedule to be cut back to the chain link fence.

Public Transport
Aberdare to Hirwaun Metro Extension- We are pleased to be sharing this project proposal for residents to now have their say. As councillors, we have been asking RCT about this possibility in many meetings. We are glad Transport for Wales are in a position to engage with residents. At this early stage, proposals being explored include extending passenger rail services beyond Aberdare, new stations at Llwydcoed and Hirwaun, with improved walking, wheeling and cycling links, and better integration with other public transport services. Tourism would also be a positive benefit for our communities. Engagement will run from 12th October to 22nd November. Drop-ins:

- Sobell Leisure Centre, The Ynys, Aberdare, CF44 7RP- 14 October 2026
- Hirwaun Village Hall, High St, Hirwaun, Aberdare CF44 9SL- 20 October 2026

https://haveyoursay.tfw.wales/aberdare-to-hirwaun

We are keen to hear as many views as possible, please share your thoughts through this public engagement and if possible, directly to us through our e-mails.

Heol Gwrangfryn bus stop- This stop has been taken away. Some bus drivers stop and pick-up residents on this road but other drivers are refusing because there is no flag. We have been engaging with the community since May. A few residents have been in touch. We have asked RCT to contact Stagecoach to reinstate this stop.

Home to School Transport
Following concerns from parents on the lateness some days of the school bus to Penderyn Primary School, we contacted RCT. Response- "We are aware of concerns regarding the arrival time of the school bus and are currently monitoring the performance of this route closely. Officers are working directly with the transport operator to ensure that the scheduled timings are being met consistently and to identify any issues that may be contributing to delays… The operator has been made aware of the concerns raised and is working with the Council to improve the reliability of the service. As a result of the measures being implemented, parents should start to see an improvement in service punctuality going forward."

Flooding/Drainage
RCT have been out cleaning drains and gullies in Rhigos throughout October.

Rights of ways
We have asked RCT to inspect and improve stiles in Rhigos

Residents have contacted us questioning the status of the *Tramroad footpath*. The Public Rights of Ways Officer has informed us that the footpath is the subject of a claimed right of way application. This route is not currently recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement as a Public Right of Way.

Council meetings
23rd September Council… Cllr Adam Rogers to Leader of Council- "Since the collection of black waste has changed from two weekly collections to three and residents now needing to put waste bags on the pavement for collection, can the relevant Cabinet Member please share how this Council has engaged with residents to seek their views and experiences following these changes?"- Unfortunately, the Leader was not able to share what engagement RCT Council has done with residents since the changes to waste collections. From conversations with residents and interactions with our Facebook posts, we know residents are still not happy. Thousands signed petitions against the policy proposal which stopped wheelie bin collections. Our streets are looking worse with bags dumped outside. Many are piled up days before collection day. We have suggested that social housing properties provide tenants with numbers on bags which would help identify those dumping their waste. The Leader has committed to discussing the waste issues in the Ward with us.
5th October Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Home to School Transport cuts… Councillor Adam Rogers spoke of how students and parents are still being negatively impacted by the Labour Cabinet's decision to cut school transport. Some points he raised included:
The need for more bus shelters as the bad weather is fast approaching.
If schools will continue to receive the Hardship Fund annually to support the students impacted by the cuts.

That RCT should not be adding to issues experienced outside schools e.g. Council vehicles covering the pavement at the beginning of school day.
If Welsh medium education has been affected by the cuts.

The Save the School Transport group has gathered a lot of evidence of what students and parents are continuing to experience. This was very helpful! The previous Welsh Government was reviewing its Learner Travel Guidance in March 2024 but two years later, no outcomes of that review is clear. The current Welsh Government will be asked to carry out its own review of funding to improve the current situation in our borough.