

On Tonteg

Tonteg Community Councillor Elsie Bell would like to see more Neighbourhood Watch schemes set up in the area.

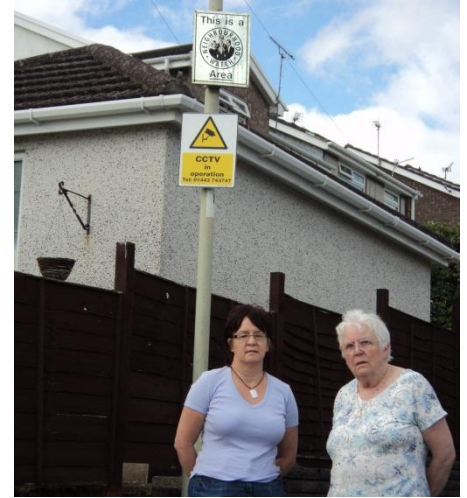
“There is an excellent Watch which covers the area of Tonteg Close, Towyn Way, Anglesey Close, Holywell Road, and the cottages on Main Road. They have worked hard at fundraising and have several CCTV cameras in the area with more planned.

The cameras have helped catch several burglars in the area and act as a deterrent to others. It would be good if the scheme could spread.”

RCT Welsh Liberal Democrat Campaign Manager Karen Roberts has been involved in the setting up of Neighbourhood Watch groups in other areas and says more people should become involved.

“Neighbourhood Watch has come a long way since it initially started. People are no longer expected or indeed encouraged to patrol the streets. It is just about keeping an eye out for anything in the community that is out of the ordinary. Being a good neighbour”

For more information about Neighbourhood Watch call the local Crime Reduction Tactical Advisor on 01685 724266



Tonteg Community Councillor Elsie Bell (right) with RCT Welsh Lib Dem Campaign Manager Karen Roberts



We have seen ‘art works’ springing up everywhere at a cost of hundreds of thousands.

Now they have employed two artists and a poet to work with community groups and come up with bits of poetry which will be engraved on paving slabs in Ponty town centre.

Welsh Liberal Democrat Cllr Mike Powell said

“I am very disappointed that a Labour council have made the decision to find the money to spend in such a way when it has recently cut, amongst other things, the wages of the lower paid staff in RCT.”

Whilst there has been a welcome injection of money into highways which has seen selected roads through the County resurfaced there is still a lot of work which needs doing.

Some of the roads and pavements in the ward are in a terrible state, such as this stretch in Broomfield Close.

Welsh Liberal Democrats have long argued that too much money is being wasted and not enough spent on front line services.



Cllr Mike Powell at the ‘Unity’ sculpture which cost more than £130,000



Poetic Justice?

The panel which sets the levels of Councillors’ salaries is proposing to cut the maximum basic salary paid to Councillors by between 5 and 10%

The Labour party in RCT previously set them at the maximum allowed - making leader Russell Roberts the highest paid Councillor in Wales. If these proposals go ahead he will face a pay cut of around £5000 a year. Many employees who have had their terms and conditions reviewed by his Council may feel this is poetic justice.

There may be another blow for Russell who also gets £23K+ as Chair of the South Wales Police Authority and £13K for his role as a member of Cwm Taf Health Board. The report makes it clear that the salary levels of the leader and the Cabinet are based on their roles being full time and they should not be taking up additional positions.

This is a point that the Welsh Lib Dems have been making for some time. Welsh Liberal Democrat Council leaders in Cardiff and Swansea voted in favour of lower salaries and do not take on any other paid roles.

Given that the Labour Council Whip has defended Russell’s salary recently in the Pontypridd Observer it will be interesting to see the reaction of the Labour group to the report.

Contact Elsie Bell your local Community Councillor on elsie.bell@rctlibdems.org.uk or on 01443 203503

YOUR OPINIONS MATTER

We recently carried out a survey in parts of the Tonteg ward to see what residents thought of services. 75 residents took part and the results largely reflected the opinions that we have been expressing for some time.

On the subject of education standards people were split fairly evenly between those who think they are ok, those who say it is not and those who didn't express an opinion.

Much publicity has been given to the fact that across Wales pupils

are not performing as well as those in England and so are struggling to get into Universities.

Labour Education Minister Leighton Andrews seems to be burying his head in the sand over the issue, but it cannot be allowed to continue



Regarding Welsh Medium Education - a number of people said they didn't know enough about it and so didn't respond.

26 people thought should be more Welsh Medium places to meet the growing demand, only 12 said no.

Welsh Liberal Democrats in RCT have championed the idea that parents should have the right to

choose the language via which their children are educated.

Garth Olwg Primary is struggling to cope with the numbers of pupils wanting to attend, as are YGG Llantrisant and Evan James.

We welcome the recent news that a new Primary school is to be opened at Llanhari but more thought needs to be put into long term provision.

Two thirds of people said that the Labour party are wrong to want to close sixth forms. Only 7 agreed with the idea, the rest didn't express an opinion.

In Dec 09 the Labour Cabinet announced plans to close 6th forms in RCT - plans we opposed. The plans floundered a year later when the Assembly refused to give them the money needed, but comments from the Cabinet Member for Education show they have not given up on the idea.

RCT Welsh Lib Dem Campaign Manager Karen Roberts, a Secondary School Governor says the idea is "ludicrous."

"Sixth forms bring so much to our schools. Older students act as role models and help with mentoring schemes which benefit their own personal development as well as that of younger pupils."

"The recent A level results in RCT which saw pupils gain a greater percentage of top grades than the Welsh average show that our schools are doing an excellent job. They should be encouraged not have to live under threat"

"Nobody wants this except the Director of Education and the Labour party."

Your money telling you how good THEY are!



Only 13 people out of 75 said that they think the 'Outlook' magazine the Council spends more than £60K on is worth the money.

39 people said it is an un-necessary expense in the current climate whilst the rest said it is a complete waste of money.

This comes on top of around £85,000 a year the Council spend on advertising in the local press.

Contact RCT Welsh Liberal Democrats c/o 8 The Parade, Trallwn, CF37 4PU

enquiries@rctlibdems.org.uk

Tel: Mike on 07779 337839

Karen on 07990 573591

Thank you

The Assembly election in May - to the disappointment of many - saw yet another Labour member returned in Pontypridd.

Whilst the result in this constituency and indeed across Wales was not good for us as a Party the Welsh Liberal Democrat vote remained solid in Tonteg.

I would like to thank all of those who voted for me and ensure you all that I will continue the fight for a better deal for people across RCT.

Mike Powell



There is now, however, a Welsh Liberal Democrat Assembly Member for the area.

The Assembly system elects regional members as well as the first past the post constituency members.

Welsh Liberal Democrat Eluned Parrott is one of four Assembly Members for South Wales Central which includes RCT.

She can be contacted on 02920 898343 or at eluned.parrott@wales.gov.uk

