

FOCUS



on Ystrad & Gelli

*Welsh Liberal Democrats
Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru*

The Welsh Liberal Democrats have selected local resident Angharad Jones as their candidate in the Ystrad ward for the Council elections in May.

Angharad lives in Arthur Street, Ystrad, and works as a retail assistant in Tonypanyd. She thinks that local residents deserve a better deal from their Council.



“Far too much money is being wasted by this Council instead of being spent on front line services.

Money spent on fancy art works whilst cutting back on community education. Hundreds of thousands wasted on their own publicity when our roads are crying out for repair.

We need a fresh approach from someone who puts residents first.”

MAJOR CASH BOOST FOR OUR SCHOOLS THANKS TO WELSH LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Schools across Wales will be getting an unexpected bonus thanks to a budget deal made by Welsh Liberal Democrats at the National Assembly.

The draft budget was voted down by opposition parties in early November. We made it clear we wanted more money to help close the funding gap in schools as well as more investment in jobs and the economy.

A deal was struck to support a revised budget which put an extra £20m into the schools budget. The money is aimed largely at pupils in deprived areas which means **RCT will benefit by more than £3million.**

Ystrad Council candidate Angharad Jones said



“This is excellent news for schools in the area. The Welsh Liberal Democrats have been campaigning for some time for more money to be spent directly in schools to help our children achieve the best they can.

The amount each school receives will be based on the number of pupils on free school meals. YGG Bodringallt should receive almost £22,000 whilst Gelli Primary a little under £33,000, money which will make a real difference.”

Labour’s failings threaten local Health Services.

For years patients in Wales have had to put up with growing waiting lists and ambulance response times getting longer. Labour of course like to blame the UK Government for everything, but health is devolved – the service in Wales is run by the Welsh (Labour) Government.

Things are not getting any better. Cwm Taf Health Board last October closed the Minor Injuries Unit at Llwynypia - a temporary measure they say.

Welsh Liberal Democrat Council candidate Angharad Jones shares residents’ anger

“Ysbyty Cwm Rhondda has only been open just over a year and already we’ve seen cutbacks in a number of departments.

“Staff shortages have been given as the reason for the cutbacks – a common problem across Wales. There is a lack of specialist nurses and they rely far too much on locum doctors.

Trained medical staff do not appear overnight – this problem has been building for years. Now Rhondda patients are paying the price for the incompetence of Labour’s Health Ministers.”



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More good news from the Liberal Democrats

From our colleagues in Westminster.

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg announced the 'Youth Contract' a £1 billion investment to "get every unemployed young person earning or learning again before long-term damage is done."



Youth unemployment in the UK has risen to 21.9% and in RCT there are over 1500 young people on Job Seekers Allowance.

The new package will include a promise of a works experience package for every 18 to 24 yr old who wants it, 410,000 new work places over the next three years, and incentive payments to help employers take on new apprentices.

Meanwhile down at the Bay

The budget deal that was brokered with Labour was not only good news for schools but also included an economic stimulus package of £38.9 million to help tackle unemployment and build our skills base here in Wales.

Welsh Liberal Democrats – delivering for you

A GOOD USE OF YOUR MONEY?



We have seen so called 'art works' springing up everywhere at a cost of hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The Council employed two artists and a poet to work with community groups to come up with bits of poetry which will be engraved on paving slabs in Ponty town centre. Meanwhile potholes remain unfilled in Ystrad and elsewhere.

Is this a good use of taxpayers' money? YOUR money? Angharad and her colleagues don't think so. Do you?

Find out more about RCT Welsh Lib Dems at www.pontylibdems.org.uk

Email: enquiries@rctlibdems.org.uk Tel: Mike 07779 337839/ Karen 07990 573591



Poetic Justice?

The panel which sets the levels of Councillors' salaries is to cut the maximum basic salary paid to Councillors.

The Labour party in RCT previously set them at the maximum allowed - making leader Russell Roberts the highest paid Councillor in Wales. He now faces 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.

The panel 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 on extra jobs.

Labour Council leader Russell Roberts has been criticised for also being Chair of the Police Authority and a member of Cwm Taf Health Board. He collects an extra £36K a year for this on top of his near £58K a year as Council leader.

This is a point we 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.

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 via email at eluned.parrott@wales.gov.uk

YOUR money telling you how good THEY are.



The Labour administration in RCT is keen to let you know just what is going on. Well, what they want you to know anyway

They spend around £85,000 of your money each year on newspaper adverts. Thousands more on local radio. Over £60,000 a year of your money on their Outlook magazine to tell you how good they are.

They employ a whole raft of staff under the umbrella of the Head of Strategy and Public Relations, Christian Hanagan, son of Labour Cabinet Member Eudine Hanagan.

They include a Publications & Corporate Branding Adviser and a Corporate Policy & Consultation Manager. The department costs well over a million pounds every year in salary payments alone.

As Angharad Jones asks

"If they are so good why do they need to spend so much of your money telling you?"