



Welsh Liberal Democrats Rhondda Cynon Taff

Retail trade survey - RCT February 2013.

INTRODUCTION

Surveys were hand delivered to town centre businesses in the following areas:

Pontypridd, Porth, Tonypany, Treorchy, Aberdare, Ferndale, Mountain Ash, Talbot Green, Pontyclun, Tonyrefail, Treforest.

The surveys were left with the retailers to fill in if they chose to, and a return address was given – there was no freepost address so anyone wishing to take part had to cover postage, or return it via email. There was only one email return.

In all 58 responses were received, with by far the highest percentage of responses coming from Tonypany. The responses from Talbot Green, Pontyclun, Treforest and Mountain Ash were too low to give any indication of specific attitudes to localised issues in those areas.

MAIN POINTS

From both the replies given to the direct questions and the comments invited some concerns are obviously very strongly felt.

Car parking – In response to a direct question on how they felt the increase in car parking charges had affected their business 100% of those who responded said trade had declined as a result. When asked to rate the impact of various elements outside of their control on their business a substantial 67% of respondents rated car parking charges at level 5 on a scale of 1 to 5 where 5 is a great deal. A further 19% rated it 4.

A considerable number of comments related to car parking charges. It should be noted that there are no car parking charges in Tonyrefail, Talbot Green, Pontyclun, Ferndale or Treforest.

Out of town developments - 92% indicated that their trade had declined as a result of the increase in out of town developments.

Regeneration efforts - The overwhelming feeling in Tonypany is that the pedestrianisation scheme has been bad for business.

In Porth the streetscape 'enhancements' do not appear to have attracted any more custom to the area, and respondents say that the Porth Relief Road has led to a downturn in trade in the town centre.

In Pontypridd, Aberdare and Mountain Ash where there has been significant money spent on regeneration projects only around a quarter of respondents felt that the effect on business would be positive, the rest thought it would have a negative impact or make no difference at all.

Trade had declined in almost all cases during the time regeneration works had been carried out.

Funding – Relatively few of those who responded had applied for any sort of funding. The reasons given ranged from not knowing about it, to being uncertain of the future. Too many regulations and restrictions were also cited as disincentives to applying..

Interaction with the Local Authority and the Welsh Government - this section produced some very forthright comments all of which are include in the appendices.

When asked how they would rate communication between the Council and local traders 41% (21 respondents) said it was non-existent and a further 46% (23) said it was poor.

94% (51 respondents) said they didn't think enough was being done by RCT Council to help traders. Not one single person said that enough was being done.

With regard to the Welsh Government 89% said they didn't think they were doing enough to help town centres and traders - the other 11% answered that they didn't know.

OVERVIEW & COMMENT

Traders across RCT appear very aggrieved at what they perceive as a **lack of communication** with the Council. In particular they want to see more face to face communication with Councillors / Cabinet Members rather than Officers.

The general feeling is that their concerns are not being listened to – whether their ideas could or would then be implemented or not is a different matter. They want more two way communication.

In Tonypanyd there was significant opposition to the **pedestrianisation** proposal at the time it was suggested. Traders now are saying that it has not worked, that trade has declined since it was introduced. Traders in Pontypridd have expressed the same concerns regarding pedestrianisation there.

In Porth the changes there are again said to have been detrimental to trade – there are now fewer places where shoppers can park on a short term basis.

Such concerns are of course not limited to towns in RCT. On 25th March an ITV Wales 'Wales This week' report looked at the problems being encountered by town centres across the country. They spoke to traders in Colwyn Bay and Newport who were of the same opinion.

RCT Cabinet Member for Frontline Services Andrew Morgan, speaking on the programme, talked of the importance of proper parking enforcement especially where businesses need to have deliveries to the front of their premises. He then appeared to speak against his Council's own argument for pedestrianisation of smaller towns by stating that there is a need to balance that against the needs of some of the smaller business that rely on people stopping for two minutes to buy a newspaper or pint of milk. He said that parking enforcement should not be too rigorous for that reason.

This is the very argument that traders across the country are making against pedestrianisation. It prevents shoppers from stopping for just a few minutes, or maybe as long as half an hour, to pick up a few items in one or two of the smaller shops. So they shop elsewhere.

Hand in hand with this issue goes the question of **car parking charges**. Traders have long opposed the introduction of new charges and the increases that have taken place in existing charges. Despite this RCT Council have announced a further increase - not 5% as reported in the press, but a little over 7%, from 70p to 75p for an hour.

Retailers argue that it makes it impossible for them compete with out of town developments where parking is free, and that it discourages those shoppers who maybe would otherwise just make a brief visit to a shop for one or two items. This particularly affects small independent traders.

This would appear to be backed up by the fact that Treorchy seems to be thriving – there they have on street free parking, and the single car park there is also free as the Council only charge for car parks over a certain size.

Again this is an issue across Wales. Wrexham Council offer free parking after noon in an effort to attract more shoppers. Carmarthenshire Council introduced free car parking in Llanelli during the duration of regeneration works. A call for that in RCT fell on deaf ears, as have requests from the Welsh Liberal Democrats and other opposition Councillors to reduce or scrap charges on a temporary basis to assess the effect they have.

Newport Council introduced a scheme which allowed two hours free parking in December 2010 - the town centre there has also been suffering from a drop in trade and a lack of any new businesses coming there. They noted a 13% increase in cars at its car parks in April and May compared to the previous year, and almost 30% of traders surveyed said custom had increased. The current administration are re-introducing charges, a move that is being resisted by traders and campaigners.

Regeneration efforts made so far have not impressed traders. Only 26% of respondents who replied to this question said they thought it would be good for business – one from Aberdare and five from Pontypridd. Those same people said business had declined during the regeneration works. In all 91% said that trade had declined during the period when works were being carried out.

It is inevitable that there will be some disruption when major works are being carried out, but it is our opinion that maybe more could and should have been done to try and help traders through that difficult time. Help with Business Rates for example – there was some negotiation with the valuation office but it came very late in the day. RCT Council could have used existing powers to offer rate reductions.

Very few had applied for **funding** of any sort. Respondents could tick as many boxes as were relevant in answer to this question and some had applied to more than one source. In fact only 8 said they had applied for any funding, three were successful, two with bids to the Local Authority, the other to the Heads of The Valleys Fund.

There are question to be asked over whether:

- Enough is done to publicise available funding.
- There is too much red tape involved.
- Funding streams meet the actual needs of businesses.

Out of town shopping developments are a cause for concern, as indeed they are across the country. 92% indicated that trade had declined as a result of the increase in out of town developments. Traders say they are not operating on a level playing field when such developments provide free car parking.

Under general comments there was mention of **Business Rates** being too high and discouraging new business. There is also a feeling that the Council and Welsh Government should be doing **more to attract businesses** into the growing number of empty properties in our town centres.

The overall feeling is one of near desperation as many of those who responded are long established businesses who have invested a great deal over many years and want to see our town centres thriving – or at the very least surviving.

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OUR VIEWS

The feedback from the survey reinforces many of our views which we have expressed in the past and which have been based on numerous discussions with local traders and residents as well as colleagues across Wales and organisations such as the FSB.

Car parking charges are an issue which we have long campaigned on. In 2009 when the Council raised existing charges and introduced new ones the Welsh Liberal Democrat Council group spoke against them. In September last year Cllr Mike Powell put forward a motion asking for a lowering of charges to 50p for three hours for a trial period of six months with a full assessment of the effects of that being carried out before any decision was taken on future charges.

Other towns have cut charges to try and attract trade, but in RCT such calls have fallen on deaf ears. As the responses show there is a great deal of anger about this amongst traders.

We have been accused of taking a negative attitude towards **regeneration**, but we are all for proper, meaningful regeneration which results in more visitors, increased trade and long term benefit. We do not believe that will be achieved simply by cosmetic measures such as new pavements and fancy street furniture.

Business rates need to be lowered. Whilst it is true that the Council do not set the levels of business rates they do have the discretion to vary them in cases of hardship. If they were convinced the case for doing so was a valid one then they could offer a reduction. 75% of the cost of that would be paid by the Welsh Government with only 25% being covered by the Council.

Communication we have always argued is poor between the Council and stakeholders. There used to be regular Business Forum meetings in our town centres but they have stopped. Communication needs to be two way and there should be room for a frank exchange of views from which a way forward on many of the issues raised could hopefully be found.

Out of town developments are a fact of modern day life, they are not going away. However, there is a need for more measures to counteract them – our town centres need to made attractive places to visit.

More events need to be held which do not put a huge financial burden on the Council and which actually attract people to the town centres to spend money. Unlike the Big Ponty and other such events which whilst they bring in large crowds do not bring in significant trade benefits. The Council ban people from taking food and drinks into the Park, so local shops do not benefit and the money goes to food outlets brought in from outside the locality.

In town centres where you have smaller independent local businesses that money stays in the local economy. With larger multi nationals it brings some employment benefits but the profits from the business go elsewhere.

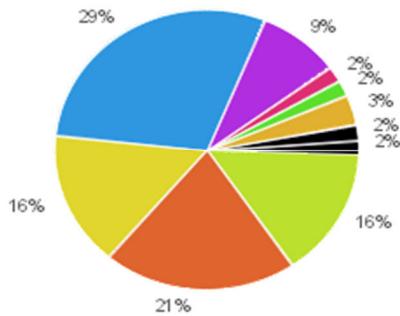
We have vehemently opposed the **Talbot Green new town development**. RCT development Control committee passed the plans in March but the final decision rests with Welsh Government. We will be making a submission opposing the plans.

Welsh Government's own planning policies, and the 'Vibrant & Viable Places' initiative launched earlier this month state that we should be protecting and developing our town centres. It is madness to even consider building a new so called town centre when our existing ones are struggling.

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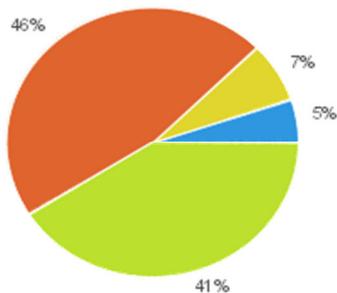
Complete Stats and comments received in response to this survey

Where is your business based?



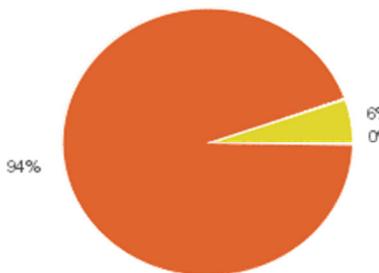
- Pontypridd (9 = 16%)
- Aberdare (12 = 21%)
- Porth (9 = 16%)
- Tonypandy (17 = 29%)
- Tonyrefail (5 = 9%)
- Mountain Ash (1 = 2%)
- Pontyclun (1 = 2%)
- Treforest (2 = 3%)
- Talbot Green (1 = 2%)
- Treorchy (1 = 2%)

How would you rate communication between traders and the Council? (Comments were invited and are collated at Appendix 1.)



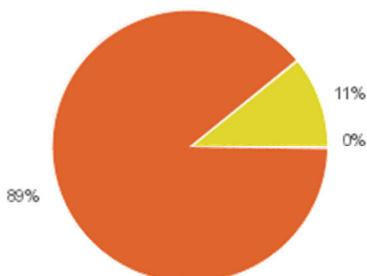
- Non-existent (23 = 41%)
- Poor (26 = 46%)
- Reasonable (4 = 7%)
- Good (3 = 5%)

Do you think that Rhondda Cynon Taff Council does enough to help local traders? (Comments were invited and are collated at Appendix 2.)



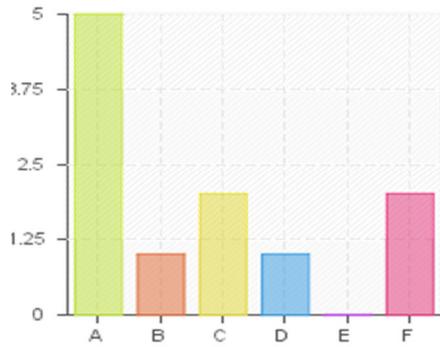
- Yes (0)
- No (51 = 94%)
- Don't Know (3 = 6%)

Do you think that the Welsh Government does enough to help local traders and town centres? (Comments were invited and are collated at Appendix 3.)



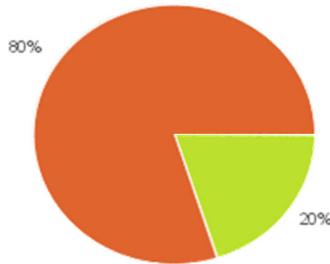
- Yes (0)
- No (48 = 89%)
- Don't Know (6 = 11%)

Have you applied for funding for your business in the last 12 months from the following
Multiple answers allowed, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.



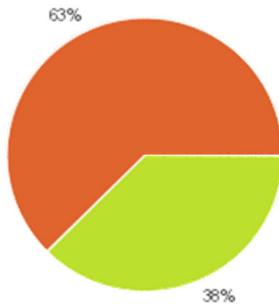
- A Local Authority (5 = 71%)
- B Townscape Enhancement (1 = 14%)
- C Welsh Assembly (2 = 29%)
- D Finance Wales (1 = 14%)
- E Credit Unions (0)
- F Bank / Building Society (2 = 29%)

Have you applied for funding for your business in the last 12 months from anywhere else?



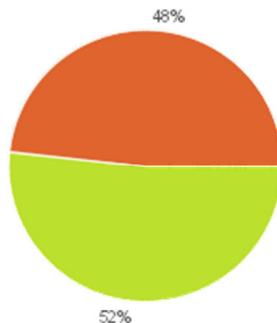
- Yes (1 = 20%) Heads of Valleys Regen.
- No (4 = 80%)

If so were you successful with your application?



- Yes (3 = 38%)
- No (5 = 63%)

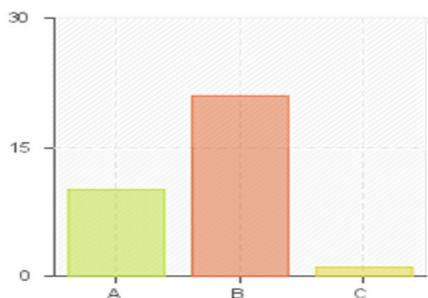
Have you been put off from applying for funding because of the paperwork involved?



- Yes (15 = 52%)
- No (14 = 48%)

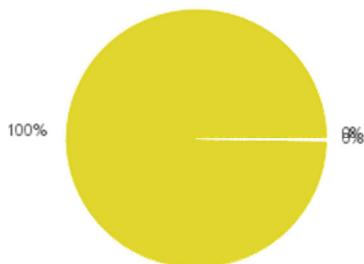
Traders were asked if they had been put off from applying for funding for other reasons. Replies in full appear in Appendix 4.

Are you a member of :



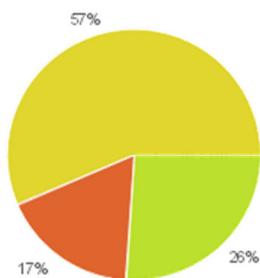
- A The FSB? (10 = 37%)
- B The Chamber of Trade? (21 = 78%)
- C Other (1 = 4%)

How do you think that the increase in car parking charges has affected business?



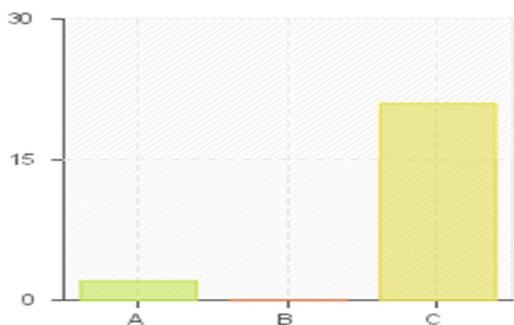
- Not at all (0)
- Improved (0)
- Declined (47 = 100%)

Do you think the regeneration efforts which have been made will:



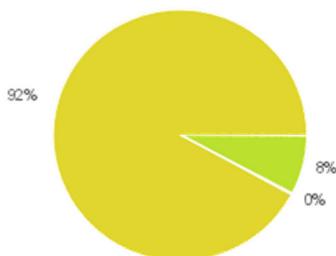
- Be good for business (6 = 26%)
- Be bad for business (4 = 17%)
- Not make any difference (13 = 57%)

How has your trade been affected during the works which have been carried out in town?



- A Not at all (2 = 9%)
- B Improved (0)
- C Declined (21 = 91%)

Has the number of out of town shopping centres / supermarkets affected business?

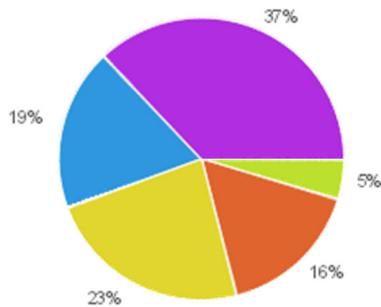


- Not at all (2 = 8%)
- Improved (0)
- Declined (24 = 92%)

How much of an effect do you think the following have had on your business

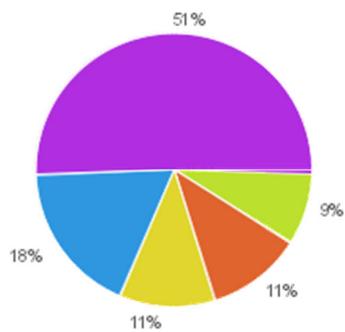
Where 1 = very little and 5 = a great deal

General recession



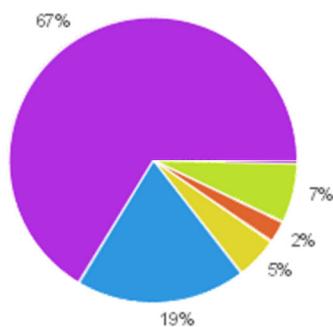
- 1 (2 = 5%)
- 2 (7 = 16%)
- 3 (10 = 23%)
- 4 (8 = 19%)
- 5 (16 = 37%)

Out of Town developments



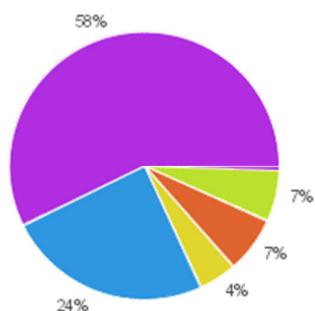
- 1 (4 = 9%)
- 2 (5 = 11%)
- 3 (5 = 11%)
- 4 (8 = 18%)
- 5 (23 = 51%)

Car Parking Charges



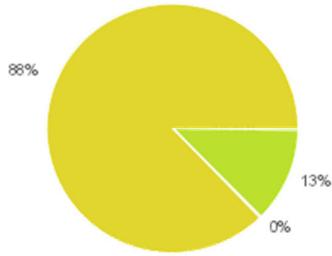
- 1 (3 = 7%)
- 2 (1 = 2%)
- 3 (2 = 5%)
- 4 (8 = 19%)
- 5 (28 = 67%)

Traffic Issues



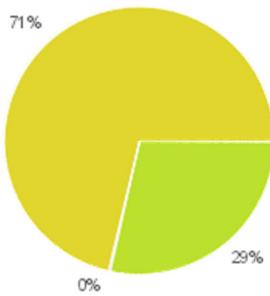
- 1 (3 = 7%)
- 2 (3 = 7%)
- 3 (2 = 4%)
- 4 (11 = 24%)
- 5 (26 = 58%)

How you think that the pedestrianisation of Tonypany affected business?



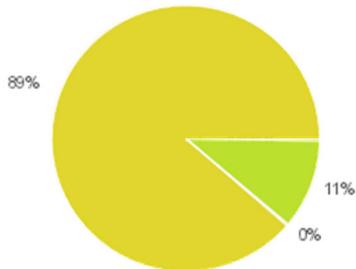
- Not at all (2 = 13%)
- Improved (0)
- Declined (14 = 88%)

How you think that the changes to the 'streetscape' in Porth affected business?



- Not at all (2 = 29%)
- Improved (0)
- Declined (5 = 71%)

Porth only How you think the building of the by-pass affected business?



- Not at all (1 = 11%)
- Improved (0)
- Declined (8 = 89%)

How could communication with the Council be improved:

- Sack the existing Councillors and get someone who knows what they are doing
- Councillors calling and speaking direct with business owners and listening to concerns.
- More personal engagement with shop traders
- Totally one way, we talk, council deaf!!
- There are only a handful of shops left so why not come into our shops once a year to talk
- By councillors listening to legitimate grievances about parking problems, not dismissing it as being unimportant
- Free car parking, less business rates
- Regular meetings, newsletters, and showing local people that they care by spending money on town to improve things, unlike statues or monuments - waste of money.
- They need to listen to traders more, before it's too late!
- More information in local press
- By taking notice of complaints by traders
- They could come out into towns and talk to us, see how bad the town looks.
- By elected councillors attending the meetings for which they are the elected spokesperson and not the organ grinders they do send
- Personal visits to retailers asking what they would like to see implemented
- Although communication is good. They DO NOT listen to genuine problems, they don't care about the local traders, and never deliver on their promises.
- Periodically meeting or discussion forum.
- Any communication would be good
- Newsletter/emails
- Members of the town council coming out and meeting us in our shops.
- Council should accept views of traders rather than dictating to us.
- Quarter yearly meeting as long as the council listen
- A visit or questionnaire such as this.
- I am in contact regular, I am neighbourhood watch co-ordinator and attend all P.A.C.T meetings.
- Rates for area unfair - rating premises as off 5 years ago. Terrible situation.
- Sending questionnaires, finding out problems, mainly parking issues - horrendous

What else could RCT Council do to help traders

- Tonypandy. Reopen pedestrianised area with parking bays. No car parking charges. Make it more attractive to new businesses.
- Porth Local business rates - Porth highest in RCT
- Encourage more business into town centre rather than outskirts
- Remove parking charges so that local traders have a level playing field to compete with the supermarkets
- Show some bloody interest in the town, they are the biggest load of wxxxxxx I've ever come across!!
- Lower council tax, clean up shops, free parking, open road back up
- They need to implement more of our suggestions
- Listen to traders and meet with them when asked
- Farmer's market, French market, street entertainers, bring a fun enjoyable shopping to Tonypandy
- Abolish parking fees or greatly reduce parking rates and appoint someone to regenerate the town centre
- Sort out empty shops by lowering rates, rents etc. Give hours people may park through town in special marked bays. Hold events throughout year that would be worth doing - not waste money on pointless flower pots or expensive xmas lighting.
- 1. Reduce parking fees. 2. Reduce rates. 3. In the pedestrianised areas allow cars at certain times for unloading/loading and for disabled patients.
- Reduce or abolish car park charges, allow more car free short term parking, reduce rates for all. More events in or near town, more tourists.
- Stop giving further planning permission for out of town developments.
- We have asked many times for cheaper car parking or better still free parking, their answer has been to increase dramatically the charges, even as shops continue to close.
- They could have events in town throughout the year to help bring trade to the town.
- Listen to the people who have businesses in the town
- Grit pavements, reduce car parking, ask road/repair workers to finish one work at a time before starting another job!
- Rate free period for new business and rateable value based on turnover not premises.
- Show sympathy with people trying to set up businesses and paying rent and rates and not in a position to wait for the new financial year in order to "maybe" get funding.
- I myself have had many streetcare problems. Council don't attract local shoppers.
- Prohibit out of town development and no to the new town centre at Talbot Green/Pontyclun, redevelop existing town centres, providing better public transport/pedestrian access.
- Have officers to work with us and the community
- Encourage/promote and develop the high street. Improve Parking, improve transport infrastructure, and improve street cleanliness and appearance.
- Give us a car park
- Stop out of town shopping, make more car parking for local shops, and cut the parking areas in supermarkets.
- Remove parking restrictions and the 10-4pm no traffic system
- Spend money to encourage businesses to occupy empty premises in the town instead of making nice pavements
- Give us a level playing field to compete with out of town stores. They must accept that "car is king" and allow free car parking as per the out of town stores.
- Stop telling lies and do put some effort into keeping in touch
- Regenerate town centres by improving buildings, parking, road, surfaces, abolish business rates.

- We do need better parking facilities, I've had to pay now to come to work with a car, although I live not far, I find it very difficult to walk home because of the hill, I am 63 this year and my health is not what it was.
- Fair rateable value on small business owners. Multi national companies getting small business rates relief in street. Real small businesses paying full rates. Really unfair
- Our town is dying!!! No-one comes window shopping, no-one can park in street, lots of shopkeepers park in the street blocking the limited spaces.
- Listen!! All departments need to be singing from the same hymn sheet, and take action quicker! or Porth will come to a stand still.
- Get off their arses and do something to clean up the town especially the run down shops and they need to open up the pedestrian walkway.
- Free car parking for 1 or 2 hours.

What else could Welsh Government do to help traders?

- Free car park, it is cheaper to park at £5.00 a day in London Central.
- Subsidise free parking
- Entice more businesses to area.
- Attract more chains to Rhondda - Argos, Costa, Thornton's etc.
- Lower business rates
- Get off their asses and come and see how they are completely letting towns go to rack and ruin!
- Scrap car parking charges, no point in small towns, driving shoppers to free out of towns
- Reduce business rates. Encourage new business to Welsh valley towns.
- Less red tape, Merthyr and Cardiff seem to get all the attention, jobs / shops / amenities etc.
- Listen to us
- When town centre forums have meetings on relevant issues and they are in attendance, butchers should attend and not the blocks
- Reduce council tax, as above
- Simple grants and financial/rebate schemes for new and struggling established traders
- Too difficult to apply for funding - not interested in one man bands. Good website though for new starters.
- Same as council, they don't listen to local traders, and seem hell bent on destroying local towns.
- More parking wardens outside of Pontypridd town.
- Improve transport/Ponty. Need to promote smaller businesses and encourage people to use them or lose them!
- Give us a car park
- They don't know we are here, we only see them when up for election
- 1. Refuse more out of town planning. 2. Ensure towns have police visible. 3. Promote towns. 4. Take more interest
- Keep in touch with local traders and do not only deal with self promoting councillors and friends
- Give people more opportunity to develop shopping area. Reduce crazy rates will help small businesses survive.
- Too late now
- They need to come to our side of the fence!

Funding

Traders were asked if they had been put off from applying for funding for other reasons

- Until trade picks up would you apply for funding (Tonypany)
- Don't know much about applying for funding - need advice
- Too long and drawn out procedures, I would probably be dead by the time I got a satisfactory answer!!
- Thinking of relocating so not needed. No point in Tonypany
- Yes, the council expects a large expenditure and disruption to business in their effort to change the outlook of present premises before any financial help.
- Yes, too much capital outlay
- Time to wait - being told no funds and would need to put off business until new financial year. Could not start anything or wouldn't be considered.
- Too much "red tape", and too many personal questions
- Can't afford it
- Didn't know about it
- Uncertainty of the future of our business in the town
- Funding organised by our head office in Cardiff
- I was told that it would be gone before my application went through
- If you cannot fund your own business = close
- Don't know of any
- Haven't considered funding
- Restrictions!!
- Tonypany. Funding requires you to take on more staff which is not possible due to footfall in the town

What was the funding for?

- Embroidery equipment
- Improvements to outside and inside of shop
- Expanding the business
- Help with setting up the business - was offered website but had to wait for new financial year. Didn't complete an offer of website not a priority at time.
- Cash flow due to regeneration and snow

General Comments

- Very high business rates. Car park charges. More help for people to open empty shops
- Pay themselves less money, stop having lavish lunches and put money towards the towns that pay their wages in the council. Upkeep of buildings that are looking tired and falling down. No one wants to take on a store that needs lots of work done to it.
- I've been running this business for 20+ years and at the moment it is difficult to make a living or even get by. Too many exp. And not enough cost.
- A great deal of trade is lost by customers travelling to Merthyr out of town shops, this has had an adverse effect on Aberdare town centre.
- There used to be between 8 or 10 butchers in Aberdare. Due to out of town developments I am now the proprietor of one of the last 2 surviving butchers shops in the town centre.
- General recession and out of town developments are a nationwide problem which puts everyone on a level playing field. The car parking charges and traffic issues are localised problem which could have been resolved.
- Listen to traders and not as appears to be in meetings. A "Talking shop" and no action ever. It always appears to go in one ear and as soon as the meeting ends out the other. Perhaps they have nothing in the middle for it to stay put.
- £9000 short in comparison to last year!
- The council doesn't seem to understand the problem of parking charges will have on trade. I have worked for years in Newport only to see trade decline and businesses close due to charges. I have also worked in Cwmbran, where parking is free, business flourished, it's not rocket science!
- I am a new business and very anxious about the future anyway, let alone what may occur due to the plans for Talbot Green/Pontyclun new town centre plan.
- It is great that someone is finally taking this seriously, please, please help us local traders, the local council need to wake up or everyone will lose their towns. Listen to Mary Portas. The government asked her, and are still not doing it!!
- The enclosed newsletter sums up the picture completely.
- Parking is a big issue, then we have traffic wardens stopping people parking as well, Tonyrefail will be a ghost town before long.
- Member of FSA. Since the road has been closed our business has seriously reduced in foot flow.
- The town (Pontypridd) has to be more "traffic friendly" - free parking if only for an hour or so.
- Business in Pontypridd was much better when traffic was flowing through Taff St. Pedestrianisation is not working.
- RCT must get a grip and do much more to protect our towns or they will become crime ridden no-go areas.
- The car parking is not helped with the charges.
- Get rid of paid councillors, previously volunteers, did a good job at far less cost.
- We supposedly have a town centre manager (Porth), what does he get paid to do?? Never seen him, total waste of time!!
- There is no control whatsoever over what shops sell, so if one shop gets a good line, lots of other shops jump on the bandwagon, all shops end up selling same things then there is no variety, the shoppers get bored and look elsewhere. Also there are far too many hairdressers. I have seen areas in Birmingham where trade is controlled, it works, variety is very good to get customers in. Certain times of the year shops get in whatever the year occasion then the shop whose line it really is loses out. All shops have good times if left alone.
- Rates are killing the area and this will not improve unless a fair rateable value is given to help small businesses stay open in area. More shops closing every week due to financial pressures from RCT council.

- No traffic parking attendants operating in Porth - all our customers complain. They telephone for orders and we have to run out with the bouquets as they can't stop.
- Need more parking options NOW. On a good note the break in business rates have allowed us to make improvements on the salon, which was well overdue. It's a change to be able to put something back into the business supporting Porth. Parking is a BIG! BIG! Issue, for traders and customers.
- Trade decreased to point of leaving Tonypany. Get rid of Council policies put better people in charge those who want Tonypany to be a thriving community otherwise the whole town will be closed and the councillors out of work.
- Tonypany. Charging for car parking has definitely reduced people shopping in town.
- Used to be a Chamber of Trade member but we could not get anything done.
- It is such a shame to see a once vibrant shopping town reduced to what it is now. It is an absolute disgrace that it has been left to rot, there is nothing left for people to come to Tonypany for let alone pay to park.
- Get rid of unnecessary traffic lights on Porth Square which cause delays for traffic turning out of Station Road. Ridiculous.
- Encourage larger companies into town centre (Aberdare) e.g - fill old rent offices, Boot hotel etc. This would encourage more shoppers.
- I am happy to see you trying to do something, and thank you for that, no one else gives a toss!!
- When leases are up shops are closing or moving. Stop passing the buck and start improving Tonypany!
- Traffic issues - customers unable to drop donated goods to shop only at limited time through day when people at work.
- (the FSB etc)- not worth it anymore, there's not enough of us. Declining too quickly. Please help us - cut out charges. People don't come to town anymore.
- Think more should be done to help small towns develop, everything goes Cardiff/Swansea, encourage business open in towns, out of towns are a lot better for variety and free parking
- We in Tonypany have 41 empty premises, Treorchy has 2, no parking fees and on road parking in Treorchy, surely this says it all!
- I cannot answer some details as you need to contact head office for funding details. I totally agree about Cardiff, you can park by museum for £4 all day and RCT want £11 to £16 for some town parking. They are pushing people out of town centres