

Plans in place to finally clear fly-tipping eyesore

AN ACTION plan is being put in place to tackle rubbish being dumped on land near residents' homes.

Twyncarmel field in Cyfarthfa has been blighted with abandoned household waste, old carpets, sofas and wood which has spread across the green.

And now proposals are underway to deal with the fly-tipping under a joint project being prepared by Fly-tipping Action Wales and Cynefin.

The plan includes clearing the site of waste, erecting new signage, fencing and lighting, installing CCTV surveillance cameras to catch offenders, and raising awareness of fly-tipping in the area.

Fly-tipping Action Wales - a Welsh Government initiative - is a partnership of more than 50 agencies including Natural Resources Wales, local authorities and the police, while Cyne-

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fin is a Welsh Government project which aims to bring together, empower and improve the quality of life for communities

Norma Greene, Fly-tipping Action Wales project officer and Cynefin place coordinator, said: "The area has suffered from fly-tipping for many years and it was brought to my attention during the Operation Bang patrols with police and fire service prior to bonfire night last year.

"Fly-tipping is a serious environmental crime which poses a threat to humans and wildlife, damages our environment, and spoils our enjoyment of our towns and countryside.

"We're working closely with local communities to help clean-up fly-tipping and to raise a sense of pride in Welsh commu-

nities by creating a safer, cleaner and greener environment for people that live and work here."

The area has become a local eyesore for both residents and visitors to the area.

Now the initiative will also work with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, South Wales Police, Wales and West Housing Association and representatives from the community to set up an action plan to tackle the issues together.

Merthyr Tydfil councillor Tony Chaplin, who represents the Cyfarthfa ward, said: "I hope it's going to be improved because it's been a fly-tipping black spot for a couple of years.

"Ironically, there is a sign there saying £1,000 fine for any one caught fly-tipping but this only seems to encourage peo-



An action plan to clear fly-tipping from Twyncarmel field in Cyfarthfa is being put in place by Fly-tipping Action Wales and Cynefin

ple to fly tip.

"We have started clearing part of the site but not where it's prominent. It's a huge field adjacent to where the bus turning point is to the hospital and it currently makes a terrible impression of our

neighbourhood.

"Clearing the site of waste is what I'm looking forward to and I hope it will make the place a more attractive area."

A meeting is now being arranged with all partners to take the initiative for-

ward and Coun Chaplin said the action plan is anticipated to be put in place over the next few weeks.

Fly-tipping can carry heavy penalties and even imprisonment. Conviction could lead to a fine of up to £20,000.

Gurnos is really tidy like

A COMMUNITY clear up on the Gurnos estate proved a huge success.

Merthyr Valleys Homes and their tenants were out in force in the new Gurnos area for the clear up day.

With the sun shining, 27 residents came together along with Keep Wales Tidy and the Tidy Towns team to undertake a litter pick.

In total 20 bags of rubbish were collected along with four sofas, one television and a fridge, which were disposed of at a community skip arranged by Merthyr Valleys Homes.

Merthyr Valleys Homes are planning further community clean ups on the Gurnos estate, with the next planned for April 16.

Anyone wanting to get involved with further clean ups, or any community activities in the area, can contact the Merthyr Valleys Homes regeneration team on 01685 727816.

Do you love your glasses?


GIRLS Aloud singer and West End actress Kimberley Walsh has teamed up with Specsavers in Merthyr and anti-bullying charity Kidscape to find a specs-wearer with Something Kinda Oooh as she launches the annual Spectacle Wearer of the Year competition.

This year's overall winner will be presented with £10,000 in cash and a dream holiday to the Bahamas at a star-studded awards event hosted by Gok Wan later this year.

Kimberley says: "I love my glasses, I like to make a real statement by wearing something bold. They are such a part of who you are and a fun way to express yourself. Everyone should wear their specs with pride."

Brian Borland, store director at Specsavers Merthyr said: "We know that people in Merthyr love their glasses and we want to celebrate it. The competition gives us the opportunity to prove that glasses are fabulous."

■ <http://loveglasses.specsavers.co.uk>



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