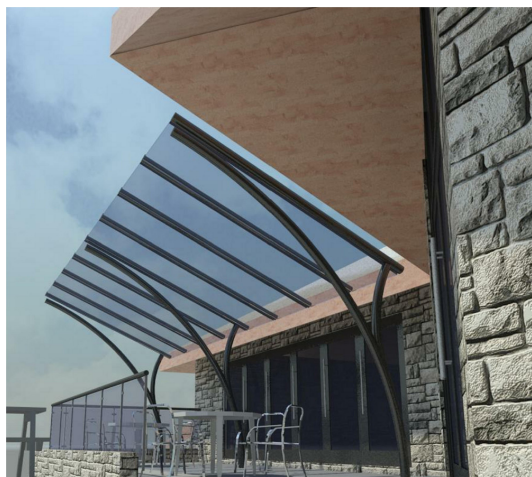


## Renovations at Afan Forest Park set to start

The popular visitor centre at Afan Forest Park is set to have a makeover by Neath Port Talbot Council.



The renovation is part of ‘Cognition mtb trails South Wales’, an exciting new partnership project between Neath Port Talbot CBC, Caerphilly CBC, Merthyr Tydfil CBC and Forestry Commission Wales. It is funded by the EU’s Convergence European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government with match funding coming from the Welsh Government and partner organisations.

The café area will be transformed with folding glass doors overlooking the valley, leading out onto a covered terrace and creating an inviting outside seating area. The foyer will be redesigned as a more open, appealing space giving visitors a warmer welcome, better access to the South Wales Miners’ Museum and new toilet facilities. There will also be a new meeting room and general improvements to the building.

Morganstone Ltd has been successful in securing the contract to carry out a major revamp of the Afan Forest Park Visitor Centre. Work is scheduled to start on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November and be completed by Spring 2012.

These improvements will further enhance what Afan Forest Park offers locals and visitors alike. ‘Cognition mtb trails South Wales’ has already built new sections of mountain bike trail in Afan Forest Park and more will be created over the next few years aimed at families and beginners.

During the works there will be minimum disruption to the day to day running of both the Visitor Centre and the South Wales Miners’ Museum and every effort will be made to ensure they remain open. Updates will be available on [www.afanforestpark.co.uk](http://www.afanforestpark.co.uk)

‘The refurbishments to Afan Forest Park Visitor Centre will be enjoyed by local people and visitors and shows our continued support for the tourism industry in Neath Port Talbot.

“Spectacular views across the Afan Valley can be seen from the visitor centre and the splendid glass feature will bring a new chapter to its history “said Council Leader Cllr Ali Thomas.

Successful contractor Morganstone Ltd added ‘We are delighted to work with Neath Port Talbot Council on this exciting project to renovate such a great visitor attraction.’

## Notes to editors

The £3.2bn Structural Funds programmes 2007-2013 in Wales include the Convergence programmes for West Wales and the Valleys (the successor to Objective 1), and the Regional Competitiveness and Employment programmes for East Wales. The programmes are delivered through the Welsh Government and are aimed at creating employment opportunities and boosting economic growth.