

REPORT FROM POWYS COUNTY COUNCILLOR HEULWEN D HULME

SEPTEMBER 2019

POWYS TRADING STANDARDS – IT’S A SCAM

What is a scam – it is a fraud – criminal activity and financial crime. A scam can be a phone call, text message, letter, email, cold caller. REMEMBER THE SAYING – if it sounds to be good to be true it usually is.

For more information please contact: Powys Trading Standards 01874 623420, Citizens Advice Bureau 03454 040506, Age Cymru 01686 623707.

COLD CALLER FREE ZONES

Please remember there are some estates within Rhiwycynon Ward that are Cold Caller Free Zones. If you are within one of these zones and you have a cold caller at your door, please don't hesitate to tell them they are in a Cold Caller Free Zone and they should remove themselves of the estate immediately.

CONCESSIONARY BUS PASSES

You can renew your bus pass with effect from 11 September 2019. The old ones are valid until 31 December 2019. Please see link below to continue to enjoy free bus travel. <https://tfw.gov.wales/travelcards>

ESTYN REPORT

Estyn visited Powys' Education Department in July 2019. They interviewed heads of the service, CEO, head teachers, school governors and 2 County Councillors. They identified 6 areas of concern:

How does PCC challenge schools/head teachers on performance

How does PCC provide additional support to more able learners

How does PCC promote leadership to ensure we grow our own future head teachers.

How does PCC support behavioural needs

How does PCC support ALN's

How does PCC manage post 16 needs

PCC now have 4 weeks in which to compile an improvement plan. 3 former Head teachers are leading the team together with a former Estyn Inspector with extensive knowledge of ALN's. Estyn will revisit the department in November 2019.

CEO BLOG

Dr Caroline Turner reported that considerable work has been undertaken by all Heads of Services looking at budget savings and how we can transform departments to work more efficiently. Opportunities do exist to change the way we work. Colleagues and Councillors have been asked for their input and to highlight which services are of greatest importance within our communities.

CIW – Considerable work has taken place with both Adult and Children Services working collaboratively with external partners. i.e. Health Authority, Police. Substantial improvements are programmed over the winter months.

BREXIT UPDATE

Although the final Brexit outcome is unclear, we are working closely with the Welsh Government Association (WLGA), the Welsh Government and other partners to help Powys prepare for the potential effects of Brexit.

With the Brexit process ongoing, it is unclear what kind of effect it could have on Powys. The council's preparations aim to mitigate the potential effects of Brexit on our residents, communities and businesses.

The council's Brexit preparations include:

- The council's Leadership Group meeting regularly to plan for potential Brexit scenarios in Powys.
- Reviewing all council services to see how Brexit could affect them. Plans are being put in place to prepare for any impact on services.
- Attending the Dyfed Powys Local Resilience Forum. The Forum is preparing multi-agency solutions to challenges Brexit could pose.
- Providing information for staff who could be directly affected.
- Raising awareness of the EU Settlement Scheme among Powys' EU citizen population.
- Signposting businesses to advice on the potential effects of Brexit.

Further information on a range of issues can be found on the Welsh Government's website (link below) and any requests for information should be directed to the site. <https://gov.wales/preparing-wales>

Help us spread the word!

Welsh Government are offering extra support and advice to EU citizens currently living in Wales who are applying for settled status. <http://www.eusswales.com/>

EU national who has lived in the UK for 5 years or more? Click here to apply for settled status:

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

EU national who has lived in the UK for less than 5 years? Click here to apply for pre-settled status:

[Settled status](#)

MONTGOMERY FAMILY CRISIS CENTRE

MFFC offers support, safety and advice to anyone affected by domestic abuse. It reduces risk but changes lives.

Female Safehouses, Male Safehouse, Outreach and Community Support. S.T.A.R. (6 – 12 year olds)

Tel: 01686 629114 or www.familycrisis.co.uk

BUDGET SEMINAR – 25.09.2019

I attended a budget seminar which detailed the potential difficulties in 2020/21. The authority is very aware of demographic data with reducing school numbers and a reducing population. Each department continues to review their own budgets as approved and to demonstrate savings as identified. The authority must be able to test the robustness of departmental budgets and must be assured by Heads of Services that they can adhere to them. The next meeting will be on 10 October 2019 at Full Council when we will approve a council tax base figure to go forward to Welsh Government. Once again it is unlikely that we will know our final settlement until March next year.

POWYS TEACHING HEALTH BOARD PRESENTATION 26.09.2019

Carol Shillibeer CEO gave a detailed up date to the Health & Care Scrutiny Committee on health care provision that is available in our local District General Hospitals. It was very apparent that there is greater health care provision in South Powys in comparison to North Powys. CEO confirmed they are looking to address this as part of the North Powys Health Hub provision. The CEO also explained issues around the delayed transfer of patients in returning to their own homes and the work they are doing with social services and third party care providers. The committee emphasised the need to maximise the use of beds in our DGH's from RSH and PRH in order to free up beds.

PLANNING IN RHIWCYNON WARD

ABERHAFESP PLANNING

19/0533/FUL Erection of a dwelling, single garage, Lynwood, Aberhafesp SY16 3HN

DWYRIW PLANNING

18/0499/FUL – 6K Egg Production unit at Llawnt Uchaf, New Mills SY16 3NP

19/0995/OUT – Agricultural dwilelling, garage and assoc. works, Argae Fields, New Mills, SY16 3NG

19/1475/FUL – Egg production unit at Tyn Yr Wrta, Llanwyddelan, SY16 3BT

19/1501/HH – Erection of garden shed at Min Y Ffordd, Adfa. SY16 3DB

MANAFON PLANNING

19/1391/RES – Agricultural Workers dwelling at Caenant, Llanfair SY21 0DG

TREGYNON PLANNING

P/2018/0580 – 76K Poultry Rearing Shed, Red House, Tregynon

19/0814/RES – Reserve matters 5 dwellings, Tyn Y Ddol, Tregynon SY16 3PL

ABBREVIATIONS:

ALN – Additional Learning Needs CEO – Chief Executive Officer CIW – Care Inspectorate Wales

DGH – District General Hospital MFFC – Montgomery Family Crisis Centre PCC – Powys County Council

PRH – Telford Princess Royal Hospital RSH – Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.