

# REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HEULWEN D HULME FOR RHIWCYNON WARD AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT, HIGHWAYS TRANSPORT & RECYCLING.

APRIL 2020

## CABINET MEETING 3.4.20

On Friday 3 April, Powys County Council Cabinet invited Powys Teaching Health Board, 2 MP's, 2 AM's and Regional AM's to an online meeting to discuss Powys's response to Covid-19. The authority wanted to demonstrate how we plan to care and protect our residents. How we have invoked the Business Continuity Plan and the importance of working together alongside with Westminster and the Welsh Government.

Further cabinet meetings have taken place on a weekly basis. There are 12 main areas of discussion to ensure we are responding to the COVID – 19 situation.

1. Adult Services – Domiciliary Care and Residential Care
2. Childcare for key workers and vulnerable children
3. Homelessness
4. Public Protection
5. Support for Businesses
6. Refuse Collection
7. Emergency housing repairs and maintenance
8. Highways
9. Children Services
10. Cash Management
11. Customer Services and Communications
12. Corporate Support Services (including workforce and ICT)

## IMPROVEMENT & ASSURANCE BOARD UPDATE

**Children Social Services** - significant progress to date and over the next 6 months should see the council achieve its desired objectives. The creation of in house capacity for children homes will further support the service.

**Adult Social Services** – progress to date is positive and if improvement is sustained over next 6 -12 months we should achieve the council's objective for the service. Work is still to be done with the domiciliary care market.

**Education Services** – considerable work done to date, exception is the work done to develop education during the Covid-19 restrictions. However next 6 months the council need to turn the vision into reality which will mean school closures.

## SCHOOLS – MAJOR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Over £3 million will be spent on repairs and refurbishing schools in the County during this financial year. This is a significant investment by PCC to ensure that our schools and pre school settings are safe and fit for purpose for our learners.

## STORM DENNIS

The total cost to Powys County Council has been estimated at £1.5 million. The real figure is expected shortly once all the Heads of Service has completed their reports. For any claims for financial support that PCC submits to the Welsh Government on flooding, the council has to pay the first £517,909.

## CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Since the commencement of the Lock-down (23rd March) a substantial number of Powys residents have contacted CAB for advice:-

- 755 times by Telephone
- 108 “ by Post
- 36 “ by Email
- 30 “ by Webchat (accessible via the CA website)

The impact of Covid 19 has seen a change in residents having to claim welfare benefits and often for the first time. Other concerns have been around - getting food vouchers, applying for benefits, preventing eviction and reorganising

debt repayments longer term. Not surprisingly CAB have recorded financial gains in excess of £600,000 over the lock-down period.

## **ENVIRONMENT UPDATE – REFUSE, RECYCLING AND HIGHWAYS**

The residual, recycling and garden waste collections remain as normal and Highway operatives continue to support the recycling crews due to several operatives self-isolating due to pre-existing medical conditions. Household Waste and Recycling Centres remain closed following confirmation from Welsh Government that this is non-essential travel. All 22 authorities across are adopting the same approach.

Winter maintenance ceased on 19 April 2020. Emergency works will commence on 20 April and there are 7 Emergency response gangs of 2 man crews.

Most depots are operating above the minimum level and carrying out numerous essential activities on both Trunk and county road networks. Grave digging, weed control, gully emptying and some minor capital works need completing.

## **PLANNING IN RHIWCYNON WARD**

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- **ABERHAFESP PLANNING**
- 19/1825/FUL – 4 Shepherd Huts for holiday accommodation, Bronfynnon, Bwlch Y Ffridd. SY16 3JA
- 20/0157/REM – Section 73 Design and layout changes, Bwlchcahaidd, SY16 3JB
- 20/0430/VAR – Remove Section 106, 5 Tan Y Bwlch, Bwlch Y Ffridd SY16
- 20/0137/FUL – Extension to Poultry unit, Cwm, Bwlch Y Ffridd SY16 3JD
- 20/0514/FUL – Agricultural Building, Garreg Llwyd, Bwlch Y Ffridd SY16 3LW

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- **DWYRIW PLANNING**
- 19/1475/FUL – Egg production unit at Tyn Yr Wrtta, Llanwyddelan, SY16 3BT
- 19/2011/FUL – Erection of a manure store, Tyn Yr Wtra, Llanwyddelan, SY16 3BT
- 20/0453/FUL – Agricultural Building & Associated works, Plas Coch, Cefn Coch SY21 OAE

### **MANAFON PLANNING**

- 20/0587/FUL – Change of use of land to Equine, Hill View, New Mills, SY16 3NW

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- **TREGYNON PLANNING**
- P/2018/0580 – 76K Poultry Rearing Shed, Red House, Tregynon
- 19/1532/RES – Reserved matters for 4 affordable houses, Ty Perllan, Tregynon SY16 3EH
- 19/1633/REM – Section 73/ Conditions at Dolycoed, Tregynon SY16 3PY
- 19/1939/FUL – Change of use of Agriculture bldg/wedding venue, Gwaentrebeddau, Tregynon, SY16
- 20/0556/FUL – Re-use of abandoned dwelling & Associated works, Brynheulog, Tregynon SY16 3PP

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