

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

MAY 2020

CABINET/ EMT 7.5.20

This was the first full council meeting held since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and it was held remotely via 'Teams'. The Leader, Cllr Rosemarie Harris gave an opening speech and spoke of the 13 key areas that we as a Cabinet and the Executive Management Team (EMT) are involved on a daily and weekly reporting basis.

Each Cabinet member provided a detailed update on the service and addressed many challenging questions.

1. Adult Services – Domicillary 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)
13. Recovery

For my portfolio – Environment, Highways, Transport & Recycling, I confirmed that following a number of staff who are required to self-isolate due to pre-existing medical conditions, a number of the Highways staff have been re-deployed into the Waste services following the necessary training. Kerbside collections have been maintained at normal levels including the garden waste. The main area of concern was the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC's). The WG wants a Wales wide approach to the re-opening of these facilities. PCC have completed a lot of work on this already and that includes the safety and welfare of our staff at these facilities and that of residents using the sites.

CABINET 19.05.20 Highways – again due to reduced numbers of staff, we continue to carry out safety critical work for both the NMWTRA on the trunk roads and our Class A county roads. Surface dressing has also commenced as we only have a short window in which to do the work. Much work has been done on repairs to bridges and the highway infrastructure following damaged caused by Storm Dennis and with river levels low this has allowed the service to investigate bridge structures and carry out repairs.

CABINET 26.05.20 Cabinet/EMT – Senior officers brought to the cabinet a paper on Home to School Transport and this will be brought forward again as a working paper for members discussion before it goes before the Cabinet for approval.

Transforming Education – Cabinet were asked to approve the continuation of the programme during COVID – 19.

TEST, TRACE, PROTECT – PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHES IN POWYS

Strong partnership working between Powys Teaching Health Board and Powys County Council means that the county is well-placed to deliver the Welsh Government's new Test Trace Protect strategy.

The Test Trace Protect sets out the strategy for Wales for testing the public, tracing the spread of Coronavirus, helping to the country to relax lockdown restrictions. The strategy is due to be launched in Powys on 1 June 2020. It will work by:

- Identifying those who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, enabling them to be tested while isolating from wider family, friends and their community.
- Tracing those individuals who have been in close contact with the symptomatic person, requiring them to take precautions and self-isolate (for 14 days).
- Providing advice and guidance, particularly where the symptomatic individual or their contacts are vulnerable or at greater risk.

- Ensuring that if the individual tests negative and the symptoms are not due to coronavirus, individuals and their contacts can get back to their normal routines as soon as possible.

The system is due to go live on Monday 1 June 2020, PCC will take the lead on the contact tracing and PTHB in conjunction with WG and PHW will be responsible for the clinical testing strategy.

More information about the Welsh Government's Test, Trace Protect strategy is available from:

<https://gov.wales/test-trace-protect.html>

COVID-19 BUSINESS SUPPORT IN POWYS.

As at Friday 15th May 2020, the Income and Awards Team had paid out £42.487 million of Business Support Grant to Powys Businesses, we have received £38 million of funding from Welsh Government to date. In addition, a full years rate relief has been awarded to some businesses, this totals £10.5 million for Powys and we have received £5.2 million of funding from Welsh Government to date.

MOBILE PHONE MAST

I can confirm that an agreement has now been reached to obtain connectivity to the site and that this should mean that work can commence at this site. The provider/agent will provide me with further updates in due course.

PLANNING IN THE RHIW CYNON WARD

- 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 Wrta, Llanwyddelan, SY16 3BT
- 20/0453/FUL – Agricultural Building & Associated works, Plas Coch, Cefn Coch SY21 0AE

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 Dolycloed, Tregynon SY16 3PY
- 20/0556/FUL – Re-use of abandoned dwelling & Associated works, Brynheulog, Tregynon SY16 3PP
- 20/0748/FUL – Agricultural building for storage of feed/machinery, Lower Cwm Harri, Tregynon SY16 3ES

ABBREVIATIONS:

EMT – Executive Management Team

PCC – Powys County Council

PHW – Public Health Wales

PTHB – Powys Teaching Health Board

WG – Welsh Government

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