

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

NOVEMBER 2020

CABINET MEETINGS

The weekly meetings this month have covered the following areas: The future of Special Educational Needs/Additional Learning Needs, Children exploitation strategy and action plan, Financial Strategy and delivery of the School Transformation programme. Safe accommodation for Children and Young People with complex needs in Powys.

TRACC MEETING 5.11.20

The new Welsh Transport Strategy Consultation goes live on November 16th. This will cover Road, Rail, Ports and Aviation looking at reliability, infrastructure, mobility, technical, digital and economy. It will also look at social, environmental, economic and cultural values. The impact Covid – 19 has had in the short term – confidence to travel and the impact of lockdowns. The consultation will be available on the WG website.

6.11.20 BRIEFING TO MP's and AM's

The briefing provided an update from PTHB on the impact and numbers of Covid-19 cases in Powys. It detailed the pressures on our DGH's and then on our Community Hospitals and in some cases care homes. An update was provided on the Test Trace and Protect and how we have now recruited a team of operators on a fixed term contract. We are also supporting other authorities in Wales. Since March 2020 we have also seen a change in Adult Social Services and we now have a number of beds available in our care homes., however many are closed to new admissions. Children Services reported an increase in referrals to the service since Covid-19 and how important early intervention is a priority to keep families together. The Chief Executive spoke about the authorities Business Critical Activities and how we have identified other priority activities i.e. improvement and transformation activity and Economic recovery. This will be closely monitored in the event of large Covid 19 cases and if we need to undertake additional work as the EU transition period comes to an end. Each Cabinet member gave an update on their service. For my service, I spoke about the 12% increase in kerbside collections during Covid-19 due to people recycling more and working from home. In terms of Storm Dennis we are 75% through the repair programme following damage to roads and bridges. The winter service plan is now in force. Finally I am a strong advocate of growing our own and we have had some excellent results from 4 engineers from within the EDS who have passed their HNC's.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

In these difficult and restrictive times there was a good but limited attendance at both Tregynon and Llanllugan Churches. Both had the last post played by a local resident from within their respective parishes.

DIGITAL SERVICES TRANSFORMATION

A fantastic and informative presentation on how we are transforming our digital services interaction with our residents and customers. Elements of this has proved very favourable with our housing residents. We already have a considerable amount of thing technology available to us via Windows 10. This includes, magnifying documents, colour filters, translation, automated transcription, read aloud and speech recognition. We also have Browse Aloud which is a service beneficial to deaf and speech impaired residents. We are also looking to work with the British Sign Language Video presentation.

EMERGENCY PLANNING SEMINAR

An excellent presentation on how PCC respond to Emergency situations in the county and UK wide if the emergency warrants additional services and resources.

Category 1 = All 999 services, local health board, local authority and Natural Resources Wales.

Category 2 = Utility companies, Transport and Communications.

All areas can be stood up to meet demand or stood down.

There are also 2 committees within the authority, Gold Command which is mainly the Executive Management Team and provides the strategic planning of an emergency and also Silver Command which is mainly the Heads of Services where they action the actual services. Emergency plans are constantly reviewed based on experience and incidents within the Authority and those from outside the Authority. Examples of plans are: Health Pandemic, Animal Disease, Flooding, Industrial Accidents, Road Accidents.

THRIVING AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY – COVID RECOVERY

A briefing on Business Development grants and Freelance grants that are still available to businesses and self employed people. The 4th tranche of the Economic Resilience Fund is due for launch w/c 1st week in December. Isolation payments opened w/c 16.11.20. Town Centre Regeneration grants will close at the end of November. The gov/t Kickstart Scheme which offers 16 – 24 year olds currently on Universal Credit to work with DWP to obtain a minimum of 6 months work placements with local employers. A new Christmas campaign will be launched in December to support local shops and high streets in the run up towards Christmas. 5 new Public Protection Officers will start w/c 23 November to support businesses to operate as per the current COVID-19 regulations and legislation.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT SEMINAR.

A detailed briefing on housing/property enforcement relating to long term vacant properties, unoccupied but furnished, derelict or houses in poor condition. It covers the various Housing Acts and the various types of improvement notices and prohibition orders that can be issued. Also the LA's position on Compulsory Purchase Orders and voluntary acquisition.

FULL COUNCIL – AGM 26.11.2020

This was a virtual meeting and the AGM got underway by electing a new Chair of Powys and the Montgomeryshire nomination was Mr Gwynfor Thomas. The Vice-Chair is Mr Gareth Ratcliffe for Breconshire and Assistant Vice-Chair Mr Jon Williams from Radnorshire. A number of motions were debated including Puppy and kitten farms and the increase in breeding activities – other known as Lucy's Law. Another motion was about Gym's in lockdown and to embrace the victim support hate crime charter.

ABBREVIATIONS

DGH – District General Hospitals DWP – Department of Works and Pension EDS – Engineering Design Service
HNC – Higher National Certificates LA – Local Authority PCC – Powys County Council PTHB – Powys Teaching Health Board WG – Welsh Government.

PLANNING IN THE RHIWCYNON WARD

- ABERHAFESP PLANNING
- 20/0157/REM – Section 73 Design and layout changes, Bwlchcahaidd, SY16 3JB
- 20/1122/FUL – Building for pig rearing & associated works at Bank Farm, Aberhafesp, SY16 3LS
- 20/1894/VAR – Section 106, Ty Coed Afalue, Aberhafesp SY16 3JQ
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- DWYRIW PLANNING
- 20/1302/RES – Reserved matters for 5 dwellings at The Garage, Adfa, SY16 3DD
- 20/1296/RES – Reserved matters for 5 dwellings at Minffordd, Adfa SY16 3DB
- 20/1535/FUL – Agriculture buildings & Associated works Nant Y Wyllt, Cefn Coch SY21 0AY
- 20/1652/CLE – Certificate for use of existing caravan, Ffraithwen, Adfa, SY21 3DB

MANAFON PLANNING

- 20/1448/RES – Reserved matters for 5 dwellings, Tremhirnant SY21 8BX
- 20/1660/FUL – Pod development, Tyn Y Celyn, Llanfair Caereinion SY21 0DQ
- 20/1713/FUL – Remove 15m, replace with 23m mast Ffynant, Manafon SY21 8BX
- 20/1798/FUL – 6 Lodges & associated works, Belan Deg, New Mills, SY16 3NJ
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- TREGYNON PLANNING
- 19/1532/RES – Reserved matters for 4 affordable houses, Ty Perllan, Tregynon SY16 3EH
- 19/1633/REM – Section 73/ Conditions at Dolycod, Tregynon SY16 3PY
- 20/0556/FUL – Re-use of abandoned dwelling & Associated works, Brynheulog, Tregynon SY16 3PP

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