

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

APRIL 2021

COVID VACCINATION UPDATE

9 4 2021 – Total of 80,500 1st vaccines and 26300 2nd vaccines were completed.

SCRUTINY – ECO3 LA FLEX 12.4.21

It is scheme that allows residents to obtain energy efficiency grant funding towards improving insulation, central heating and windows. The scheme is managed by Warm Wales. Powys County Council submitted a paper to amend the eligibility criteria in order to open up the scheme to more residents of Powys. Please visit: www.warmwales.org.uk/powys

SCRUTINY BRIEFING 12.4.21

RE-OPENING LIBRARIES – with effect from 29 March the libraries opened up to limited browsing, access to computers is by appointment, 24/7 e books and borrow box will continue to be available and the Census support line has been well used. Going forward the service will continue to develop digital hubs, share on line resources with a view to loaning out iPads in the community. Welsh Government will direct the longer term approach to re-opening the libraries post Covid.

WASTE & RECYCLING – a briefing on Bulking & Processing facilities, Household Waste Recycling Centres, Commercial Recycling, Contracts for food waste and residual waste. Green garden waste collections. Awareness & Enforcement and meeting the statutory recycling targets for 20/21.

CABINET 13.4.21

To approve the current financial position to 28.2.2021.

TRANSFORMATION DELIVERY BOARD 13.4.21

An end of year review in line with Vision 2025. Year End reviews have been undertaken in the following areas.

Affordable Housing – 250 home to be built by 2025

Extra Care Accommodation – i.e. Neuadd Maldwyn, Welshpool and the complexities and fragility around grant funding and the impact these can have on high profile schemes.

Mid Wales Growth Deal – Heads of terms were completed Dec 2020 and we are currently putting strategic business cases forward so that projects can start next year.

Transforming Education – Significant progress during 20/21. Several consultations have taken place and the programme is heavily reliant on capital funding from both the Welsh Government and the Council.

Workforce Futures – March 20 saw a large element of re-deployment under business critical activities. Delays to apprenticeships due to remote working and has been extended on a year due to the pandemic.

Integrated Business Planning – projects placed on hold during 20/21. All services now have an Integrated Business Plan and will resume in April 2021.

North Powys Wellbeing Programme – placed on hold but needs both the Council and Powys Teaching Health Board to pick this up and support the acceleration of change via the Project Management Team.

Conclusion – new ways of working, offers many opportunities, reduce travel and improved attendance. However, mindful of staff burn out, staff wellbeing and pressure of the increased working pace.

VISION 2025 CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN ANNUAL UPDATE 15.4.2021

The council has published the annual update of its Vision 2025 Corporate Improvement Plan.

The annual update sees the addition of three Covid-19 recovery priorities to support the council and communities rebound from the pandemic. Covid-19 recovery priorities:

- Responding to Covid-19
- Keeping our Communities Safe and Resilient
- Running the Council

However, the council's well-being and equality objectives remain the same. Well-being objectives:

We will develop a vibrant **ECONOMY**. We will lead the way in providing effective, integrated **HEALTH AND CARE** in a rural environment. We will strengthen **LEARNING AND SKILLS**. We will support our **RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITIES**

PERFORMANCE PANEL – HOUSING, COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT 14.4.21

A briefing provided by the Head of Service detailing social housing needs including new developments, homeless needs, the re-opening of Theatres and Arts organisation, the use of the Council's Archives which is now providing services to Powys Teaching Health Board and the Trunk Road Agency. Libraries re-opening – please refer to the Scrutiny meeting 12.4.21. The cleaning and catering services provision that has been expanded to cover Covid 19 revised schedules.

CABINET WORKSHOP 15.04.21

A briefing on the Capital Programme and the need to prioritise our investment programme.

A Corporate Asset Review will be based on RICS guidelines and a full review of the authorities assets will be presented in September 21.

Community Renewal Fund is £3m and the launch date is 19.4.21 – 17.5.21. Further details can be obtained from CRF@powys.gov.uk

Levelling up Fund is designed to invest in the local infrastructure that will impact on our residents and communities and to invest in skills, local businesses, communities and employment.

PERFORMANCE PANEL REVIEW – PROPERTY, PLANNING & PUBLIC PROTECTION

A briefing by the Head of Service detailing Strategic Property which includes the disposal of corporate land and property, Farm Estates, Property Acquisition, Housing Compliance and re-opening our offices post Covid 19.

Planning – 1574 planning applications received 20/21, Enforcement, Local development control and development of local significance.

Public Protection – Health and Safety, Fraud, Trading Standards and Environmental Health Services.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 19.4.21

There has been a consultation on the future Newtown place plan. The consultation identified, possible part pedestrianisation, preserving the town's heritage, canal linkages, active travel schemes, public rights of way and future housing development land.

Shropshire/Powys County Council to have a statement of common ground and a duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities where there is a potential common interest.

PERFORMANCE PANEL – ADULT SERVICES 27.4.21

A briefing by the Head of Service on all the sectors that this service covers, Adults Social Services, Adult Safeguarding and protection, Occupational Therapy, Adult Disabilities, Care Homes, long term care, digital care options, remote monitoring and telecare. The officer highlighted how the service uses local intelligence data to respond to changing trends. i.e. residents now staying independent in their own homes rather than go into care homes. How we integrate with hospitals and care providers to ensure a safe return home after hospitalisation.

PERFORMANCE PANEL – CHILDRENS SERVICES 27.4.21

A presentation by the Head of Service on the range of services from early intervention, front door, assessments, our registered children's homes, care and support for children and youths in need, child protection and safeguarding. There is now a lot of focus on early intervention, working with children and families to support them. Ensuring we provide high quality placements to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people. It was excellent to hear that the service had delivered on the Care Inspectorate for Wales' expectations.

HIGHWAYS TRANSPORT & RECYCLING SERVICE IMPROVEMENT BOARD 28.4.21

The service will undergo a Management of Change Programme during the current financial year. This will focus on depots, personnel, round maximisation to take forward greater productivity and efficiencies. The need to ensure the budget savings are progressing very early on in the financial year.

MEETINGS ATTENDED IN APRIL = 36 AND ALL 4 COMMUNITY COUNCILS MET DURING THE MONTH VIA ZOOM

PLANNING IN THE RHIWCYNON WARD

- ABERHAFESP PLANNING
- 20/1122/FUL – Building for pig rearing & associated works at Bank Farm, Aberhafesp, SY16 3LS
- 21/0353/HH – Car Port & fuel store, Hazelrove, Aberhafesp SY16 3HT
- 21/0605/LBC – Listed building consent, East Wing, Aberhafesp Hall, SY16 3HJ

- 21/0706/LBC – Removal of glass/wood partition Flat 2 Aberhafesp Hall, SY16 3HJ
- 21/0656/FUL – Rural enterprise dwelling & Assoc works, Bank Farm, Aberhafesp SY16 3LS
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- DWYRIW PLANNING
- 20/1535/FUL – Agriculture buildings & Associated works Nant Y Wylt, Cefn Coch SY21 0AY
- 20/1891/RES – Reserved matters for Plot 2, Fronoleu, Adfa SY16 3DB
- 21/0322/OUT- 1 dwelling, garage and assoc. works at Argae Fields, New Mills SY16 3NG
- 21/0247/HH – Timber frame double garage & Store, Glanedyr Barn, New Mills SY16 3NR
- 21/0477/RES – Reserved matters at Cefn Bryn, Cefn Coch, SY21 0AE
- 21/0453/RES – Single dwelling & access at land adjoining the garage, Adfa SY16 3DD
- 21/0683/FUL – Agricultural dwelling and assoc works. Crugnant, Adfa SY16 3DF
- 21/0641/FUL – Sileage Pit, Bryncoch, Tregynon Sy16 3PX

MANAFON PLANNING

- 20/1448/RES – Reserved matters for 5 dwellings, Tremhirnant SY21 8BX
- 20/1798/FUL – 6 Lodges & associated works, Belan Deg, New Mills, SY16 3NJ
- 21/0392/FUL – Log cabin & assoc works, Lower House Farm, Manafon SY21 8BJ

TREGYNON PLANNING

- 19/1633/REM – Section 73/ Conditions at Dolycoed, Tregynon SY16 3PY
- 20/0556/FUL – Re-use of abandoned dwelling & Associated works, Brynheulog, Tregynon SY16 3PP
- 21/0636/HH – Extension, alteration & assoc works, Brynwelon, Tregynon SY16 3EU

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