

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

FEBRUARY 2021

## EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM 2.2.21

Updates provided on Corporate Improvement Plan, Transformation in terms of affordable housing, Mid Wales Growth Deal, Flood Alleviation, Learning and Skills including Bi-lingual all through school at Machynlleth, Special Education Needs and Additional Learning Needs.

### 9.2.21

Updates were provided on Compliance of the housing and commercial property regarding compliance testing i.e. Fixed electrical testing, Fire Safety and Fire Risk Assessments, Legionella. Considerable progress has been made however delays are hampered by gaining access to properties due to Covid-19. The rents on housing will increase by 1.5% which will be the lowest rise in the last 3 years. Childrens Services – now has an early help and intervention team in place to try and support families in crisis. This is in the format of a Family Information Service to Family Coordinators to Family Support Team and on to a Social Worker if that level is required.

### 23.2.21

Updates on Secondary School Improvement Strategy with a look at key stage 3 and for improvement in literacy, numeracy and digital. A report on looked after children and ensuring a joined up approach between Social Care, Education and Corporate Parenting. Supporting 16+ accommodation in Powys and to ensure we can provide appropriate accommodation and support into adult life.

## MID WALES GROWTH DEAL 3.2.21

The deal is moving at pace to identify projects in the following workstreams: Digital, Tourism, Energy, Premises, Transport, Skills and Employment, Food & Agriculture, Research & Innovation.

## TRANSPORT & RAILWAY BOARD 4.2.21

Trunk road improvements are planned at 4 pinch points in Powys. A470 Caersws Level Crossing Junction creation of a roundabout, A470 at Llanidloes and Llangurig will see the installing of an acceleration lane off existing roundabouts and two new roundabouts on A470 Pont Y Bat near Llyswen. The schemes are out for consultation w/c 8.2.21 and work on these schemes will start in the winter of 21/22.

## CABINET 9.2.21

**School Closures** The cabinet approved to commence the statutory public consultations to close the following schools. Castle Caereinion Primary School, Churchstoke Primary School, Llanbedr Primary School, Llanfihangel Rhydithon Primary School.

**Audit Wales Report** - Three areas of improvement had been identified by Audit Wales:

The Council should build on and develop its ongoing engagement with stakeholders.

For the Council to aim to evaluate all projects and consider ways to demonstrate the impact the projects are having on local residents and communities in Powys.

The Council should build on any learning from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS FOR ESTATE AGENTS AND LETTING AGENCIES 12.2.21

PCC have been the lead enforcement authority for both estate agents and letting agencies since 2014. When PCC were awarded the contract it was quite unprecedented for a rural Welsh authority to receive such a large and play such a pivotal role in such a regulated service. The work takes them right across the UK and they work with multi discipline partners such as housing officers, Environmental Health and the Private Sector Housing agencies.

## BRINGING BROADBAND FIBRE TO RHIWCYNON WARD

The Adfa, Cefn Coch, Dwyriw and Manafon areas of Rhiwcynon Ward have been selected to be part of an exciting Arwain supported project to bring high speed broadband to rural areas. They will be working with ground-breaking company Broadway Partners, who specialise in this work, as well as newly appointed Broadband Officer for Powys County Council, Reece Simmons. The work is made possible by the Government's Rural Gigabit broadband voucher scheme. The Arwain project is to create a toolkit to help other communities successfully go through this process. Arwain is the Welsh Government and EU "LEADER" fund for innovative community led projects for rural areas.

*Louise Nicholson, RDP Programme Officer for Arwain and Reece Simmons, Community Broadband Officer for Powys County Council say "We are delighted to be working with the Rhiwcyron Ward as one of the areas for this innovative pilot, which will go on to create a toolkit that will benefit any community which wants to improve their broadband"*

A project group is being set up and will meet late February to agree the area the pilot is able to cover. Anyone within the project area who does not currently receive 100mps broadband is strongly encouraged to participate to support their community, as the vouchers are pooled to enable those closer to the current broadband to subsidise those much further away who would otherwise be too costly to connect. There is no upfront cost, just a one year contract for broadband with Broadway Partners, starting at £19.99 per month. Faster broadband not only makes activities like Zoom calling, streaming TV programmes, and running a business far easier, it also adds the property price as it is a desirable asset for future owners. As one resident said – "this is a once in a lifetime opportunity".

For more information contact Reece Simmons - [reece.simmons@powy.gov.uk](mailto:reece.simmons@powy.gov.uk).

### **VACCINATION UPDATE**

Powys Teach Health Board have now completed in excess of 50,000 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> course of vaccinations started week commencing 15 February. Powys really have lead the way in terms of numbers of residents and this is due to our aged population. However there is still concern about transmission which has been identified to two main areas: Household transmission and Community Transmission e.g. workplaces. So please continue to keep your distance, use a face mask and wash your hands frequently.

### **FULL COUNCIL 25 FEBRUARY 21**

The Council unanimously approved the Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2021-2026 and draft 2021-2022 Budget at 2.9% and the Capital Programme for 2021-2031.

### **PLANNING IN THE RHIWCYNON WARD**

- ABERHAFESP PLANNING
- 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
- 20/2109/FUL – 2 Holiday lodges, land adj to Bethel Chapel SY16 3JE
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- DWYRIW PLANNING
- 20/1296/RES – Reserved matters for 5 dwellings at land adjacent to Minffordd, Adfa SY16 3DB
- 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
- 21/0129/RES – 1 dwelling, Plas Coch, Cefn Coch, SY21 0AE
- 21/0322/OUT- 1 dwelling, garage and assoc. works at Argae Fields, New Mills SY16 3NG

#### **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**

- 19/1633/REM – Section 73/ Conditions at Dolycod, Tregynon SY16 3PY
- 20/0556/FUL – Re-use of abandoned dwelling & Associated works, Brynheulog, Tregynon SY16 3PP
- 20/2126/FUL – Erection of a dwelling, Sunnybank, Tregynon, SY16 3EH
- 20/0057/VAR – Section 106 removal, 14 Parc Hafod, Tregynon SY16 3EQ

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