

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

JANUARY 2021

## EDUCATION SEMINAR

Following an Estyn Improvement Conference in November 2020, 5 areas of improvement were identified.

1. Improve skills in secondary schools and especially the performance of more able learners. Working with schools to embrace the challenges. 99 maths pupils are part of a bespoke masterclass in Maths.
2. Improve the evaluation, planning and co-ordination of provision for learners with special educational needs and other pupils who may require extra support.
3. Improve the consistency and impact of senior leaders in improving the quality of education services and continue to strengthen the rigour, scrutiny and challenge about the performance of the authority's services.
4. Ensure that the organisation of provision for non-maintained post-16, Welsh medium education and secondary education meets the needs of the children and young people in Powys.
5. Continue to improve the quality of financial management in schools and take appropriate actions to address schools with significant deficit budget.

A further monitoring visit is scheduled for April 2021 and November 2021.

## MID WALES GROWTH DEAL – COUNCILLORS UPDATE 18.1.21

A joint deal with Ceredigion County Council and Powys County Council supported by an agreement with the UK and Welsh Government. The Heads of Terms was signed by both governments in December 2020 and will be based on the 'Strategy'. It is a political agreement with UK and WG and will receive a total of £110m funding over 15 years. If you wish to read about the Heads of Terms Agreement it can be read on

[www.growingmid.wales](http://www.growingmid.wales)

The main tasks ahead are:

Resourcing – a team to be established who will manage the deal.

Governance – relates to the inter authority agreement.

Engagement & Communications – to communicate opportunities of the deal across the region.

Portfolio Development – to set out the potential programmes and projects that the deal can focus on.

The workstreams are:

Agriculture, Food/ Drink – to strengthen the Agricultural sector in food production to support economic growth.

Research & Innovation – research & development to seek opportunities to catapult regional growth.

Tourism – to seize opportunities for Mid Wales.

Energy – to achieve net zero carbon energy systems that can deliver social and economic benefits.

Supporting Enterprises – to ensure resilience and ensure our property infrastructure is available.

Digital – to grow the regional digital infrastructure.

Transport – to include the local network and infrastructure

Skills & Employment – ensure an effective labour market, supply of skills and an effective workforce to meet the employment demands of the region.

## CENSUS 2021

The next census is 21 March 2021. This year it will either be a paper questionnaire or a digital questionnaire.

The decision as to who gets what has already been made. The preferred option is for the Census to be completed digitally as this will provide a speedier analysis of data and it can be completed anytime/anywhere.

Support centres will be going live in March throughout the County. I appreciate not everyone has a computer/laptop so in order to change it is best to wait to see what arrives on your doorstep in early March and if you would prefer an alternative method then you will be able to contact a freephone number on the form. But do not hesitate to get in touch with me. Telephone numbers below.

## CANARY CARE SYSTEM

The Canary Care system is a movement monitoring system that can be installed in a person's home in order for them to remain living in their property and independent. You do not need a landline or WiFi and it works off a mobile phone signal in your area. Sensors are placed near doors and senses when the resident moves from one room to another. On external doors it notes when a door was opened and closed. It can also monitor room temperature so that if you think your loved one does not have the heating on high enough then you can phone them and advise them to turn the heating up. This is available free of charge from Powys County Council.

### **CABINET 12.1.21 and 26.1.21**

The Cabinet approved the consultation for Llanfair Caereinion to an all through bi-lingual school and to approve the contract for a new school to be built in Welshpool as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century schools programme.

The Cabinet approved the consultation to move Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon, Trefeglwys to a Welsh Medium School. Also approved was the consultation for the possible closure of Mount Street Infants & Junior School and Cradoc Primary School. We agreed the consultation on the new Local Government & Elections (Wales) Bill which is due to receive Royal Assent imminently and this will be an annual report on the performance of the local authority and the requirement to act upon WG assessments and recommendations. The cabinet agreed to the transfer of Neuadd Maldwyn to Clwyd Alyn for the renovation of the building into 62 self contained independent living apartments.

### **CABINET/EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM.**

Received briefings on Education Transformation Programme including Post 16 education in Powys, Workforce Planning, Covid 19 vaccination roll out and welfare calls, HOWPS update and Bus Emergency Scheme which has been set up to protect the loss of income due to a drop in passenger numbers.

### **SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY COMMITTEE**

Unemployment in Powys to end of December 20 stands at 3290 which is an increase of 2.6% on last year. Welsh average is 5.8%. Business investment in Powys is looking strong with a real focus on Welshpool and Newtown and close working links with Welsh Government and Dept. of Works and Pension. A lot of interest in the former Laura Ashley units, Nidec in Newtown have brought a production line back in house from Asia and created 40+ jobs.

### **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
- 20/1652/CLE – Certificate for use of existing caravan, Ffraithwen, Adfa, SY21 3DB
- 20/1891/RES – Reserved matters for Plot 2, Fronoleu, Adfa SY16 3DB
- 20/2003/FUL – Erection of replacement dwelling & associated works, Pant Farm, Adfa, SY16 3DF

#### **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 Dolycoed, Tregynon SY16 3PY
- 20/0556/FUL – Re-use of abandoned dwelling & Associated works, Brynheulog, Tregynon SY16 3PP
- 20/2100/TRE – Arboricultural work on trees at The Old School, Tregynon, SY16 3EH
- 20/2108/HH – Extension to 1<sup>st</sup> floor 3 Tan Y Eglwys, Tregynon SY16 3EZ
- 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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