

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

**NOVEMBER 2021**

### **WELSH STRATEGIC MIGRATION PARTNERSHIP**

The asylum dispersal is funded by the Home Office to support the arrangement to provide homes to asylum seekers and refugee settlers. As at August 2021 2721 asylum seekers are provided with homes in Wales. Powys County Council has committed to opening discussion with the Home Office to provide 6 properties in the first 12 months of a contract. It will include a multi agency approach i.e. PCC, Police, Education Services and Social Services. The homes will come from the private rental market.

### **CABINET/EMT 2.11.21**

A briefing on accommodation in Powys for Asylum Seekers. The financial forecast and capital forecast as at 30.9.21 to the end of quarter 2. Each head of service provided a summary of the current financial pressures, cost underspends, cost reductions and proposed mitigation for quarter 3 and 4.

#### **9.11.21**

The cabinet resolved to receive the Consultation Report in respect of closing Llanbedr C. in W. School. To approve the publication of a statutory notice to close Llanbedr C. in W. School from the 31st August 2022, with pupils to attend their nearest alternative schools.

#### **16.11.21**

A briefing prior to Cabinet next week on the Youth Justice Service and the improvements to date prior to a Her Majesty Inspectorate of Probation visit. The annual report from the Director of Social Services for 20/21. The Welsh Government 21<sup>st</sup> Century review. An update from the Director of Education of the recent Estyn monitoring visit and the report is due w/c 22.11.21.

#### **23.11.21**

The cabinet approved the closure of Castle Caereinion School as of 31.8.22. They agreed to go out for further consultation on Churchstoke Primary School due to complexed issues and local concerns. We received an update on the Council's performance measures for quarter 2 and the Strategic Risk Register for quarter 2. The cabinet also heard about the unprecedented Children Services budget pressures due to the number of children now entering the service. The Chief Executive also present the annual report on Social Services.

### **COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND 3.11.21**

Powys County Council have been successful in obtaining the following funds worth £2.679m

- Green Heart of Wales/Zero Carbon Mid Wales - £523,962 (CAT – training)
- Powys County Council - Go Green To Get Clean. - £408,000 (electric road sweepers)
- Powys Localities Initiative - £428,232 (PAVO – to support small schemes and their members)
- Montgomery Canal restoration feasibility study - £336,666 (funding where CAPEX was less appropriate)
- Powys Community Skills Initiative - £764,863 (PCC led by multi party approach to enhance skills)
- Enterprise Powys - £217,389 (training for start ups/entrepreneurs x100)

### **RESTORING MONTGOMERY CANAL 5.11.21**

I attended the meeting together with 4 other representatives from PCC. It was well attended by representatives from Montgomery Canal Partnership, Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust, Newtown Town Council, Canal & River Trust, Friends of Montgomery Canal, Shropshire Union Canal,

Heulwen Trust, NRW, Hafren Dyfrdwy, Montgomery Wildlife Trust, PCC and the Inland Waterways Association. Craig Williams MP and Russel George AM were also in attendance.

The area of discussion was about restoring the Montgomery Canal to Newtown. There was a real desire to achieve this with excellent cross party discussions but this is many years away. Craig Williams confirmed that the Levelling Up Funding is for Phase 3, Llanymynech to Arddleen which will include 2 new minor bridges and 3 new nature reserves.

#### **TRACC 8.11.21**

An update from Welsh Government on 20mph zones within our communities. Pavement parking – the WG policy needs to align to the UK government policy. Regional transport plans with cross border committees working together.

An update from Transport for Wales on network design for national, regional and local bus services. There has been a delay in the 1 train per hour on the Aberystwyth to Birmingham railway line to May 2024. The committee noted that an urban bus service is not fit for purpose in a rural and remote county like Powys.

#### **MEMBER DEVELOPMENT 12.11.21**

A briefing to full council on Economic Development within the authority. This included Mid Wales Growth Deal a joint venture with Ceredigion County Council, UK Governments Levelling Up Funding of which Powys received £13,937,565 for Montgomery Canal and £6,950,000 towards Brecon & Radnor Developments. Community Renewal Funding (See above) Powys Covid Recovery Fund with access to £1m for communities and projects across the county. Global Centre for Rail Excellence.

#### **REMEMBERANCE SUNDAY**

I attended the Tregynon service.

#### **CORPORATE ANTI FRAUD TEAM.**

The team was established in 2015 and since its inception it has found £2,348,195 in recoverable overpayments and £3,007,849 in income gains for services through the removal of incorrect or fraudulent claims.

#### **RURAL BROADBAND**

A meeting took place on 24 November to confirm that Dwyriw and Manafon Broadway Broadband package has now received the necessary funding. The next stage will be an initial survey by Broadway and then a more detailed survey will be carried out by Contractors. A public meeting will be held in Adfa early next year to brief residents on the planned roll out of the scheme.

#### **ROYAL WELSH WINTER FAIR**

In the morning there was a presentation on Powys County Council's Climate Vision and Strategy and our vision for a healthy and sustainable net carbon Powys. In the evening there was a Covid Heroes Reception to acknowledge our many residents who have volunteered within their communities since the Covid 19 outbreak. This was truly humbling.

Total number of meetings attended = 36 All 4 community councils met either virtually or face to face.

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

- ABERHAFESP PLANNING
- 20/1122/FUL – Building for pig rearing & associated works at Bank Farm, Aberhafesp, SY16 3LS

- 21/1295/FUL – Steel portal bldg to cover manure store. Cwm, Bwlch Y Ffridd, SY16 3JD
- 21/1757/VAR – Removal of Section 106. Ty Newydd, Glanynant, Aberhafesp SY16 3HB.
- 
- DWYRIW PLANNING
- 21/0322/OUT- 1 dwelling, garage and assoc. works at Argae Fields, New Mills SY16 3NG
- 21/0453/RES – Single dwelling & access at land adjoining the garage, Adfa SY16 3DD
- 21/1518/FUL – Change of use of land for siting 2 Shepherd Huts. B. Lloyd SY16 3NS
- 21/1787/FUL – Vehicular access to serve dwelling, Plot 6, land adjacent to The Garage, Adfa SY16 3DD

MANAFON PLANNING

- 21/1587/RES – Reserved matters for 5 dwellings SW Tremhirnant, SY21 8BX
- 21/2082/FUL – Erection of a dwelling at Upper Glyn, Manafon SY21 8BS
- 

TREGYNON PLANNING

- 19/1633/REM – Section 73/ Conditions at Dolycoed, Tregynon SY16 3PY
- 21/1741/HH – Single storey extension, 3 Tan Y Eglwys, Tregynon SY16 3EZ (re-submitted)
- 21/1745/HH – Dropped kerb (retrospective) Tithe Barn, Tregynon, SY16 3EL

Contact details: [cllr.heulwen.hulme@powys.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.heulwen.hulme@powys.gov.uk) 01686 650182 or 07976 927487