

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

SEPTEMBER 2021

HEART OF WALES PROPERTY SERVICES.

Since the Cabinet of Powys County Council (PCC) took the decision to return the services and staff currently managed by Heart of Wales Property Services (HoWPS) to a direct delivery model within the Council, it may appear that things have gone very quiet, but we can assure you that a great deal of work is happening behind the scenes. Project teams and Boards have been set up to ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible. Within Powys we are indeed looking forward to that point in time - in less than 11 months, when HoWPS will be working as part of the local authority. As you may already be aware, all day-to-day activities and other matters will continue to be managed by HoWPS but when it is right to do so, you will be hearing more from us, especially as the implementation day in July 2022, approaches.

ECONOMY, RESIDENTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 6.9.21

A scrutiny meeting to review Child Poverty in Powys with 23% Welsh population live on incomes below the poverty line. In Rhiwcyonon Ward there is 25% of the population in Child Poverty and it was felt that free school meals must be promoted more. Cllr. Beverly Baynham gave an update on apprenticeships in Powys and how we encourage up skilling staff across all sectors of the authority. I gave a presentation on the Waste and Recycling Service as at 31 July. Our target for this year is 65% and this will be made up of kerbside collections, Household Waste Recycling Centres, Garden Waste, Trade Waste and local bring sites (cardboard skips).

CABINET/EMT 7.7.21

A briefing on future cabinet reports so that the cabinet can debate them in advance to ensure there is sufficient detail for a public meeting.

13.9.21 – A briefing on Active Travel and the Welsh Government Transport Strategy. Active travel is defined as a journey made on foot or cycle for purposes of education, work or shopping and of a distance of up to 5 miles.

SITE VISITS

10.9.21 – Site Visit to Pen Y Cae regarding speeding and speed limits.

13.9.21 – Site visit to Hay on Wye – Active travel scheme – forward planning.

CABINET 14.9.21

- The cabinet was asked to approve the following: To approve the gradual language change at Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon to create a Welsh medium school with effect from September 2022.
- To commence the next stage of the Local Development Plan and to approve the Powys Local Development Plan annual report to Welsh Government.
- To receive a briefing document on Corporate Safeguarding 6 monthly update and to note modern day slavery, ethical employment, Home Educated visits and we now have 111 new registrations. Also to note that the Authority is awaiting a software update on the IT Care Director system which is used by Social Services across Wales and a number of health boards.
- The cabinet agreed to join the Welsh Education Programme in September 2020 and Cabinet was asked to approve the request of another 5 education establishments to join the programme under the same terms and governance.

CHILDREN SERVICES AND NEW WAYS OF WORKING BRIEFING 14.9.21

A cabinet workshop to advise on the increase in demand for children requiring local authority intervention and the demand for adoption families, foster carers, in house fostering, residential care and outside of county care due to concerns and the need for specialist care packages.

A briefing on NWOW was presented whereby the authority will see a blend of office based working and home working.

RHIWCYNON BROADBAND.

A meeting took place on 14.9.21. Registrations of interest have increased to 177. The number is expected to increase once funding is approved and momentum builds. An update has been sent to residents who have registered their interest. Residents are also asking about contracts. There is currently no timescale as to when DCMS will approve the project. The next meeting is w/c 25.10.21.

SILENT 999 CALLS.

If you are in danger but can't talk on the phone, you should still call 999 and follow these instructions: Calling from a mobile: If you don't speak or answer questions, press 55 when prompted and your call will be transferred to the police. Pressing 55 only works on mobiles and doesn't allow the police to track your location. If you don't press 55 your call will be ended. Calling from a Landline: If you don't speak or answer questions and the operator can only hear background noise, they'll transfer your call to the police. If you replace the handset, the landline may remain connected for 45 seconds in case you pick it up again. Calling 999 from a landline automatically gives the police information about your location.

RURAL POLICE UPDATE

A meeting took place 16.9.2021. Between 20.5.21 – 12.9.21 48 incidents have been reported from the Rhiwcynon Ward. The calls range from harassment, theft, suspected criminal activities, road traffic collisions and criminal damage. The Police have prioritized the following areas over the coming months – monitor speed in rural areas, to educate members of the public not to park on pavements or obstruct dropped kerbs and to monitor anti social behaviour in all areas.

CABINET 21.9.21

The cabinet was asked to support the proposed consultation for **Welsh Education Strategic Plan 2022 – 2032**. The Plan is based on 7 Outcomes which reflect a learner's education journey, and which are consistent with the policy areas of Cymraeg 2050 and Education in Wales: These are as follows: **Outcome 1:** More nursery children / three year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh **Outcome 2:** More reception class children / five year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh **Outcome 3:** More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another **Outcome 4:** More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh **Outcome 5:** More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school **Outcome 6:** An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 Page 4 **Outcome 7:** Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh Consultation.

New Ways of Working – for the last 18 months we have all worked mainly from home but the need to return to the office is now at the forefront of discussion. Cabinet approved the implementation with effect from October 2021 with each service moving to adopt at a time that suits its needs and the need of Powys residents.

GROWING MID WALES BOARD 21.9.21

The Growing Mid Wales Board has thanked representatives from the private sector for their contribution towards the development of the Mid Wales Growth Deal bid, which is set to see £110m invested by Welsh and UK Governments in the region. The Economic Strategy Group was brought together to help shape the Vision for Growing Mid Wales strategy document, published in May 2020. This has set out the context and roadmap to the Mid Wales Growth Deal – a catalyst to economic recovery and growth in the region's economy, with the aim of supporting job creation and increasing productivity and wider societal and environmental ambitions. The Mid Wales Growth Deal has passed a significant milestone this week with the approval of the draft Portfolio Business Case to be submitted to UK and Welsh Governments.

FULL COUNCIL 23.9.21

Full Council appointed a new Director of Education, Lynette Lovell.

PUBLIC HEALTH WALES

It is that time of year again, please plan ahead and book your flu vaccine in plenty of time.

CABINET 28.9.21

The Cabinet approved the publication of a statutory notice to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon County Primary School with effect from 31.8.22 and pupils to attend their nearest alternative school.

The Cabinet to consider the Mid Wales Growth Deal – Portfolio Business Case to go forward to Welsh Government and Westminster.

Total number of meetings attended = 28 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
- 21/0605/LBC – Listed building consent, East Wing, Aberhafesp Hall, SY16 3HJ
- 21/1094/HH – Enlargement of single garage to double garage, Haulfryn, 1 Hillcrest, Aberhafesp SY16 3HL
- 21/1188/FUL – Erection of an agricultural bldg. and vehicular access, Land adj. Bethel Chapel, Aberhafesp SY16
- 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.
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- 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
- 21/1182/HH – Extension & Alterations at Ael Y Bryn, Cefn Coch, SY21 0ED
- 21/1518/FUL – Change of use of land for siting 2 Shepherd Huts. B. Lloyd SY16 3NS
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- MANAFON PLANNING
- 20/1448/RES – Reserved matters for 5 dwellings, Tremhirnant SY21 8BX
- 21/0392/FUL – Log cabin & assoc works, Lower House Farm, Manafon SY21 8BJ
- 21/1587/RES – Reserved matters for 5 dwellings SW Tremhirnant, SY21 8BX
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- TREGYNON PLANNING
- 19/1633/REM – Section 73/ Conditions at Dolycoed, Tregynon SY16 3PY
- 21/0746/REM – Remove Section 73 & conditions, Old Sawmills, Tregynon SY16 3PL
- 21/1277/FUL – Retrospective planning for 2 dwellings, septic tank and assoc. works, Upper Fachwen, Tregynon SY16 3EU
- 21/1497/FUL – erection 4 bed dwelling for holiday let, Old Gerizim, Tregynon SY16 3PU

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