

## **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HEULWEN HULME – RHIWCYNON WARD**

### **FEBRUARY 2023**

#### **POWYS CHILD POVERTY TASK FORCE CONFERENCE**

Average Powys household income £33458  
4675 Powys households are in absolute poverty  
33149 Powys households are below average  
22162 Powys households are above poverty  
Powys is 6<sup>th</sup> most expensive household prices in Wales

#### **BEVAN FOUNDATION – WALES STATISTICS**

This a think tank to envelop change and the impact on children especially since post covid, lost of living crisis and inflation,

Since last October 23% have borrowed money and 13% are in arrears with bills.

It has been noted that people in receipt of benefits, disabled people, renters, households with children and carers are the most affected.

31% of children in Wales were living in poverty pre Covid which is approximately 190,000 children – this covers no heating in the home, unable to afford essential clothing and skipping meals. The health impact is both negative in terms of physical and mental health.

#### **CHILDREN IN WALES**

Provided details on an annual child and family poverty survey 2022

Debt is most common in utility bills and rent to both private and social landlords, credit cards and council tax because the money is going on food.

Many families are still not claiming what they are entitled to. The reasons for this are: do not have the technology, too difficult to claim and don't know who to ask.

Children who are in the education system and living in poverty often struggle with tiredness, hunger, isolation, inability to concentrate, bullying, inequality, mental health issues, increase stress and anxiety and increased absenteeism.

#### **CITIZEN ADVICE BUREAU**

April – Dec last year 11600 requests for advice and ongoing support

Financial outcomes include: Income benefit gains £1.8m, Debt Management £2.1m, Debt written off £333k.

CAB work with 45 formal referral partners and continue to provide CAB advisors with training in debt management and energy advice as the needs for advice changes.

They provide 3 levels of advice services:

- Specialist debt advice
- Specialist Welfare Benefits Advice
- Specialist Energy Advice which are all regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

#### **CONTACT DETAILS.**

#### **POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL MONEY ADVICE SERVICE**

Support 600+ customers each year. They continue to work with the Ukrainian refugees and Macmillan for cancer pathways referrals. Last year they made £1.75m financial gains for residents.

#### **LOOK AT THE PRESENTATION AGAIN. CONTACT DETAILS.**

#### **COUNCIL TAX**

A balanced budget which will see investment for key services, including schools, has been approved.

Despite unprecedented economic conditions, the Full Council of Powys County Council has today (Thursday, February 23) approved spending plans of more than £326million for 2023-2024.

The spending plans will be financed by a combination of funding from the Welsh Government and a below inflation increase in Council Tax.

The 5% increase in Council Tax, which is split between 1.2% for the Fire Authority Levy and 3.8% for the county council, will cost the average band D Council Tax payer an extra £1.40 a week. Band D properties will now be charged £1524.45 Council Tax.

## PLANNING IN THE RHIWCYNON WARD

- ABERHAFESP PLANNING
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  - DWYRIW PLANNING
  - BOC/20/0242 – Pavement at Plas Coch, Ardwyn, Dolwar Fach, Awel Las, Cefn Coch SY21 0AE
  - BOC/22/0184 – Pavement at Cyntaf ac Olaf, Penymynedd, Delfryn, golygfa Uchel, Cefn Coch SY21 0AE
  - 22/2175/FUL – Removal of existing wind turbine and installation of new wind turbine at land west of Nant Wylt, Cefn Coch.
  - 22/2070/AGR – Erector of portal shed for storage of fodder/machinery, Argae Fields, New Mills SY16 3NG
  - 22/2217/FUL – Lateral extension to extraction area at Tan Y Foel Quarry, Cefn Coch, SY21 0AN
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  - MANAFON PLANNING
  - OPDE/22/0160 – Brynteg, New Mills, SY16 3NQ – **case closed but re-opened.**
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  - TREGYNON PLANNING
  - 19/1633/REM – Section 73 Conditions at Dolycoed, Tregynon SY16 3PY
  - 22/0760/RES – Reserved matters for land opposite Llys Cynon, Tregynon SY16 3EJ
  - 23/0165/HH – Demolition of conservatory & extension to rear of 1 Llys Melyn, Tregynon SY16 3EE
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