

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HEULWEN D HULME – RHIWCYNON WARD

OCTOBER 2023

TECHNOLOGY CARE PROGRAMME

Powys County Council and partners Aberystwyth University have been selected as one of 10 teams taking part in an exciting new £2m innovative technology care programme. Managed by the Health Foundation, the [Tech for Better Care](#) programme is supporting 10 teams from across the UK to develop, test and pilot promising new ideas and approaches to care over approximately 18 months.

The successful teams will be asked to develop approaches to care that focus on the caring and enabling relationships needed between those who deliver care and those who receive care, to help reduce the pressure on the UK care system. Working with the departments of Psychology and Computer Science at Aberystwyth University, and which feature the Centre for Excellence in Rural Health and the Centre for Ageing and Dementia Research, the Powys project will explore how technology can support the Council's Home Support Service to foster care circles in Powys and provide enhanced relational and proactive support. It will involve identifying or creating Internet of Things sensors that provide meaningful data to inform and support a person's care, and development of an application to store and process the data. The project will also draw on a new state of the art home currently being built at Aberystwyth University.

Smart Home Lab, a fully functioning and connected bungalow with its own companion cat called 'Pixel', is being developed to improve the quality of life for older people or those with health conditions. There, researchers will be able to test assisted living technology, carry out remote check-ups by GPs and other healthcare professionals, and explore how robots and augmented reality can assist people within the home.

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A meeting of the full council was held on 3 October to appoint a new Chief Executive. The successful candidate was Mrs Emma Palmer. Emma has worked in Powys County Council since 1999 and has a very broad knowledge of all the service sectors within the authority.

YOUNG FARMERS OF POWYS – BRIEFING

A presentation from 5 members of the movement from Montgomeryshire/Radnorshire and Brecknock. There are 2000 members of the movement and 45 clubs. They offer a fantastic learning platform for the young people of Powys. This includes County Quizzes, Eisteddfod, Field Days, Public Speaking, Stock Judging days, February festivals and County Rallies. They have developed a Connected Communities ethos where by they look at rural isolation, rural sustainability and skills, health and wellbeing, animal management skills and improved employability.

WASTE & RECYCLING BRIEFING 9.10.23

I attended the Abermule Recycling Centre which has been fully operational since April 2023. The facility is well managed with bulking collections taking place weekly for all our kerbside collections. Powys is currently working towards the Welsh Government target of 70% by 2024 and we are currently on 68.5%.

NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, NEWTOWN 11.10.23

I attended the open day at the site of the former Red Dragon, Maesyrrhandir. It is a Powys County Council development of 18 homes comprising of 2, 3, 4, & 5 bedroom properties. The cost was £3.5m. Almost 50% of the properties are occupied and will be filled from applicants on the Powys Common Housing Register.

DRIVER THEORY REFRESHER COURSE

A well presented on line course with astounding statistics. These are the figures for 2022

In Wales:

4442 Road Casualties.

1014 Killed

3428 Injured

51% occurred on 30mph road sections, 25% occurred on 60mph road sections, 6% occurred on 20mph road sections.

In Powys:

93 people were killed

921 seriously injured

3428 slightly injured

Powys has the highest killed or seriously injured rates in the UK. 3 Councils in Wales are in the UK top 10.

The fatal 5 for drivers between 17 years and 25 years old are:

DRINK, SPPED, CARELESS DRIVING, NOT USING A SEAT BELT AND USING A MOBILE PHONE.

PLANNING IN THE RHIWCYNON WARD

- ABERHAFESP PLANNING
- 23/0740/FUL – Erection of a chalet, improved access and assoc drainage – Tyn Y Coed Field, BYF SY16 3JA
- 23/0636/FUL – Conversion of agricultural outbuilding into an annex – Bwlchcaehaidd, BYF SY16 3JB
- 23/1361/FUL – 3 holiday let units, improving access, installation of septic tank and assoc. works – Pool Cottage, Aberhafesp SY16 3LT

- DWYRIW PLANNING
- 22/2217/FUL – Lateral extension to extraction area at Tan Y Foel Quarry, Cefn Coch, SY21 0AN
- 23/1171/OUT – Erection of Agricultural dwelling & installation of Septic tank and assoc. works – Argae field, New Mills SY16 3NG

-
- MANAFON PLANNING
- OPDE/22/0160 – Brynteg, New Mills, SY16 3NQ – **case closed but re-opened.**

- TREGYNON PLANNING

Contact details: cllr.heulwen.hulme@powys.gov.uk 01686 650182 or 07976 927487