

Cyngof Tref Y Trallwng
Welshpool Town Council
Y Porth i Gymru | The Gateway to Wales

WELSHPOOL LOCAL BUSINESS FORUM

MINUTES

of a meeting held in the Judges Retiring Room of the Town Hall Welshpool on

Monday 18th March 2019 at 6pm

1. Record of attendance

Present were: Cllr S Kaye (Chair), Robert Robinson (Town Clerk), Cllrs Church and Folkert along with 17 traders in the town.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting.

3. Town Centre

3.1 The meeting considered an update on the Town Centre retail market.

The points of note were:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Old Nat West Bank building | Understood to have been sold |
| Old Iceland Building | Auction at much reduced price |
| due soon | |
| Old Hope House shop | Understood tenant moving in |
| Old Celtic shop | Understood Halls Estate Agents |
| | moving in |
| Delicatessen/Architects Office | Understand let when Hughes |
| move out | |
| Berriew Street shop | Hughes Architects due to move in |
| Langfords | No further action |
| Pinewood | Sold but not yet occupied |
| Puzzle Square | Several new tenants |
| Old Jan's Cards Shop | Let |
| Inglenook Café | Opening soon as a cafe |

4. One Way System Review

The meeting considered an update on the one way system review.

The following comments were noted and to be actioned where possible:

- a) Red Bank/Church Bank junction – issues with pedestrians crossing.
- b) Movement of pedestrians issues at junction with Broad Street/New Street.
- c) Worn out markings at mini roundabout by Ardwyn School.

5. British High Street Awards

There is a different approach this year, it will be via traders. The Town Council affirmed that it will give whatever help it can.

a) Main Line Railway Station

An update was given on progress towards an improved station.

This is to include parking and other improvements.

The station public consultation to be completed ends on 31.1.2019.

b) Bus Station

The bus station public consultation is now completed. The report to Welsh Government now progresses.

6. Events in Broad Street and High Street

The idea of events in Broad Street with the road closed should be encouraged.

7. Budgets and Powys County Council

The Council is increasing its budget due to the lack of Tourism promotion by both Visit Wales and Powys County Council.

The Town Council is to provide in 2019 the following:

- i) The Visit Welshpool Web Site.
- ii) Booklets on Welshpool placed in West Midlands, Motorway Service. Stations and North Wales.
- iii) Events booklet.
- iv) Bedroom Browsers.
- v) Working more closely with Mid Wales Tourism.
- vi) Working with local attractions.

8. Welshpool in Bloom

The meeting welcomed the idea of Welshpool in Bloom.

The idea being to place the flowers and exhibits along the new trunk road route through the town (ie Mill Lane, Brook Street). Hanging baskets to be considered alongside any major planting. Wild flowers along bypass suggested.

9. Other items of interest

The following comments were also noted and to be actioned where possible:

- a) Parking of car by person working for Costa Coffee blocking Boot Street and being aggressive when approached about it.
- b) WiFi in Town Centre is being researched.
- c) **More shop window competitions requested.**
- d) An update was given on the CCTV installation in Welshpool.
- e) A Town Treasure Hunt weekend.
- f) **A letterboxing set up within shops.**
- g) **Communication method to link shops and keep everyone informed.**
- h) **Halloween scarecrow event with a scarecrow competition.**

10. Events

The following events are to be noted and actioned as needed:

- 1) **Easter artesian market in Puzzle Square.**
- 2) Winter Festival – suggestions listed here:
 - More Christmas or Festive Theme.**
 - Advertise for different stalls.**
 - Call it a 'festive fund day'.
 - Involve supermarkets on the street with food items.**
 - Good idea to include Christmas Lights switch on.**
 - Perhaps a Snow Queen to put lights on.

11. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is to be Monday 15th April 2019 at 6pm in the Assembly Room of the Town Hall.

Note: Actions to be particularly actions are shown in red.

BUSINESS FORUM – NOVEMBER 2018

REPORT ON ONE WAY SYSTEM REVIEW

| No | Area of discussion | Viewpoint of forum |
|-----------|---|---|
| 1 | Overview | The meeting was very positive with regards to the overall proposals and were keen to see such changes as soon as possible. |
| 2 | Broad Street single lane traffic | Support for the single lane option. Parking in main street important for traders and for those who are unsure on their feet or disabled. |
| 3 | Broad Street crossing points | The Zebra Crossing by the Town Hall area was welcomed. This should be in place after the traffic has been sorted in Brook Street. Currently too much traffic to make it work. |
| 4 | Jehu Road junction with High Street | The current arrangement and the plans to bring out the kerbs were accepted as a good way forward. |
| 5 | Jehu Road junction with Brook Street | The difficulty of turning out with more traffic was considered. However, with the two lanes leading into Brook Street this was not thought to be a great issue. |
| 6 | Brook Street | The issue of turnout out of Bron y Buckley and Woodside was raised. It was felt that the residents here will find it more difficult to get out onto Brook Street. No solutions were offered. |
| 7 | Church Bank/Red Bank junction | Concern over the junction with Red Bank was expressed, particularly with lorries. It was suggested that a weight limit should be put on the road between the Guilsfield Road and Brookfield Road. |
| 8 | Signage | Signage will be very important and must be considered carefully. If the signage is wrong in any way tourists will get lost and more bad publicity on the one way system will not be helpful. |
| 9 | Dol y Felin | The extension of the yellow lines to give better sight lines to Dol y Felin was welcomed. |
| 10 | Parking | Any loss of parking should be resisted or reduced to an absolute minimum. |
| 11 | Timing | The scheme taking place before Easter 2019 was welcomed. |

R A Robinson FRICS FSLCC Town Clerk