

WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

UPDATES – NOVEMBER 2018

1. PROJECTS COMPLETED

The following projects have been completed since the start of the Financial Year.

- i) Retaining wall at Maes Y Dre.
- ii) Repainting of Dol y Felin Playground.
- iii) Garden at Day Centre.
- iv) Electrical intake renewal in Town Hall.
- v) Car park lining at back of Town Hall.
- vi) Installation of CCTV at Maes Y Dre Stands.
- vii) Transport Festival.
- viii) Hospital Surveys.
- ix) Access for all Plan.
- x) Welsh Language Plan.
- xi) Defibrillator installation at the Day Centre.
- xii) Plinth with map and time capsules are installed at top of Red Bank.
- xiii) Annual Accounts and Return.
- xiv) Front lift repairs
- xv) Remembrance events
- xvi) Fireworks
- xvii) Updating of Day Centre and Tourism Plans
- xviii) Changing places facility grant
- xix) Purchase of recreation equipment
- xx) Purchase of vehicles for Street Scene and Meals on Wheels
- xxi) Town Hall clock repairs

2. STRATEGY AND POLICY

Youth Centre

The Council has completed the Expression of Interest to follow through a Community Asset Transfer. However, PCC is trying to impose conditions which will not be acceptable and cost the Council. The Burgesses Land Trust can only purchase buildings on a commercial basis.

Sustainability Plan

The sustainability plan is progressing as per the programme identified.

Budget 2019-2020

The budget and budget report is completed ready for Council approval.

Council Services and Powys County Council

WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

UPDATES – NOVEMBER 2018

There has been communications between the two Councils. The library is due to go in with the Museum. A consultation has been completed. The Town Council now awaits the results of this.

CCTV

The CCTV system is up and running well. The Police system is due to be installed early in 2019. Following that cameras not now needed will be deployed elsewhere as per the Council decision.

Document review

All documents are being reviewed for February 2019.
Standing Orders are to be reviewed in particular in 2018/2019.

3. CARE COMMITTEE

HOSPITALS – SHREWSBURY – TELFORD

The Shrewsbury Telford Hospital Trust is in special measures.
The Future Fit Plans are due for approval in March 2019 with possible implementation in 2023.

DAY CENTRE

General report

Generally the centre is running well with more clients attending.
The reduced charges for Welshpool residents are up for review in January 2019.

Dementia Welshpool Station

The Town Clerk is working with the Cambrian Rail Partnership to gain Dementia Friendly Status for Welshpool Station.

Business Plan

The business plan for the period 2019-2022 has been prepared for approval.

Other lettings of the Day Centre

Other lettings at the Day Centre include the hospital, Community Church, Happy Times Club and ad hoc Social Services Meetings.

School Dinners

The school dinners issues are being taken up by the North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils. There has been a public statement by some Councils. The Town Clerk is meeting Welshpool High School to ascertain the situation in Welshpool.

WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

UPDATES – NOVEMBER 2018

Welshpool Stronger Together

The Work of this group continues. A web site with links is progressing. Work with PCC to put in place a volunteer group to support the homeless is progressing.

Access for All Plan

The plan is in place and is now Council Policy applied to all actions of the Council.

Decoration to end room

Instructions have been given for the redecoration of this room.

MEALS ON WHEELS

New vehicles

A new car has been purchased following the MOT failure of the previous one.

Increase in deliveries

Numbers are growing to an extent where more days for deliveries are needed. Volunteer drivers system working well. A review of the roster has taken place. From January 2019 there will be four days of deliveries.

4. COUNCIL SERVICES COMMITTEE

TOWN HALL

General lettings

The general lettings are holding up reasonably well with regards the Corn Exchange, Council Chamber and Judges Retiring Room. The income from the Assembly Room was slow to start this year but is now picking. The loss of income maybe covered by the Council insurers for the period when the lift was out of action.

Courtroom

The Courtroom interactive scheme has been approved in principle to go to the next stage. The project is planned in the workload to be taken forward early in 2019. Council has approved stage one but the overall plan has yet to be presented.

Building certificates

The building certificates have been logged and where renewal is needed actions have been put in place. Some work to the emergency lighting system has been completed during the year.

Lift

WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

UPDATES – NOVEMBER 2018

The water damage to the front lift has been identified and the Insurers approved the claim. The lift is now in full working order.

Main Town Hall Clock

The central pivot to the clockface (the one you see coming down the High Street) has sheered due to age. The works have cost more but had to be done. The works are now completed and the clock is fully working on all faces.

Certificates

The Health and Safety certificates have been kept under review and are progressing with advice from Ellis Whitham.

Rating appeal

The result of the rates appeal is still awaited. There is an Inquiry being held in December to settle the matter.

MARKETS

General report

The markets are 95% occupied. The market income has fallen in the year due to many changes. The income is starting to pick up again since October 2018. The income needs to increase more as the works progress to create a better environment.

Market Café

The Market Café has changed hands and a new tenant is now in place and doing well.

Market review

The market reviews for rules and rents are completed.

The review of the future of the markets has been completed (including location and way forward). A report to Council has been approved. This involved an agreement on a refurbishment scheme.

Market Hall Refurbishment

The electrical intake is complete.

The works to lower the ceiling in the Bottom Market, lighting and other parts have been completed. The electric opening doors and the final decorations are to be completed in the next week or so.

WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

UPDATES – NOVEMBER 2018

MAES Y DRE

Clock

Clocks have been sourced for the tower at Maes Y Dre. These will be installed very soon.

Memorial Gardens

The Memorial Garden Scheme has been approved and works are due to start early in 2019.

Access Roads

The access roads do need works to them. Powis Estates has offered the road by the canal but the Council had declined the offer.

Notice Boards

These are being repainted as time permits.

Use of the grounds

The existing users of the recreation grounds continue to be happy with facilities. Any new users approaching the Council shall only be considered if they can be accommodated without affecting the existing clubs and the state of the grounds.

Vehicles for recreation grounds

The mowers are all working well. A new motor has been fitted to the gang mower. A new verges tractor (Haytor 324) has been added to the fleet.

SKATEBOARD PARK

The skateboard park is maintained by Powys County Council Youth Service but owned and inspected by Welshpool Town Council. A ROSPA has been completed with a list showing 'medium risk'. Due to this Playdale was asked to carry out an inspection and advise on what works are needed. There are no matters of concern. There is a plan to improve the site during the life of the next Town and Community Plan approved for the period 2017-2022.

An approach has been made by a volunteer (who is a metal worker) who would like to improve the facilities at the park.

PLAYGROUNDS

Maes y Dre

The climbing frame is to be renewed during the early part of the 2018 season has been delayed due to grant aid not forthcoming. The equipment is being monitored.

WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

UPDATES – NOVEMBER 2018

All equipment is low risk.

Access for all

A report on playground accessibility for parents with pushchairs and the disabled will be presented when time permits. This is programmed for early 2019.

COUNTRY PARK

The Country Park is fine, in due course a bird hide is to be constructed to overlook the lake, and this will be completed when grant aid is available working with the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust. Awaiting the next stage by the Wildlife Trust. It is hoped this work will happen later in 2019.

The idea of a BMX course on the site has been suggested and will come forward for discussion.

ARMOURY RECREATION CENTRE

General report

Generally the centre is doing reasonably well.

Tenants

A tenant re-arrangement is due to be considered soon. A report will be provided in due course on the best way forward. The latest date for Kalidoscope relocating in Spring 2019.

Electrics

The electrics are being monitored and an electrical certificate has been arranged to bring the risk register up to date.

Roof

The roof has been repaired with some panels replaced.

STREET SCENE

Fly Tipping

Fly tipping in Welshpool appears to have abated and is not excessive now. . The Town Council is working well with the PCC officers on this issue. There are spot fines being implemented.

Bench for Bryn Siriol

WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

UPDATES – NOVEMBER 2018

The bench requested to be located by the bus stop at Bryn Siriol is being progressed.

Benches

The benches around town are being brought in a few at a time for refurbishment.

Vehicles

The lorry is going well with an increased life span due to the works to the cills.

The road sweeper has been fitted with new seals for the vacuums and is now doing well.

The car for general use has failed its MOT and a new van has been sourced to replace it.

TOILETS

General report

Generally no issues. Minor repairs are ongoing. The toilets have received a recent steam clean.

Changing Places

The provision of a Changing Places facility has been planned and approved. Grant aid has been received. Designs have been completed and a location is now to be agreed.

CCTV

General report

The cameras are all working including the one at Jehu Road. A new recording disk has been installed during the year.

New CCTV for the path at Maes y Dre

A new camera set is being sourced for covering the path at Maes y Dre.

Police and New CCTV System

Welshpool is to have a new system for the town centre paid for in full by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Council is to relocate the cameras released by the Police System into outlying areas covering other Council facilities. The cost of this is approx. £10k.

WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

UPDATES – NOVEMBER 2018

ALLOTMENTS

General report

Site is much tidier.

All plots now taken.

5. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

ONE WAY SYSTEM

A series of plans for the main street, Brook Street and other parts of the system have been agreed. The consultation stage is now coming to an end. Discussions to ensure works are doing prior to Easter are taking place.

WELSHPOOL STATION

The request for station improvements is being taken forward. Draft designs have been prepared and both the Town Council and SARLC have backed a scheme. A meeting with Welsh Government is now taking place to take forward a plan.

CANAL RE-OPENING

Further meetings being held, future plan prepared. Minister's Office has attended. The Office is working with the Canal and Rivers Trust and other agencies. Meetings to raise the profile to aid with funding are being held. Works to the Shropshire end of the canal are progressing.

NATURE RESERVE

The reserves consultation via the Welshpool Town and Community Plan has been completed and sites are now being sought via Powys County Council. A proposal has been put forward by PCC but this is not an acceptable parcel of land. There is another parcel which is being investigated via Powis Estates in Pool Quay.

BUS STATION PROPOSAL

The proposal for a central bus point has been considered with Berriew Street the preferred option. PCC has received Grant aid from Welsh Government and the plans are now progressing to the next stage. There are two locations being considered (main street rejected) and these are Berriew Street and the car park by the Tourist Information Centre.

WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

UPDATES – NOVEMBER 2018

OLD WORKING MENS CLUB

The formal complaint to PCC about procedure has been submitted and a response gained. There are to be changes to the process in the future.

6. EVENTS AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

TOURISM PLANS

Tourism Plan

The tourism Plan is to be reviewed in the light of the inactivity of both Welsh Government and Powys County Council to make any reasonable efforts to promote Mid Wales and in particular the area around Welshpool. The Town Clerk and Staff and working with local attractions to bring forward a robust Tourism Marketing Plan. The booklets and information have been prepared and circulated to outlets all over North and Mid Wales along with the West Midlands.

The Visit Welshpool Web Site is online and kept up to date.

Business Plan for Tourist Information

The end of year results are better than expected. The 2018 season for tourism is expected to be tough but has proved to be reasonable. To date Commission Sales have been better than expected.

A new business plan is to be put in place for consideration in January 2019.

Footpaths Plan

A footpath scheme is being prepared to allow re-opening and maintaining of footpaths in Welshpool. Work has started on footpath investigations and a booklet for the first path is being prepared. The Council is working with Powys to put a scheme in place. There was a volunteer day in September to be held seeking people to help with footpath monitoring. Some volunteers have completed training. Works to start early in the New Year.

Railway Station Signage

WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

UPDATES – NOVEMBER 2018

A new direction sign with the attractions highlighted has been installed on the railway bridge. The Welsh version has also been put in place. Works to gain dementia friendly status for the station is under way.

TOWN SIGNS AND MAPS

General report

All signs and maps are monitored. When the one way system alters these will need to be reviewed.

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

The 2018 display has taken place with people suggesting it was the best yet.

REMRANCE EVENTS

The remembrance events for 2018 have all been completed and well received.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

The plans for the Christmas Lights and Winter Festival are all in place.

EVENTS PLAN FOR 2019

The events plan for 2019 has been agreed. The booklets and publicity for 2019 is being put in place following a meeting with the local tourist attractions.

100 YEARS OF WOMEN WITH THE VOTE

All plans are now in place.

TOWN CRIER

The appointment of a Town Crier has been made and the costume ordered.

WEB SITES & SOCIAL MEDIA

The new main Council Web Site is now in place and is kept up to date almost every day. This includes the following web sites:

- Main Council
- Visit Welshpool
- Footpaths
- Canal re-opening
- Stronger Together

- Cambrian Rail
- North and Mid Wales Association

WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

UPDATES – NOVEMBER 2018

GREAT BRITISH HIGH STREET AWARDS

The Council entered the awards and was shortlisted in the finals, 3rd place was gained.

7. GENERAL MATTERS

MOTTE AND BAILEY

Welshpool Civic Pride

Welshpool Civic Pride has been set up as an Environmental Body to take forward projects such as the two below.

Cattle Docks

Meetings have been held with Welshpool Civic Pride to plan and take forward the project. Funding of £31,000 has been received from the Land Fill Tax. CADW approval has been gained and planning consent is being investigated for the access ramps. The contractor has been appointed and works have started. A timeline for the opening event has been prepared.

Heritage Lottery Grant

The heritage lottery grant has passed its first stage. The detailed state is to progress spring 2019.

Motte and Bailey

Plans have been registered with ENTRUST so that the Civic Pride Group can take the project forward.

ARCHIVES

General report

The archives and their recording are proceeding well.

Fire-mark

The fire-mark has been removed from the wall of the Church Street property and is now being cleaned.

8. OFFICES

WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

UPDATES – NOVEMBER 2018

General report

Some minor redecorations will take place over the next month as part of the maintenance programme. Some of these decorations will be completed by Council staff. This work will be carried out via the normal repairs budget.

New Offices

The Council Offices are the subject of a report to be considered in December 2018.

9. CHARTER

The new Charter final draft is prepared and is finalised subject to adding the Town and Community Plan. Now that the plan is completed finalisation of the new charter has taken place. The old Charter remains in force until the new Charter is in place (confirmed in writing by PCC) which was due to be January 2018. No response from PCC in recent months, it is being chased up.

10. FINANCIAL

GENERAL

The monthly financial report is issued with figures showing actual against budget. With the advent of taking on so many services a scrutiny of the figures each month is essential.

MONTHLY REPORTING

The Town Clerk visits all services weekly. Also holds meetings with team leaders monthly along with meetings involving all staff in each service. There are weekly reporting sheets for each service.

BUDGET 2019-2020

RATES

The rating appeals are progressing but with a result not expected for a few months on most centres. The Town Hall should be assessed in December 2018.

11. LITTER CAMPAIGN

LITTER CAMPAIGN

The Litter Campaign is completed with actions on-going. Consideration is also to be given to supporting the 'Message in a Bottle' scheme. The Town Clerks Office has message Mr Stalliard several times with no response.

WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

UPDATES – NOVEMBER 2018

12. OTHER MATTERS

FUTURE OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Future of Local Councils report has been completed and submitted to the Welsh Government Panel. It was hoped that the Ministers statement due in October will give an idea as to how the future will look. However, there is no statement at this time.

CONSULTATIONS

Council Surgeries are to progress as per Council decision.

ELECTRIC CHARGING POINTS

Investigations are progressing into electric car charging points.

The locations will need to be on Town Council land as the County Council is not interested in anything in their car parks.

WELSH LANGUAGE POLICY

Progress towards implementation of the Policy is continuing.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

The data protection act provisions have been met.

STAFFING

The appointment of a Deputy Town Clerk is progressing.

ANNUAL REPORTS

The annual reports to Council are completed ready for presentation in December 2018.

AWARDS

The Council has gained the following awards in 2018:

Finalist awards for the Day Centre

Finalist awards for the Tourist Information Centre

Finalist awards for the Best Council

Highly Commended for the Street Scene

Robert A Robinson FRICS FSLCC
Town Clerk

WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

UPDATES – NOVEMBER 2018

November 2018