

# WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

## UPDATES – JUNE 2019

### **1. PLANS AND MONITORING**

#### **Town and Community Plan**

The plan objectives are being completed and a monitoring report issued to Council annually.

#### **Climate Change Plan**

The actions under the Climate Change Plan are being progressed with a full report on progress being taken to the Strategy and Policy Committee.

#### **Welsh Language Plan**

The Welsh Language Plan is being progressed with a report issued on progress annually.

#### **Access Plan**

The Access for All Plan is being taken into account in all that the Council does and is monitored by an annual report.

#### **Individual Services Plans**

The individual plans for services are reviewed monthly in the staff meetings to ensure that the actions proposed are considered and taken forward.

### **2. STRATEGY AND POLICY**

#### **Youth Centre**

The Town Council has informed Powys County Council that they are no longer interested in purchasing the Youth Centre.

#### **Sustainability Plan**

The sustainability plan is progressing as per the final programme identified. The sale of land for re-investment completes on 31.8.2019.

#### **Budget 2019-2020**

The budget has been approved by Full Council but will need to be reviewed in July 2019 when the final path for many headings are fully known.

#### **Council Services and Powys County Council**

The County Council has announced that the Library will now relocate to the Powysland Museum. There is much public opposition to the move and the Town Council has objected to the move. The Town Council, following discussions with PCC, is not going to intervene.

# WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

## UPDATES – JUNE 2019

### **The Armoury Recreation Centre Strategic Plan**

One of the tenants is due to vacate during the year with the recreational lease expiring in Mid 2020. A strategy plan will be prepared with the available options for the Strategy and Policy Committee. This document should be ready for the June meeting.

### **CCTV**

The Police CCTV system is up and running well. The Town Council cameras taken down are now in store. These are planned to be put up in the next financial year in new locations.

### **Document review**

All statutory documents have been reviewed for February 2019.

Standing Orders were reviewed and approved on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Both Lizzie and Rosemary have been trained in a new HR computer programme that will allow for easy record keeping with regards to building certificates, training and all staff records.

### **Services Consultation**

The Welsh Government has asked all Town and Community Councils to review their service delivery now and into the future. A programme and plan is being presented to Full Council in May with implementation due in September/October 2019.

## **3. CARE COMMITTEE**

### **DAY CENTRE**

#### **General report**

Generally the centre is running well with more clients attending.

The reduced charges for Welshpool residents are to remain in place for the year 2019-2020 as approved by the Full Council.

#### **Other lettings of the Day Centre**

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

#### **The building**

There are some works required to the fire alarm system to bring it up to full regulation standards. This is more important in a building of this type.

# WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

## UPDATES – JUNE 2019

### SOCIAL CARE

#### Welshpool Stronger Together

The Work of this group continues. A web site with links is progressing giving links to the various agencies has been published and is online.

#### Repair Workshop

The idea of a repair workshop is being considered. When a plan has been prepared a paper will be presented to the Care and Community Committee.

#### Homeless

There is a speaker at the next North and Mid Wales Association of Local Council Meeting regarding the homeless, the issues and what we can do to help.

The Town Clerk will report back on the content to inform any future actions.

### MEALS ON WHEELS

#### New vehicles

A new car has been purchased following the MOT failure of the previous one. A new hot box has been purchased and this may require a van to be used instead of a car. Discussions are taking place with a local company who may exchange the car for a small van with little cost.

#### 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. It is hope that there will be four days of deliveries in due course.

## 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 last year (to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019) but is now picked up in the latter part of the year.

# WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

## UPDATES – JUNE 2019

### **Building certificates – Fire Assessment**

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. There is also some more to do to the fire alarms and advice has been sought. A full report on actions over a period of time will be presented to the Council Services Committee in June.

### **Redecoration**

The redecoration of the landing area of the building has been completed.

## **MARKETS**

### **General report**

The markets are 95% occupied. The Town Clerk has met with the traders and collectively they have agreed by substantial majority to have the markets open 4 days a week. The days the market will be closed are Wednesdays and Thursdays along with Sundays.

There is marketing programme agreed. The new sign over the back of the Town Hall advertising the café and toilets is in place. The barrier between the Café and Market is being prepared.

The markets are now more settled and the opening days formally agreed.

### **Market review**

The market reviews for rules are completed and agreements are generally in place. There is still some work to do on this.

The refurbishment works to the lighting, suspended ceilings, electric doors and other works are completed. The final decorations are nearing completion.

## **MAES Y DRE**

### **Clock**

Clocks have been sourced for the tower at Maes Y Dre and they have been installed.

### **Memorial Gardens**

The Memorial Garden Scheme has been approved and works are to be completed during 2019. The names for the war memorial are coming forward with 5 to date.

The final list of names to be put on the new memorial wall will be presented to Full Council for approval.

# WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

## UPDATES – JUNE 2019

The contractors who gave an indicative price have come back with revisions which are too expensive. A further quote from a contractor is being sought.

### Access Roads

The access road to the Cricket/Rugby Club pavilion has been repaired. The road by the canal owned by Powis Estates is in poor repair but it is their responsibility to do any works albeit that they can recharge the Council and Rugby Club for 2/3 of the cost.

### Notice Boards

These are being repainted during the next two months. The one board by the entrance to Maes y Dre (access to Rugby/Cricket Club Building) will be relocated to the car park area for visibility.

### Boxing Club

The Council has received a request for a long lease by the boxing club. This is so that they can build a new permanent building for the boxing club and personal training. The land that can be available has yet to be agreed. The lease terms have been put forward for approval by Full Council.

## SKATEBOARD PARK

The works to the skateboard park are completed. A new litter bin is to be installed in that area.

## PLAYGROUNDS

### Maes y Dre

The climbing frame was to be renewed during the early part of the 2019/2020 season has been delayed due to grant aid not forthcoming. The equipment is being monitored and repairs carried out as needed.

All equipment is low risk. The Office is now seeking grant aid for later in the year.

### Bugs and flowers

## 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. A meeting has been held with the Wildlife Trust to find out the next stage. It is hoped this work will happen later in 2019.

The wild flowers areas continue to be maintained around the edge of the site.

# WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

## UPDATES – JUNE 2019

### **BMX**

The idea of a BMX course has been put forward by the Youth Council (Youth Club). Two possible sites have been suggested. A proposal will come forward for discussion when a full report is available. An approach to the land owner of the Oldford Site has been made.

### **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. The main issues more recently are around people putting household waste in carrier bags and then putting them in the litter bins.

#### **Bench for Bryn Siriol**

The bench requested to be located by the bus stop at Bryn Siriol is being progressed and should be in place soon.

#### **Open spaces, verges and grass cutting**

The weeding and grass cutting programme is working well. There is quick growth at the early part of the season so it takes a lot to keep on top of it all. There is a work experience person coming and a student for the summer which will help.

#### **Benches**

The benches around town are being brought in a few at a time for refurbishment. There have been 2 refurbished benches out on the main street in the Town Centre.

#### **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. A review of Council Street Scene vehicles will take place later in 2019.

A replacement van (following a full refund for the previous van under warranty) has been secured and is in use.

### **TOILETS**

#### **General report**

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

# WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

## UPDATES – JUNE 2019

### Changing Places

The provision of a Changing Places facility in the Bottom Market of the Town Hall has been planned and approved. Grant aid has been received. Designs are being completed by a specialist company. Once these have been received the works to provide the room can be completed. A meeting with all parties present is due to take place over the next week or so which will lead to a scheme which can come forward for approval to proceed.

### ALLOTMENTS

#### General report

The site is much tidier with all plots now taken.

## 5. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### ONE WAY SYSTEM

The new layout for the changes to the one way system have been agreed. The final signage plan is prepared. The current planned works for the period starting Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019 is as follows:

- a) The works to Church Bank will be completed by the end of this week (ie by 24th May). The works to the other side of Church Bank is to be completed overnight and after Brook Street has gone two way traffic.
- b) Salop Road from Church Bank will re-open on 24th May and remain open over the bank holiday.
- c) The contractor will complete asap the works in Brook Street and Jehu Road. (Jehu Road will be closed for a few weeks - not expected to be month)
- d) On completion of (c) the traffic islands to be altered to allow 2 way traffic along Brook Street.
- e) Brook Street is to be open to two way traffic on 21st June 2019.
- f) The closing of Broad Street for the Transport Festival is arranged for Saturday and Sunday 22nd & 23rd June.
- g) The yellow lines in Brook Street close to Dol Y Felin are to be put in place by 21st June 2019 or if not there will be police cones along that length to stop parking for visibility.
- h) The contractor is to attend the Business Forum on 17th June at 6pm in the Town Hall to meet the traders.
- i) The right hand turn into Church Street from Union Street to be closed off from mid-day Friday to 2pm Saturday over the bank holiday to aid getting holiday traffic through without undue delay.

## WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

### UPDATES – JUNE 2019

Continued.....

j) The details of who the shop keepers may make contact with regards any compensation claim to be passed to Robert for onward transmission.

k) The Welsh Government are letting the Town Clerk know of who to contact for traders and compensation claims.

#### **WELSHPOOL STATION**

The request for station improvements is being taken forward. The rail survey has been completed and has been presented to the Minister Ken Skates. The feasibility study is now being prepared.

#### **CANAL RE-OPENING**

A revised adopted plan has been agreed during May 2019 and is ready for presentation to Welsh Government. A copy will be presented to the Town Council's Planning and Development Committee in June.

The Steering Group for the Canal re-opening is being set up as a charity to allow more access to funding.

Progress is being made on a number of sections of the canal to take forward to link through to Welshpool.

#### **NATURE RESERVES**

There 3 nature reserves needed to support the re-opening of the canal. There is movement to secure all three.

#### **BUS STATION PROPOSAL**

The survey for the new bus station location has been completed. This has been passed to Welsh Government to form part of the report for funding which has been prepared and submitted. A bid for funds has now been made and a plan will be available very soon.

### **6. EVENTS AND TOURISM COMMITTEE**

#### **TOURISM PLANS**

##### **Tourism Web Site for Welshpool**

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

##### **Business Plan for Tourist Information**

A new business plan has been put in place approved in January 2019. This is being implemented.



## WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

### UPDATES – JUNE 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. A formal approach by PCC has now been made with the agreement being considered by Full Council at its May meeting.

#### **TOWN SIGNS AND MAPS**

##### **General report**

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

#### **TRANSPORT FESTIVAL**

The Transport Festival is ready to take place over the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2019.

#### **FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

The 2019 display is now entering its planning stages.

#### **REMRANCE EVENTS**

The remembrance events programme has been agreed with the RBL and will be taken forward. The Festival of Remembrance will be revised with seating around tables and food at the interval.

#### **CHRISTMAS EVENTS**

The Christmas Lights and Winter Festival are to be held on the same day in 2019. The main issue is that the contractor who provides our Christmas Lights is not able to continue. A new scheme is being sourced.

#### **CYCLE WALES 360**

Plans for the cycle race event calling in Welshpool later in July 2019 are being put in place with advice from the organisers.

#### **TOWN CRIER**

The appointment of a Town Crier has been made and the costume has arrived. The Mayors Parade will be see the Town Crier leading in full costume.

## WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

### UPDATES – JUNE 2019

#### 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
- Welshpool Stronger Together
- Footpaths
- Welshpool Civic Pride
- Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee
- North and Mid Wales Association
- Welshpool and District Waterways (Canal Restoration)

#### SHOP WINDOW COMPETITIONS

The Traders have asked for more shop window competitions so this is being taken forward with the first one taking place during the Transport Festival.

#### WELSHPOOL IN BLOOM

The Welshpool in Bloom plans are to be taken forward in 2020 due to the road works taking place in 2019.

#### GREAT BRITISH HIGH STREET AWARDS

In 2018 the Council entered the awards and was shortlisted in the finals, 3<sup>rd</sup> place was gained. The Council is working with local business to enter again in 2019.

### **7. MOTTE AND BAILEY**

#### Welshpool Civic Pride

Welshpool Civic Pride has been set up to take on projects of a heritage nature for the Town Council and to eventually oversee the Council's artifacts.

#### Cattle Docks

The Cattle Docks project has completed its first stage with the disabled access to follow.

An exhibition will be taking place on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

#### Heritage Lottery Grant

The heritage lottery grant has passed its first stage. The next stage has been presented and awaits a response during spring 2019. The Town Clerk is working with CADW to complete the forms.

# WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

## UPDATES – JUNE 2019

### **Old Gym Building**

The building is now vacant. The electrical fuse board needs replacing and some minor works to the rear timber wall. The Council Services Committee has decided not to progress lettings for the time being.

### **8. ARCHIVES**

#### **General report**

The archives and their recording are proceeding well.

#### **Fire-mark**

The fire-mark is now with Cardiff University for restoration.

#### **Trust for artefacts**

The Trust can now be taken forward to protect the artefacts. Advice has been taken from our Solicitors, Aberystwyth Library of Wales and our insurers. The Trust document is now being prepared for consideration.

### **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.

### **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 will continue with visits all services weekly. Also holds meetings with team leaders monthly along with meetings involving all staff in each service.

#### **RATES**

The rating appeals have been completed on the Town Hall and Tourist Information Centre but the Armoury is still awaited. This is being chased up.

# WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

## UPDATES – JUNE 2019

### **11. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

#### **ELLIS WHITTAM**

Advice on Health and Safety is given by Ellis Whittam. They visit each April/May and again during the year and look at paperwork and services buildings.

#### **ANNUAL INSPECTIONS**

The annual inspections are carried out by STRI (sports fields) and PLAYDALE/ROSPA with regards to playgrounds and the skateboard park. Both top referees and the STRI Officer are very complimentary about the standard of the facilities at Maes y Dre.

#### **WEEKLY INSPECTIONS**

There are weekly reports from all services recording that each area has been inspected and noting any issues.

#### **TRAINING RECORDS**

There is a training record system in place which is reviewed regularly. This is also part of a programme to put all information on a computer programme.

#### **CERTIFICATES FOR BUILDINGS**

There is a record chart of inspection certificates which is reviewed regularly.

### **12. OTHER MATTERS**

#### **FUTURE OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

The Future of Local Councils report has been received from the Minister. A meeting with Welsh Government has been held to gain clarification.

The requirements and the consultation proceed will proceed during 2019.

#### **CONSULTATIONS**

Council Surgeries are progressing as per Council decision.

#### **ELECTRIC CHARGING POINTS**

Investigations are progressing into electric car charging points.

The County Council is interested in the Town having charging points and have published that they will progress with this.

#### **STAFFING**

A proposed plan for overall staffing will be discussed and completed during the summer of 2019.

# WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

## UPDATES – JUNE 2019

### **ANNUAL REPORTS**

The annual reports to Council will be presented in December 2019 in accordance with Welsh Government guidelines.

Robert A Robinson FRICS FSLCC  
Town Clerk  
May 2019