

County Councillors Report- November 2018

Dementia Awareness Training

Undertook the full day of Dementia Champion Training in Carmarthen along with another resident of Whitland so hopefully can help support an increase of Dementia Friends in the Whitland and Henllanfallteg area. Firstly, would like to practice on a couple of WTC staff to make sure to be well organised for larger groups.

Henllanfallteg

Have been involved with some resident issues. The drains were silted after the rainfall washes down grit and sand so I requested a clear out this month. An extended kerb is being considered by CCC officers to enhance visibility and safety. Lowering the speed limit in Cwmfelin Boeth is being explored by Officers and speed assessments have been undertaken.

Budget Setting- Environment

Another session at Llanelli Y Ffwrnes theatre. The Environment department covers roads, transport, school transport, planning department, corporate property, enforcement etc. It is a large department overall. Just one example of the type of matters discussed is Post 16 transport ie A level transport to schools and colleges. WAG have decided this is not statutory and Councils do not have to provide it. Some 6th formers have Cars. It costs half a million in Carmarthenshire. Cllrs decided it should be retained at this time. This will make a difference to the Community Charge of residents. At present it is under a 5% increase being considered but this may change if Cllrs decide to keep other non statutory services and not find other ways for the Council to generate income without having job losses.

Budget setting Social Care

Session held at Llanelli and mainly the adjustments were around management issues such as looking more closely into why there is a 15 day delay in getting people back home when they are medically fit.

Oriel Myrddin Trustees

The Gallery in Carmarthen has a board of Trustees made up of various Cllrs. There is a multi million pound project planned to expand the gallery and adjacent properties have been purchased already. The management structure is to change to a new form dispensing with the Trustee system. This meeting is to agree the new structure and would therefore be the last one for myself. Unfortunately, this meeting was cancelled again and rescheduled for mid December.

Planning Committee

This ran over time following site visits to Meidrim in heavy blustery rain to look at a potential garage enterprise and golf course dwelling. Other applications were a two storey extension in Carmarthen and a split level house on a steep hill.

Town of Culture

The Launch date is arranged for January 10th 2019 at 2pm. The Mayor, community group guests are to be invited along with Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas. Both schools will be providing musical entertainment. Events throughout the year are to include a book launch, art exhibition and something theatrical.

Health and Social Care Committee

Presentation on Prevention and new initiatives such as 'Carmarthenshire is Kind'
This initiative was looking to reduce loneliness in older people and also considered children and hire loneliness. Connection to community was felt to be very significant and even more important than exercise.

WTC is part of the Taf Valley Dementia Friendly Communities Initiative and members of Henllanfallteg attended awareness training recently. There are 275 who have taken the awareness training in this area. Over Carmarthenshire there are 5000 dementia friends trained. Many of these are County Council employees.

Dewis Cymru / Dewis Wales is a directory website that shows services available in a persons postcode area. This is to include community support groups. It needs updating regularly in order to build supportive communities. All support type groups need to be advised to upload and maintain their details. It is a huge piece of work but the site is there to be used. 'Place Based' system of Wellbeing in line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 underpins the DEWIS project.

CUSP is another initiative to support those on the cusp of crisis by practical help around the home or connection to community groups. Doctors can prescribe social activities and groups with time credits via CUSP.

Carmarthenshire Resilience Team can provide a presentation to Town and Community Councils. (TCCs.). There was also a presentation from Country Cars in this committee. Country Cars volunteers are paid expenses at 45p per mile in line with non taxable HMRC guidelines.

Presentation for Hywel Dda Health Board by Steve Moore

5 aims

Revolution in health care provision

Greater emphasis on wellness

Community based model

Creating safe and sustainable hospital system

Commitment to continuous engagement

Planned and urgent care to be on the same site in the South of the HDHB meeting to be Narberth, St Clears and Whitland ie within one hour from most people and also Brongalis and Morrision for those at Llanelli who were concerned.

Meeting to be on 29th November there will be some short term changes.

Length of time to deliver the hospital and need to change? It may take a few years to deliver the business case but needs to be done faster than usual which should be up to thirty years for some cases. Current model is not sustainable. Long term future depends on growing own staff.

Conscientious consideration.

9 billion budget for NHS.

Observation locally that there were some flood engineers in the Town Centre undertaking a study during November.

Rural Affairs Committee x 2

The second task group of the month looked at rural transport with a presentation on LiNC which combines Bwcabus with standard service buses to help rural transport. The purpose is daytime connectivity for doctors, shopping and social activities. Other forms of rural transport include Country Cars coordinated by the WRVS. If there is a hospital appointment requiring transport then the hospital commissions the transport via its own contract with Country cars supported by volunteer drivers who have their expenses returned. A map is to be provided of available routes. The second presentation was an update on the LDP and to discuss the effects of planning policy on rural poverty. I raised a query about the ideal population density and is there more loneliness in remote rural areas or in busy cities where people do not connect with each other? Suggested that data should be used more effectively to explore these issues before we agree housing densities and categories of employment land. Presentation on the Tourism Sector in Carmarthenshire and how the marketing and media department work. Carmarthenshire Tourism Association also attended to update Cllrs on their work. Numerous newspaper articles were shown from national newspapers that promote Carmarthenshire. Winter activities is now being promoted and a slogan 'Weather its hot or Weather its not' has appeared in Llanelli on a roundabout. An ice rink has been included at the Carmarthen winter fair.

Seminar on Canfod Cartref / Home finder.

This new online system links to all the social letting associations so everyone can see what properties are available. A demonstration was set up and Cllrs were able to test the website. It is aimed to have a live website in the new year and there will be an indication of where a person is on the list and they can bid on more than one property so have a choice of looking further afield.

Opening of a new business

I was invited to attend the opening of Preseli Storage which was formally opened by the Chairman of the County Council Cllr Mansel Charles. Cllr Chapman attended in his new role it was good to have WTC representation for this occasion.



so
a

There is great opportunity for attracting footfall to Whitland from the increase in customers to the business. It is handy that it is next to the recycle centre and people can have a big declutter. It

could even be a potential service station one day for electric cars which I have suggested to the owner. It is noted the livestock mart have improved their hardstanding alongside and may be a suitable event venue in the future. They are agreeable to such an event given appropriate parameters.

Community

There was an incredible exhibition at the Memorial Hall based on WWI local memories and the Taste of Christmas at the Town was well supported with a very good ladies choir. This was followed by an indoor street party at the Memorial Hall attended by the Chairman of the County Council and the Acting Mayor Cllr Chapman. Christmas leaflets were delivered and organised the Christmas trees for the town from the nearest supplier in Llandysul.

Budget Setting - Corporate

This is the time of year when County Councillors get together regularly at Y Ffwrnes in Llanelli to consider how to balance the books. The process starts with Corporate Services including the Chief Executives department. There is an overview presentation on the settlement monies from WAG and CCC have to prepare a budget in line with the income. Cllrs consider which recommendations have most support and make proposals about creating income or efficiencies. There is an indication of how much increase in Council Tax is likely to be provided budget efficiencies are not thrown out.

Site Meeting -Bus Park

Met with corporate property officers on site to consider how best to tackle the drainage and access. We looked at the ecological mitigation land to be agreed with the school. This area is set aside for wildlife to replace that land taken up by the bus park. Wildlife is very important in planning applications and is protected.

Site Meeting – Abbey Sign

This was attended by the Town Clerk and Cllrs who were available. A location was proposed and it was to be put before Town Cllrs in the December meeting.

Site meeting – Disabled bays

One bay has been requested for a Paris house and a consultation will follow. Two bays at the old post office are to be revoked since they were never requested and a number of people park there, including myself, unknowingly. One person has been fined. I am told that the new rules from WAG mean that there will not be road markings in future just a small sign. I think this is a bad idea and will be hard to notice if people are parking in Towns they are not used to.

Site meeting – Bryngwenllian

Council Officers checked the Give Way sign concerns raised by a resident and this information will be passed to the Clerk to respond directly.