

County Councillor Report to February Whitland Town Council meeting 4-2-19.

Whitland Town of Culture 2019 Launch

The honoured guest was Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas who is the Minister for Culture. the Chairman of Carmarthenshire County Council, the Chief Executive, Mark James, Whitland Town Council Mayor, Mr Barry Chapman and various other dignitaries. The community members invited were representatives from every potential venue including chapels, churches parks and representatives from voluntary groups who have helped with past events. Speeches were by Mr Haydn Lewis, Mr Roger Penn, Cllr Mansel Charles and the Minister. The Minister was given a short tour of the Hywel Dda Centre followed by tea and Welsh cakes which were made locally. The Mayor presented some Hywel Dda coasters and local hand made chocolates to the Minister. The event was organised by Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths and Cllr Sue Allen.

Network Rail Closure

This closure is going to be extremely challenging on the days it is closed for 24 hours. I am concerned there will be many crisis events. The consultation event was not well attended and I suggested to NR the timing of the event made it difficult for many working people between 2pm to 5pm. May have been better from 3pm to 7pm.

The initial letter was very unclear and fortunately the subsequent letter has been improved. People need to be sure of the full closure times. A large sign was proposed to NR staff for them to place next to the crematorium turn off at Narberth to prevent people taking a short cut that way towards Whitland. I hope they take note.

I have requested CCC support service buses by writing to NR to make sure they are paid for the additional bus and driver they will need to put on for the week of full closure to fulfil their legal contract.

Scrutiny

Attended the Social Care, Policy and Resources committees.

Planning Committee

This was held on the same day as the Town of Culture event therefore I did not attend. Noteworthy was that the CCC Delta Lakes project was approved unanimously by Cllrs although an AM decided to "call it in ". This means that WAG will consider if they need to make the decision on this large project or will CCC decision stand. WAG make larger strategic decisions such as where major wind farm sites would be or perhaps power stations.

Local Issues

A number of resident enquires including the turning around of speed signs which is very dangerous and puts children at risk. The parking restrictions at King Edward street are ongoing and I intend to refer residents affected to the free service that advises them how to challenge inappropriate signage if they have received a ticket in error. Housing assistance, gully cleaning and Social care matters were typical this month.

Henllanfallteg

Attended the community council meeting which included setting the Precept. This year HCC have chosen to include section 137 monies. (monies with no specific purpose other than that to benefit the community - there is a limit to how much TCCs can request for 137.)

I have mentioned to HCC and WTC that to comment on the LDP is important. Both Councils have until the 8th February to submit thoughts on candidate sites and allocations.