

## **County Councillors Report - February 2019**

### **Full Council 20<sup>th</sup> February.**

The Council tax was set with an increase of **4.89%** which is £1255.17 for a Band D property and included a capital programme hailed as one of the best in Wales. Extra revenue was allocated for Highways in the Environment Department and also for Education. Cllrs will note that some other Counties have had significant increases as a catch up for decisions made over past years. There is an ongoing ambitious 5 year capital programme to rejuvenate the County. The Chairman of the County Council Cllr Mansel Charles spoke of his full support for the Cardi Bach cycle/walking route and had been to Logon Railway Station and Museum for Tea. Climate Change was the largest part of the agenda and a 'state of emergency' was agreed to focus attention on this relevant topic. A public question was tabled by Coral Sylvan aged 11, followed by notices of motion to ask WAG to take action and also further work at CCC at a faster pace. The new CCC housing association is to build 32 zero carbon homes at Burry Port as passed by the Planning Committee 19<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Cardi Bach footpath( cycle route) discussions February 1st**

This was the first meeting with County Council Officers and Cllr Dorian Phillips of Llanboidy Ward and myself were updated on parts of the route that were already under discussion from a public right of way aspect. This is separate from the aspirations to use the main route as footpath.

It was agreed that I would explore the Whitland end for access from the Town to the Cardi Bach branch line junction. The junction to Llanfallteg is fairly clear and in limited ownership. Llandelio to Carmarthen route has by-passed areas where landowners have built upon the line. Contd.

Cllrs are welcome to join me on this adventure and land owners permission will be obtained in the meantime. The next meeting is on March 8<sup>th</sup> with Cllrs from Pembrokeshire being invited. This does conflict with a Dementia Friendly Communities meeting for which I will need to apologise on this occasion.

### **Rural Affairs Task Group 5<sup>th</sup> February**

The agenda included Rural Schools and childcare agenda item and noted that 30 hours of free childcare was available in appropriate Creches and there was capital funding to assist in the setting up of a nursery ideally close to a rural school. There is a couple of reports online at CCC including the new Play Sufficiency Assessment to be published by March 31<sup>st</sup>.2019. CAVS , Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services gave a presentation and are due to come to Whitland in April to highlight their services. They can help with eg. Subsidised PAT testing I noticed. I have requested they advise the local Town Councils and County Councillors otherwise it will waste their effort. Marc Davies also gave a presentation from the Wales Cooperative Centre about the community projects for renewable energy and other activities they are involved in.

### **Advisory Panel on the Welsh Language 8<sup>th</sup> February**

The statement from Elenud Morgan the AM and Minister for International relations and the Welsh Language was given out. In brief and following Public Consultation WAG will not be proceeding with introducing the Welsh Language Bill. I will bring the statement to WTC but essentially it means that Private Business will be encouraged to increase services more consistently in Welsh. It may have been felt the Bill was too draconian and existing legislation is sufficient to support the goal of Cymraeg 2050.

### **Dementia Friendly Communities launch at St Clears**

This was a very successful event attended by the Mayor of Whitland Mr Barry Chapman. It was held at Ysgol Griffiths Jones and invites included emergency services, business representatives, choirs, schoolchildren and Council representatives including the Chairman of the County Council Cllr Mansel Charles. Certificates were given out and the event finished in reasonable time for everyone to enjoy the Wales v France Rugby Match.

### **Other Committees**

Planning Committee on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, Policy and Resources on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> an attendance monitoring report on CCC staff. An additional February County Council meeting was cancelled and the agenda was included for an all day session on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Community**

#### **Whitland Town of Culture 2019**

Open meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February, the outcome being that Authors and their Talks to be dotted throughout the year rather than one event. An Agricultural Exhibition would be held in August at the Memorial Hall. Possibilities for a pilgrimage type mass are being explored by Cllr Barry Chapman.

#### **Typical residents and business issues this month**

Broken Kerb rectified in St John street, rusted street sign to be replaced,  
A number of Social Care assistance requests. Disabled bay issues ongoing. Business rates and Council tax valuation concern.