

County Councillors Report – October 2018

Digital Transformation Seminar - Member Training

CCC Website has 130,000 visits per month to use council services which is being encouraged. Community centres users could potentially also book online using CCC systems in the future which would help local groups perhaps. There is work ongoing with for Digital Business transformation across many groups. The data on where connectivity is may not be a true picture and CCC trying to map the true picture. Communities can help with feeding back this information via local Member or Council website and some mechanism for doing this being devised. Digital infrastructure project as part of Swansea bay city deal is being lead by Mike ex Bt/ open-reach. Transport corridors to be used for utilising existing pipe work. Again suggested old railway lines. Research and Development done around infrastructure between Carmarthen to Haverfordwest. Schools could also be used to assist connectivity as they have the resource in place. LFFN bid going in (DCMS). Rural connectivity. Note that cellotex in the attics affects the signal in just the same way as silver foil was used in the war to disturb the radar signals. It's the foil part of the cellotex.

Eiriol Advocacy training

This is to support all sorts of clients to speak to professionals and organisations if they have mental health issues or need help. Domestic violence and older people with dementia also supported.

Full Council

Seconded a notice of motion as on full Council agenda.

Local Development Plan Advisory Group

Town and Community Council Seminar on this topic was poorly attended in September. On the advisory group it was suggested the title of the topic needs to be more clear and user friendly.

Councils in attendance in September- Dyffryn Cennen, Llandyfaelog, Kidwelly Town, Llanedi, Llanegwad, Cwmaman Town, Trimsaran, Manordeilo & Salem, Llannon, Llandeilo Town, Carmarthen Town, Llanllawddog, Llangennech, Llandeilo Town, Llanddarog, Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn.

Suggested again that the big grant for rural fibre optic cables be placed on disused railway lines which are straight for the fibres to be fired through and do not require roads being dug up at great expense. Demographics were discussed in detail to ensure this was firmly embedded in the wider plan. Some Communities were engaged in their place planning already.

One Voice Wales (professional body that represents Town and Community Councils.)

Attended meeting in Newcastle Emlyn 02.10.18 in the evening on behalf of WTC . Other Cllrs welcome to join me or replace me and represent WTC, as always. It is important Whitland is seen to be active in our professional body. There is a password for access to OVW website for Cllrs to read policies and information about TCCs. OVW represents TCCs at Welsh Government level.

Foster Panel

Attended the Foster Panel as the County Councillor representative to review existing carers and consider new ones.

Resident Issues

An overgrown hedge had been reported by a resident on land due to be developed and it has now been trimmed back via assistance from the CC Enforcement team. This appears not to be sufficient so I have gone back to CCC to revisit and do further work.

Complaints of un-level level crossing were reported last month but there is not yet a change so will contact NR for an update.

Complaints about parking outside the old Post Office only being marked with a small sign against the building. No obvious proper markings on the disabled bay. Fines have allegedly been given out. I am aware of fines on the spotted areas by dropped curbs for visually impaired.

Have been consulted by CCC on a potential disabled bay by Paris House lay by. WTC is also a statutory consultee and will receive notification.

Training

Attended a Dementia Champion Training day in Parc Dewi Sant gyda Alzheimers Charity.

Refuse

On a number of early mornings I have followed and alerted the refuse collectors to some sacks that need clearing. This may deter the rats that were evident on the Tuesday after August bank holidays when I helped the staff move the bags. They expressed shock at the number of rats hidden below the bags in one location.

Crossing Network Rail

Received phone call complaint from Whitland resident 27.09.18 5pm about the bumpy level crossing in Whitland Town Centre following works on the previous Sunday and reported to Network Rail online immediately. Noted that the safe working van was out the same night at around 10.30pm inspecting the crossing.

“ Dear Cllr Sue Allen,

Thank you for contacting Network Rail. Your unique reference is 180927-000438 and you'll find a summary of your contact below. .A member of your local route team will be in touch in due course.

In the meantime, should you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our 24-hour helpline on 03457 11 41 41 or visit our website at www.networkrail.co.uk”

Universal Credit

From the tackling poverty advisory group. Universal credit to be rolled out in Carmarthenshire in December for new claimants only. 2019 -2023 for others but claimants can go in to test check how they would benefit if they changed over. Libraries to offer support. (no training yet to Whitland Librarian)

Canolfan Hywel Dda

County Council appointment to the centre which was formerly on County land. County Councillors are appointed to various organisations in their Ward and from time to time report back to County Council. Attended various committee meetings during September and October. There was a vandalism incident and the spray paint and marker pen appears to have been acquired locally. The damage was reported to the police and subsequently painted over. The culprit is known.

Schools

School Governorship is a similar example of County Councillor appointments and County Councillors are expected to serve on the governing body of a maximum of two local schools as a Local Education Authority Governor. LEA. I attended a training session on Additional Learning Needs which covers support for exceptionally talented children as well as the support for any children with lesser ability. Afterwards I met with the deputy headteacher to discuss and drafted a report on how Llys Hywel is meeting both these levels of needs. This will be presented to the Governing body and feed into the school development plan.

Governors meeting

Attended Llys Hywel Autumn term Governors meeting and pleased to note higher numbers and continual improved data sets. An additional community Governor is required to be appointed from WTC. A DBS check will be needed to serve as a School Governor.

Cardi Bach

There is a small group collecting artefacts and walking various parts of the route. The collection is based at Login Railway Station. A meeting was held with members from the group CCC , PCC to explore reopening the route as a cycle path. This is a long term project and WTC passed on 2k in 2016 from 106 funding towards this long term project. It is hoped it will help commuters to ride safely between villages and encourage tourism and footfall between rural areas and service towns like Whitland and Cardigan.

Cllr Sue Allen