

WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

UPDATES – JANUARY 2017

TOWN HALL

General lettings

The general lettings are holding up well. However, the Blood Donors are moving to ground floor space at the COWSHAC.

Works to bottom market halls

Instructions have been given to the contractors to start the works to the bottom market to provide new doors. Advice has been taken from the Fire Officer on the new store being created.

Mayoral Board

The board has been constructed and the lettering will be in place by the January Full Council Meeting.

Certificates

The certificates and risk assessments are being constantly reviewed. The fire alarm works are completed and the electrical test also completed.

MARKETS

General report

The markets are generally holding up well. Some tenants have moved out with new ones in place. Some new stalls have started on the main street.

MAES Y DRE

General report

No issues to report.

New Facilities

The new garage with toilet facilities is to start construction in January 2017.

Fencing around car park

The old chain-link fencing being removed early in the New Year.

Memorial Gardens

The Memorial Gardens are looking good.

PLAYGROUNDS

Little Henfaes Drive

The new swing has been well received. The fence along one boundary is in need of repair and this work will be done in January 2017.

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Maes y Dre

The climbing frame is to be renewed during the 2017 season.
The fencing around the playground has been repaired.

Dol Y Felin

The surfacing has cracked and is being repaired in January 2017.

Country Park

No issues with the equipment.

Brookfield Road

No issues with the equipment

COUNTRY PARK

The Country Park is fine, in due course a bird hide is to be constructed to overlook the lake, this will be completed when grant aid is available.

ARMOURY RECREATION CENTRE

General report

Generally the centre is doing well. There may be some tenant changes in the ensuing year.

Showers refurbishment

Instructions to the contractors have been given to refurbish the showers.

Roofing and other general works

Works to the roof are to take place early in the New Year. Other minor works are planned as part of the maintenance programme.

STREET SCENE

Worst areas

The worst areas of the town have now been attended to so that a proper programme of cleaning can now take place.

Programme of works

There is a planned programme of cleaning and maintenance starting first week in January with each area being visited on a monthly cycle.

More bins

There is a need for more bins and some need replacing. A programme for this work will be taken to Council in February 2017.

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TOILETS

General report

Generally no issues. The toilets are steam cleaned every 3 months; this is due in January 2017.

Redecorations

The disabled toilet and night toilet at Church Street have been redecorated as part of the ongoing maintenance programme.

CCTV

General report

A new contract for maintenance has been put in place which includes 5 free callouts. All cameras are working.

New cameras

There is allowance in the budget for the year 2017-2018 for a new CCTV camera to extend the system.

MOTTE AND BAILEY

Development programme

Meetings with CADW are in the diary to take forward the next stages.

Gym Building

Work on the gym building is slow but the tenant is now doing some works. Rent is due to start flowing later in 2017.

ALLOTMENTS

General report

Site is much tidier.

Still one plot vacant, tenant being sought.

ARCHIVES

General report

The archives and their recording are proceeding well.

Works to archives rooms

There is new shelving to the old toilets area on the 2nd floor for storage of archives.

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OFFICES

General report

Some redecorations will be needed in the spring as part of the maintenance programme.

Works to building

Paintwork over the front door is to be repaired in the New Year.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

General report

Overall working well, sales down in 2016 but bottom line as expected.
Rail tickets doing well.

Business Plan

The business plan is reviewed monthly and a full review held in January.

Signage

The signage on the walls of the TIC building have been put in place.
Agreement reached to putting sign on the vacant land on the Church Street Car Park. Signage ordered.

TOWN SIGNS AND MAPS

General report

All signs and maps are monitored.
All are in place and in good order including the Town Trail.

Finger Posts

The finger posts have been welded into place.

PLANS AND DOCUMENTS

Town Plan

The outline of the new Town Plan has been completed. Action plan is to be added when a new Council has been elected in May 2017. Then a consultation will take place.

Bus Station proposal

The proposal for a central bus point has been considered with Berriew Street the preferred option. This is to be communicated to PCC.

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CANAL RE-OPENING

Further meetings being held, future plan being prepared. Ministers Office is attending Welshpool in early January to work on the next stage.

The Office is working with the Canal and Rivers Trust and other agencies.

POORER WELSHPOOL PROJECT

A meeting with PCC officers to take this project forward has been arranged. A draft booklet of information for this sector is at final draft stage.

ELECTIONS 2017

The packs and information needed at Town Council level for the elections in 2017 are being prepared including a campaign guide with information on boundaries of wards and electoral roles.

ONE WAY SYSTEM

The new traffic islands at the Jehu Road junction is complete.

The traffic light controls have been altered at the Morrison's junction and on The Cross.

The traffic island by the station is yet to be completed.

Further report due from Welsh Government early in the New Year.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Annual health and safety audit completed.

SURVEYS AND THE CAMBRIAN LINES

Survey details

Two surveys to complete in April and August. Welsh Government is funding this work via Welshpool Town Council for the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee.

Franchise

Meetings with the 4 Companies to bid for the Wales and Borders Franchise are arranged for early January.

HOSPITALS – SHREWSBURY – TELFORD

Everything is on hold while the shambles created by the Commission is sorted. It is likely that Parliament will now get involved.

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

Programme of films in place, events going well.

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AIRSHOW 2017

The plans for the 2017 air show and transport festival are proceeding in line with the approved budget.

CARNIVAL

The plans for the 2017 carnival is proceeding in line with the approved budget.

CANAL AND FOOD FESTIVAL

The plans for the 2017 event is proceeding in line with the approved budget.

SPORTS FESTIVAL

Plans are being formulated for approval with the event due to take place in July or August 2017.

OTHER EVENTS

All other events are progressing as per the approved plan. Booklets and tourism information is progressing in consultation with the Local Tourist Attractions.

DAY CENTRE

General report

Generally the centre is doing well. Income less than planned but so are costs so that the bottom line is acceptable.

Business Plan

The business plan is reviewed monthly. Marketing for new residents slow.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Numbers still limited. Volunteer drivers system working well.

WEB SITES

The main Council Web Site is kept up to date almost every day. A fresh front page is now being considered.

The Visit Welshpool Web Site is up and running and updated with events regularly. This site also has online sales with the T.I.C.

CHARTER

The new Charter is prepared and should be finalised by March.

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POWYS LIAISON MEETINGS

The Charter requires these meetings held between PCC and the Town/Community Councils. They are to re-start with Welshpool Town Council administering them. The first meeting is to be held in February 2017.

MONTHLY REPORTING

The Town Clerk visits all services monthly. Also holds meetings with team leaders monthly along with meetings involving all staff in each service. There are weekly reporting sheets for each service.

Robert A Robinson FRICS FILCM
Town Clerk
January 2017