

Report to Llandyssil Community Council Meeting 7th November 2007.

From: Cllr Wynne Jones. Elected Member for Dolforwyn Ward. Powys County Council.

1. Planning.

a) Town & CC Planning Liaison Meeting.

Please note that the date for this meeting has been changed and it will now be on November 28th at 7.00pm in Council Chamber at Welshpool.

b) The team of Planning Officers in Development Control at Welshpool is now complete with Principal Planning Officer John Pearson having joined the team as from Monday last. The new Head of Development Control in Powys has also started work last Monday, and I look forward to sitting down with him for a few hours next Monday to discuss his role in taking the service forward.

c) Enforcement.

We have also recruited another officer to join our Enforcement Team. This was badly needed as we have seconded Andrew Paddison from Enforcement to Development Control/Planning Application Manager for a period of at least 6 months. As a result this had left only one officer on Enforcement in Montgomeryshire area.

c) Possible Development at Green Lane.

A planning application has currently been received to effect a new entrance at Green Lane. I can inform the meeting that this is to facilitate the possible development of a local needs dwelling (or dwellings) on the site adjacent to the road. The application is made on behalf of the landowner Mr. R.Jerman.

d) Dev at New House Farm

Not much more to report, other than I remain concerned about the impact of the present situation on the adjacent occupiers and also now on the owners of the newly developed barn that is situated adjacent also. I have been promised this application to be lodged every week for the past few weeks and to date I still await its arrival, although I am now told it has been delivered to Planning Dept. in last few days.

2. Highways

a) Railway Crossing at Abermule.

I am aware of some complaints that following the recent work on the crossing by Network Rail. The complaints are that the carriageway over the crossing is now far more uneven than previously. I concur with that view and that seems to have been caused by the removal of the concrete and the insertion of rubber intersections. The question is of course whether or not it is dangerous. I have sought the view of the Highways Development Officer who travels over it each day. He is also a bit disappointed that where the disruption was to improve the network, as far as highways it has obviously had some detrimental effect. I am pursuing the matter further with Highways Officers as they still have work to do on site and that may give them the opportunity to make adjustments if they are deemed to be required.

b) Barn Conversion at Dolforwyn .

Work has begun on the Highways improvements required and the effect on the corner and the safety of traffic going to and from Dolforwyn Hall is immense.

c) Interactive Highways Speed Signs

I have spoken to Highways on this matter. Firstly they tell me they cost over £2,000 each. Secondly even if a Community Council were keen to finance them, they would not be allowed to install. It is only the Highways Authority who can erect signs along the Highway. As far as this type of sign is concerned apparently research shows that they are only effective when used very sparsely. In areas where several have been installed people become so familiar with them they cease to have any effect at all. Therefore Powys CC reserve the opportunity for situations where there is a problem where no other solution is easily available. They point out that following my representation Abermule has been promoted up the list for funding for traffic calming under Safe Routes to School Scheme and those proposals are currently being worked up. As far as Llandyssil is concerned there is no way that would be considered an appropriate for such signage.

3. General.

a) Primary Schools Organisation.

Now that the consultation period has elapsed I can speak more openly about this. The decision has been made to close 3 schools, defer the decision on one for 2 years and that leaves 2 currently to be decided upon in next month. The Council is now discussing the next steps of the Primary Schools Modernisation Agenda which will see £125m invested into new schools in the next 10 years.

b) Community Strategy.

We have concluded our discussion with PCC Shire Councillors and also the 15 Local Community Forums. It is now your turn to be consulted and to give your views with meetings being held in next month under the One Voice Wales umbrella.

c) Windfarms

It has been announced by WAG that they are extending SSA's by now including Forestry Commission land into areas for Windfarm Development. This means that we shall have many more than the 15 we currently have under discussion. On the matter of payments from Windfarm Developers I am still working to set up this Community Development Fund to take advantage of the money available. For information one prospective Windfarm at Llaithdu the applicants are offering a contribution to the Community Development Fund of £335,000 per year. DTI guidance states that any community affected by these developments should receive benefit. You can imagine that the host communities are likely to try and prevent that happening and keep the money for their own community. I always seem to get the difficult jobs !!!.

Wynne Jones

Elected Member Dolforwyn