

Report for Abermule with Llandyssil Community Council Meeting on 12th February 2008
From: Wynne Jones. Elected Member for Powys CC (Dolforwyn Ward.)

Highways.

1. Passing Place on Road into Llandyssil

Negotiations for the purchase of the land required from the Church are still ongoing and therefore work cannot begin. It is now proposed to carry this over to the next financial year. I am not amused about this, we have waited 3 years for this improvement and negotiations for the land began far too late for no reason.

2. Chapel Crossroads Improvements

Further to previous information a month back when I was told the work was being done 'next week' I called by earlier in the week to find nothing has happened. Again I am appalled. As usual work does not get done on time and as a member you have to chase and chase, as no one lets you know anything.

3. Dangerous State Railway Crossing at Abermule.

Again nothing has happened here and no information has come back to me as to what action and when Network Rail are going to take. I have sent off emails in the last week to the officer concerned, with no reply to date. The matter will be followed up with suitable vigour.

Planning

1. Unitary Development Plan & Local Development Plan

All modifications have been consulted on in the UDP and we would like now to proceed to formal adoption. However a further problem has now arisen with Welsh Assembly Government who have previously asked that all minerals deposits in the County are 'safeguarded' This was considered by the Inspector at Public Enquiry and he decided not to recommend this change. Now WAG are threatening to direct us, which they have power to do, and if they do this will further delay the adoption of the UDP by many months.

Whilst all this is going on we have begun work on the successor plan the Local Development Plan (LDP) and I have chaired three meetings on this in the past week. It is hoped to have the LDP Delivery Agreement ready and out for consultation by April and hopefully agreed with WAG and in place by May/June. We shall then have approx. 4 years to complete the plan and at that time it will succeed the UDP which will then become obsolete.

2 Planning Obligations Strategy

This has been a major piece of work and is designed to make sure that facilities and infrastructure are taken account off when development occurs. It is also meant to help developers by informing them what obligations are likely to be required before they enter into negotiations for the purchase of development land. I am hoping to have this in place before the end of April.

Misc

1. Fence along Play Area (Front of School)

Further to discussions at last meeting I have met with Mark Davies to discuss the possibility of re-boarding the fence using stronger boards and tying them with two lines of HT plain wire. He has quoted for this work at £490.00 plus VAT.

2. Grant for Phase 2 Works on Llandyssil Children's Play Area

I am delighted to report that due to an underspend on a grant project a small amount of grant funding became available and as portfolio holder I was able to recommend that this be allocated for Phase 2 of the play area at Llandyssil. This has been approved by the Board and the award is £2544 from CESF and £880 from the Welsh Church Acts Trust Fund.

3. Grant for Physical Activity Challenge.

Having become aware last week that there is money available from the above grant and that the criteria would fit the sign-posting of walks around the village and beyond, I immediately completed an application for the maximum £1200. This scheme is only open to Village Hall and Community Centres so the application was made in their name. Perhaps the Community Council would like to help them spend it in the appropriate manner if the application is successful.

4. Footpaths Meeting

A joint meeting was held last Wednesday for the Communities of Abermule, Llandyssil and Bettws. It was very well attended (55) and very worthwhile. It was agreed that interested persons from the three Communities would now go out and try and identify several paths which they would like to see opened and communicate the information back to Powys CC. This should lead to the Dolforwyn Ward being prioritised and that should mean that the work could begin in the autumn or at least by the end of the year.

5. Abermule Community Centre Budget

It has now become clear that the Centre will begin losing money as from April 2008 with a forecast of losses in the region of £3,500 in the next financial year. This has galvanised the attention of the Centre Officials and as a result the charges for Affiliated Organisations has been increased by 20% as from 1st May. Ways of cutting the costs are also being sought, but this is not easy for such a busy centre.

6. Powys County Council Budget

I previously reported that the increase in settlement for 2008/9 from WAG was going to be only 1%. Following much political pressure WAG relented and increased the settlement by 2% for next year. This is still a very difficult settlement, especially as we have now been told that there will be no increase for the following year (2009/10) in spite of the evident inflationary pressures. This will leave the Council £5/6 million short for that year following on this year where we have made over £5m savings. The increase in Community Charge this year will be 3.5%.

7. May Elections

With Council Elections due on May 1st and think this in an opportune time to make it known **that I do intend to seek re-election as the Member for Dolforwyn Ward.** I have been proud to serve the people of the Ward and the people of Powys for the last 4 years and feel I have achieved quite a lot for the local community and made quite a difference at Powys County Council also. I have given the maximum of effort and feel there is still a lot I can still achieve for the area and for the County as a whole.

Wynne Jones.
February 2008.