**Report to Abermule Community Council Meeting 1st April 2015**

**From: County Councillor Wynne Jones – Elected Member for Dolforwyn ward.**

1. **Local matters.**
2. The flooding due to blocked drains on Cefnycoed road close to junction has been reported and scheduled for the drainage wagon. If it has not already been done then it will be soon.
3. Faulty lights on beacon on pedestrian crossing has been reported accordingly ( finally to the right department !!)
4. The carriageway subsidence on the Cefnycoed road ( below Bryn Farm) has now been included in the Capital Budget for 2015/16 for repair. This is a substantial task due to the terrain adjacent to the carriageway. In the meantime I have asked the Highways Inspector to take a look to see if there are any additional temporary safety measures required.
5. Potholes. I have ‘re reported’ potholes at Llanmerewig and Dolforwyn, following the incomplete works that took place last month.
6. Blocking of the Highway at the Village Green, Llandyssil.

Officers have advised that to park a vehicle and in so doing block the highway is an offence under the Road Traffic Act. They suggest the following actions that the Community Council may wish to consider.

1. Post notices to this effect at the site and in the Public House ( where some of the culprits may be frequenting from time to time)
2. If that fails, then notify the police of the problem and request that they enforce the law accordingly.
3. Request the Council to make a TRO for that area which will result in double yellow lines be applied. There is still and enforcement issue though if people persist to park. Also the Council TRO Budget is very small and it could be a couple of years before a TRO can be progressed.
4. **Newtown Bypass.**

The Minister has now formally announced and issued the order, for the holding of a Public Inquiry over the objections to the Newtown Bypass. The Inquiry is expected to take about a month to complete, and is another hold up which will delay the start of the works. If the Inquiry was to order significant changes to the proposed route it could cause a considerable delay to the scheme.

1. **Public conveniences**

The County Council scheme to devolve itself of most public conveniences is going quite well and is being brought to finality. Most will stay open under alternative arrangements. However in Newtown it looks like the Toilet at Gravel Car Park may close, as Newtown Town Council are taking over the one in Back Lane Car Park but at present agreement with them for the Gravel Car Park toilet is not to hand.

1. **Funding for Theatrs in Powys.**

It had previously been decided that the Council would withdraw funding for the 4 Theatr Venues in Powys in 2016/17. In recent week this matter has been reviewed and it has become clear that if this happened then the Arts Council of Wales would also withdraw its funding which would affect Hafren and Brycheiniog Theatres. Therefore following review the cut in funding has been reduced to 50% starting with a 35% cut in 2016/17. The Theatr in our area, Hafren receives £139K of Council Funding, and we understand that the new proposed cut in funding in manageable and that the future if the Theatr is not threatened. The closure of Hafren Theatr in my opinion is unthinkable.

1. **Newtown Bus Station.**

This grant funding transportation project has been a challenge to complete on time, but it has to be finished by end of March to receive the funding of £315k from WG. At present it is going down to ‘the wire’ and will be finished on the very last day. The difficulty here was caused by thre fact that the funding was not awarded until late in the year 2014, and the Council had to design and procurement in little over a month in order to allow 3 months for construction.

1. **Community involvement in delivery of PCC Services.**

You have got Sue Simpson coming to your meeting so I will stay fairly staretgic with my notes here. The cabinet have decided that a degree of control needs to be exercised in this matter and that for this year we should concentrate on getting the ‘pilot’ projects across the line. I ( as PH for Finance) are also keen to capture some monetary savings from those pilots in the 2015/16 budget. Therefore a timetable has been drawn up for work with the pilot schemes at Welshpool, Newtown, Llanidloes, Llandrindod, Hay and Ystradgynlais, with a view to getting agreements in place with these in 2015/16. Other interest will have to follow on later, this is a 3 year programme, we simply cannot take it all forward at once or we will fail miserably.

I are pleased that we have agreement with Hay Town Council following negotiations that were undertaken by the CEO and myself with them, and that agreement was agreed by cabinet this week. Under that agreement there is a formulae where they can increase the services they contract from PCC on a progressive scale.

In conclusion if there are any Highways issues ( or indeed any issues) that require my attention, please ask Gwilym to forward them to me for action.

Wynne