**Report to Abermule(with Llandyssil) Community Council Meeting**

**On 3rd June 2015.**

**From: Cllr. Wynne Jones. Elected Member for Dolforwyn Ward on Powys CC.**

1. **Powys County Council Budget 14/15 Outturn.**

The revenue budget outturn for last financial year showed a small surplus of £282k, despite the fact that the Council only achieved 80% of the planned in year savings. The difference has been made up of some unplanned additional savings, some ‘one off ‘ savings’ and by using Council reserves.

There was an underspend on the capital budget, so the Council has decided to capitalise £1.737million of qualifying revenue expenditure ( road surface dressing), which means it therefore moves from the revenue budget to the capital budget. This will then inflate the reported surplus at year end to 2.019 million, which will be then placed in a Budget Management Reserve, to act as a ‘war chest’ to assist the council in the forward budget situation.

In addition Cabinet have agreed to move immediately to a 3 year balanced budget instead of current I year budget. It is intended that the funding for each service for the next 3 years will be in place and agreed by Cabinet on 23rd June. If the move to a 3 year budget goes well, I am hoping to recommend to Council that we then move to a 5 year balanced budget from next year.

1. **Local development Plan**

We are due to meet to discuss the LDP prior to this meeting. The consultation on the revised LDP (Deposit version) will begin next week and conclude on July 8th. It would be helpful if Community Councillors would spread the word as best they can, and perhaps the Community Council will put this information on the CC website.

It is hoped that the LDP will now have a smooth passage to conclusion in late 2016, when it will replace the current UDP.

1. **Bus Services.**

I did report to your last meeting that there was a consultation coming, on proposals to cut passenger bus services, in order to make a required saving of £500k. This consultation is currently on the Councils website and at present is suggesting two options, but in reality the outcome of the consultation may change some of the inherent proposals.

The work leading up to the proposals has been around trying to carry the maximum number of passengers that the total budget can afford. This has meant that the proposals being brought forward see a number of services at risk of being discontinued. They are all services where the number of passengers is low, and therefore the passenger subsidy very high. One high profile situation to hit the press involves services from Llanfair, but in reality this is the same service which comes through Bettws and Aberbechan, so there is a risk to bus services for those communities. On the other hand there are so few passengers on that service, the subsidy per head for each passenger in the last year has been £15.47 each, which is very hard to justify. The consultation is due to finish in early July.

1. **Garreg Llwyd Windfarm**

The above windfarm, proposed to situated in the hills above Llanbadarn, has recently been subject to an appeal against the original decision to refuse the application for 17 wind turbines. The appeal Inspector duly recommended consent, despite finding that the proposals would impact significantly on 3 heritage sites of importance. The Minister at WG Carl Sargeant has confirmed that decision.

At present Powys County Cabinet are considering whether or not an appeal against the Ministers decision is possible.

1. **Newtown Bypass.**

The Public Inquiry into the proposals for the Newtown By-pass is due to begin on 25th June. The Inspector is currently inviting submissions of evidence for the inquiry and they need to be in tomorrow. It is expected that the inquiry will be more about the choice of route and not about the need for a bypass.

In an effort to maximise and co-ordinate representation from the area, all the ‘local’ County Councillors met last week and have all submitted evidence to the Inspector. Newtown Town Council are presenting their evidence at the inquiry and we are trying to encourage the surrounding Community Councils to make similar presentations.