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

**On 13th May 2015**

**From: Cllr. Wynne Jones. Elected Member –Powys County Council.**

1. **Grass Cutting**

Verge grass cutting is due to start in our are wc.1st June and most of the area should be completed in the following 2 weeks ( Llandyssil area wc 8th June). However, should there be very fast growth, these dates can be brought forward by 1 week. Members will recall the dates had to be brought forward last year due to the unprecedented growth.

Urban Grass Cutting will once again be restricted to three cuts per year(reduced last year from 5 cuts) and Housing Estates will be cut 10 times during the year ( reduced last year from 18 cuts).

1. **Highways Capital Works.**

This year sees reality hit the highways capital budget. In the previous 3 years we have had the benefit of a 3 year capital grant from Welsh Government which the Council was able to match with prudential borrowing to give a budget in excess of £3m per year. There is no such arrangement this year and therefore the Highways Capital Budget for the whole of Powys is £300k in total. The only capital project that is scheduled in the Dolforwyn Ward is some carriageway side support work on the B4368 Dingle Road.

1. **Closure of Railway Crossing in Abermule**

Reminder that the Railway Crossing in the village will close for maintenance work from 10.30pm on Saturday 20th June to 9.30am on Sunday 21st June.

1. **Planning Applications.**
2. Application for a dwelling at Cae Twm, Llandyssil. This application went to the Planning Committee on Thursday 30th April, and achieved consent, against Officer recommendation, and on the casting vote of the Chairman David Price.
3. Application at Danycoed, Dolforwyn. Just to confirm that this application was approved by Officer delegated decision, subject to conditions. One of those conditions prevent it being used as domestic accommodation.
4. **Further changes to Powys CC Cabinet.**

A further change has taken place to the Powys CC Cabinet under the new coalition arrangements, with another of my Members from the Powys Independent Alliance joining. My colleague Cllr Stephen Hayes (Montgomery) took over the Portfolio for Property and Assets on 6th May.

1. **Powys Leisure Facilities.**

Powys Leisure Centres becomes an externalised service as from July 1st, following the appointment of Freedom Leisure to run the facilities on a 15 year contract. There will be increases in charges at all facilities, those increases actually take effect from June 1st. The contract provides an initial saving to the Council of approx. £900km in the first year, with further savings each year for the 15 years of the contract. There will investment is the facilities by the new operator, using money provided by the Council prudentially borrowed from the PLB at low rates available, and the new operator being responsible for making the repayments.

1. **Commissioning of Services from Local Communities.**

Work continues apace at moving forward the project where the Council commissions some of its services from Local Communities and Local Community organisations. We now have a clear programme for completing the Stage 1(Pilot) projects with an appropriate timetable set completing the stages for each one. In addition to the Stage 1 projects there are several Stage 2 projects starting to develop which we can hopefully bring forward for 2016/17. Montgomery is one of those, and my colleague Stephen Hayes is taking the lead on that one, and I believe that is an arrangement that this Council is interested in.

In commissioning services from Communities the Council has set a clear guideline that all services commissioned in this way have to deliver **at least a 50% saving over and above the current delivery cost.**

1. **Public Transportation.**

Savings of £2m have to be made from the Transportation in Powys. £500k has been already achieved by re-tendering of school transport contracts. It is now the turn of Public Transport to be targeted for savings and to that end watch out for a public consultation on changes to public transport starting at end of this month.

1. **Local development Plan.**

The revised LDP has now been approved to go on Deposit. This will now trigger a public consultation which will begin on 6th June and complete on 20th July. There are quite a lot of changes to the original deposit version from last August. However there are no changes to the proposal for Abermule and Llandyssil. I are not holding a public meeting this time around therefore and will deal with any residents queries on a personal basis. Any representations submitted last August WILL NOT be carried forward and have to be resubmitted again this time around. The proposals for Abermule were objected to by this Community Council and I would very much like to have a conversation with you the Community Council on this matter, so you have a better idea of the Development Brief that is being brought forward in Abermule. Last September that conversation was not possible as the consultation period was very unsatisfactory and after the public meeting I had to leave for Australia.

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