**Report to Abermule Community Council Meeting 1st June 2016**

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

1. **Dingle Road, Abermule.**

Members will recall that some funds were in last year’s budget for work on this stretch of road, but that it did not happen due to overruns on other schemes. I can report that funding for work on carriageway strengthening is now included for 2016/17 and an increased amount of £30,000 has been allocated.

1. **Planning Gain.**

In total I now have £36,500 to spend in Abermule being the remaining balance of Planning Gain obtained from Wyro and relevant to the developments in the village. As Members are aware £6,500 of that is for play equipment and I have asked the Community Council to organise that spend. I can report that £26,500 is for the school and the Governors and staff have now agreed to replace every window in the school with UPV double glazed windows and the remaining balance will be spent in redeveloping the outside space in front of the classrooms (currently a shrub garden). That leaves £2,500 and that can be spent on the Community Centre and decisions around that are yet to be finalised.

1. **Windfarm highways works in the area.**

Members will be aware that preparations for the transportation of components for wind farms is going on along the trunks roads at present, with the construction of large lay-bys which will be used as part of the traffic management system. One such lay-buy is to be developed at the ‘salt dump’ at Abermule. Some works on BT cabling have started, but in the next couple of week’s construction of a large lay-by in that area will begin and take about two months to complete. The wind farm components will transported in the period from middle of September through to December.

1. **Community Delivery project.**

Further to the Cabinets previous decision on the savings expected from transfer of services to Communities (40%/35%/30%), the Cabinet are to review the situation. The taper is certainly causing an issue/barrier to taking things forward in some areas, and the bottom level to where the settlement cascades is also an issue. Therefore Cabinet are to discuss this further, and are likely to at least remove the taper and set a level figure against the safety of a 3 year review being built in. Where the level will be set I cannot yet say, but it is likely to be above 30%. Any agreements already made will be adjusted accordingly.

1. **Glan-yr-afon Housing project Newtown.**

Members may be aware of the housing development on the old Boys & Boden site in Newtown which is now nearing completion. This development is quite ground breaking and provides an extra care facility for older people, disabled people and for those with learning difficulties, all on one site. The whole idea is that the vital care services are then available on the site, which provides the support to allow these vulnerable residents to live independent lives. There is a meeting on 17th June on the site for local Councillors and for Town & Community Councillors from Newtown and surrounding area, to explain the provision.

1. **Other Powys CC matters…..**

a). Financial outturn for 15/16 has now been finalised as a £1.965m surplus, but this is not good as it has only been achieved by two significant financial changes at end of the year amounting to £4.615m. The Council only achieved 76% of its planned in year savings, achieving £9.716 of the planned £12.768 million savings target ( £3.052m short). The unachieved savings will be added to current year savings to satisfy the base budget reduction and the one off surplus will be used to meet emerging budget pressures in current year.

b) The Cabinet will begin to discuss the financial plan for £2019/20 in next week, with a view to adding that to the current MTFP. The Council has to make savings under current plans of £85m through to 2019 ( 2012-2019) to meet Governments austerity impact, and it is expected that further savings of around £8m will be needed for 2019/2020, which would take the Councils total saving (2012-2020) to around £93m. Considering that the Government’s target for reduction in the budget deficit is currently way off target, it is expected that the austerity measures may well go beyond 2020.

c) Local Development Plan. Agreement has now been made with the appointed examiner that there should be a delay of 6 months in examination process, for PCC to provide that additional evidence required by WG around the housing projections/allocations. This means that it is now unlikely that the new plan will be in place until summer 2017, which means the Council will have been without a development plan for over a year.

d) JVC ( Joint Venture Company). Arrangements for the setting up of a JVC to run property and housing repairs/maintenance are now well in hand and a 50% partner is being procured accordingly with final tenders by 17th June. It is envisaged that this new company will therefore have at least an initial £11m of work annually, and that will grow, with the possibility that both police and fire service will soon agree to place their properties within the contract.