

Community News

Special Council Issue - August/September 2018

an information service from PAC - the Presteigne Area Community Development Group

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County Councillor Summer Update

I have continued to work in conjunction with the Town Council to try to resolve matters for our community. I continue to meet with a number of Powys County Council personnel and outside bodies to discuss these matters. Items which may be of interest include:

- The York stone paving on Broad Street and the bottom of Station Road is scheduled to be cleaned in the autumn.
- Phase 2 of the Safe Route to School funding has been awarded by the Welsh Assembly. The plan at the moment is to continue the route from Kings Court; up Greenfield Road and up Hereford Street. There will be lots of community engagement so everyone will be able to comment the design. Please look out for the events in the near future. Dates to be confirmed!
- The Old Drill Hall is now for sale on the open market with Powys County Council. It was decided the building was surplus to requirements.
- I have continued to respond to constituents emails regarding a variety a matters and hopefully have been able to resolve these problems, such as helping with social services, planning, street lighting, loose paving slabs, new signage, etc.
- Congratulations to Presteigne Carnival & Norton Show for two excellent community events.
- Also, congratulations and good luck to the East Radnorshire Day Centre who have been shortlisted as a finalist in the Powys Business Awards Social Enterprise / Charity category.
- I have continued to keep pressing Welsh Water to upgrade to the sewage works to increase its capacity.
- "Plastic Free Presteigne" has held its initial meeting, which I was very pleased to be a part of. This is something we can all try to work towards in our own small way by choosing to purchase fruit & vegetables that are not wrapped in plastic for example, or by choosing to purchase paper straws as opposed to plastic ones. There are many other lifestyle choices we can make, and I think it is a project we should be actively encouraging.
- We have all been very concerned at the recent events taking place at the Radnorshire Arms. I have met and contacted a variety of people from various organisations including Mr & Mrs Williams themselves. As I write the hotel has been put into administration, which I honestly think is probably the best outcome from where we were. At least now the property can be sold and hopefully be thriving once again in our community.
- I hope you have all had a good summer and enjoyed the warm weather.

If you would like to contact me to discuss any issues please feel free to do so by either visiting the monthly surgery at the Farmers Market on the first Saturday of the Month at the Memorial Hall, email cllr.beverley.baynham@powys.gov.uk or by telephoning me on 07976928039.

Mayor's Summer Update

In addition to the items outlined by Bev, I'd like to add the following:-

- Congratulation to all the hardworking volunteers who look after the Warden for achieving a 'Green Flag Award'. Work is now starting on sign boards and paths into the Old Reservoir.
- Really good news that the Judge's Lodging has received £120k from MALD to repair the roof, repaint the front, re-fit the shop and update the Sony Walkmans!
- As well as repeating Bev's 'thank you' to the organisers of the Carnival and Norton Show, I would also like to say well done to Sheep Music for their event on the Warden, to the organisers of the wheelbarrow race which I'm sure will become a fixture on the calendar, to Presteigne Festival for another fantastic event and to all the artists who ran the 'Open Studios' over the Bank Holiday weekend.
- The TC has now installed four 'dog poo bag dispensers' at the Scout Hut car park on Went's Meadow, junction of St David's St and the High St, entrance to the Warden, and by the footpath that crosses the JBS playing field. We hope this will help dog owners to ensure they tidy up after their pooches! We will also be running a competition in the primary school to design a poster to help get the message across!
- The TC has been approached by the Marches Astronomy Group and Transition Presteigne to get Presteigne and Norton designated as a 'dark sky community'. It was agreed to write a letter to confirm support and that further investigation with PCC be undertaken by them with a more detailed action plan to be brought back to the Council for further consideration. It was also felt that a survey to obtain community views would be needed prior to any formal application to become a Dark Sky Community.
- Our application to the lottery for £10k for outdoor gym equipment has been successful and soon eight pieces of outdoor exercise equipment will be installed next to the car park by the Scout Hut on Went's meadow.
- We have again written to the Managing Director at Welsh Water for confirmation that a new wastewater treatment plant will be included in their 2020-2025 business plan. This is a key issue for the future growth of our community as the current plant is at capacity.
- And finally the Town Council is moving its monthly meetings to the upstairs room in the Assembly Rooms to help make meetings more accessible to the public. Meetings are held on the 3rd Wed of the month at 7.30pm unless there's a guest speaker, when we start at 7pm. Next meeting is on 19th September. Everyone is welcome to come and listen to what's going on. The agenda for the meeting is posted on the notice board by the Library door on the Thursday/Friday before the meeting and can also be found on the Town Council pages of the town website www.presteigne.org.uk. I look forward to seeing you there!

If you have any questions on what's happening - or not happening - in our community, do let us know and we'll do our best to provide an answer, or at least point you in the right direction - simply email pacdg@icloud.com.

We're happy to help publicise community and charity activities and events (but only for events in the immediate Presteigne area) - email text (not poster images please) to pacdg@icloud.com.

The Community News is published twice per month. Feel free to tweet or forward this issue to others.