

Community News

Special Town and County Council issue 76 - May 2018
an information service from PAC - the Presteigne Area Community Development Group

If you have any questions, information to pass on, or a local event or activity to publicise, email us at pacdg@icloud.com

This is your chance to have a say on what your Town Council does, or should do the Welsh Government has appointed an independent panel to carry out a review of the Town and Community Council sector. Local Councils across Wales are being asked to host drop-in sessions in their communities. **Presteigne & Norton Town Council will be holding a session on Thursday 24th May from 2pm to 4.30pm in the Memorial Hall.** Please call in to leave your comments or to chat to the Town Clerk and Councillors. If you cannot make this session you can submit your comments direct to the Panel online using this link: <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/14COS/>

County Councillor - Spring Update from Beverley

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 High Street gutters were cleaned and the High Street / Scottleton Street has been re-surfaced.
- The Safe Route to School is now complete. There are some minor works being done as a result but the route is now open and I'm pleased to say is being well used.
- The sale of the piece of land to extend the cemetery has now been completed and is in the ownership of Powys County Council. All monies have been received by the Town Council.
- Newtown High School has been placed into Special Measures but following a meeting with the new Headteacher Mr Rob Edwards I have full confidence that since his appointment in September he is making huge strides and there is some excellent teaching & learning going on in the classrooms at the John Beddoes Campus. I would urge people to support our local school.
- I recently met with the Brecon & Radnor MP Chris Davies to discuss the issues we have been experiencing with sewage. I appreciate Welsh Water have carried some remedial work but what is desperately needed is an upgrade to the sewage works to increase its capacity. He agreed he would write to the Chief Exec on our behalf.
- Discussions have also taken place with the housing department within Powys County Council with a view to identify sites for new council houses to be built. This obviously won't happen overnight but I do appreciate there are a large number of families on the housing waiting list needing a larger bedroomed property.
- I was pleased to be able to support my colleagues Cllr Emily Durrant & Cllr Elwyn Vaughan on their project "Plastic Free Powys". 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. There are many other lifestyle choices we can make, and I think it is a project we should be actively encouraging.
- Parking as ever continues to be an issue in Presteigne. I would like to make an appeal to residents to please be considerate to wheelchair users, people with prams & pushchairs, households and your fellow community. Please can you refrain from parking in front of dropped kerbs and on the pavements. Thank you.
- Discussions were ongoing regarding car parking charges in Presteigne with the portfolio holder Cllr. Liam Fitzpatrick. Following a change in the Cabinet I now have to re-start discussions with the new Councillor overseeing this role.

- As Chairman of Radnorshire I attended the National Vintage Tractor Run on Easter Sunday. It was a wonderful way to spend a Sunday morning and a spectacular sight to see almost 500 vintage tractors travelling through Presteigne High Street.
- The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales have produced a draft proposal to make changes to the County Councillors boundary they represent. It is a lengthy document which you can find at www.ldbc.gov.uk if you wish to read it. It proposes the Presteigne & Norton ward is split. The County Councillor elected would be responsible for Presteigne only. Norton would be joined to the Llangunllo Ward if these proposals are adopted. As this is in the consultation stage people are invited to respond with their comments. So I would encourage people to send an email to ldbc.wales@gov.wales with your comments.
- Finally some good news – Presteigne has been voted the 8th Best Place to Live in Wales. The only place in Powys to make the list! We all know we live in a wonderful part of not only Powys but Wales but for it to be officially recognised is something we should all be proud of.

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 cll.beverley.baynham@powys.gov.uk or by telephoning me on 07976928039.

Scam news

(Ed. - I'm passing on this round up of resident's reports forwarded recently by Golden Valley NPT as it's just as relevant to us)

"Just to warn the community that an Asian male (American English) is calling claiming to be from Microsoft Office support – asked for me by name! Unusually 1471 yielded telephone 01422 385 837 – which did dial although no one picked up."

"I just received an automated phone call from number 02922 550404. The message was intimidating and warned me that there was a serious law suit out against me, if I didn't ring back I would be liable for thousands of pounds or worse. I hung up and on researching the internet I discovered hundreds of other people have received the same call within the last few days. I am aware that most people would not be taken in by it, but even with my rational head on it felt threatening and worrying so can't imagine what it might feel like for elderly or vulnerable people. Appreciate there is little you can do other than warn as many people as you can!"

"This morning I took a call from the following telephone number 02922 550404, it was a pre-recorded message. A female voice, identifying herself as Lisa, started off by telling me she was from the HMRC (Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) and there was a serious lawsuit against my name. I immediately cut the call off". Research shows that a large number of people have received the same call and some have been petrified by the tone and threats indicated by the caller.

"Just to let you know of a new scam, I believe: MetroBank message to my mobile "Our security team have tried to contact you regarding your online account. Log in via the secure link <http://...../personal> to avoid suspension. As I don't have an online account and have never heard of MetroBank I guess this is a scam."

A new scam was brought to our attention last week by one of our readers, who asked that we spread the word. The lady was alerted to the fact that her phone was out of order by neighbours who had been trying to make contact – she had been able to make calls out but apparently no-one could call her. When a call was made to the lady's phone provider, they informed her that they had received a request from a male giving her husband's name to have their calls diverted to a mobile number. This request had not come from the couple, and couldn't understand why someone would do that. (The mobile number given for the calls to be diverted to is now unobtainable). A check was then made with the couple's bank and it transpired that several large online shopping transactions had been made over the past few days using their card details – it is not known at this stage how the card details were obtained by the scammers as the card had not left the couple's possession. We're assuming that the number was diverted so that if the bank called to check that the transactions were genuine they would have been unable to make contact with the couple. **Golden Valley Police team go on to say "We advise that you take precautions with your personal data - change to ex-directory for your landline and always elect NOT to be on the public register when filling in your annual electoral form".**

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) - mail pacdg@icloud.com. Feel free to tweet or forward this to others. If you would prefer not to receive further issues of the News, please email us with REMOVE and we'll immediately take you off the the distribution list