

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RADNORSHIRE COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE POWYS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND ARCHIVES BUILDING,
UNIT 29 DDOLE ROAD, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS
ON WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2017**

PRESENT: Councillor B. Baynham, Chairman

County Councillors K Curry, D Evans, M Mackenzie, M Weale, G Williams, J Gibson-Watt and C Mills.

In attendance:

Councillor Stephen Heather Ransom – Ambulance Operations Manager, Dave Watkins – Locality Manager, Jenni Thomas – Regeneration Manager, Julie Lewis – Tourism Officer, Nathan Davies – Memorial Project Officer, Ashley Collins – Waste and Recycling Strategy Officer and Tony Caine – Traffic and Travel Manager.

1.	APOLOGIES
-----------	------------------

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors EM Jones, H Lewis, G Price, R. Powell, P Roberts, A Williams and J Williams.

2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
-----------	-------------------------------------

The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday 13th September 2017. During discussion particular reference was made to the attendance by the police at the last meeting. The police had expressed a wish to attend regular shire meetings in order to discuss local policing matters. Inspector Andy Pitt had assumed responsibility for the Radnorshire area.

3.	CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
-----------	---------------------------------

The Chairman reported on the following since the last meeting:

- a. **Powys Information and Archives Centre** – having missed the official opening of the site due to ill health
- b. **Remembrance Sunday** – having attended a local Remembrance Sunday event
- c. **Winter Fair** – the Chair would attend next week's Winter Fair

4.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
-----------	---------------------------------

There were no declarations of interest from members in respect of items to be discussed on the agenda.

5.	AVELING ROLLER AND LIVING VAN EP3339 'THE RADNORSHIRE ROLLER'
-----------	--

Phil Sherrard, Principal Legal Assistant attended for this item of business. The matter of storing and maintaining the 'Radnorshire Roller' had been an on-going issue for years. Tarmac store the roller and living van as a goodwill gesture at a local site. Although there are no immediate issues with regard to storage and maintenance the owners of the quarry feel it time to pass the roller back to the Authority. The quarry would consider providing funding to contribute to upkeep costs. A Trust arrangement had been favoured as an option

by the shire, however, how it would work had yet to be determined. It was **RESOLVED** that Phil would advertise the position and invite expressions of interest with regard to involving organisations in a Trust arrangement and report back to the next meeting. It was felt that siting the roller and living van at a prominent location in Radnorshire could be an option, however, where to site it would need to be determined by the shire.

6.	WELSH AMBULANCE SERVICE TRUST
-----------	--------------------------------------

Members welcomed Heather Ransom – Ambulance Operations Manager and Dave Watkins – Locality Manager to the meeting to provide an update in relation to the operation of the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust. During discussion particular reference was made to:

- a. **Local Engagement** – moving forward there would be a strong focus on local/community engagement. Heather would welcome communities engaging with the service in order to shape services around community needs as opposed to imposing services. Heather would welcome visiting communities in order to engage better
- b. **Service Delivery** – the service had been reshaped nationally. There are five areas of service delivery that would deliver the care model (Help Me Choose, Answer My Call, Come to See Me, Give Me Treatment and Take Me To)
- c. **Right Response** – the above service review would deliver the right response to the right situation
- d. **Paramedics** – there had been an upskill to paramedic positions in order that they are now able to discharge from care without the need to admit if the situation allows for it. There would be a pilot in the Montgomeryshire area
- e. **Call Outs/ Performance** - the true position is that there are two ‘red’ calls to the emergency service per day. Red calls are calls where there are immediate life threatening situations i.e. risk of death. The target response time for red calls is 8 minutes, there are some difficulties in Powys in meeting this target due to rurality. Amber calls are split into two categories (1 and 2), the majority of calls to the service in Powys are amber 1 calls. WAST performs well against the 19 minute amber 1 target time for attending (despite rumours to the contrary)
- f. **Demand** – the change in focus to deliver the right response to the situation had reduced the number of 999 call outs to 60 calls per day (prior to the change there were up to 400 emergency calls made per day)
- g. **Resource** – Powys is resourced at the right level to meet need (ambulances, cars and rapid response vehicles are located in key sites). Each ambulance call out would remove a vehicle from operations for around three hours
- h. **Locality Teams** – there are two Powys locality teams, one covering Brecknockshire and Radnorshire, the other Montgomeryshire
- i. **Community Schemes** – there would be a strong emphasis on community based schemes, ideas include community based ambassadors. It could be that communities identify locals to provide initial, emergency, lifesaving support to complement the service
- j. **Highway Clearances** – during inclement weather the local authority would focus on keeping open routes if they were deemed needed for medical situations. There are good relationships between the service and local authority
- k. **St. John’s Ambulance** – there are good links with St. John’s and when appropriate St. John’s help with local medical situations
- l. **Cross Border Collaboration** – despite rumours to the contrary relationships across country borders are good and there should be no difference in terms of treatments given due to nationality (allowing for policy differences)

- m. **Complaints** – the service welcomes those waiting to raise issues to use the complaints procedure in order that areas for learning can be identified. The complaints system has been branded ‘Putting Things Right’

Members welcomed the update and discussion and thanked representatives from WAST for attending. It was agreed to provide a link to the presentation in order that members could access it.

7.	REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS
----	--

Members welcomed the opportunity to receive reports from, and to put questions to, Cabinet Portfolio Holders. During update and discussion particular reference was made to:

Councillor Stephen Hayes – Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Adult Social Care

- a. **Welsh Ambulance Service Trust** – the Portfolio Holder had met with Heather Ransom – Ambulance Operations Manager shortly after she came into post. Hopefully there would be good links moving forward
- b. **Day Centres/Care** – there would be a dedicated member briefing on 6th December which would include, during the afternoon, budget information
- c. **BUPA Homes** – BUPA operate a number of homes under contract to Powys (Powys owns the sites). Recently BUPA had been looking to transfer the contract (initially without notifying the Council), to HC1. It would be a legal requirement for BUPA to honour the contract. The position is being very closely monitored by the Authority
- d. **Fronheulog House, Llandrindod Wells** – the home is privately owned and the owner had served notice on the Council for closure. The Authority had engaged with regard to delaying closure until alternative arrangements could be met for those who are cared for at the site. There are very few local alternative sites to accommodate those with care needs. The portfolio holder apologised for not advising and updating the local members for Llandrindod Town in advance of a media release. The Council would work with those families in order to support those with care needs the best it could
- e. **Savings** – as at the end of September £1.3 million of savings had been identified against a target for the year end of £2.2 million. There are pressures, however, the position would be monitored. There are particular issues in relation to planning for meeting transition costs that need to be better recognised (when young people with care needs transfer to being supported by adult social care)
- f. **Delayed Transfers of Care (DTCOs)** – as of today there are no delayed transfers of care in Radnorshire and all those in receipt of care have care packages in place. The Local Authority monitors potential delayed transfers of care and works closely with the health board
- g. **Recruitment and Retention** – there are targeted recruitment campaigns in order to fill vacant positions. Schemes include up-skilling those staff who would have an appetite to progress to social worker positions. The Radnor and Brecon Social Work teams work together and share resource. There are also pressures in recruiting and retaining staff to deliver the domiciliary care service. In the light of difficulties across a number of sectors it was suggested by a member that recruitment should be an issue for discussion at Public Service Board level
- h. **Adult Social Care (Improvement Plan)** – in the light of a review of practices and an expected inspection the Authority had introduced an improvement plan. There had been pleasing progress towards addressing the issues raised in order to improve services. The service would welcome a focused inspection
- i. **Annual Review Assessments** – a member reported that he had been made aware that there were 190 assessments pending. The Portfolio Holder accepted that the annual

review process was in need of re-considering. The view being to remove the need for social workers (a limited resource) to undertake annual reviews. Removing the requirement would speed up the process (those undertaking reviews would be appropriately skilled)

Councillor Martin Weale – Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Regeneration and Planning

Members welcomed Jenni Thomas, Regeneration Manager, Julie Lewis – Tourism Officer and Nathan Davies – Powys War Memorials Project Officer to the meeting for this item of business.

Business Support/Regeneration

Members were shown a short film which explained the activities being undertaken to support local businesses. Members requested a copy of the film for local viewing. While welcoming the information it was noted that it was very high level, members would welcome detail in order to better understand support at a local level.

Regeneration Activities:

- a. **Local Activities** – the refurbishment of Knighton Community Centre, proposals to regenerate the lakeside area of Llandrindod and the town loan scheme were referenced as local activities to support area regeneration
- b. **Tri-Town Project** – the Portfolio Holder reported that he had initiated a tri-town project between Builth Wells, Llandrindod Wells and Rhayader in order to look at how each town could work as a unit to support business growth and development. This was very much a pilot and in its infancy. If successful the scheme would be rolled out to other areas
- c. **Local Spend** – the Cabinet had recognised the importance of maximising the local spend. The Portfolio Holder reported that just 27p out of every £1 spend had fed into the Powys economy from the Powys spend. The Commercial Services Team would introduce targeted schemes in order to increase the local spend. Members could take an important role in supporting schemes

Tourism:

- a. **Value** – in 2015 the value of tourism to the Powys local economy was in the region of £720 million (the second largest value to Powys after farming)
- b. **Types of Stay** – Powys is a short-stay destination, it would be important to build on the reputation
- c. **Branding** – branding Powys is very important in order to provide an identity
- d. **Events** – the Authority has an events team. Hosting events can be very lucrative. It would be important to maximise publicity. There are national as well as local events held i.e. the tour of Britain and the Machynlleth comedy festival
- e. **Visit Wales/Cambrian Way (A470)** – historically funding has been provided to support activities along the Cambrian Way route which sits alongside the A470
- f. **Promotion** – Powys would work with communities to help publicise local attractions
- g. **Visit Wales** – Visit Wales run themed annual programmes which are supported by funding and media coverage. This year the theme will be legends with links to the sea. Although Powys is landlocked, apart from a small part of the tidal Ddyfi estuary, there would be an opportunity to promote routes to the coast. Next year would favour Powys more, the theme would be discovery
- h. **Areas of Distinctive Identity** – in order to bring funding into Powys and promote areas there had been a focus on the Brecon Beacons, Cambrian Mountains, Dyfi

Biosphere, Lake Vyrnwy and Berwyn Mountains and the Offa's Country Corridor. It is accepted that other areas have a range of attractive qualities and tourist attractions

- i. **Working with Communities** – approaches to the Council regarding help in promoting and supporting areas to market are encouraged. Regeneration officers are on hand to help areas in this regard

Powys War Memorials Project:

- a. **War Memorial Project** – communities have access to a time limited grant which is administered by the Authority. Communities can apply for funding to support projects which recognise conflicts with a focus on WWI and refurbishing war memorials. We are currently in year two of the four year grant period and the total grant will be £500k. Where memorials recognise more than one conflict they would also be considered for funding. The fund is being allocated on a first come first serve basis
- b. **Funding/Application Process** - up to £5k could be awarded to refurbish WWI war memorials, 10% of the grant award would need to be matched by the local community. The application process had been kept simple and there's an emphasis on processing applications quickly
- c. **Community Engagement and Events** – funding could also be accessed to support community events which recognise the forces i.e. an area had applied to support a local walk of historical interest which links to the forces. Local cadet squads may be able to access funding
- d. **Social Media/Website Projects** – funding could also be obtained to support activities to provide information via. social media and/or to operate websites which recognise the services
- e. **Powys Estate** – there are 350 known memorials in Powys which have been mapped

Planning Function

The Portfolio Holder reported that since coming into post and being responsible for the planning function the portfolio holder had worked with officers to identify blockages and issues in relation to the planning process. There would be a focus on reviewing processes with a view to speedy consideration of applications

8. WASTE AND RECYCLING

Members welcomed Ashley Collins – Waste and Recycling Strategy Officer to the meeting to update on the scheme and activities. Ashley explained that he had asked to attend this round of shire meetings in order to update new members on the service and how it operates and to take questions. During discussion and update particular reference was made to:

- a. **Visibility** – the service is very visible and subject to close scrutiny by the public. The public would be very likely to raise issues with their local members
- b. **Kerbside Collections** – the Authority had adopted the Welsh Government's favoured scheme of kerbside collections (the scheme relies upon residents to separate waste, residents should be recognised for supporting the scheme)
- c. **Community Recycling Sites** – sites were reviewed in 2016. In some areas use had lessened because residents were using the kerbside recycling scheme. Sites are used for green waste and heavy cardboard
- d. **Household Waste and Recycling Centres** - the Authority has a statutory obligation to provide one site for the storage and collection of recyclable household waste, however, it exceeds this requirement and operates five (three of which are at sites which are owned by the Local Authority). There had been a proposal to

reduce to three sites, however, the Cabinet which was formed after the May election had agreed to retain five sites (subject to appropriate review) and to increase the length of time sites are open during a five day opening week (to include Saturday and Sundays). Sites are operated under contract with the Authority and proposals to create a Council owned site in Newtown would be progressed. It would be much better for the Authority to own its sites

- e. **Permits** – a permit arrangement had been introduced for use of Household Waste Recycling Centres in order to reduce any abuse and dumping of trade waste which should be disposed of through individual agreements
- f. **Collection Cycles** – there would be a weekly dwelling collection of recyclable waste with non-recyclable (black bag waste) being collected every three weeks (3 weekly collections had been agreed in November 2015 and to date were working well). There may be considerations in relation to a four weekly residual waste collection. Members and residents would be kept informed of any plans to introduce a four weekly cycle
- g. **Targets** – the Welsh Government impose waste reduction and recycling targets. Fines could be issued to those Authority areas that do not meet targets. The price for sending waste to landfill is increasing. The Authority exceeded the 2015/16 target to recycle recyclable household waste, the target being 58%. Requirements to be met for 2019/20 are 64% and 70% by 2024/25
- h. **Wood** – there are considerations with regard to schemes for recycling wood. Members and residents would be informed of any future plans
- i. **Cae Post** – Cae Post no longer work under contract with the Authority for providing a waste collection function (it had done in previous years). For a charge Cae Post could recycle waste which the Authority would not accept
- j. **Trade Waste** – those operating businesses are required to enter into agreements for disposing of trade waste. Trade waste is a chargeable activity
- k. **Route Optimisation** – routes would be reviewed in order to reduce mileage and repeat passes of dwellings. Savings will be achieved. There may be media attention. The only change that the public would experience may be a change of collection day
- l. **Fly Tipping** – all authorities experience issues with regard to the fly tipping of waste. The Authority had recently strengthened its processes in order to warn and act. The process is three staged and begins with an advice notice which would progress to a warning and finally actions including fines and potential for prosecution
- m. **Abermule Site** – there are ongoing discussions with the Welsh Government regarding the operation of a multi-service site in Abermule which could include a waste management facility
- n. **Waste Fleet (VAT)** – a member requested clarification regarding VAT fuel arrangements for the waste fleet. Ashley would report back

9.	REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES
-----------	--

Members welcomed the opportunity to receive reports from, and to put questions to, member serving on outside bodies.

10.	ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT
------------	---

Members welcomed Tony Caine – Traffic and Travel Manager to the meeting for this item of business.

- a. **Presteigne Safe Routes in Community Network** – it was **RESOLVED** that the objections be over-ruled and the proposals implemented as advertised
- b. **Pentrosfa, Llandrindod Wells (Traffic Calming)** – it was **RESOLVED** that the proposal be approved and to initiative the consultation procedure and that if no substantive objections are received the proposal for Pentrosfa be implemented

11.	INFORMATION AND ARCHIVES SERVICE
------------	---

Members were invited to tour the Powys Information and Archives facility.

12.	CORRESPONDENCE
------------	-----------------------

There were no items of correspondence.

13.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING
------------	-----------------------------

The next meeting would be held on 17th January 2018.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR BEVERLY BAYNHAM
CHAIRMAN**