

Questions to Cabinet Re-Welshpool Schools Project

Howell Drive Site for Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng

1. Surely we have to look at a possible downscaling of the project to ensure it stays within budget. What other options have been looked at?
2. Were the developers given a free hand to produce a school which met the criteria set by Cadw without any thought on costs and if so why?
3. And why weren't they asked to produce a new scheme encompassing the Cadw requirements BUT within the original budgets.

Welshpool Church In Wales School – High School Site

While I support splitting the schemes to allow work to begin on Welshpool Church In Wales Primary School there are questions that need answering there too.

1. This report includes not a single word of explanation about the need for additional expenditure there – just a brief mention of additional top soil replacement costs. What does that mean?
2. Neither does the report breakdown the level of costs but instead they are contained in an overall figure of £3.8million.

I received this response: “The estimates for the additional costs for a perfect site scenario is £770,000 (this includes exporting and importing gas membrane barriers works etc.

“Actual removal of the top soil is circa £176,000 which forms part of the overall required funding increase for Welshpool Church In Wales Primary School.”

3. Why has this come to light so late in the day?

4. Why were proper searches not completed?
5. Who is responsible?
6. What actions are we taking as a council to investigate why these issues were not identified earlier?
7. Was anyone aware that the site for the new Church In Wales Primary School was originally used as a dumping ground when a large part of the town centre was raised to the ground for redevelopment in the late 50s or early 60s. If not why not?