



Neuadd y Sir / County Hall, Llandrindod, Powys, LD1 5LG

QUESTIONS AT ANY TIME TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Question From:	County Councillor Jake Berriman
Subject:	Planning services
Question To:	County Councillor Iain McIntosh Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Planning & Housing

Question:

Earlier this week I was approached by a lady in another ward, but familiar with my planning background, expressing her grave concerns about planning processes in Powys and questioning whether they were acting in the interests of small business and economic recovery. She wished to undertake works to a residential property to use it as shop to better serve her community struggling in a post COVID environment. But instead of freely given advice and support, she was faced by a barrage of bureaucracy and a request for £250 before anyone from planning would even speak to her. At the same time I am reminded that, on behalf of a constituent wishing to remain anonymous, I lodged an enforcement matter about an alleged breach of planning control over 5 months ago and I am yet to receive an answer as to whether development has occurred. Of course, I already know the answer but that isn't the point. Thirty years ago, Radnorshire was amongst the best performing councils in Wales based on the speed of processing applications, but quality of service and added value also mattered greatly and of course advice was free.

Can you please advise how you view the current planning service and whether it is delivering for recovery and growth whilst protecting our natural and built assets? What are the current rates for determining planning applications expeditiously, are they good enough, and how to they compare? Are you providing sufficient resources to the planning team for it to deliver swift and effective planning and enforcement services? And what would your advice be to the lady I spoke to, should she install UPVC windows to her shop front in a prominent location in a Conservation Area and hope that no one notices and make a little income before enforcement catches up, or should she pay an excessive gateway fee to receive some simple and timely advice?