

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton  
**PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL**

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27<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Grant for High Streets in Powys**

£200,000 of Welsh Government Transforming Towns funding has been made available for towns across Mid Wales to fund adaptations in town centres to facilitate trading and public safety in response to Coronavirus.

The Covid-19 crisis has had a significant impact on the lives and health of many Powys citizens, but it has also had severe economic consequences. The lockdown had an immediate impact on the way in which our town centre operates, with many businesses being required to close for a significant period of time. The County Council has recognised that social distancing measures introduced in our town centres, while supporting the reopening of all town centre businesses and encouraging people to safely return to the high street with confidence, has also impacted on the ability of businesses to achieve sufficient footfall and it is hoped that this grant will assist.

The grant is available for town councils, and legally constituted regeneration groups to make applications that benefit groups of businesses.

As a guide the following are eligible capital costs:

- Outdoor awnings, canopies, igloo bubbles, outdoor heating, marquee coverings. These external enhancements need to be delivered in such a way so as to ensure that they are aligned with current medical advice. They should facilitate outdoor trading space. The effects of sunlight, wind direction and intensity, social distance and effective handwashing should all be considered alongside any intervention. Specifically in regards to the use of physical coverings, awnings, gazebos or marquees should be open on 3 or 4 sides so as to be considered and treated as an external environment. Coverings, awnings, marquees or gazebos need to be either transparent or of light cover so as to ensure transmission of sunlight. It is imperative that if marquees are to be adopted for use they need to be effectively used and policed so as not to allow for an excessive confined congregation which would not accommodate effective social distancing.
- Outdoor tables, chairs and seating provision. To be delivered in accordance with current guidance on social distancing requirements.

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- Outdoor screening, bollards, planters. To be delivered in accordance with current social distancing requirements. Any proposals delivered should not impede pedestrian traffic on pavements, pathways or public realm areas.
- Outdoor serving facilities.
- The establishment of parklets (using parking spaces and the provision of decking on which to construct timber structures so providing small covered areas offering some weather protection).
- Small Green Infrastructure schemes especially where there is seating provision.
- The establishment and adoption and temporary use of vacant trading spaces to facilitate overspill, meanwhile uses, pop ups and entrepreneurship action
- Electricity supply and lighting to outdoor trading space.
- The establishments of outdoor market provision to include electricity provision.
- Social distancing measures
- Other interventions can also be considered that facilitate social distancing and a lower density of occupation in the external environment such as shop front modifications, courtyard / rear garden improvements, and adaptations to the public realm (subject to planning and local approval).

**Ineligible costs**

- Fees associated with obtaining the licence/planning
- General maintenance
- Revenue costs.

All proposals would need to be delivered in accordance with current guidance on social distancing requirements and should not impede pedestrian traffic on pavements, pathways or public realm areas.

The maximum level of eligible project costs that can be considered is £10,000 ex VAT in any one town. The amount of any grant offered will be assessed on an individual project basis. One application can be made per town only. The grant will be available up to 80% of total costs with the applicant sourcing the 20% match funding.

The deadline for applications is 30 November 2020. For more details on the grant, the eligibility criteria and how to apply, please visit <https://www.growinpowys.com/transforming-towns>

The Town Council would like to hear from anyone interested in applying for a grant and if there is sufficient interest will arrange a video conferencing meeting for all interested parties to attend in order to discuss the way forward. When replying please can you also indicate what measure you are interested in.

Please get back to me by **2<sup>nd</sup> November** at the very latest if you would be interested in attending such a meeting. I hope that the County Council Liaison Officer will also be able attend to give advice and assist with the process should a grant application be completed.

Finally the County Council has asked that I remind you of the need to apply for pavement licences as there are a number of shops/cafes who have not applied for a pavement licence yet continue to place furniture and other things on the footpath. Details on how to apply are found here: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/pavementlicence>

Regards

Tracey Price, Clerk to the Council