

## FRIDAY SUMMARY

### **Shops and Services:**

... from BW Roberts & Son: The garage - just the garage not the forecourt - will be closed from Tuesday March 31st. If your car breaks down and you are a key worker needing it for work please call 01544267365 or PM on facebook. Bryn will try his best to get you up and running again. This may not be easy as many of our parts suppliers are closing too - we can but try!

The forecourt will remain open as normal tomorrow (8.30-1pm,2-6pm) Saturday 9-1pm and Monday 8.30-1pm, 2-6pm. We will then be running reduced hours from Tuesday 31st. These will be 10am-4pm weekdays and 9am-12pm Saturday. We will not be closing for lunch in the week. These times may be subject to change as this is a bit of a learning curve! Thank you everyone for your patience in these rapidly changing times. #staysafe #stayhome if you can.

...from Emily George: Need to get the family up and dancing? Emily George, a local fitness instructor is posting videos etc on her facebook page – EG Fitness and Dance.

... from the Salty Dog: Thank you all for supporting us. Please give us at least three days notice for orders.

...from Chilvers Farm Supplies : What a week! Thank you to customers new and existing for bearing with us. It has been a busy week with a lot of delivering! We are trying to keep everyone stocked and keep everyone going and we thank you for your patience and support. Thank you and if you need anything just shout! Over and out. The Chilvers Team

... from East Radnorshire Day Centre/Home Support: I received this message earlier today so thought I'd share it! High praise indeed. "I rang East Radnor Home Support yesterday to register my husband for prescription delivery, as he has several health issues and needs a monthly repeat prescription (I no longer drive). I felt a nuisance, but they could have not have been more pleasant and helpful under what must be a terrific workload at the moment and, even though I said we were alright until next week, they delivered his prescription today. I can't thank them enough - more heroes who are risking their own lives to protect ours! Diolch o galon!"

... from the County Council on free school meals : We are waiting for advice about a National voucher scheme from Welsh Government In the mean time all Free School Meal-entitled pupils will receive a bank payment into parent/carers accounts via our Income & Awards team. This will be allocated until the end of term. Parents/carers will be contacted and an online form will be available to complete where individual details are required.

... from Kirsty Williams AM : Last night, The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the details of the Self-employment Income Support Scheme. The scheme will provide a grant to self-employed individuals or partnerships, worth 80% of their profits up to a cap of £2,500 per month. Grants are expected to start to be paid by the beginning of June 2020.

Full details can be found here:

<https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/self-employment-income-.../>

... from Presteigne Library: Please keep your books at home. They will be automatically renewed and no fines will be issued during this time. Visit the library website for information on ebooks, audio books and emagazines – all free! Please keep your books at home.

### **Message from Leader of County Council:**

As you will be aware the Prime Minister has issued the following instructions to the UK population with immediate effect:

- Requiring people to stay at home, except for essential activities
- Closing non-essential shops and community spaces
- Stopping public gatherings of more than two people

The above restrictions are “under constant review” and will be checked again in three weeks and the UK Government has said they will be relaxed if and when the evidence shows they can be.

In terms of Council Services, the current position is that the following facilities are now closed:

- Libraries
- Leisure centres
- Day centres
- Museums
- Playgrounds
- Household Waste and Recycling Centres
- Office buildings are closed to the public
- Parks will remain open, but crowds of more than two will be dispersed

In advance of yesterday’s announcement, the Council had already invoked its Business Continuity Plans and had started to shut down all non-essential business to allow the redeployment of staff to support our business-critical services. This process has now been accelerated and our Strategic Coordinating Group (also known as GOLD Command) has today revised our business-critical services list as follows:

#### Responding to Covid-19

- Adult Services – Domiciliary Care and Residential Care, Safeguarding
- Childcare for Key Workers and Vulnerable Children
- Homelessness Service
- Public Protection (enforcement and public health)

#### Keeping our communities safe and resilient

- Support for Businesses
- Refuse Collection
- Emergency Housing repairs and maintenance
- Highways – (Winter Maintenance and emergency response)
- Children’s Services – including Safeguarding

#### Corporate – Running the Council

- Cash Management
- Customer Services and Communications (to staff, Members and public)
- Corporate Support Services (including Workforce and ICT)

## Emergency Childcare Hubs

You may also be aware that Emergency childcare hubs will be operating from 13 locations across the county from Friday 27 March. School sites in the county will remain open until Thursday, March 26 but only for children of critical workers and the most vulnerable children.

The hubs will operate seven days a week from 8am to 6pm and as part of the arrangements, meals will be provided to children three times a day and transport will be arranged for children to get to the hubs and back home.

Councillors can assist the service by advising parents that if their children can stay safely in their home, they should – this will help to reduce demand on the hubs which will be based in:

- Brecon – Priory C. in W. School, Brecon
- Builth Wells – Newbridge-on-Wye C. in W. School
- Crickhowell – Crickhowell C.P. School
- Gwernyfed – Archdeacon Griffiths C. in W. (A) School, Llyswen
- Llandrindod Wells – Llandrindod Wells C.P. School Cefnlllys
- Llanfair Caereinion – Ysgol Gynradd Llanfair Caereinion
- Llanfyllin – Ysgol Gynradd Llanfyllin
- Llanidloes – Llanidloes C.P. School
- Presteigne – Presteigne C.P. School
- Machynlleth – Ysgol Bro Hyddgen – Primary Campus, Machynlleth
- Newtown – Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd, Newtown
- Welshpool – Welshpool C. in W. Primary School (Howell Road Site)
- Ystradgynlais – Ysgol Dyffryn y Glowyr, Lower Cwmtwrch

Coordination of Volunteers to support those in need

In my last letter to you I explained the crucial work being undertaken by the Community Services Emergency Response Team (C-SERT) who are coordinating and supporting the emergency response to people in our community who may be affected by COVID 19. More information about the team is now available on their website: [www.pavo.org.uk/coronavirus.html](http://www.pavo.org.uk/coronavirus.html)

This is an incredibly challenging time for our residents, communities, businesses and our staff and I will write to you again in the coming weeks to keep you informed of progress as we fight this virus together. In the meantime, the key message Councillors can convey to their constituents is to comply with the Government's instruction to stay home for their own safety and crucially for the safety of others.

Kind regards Councillor Rosemarie Harris Leader Powys County Council

## **Public Transport - Press Release from County Council:**

Public transport reduced because of Coronavirus

Public transport in Powys will be reduced to a modified Sunday service as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, the county council has confirmed.

Normally Powys County Council provides around 30 local bus services across the county operating seven days a week, but national movement restrictions have forced a major reduction.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transport, Councillor Aled Davies said: "Not surprisingly the Coronavirus outbreak and movement restrictions announced this week have had a dramatic impact on passenger numbers, both fare-paying and concessionary bus pass

holders. Consequently, we are modifying of county bus service and introducing a service based on services operating typically 3 return journeys per day service.

We have the county council's core public transport to the following services:

T12 Machynlleth to Wrexham

X75 Llanidloes to Shrewsbury

X47 Llandrindod to Aberystwyth

T4 Brecon to Newtown

X43 Brecon to Abergavenny

T6 Brecon to Swansea

All town bus services in Brecon, Newtown, Welshpool & Ystradgynlais

X12 Operate to Abergavenny Tues, Thurs Fri

X15 Operate to Hereford Monday & Wednesday

"In our very rural areas we are asking the Community Transport Sector if they can help make sure that the most vulnerable citizens do not suffer from rural isolation as a result of the suspended regular bus services. If necessary, we may look to provide a very limited Demand Respond Service."

We ask that if you live in a town with a supermarket and chemist that you do not use public transport – we will prioritise serving rural communities along our core routes to enable them to access essential services.

The new reduced service will come into operation on Monday 30th March and run for a minimum of six-weeks before being reviewed.

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Planning Update**

Please note that this update may be subject to further additional review in light of changing legislation or due to departmental capacity.

Powys County Council has invoked business continuity plans for services to concentrate on social care activities and critical business activities. The action was authorised by the council's strategic group which means that non-critical activity will be stepped down to support social care and critical frontline services in response to the Coronavirus outbreak (Covid-19).

In light of the above and due to the government's recent measures to control the spread of Covid-19 we are no longer able to receive any paper applications or hard copy post. Anything received in hard copy format from the 20th March 2020 will not be dealt with until normal duties resume. We are, however, able to receive applications and correspondence electronically.

Please note that:

- Planning applications (received electronically) will be validated, and we can consult specialist consultees but we are currently unable to undertake public consultation or site visits. Applications will therefore not be determined until a time when we are able to complete the necessary requirements.
- Enforcement complaints will be registered but we are currently unable to complete site visits (unless deemed essential council business/critical) and will therefore be put on hold once registered.
- Pre-planning application advice submitted electronically will be processed as normal but we are unable at this time to offer a site or office meeting. Instead we can offer a telephone/skype meeting directly with a Planning Officer should you wish this service (+£30 in addition to the standard pre-planning application charges).

We ask that you therefore please continue to submit anything electronically where possible:

- Submit applications through the [planning portal](#)

- General enquiries to [planning.services@powys.gov.uk](mailto:planning.services@powys.gov.uk)
- Payments can be made by telephone on: 01597 827161