

# Community News

## Special Council Issue - April 2019

an information service from PAC - the Presteigne Area Community Development Group

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### County Councillor Update

As the months are passing us by, it is time for a Spring 2019 Update. As Vice Chairman of Powys County Council I am required to represent the local authority at various events, one such event was the St. David's Day service & parade in Brecon on March 1st, it was a wonderful couple of hours spent in the presence of the Welsh Guards.

Matters closer to home have included:

- The successful installation of a third defibrillator in the High Street. Dale from The Royal Oak & I have been working towards this for some time so it was especially pleasing to see it finally installed. Many thanks to all those who have contributed financially.
- The second phase of the Active Travel Route has been undertaken. I appreciate there has been disruption to people, especially those who live in Hereford Street, and I must thank everyone for their patience. It will be finished in a very short time and will be a real asset to the community once finished. Free parking permits are also available for residents of Hereford Street whilst the works are ongoing. As a consequence of the works, enhancements are being made to the John Beddoes school field entrance off Greenfield Road with parking available for the Bowling Green on match days. The drains have also been replaced in Hereford Street and the road is being resurfaced. Thank you once again for your patience.
- The decision to remove the large garden waste bins has been ratified by the Cabinet and they will be removed in the coming weeks. As residents we are being offered a door to door garden waste collection at a cost of £35 per year. You do not have to sign up to the service, it is completely optional. As a matter of interest Powys County Council was the only authority in Wales to not have been charging for this service in previous years. If you do wish to purchase a garden waste bin and have it collected every two weeks you need to sign up here <https://en.powys.gov.uk/gardenwaste>
- I am extremely pleased to be the Community Champion for the new initiative "Plastic Free Presteigne". A small group of likeminded people have formed a group and are working towards making Presteigne a plastic free community. We can all make minor adjustments to our everyday life which can help protect the environment, such as choosing to purchasing fruit & veg not wrapped in single use plastic, ensuring we take our reusable bags to the shop, simple choices we can all make. This is an exciting opportunity for us and one which I hope people will embrace.
- I am also working with a small group of volunteers to try to get an Astro Turf pitch for Presteigne, and the surrounding communities. This would be a real asset for our community, but unfortunately will be an expensive venture. We have formed a committee and are having monthly meetings and the project is progressing, however it will be a long process. But certainly an exciting one. You can follow us on the Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/eastradastro/>
- Sadly the council tax has risen by 9.5%. There are many reasons and I can understand people's frustration in decreasing services and rising taxes. Powys County Council have made significant reductions in staffing and must now lobby the Welsh Assembly for increased settlements going forward.
- As you will know the Library was under serious threat of closing and, after negotiations with the cabinet member responsible for libraries, County Councillors were assured the library would be given a reprieve for 12 months if the council tax was increased. I now have to work with Cllr. Rachel and senior officers to ensure the future of our library.
- For information, I serve on the following committees: Presteigne Primary School Governor, Newtown High School Governor, Presteigne & Norton Town Council, East Radnor Sports Association Astro Turf Working Group, The Judges Lodging Board of Trustees, PCC Social Care Working Group, Powys Community Health Council. If you would like to contact

me regarding any of these or indeed any local matters; complaints or compliments; please feel free to email me on [cllr.beverley.baynham@powys.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.beverley.baynham@powys.gov.uk) and I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

· Finally, all agendas and information regarding full County Council meetings can be found at [www.powys.gov.uk](http://www.powys.gov.uk) Members of the public are welcome to attend to observe or can watch live on the webcast. You are also able to ask questions of the Cabinet, these must be submitted in writing in advance but if anyone would like to utilise this please do let know. For information the Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 16th May commencing at 10.30am.

***Cllr. Beverley Baynham, Elected Member Presteigne Ward, Vice-Chair of PCC, Chairman of Radnorshire***

### **Mayor's Spring Update**

- In December the Judge's Lodging's was handed over by PCC to the Trust now responsible for running the building. Work is due to start on the Judge's Lodging's imminently. The scaffolding has started going up for repairs to the roof and repainting of the front of the building. If you would be interested in volunteering to help welcome visitors and look after the shop (which is also being re-fitted) then go along and speak to Gaby.
- Once again the library came under threat, although a one year reprieve was agreed when the budget was finally set by PCC. The TC has formed a working group to formulate a response to PCC and work with them and our local library volunteers to ensure the safe future of this important facility.
- The work on the second phase of the Safe Routes to Schools project is nearing completion and PCC are to be thanked for securing the monies and using them in Presteigne.
- The outdoor gym equipment on Went's meadow is now operational and we are now looking for grant funding to provide additional equipment for the children's play area – hopefully an aerial ropeway to replace the one we had year's ago.
- A further presentation on the Dark Skies project is being made at the beginning of our April meeting. So if you're interested to hear about it do come along.
- Cllr. Rose Bamford has volunteered to represent the TC on the Plastics Free Presteigne project being organised by Transition Presteigne which was launched at this month's farmer's market.
- Following the success of the four 'dog poo bag dispensers', we precepted for three more. One will be in Norton and the other two, subject to approval, will be placed in Scottleton St (near the Day Centre) and Hereford St (by the Police Station).
- Welsh Water have confirmed that a new waste water treatment plant was included in their business plan for 2020-2025. We're now pushing them for an early start date.
- Work on the new Community Barn on Went's meadow is progressing well thanks to kind weather in Feb and March. It is hoped that it will be finished by the end of June. A big thanks you to all the volunteers involved.
- The move of our meetings to the Assembly Rooms has worked well. I would remind you that our May meeting, when the new Mayor is elected, will take place in the Courtroom of the Judge's Lodging. The agendas for our meetings are posted on the notice board by the library door on the Thursday before the meetings which are held on the third Wed of each month. We would be delighted to see you there.

The nights are drawing out and the Magnolia trees are looking wonderful!

***Cllr Colin Kirkby MBE - Mayor***

If you have any questions on what's happening - or not happening - in our community, do let us know and we'll do our best to provide an answer, or at least point you in the right direction - simply email [pacdg@icloud.com](mailto:pacdg@icloud.com).

We're happy to help publicise community and charity activities and events (but only for events in the immediate Presteigne area) - email text (not poster images please) at least 3 weeks in advance to [pacdg@icloud.com](mailto:pacdg@icloud.com).

The Community News is published twice per month. Feel free to tweet or forward this issue to