

Community News

Special County & Town Council Issue 54 - August 2017

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

The Town Council, and our County Councillor, have agreed to provide a periodic report to keep residents better informed of what's been happening... remember you can talk directly to both at their joint Council Surgery at the Local Food Market in the Memorial Hall, on the first Saturday of each month.

A message from our Powys County Councillor, Beverley Baynham...

Since being elected in May I have been very busy. It has been an exciting time learning the ways of County Hall, but more importantly getting things done for our community. Following a number of training sessions and initial meetings, things have calmed down and I feel I have settled into the role well.

I have tried to be open and approachable, I am holding a monthly surgery at the Presteigne Local Food Market on the first Saturday of each month at the Memorial Hall between 10am-12noon. If you have any concerns or issues, you are very welcome to drop in at the surgery, you can contact me by phone or text on [07976928039](tel:07976928039) or email at cllr.beverley.baynham@powys.gov.uk. Please feel free to email me at any time.

At the AGM of the Radnorshire Committee, I was voted Chairman of Radnorshire - this is a real honour and privilege for me. My first job as Chair was to open Presteigne Carnival, and this was such a wonderful, emotional thing for me to do. I still see the carnival as my baby and it was a wrench to let it go but to be asked to open it this year was such a pleasure. I am sure you will agree it was a fantastic success. The Carnival Committee worked so hard to pull off a wonderful event - many congratulations to them.

My role not only sees me working for Presteigne & Norton but also promoting Radnorshire as a whole. Powys is the County but we do still work at local level too and, for those old enough to remember, there is still an affection for the old county of Radnorshire.

I have been busy working on a number of matters within our community and these include:

* Installing two defibrillator cabinets (funded by an 'Awards for All' grant applied for by the Town Council) which are placed on the outside walls of John Beddoes School & the East Radnor Day Centre. Training was also provided at the Day Centre in the safe use of the defibrillators. Community fundraising continues for a third defibrillator to be placed in the vicinity of the High Street. If you would like to donate to this cause - however small - please let me know as we are approximately £300 short.

* Installing new equipment at the Wilson Terrance Play Area - this has been ongoing for a while so to finally get some equipment replaced and new items installed is a great benefit. Thank you to P&N Town Council and the "Playground Mums" who assisted in financing the new equipment.

* Safe Route to School - a new safe route to school is planned in Presteigne. This will widen the footpaths to enable both cyclists and pedestrians to use them, and provide controlled crossings and cycling facilities. I have forwarded maps to PACDG to help publicising the extent of the scheme (*editor's note: route maps will be posted on the PACDG Community Noticeboard at the Memorial Hall*)

* I have also dealt with a range of resident's issues including grass cutting, bins, refuse & recycling, footpaths, parking, planning, trees, housing and general day-to-day concerns.

Thank you once again for all your support, and if there is anything you want to talk to be about please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email, or at the Local Food Market.

Presteigne & Norton Town Council Report (extracted from Minutes of PNTC July meeting with updates from the Town Clerk for August)

(1) Damage to Lugg Bridge - repairs done. (2) Richard Pitt, from the County Council will speak on Local Development Plan at the TC October meeting. (3) Mini Roundabout at St. David's Street - PCC work is now complete and hole left for the planting of a cherry tree in the late Autumn. (4) Town Walk by Councillors carried out after August meeting (5) appreciative comments from residents on the street clean and sign washing carried out recently by PACDG. (6) School Cycle Route - work has started with completion towards the end of the year. (7) Dropped Kerb by British Legion - work now complete. (8) Overhanging trees on Bypass by former Sixth Form Block - to be dealt with in the coming weeks. Complaint re condition of wall and overhanging trees in Station Road - looked at on the TC town walk. PCC to be consulted. (9) Safe Cycle Route to Norton - agreed that first steps would be to obtain agreement from the landowners that would need to be involved should the route go ahead - initial approaches to be made to see if they would be willing to provide land for the route. (10) War Memorial, Norton - the Clerk will investigate the possibility of a grant towards cleaning etc. (11) Clearance of area by the new Notice Board/Seat in Norton - Cllrs. Wilding and Ruby will look at the work needed. (12) Public Conveniences in Police Station carpark in Hereford Street - refurbishment started 17th July. (13) Old picnic benches from the Warden were offered to the TC and Cllr. Wilding has had these repaired and moved both to the river beach area below the allotments. Picnic bench from Eddie's Meadow moved to Wilson Terrace playground - a donation from the TC. (14) PACDG Presteigne Edibles - this group will work to use surplus fruit and food into preserves. It will use surplus fruit from the orchard and assist with work needed in this area and will also look to assist with returning the Ligne Garden to a physik area. (15) Wilson Terrace Play Area - a new Car Springer has been installed (paid 50% by TC via Tesco grant and 50% from Playground fundraising) and another new item of play equipment (basket swing) has been recently put in place by PCC, thanks due to Cllr Baynham and PCC Steve Gealy. Picnic table in position, transferred from Eddy's Meadow. Old bench seat removed. (16) Report on July TC monthly Surgery at Local Food Market - only one matter was raised and this was a matter for PCC which Cllr. Baynham dealt with. (17) Future Surgeries - August: Cllrs. Baynham and Ruby to attend. September: Cllrs. Baynham and Bamford will attend. (18) Old School Building/Drill Hall - the EOI (expression of interest) will be discussed in the September TC meeting and the Town Walk included visits to the buildings. (19) TC contribution towards Library Service - £1073 is due as a TC contribution in 2017/18. (20) Presteigne Cemetery Land Purchase and Presteigne Burial Board - Cllr. Baynham confirmed that PCC Officers were in the process of compiling a business plan for purchasing the land from the TC and fencing of the land would be carried out by the TC as required by the conditions of the land transfer. (21) a meeting was held in Presteigne with PCC Portfolio Holder Liam Fitzpatrick, also attended by CONNECT and PACDG to discuss costs and use of car parks in Presteigne. (22) co-option of TC councillors to fill vacancies using secret ballot - Simon Dixon was elected for Norton Ward, and Fiona Preece and Lisa Veary were elected for Presteigne Ward. (23) Cllr. Baynham has decided that due to her PCC duties and her position next year as Vice-Chair of PCC, it would not be possible to act as Town Mayor in 2018/19 therefore she should resign as Deputy Mayor to allow a new appointment to be made. Councillors accepted the resignation with regret and elected Colin Kirkby MBE as Deputy Mayor at the August meeting.

ED. NOTE - FULL MINUTES OF TC MEETINGS CAN BE VIEWED ON THE TOWN WEBSITE9

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. We're happy to help publicise community and charity activities and events (but only for events in the immediate Presteigne area) - mail pacdg@icloud.com. Feel free to tweet or forward this to others. If you would prefer not to receive further issues of the News, please email us with REMOVE and we'll immediately take you off the the distribution list