

Referendum on Wind Turbines and Pylons in Powys

Jane Johnston <clerk@llandrindodtowncouncil.co.uk>

Mon 25/03/2024 10:48

Dear Clerk,

The Members of Llandrindod Wells Town Council voted unanimously on February 20th 2024 to ask Powys County Council to hold a referendum on the proposal to erect a series of wind turbines and Pylons in Powys.

Llandrindod Town Council has written to every County Councillor, the Leader of the County Council and the CEO requesting they do this and we await responses. We are also making contact with the local press and media as we believe this is the best way to gain the wider publicity this deserves because many local people appear to be poorly informed about this.

We are also asking other Powys Community Councils if they will ride with us on this and propose similar moves in writing to the Council CEO and County Councillors so they fully appreciate the strength of feeling and apply some pressure and also invite the local press in order to give further coverage and to keep local people informed.

Our view on this was and remains that the air of publicity is key to those wishing to fight against these proposals which are being pushed through by a business without a democratic mandate.

We would appreciate if you would distribute this invitation to your respective members for their views and we hope to gain your support working together on this and look forward to your response.

Kind Regards

Jane Johnston PSLCC, CiLCA (Wales)
Town Clerk

Presteigne and Norton Town Council response to Consultation Report
Presteigne_DMMO_001: Land at Fold Farm, Presteigne

Supplementary evidence.

User Evidence

In our earlier reply we notified you that we would get more witness statement to overcome what you claimed was a weakness in our case. The request for witnesses was put on the Town Council website, in the PACDG newsletter and George Lancett put it on the Presteigne Memories and Presteigne History Websites.

The request read:-

COUNCIL NEWS ...Fold Farm Footpath – the path opposite St Andrews church running past Fold Farm and along the River Lugg was blocked in 2012. The Town Council is still trying to get the route put on the definitive map. To help it do so it needs more witnesses. If you remember using the path between 1992 and 2012 and would be willing to sign a witness statement or like more information then please contact Cllr Colin Kirkby on 01544 267811 or colinkirkby@gmail.com.

The witness statement they were asked to sign is as below:-

To Whom it may Concern

I wish to confirm that during the period from January 1992 and January 2012, I walked along the length of path from the junction of Broad Street, Presteigne adjacent to Fold Farm in an easterly direction to where it meets the footpath PR1807 (from A – D on the map) and beyond, freely and without force, secrecy or challenge for leisure and other purposes and not just to visit people on the disputed route.

Yours sincerely

Signature.....

Name.....

Date.....

We have now got 42???? Signed witness statements which will be sent to you. We would hope that you will now consider the User Evidence to be very strong.

Map evidence.

In our first reply we wrote:-

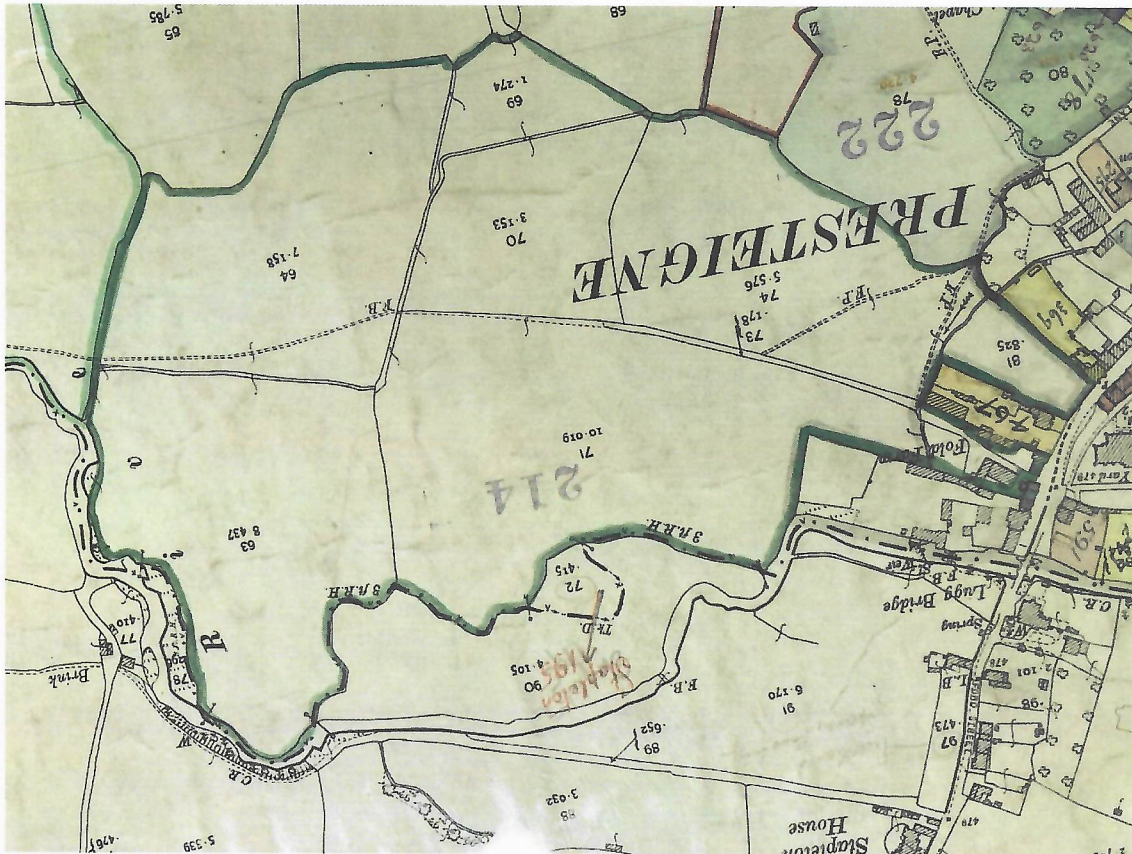
P20 says the Finance Act 1910 records held by Powys Archives are incomplete. Professor Clive Payne, who in 2012 was the local Ramblers rep. viewed this evidence and considered it prima facie evidence of a right of way. He has since moved away from the area and the TC is trying to contact him, otherwise we will need to go to the National Archives at Kew to view the record which will provide further evidence.

We have managed to contact Professor Payne who has moved out of the area. Unfortunately, he hasn't kept his papers from this time. So we contacted the National Archive at Kew who informed us that the record we required was held by Powys Archives. So we

contacted your archives and indeed they have both the map and the Field Book. We visited the archive and took photos of both the map and book.

The number of the assessment is 214 (it also has a red 79 written over it). It was owned by Thomas Evans and the entry is for The Fold – House and Buildings and for land. A very key factor is that in Column 25 – Public Rights of way there is a figure of 21 which is an allowance for the footpaths crossing the land. As Prof Payne says this is prima facie evidence of a right of way.

The photo of a section of the map clearly shows Plot 214 with the two southerly paths feeding into the claimed route. (apologies the photo is upside down)



We have shared our findings with the Ramblers whose Senior Policy Officer comments:-

This is highly persuasive evidence that the western of the two tracks connecting with the claimed route were “in obvious use by the public”, which in turn suggests that the claimed route was likewise in obvious use by the public. There would be no sense in the western path just described if it dead-ended on the claimed route. The reason for the claimed path not being similarly annotated “F.P” is that physically it did not match the character of a cross-field path, and so it is not shown by dashed lines. Such markings were not shown where there was no physically-evident track “on the ground”, which is why many public footpaths appeared to “end” once they reached a paved yard, etc. This accounts for the claimed route not being similarly depicted. It is hard to suppose that the public were approaching the claimed route from the south on the western route if the claimed path were

not public. The better view, i.e the more likely explanation of the scenario portrayed on the OS, is that the claimed route was public as well and people turned westwardly or eastwardly on reaching it on the routes just described.

I trust that this will be considered as a significant strengthening of the Map Evidence.

Finally just to mention that the contractor who installed the footpath post at the entrance in Broad St and knew Ted Breeze has told us that Ted had no problem with the installation i.e, he accepted it was a path, or he would have complained.

Updated Information Community Storage Proposal from Cllr. Kirkby

Please find attached for circulation to cllrs the latest drawings of the shed which include some amendments suggested by the Carnival committee and Gareth Graham.

I have enquired from the planning department re: John's suggestion for a smaller building avoiding the need for planning, but this exemption applies to domestic properties only and would not apply here, so there is no real benefit in making it smaller.

Below is an outline budget:- Planning Permission - £250, Groundworks - £5600, Building Structure - £3800, Building External - £5300, Building Internal - £3300, Services (electrics) - £420, Outside (decking and ramps) - £650, TOTAL - £19320 With 15% Contingency - **£22218**

New equipment for events on the meadow:- 12 of 6ft Wooden folding table sets with 2 benches, 150m of Fairy Lights, 200m of 16Amp cables with various adapters and splitters 36 clear plastic totes to store equipment, 220m of rope with pig tail spikes for a boundary 20 of dustbins with specific recycling tops COST - **£5300** This leaves plenty of space for Sheep Music and Carnival stuff too.

I have made initial enquiries from the Grants section of PCC and am awaiting their advice.

Letters of Support – Community Storage/Bar

1. MBA

I am writing on behalf of Mid Border Arts board of trustees to voice our support for the plan to build a combined storage shed and refreshment area adjacent to Went's Meadow Barn. We have studied the plans and are very impressed with the design. We note the trouble taken to produce detailed costings and that the proposed facility fits well between the two, existing barns, so that the proposal does not involve the development of any further open space. The corrugated steel sheeting looks very durable and complements the two, existing buildings on the site.

We are also pleased to support the proposal as it has given consideration to the needs of a number of diverse community groups, enabling them to store their equipment safely on site and therefore operate more efficiently. The latter is imperative as it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract volunteers in the current economic climate. It is vital that the load on each volunteer is reduced as much as possible. I note that disabled access and landscaping are also included in the design. As active volunteers within the community, each board member has personally experienced the problem of helping with events on the Went's meadow site without any storage. The time it takes to set up and take down events is increased dramatically due to this problem and much more physical effort is required by an aging group of volunteers.

We hope the council will take the opportunity to support Owen Rimington in pursuing grant applications in order to progress the plan.

We look forward to your response.

Jennifer Ellison on behalf of the Mid Border Arts Board of Trustees

2. Carnival Committee

I am writing with regard to the proposed shed project on Went's Meadow. The carnival committee is in full support of this project - it's something we've felt strongly about for some time as it makes perfect sense to have storage on site for all organisations who use the Meadow to use, saving both time and work. The proposed shed project would enhance the ambience on the Meadow, bringing another original structure to the site, and continuing the quirky designs, and would also provide an extra food/drink serving area which would be in keeping with the new community barn.

We may be able to offer some financial support, but this would have to be reviewed after the carnival.

We look forward to hearing the progress of this project.

Kind regards, Debbie Davies, Chair, Presteigne Carnival Committee.

3. R. Bennett

I'm writing to you a letter in support of the plans to erect a storage/refreshments shed next to the new barn on Went's Meadow. I have been involved with Sheep Music, The Carnival & other events for many years and this addition to what is already is a fantastic community resource would be invaluable.

I don't need to mention how well used and appreciated the community area is, as we all witness this first hand every summer. What I do think is worth pointing out is the relief and support it would give the small pool of volunteers that work tirelessly year in year out to put on these events. Having grown up, and now settled, in Presteigne, having events like this in town has massively shaped my view on the area and my willingness to stay and contribute myself. We now have a growing group of friends around similar ages with small children settling in the area which is fantastic for Presteigne. If this community support and involvement can be pushed it can only be good news for the town.

As a past organiser for these events, one of the hardest parts is the collecting and returning kit back to the various, inappropriate storage areas dotted in and around town. Having this shed on site would take away hours and hours of hard work and stressful organising from the small group of volunteers who are so so crucial in keeping the Presteigne community what it is. We should do whatever we can to keep the community spirit alive and the willingness of the community to get involved. It can only make it easier to put on smaller events that would push trade for the town and boost Presteigne's standing within the county and country.

Not only would I like to support this as an individual, but also as a thriving local business person who would be willing to support it in whatever way I can.

4. Sheep Music

We are writing in support of Owen Rimington's idea and planned design for a storage shed situated as plans indicate on Wents meadow.

The barn itself was built to a very high spec and is a beautiful structure which the town is very proud and fond of. Having a sympathetically designed storage shed and bespoke

catering facility will do much to enhance the meadow, the events that take place there and create an aesthetically pleasing area to sit and enjoy the atmosphere.

We, as an organisation have struggled to find volunteers to help with events in recent years and as a result of this the workload has increased for those who are willing to help. Our events, including the town firework display often involve collecting kit and props from various locations around the town and further afield.

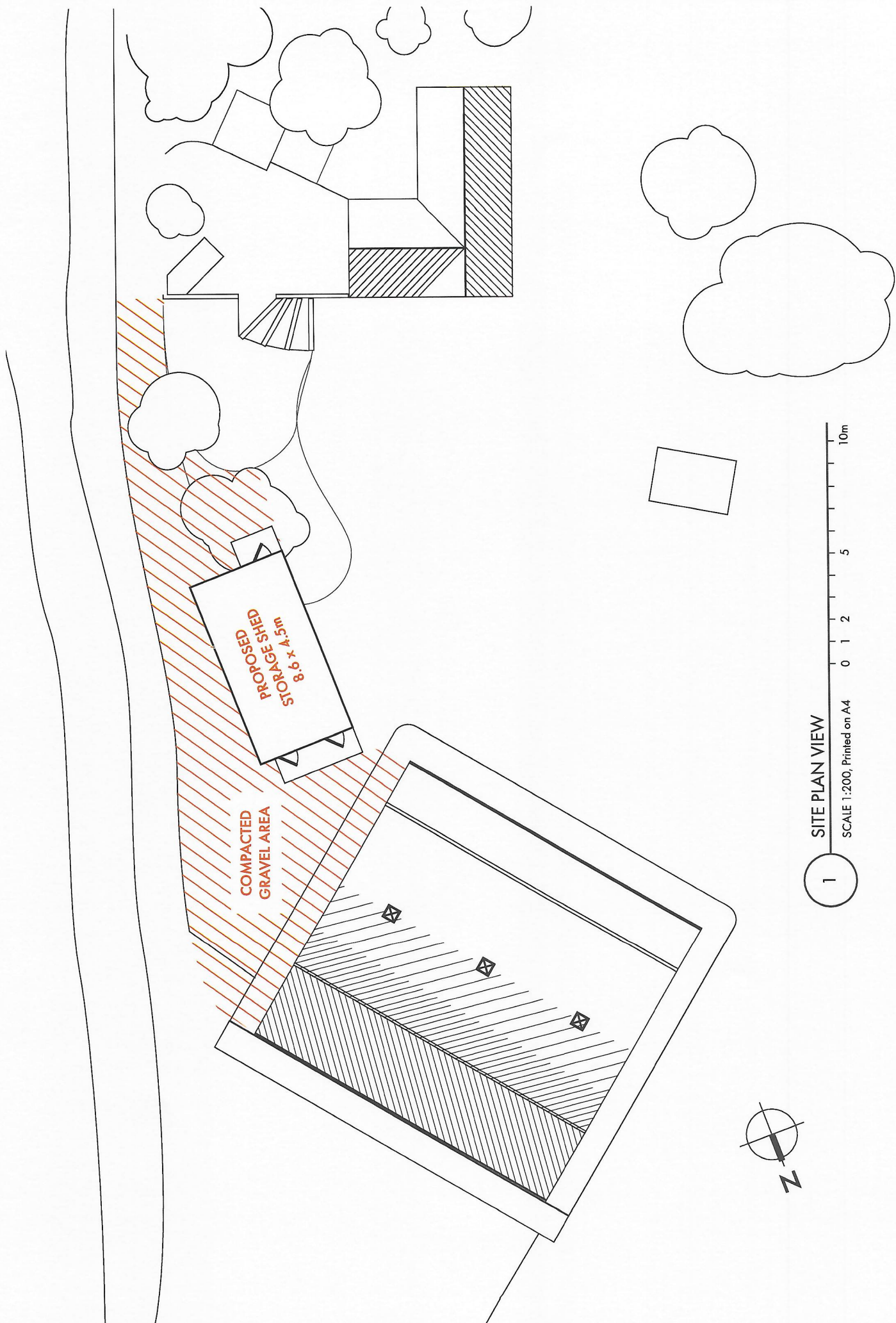
With a storage facility for all organisations who use the barn and meadow the organisation of such events would be so much easier and therefore raise the possibility of the barn being used more often.

A lot of events rely on the income of a bar to subsidise costs. With Owen's design we would not need to use our large gazebo for this purpose (which will need replacing soon and requires a minimum of 6 people to erect and take down).

With a serving hatch at the front facing into the meadow the shed could be used for a bar/tea and cake stall or other purpose. There would also be much less worry concerning leaving stock on site.

We understand that negotiations are taking place regarding the plans to make the shed a realistic proposition which we welcome and also that the shed is dependent on a successful grant application. As an organisation that will benefit from the plans we understand that we would make a contribution to the project.

Sincerely, Board of Trustees of Sheep Music - David Ashby, Helena Ramsay, John Hymas
Curtis Ross, Nikki Leopold Owen Rimington, Alex Ramsay.



PROPOSED
STORAGE
8.9 x 4.5 m

COMPACTED
GRAVEL AREA

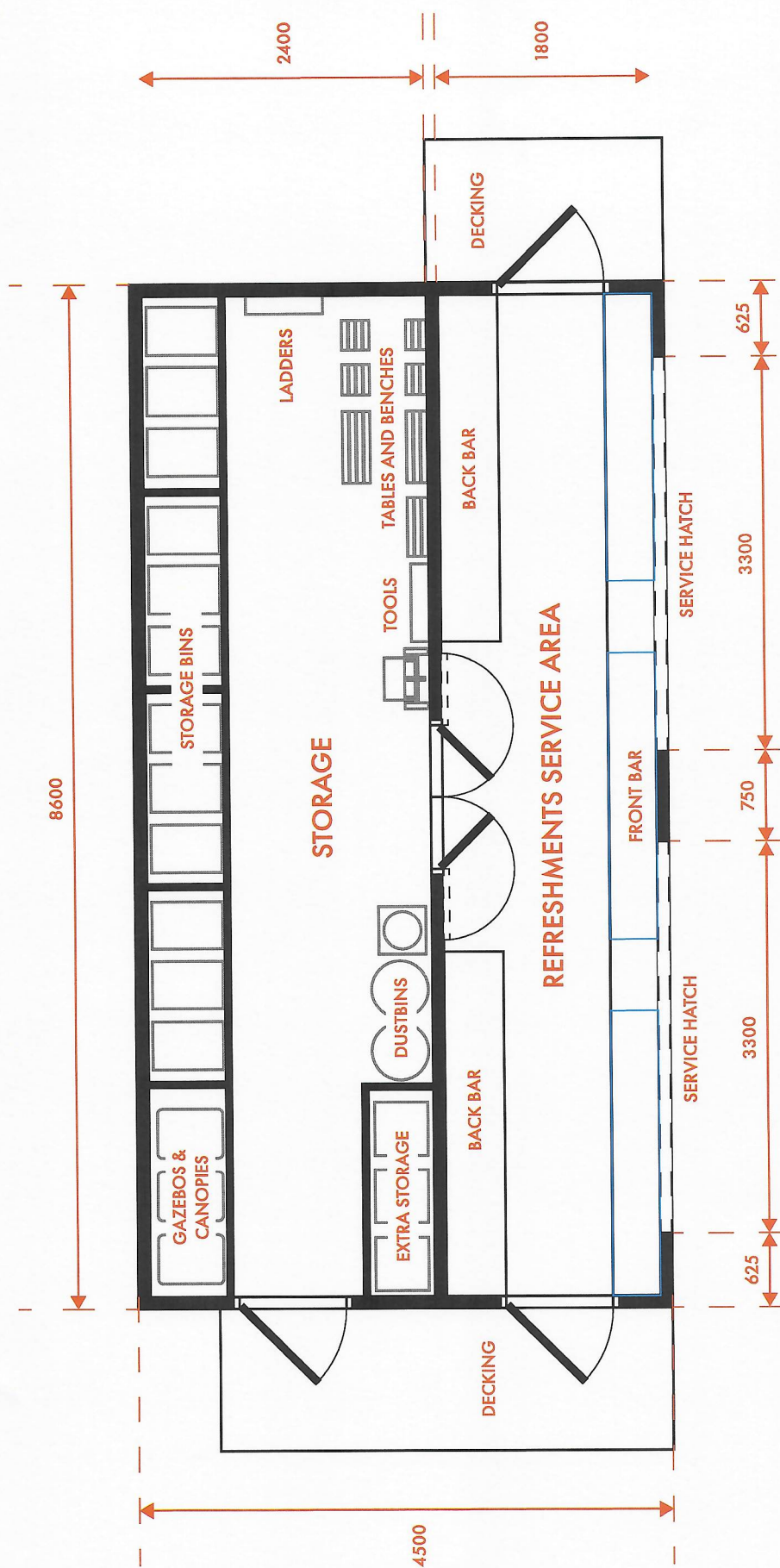
1 SITE PLAN VIEW

SCALE 1:200, Printed on A4

10m

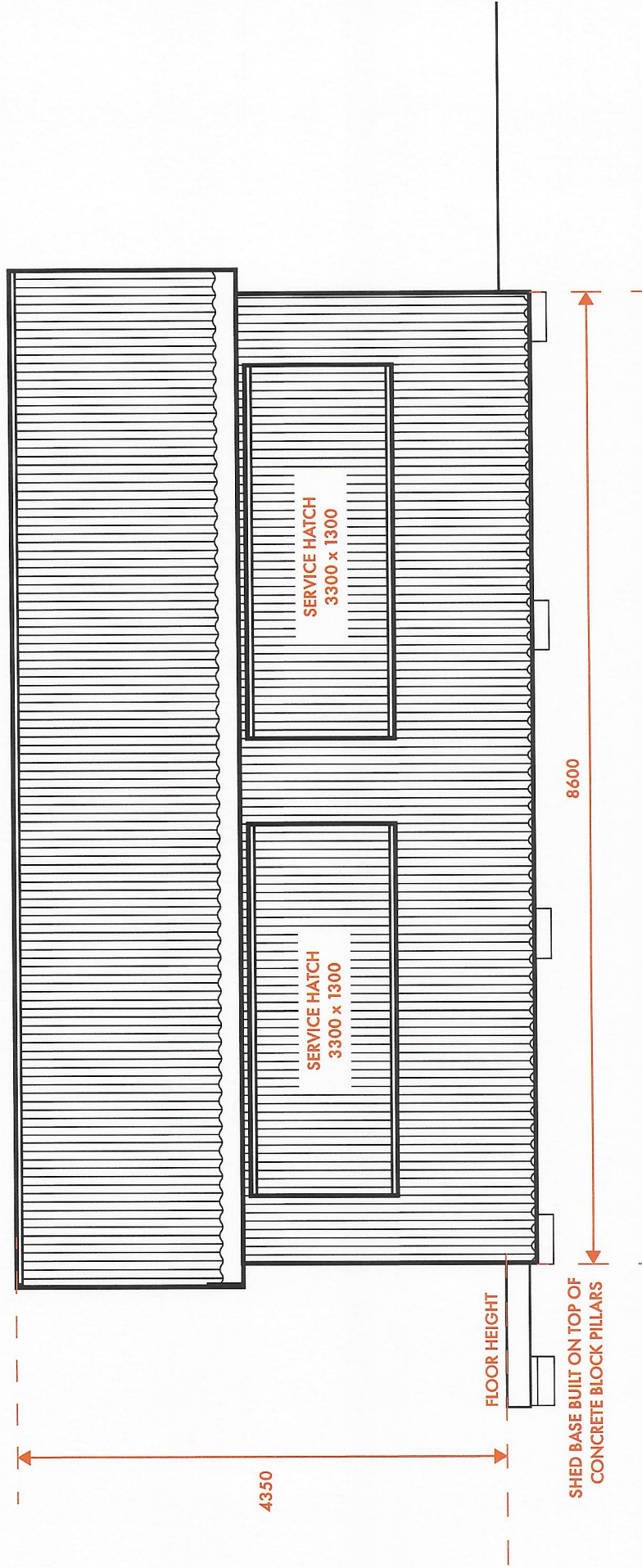


1



2 PLAN VIEW
 SCALE 1:50, Printed on A4
 0 1 2m

SHED CLAD IN BLACK CORRUGATED STEEL SHEETING

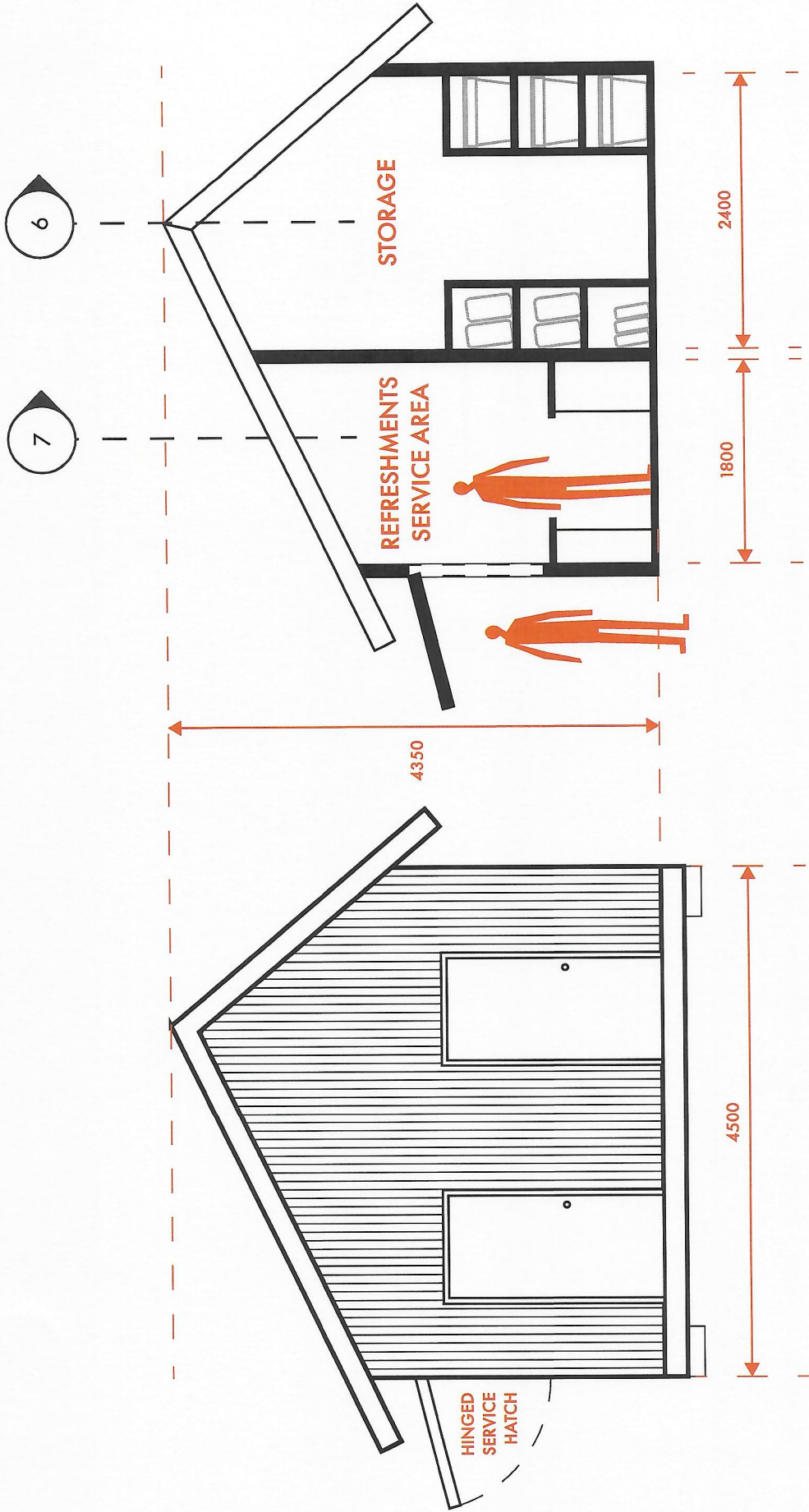


3

FRONT ELEVATION

SCALE 1:50, Printed on A4

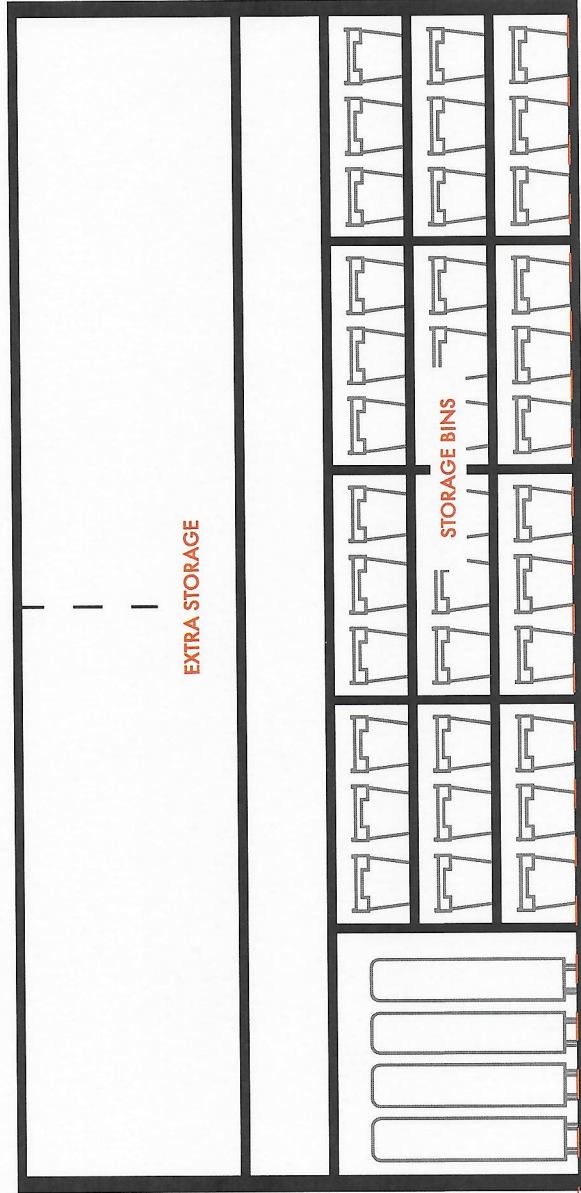




4 SIDE ELEVATION
SCALE 1:50, Printed on A4

5 SIDE CROSS-SECTION
SCALE 1:50, Printed on A4

5



6

STORAGE ROOM CROSS-SECTION

SCALE 1:50; Printed on A4

0 1 2m

5

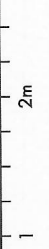


FLOOR HEIGHT

7

BAR/SERVICE AREA CROSS-SECTION

SCALE 1:50, Printed on A4



2m



EMERTS Air Ambulance update for OVW meeting 8/4/24

Since the release of the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (EASC) recommendations in respect of the proposed closure of the Welshpool & Caernarfon Air Ambulance bases, and their redeployment to North Wales, there has been vociferous condemnation of the decision and of the methodology / data usage. A summary of some of these is as follows:

- The data and modelling which underpins the recommendations is highly questionable & its reliability doubted.
- The data used to model the conclusions showed that maintaining both bases were just as good as centralisation, yet we are now being told that the same data is now being used to justify closing both bases, which is concerning.
- There has been no independent verification of the data and conclusions.
- There has been a lack of transparency regarding the consultation process.
- There has been inconsistency of the messaging from the Ambulance Services Commissioner (Stephen HARRY).
- The Commissioner's own report shows that within a 30 mile range, Welshpool covers 40% of Wales yet the proposed site in north Wales covers only 25%.
- The option regarding keeping the 2 bases open was ruled out without any explanation.
- The complexity and volume of the put out, and the lack of summarised information appears to have been deliberate.

A decision by the 7 health boards of Wales, on the EASC recommendations, was expected on **28/3/24** but they wanted more information before making it, so this meeting has been postponed until **23/4/24**.

In the meantime, Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) have got a meeting on **11/4/24** to discuss the EASC proposals and the further information they wanted from them. This meeting will be broadcast live on the PTHB website.

A further complication is that the EASC is now being amalgamated with the Welsh Health Specialised Service Committee and the National Collaborative Commissioning Unit into an organisation designated as the Joint Commissioning Committee, with someone else at its head. This happened on **1/4/24**, so the new organisation has to pick up this issue quickly.



NOTES FOR BUILT WELLS TOWN COUNCILLORS:

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL PRESENTATION TO TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCILS

“SUSTAINABLE POWYS” STRATEGY

What do we mean by ‘Sustainable Powys’?

It means reviewing what services we provide, how they are provided to meet current needs and best outcomes, whilst ensuring we have innovative solutions to provide the best services for future generations. Sustainable Powys is about working together to design a future that delivers stronger, fairer, and greener services whilst remaining within the available budget. It’s about building resilience so that community-led solutions can provide what people require locally.

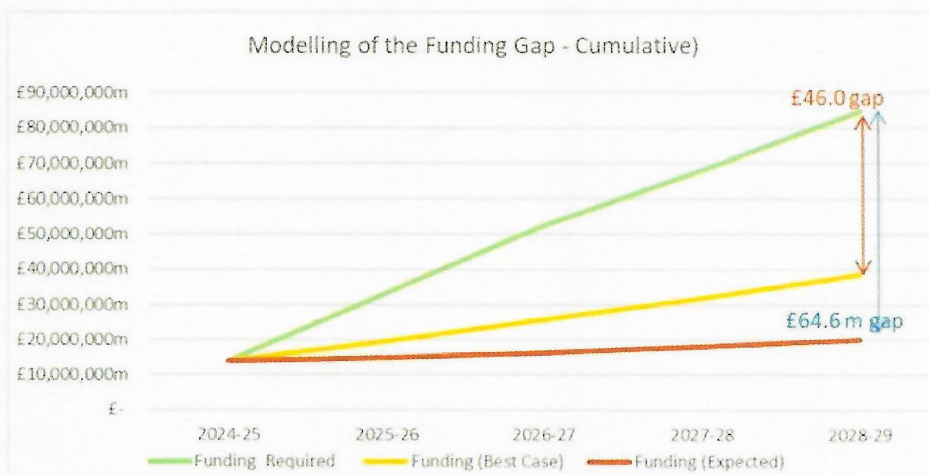
We are facing increased significant challenges including:

- demand for services is increasing
- opportunities to deliver further savings are limited, without the people of Powys seeing a significant impact.
- Whilst the national ambition for achieving 'net zero' still remains and is vitally important, we need people and funds to be able to deliver effective services.

We also face a very significant financial situation.

This leaves a gap in the finances we have available and means we cannot afford to continue delivering our services in the same way. In previous years we have looked to our services to become more efficient, whilst changes have been made. This approach is not sustainable in the long-term and we now need to be more radical and change our approach. In the last 15 years, public services in Wales have faced significant pressures and crisis after crisis, which has changed the way services are provided. There are more challenges ahead and a significant funding gap now and in the longer-term:

- the worst-case scenario is that we will see a gap of over £64m by 2028/29
- there are significant challenges for services due to the cost-of-living crisis.
- there is increased demand, and our capacity to cope with demand has reduced.
- we must consider climate change – yet there are no funds to help tackle this.



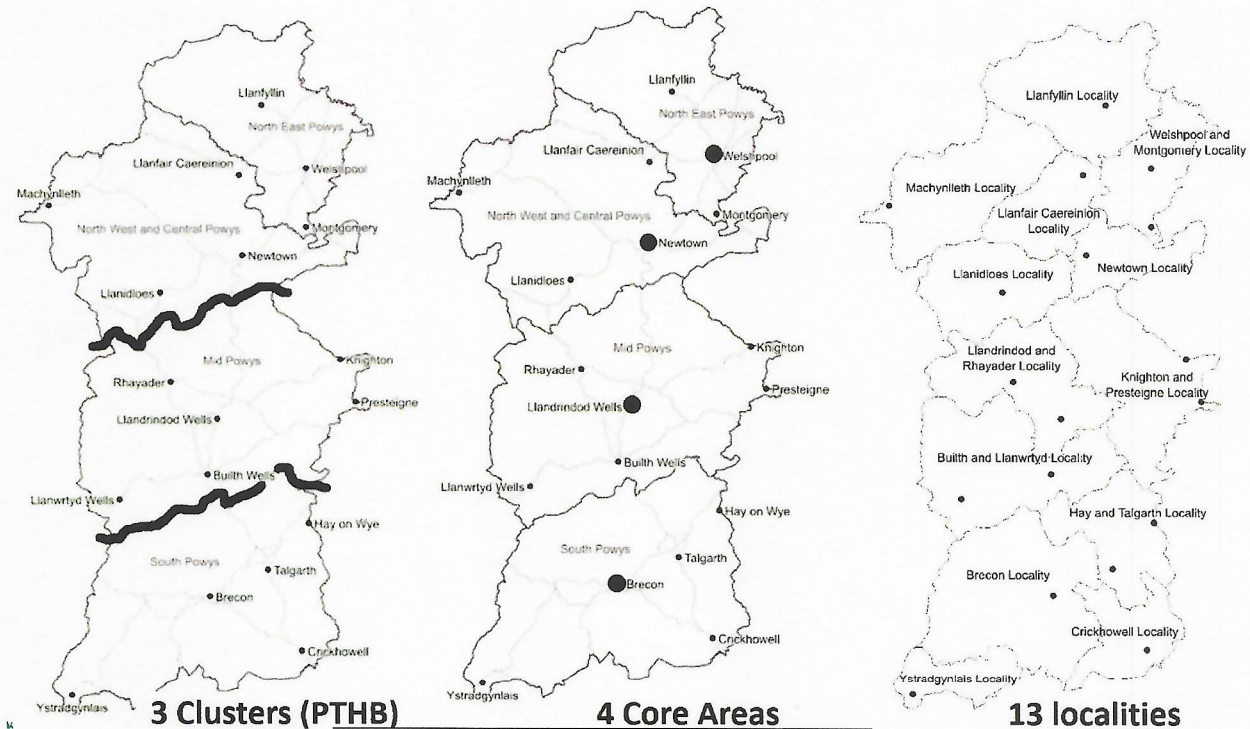
Where do we go from here?

We can't continue as we are and we need to think differently and see this as an opportunity to change.

In Powys, we have identified three key areas of focus:

- working together with partners to identify where we can reduce duplication. This includes things like sharing our office spaces & buildings, working together when engaging with the people of Powys, and sharing insight & information to help ensure services are joined up.
- reviewing what we do to ensure we meet the needs of people, both now and in the future. This will involve a more integrated approach between many organisations in the county.
- communities will need to do more to help themselves as public resources become strained.

We need to build on the work and resilience that communities already have, understanding what matters most and working together to find the right solutions, as we know all of our communities are very different. We are following a place-based-planning approach to help us plan for the future. We are working with other partners on this, especially Powys Teaching Health Board and the third sector.



So what is Place-based-planning?

We have been using a "locality model" in Powys for many years to help us plan and understand need. This breaks the county into 13 localities which are based around the main market towns.

We are proposing that the 13 localities fit inside 4 larger "core areas" defined by the biggest towns, which are Welshpool, Newtown, Llandrindod, and Brecon.

The population of Powys is 133,030 people in total, and the populations of these 4 core areas are similar in size.

For instance,

- 28,000 people live in the north east of Powys
- 36,000 people live in the north west and central area
- 29,000 are in the mid Powys area
- 40,000 are in south Powys

The first map on screen shows the three clusters used by the health board. Adopting the same place planning model across all organisations, means we can plan services more effectively together and improve the customer experience.

As you know, Powys is large and covers a quarter of Wales. It is the most sparsely populated county, with only 26 people per square km.

Travel distance to nearest core town	% Residential properties*
<5 miles	26.7%
10 miles or less	56.9%
20 miles or less	88%
Within 30 miles	99.8%
>30 miles	0.2%

* Residential property = a property UPRN (unique property reference number) as listed in the LPG as either residential or mixed use. Note: Some of these properties will be unoccupied as this total includes second homes and houses of multiple occupation (HMO).

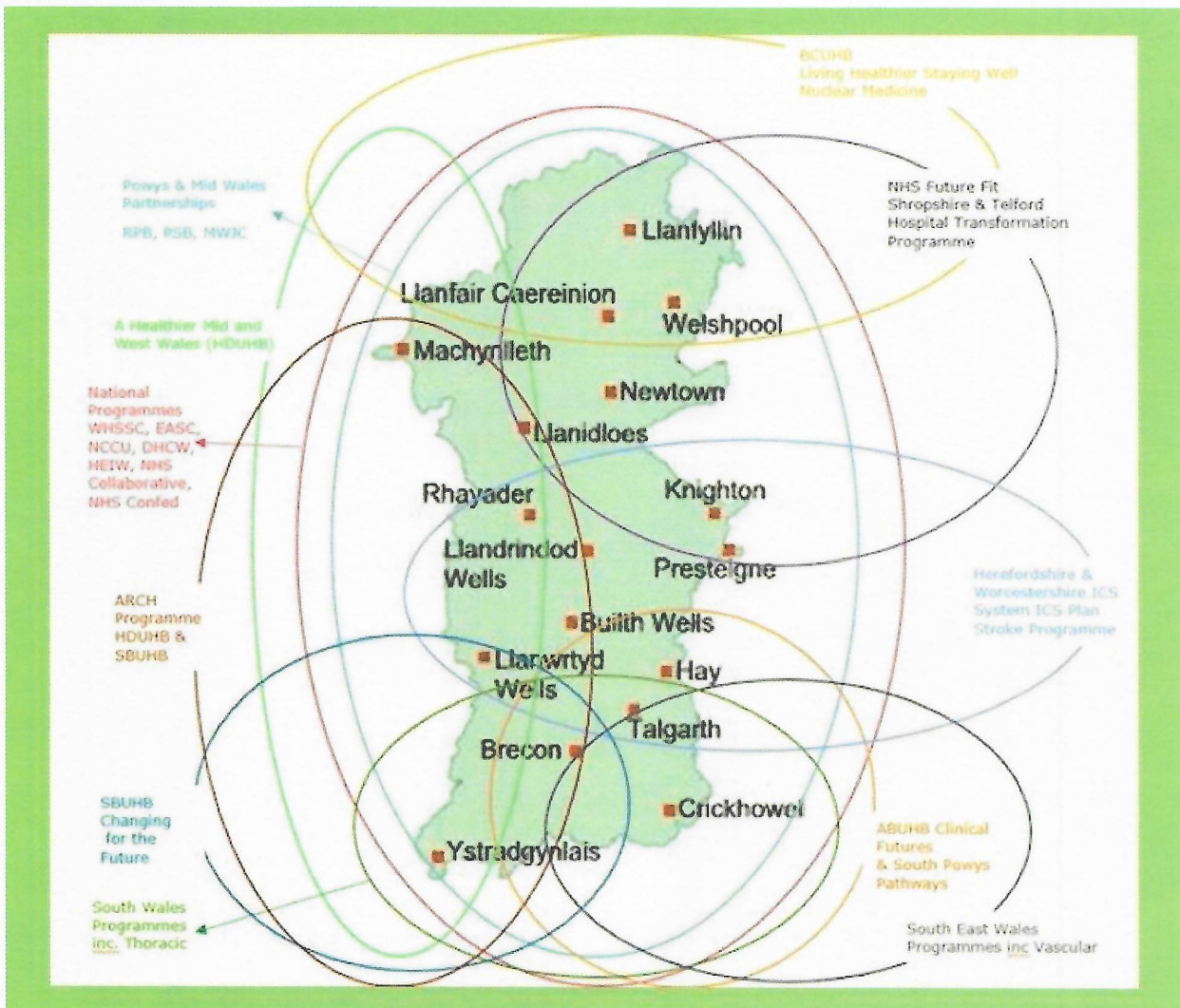
As you can see on the chart above:

- just over a quarter of households are less than 5 miles from the nearest hub
- 88% of households are 20 miles or less from the nearest hub (the light-yellow colours through to orange)
- there are a small proportion who are over 30 miles from the nearest hub (0.2%) – which is shown as the darkest red on the map.

However, it is important to note that these households are naturally closer to services in neighbouring counties.

Whilst the map shows the distance travelled (not time), it shows that all residential properties are within one-hour travel time to their nearest HUB or core area.

The map in green below, shows how people in Powys access some health services across the border.



Due to the fact we don't have a district general hospital in Powys, there is a need for collaboration with larger hospitals out of the county.

What could this look like?



13 Thriving Locality Areas



Communities defining what they need, and communities working with the public sector to redefine the high street – public services & voluntary sector supporting communities to achieve their aims and to be thriving communities. Pump-primed provision e.g. libraries within community spaces, fitness & wellness within community spaces, out-reach services for families / parents – Communities looking after their own people and places

This shows what is currently in our core towns, market towns, villages, and rural areas. The 4 core areas would enable us to provide a multi-use space for work, leisure, learning and access to services and support.

The core centres would take no longer than an hour to reach by car (based on an average speed of 30 miles per hour) and we would ensure public transport links each of the 13 localities to the nearest core centre.

Within the 13 localities – the focus would be on community-led provision.

There are lots of community facilities already available across the county and we would like to support those facilities to thrive.

Communities already do so much to support themselves from social events in halls, parent and baby groups as well as other activities such as food banks, flood responses and litter picking, to name a few.

So what does this mean for service provision?

Whilst a “core centre” may host a larger library, swimming pool, further education centre, etc. the locality areas could host local activities – some run by the council and partners, and some run by entrepreneurs and the community.

There could be swap shop libraries in community spaces
Services could visit community spaces to meet young parents and children in the local area, or partners such as health could host drop in events.

We could help make full use of your community spaces for leisure activities like exercise and dance classes.

Post-16 students could use their local community spaces for quiet study.

There is even a possibility that we could base our staff in community centres to make sure the lights are on, and the doors are open every day meaning the spaces can be better-utilised by communities, start-up enterprises, Powys and partners.

At this stage, nothing is final, we are starting a conversation with the people of Powys about what's important to them.

We want to work with you to shape what this could look like.

We want to have an ongoing conversation, so that we can understand what matters most for the people of Powys and work together on how to get there.

We are starting the conversation with this video which sets the scene and some of our thinking.

From this, we can start to find ways forward, through conversation.

Our aim isn't to identify or deliver all the solutions. It's to be a part of the jigsaw and to help enable and empower communities to find and share solutions that work for them.

It's important to have an ongoing conversation with the people of Powys - making sure no one is left out.

We have a detailed engagement plan and will be talking with young people in schools, lots of other community groups, hosting in-person focus groups, as well as discussions with yourselves.

Town and Community councils are an important part of this conversation. They have the unique position of being close to their local communities. They are community leaders, community enablers and the fantastic work of town and community councils can be seen across the county.

You are vital as key leaders in your areas.

You have a good understanding of their needs and what the barriers are.

By working together and listening to what communities require we can make the most of the resources available to us. Essentially this is about supporting communities and individuals to help themselves to be stronger, more resilient and empowered to lead change.

It's about having fairer provision of services across the largest county in Wales where we can meet needs, and it's about ensuring greener access to transport. We want to hear from communities and ensure we have a sustained, open, and honest conversation.