

Special Issue - 30 August 2024

The Community News is an information service from PACDG - the Presteigne Area Community Development Group "Working Together For Our Community"

An update on Presteigne & District War Memorial Hall - from the acting Committee

You may have been wondering what has been happening with the Hall in the last few months. Well, if you saw the County Times on Thursday you will know, in part, quite a lot has been going on behind the scenes.

After Powys County Council closed the Hall in April 2023, four members of the then committee continued to work with the Council to address H&S matters that had been identified by the property department. More recently, the acting committee have expanded with members of the community joining and working hard to get the Hall open again. It has sometimes felt like an uphill battle but more importantly, progress is being made.

The Council have fitted a new fire alarm system, undertaken the many statutory tests required for a public building including a fixed wire test, gas checks and an updated asbestos survey. Using the Hall funds, an independent fire risk assessment was undertaken resulting in improvements to signage, exits and internal fire doors. New light sensors have been fitted, as well as upgrading the hot water system in the toilets. All works identified, are nearing completion, with only the requirement of planters outside to ensure exit ramps are kept clear. Our grateful thanks go to those who have quietly, but diligently, got on with the works – you know who you are!

Due to the unique situation with the responsibility for the Hall resting with Powys County Council, the acting committee have had to complete an EOI (Expression of Interest) to enable the Council to transfer the trusteeship to new Trustees. This has not been an easy journey, uncharted waters for all involved, but with the excellent support of PAVO and also the locally elected representatives this request was presented to Cabinet yesterday, and we have just heard that Powys County Council have approved the transfer!!! and will now be putting the required legal wheels in motion to make this happen.

Following this positive decision, we will need to seek from Powys County Council the timeline for transfer of trusteeship, an understanding of what the process is likely to be, and a lead time to re-opening.

Meanwhile, the new acting committee are exploring future grant opportunities to hopefully enhance and improve the facilities at the Hall; preparing all required policy documents; updating the website and continuing to liaise as necessary with Powys County Council to ensure we are in the best possible position and can act swiftly to get the Hall open.

The Hall has stood, since it was opened in 1953, as an integral part of our community. We very much hope the people of Presteigne and surrounding villages will continue in your support.

If you have any comments, ideas or offers of help we would love to hear from you - please contact via presteignemh@btinternet.com