

Supporting Communities

A joint project between PAVO and Powys County Council, funded by the Arwain Programme



Somewhere to hang your hat and say
I'll do what I can to labour and play
I'll give of myself, my time and my soul
To be part of somewhere special
I'll help build and make whole

Communities building a sustainable future

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Project Aims

- Work in partnership to actively engage communities in making sense of the issues which affect their lives, setting goals for improvement and responding to problems and needs through empowerment and active participation.
- Working with the community to identify their needs and issues, and formulating strategies to address those issues giving people the opportunity to transform their own lives and meet local need.
- Increase and strengthen the number of services and assets delivered by communities in Powys.
- A stronger visible presence for community delivered services across Powys.
- Locally delivered services in a sustainable manner with effective working.

Community Days – Public Engagement

A chance to share PAVO information and offer support in relation to Community Asset Transfers

Two Community Engagement events were held by Powys County Council during September, which provided the opportunity to engage directly with the public and communicate the work of the Community Asset Transfer programme.



The first of the “Army Covenant - Community Days”, was held in Brecon Army Barracks. The weather was not quite hurricane status, but offered quite a challenge.



Despite the weather, approximately 1000 people attended. An Arwain funded Supporting Communities Development Officer attended and engaged with numerous people (approximately 150) of all ages, but predominantly young mothers.

The new “Supporting Communities” promotion material was useful as a handout leaflet and an opener to further discussion. Many young mothers were interested in hearing about assets transfer that could be beneficial to their children’s future well-being. For example play parks, community halls, and sports venues.



A Supporting Communities Development Officer engaged with people who have a wide range of experience in their own related field but had little previous knowledge of CATs.

The second event was held in the Park, Newtown. This ideal location was better attended, with approximately 2500 people turning out. A Supporting Communities Officer took the opportunity to help man the PAVO stand. They could also get out and interact with people in the park. They engaged with and provided leaflets to more than 320 people.



These two ladies are already heavily involved within their communities but want to get involved with PAVO in other ways.

Some people were happy to add their details to the 'sign in sheets'. However, despite reassurance, many chose not to, presumably for fear of being 'signed up' to any commitment or other reasons i.e. privacy etc.

The feedback received during the two days was very positive about the work. Many people wanted to gain a greater understanding of how Community Asset Transfers relates to them and what goes on in their own community.

Treowen Community Centre October 2018

Officer – Pauline Chapman-Young
pauline.chapman-young@pavo.org.uk
Contact – Sue Szablewski



Treowen Community Hall Committee has further developed its plans to make the old Tennis Court site and Play Area into a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area). They have obtained several quotes for the work.

To ensure that the improvements to the Tennis Courts will be well received, well used, and become sustainable, a programme of community engagement was advised to ensure ongoing success. This gave the group the evidence it needed that the project would have longevity, local buy in, ongoing commitment, and a solid base when applying for funding.

All community residents and stakeholders were included in the engagement process. Surveys were distributed to schools, parents, residents, and current users of the hall's facilities.

A Community Engagement day hosted by Powys County Council's 'Love Where You Live' project, provided an opportunity to engage directly with the community and show them the proposals for the MUGA.

The Supporting Communities Development Officer sought to confirm that the proposed work would not be subjected to Planning Conditions, and this has since been verified by Powys County Council.





The MUGA site



Artist's impression
(Sovereign) Council



Community Engagement Day

Survey

TREOWEN OLD TENNIS COURT QUESTIONNAIRE FOR A MULTI-USE GAMES AREA (MUGA)

The Treowen Hall Management Committee are proposing to fundraise and apply for grants to upgrade the old tennis/basketball court to a **Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) that can be used by all age groups**. We think that the benefits of refurbishing the old tennis court for Treowen will be a safe play area to exercise, to have fun, learn a new skill, lose weight, get fit, start a team, build good relationships in the community, and socialise.

The MUGA play area would be open and free to use by all the local community.

It would include a new play surface, new steel fencing and gates that comply with health and safety laws, and seats. Games that could be played are basket ball, netball, tennis, football, and cricket.

**We are looking for local residents to support our plans.
Please could you answer these few questions for us and also tell us what you think if you like?
Tick, circle or write your answer in the space provided.....**

Funding the Project

The work required to meet the demands of Health & Safety have been identified and considered. All refurbishments will be in line with the advice given.

This has meant there will be extra financial obligations and those have been factored in.

Big Lottery were approached to see if this project would fit with their 'People and Places' Programme. Funding Officer, Guy Jones, met with the group and was impressed by the Treowen Committee's research, commitment, and efforts in bringing together their ambitious plans for the project.

Guy Jones also suggested the group may wish to consider applying separately for an 'Awards for All' grant, which would cover other associated outgoing expenses such as computers, gardening etc.

The Committee have set about working on the Big Lottery application and this is well underway in time to meet the deadline.

The Development Officer supporting the Group found it rewarding to see the proposals come together and to assist with the next stage of securing funding for the project.

Treowen Committee have been very appreciative of the support provided and expressed their thanks at subsequent meetings, in phone calls and by email.

The next step to achieve the aims is underway.



Oldford School Site -Welshpool

Officer – Pauline Chapman-Young
pauline.chapman-young@pavo.org.uk
Contact - Emma Peace

An 'Expression of Interest'

Open Doors Family Centre, Welshpool.

Childrens Commissioning & Transformational Team 'Flying Start'.

An opportunity to work in partnership.



Powys County Council has changed its provision of schools in Welshpool, meaning that the Oldford School Site is now being considered as potentially available for a Community Asset Transfer, should a suitable

group come forward who can confidently provide a robust and sustainable future for the site.

Interested Parties

Unusually, two users of the extended site are interested in pursuing this opportunity and are offering to working in partnership together; Open Doors Family Centre and the Children’s Commissioning and Transformation Team, Flying Start.

With the help of a Supporting Communities Development Officer, the groups have established what work and undertaking will be required to provide a successful and complete EOI (Expression of Interest). This will outline the case for consideration by Powys County Council’s Surplus Asset Board. Following on from this there would be, depending on its initial success, a demand for a business case to be made.

Both organisations feel confident in managing the whole site but are equally happy to take on the remaining part of the building, with consideration to subletting some areas to other agencies and businesses, who would work in further partnerships with them.

Open Door Family Centre - overview:

“Open Door is a registered charity, with a strong voluntary committee. We are currently registered with CIW for sessional care for up to 19 children operating from Ty Emrallt, Oldford Lane, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7TE. We deliver both Flying Start and Foundation Phase sessions. Our opening hours are Monday – Friday 9-11.30am Flying Start and 12.30 – 3.00pm 3+ Foundation Phase term time with additional summer programmes as required by Flying Start. Our current site is within the heart of our community in central Welshpool and is within the Flying Start postcode catchment area. We have excellent relationships with our service users, and staff will go the extra mile to support our families’.

Open Door would like to continue operating from the current building as well as, if possible, extend into part of the existing school building adjoined in order to increase our services. We would then be able to provide 30 hours childcare which will be extended by the Welsh Government to Welshpool in the near future”

Childrens Commissioning and Transformation Team/CCTT - overview:

“Currently the Welshpool Flying Start Multi-Agency Team is located at Welshpool Youth Centre at Howell Drive, Welshpool. Whilst the location of this office has been adequate in the past to meet our office base needs, we have struggled significantly to run groups and fully function from the premises and provide an equitable service to our families across North Powys.

As the service has and continues to grow and the number of multi-agency staff employed have increased the premises are no longer big enough to occupy the whole team or deliver all the services we need for our Flying Start families from that site. Essentially we have grown out of the property and the property is believed to be in the process of being sold or transferred back into the community.

The new proposed site at the old Oldford School is more centrally located within the heart of the

flying start catchment area, attached to our commissioned Flying Start Open Door Children Centre, the new venue would allow us to fully function as a multiagency integrated family centre”

Next Steps

Should the EIO be successful, the Development Officer will support the groups as they put together their Business Cases. This will be by ensuring they have all the information they need about the property, the site, and any requirements that the Council have laid out. They will also need to demonstrate an understanding of what they are taking on and question their own ability to deliver a successful and sustainable operation; do they have the confidence, knowledge, experience, skills and support in place to undertake such a venture?

As the EOI has been prepared by the groups and made ready for submission to the Council, the Vice Chair has been appreciative of the support I have provided in helping them to achieve their aims. They report feeling far more confident and aware of what they must consider as they move forward with their plans.

The EOI is to be submitted on November 22nd 2020.



Hay on Wye Swimming Pool

Officer – Pauline Chapman-Young
pauline.chapman-young@pavo.org.uk
Contact - Louise Llewellyn

The aim of the project is to take over the running of Hay on Wye Swimming Pool, on a long lease from Powys County Council. Providing, a well-supported and popular facility, available to the whole of the community and their neighbours.



Hereford Times:

'Hay school children with Co-op Team Manager, Gareth Ratcliffe, at Hay Swimming Pool. A parents' group who are raising money to keep their community swimming pool open have raised £475 by bag packing at a local supermarket. The Hay on Wye PTFA are aiming to raise £5,000 to help with the costs of keeping the facility open'.

The Swimming Pool offers more than just a place for the local community to swim and learn a lifelong skill. It has become a thriving meeting place for people of all ages and from all backgrounds.

It provides an activity for people's mental and physical well-being. It's a facility that provides an opportunity to swim safely and gain confidence, especially, for children. The pool brings more people to the area, who in turn spend in the local shops and support other businesses. Schools, swimming groups and various other user groups have helped to swell these numbers.

Since January 2014, the PTFA have taken on the running of the swimming pool and formed a Swimming Pool Committee, which concentrated more fully on this dedicated area of work. This has involved reinstating the whole building including repainting and refilling the pool, getting the plant room and boiler back into working order and making all the necessary safety checks. They have also had to advertise for organisations and individuals to use the pool and have had to employ suitable, qualified staff. The PTFA is a registered charity with registered trustees. The Swimming Group Committee is receiving advice about strengthening their constitution and their governance.

There is a Work Plan for the continued running of the pool, outlining expected income streams, daily running and maintenance costs and long term improvements. The project has already been discussed with the Town Council who offer their backing to the project. This was discussed at the August Council meeting

and the Town Council agreed to give its support and act as the umbrella organisation to the project. It was agreed that the PTFA Swimming Pool Committee would continue to run the project.

The Community Development Officer has been working with the group to assist them in strengthening their business case. They ensured they were supplied with timely and accurate information, which they have utilised to best effect. Going forward, the group will require funding to improve the building in the future, and they are assisting them to meet that objective. As a result of the information supplied and the guidance provided, the group secretary reported that they felt more confident and able to complete the Business Case to meet the pre-agreed timeframe with Powys County Council. They thanked the officer for the help and guidance offered and the officer looks forward to continuing to work together to achieve their future aims.

The Swimming Pool Committee having put forward their strengthened Business Case to Powys County Council has now been granted approval and will now go ahead and complete a Lease Agreement from April 1st 2018.



Newtown Textile Museum

Officer – Pauline Chapman-Young
pauline.chapman-young@pavo.org.uk
Contact – Janet Lewis



NEWTOWN TEXTILE MUSEUM, COMMERCIAL ST, NEWTOWN SY16 2BL



John Evans, Committee Member and Volunteer. Welcoming people from the local area and also from across the world (latest visitor that day was from New Zealand).

The Origins of the Museum Building (John Evans) -

“Capital, the fuel needed to feed any industrial development, was becoming more accessible along with the presence of a group of forward-looking individuals who could see the potential for industrial growth in Newtown. The town itself was already becoming a centre for some

parts of the cloth making process, notably fulling and carding. Mills were soon located along the banks of the Severn from which this process could be undertaken. William Pugh was a prominent Newtown entrepreneur who single-handedly financed the building of much of Newtown's communications infrastructure, including the building of a new bridge across the Severn in 1827. It was this development which finally ended the payment of tolls to cross the medieval wooden bridge and opened up development on the north bank of the river at Penygloddfa. Two years after the completion of the bridge, the vicar of Llanllwchaiarn petitioned the Justices for an alehouse at Penygloddfa. This was probably the Grapes Inn. Perhaps it was the thirst of the weavers in the nearby woollen factory, just two doors up which prompted his petition. These men and women, working long hours in a hot, noisy environment thick with the dust and fibres of the woollen yarn were in need of some liquid sustenance after a day's work.

We do not know who built the factory at 5 to 7 Commercial Street. Perhaps it was one of the town's 40-odd woollen manufacturers listed in Pigot's Trade directory of 1832, or a speculative building developer keen to make a quick profit from the newly released land in Penygloddfa. Whoever it was, the design he chose was innovative in that it combined domestic accommodation with industrial space. In this sense, the building represented a half-way house between the traditional domestic system of manufacture and the new factory system associated with the industrial revolution. Perhaps some thirty people were crammed into the six, one-up-one down cottages of the two lower floors of the building, but the two large loom floors above probably had sufficient weaving frames to employ some fifty people. For this reason, a stone staircase in the yard at the rear of the property gave external access to the loom floors for other workers who lived in neighbouring cottages. The Commercial Street factory was one of a number of similar developments in Penygloddfa in the 1830s. For a time, they existed side by side with bespoke woollen mills, such as the Clock Factory on Bryn Street and the Oversevern Mill situated close to the present day Halfpenny Bridge. But ultimately such dual purpose buildings could not compete with the much larger mills and they were converted to other uses. Most of these early weaving factories were demolished in the 1960s making the building which now houses the Textile Museum a unique example of a vanished world."



The Museum has been brought and kept together by a small team of dedicated Trustees and Volunteers. It started out on the journey to become a Museum in 1967. Powys County Council took it on in 1990, with a grant from the Heritage Lottery. In 2015, the Trustees were contemplating rehousing the artefacts and closing. However, the chance to take on the freehold under the Community Asset Transfer programme, became available, paving the way for the Museum to reopen in August 2016.

There are no paid members of staff, everyone is associated with the Museum are Volunteers.

The Museum has received varied and generous grants which has allowed work to be undertaken, including - upgrading the top floor displays, conserving the scale model of the building, carrying out Phase 2 of the Conservation Audit, carrying out a Collection and Documentation Audit, moving on to the next stage of work in conserving the building.

Major Grants have been given by:

- Gwendoline and Margaret Davies Trust
- AIM Preventive Conservation Grant supported by The Pilgrim Trust
- Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Town Council
- Newtown Local History Group
- Community Foundation in Wales - Powys Church Act
- Community Foundation in Wales - Powys Community Endowment Fund
- Community Foundation in Wales -The Ashley Family Foundation
- Oakdale Trust
- Bodfach Trust
- St Helens Old Girls Charitable Trust
- Rotary Club of Newtown
- Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd
- Renewable Energy Systems
- Association of Independent Museums
- Skinners' Company Lady Neville Charity
- Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales

- Welsh Government through the Museums, Archives and Libraries Division
- Powys County Council Community Regeneration and Development Fund

They group have required help recruiting volunteers and promoting the Museum as a tourist attraction. A PAVO Community Development Officer assisted the group with these objectives and provided ongoing support as required.

The website is very informative with news of events and other useful details - www.newtowntextilemuseum.co.uk



Llangors Youth and Community Centre Play Park Project

Officer – Pauline Chapman-Young
pauline.chapman-young@pavo.org.uk
Contact – Melrose East

Background

Llangors Youth and and Community Centre have continued with their vision for the small piece of land adjacent to the community centre, following the construction of the newly built Llangors School. The intention is to develop a play and recreation area that can be used by the whole community for leisure, fun and exercise.

The group embarked on a programme of community engagement that has demonstrated local support and a 'need' for such a facility.

The project will require considerable funding. Some funds have already been raised by the community itself and a number of fundraising activities are planned for the future. The group are also looking, where possible, to secure Section 106 funding.

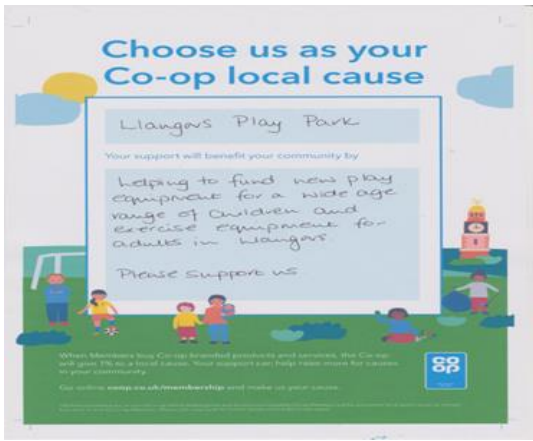
The Coperative Society have a local Community Fund and the Llangors Play Park Project has been chosen to benefit.

Co-op Local Causes - £19 million for local causes

Thanks to our members, together we've helped raise an amazing £19 million for local causes since November 2017.

We give 1% of what members spend on Co-op branded food products in our stores and selected services, as well as money raised from sales of carrier bags and Co-op scratch cards in our stores, to local projects – from improving community spaces or helping school leavers learn life skills, to simply connecting people.

So just by buying a pint of milk from one of our stores, you could help make things better in your community.



Llangors Play and Recreation Project

Meirrose East

The boundary has now been agreed with Llangors Primary School and Powys County Council (PCC). The boundary fence for the school has been erected so the site can now be visualised better. Most of the ground has been grassed.

There will be a lot of work to do before the play and recreation project is complete and could take the best part of 12 to 18 months.

Two companies have been approached, so far, to discuss the project and develop a plan for a suitable play park, namely Playdale and Kompan Ltd. They will also assist with grant funding. We are pleased to have the support of Steve Butcher, Countryside and Outdoor Recreation Officer, PCC to advise us on the plans.

I would like to arrange for a group of people, including children, to help develop this ground into an exciting facility for all the community. When I have more detail, I will arrange a meeting, so please look out for further information in due course.

Many people in the area have been fundraising for the project and we have over £4,000 already, which is fantastic. However, we will need much more than this, so any help with grant applications and fundraising would be gratefully received – see below.

Maybe individuals, company or business would like to sponsor an item of play/exercise equipment?

If you wish to know more about this project or would be interested in being an active part of it, please let me know – meirroseeast@gmail.com

Fundraising

Llangors Youth and Community Centre is very pleased to announce that the Play and Recreation Park has been chosen by the CO-OP store as one of its charities in the next round of the Local Community Fund. We would like you to support us by raising as much money as possible over the next 12 months.

What do you need to do?

- Obtain a CO-OP membership card from your local CO-OP store. This will cost you £1.
- Sign on line - www.coop.co.uk/membership
- Choose your local cause – Click on 'Llangors Youth and Community Centre' and then 'Back this Project'. There are 2 others to choose from.

Then shop in CO-OP stores.

What happens then?

- When you buy selected CO-OP branded products and services, 1% of the money will be donated to our charity
- Please tell all your friends to do the same.



As required, there have been 3 quotes obtained from play companies, ranging from £70,000 - £80,000. This is to cover the cost of construction and installation of the equipment.

Following a successful submission, Powys County Council have granted the organisation a 25 year Lease of the land. This will allow the group to apply for any funding that may be available and make plans for a medium-term future for the Play Park that local people can enjoy.

The Community Development Officer engaged with Powys County Council to provide information to the group regarding the land, lease, ownership, school grounds, church neighbours, time frames, Section 106, community engagement and funding. The Group have appreciated the advice that they were able to provide and Council Officers have found the exchange of information, update, and discussions helpful.



Llangors are Moving Forward in Other Areas:

They are hoping to take over the old Public Conveniences (or other suitable site) and develop it into a community shop.

A Community Shop for Llangors

A Questionnaire with an Introduction by Mark Kerr,
Village Shop Committee Chairman



For most villages a shop is a vital lifeline and for some people it is an important connection with the world beyond their front door. It is a meeting place, communication centre and a lynchpin of village life.

In Llangors we now have an embryo shop committee, committed to investigating options for a shop here in the village.

This questionnaire is the first step. We need to know your views on what should be provided and what would receive your support. Please be as honest as possible in your answers! Your response will be treated in confidence. It is anonymous, unless you wish to add your name at the end.

You may drop off the completed survey at a number of collection boxes at the places listed below; or you can complete it online with SurveyMonkey at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LlangorsVillageShop>

Successfully assisted by Community Development Officer Tim Davies, a group of local businesspeople are rebuilding the public conveniences at the Lake.

Llangorse Common Toilets - update *Ryan Thomas*

The Llangorse Common Community Toilets rebuild project is progressing well. Terms have now been agreed with Powys County Council for a 25-year lease of the site, and plans for the new resource-efficient facility, providing two unisex and a disabled toilet, an area for visitor information and a dog wash, have been drawn up. The necessary bat surveys, ecological survey and topographical surveys have been completed and a planning application was recently submitted to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

The application can be viewed on the Authority's website: <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/planning/> (reference number 18/16709/FUL) - we would be grateful for any letters or emails of support to the planning department!

We have made further applications for capital grants over the summer, and await to hear the outcome of these - fingers crossed!

The charity continues to fundraise to meet our match funding target of £7,000. We plan to organise several fundraising initiatives in the next few months, the first such event being a fundraising evening called 'Off the Wall' - further details on page 6 of this newsletter. We are also continuing to receive donations via the donation box installed on the existing toilet block.

If you wish to donate towards the project, please contact Jim Price (Treasurer) on 658 616.

If all goes well, by the time the next issue of the Grapevine is published we should hopefully be able to report building works having started. Watch this space!

Llangorse Common Community Toilets CIO is a registered charity, No. 1178226.



Builth Wells Bowling Club

Officer – Pauline Chapman-Young
pauline.chapman-young@pavo.org.uk
Contact – Dilwyn Evans



Background

Builth Bowling Club is a thriving sports and social club. The club welcomes new players every Monday so they can try a game of bowls free of charge.

They have a bar and catering facilities and the clubhouse always has a lively atmosphere. They hold a variety of events that brings together many members of the community. The location, situated next to the river, is superb.



History

Building the new Bowling Green

'After the First World War, unemployment in Builth Wells, as in the rest of the UK was very high. The government of the day gave grants to local councils to set-up schemes for the employment of mainly ex-servicemen who were out of work at the time. In 1921 the town had a population of 1,776 and was attracting visitors mainly at the weekends from the South Wales valleys, particularly Merthyr Tydfil. The visitors arriving by train were attracted to the health spas and pleasure ground along the bank of the River Wye. Four fields at the far end of the Groe came up for auction. After the U.D.C decision not to purchase the fields, Mr Thomas Lant, owner of the local quarry stepped in and bought the fields, upon completion of the sale Mr Lant offered them as a gift to the town, no doubt to the great pleasure of Cllrs Sayce and Hamer, who had fought hard to persuade the U.D.C meeting to purchase the four fields. Thomas Lant met with the U.D.C. members soon after he had gifted this land on a Saturday in October 1921 to inspect the newly acquired extension to the Groe. The conditions Mr Lant set down were that he should have right of entrance where he liked and that no unsightly buildings should be erected. He wished that the council would seek expert advice as to the best way of development and he suggested that the new ground was the best place for a bowling green. All of the councillors present gratefully accepted Mr Lant's terms. The following week at the U.D.C. meeting that included, by invitation, Mr Lant, it was agreed to look into a scheme to provide a bowling green, tennis courts and a refreshment shelter. At a later meeting the Clerk reported he had received from Messrs J Cheal and Son of Crawley, landscape gardeners, plans drafted for development of the Groe. They included the following estimates, levelling, draining and turfing six tennis courts, £650, materials for the same £50. Levelling and draining bowling green, providing and laying sea washed turf, laying board edging £280, materials for same £530, forming extension of promenade avenue, plantation round tennis courts, new boundary hedge across field £50, materials for same £100, total amount for labour £1180, for materials £900, grand total £2080. The ratepayers of Builth had their say at a public meeting on the 20th of December 1921 giving the U.D.C. a clear mandate to continue with the Groe scheme. On the agenda at the next U.D.C. meeting was the question of wages for the new employees. The foreman would receive £5 15s per week with the suggestion for labourers to be paid 1s per hour, Cllr Sayce advised the council to offer 9d per hour as they wanted to employ as many men as possible. Mr Sheale, landscape gardener of J. Cheal, Crawley reminded the council that it was a time of year when wet weather was likely and the men would not be paid on wet days. After further discussion Cllr Sayce moved, Cllr E.S. Davies seconded and it was carried that the wages be 9d per hour. It was hoped to employ up to 40 men, Mr Sheale stated he had brought his foreman with him and they would start work the following day. Work started at the very beginning of January 1922 with 38 men employed. Lord Glenusk's name was put forward as the best person to perform the opening ceremony. The choice to ask the Glenusk family was because they had been associated with Builth Wells in the past. It was his Lordship's father who gave the swing bridge to the town. The last Wednesday in July being chosen as the day for the opening function. A free tea would be provided for the people of Builth to mark the occasion.

Opening of the new bowling green

The official opening of the extension to the Groe took place on July 31st 1922, Lord Glenusk (Lord Lieutenant of Breconshire at the time) accompanied by Lady Glenusk arrived at two o'clock to cut the plaited red, white and blue ribbon with a pair of silver scissors presented to them by members of

the U.D.C. There were many speeches from the councillors present all thanking Mr Lant for his kind gift to the town and also Lord and Lady Glenusk for attending that afternoon. After the opening ceremony the large crowd that had gathered moved onto the new grounds and Lord and Lady Glenusk, followed by Mr and Mrs Lant, officially opened the bowling green by bowling the first woods. A game of bowls followed between Llandrindod Wells and Merthyr Tydfil with the members of both teams being presented to the gathered dignitaries. Only thirteen ends were played because of the persistent rain that had started, with Llandrindod winning on the very heavy green.

Formation of the club

A public meeting was held on February 15th 1923 called by the U.D.C. to consider forming a bowls club for the town. The Rev. H.J. Church Jones was appointed to the chair, and in opening said the council had an excellent bowling green and it would be a good thing to form a club in connection with it. Capt. R.J. Owen, Mr F. Morris, Mr W.A. Smiles and Mr Gilbert Eadie spoke in favour of the idea and it was unanimously decided to form a club.

Capt. Owen (clerk to the U.D.C.) pointed out that it should be understood the Council would receive members' subscriptions, have control of finance, and be responsible for the provision of a club house. The Chairman remarked that he considered they had had a very satisfactory beginning. The game appealed to him and seemed very interesting, Also they would realise more and more what value the bowling green would be both for their own enjoyment and for attracting visitors to Builth. There was a possibility of the town going ahead in all directions and it was up to them to seize the opportunity which offered itself. Personally he would do all in his power to help on the project. So on that Friday evening Builth Wells bowling club came into being'.

Charlie Bass
Builth Wells Bowling Club 2010

In 2017, the club took over the Freehold of the club from Powys County Council, under the Community Asset Transfer Programme.



Community Asset Transfer Experience

Having taken on the Freehold of Builth Bowling Club from Powys County Council in April 2017, the Club

continues to thrive as before but now with a greater sense of ownership and a strong, sustainable future ahead.

The Committee reported that they initially found things complicated with the process and “the legal hold up made things difficult. However, the experience was in the main, fairly painless and very positive”.

There is currently an outstanding issue around planning permission for a storage building which would be sited next to the bowling green clubhouse. A pre-planning application has been submitted and it appears this has initially been viewed positively. The Trustees are seeking more reassurance before submitting a full application, due to the cost involved, should it be refused.

The Community Development Officer sought further detail from Powys County Council’s Planning Officers, to clarify the position and assist Builth Bowling Club in understanding the risks and likely outcome.

The Trustees have been encouraged to become members of PAVO and assisted with information related to funding, employing people, volunteers, and training.

Trustee and Club Secretary, Dilwyn Davies, appreciated the support received and the ongoing offer to assist the club going forward. They have since been given Planning advice and a range of supporting information.



Brecon Bowling Club

Officer – Pauline Chapman-Young
pauline.chapman-young@pavo.org.uk
Contact – Elaine Sweet



Brecon Bowling Club, The Green, via Kensington, Brecon, Powys, LD3 9BA

Background

In January 1948 Brecon Town Council recommended to proceed with a scheme for the provision of a bowling green at Mill Green, the Promenade. The cost was £3150.

Work started on it in October 1948 and the green was opened on 13th of May 1950.

In early 1950 a public meeting was held in the Guild Hall and it was decided to form a bowling club which was to be known as “Brecon Bowling Club”. At the start there was no pavilion and the equipment was stored in a shed. Later in the season a temporary pavilion was erected.

In 1951 the Club decided to apply for membership of Mid Wales Bowling Association and was accepted. On July 15th the first County game was played against Pembrokeshire which Mid Wales won 125 to 109.

The Club continued to grow, members presented trophies for various competitions which were played for annually. Brecon had many successes at MWBA and WBA. In 1964 Brecon won the WBA rinks and proceeded to the British Isles Championship where they lost in the semi-final. Tours were organised and the Club was now on a sound financial footing.

The growth of the club continued and over the years success was achieved at many levels in Mid-Wales

and Welsh competitions.

In 1994, after much discussion, the club signed a 25 year lease for the Mill Green complex.

In 2013, the club was awarded the Welsh Club Bowls Federation Gold Standard Clubmark. Brecon and Llandrindod were the only clubs in Mid-Wales to achieve this.

In 2015, the club took over ownership of the club from Powys County Council under a Community Asset Transfer for the token sum of £10.



Two regular players enjoying long summer days of fine playing weather



Trustees - Peter Sweet and Elaine Sweet. Elaine is Club Secretary.

The Bowling Club has a total of 70 members and is a thriving community led organisation. The membership is varied, both in age and social background. To ensure a healthy long-term future the committee encourage local schools to visit and play. They actively work with many others, such as friends, visitors, touring teams (including London Welsh), and many regional and local networks. The general public are invited to play on Thursdays and Fridays.

It is a genuinely 'welcome all' organisation.

There are ten Trustees and a strong, capable Management Committee who have various skills and possess a wide range of knowledge. There are two members of staff who are self-employed.

The committee are very proactive in their approach to good communication. In addition to their Website and Facebook profile, they produce and display posters, hold coffee mornings and table top sales in Brecon town. They hold quiz and entertainment sessions at the clubhouse.

Members of the committee often take up the offer of training sessions with PAVO which they find very beneficial. The latest being 'Meet the Funders'.

There is some high cost building maintenance work to be undertaken in the near future and this will require a large amount from the clubs current healthy balance sheet. They committee are looking to the future and will be seeking funding and grants were possible to support this work.

Community Asset Transfer Experience

The Committee initially found that there was some poor communication around the legal delay and

complexities. They also regretted not using a local solicitor to act on their behalf, as it would have made the process quicker, enabling them to ‘call in’ to discuss. However, “it all came together in the end”.

They believe forward planning is vital to their continuing success and they remain positive and optimistic about their future.

The Community Development Officer was made very welcome by the trustees, and the trustees reported that they found the meeting session and discussions were helpful. It provided them with an opportunity to assess their current position. This related to finance, planning issues and maintenance of the building, fundraising, and volunteering and community engagement. The group welcome receiving information and support going forward and have agreed to allow their experience and success to be used to inspire and demonstrate best practice to other groups.



Llanidloes Library

Officer – Pauline Chapman-Young
pauline.chapman-young@pavo.org.uk

Contact – Kay Thomas

Introduction



Llanidloes Museum is an excellent museum of local history, located in the Town Hall, where it shares space with **Llanidloes Library**. The Town Hall was built in 1908 as a temperance hotel.

Background

The museum was established in 1930 and was originally housed in the town's iconic timber-framed Old Market Hall at the junction of Long Bridge Street and Great Oak Street. The museum moved to the town hall in 1995, initially in one room. In 2000 the museum gained an extra room, thus doubling in size. The museum closed temporarily in 2016 due to cost-cutting measures by Powys County Council but reopened in 2017 with a reduced collection, **in a space shared with the Library**.

Since June 2017 Llanidloes Museum and library have been co-locating.

The museum displays reflect the collections as well as the major events and development of Llanidloes during the last three centuries. In the foyer is a display dedicated to the Chartist movement and the "riots" of 1839, further on amongst the bookcases are displays on civic history, local trade and tourism as well as the mining and woollen industries.



Current Situation

Powys County Council is considering the future provision of all libraries across the county. Especially, whether or not, it can sustain the smaller branch libraries against a backdrop of having to find £200k of savings during the 2019/2020 financial year.

Keen to explore all avenues and work with communities and local businesses to maintain the libraries, Powys County Council undertook public consultations, seeking local support and suggestions.

The Councils Portfolio Holder, principal librarian and engagement officer attended the drop in sessions to discuss ideas.



Approximately 55-60 people attended and made robust arguments in defence of keeping the library open. The Library is part of the Museum, which in turn is owned by the Town Council. The cost of running Llanidloes Library is £23,000.

The councils Portfolio Holder explained "there has been no long term strategy for dealing with Libraries, and it had been an eye opener for Councillors to see just what goes on in each one and how valuable they

are to the communities. The consultation will go on. It's about the long term sustainability".

A Supporting Communities Development Officer attended the Llanidloes consultation where they listened to the concerns, suggestions, and responses from the community. They raised awareness of what support PAVO can offer.

Suggestions from the Attendees:

Some people felt that the unemployed could register there as the library is already used for numerous other uses. It was felt that many locals don't benefit from other services, but many people of all ages do use the Library.

"Why is it if PCC is increasing Council Tax is there a shortfall"?

"Why don't residents who use the Library pay for it - such as a membership fee or other"?

Individuals from the community and some groups are thinking through their proposals and appreciate the help PAVO can offer in relation to funding, governance, setting up a group, trustees, volunteering etc. They can also receive some excellent and useful training, with many opportunities available free of charge if they become members of PAVO.



Tri Town Crickhowell/Hay/Talgarth Formation of Pilot Group to Develop Car Charging Points

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact – Jed Needs Green Valleys and Nick Burdekin Hay TC



Background

A meeting was held in Talgarth on 8th May 2019 to establish A Tri Town for Crickhowell/Talgarth/Hay and surrounding areas. The first Tri Town was set by Powys Council to cover the Llandrindod/Rhayader/Builth area in February 2018 and Powys County Council wish to introduce the initiative countywide.

The outcome of the meeting on 8th May was to form a small committee to develop car charging points in the Crickhowell, Talgarth and Hay on Wye.

Developing the Group

An Arwain funded Supporting Communities Development Officer organised and facilitated meetings in Hay on Wye on 4th June and in Crickhowell on 24th June to discuss taking the project forward. Jed Needs of Green Valleys spoke about TrydaNi, an organisation aiming to create an all Wales network of charging points.

The Benefits

Developing a network of charging points will help to reduce carbon emissions as well as contributing to the local economy as it is intended to place charging points in locations that will encourage visits to the town whilst charging takes place. It is recognised that not all residents have off street parking and will therefore be reliant on communal charging points, which the project aims to provide.

The Next Steps

Representatives of the three towns have been given the task of identifying locations suitable for visitor and communal charging points. Jed Needs will co-ordinate the responses and work with the Powys CC

Regeneration Team to develop the project as the Arwain “Supporting Communities” Project finishes at the end of June 2019.



Volunteers for Urdd Eisteddfod

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact – Morys Gruffudd - Urdd

Background

Brecon and Radnor hosted the 84th Urdd Eisteddfod at the Royal Welsh Showground at the end of May. The event is the biggest youth festival in Europe first held in 1929 and attracts 15,000 competitors between the ages of 7 and 24. Competitions include recitation, singing, dancing, photography, ceramics, and pottery. 90,000 visitors attended the eisteddfod during the 6 days of competition. It would not be possible to run an event of this magnitude without the help of a significant number of volunteers, including:

- 140 Stewards who helped to fill around 600 stewarding shifts throughout the week. They were responsible for well-being and safety of everyone on the Eisteddfod site, including visitors, competitors, staff, volunteers, and contractors. Helping out generally - especially in the Welcome Centre, Main Pavilion, Ticket Booths, in preliminaries, and other specific locations as necessary
- 8 Supervisors (Team Leaders) worked throughout the Eisteddfod week, taking responsibility for a specific location on site and managing a team of stewards.
- 30 Cynllun Croeso Volunteers, usually members of the Urdd Youth Committee. Welcoming members of the public to Brecon and Radnorshire and to the Eisteddfod. Giving information and advice, as well as undertaking various duties including distributing flyers and maps of the site, answering enquiries, and helping people with directions, wearing the Mr Urdd costume, selling Urdd merchandise, completing questionnaires by asking visitors about their experience of being on site, and undertaking various other duties as instructed by Urdd staff.

The organisers of the Eisteddfod met with the Supporting Communities Development Officer in September 2017 to discuss their volunteer requirements for the event.

The Supporting Communities project helped to recruit volunteers in a number of ways.



The Supporting Communities Officer made local sports clubs, Young Farmers clubs and other third sector organisations aware about the car-parking contract offered by the Urdd, where a local voluntary

organisation would be paid £5,000 to steward the car park for the week. The contract was awarded to the Radnor Ladies Hockey Club who found out about the stewarding offer through PAVO and the Supporting Communities Project. Thirty members of the club provided a safe and friendly marshalling service in the car parks and the visitor bus drop-off points between 06.30 and 23.00.



Volunteers from Radnor Ladies Hockey Club enjoying the sunshine whilst on car parking duties *Photo courtesy of Elin Wozencraft*

To help the Eisteddfod organiser to recruit volunteers, the Supporting Communities Office contacted the countywide network of Volunteer Bureaus and Community Support Offices to raise awareness of the Eisteddfod and to highlight volunteers would be required for the event.

PAVO pro actively engaged with young people to encourage them to volunteer, through discussion with the Eisteddfod organiser they established that volunteers aged 16 and 17 could be used at the event. The Supporting Communities Officer wrote to every secondary school in Powys to let them know about the volunteering opportunity for some of their older pupils.



Picture courtesy of Aled Llewellyn

The event was a success, and the organiser recognised the support he received from the Supporting Communities Officer and PAVO -



“We have received many complimentary messages regarding the stewards and other volunteers, and PAVO’s support was a crucial component in ensuring the success of the event. Many thanks to you and your colleagues once again”.



St Andrews Church, Norton

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact – John Rafause - St Andrews Church

Background

Norton is a small village located between Presteigne and Knighton, which has a population of 375 people living in the village and surrounding area. The village does not have a school, shop, pub, or public meeting place.

The community in Norton have been exploring the idea of converting part of the church into a community space for 20 years, with one keen resident having plans drawn up, however due to fragmented support the project never came to fruition. A small number of individuals have now come together to revisit developing a community hub for Norton.



St Andrews Church, Norton

Current Situation

Due to a dwindling congregation, the Church of Wales have indicated that they intend to withdraw support for St Andrews Church and close it as a place of worship. The uncertainty over the future of the church has been the catalyst for the group to look at ways of saving the church and to create a sustainable community asset. The un-constituted group recently took it upon themselves to conduct a residents' survey to find out if there was support within the community to save the church. The response from the survey was encouraging with over 64% of returned surveys supporting the option of forming a Norton Community Development Group to develop the church.

How the Arwain Supporting Communities Project has Helped so Far

An Arwain funded Development Officer attended a meeting with the group at the church to hear about the history, current situation, residents' survey and plans for the future. The Development Officer was able to confirm that the group are doing the right thing by engaging with the community to establish the current level of support, and by attempting to form a constituted group to take the project forward.

In preparation for the meeting to form a Community Development Group, 'getting started' information was provided by the Development Officer on model constitutions, legal structures, and charitable status.

A discussion took place on sustainability, which turned into a brain storming session with ideas including a pop up shop, post office, pop up pub for events, IT training facility, fitness classes, parent/toddler group and a café. The Development Officer suggested holding an event to get ideas from the community, which the Development Officer offered to help to set up and facilitate.

The group asked if PAVO knew of any similar projects to the one they are planning. Research was conducted following the meeting, which found information on several similar projects in Wales and Herefordshire, this information has been passed onto the group. Of particular interest in is a Community Hub at St Peters Church in Peterchurch, which has many similarities to Norton. The Development Officer has offered to arrange and accompany the Norton group on a fact finding visit to 'The Hub' at St Peters Church to find out how they started the project, how it was funded, what went well, what did not go well, and how they are now operating a sustainable business.

Future Support

As the project is in the early stages, further assistance from the Supporting Communities project will be required as the project develops. The group are aware of the support that PAVO can give including funding searches, fundraising ideas, governance, and training, which was of particular interest to the group. Watch this space for future developments!



Radnor Indoor Bowls Club and Pavilion Asset Transfer

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact – Ken Evans - Bowling Club

Background

The Radnor Indoor Bowls Centre (RIBC) and the Pavilion are going through the process of transferring ownership and responsibility from the County Council to the RIBC members and the Pavilion CIC.



Radnorshire Indoor Bowls Club opened its doors to the public on 1st December 1990 and now provides a six rink stadium which attracts members from a wide area. The Club caters for all standards of play and several members from the Men's, Ladies' and Junior Sections have been selected to play for Wales at International level. Ladies, Men and Juniors all play at the Radnorshire Indoor Bowls Club. There are also special sessions for disabled bowlers including wheelchairs and high visibility bowls for those with impaired vision.



Pavilion Mid Wales is a multi-functional event centre in Llandrindod that hosts everything from meetings and conferences to touring acts and bands, community events, theatre shows, club nights and more.

Both sites are in close proximity to each other with limited car parking space available. Worshipers from Holy Trinity Church also use the parking areas to attend regular services, weddings and funerals as do members of Llandrindod Tennis Club as there are three Tennis Courts on the site.

The Issue

Both groups have been in discussion with the County Council for quite some time and both groups have a desire to move things forward, however some issues remained unresolved, in particular: car parking, clarity on responsibility of maintaining access routes and access rights, and parking by other users of facilities as described above.

Actions taken

The Arwain Funded Supporting Communities Officer and a PAVO officer met with Trustees of RIBC and the Pavilion, at their request, to discuss the main issues, before they take responsibility for the buildings, access routes and car parking.

Following the meetings and a formal meeting between Powys Country Council, RIBC, Pavilion, and Holy Trinity Church, it became apparent that further dialogue needed to take place in order for all parties to air their views and reach an agreement between the groups to help progress the Asset Transfer Process for both buildings.

The Supporting Communities Officer arranged, hosted, and facilitated, a meeting on 30th August 2017 at the PAVO offices, attended by PAVO Officers, the local member, RIBC, Pavilion, and Holy Trinity representatives.

Positive Outcomes

RIBC, Pavilion and Holy Trinity now have a clear understanding of the issues concerning each group and, through dialogue, agreement was reached on shared use, contribution to maintenance, and introducing parking fees post transfer.

The Value of the Arwain Supporting Communities Project

The Supporting Communities Officer and PAVO were the catalyst for the key stake holders to engage in dialogue which led to agreement being reached.

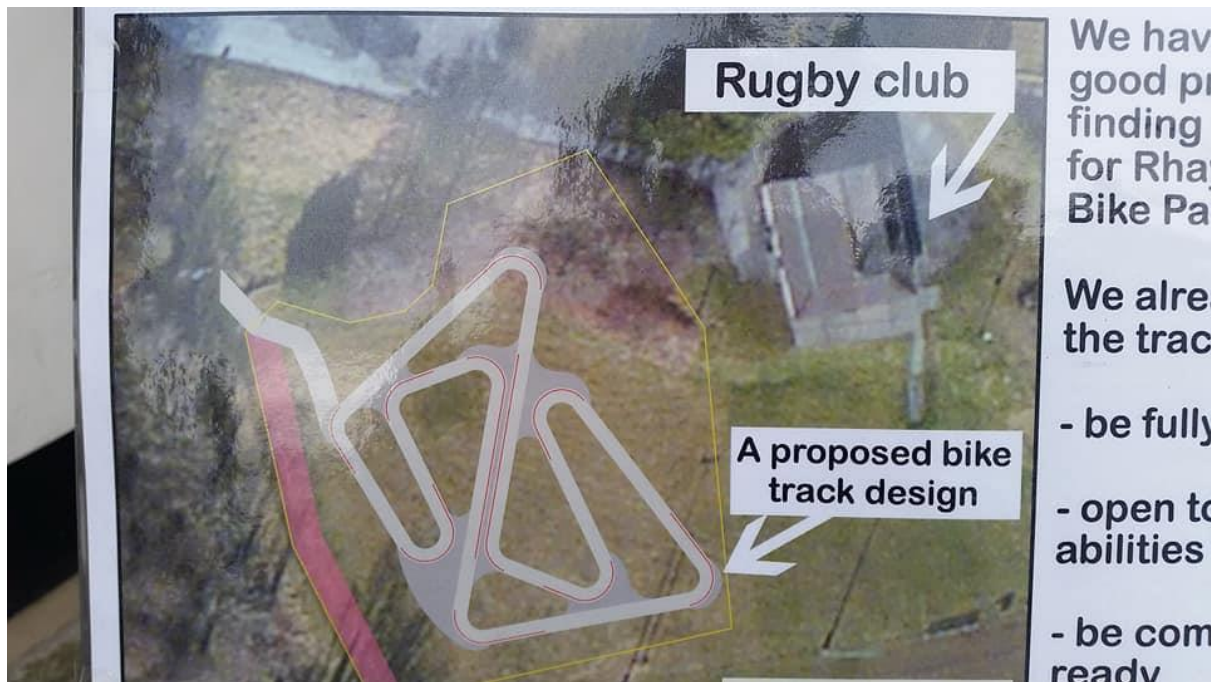


Rhayader Sports Association/ Rhayader Town Council Bike Park

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact – Alan Samuel - Rhayader Sports Association



Rhayader Sports Association is made of members of sporting clubs from Rhayader and the surrounding district. The Sports Association is chaired by the local member and supported by Powys County Council Sports Development.

The Sports Association via Rhayader Town Council has secured funding to construct a bike park on a piece of unused ground that is currently leased from Powys County Council to Rhayader Rugby Club. The Bike Park will be used by local people to improve skills and increase physical activity. As the location of the Bike Park is near the start of the Elan Trail (an off road cycling and walking trail from Rhayader to the Elan Valley) it will be used by visitors which will have a positive impact on the local economy. The Bike Park also fits in well with recently announced plans to construct advanced mountain bike trails in the Elan Valley as skills can be developed at the Bike Park before moving on to advanced trails.

The Arwain Funded Supporting Communities Development Officer attended several meetings and has helped to move the project forward by supplying information for key contacts, feeding back information requested at meetings, identifying match funding opportunities, and reviewing funding applications before they are submitted and making suggestions to improve the application. To date, with Supporting Communities Officer support, match funding has been secured from Powys County Council and the Big



Lottery People and Places Fund. Alan Samuel of Rhayadrr Sports Association said

“It's such a cracking team effort. Thanks for all of your funding advice, improving the applications really helped”.

Construction of the Bike Park will commence on 24th June 2019.



Rhayader Sports Association

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact – Elin Wozencraft - Rhayader Sports Association



Representatives of Wales Co-op, Rhayader Sports Association and the Supporting Communities Officer meet at Caerau Football Club to discuss Community Shares Funding

Rhayader Sports Association is a collective group of sports clubs in Rhayader. The group formed five years ago to share ideas and resources as well as providing a strategic approach to providing sports facilities.

The Sports Association has been successful in gaining funding for a bike park to be located near the Rugby and Football Club and wish to develop the site further by providing an all-weather 3G pitch for football/rugby training and junior soccer matches.

The Arwain funded Development Officer initially supported the Sports Association by being present at scoping meetings with key stakeholders and politicians, to make himself aware of the project to inform the group about the support that the Arwain Supporting Communities Project is able to offer.

The Development Officer met with Football Association of Wales representative to discuss how specific support can be given to the Sports Association and as a result, the Development Officer has inputted into the Business Plan developed by the Sports Association.

The Development Officer liaised between the Sports Association and the Big Lottery Fund to discuss funding opportunities and arranged a site meeting in March 2019. They also arranged a site visit to Caerau

Football Club, to meet with club officials and the Wales Co-operative Centre, to learn about Community Shares, which is a way of raising funds for capital projects will also take place in March 2019.



Knucklas Community Centre

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact – Avril Hoyle - Knucklas Community Centre

The new Community Centre in Knucklas opened in 2013 with funding provided by Welsh Government. The modern hall is licensed for 100 people and includes a fully equipped modern kitchen, tables and chairs for 80 people, audio visual equipment, and is Disability Discrimination Act compliant. The hall is used to host social functions and regular bookings including Dog training, Makers and Crafters, Floral Art Societies, and Short Mat Bowling.



Adjoining the hall is a children's play area, tennis courts and playing field:



Knucklas Community Centre, playing fields, play area, and tennis courts have recently been transferred from Powys County Council to Beguildy Community Council with Knucklas Community Centre Committee being responsible for the day to day running of the Community Centre.

The joint PAVO/Powys County Council Supporting Communities Project funded by Arwain was set up to help groups through the Community Asset Transfer Process as well as supporting groups who have already taken responsibility of buildings and assets following transfer. Experience has shown that groups can encounter challenges following an asset transfer and require help, as a result the Arwain Funded Supporting Communities Development Officer was asked to give support to Knucklas Community Centre Committee.

Attendance at the Knucklas Community Centre Committee meeting in January was used to listen and learn to find out where the Supporting Communities Development Officer could offer support. A number of areas were identified during the meeting where PAVO help would be of benefit to the committee including governance, infrastructure and community engagement.

The committee felt that they were missing out on young people using the facility so a meeting was set up between the Development Officer and the Sports Development Officer for Knighton and Presteigne to arrange a Junior Sports Activity day in Knucklas on 16th August. The idea is to provide a fun filled day for the young people in the village and the event used try to recruit volunteers to deliver similar sessions in the future.

The committee used to work with a local football club to put on a junior football tournament, however the tournament has not taken place for several years as contact with the football club was lost. The Development Officer and Area Sports Development Officer have provided the Centre Committee contact details for Presteigne and Knighton Junior Football Clubs and hopefully the tournament will be resurrected.

The committee had discussed installing WIFI, after a previous visit by the Supporting Communities Development Officer following an enquiry in November 2017, however they decided against it on the grounds of cost and the perceived lack of interest. New information has now been provided on Digital Communities Wales, which is an organisation that provides IT training opportunities for communities in Wales, they can also help with funding and/or loaning IT equipment, and can help fund installation of WIFI in public buildings.

The committee recognise that to be sustainable they need some new, and in their own words, younger committee members. In order to help with identifying and recruiting new trustees information was provided on the PAVO Third Sector Skills Project.

The Third Sector Skills Volunteer officer met with Avril and John, two of the committee members, to discuss possible lines of recruitment, training, and general promotion of the Community Centre.

The Committee and the Officer went through different examples of recruitment packs and the Officer is currently supporting Knucklas Community Centre to create one. The committee are targeting for an online/social media committee member to help support them with new ideas to get young people involved in the Centre.

The Committee are also looking at the possibility of trustee training as they have a few members who would like refresher training.



Llangorse Common Community Toilets

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact – Jim Price - Llangorse Common Community Toilets

Background

Powys County Council owns the public conveniences at Llangorse Lake. For the last five years, the day-to-day operation of the toilets has been the responsibility of the local caravan park owner who receives a small annual grant from the Council for carrying out cleaning and supplying consumable materials. Notification given by the Council early in 2018 that the grant is going to be withdrawn meant it was no longer a viable proposition for the caravan park owner to continue servicing the toilets. The *Discover Bwlch and Llangorse* group considered operating the toilets, however the group did not feel it was their responsibility, but would support the formation of a subgroup to assume responsibility for the asset. A member of the provisional sub group approached PAVO for support.



Arwain Funded Support

Governance

An Arwain Funded Supporting Communities Officer met with key members of the subgroup who wished to pursue an asset transfer of the toilets. The meeting discussed how to set up a constituted group and the pros and cons of legal structures, in particular charitable status. The group used the information given by the Development Officer and applied to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, as the group felt this was the best option as they were going to be holding property and potentially employing staff in the future. The application to register Llangorse Common Community Toilets as a CIO took just two days to be approved by the Charity Commission.

Funding

The newly formed CIO has attracted significant capital funding from the Brecon Beacons National Park to knock down the existing toilet block and replace it with a modern, attractive energy efficient toilet block, which will help ensure long-term sustainability. Although significant funding is available from BBNP for the capital project, there is still a shortfall. The Supporting Communities Officer conducted funding searches to identify potential match funding opportunities; the outcome is that Llangorse Common Community Toilets CIO has been awarded £10,000 by the Big Lottery Fund Awards for All Fund.

Facilitation

The group discussed sustainability with the Supporting Communities Development Officer and ideas on

how to generate income for the running cost of the toilets. The Supporting Communities Development Officer arranged and facilitated a meeting between the trustees of Erwood Pit Stop Trust and a representative of the Llangorse project. The purpose of the meeting was for Llangorse Common Community Toilet CIO to find out how Erwood Pit Stop Trust have made themselves sustainable during the three year period they have been responsible for Erwood Toilets, ideas were shared during the meeting which the Llangorse representative found very useful.

Moving Forward

The Supporting Communities Development Officer is in regular contact with Llangorse Common Community Toilet CIO and continues to support the group.



Llanwddyn Community Centre

Officer – Tim Davies
tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact – Ruth Powell - Llanwyddyn Community Centre

Background

Llanwddyn is a small village in north Powys located one mile from the picturesque Lake Vyrnwy, built in the 1880s to supply water to Liverpool. The reservoir flooded the original village of Llanwddyn.



Llanwddyn has a population of less than 300, served by one shop, and a Community Centre attached to the school that closed in 2009. The Community Centre plays a vital role to the community by hosting regular events including talks, social events, exercise classes and is used by local organisations for their own fundraising activities.



The Centre also plays host to annual events including the Lake Vyrnwy half marathon and an acoustics festival that attract visitors and boosts the local economy.



The Community Centre is currently run by a charitable trust on a lease from Powys County Council,

however the charity are in the advanced stages of securing the Community Centre on a long term lease from Powys County Council through the Community Asset Transfer programme.

Unfortunately, the Community Centre has suffered from lack of investment and is in a poor state of repair: including the roof, which is leaking and needs replacing. The Charitable Trust requested that Powys County Council make good repairs before they take on the building, but unfortunately due to the considerable costs involved the council are unable to support this.

Arwain Supporting Communities Support

An enquiry was received from Llanwddyn Community Centre in June to talk about the asset transfer and funding for the roof repairs and internal improvements, as an application to Welsh Government had failed. As a result, the committee decided to apply to other funders including the Garfield Weston 60th Anniversary Fund. The Arwain funded Supporting Communities Officer offered support including an offer to look over the application before submission.

The committee took up the Officer’s offer of looking over the application, and, based on information given at a Garfield Weston webinar attended by the officer, feedback was given that made suggestions on how to improve the application. The officer explained to the committee member that they did not have to include their suggestions, however the committee decided to make the changes suggested.

Outcome

Llanwddyn Community Centre were shortlisted for the grant in September and were required to submit further information including producing a short video. Due to the large volume of applications the Garfield Weston Foundation were not able to announce who the successful applicants were until the second week in October. This period proved to be a nerve wracking time for Llanwddyn Community Centre, however their nerves were replaced with euphoria when in early October The Garfield Weston informed the committee that their application, for the sizeable amount of £150,000, was successful.



Newtown Visually Impaired Group

Officer – Pauline Chapman-Young

pauline.chapman-young@pavo.org.uk

Contact – Newtown Visually Impaired Group



Newtown Visually Impaired Group contacted PAVO as they were seeking funding for their members to have a summer trip and to help pay for a Christmas Party.

The Arwain funded Supporting Communities Officer carried out a funding search to identify potential funding opportunities and found that the Greggs Community Foundation Grant fitted well with the aspirations of the Visually Impaired Group.

The application process for the Greggs Foundation is on-line, which proved to be a challenge to the group due to their visual impairment. The Supporting Communities Officer made suggestions to get round this, but unfortunately, the group were not able to put the suggestions into place.

In order to find a practical solution the Supporting Communities Officer liaised with the Greggs Foundation who accepted the idea of the Officer providing practical help and being the main point of contact for the grant application. The Officer worked with the group to make an on-line application.

The group were successful and received £700 from the Greggs Foundation.



Newtown Community Café

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact – Stan Mounford - Newtown Community Café



A couple of members of Welshpool and Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit decided to start a community café in Newtown following a visit they made to a Community Café in Aberystwyth.

The Aberystwyth café uses surplus food supplied by local supermarkets which is prepared by volunteers and served to customers on a donate-if-you-wish basis, thus providing a meal to less well-off members of society for what they can afford.

The members of the Welshpool and Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit approached PAVO for help and support to set up a community café at the Methodist Church in Newtown. The Arwain funded Supporting Communities Officer attended an initial meeting of key stakeholders where the idea of a Community Café in Newtown was discussed, and the next steps put in place.

The first part of the process was to support the formation of constituted group and to produce a governing document, support was given by the Supporting Communities Officer through this process.

Contact was made with Powys County Council Environmental Health Dept by the Supporting Communities Officer on behalf of the group, to obtain information on complying with Food Hygiene Standards. Support was also given on a producing a DBS Policy, and suggestions made on how to recruit volunteers.

The café opened in October 2018 with support from Evans Café and Morrisons Supermarket, who supply the food free of charge.



Merthyr Cynog Community Hall

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact - Chris Davies - Merthyr Cynog Hall

Situation

Merthyr Cynog Community Hall is situated in the hamlet of Upper Chapel which is located between Builth Wells and Brecon on the B4520. The Community Hall serves the sparsely populated isolated areas around Upper Chapel and provides a vital role in maintain community cohesion, reducing social isolation, and contributing to the mental and physical well-being to the people that live in the area.



The committee that have the responsibility of running the building are very pro-active and, in the past, have attracted funding from the Big Lottery Fund to make improvements to the building and to purchase equipment. As is the case with other community buildings in Powys, the fabric of the building needs attention, and in the case of Merthyr Cynog, the roof needs attention as it leaks.

The committee applied to the Big Lottery for funding to repair the roof, but unfortunately the bid was rejected.

Following the rejected bid the Arwain funded Supporting Communities Officer and Funding Officer from Big Lottery Fund met with the Chair and Treasurer of the Hall Committee to discuss future funding bids and how the Supporting Communities Officer can help the committee with identifying future funding opportunities and helping with applications. The committee have identified several “needs” for the building, including double glazing for the windows to save on energy costs, and with the help of the Supporting Communities Officer will be applying for funds from several sources for different aspects of the building.

Update

In August 2019 the hall was awarded £42,300 from the Lottery.



Llandrinio Village Hall

Officer – Tim Davies
tim.davies@pavo.org.uk
Contact Llandrinio Village Hall

Llandrinio Village Hall in north Powys is an excellent, well equipped and maintained venue extensively used by several local organisations for a wide range of activities. The pro-active hall committee continually strive to improve the hall and as improvements usually cost the searching for funding is a top priority.



The Supporting Communities project helps groups in different ways, some groups require a lot of input from the Supporting Communities Officer, especially in the formative stages of development, whereas more developed groups may need less input, or support with a specific enquiry which can be dealt with by telephone or e-mail without taking a lot of Supporting Communities Officer time.

A member of Llandrinio Village Hall Committee approached PAVO for information on funding opportunities to carry out work on the hall. The Supporting Communities Officer established the committee's needs during a phone conversation and was then able to conduct a funding search based on the information received. The results of the search have been forwarded to the committee along with a reminder that the Supporting Communities Officer is available to check through applications before they are submitted.

As a follow up the committee are contacted to see how they are progressing with their application and to see if they wish to receive further support.



Brecon Youth Centre

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact Cllr Mathew Dorrance Brecon Youth Centre



In 2017 Powys County Council made the decision to change the delivery of Youth Services in the County, by using schools as a base, and outreach working. The changes meant that the authority would no longer require five buildings that had previously been used to deliver Youth services including the Youth Centre in Brecon. The local member for the St Johns Ward in Brecon wished to explore the possibility of the Community operating the building under the Community Asset Transfer Programme and through Brecon Town Council contacted PAVO for help.

The Arwain funded Supporting Communities Officer supported the local member by attending meetings with key stakeholders who had expressed an interest in forming a group to transfer Brecon Youth Centre to the Community. The Supporting Communities Officer gave information to the group on the stages of the Powys County Council Asset Transfer process and the governance options available to the group including the Town Council becoming Custodian Trustees.

The group went through the Expression of Interest process; however they were disappointed to be informed that the County Council have decided to try to let or sell the building rather than offer it to the community.



Grow for Talgarth

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact - Rosie Williams Grow for Talgarth

Situation

Grow for Talgarth is a group that aims to improve the visual impact of Talgarth by placing planters around the town to grow flowers, including sunflowers, and vegetables. The river in the town is a particular focus as plants and fruit trees are planted on the riverbank. The group enter the National Competition 'Cultivation Street' where they compete against other towns in Great Britain that have similar schemes to Grow for Talgarth.



The Arwain Funded Supporting Communities Development Officer was invited to attend a meeting in February to talk about the support that can be given to the group.

Grow in Talgarth were very interested in the support that can be given with the recruitment of volunteers. Ideas were given on recruiting volunteers, support with identifying funding opportunities, the help that can be given with applications, and the training available for trustees through PAVO.

Following the meeting information was sent on registering for the Volunteer Wales website, advice on how to source funding and the training available through PAVO. Future support will be given on volunteering policies when a meeting is arranged with Michiel Bles, Powys Volunteer Centre Officer.



Erwood Pit Stop Trust

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact - Alan Price - Erwood Pit Stop Trust

Situation

Erwood Pit Stop Trust was formed in December 2015 to take responsibility of the public toilets in Erwood from Powys County Council as part of the Community Asset Transfer programme.



The Erwood Pit Stop Trust was established before the Arwain Supporting Communities Project commenced, however the Trust received support from the Arwain funded Community Development Officers during the Asset Transfer process.

The trust was set up as an unincorporated organisation which meant that trustees were personally responsible for any losses so the trust decided to apply for charitable status which they felt would provide increased funding opportunities as well as limiting trustee liability and as a result in 2018 the Erwood Pit Stop Trust became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

As other examples have shown during the Supporting Communities Project, groups that have been through the Asset Transfer process require support post transfer as the groups get to grips with being fully responsible for running a building and developing the skill sets to do this successfully. The Arwain funded Supporting Communities Development Officer was requested to deliver a session to provide information to trustees of The Erwood Pit Stop Trust CIO on the role of being a trustee of a charity.

Links have also been forged with other another similar project with the Supporting Communities Officer setting up and facilitating a meeting between Erwood Pit Stop Trust CIO and the recently formed Llangorse Lake Community Toilet CIO to provide learning opportunities for both organisations. The Officer continues to support both groups.



Crickhowell Sports Association Site Visit

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact - Crickhowell Sports Association

Situation

As part of the Supporting Communities Project, the project officer visited groups that have been through asset transfer, to learn from their experience, and to share good practice with groups going through the asset transfer process.



The Pavilion in Crickhowell sits between the cricket field, tennis courts, and Bowling Club, and prior to asset transfer was operated by Powys County Council. Following the separate transfer of playing facilities from the Council to the Cricket Club, Bowling Club and Tennis Club, the Pavilion was still the responsibility of Powys County Council. The three clubs in question could see the value of having control of the Pavilion, however each club did not think they had the capacity to take the building on their own. The three clubs decided to share their resources to form a Sports Association, which took over the lease of the Pavilion.

During the site visit it became clear how having well committed and skilled trustees are key ingredients for a successful project. The Sports Association had the vision to see how the Pavilion could be better used to help it become sustainable, by improving the building to make it more attractive to hire. The windows were changed, a new heating system was installed, and the interior had a makeover. The investment has played dividends in that the Pavilion is used for regular weekly activities other than cricket, tennis and bowls which generate income which contributes to the financial sustainability of the Pavilion. The trustees have also come up with other initiatives to generate income, including hiring the facility out for social functions including weddings, and making parking spaces available to local businesses.

The Supporting Communities Development Officer took away the themes of having robust governance, skilled and committed trustees, and a realistic business plan, as being key components of a successful asset transfer project that he could share with groups going through or considering asset transfer.



Caerau FC Community Shares Learning Visit

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact - Dai Davies - Rhayader FC

Situation

The Supporting Communities project is supporting Rhayader Sports Association and Ystradgynlais Juniors FC. Both groups are going through the Community Asset Transfer process to secure facilities and playing fields that they wish to improve through investment.



Representatives of Wales Co-op, Rhayader Sports Association and Arwain Supporting Communities Development Officer meet at Caerau Football Club to discuss Community Shares Funding

Both groups have a desire to construct a 3G pitch, this will require significant funds to construct which will be difficult to source through one funding stream. The Supporting Communities Project, through discussions with the Wales Co-Operative Centre, has become aware of a relatively new way of funding projects through selling Community Shares.

A visit was arranged by the Supporting Communities Project to Caerau FC on 8th March 2019 for Rhayader Sports Association and Ystradgynlais Juniors FC to find out about Community Shares. Officers from the Wales Co-Operative Centre were able to give an overview of Community Shares and the groups also heard from Steve Williams Chair of Caerau FC who was able to talk about the practicalities of raising funds through Community Shares.

The visit proved to be valuable with the groups coming away with the need to:

- Involve the whole Community not just the football clubs
- Have a robust business plan to demonstrate sustainability
- Use the support of PAVO, Wales Co-operative Centre, and Social Business Wales, to develop a project

- Identify more than one source of funding
- Use Community Shares to compliment grants and other fundraising initiatives



Clatter Community Centre

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact – Bob Wright - Clatter Community Centre



Background

Ownership of Clatter Community Centre transferred from Powys County Council to the Clatter Community Centre Committee, which is a registered charity, in 2017 as part of the Community Asset Transfer programme.

Support from the Arwain Supporting Communities Project

Initial contact with was made in the summer of 2017, when support from the committee was requested from PAVO on health and safety matters. The Supporting Communities Development Officer spent time at Clatter Community Centre with the Chair of the Committee to provide information on a Health and Safety policy and the basics of risk assessment.

The Arwain Supporting Communities project identified that organisations that secure an asset require continued support post transfer, so the Supporting Communities Development Officer provided on-going support to the Clatter Community Centre committee and other committees that have secured an asset.

Future Plans

As part of their plans to develop the building, Clatter Community Centre Committee have an aspiration to improve the hall by making a meeting room, which would allow dual use of the centre, and to carry out improvements to the toilets. The Supporting Communities Development Officer helped identify funding opportunities to carry out the improvements and has assisted the committee with making a funding application including putting a business plan in place to support the application.



Knighton Toddler Forest School

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact – Antonia Pettit - Knighton Toddler Forest School

Background

An enquiry was received by PAVO in January from Sarah Jackson who was looking for funding to set up a forest school for pre-school children in Knighton. As a result of the enquiry an initial meeting was arranged between Sarah, her friend Antonia, and the Supporting Communities Development Officer. At the meeting Sarah and Antonia shared their vision with the development officer and were looking for guidance and support to take their idea forward.



Source: Knighton Woodland Tots Facebook page

How did the Arwain Supporting Communities Project Help?

As Sarah and Antonia were initially acting as two individuals, they were not in a position to apply for grants to get their project off the ground. Guidance was given on how to set up a constituted group and ideas were given of potential key stakeholders who might be approached to become trustees. A constitution was produced by Sarah and Antonia in collaboration with the Supporting Communities Development Officer, to allow the group to take their project to the next stage.

The initial contact with PAVO in January was to enquire about funding, so searches were carried out by the Supporting Communities Development Officer to identify potential funding opportunities, the result of the searches were passed to the now constituted 'Knighton Toddlers Forest School' group in order for them to submit funding applications. In July 2018 the group were awarded £3650 from the Big Lottery Fund to set up the Toddler Forest School.

The Forest School will operate in a wooded area next to the Offa's Dyke Visitor Centre, on land owned by Powys County Council. In order to seek Powys County Council's view a meeting was arranged by the Supporting Communities Development Officer between Knighton Toddler Forest School, Supporting Communities, and the Powys County Council Officer responsible for outdoor spaces, to discuss the project

and to seek permission to use the land. The Powys County Council Officer was very helpful and has arranged for the Forest School to use the land under a licence agreement for no charge, in addition he identified storage space for the Forest School to store equipment such as overalls, wellingtons, wheelbarrows, and tools.

The Forest School had a stall at the Knighton Community Fayre in May to raise awareness of the project within the Community. Attendance at the Community Fayre had come about as a direct result of a discussion between the Community Development Officer working with the group and the PAVO Community Connector for the Knighton area.

The Next Steps

The Supporting Communities Development Officer is in regular contact with the group and continues to give support. The group are still on track to start the Toddler Forest School in the Spring of 2019, after Sarah and Tonia attended a training course for Forest School Instructors during the Summer of 2018.



Brecon Mind



Officer – Tim Davies
tim.davies@pavo.org.uk
Contact – Matthew

Background

Brecon Mind is an independent registered charity affiliated to Mind, the national mental health charity. Based in Brecon, they welcome and support people affected by mental illness and distress. The centre is open at varying times across the week and offers a wide range of activities designed to support and empower people who experience mental distress to move towards well-being. They provide a wide range of healthy activities, courses and services from their main centre in Brecon although they also provide access points in Crickhowell, Hay-on-Wye, and Talgarth. The service complements those provided by the Community Mental Health Team and other voluntary sector agencies. Brecon Mind is largely funded by Powys Teaching Health Board and Powys Social Services although this funding is supplemented by grants and fund-raising activities.



Source: www.breconmind.org.uk

Situation

Brecon Mind had the use of a piece of ground near the college which they turned into allotments for their service users to carry out gardening activities which has a proven benefit on mental health. Unfortunately, due to the remote location of the allotments they were subject to vandalism, so Brecon Mind withdrew from using them.

One of the aims of the Supporting Communities Project is to identify third sector organisations' needs, and to find if the council has assets or facilities that can be matched to those needs. Through a conversation with a Support Officer at Brecon Mind, the Supporting Communities Development Officer identified a need that Powys County Council could potentially fill, i.e. land for allotments nearer to the town and Brecon



Mind offices.

Meetings were set up by the Supporting Communities Officer between Brecon Mind and Powys County Council to establish the needs of the charity and potential availability of Council land. Support to acquire the land was offered by the Supporting Communities Officer. Although initial discussions were positive and suitable land identified Brecon Mind did not secure the land in question due to a combination of capacity issues and a change in policy by the Council on asset transfer.



Talgarth Bowling Club

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact – Audrey Micklewright - Talgarth Bowling Club

Background

As part of the Powys County Council Community Asset Programme Talgarth Town Council have leased recreation areas in the town including the Bowling Greens from Powys County Council. The lease agreement means that Talgarth Bowling Club are now responsible for the maintenance of the Bowling Green and the Clubhouse.

The Club have been in existence for over 100 years as an unincorporated organisation. The risks associated with running the club were low as Powys County Council maintained the greens, so liability was not seen as an issue, however the Committee of the Club decided that as they now carry out maintenance themselves the risk has increased. As a result, the Committee wished to look at a governance model that would limit the liability of trustees and members and contacted PAVO for support.



Source: Talgarth Bowling Club Facebook page

Support Provided

The Arwain funded Supporting Communities Development Officer helped by attending a Bowling Club committee meeting to answer questions relating to becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which is the governance structure other Bowling Clubs in Powys have adopted to limit liability to Trustees. The process of transition from the existing club structure to the new CIO, reporting requirements, and the roles and responsibilities of being a charity trustee were some of the topics discussed. Following the meeting additional support was given by an electronic version of a local clubs recently adopted CIO constitution being obtained by the Development Officer which saved Talgarth Bowling Club secretary a lot of work.



Community Spiritual Healing Project

Officer – Tim Davies
tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Background

An enquiry from an individual who had an idea of setting up a Community Spiritual Healing facility in the Llandrindod Wells area to offer alternative mind and body treatment. The individual had already been in contact with the CVC in Hereford where she was advised to pursue setting up a CIC and wanted more information on this from PAVO.

An initial meeting took place between the individual and the Supporting Communities Development Officer to talk about different charitable statuses, and perhaps more importantly the initial steps that needed to be taken to get the project underway including feasibility, community engagement, and getting a team of people together to form a group to move the project forward. A discussion also took place on the advantages and disadvantages of different legal structures including CIC, CIO, Company Limited by Guarantee etc.

A few weeks after the meeting the individual concluded that setting up a charity is not the best option for her, as she wants to generate an income from the project whilst at the same time being the being the main driving force, so is now looking at taking her idea forward as a business venture.

How did the Supporting Communities Project help?

By providing information on the steps that need to be taken in setting up and governing a charity the individual was able to make an informed decision that to achieve her aims setting up a business rather than a charity will be her best option.



Builth Road Residents Community Group

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact - Rachael Beckingham - Builth Road Residents

Background

Builth Road is a small village between Builth Wells and Newbridge on Wye. The only public building left in the village is the train station, as the public house closed a few years ago. A resident from Builth Road enlisted the support of PAVO to set up a community group to help create community cohesion and to get ideas on how to improve the village.



Support Given

The Arwain funded Supporting Communities Development Officer supported the resident by giving advice on setting up an initial meeting, which took place in January. The Development Officer helped to facilitate the meeting and, as the group did not have appointed officers, the Development Officer acted as minute taker. The group came up with some great ideas including organising a working party to clear up the Community Garden, which took place in February, and tidying up the village notice board.

Next Steps

The next meeting will be to put a governing document in place and to appoint a chair, secretary and treasurer. The Development Officer will support the group through this process.



Dementia Matters in Powys



Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact – Samantha Bolam - Dementia Matters in Powys



source:DMip website

Situation

In 2017 Dementia Matters in Powys (DMiP) were looking for new office space and a venue for their twice weekly Dementia meeting sessions in Brecon. The Chief Officer of Dementia Matters in Powys contacted the Arwain funded Supporting Communities Development Officer to discuss their needs and to pick up on previous discussions held between DMiP and Powys County Council about a possible asset transfer of the Arosfa Building in Brecon, which hosts the day care service. The meeting was also an opportunity for the Supporting Communities Officer to explain Community Asset Transfer and the process required to secure a building. Following the initial meeting the Chief Officer of DMiP wished to further explore a potential asset transfer or co-location of the Arosfa Building.

Outcome

The Supporting Communities Officer arranged and facilitated a meeting between DMiP and Powys County Council Social Services to discuss the available options.



The Future of Public Libraries in Powys

Officer – Tim Davies

tim.davies@pavo.org.uk

Contact – Kay Thomas - Powys County Council



Support Given

The Supporting Communities Development Officer gave presentations to elected members, town and community councillors and members of the public at two *The Future of Public Libraries in Powys* events in May and June 2019.

The presentations, attended by members and public from all over the county, were organised by Powys County Council to try and find different and innovative ways of running libraries in smaller towns in the County. The Supporting Communities Officer gave information on the support that is available through the project on a range of topics including choosing a suitable governance structure, funding opportunities, asset transfer of a building, recruiting and retaining volunteers, sustainability and business planning.

As a result of the presentation the Supporting Communities Officer has been invited to attend meetings with Town Councils who have expressed an interest in running their local library.