



Rhuddlan Town Council Meeting

Dear Councillor

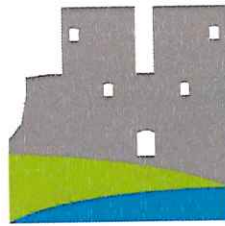
October 11th 2021

Your attendance is requested at a virtual meeting of Rhuddlan Town Council Thursday, 14th October at 7.00 p.m. Members of the public wishing to attend may do so by informing the Town Clerk by the 13th October so that necessary arrangement can be made.

1. **Apologies.**
 2. **Declaration of Interest**
 3. **Urgent Matters as Agreed by the Chairperson** – Notice of items which, in the opinion of the Chairperson, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency in accordance with Standing Orders.
 4. **Police matters** - to receive a report.
 5. **Minutes** – Approve minutes of Town Council, 9th September. Pre- circulated.
 6. **Correspondence from:**
 - a. The Mayor
 - b. The Town Clerk
 - c. Ty Gobaith – Rhuddlan Trees of Hope
 - d. DCC – Library Report. Pre-circulated.
 7. **County Council Members Report** – to receive reports
 8. **Town Plan Projects** - to receive an update on Town Plan projects.
 9. **Planning Applications: 44/2021/ 0877. Church Gates, Church Street.** Conversion of garage and outbuilding to provide ancillary accommodation to existing dwelling and construction of a new vehicular access.
 10. **Budget & Finance Matters** - to approve the payments listing due.
 11. **Anti-Speeding Campaign Working Group Minutes**
 12. **Community Matters**
- Part 2.** Exclusion of press and public. By virtue of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public are excluded from discussions on the following items on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.
13. **Grant Application** – Samaritans N.E. Wales
 14. **Coed Y Brain** – To select contractor from shortlist.
 15. **Date of next meeting** - 11th November 2021 at 7 p.m.

Sian Mai Jones -

Town Clerk - 07775 673706 / clerk@rhuddlantowncouncil.gov.uk



Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Item 5

Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 9th September 2021

Virtual Meeting during the Covid 19 Restrictions

Present:

Cllr Mike Elgin (Mayor in the Chair)
Cllr Andrew Smith (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Jackie Burnham
Cllr Ann Davies
Cllr Reg Davies
Cllr Syd Gaskin
Cllr Mike Kermode
Cllr Arwel Roberts
Cllr Gareth Rowlands
Town Clerk
Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk
Deputy Town Clerk

1. Apologies

Cllr Bleddyn Williams

Members of the public were invited to join the virtual meeting but none had requested to do so.

Members were informed that the meeting was being recorded, audio only.

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Mike Elgin for Coed y Brain works.
Cllr Syd Gaskin planning application 44/2021/0883.
Cllr Ann Davies planning matters.

3. Urgent Matters

The Mayor informed Members that two urgent matters had been brought to his attention in the last 24 hours and will be placed before them later in the meeting. Planning Appeal for the Rise, and funding opportunity for Communal Events.

4. Police Matters

No report had been received

5. Minutes

Town Council Meeting 8th July 2021

Subject to minor amendments the Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Gareth Rowlands seconded by Cllr Syd Gaskin. **Resolved.**

Matters Arising

- a. **Anti-Speed Campaign** – The Mayor reported further meetings had been held on the issue and the Deputy Town Clerk would be updating Members in his town plan projects report later on Item 8.
- b. **Dog Fouling** – The Clerk confirmed that stickers informing that dog waste can be placed in the litter bins have been placed on the bins.
- c. **Enforcement Signs** – Working with DCC for a simpler Environmental Enforcement & Public Space Protection Orders design. There is a possibility of a grant from DCC and who will design the sign in-house if the local school is involved. Members will be update at the next meeting.
- d. **Litter Picking** – The latest event had proved very successful and a member had received a request for another one from residents. The Mayor agreed and a date is to be confirmed. **Resolved.**
- e. **Meet the Civic Leaders** – The Clerk updated Members on those leaders who are attending on October 8th and a suggested agenda was put before Members for their approval. During a short discussion a method of informing residents was agreed, along with a procedure for pre-event questions only, and lastly the use of the Eventbrite providers for residents to book their attendance and questions. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that the agenda be approved, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**
- f. **Parking on High Street by local Businesses** – One Councillor noted that there are still two cars that abuse the parking rules since the very beginning, and another that they had not seen any change in attitude or enforcement.
The Clerk informed Members that this lack of enforcement powers being used for this issue was included in the Town Council's response to the DCC Consultation survey.

Active Travel Consultation – The Clerk circulated an email reference the Denbighshire Active Travel Maps for further consultation, and informed Members that she had previously written on the past resolution: whilst members realise that people like cycling through the nature reserve could DCC also consider the current track around the perimeter of the nature reserve which runs alongside St Asaph road; for this route to have better surface and better signage so that the more competitive cyclists would be more inclined to use this alternative route.

Given this further consultation how would Council like to respond? A full and interesting discussion ensued raising the following points:-

- Not clear if the Nature Reserve route is now removed from map
- Requesting cyclist to dismount through Nature reserve.

- Provision already of chicanes to slow cyclists down
- Different levels of cyclists and their varying needs from a designated route

g. Tree Felling at Tan yr Eglwys – The Clerk had written to Bodrhyddan Hall Land Agent who responded by offering the land for the Town Council to maintain. Members noted that the trees will grow back in time but that “fly tipping” from a neighbouring property, is now visible. It was noted that DCC will not clear this as it is not on DCC land.

Cllr Arwel Roberts as a County Councillor made Members aware that DCC has a Climate Change Committee with a budget of £1m for the improvement of biodiversity. He wondered if the Nature Reserve Group would be interested in a project to purchase this parcel of land, and another in front of Rhuddlan Castle, with this funding opportunity. Adding that DCC Countryside Officers were aware of the idea and had shown support for it. Cllr Roberts proposed to approach the Nature Reserve Group to investigate further, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands.

Resolved.

- h. Silent Soldier & Poppies** – the poppies are currently with the painter.
- i. Donated Trees** – Not actioned yet as it is too soon to plant the trees.
- j. Fly Posting & Abergele Road advertising signs** – The Clerk informed Members that owners of various postings had been contacted and asked to remove them, adding that most had been removed with the exception of two posters which will be removed. A cost of £40 had been quoted for “No Fly Posting”. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that Council approve the cost, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

The Clerk had contacted DCC reference the advertising signs which have been removed. In discussions with DCC enforcement officers the Town Council could adopt a system to check permissible signs. Members agreed to send photos of any concerned signage to the Clerk for forwarding to DCC officers. **Resolved.**

- k. Aelwyn Morgan Award** – There was a short discussion on the eligibility criteria for those nominated reference paid employment or voluntary work. Members agreed that the criteria on eligibility should be reviewed before next year’s award. **Resolved.**

Point of Information – A Member voiced concern that too much time was being spent on Matters Arising especially repeating updates or reports on the same items later on the agenda. Members were in agreement but noted that items from the Minutes sometimes will require updating, so anything currently active is minuted for a conclusion or progression at the next meeting.

Members agreed to shorten the time allocated to Matters Arising. **Resolved.**

6. Correspondence from

a. The Mayor

The report was accepted

b. The Town clerk

The Clerk thanked Cllr Syd Gaskin for checking the defibrillators.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that Rhuddlan Town Council place Council logo stickers on each defibrillator to promote our provision. Seconded by Cllr Ann Davies.

Resolved.

The report was accepted

c. Community Woodlands Grant – Members agreed not to pursue a grant on behalf of the Town Council, but to investigate other Rhuddlan groups to participate e.g., Nature Reserve, especially in considering the DCC Climate Change opportunity to purchase two parcels of land for a biodiversity project.

d. Request to extend 40mph at the Cwm junction – A letter had been circulated from a resident asking Members to investigate an extension to prevent any future accidents into the current 60 mph section. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that this request be passed on to DCC Highways Department, seconded by Cllr Syd Gaskin.

Resolved.

During a short discussion about such requests and the fact that Rhuddlan Town Council are not responsible for highway issues, Members agreed that by regarding this particular request as setting a precedent, the Clerk be approved to pass on to DCC highways directly. Cllr Andrew Smith so proposed, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin.

Resolved.

e. Request for Poppy Cascade – members heard that the resident making the request is not in a position to progress the idea. Cllr Syd Gaskin proposed that the request not be progressed, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

f. Awel y Mor Consultation – A Councillor had reviewed the consultation documents and the proposed route of the underground cabling from the off shore windfarm to an electric substation in Bodelwydden. All Members were encouraged to do the same and advise residents that the consultation is live till October 11th 2021 and the various ways of accessing it, and commenting if they so wish.

7. County Council Members Reports

a. Cllr Ann Davies

Members were updated that the Clerk had written to the Health Minister, MP and BCHUB Bethan Jones reference the GP appointments systems, but had yet to receive a reply from the latter. The MP had replied in reference to the Welsh Health Minister statement on Clinical Triage at GP surgeries using the latest technology. Adding that all GPs had been written to reference face to face appointments and that he was meeting the local GP practice manager soon. Members were of the opinion that this question would be made at the Civic Leaders event in October.

Members were encouraged to hear that the Prestatyn Surgery had appointed a new GP which should have a positive knock on effect on Rhuddlan.

The report was accepted.

b. Cllr Arwel Roberts

Cllr Roberts updated his report by stating that DCC had now increased its support for five Afghanistan refugee families from the original one.

Cllr Roberts wanted to add to the report two new items that have arisen. DCC are having difficulty in recruitment and retention of staff, and the Meifod facility in Denbigh for residents with disabilities is under consideration regarding its future. A task and finish committee is meeting during this month. Their recommendations will be brought to the Performance Scrutiny middle of October.

A Member asked for an update on the A55 brown tourist signs which the Town Council had already paid for. Cllr Roberts requested the Clerk to email DCC Head of Service Emlyn Jones to ask for the latest news. **Resolved.**

The report was accepted

8. Town Plan Projects Report

The Deputy Town Clerk updated Members verbally on the ongoing projects.

- Museum – meeting Rhuddlan Historical Society 27th September. No response from CADW reference Rhuddlan artefacts.
- Farmers Market – 18th September. In total 80 vendors have been invited to attend but only 17 indoor stalls and 1 outdoor stall confirmed so far all of which were verbally listed by the Deputy Clerk. Most of the town households have now had leaflets delivered and posters placed around the town. There is a list of volunteers but more wanted if available.
- Coed y Brain – The Mayor had declared an interest in the tender considerations and did not participate in the discussion.

Three tenders had been received for the building works and proved too expensive, so it was suggested by the Deputy Clerk that the work be split into work packages based on different trades e.g., plumbing, joinery, electrics etc. and the Council oversee the works to save further costs. Although Members were supportive of this way forward there was some discussion on how the tenders would be evaluated, especially a quality indicator and value for money. Council has the budget but must be careful with the use of public money. The Deputy Clerk described a list of the first work package, the tendered costs, contractor's reputations, whether Local Authority approved or not, and lastly the contractor's capacity to deliver on time. He also reminded Members that they had already authorised a working group for the works made up of Cllr Gareth Rowlands, Cllr Mike Elgin, the Town Clerk, and the Deputy Clerk. It was acknowledged that the Full Council needs to approve the decisions and this is why it is being discussed this evening. Members were reminded that the cheapest is not always the most economical viable tender, and that Members should be included as things progress so as to scrutinise the working group decisions fully.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that the Deputy Clerk's recommendation to split the work into the different trade packages be approved, and that the working group oversee the works on the council's behalf. Seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the working group be given a limit of the amount they can financially spend and that the contracts for the work packages be signed by the Town Clerk. Seconded by Cllr Andrew Smith. **Resolved.**

- Fence – to be constructed in November
- Gas supply – now installed and the grant received so no cost for this action to the Town Council.
- Defibrillators – Out of the 4 kiosks that are up for adoption, only two can be adopted as they have to be used to house a defibrillator. The two in question are located on Clwyd Avenue and Princes Park.
- Awnings – all ordered with 8 weeks lead in time so probably October now for installing. The quotes for phase 2 have been received.
- Road Safety – awaiting DCC Highways installation costs
- Vicarage Lane car park – legal advice on the issues have now been received and there is a question as to where the Deeds are for this land. The Clerk will investigate Council records, Members noting that the Clerk at the time of purchase from Rhuddlan Borough Council was Terry Pemberton and the solicitor Gwyn Lloyd Jones.

Members wished to record their thanks to the Deputy Clerk for all his hard work on the various town plan projects.

9. Planning Applications

- i) 44/2021/0790 – Installation of a gas fired domestic heating system at 2 Parliament Street. No objections.
- ii) 44/2021/08465 – Erection of a single storey extension at Barrfield Close. No objections.
- iii) 44/2021/0698 – Erection of a single storey extension to Kenton, Hylas Lane. No objections.
- iv) 44/2021/0883 – Installation of air conditioning system at 8 Abbey Court. Cllr Syd Gaskin declared an interest and did not participate in the discussion. No objections.
- v) Planning Appeal – Notification that the Planning Inspectorate has received an appeal for the erection of 4 no, dwellings and the construction of an access road, The Rise, Rhyl Road. Members were reminded that twice the Council has objected to the application on the grounds that it is not in keeping with the surrounding bungalow properties, and access issues. Cllr Ann Davies declared an interest but in her capacity as a Rhuddlan County Councillor, and a member of the DCC Planning Committee, informed the Council that a site meeting had taken place and asked for any

comments on the Appeal. This prompted a debate on several issues including Council's previous objections which still stand, the felling of numerous trees, properties being overlooked by the development, and concerns about potential surface water flooding.

Cllr Andrew Smith proposed that the Council respond on the concerns and objections above, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

10. Budget/Finance Matters

a. The Town Clerk circulated the list of payments to be approved by Members. **Resolved.**

Members were informed that the latest precept payment and the grant for the gas main installation had been received. Noting that some payments are to reimburse the Clerk for invoices paid on behalf of the Town Council there was a short discussion on how this can be better managed. The Council has to use cheques to pay for items as the Financial Regulations require counter signatures for payments and so debit cards are not an option or internet banking payments.

At this juncture Members were asked if they would like to consider sponsoring the St Kentigern Hospice golf tournament being held at Rhuddlan Golf Club. They unanimously agreed to a £100 donation. As £30 had already been spent, a further cheque for £70 will also be sent. **Resolved.**

b. External Audit Report - The Town Clerk had submitted all relevant financial documents since August and had placed Notice of date appointed for the exercise of elector's rights on the Community Noticeboard.

11. Community Matters

a. The Mayor wanted to bring to the attention of Members the Urgent Matter mentioned at the beginning of the meeting for the Communal Events Infrastructure grant opportunity. The closing date is the end of September hence the urgency. Members were informed that the Community Centre Association had been made aware of this opportunity and the Clerk had discussed suitable items that could be included which were verbally listed. Members were interested in adding items such as "pop up" electric supply, sockets, and public address systems. Perhaps consideration should be given to the Council applying itself for the storage container at Coed y Brain which already has planning permission. The Deputy Clerk will estimate costs of the various items discussed above and contact the Community Centre Association for their comments.

Cllr Mike Elgin proposed that we await the Community Centre Association response and look at Coed y Brain as an alternative if necessary. Seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

b. Cllr Arwel Roberts wanted to inform Council that he would be attending the Wales in Bloom event tomorrow 10th September as the Rhuddlan Nature Reserve and Allotment Society are involved. In addition, was concerned that DCC have not

removed the dead weeds from the streets and pavements potentially causing severe surface water flooding. He will pass this concern on to the DCC Head of Service.

c. Cllr Syd Gaskin had tried to register the new defibrillator at Coed y Brain but found it is already registered to the Deputy Clerk. Cllr Gaskin kindly offered to take over this process. The Deputy Clerk to contact Cllr Gaskin to sort out.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to investigate if the defibrillator instructor could provide a training event for the community now, we have two more. **Resolved.**

Cllr Gaskin informed Members that he and Cllr Gareth Rowlands had secured the basketball ring nets which were becoming loose.

d. Cllr Mike Kermode had three issues to report. Firstly, DCC Highways to be informed that the first expansion joint on the bye pass to Rhyl has developed a pothole and is dangerous. Secondly, the horse chestnut tree on Rhyl Road heading towards Rhyl has low branches and needs DCC to trim them. Thirdly, DCC to remove the spilt white paint at the exit of Abergele Road on to the bye pass roundabout.

e. Cllr Reg Davies had received complaints from several residents about the use of e-scooters on pavements especially at night without lights. Members agreed with Cllr Davies' concern and wondered why the police are not acting on such illegal behaviour. Cllr Mike Elgin proposed that Town Council formally write to North Wales Police on the issue, report it to 101 to create an incident number, and also to PC Keating as an active officer in Rhuddlan. Cllr Mike Kermode seconded the proposal.

Resolved.

12. Date of Next Meeting – Full Council Thursday 14th October 2021 at 7pm

Signed.....Cllr Mike Elgin (Mayor)

Date

1. On 26th September 2021 Marianne and I attended Bay of Colwyn's Mayor's Civic Service at Old Colwyn Methodist Church
2. On 3rd October 2021 Marianne and I attended The Mayor of Rhyl, Councillor Mrs Diane King, Civic Sunday at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Wellington Road, Rhyl
3. On 19th September 2021 I held a Charity event at Rhuddlan Golf Club. In total £1,137 was raised for the Charities I am supporting. The Royal British Legion, 2. The Osbourne Trust, 3 St Kentigern's. I would like to thank all fellow Cllrs and Sian Paul and Steve for all the help and support I received before and during the event. The support from numerous businesses in Rhuddlan was also very good and since the event The Spar shop have contacted me to say that they wish to donate a voucher- We have therefore set up a Hamper containing various local Welsh products to be raffled on Armistice Day in aid of The Royal British legion.
4. On 21st September 2021 I chaired a working group meeting of the anti-speeding Group
5. On 27th September 2021 I attended a meeting at The Library playing fields with The Rhuddlan Community Group to discuss the Remembrance Garden. I later attended The Dementia Friendly meeting via zoom
6. On 7th October 2021 I attended a meeting of The Rhuddlan Community Association.

Meetings / events attended in Rhuddlan in September:

- September 2nd Aelwyn Morgan Award Ceremony
- September 6th Zoom Training Session with Cllr G Rowlands
- September 14th Leaflet Drop in Rhuddlan
- September 18th Farmers Market in Community Centre
- September 19th Mayor's Charity Event in Rhuddlan Golf Club

The following were promoted on the website/local paper/Facebook:

- Farmers Market in Rhuddlan – September, October, November & December
- Mayors Charity Evening – 19th September
- Active Travel – Share, respect & enjoy the National Cycle Network
- Awel y Mor Public Update - September
- New Defibrillators in Rhuddlan
- Open Doors 2021 to 150 Wales's Historic Sites
- Aelwyn Morgan Award 2021 Ceremony
- Meet the Civic Leaders

Rhuddlan Trees Of Hope

This Christmas Rhuddlan will be hosting a Trees Of Hope Competition in support of Ty Gobaith & Hope House Children's Hospice.

Decorate your Christmas Tree for all to see!

The theme is Hope & Love, in what has been a difficult year for many we hope that the themed trees light up your hearts and spread Christmas cheer!

You can make your tree as wacky as you like, our only condition is that it is dressed with love. Why not make a book tree, stick tree or even an upside down tree?!

Entries are welcome from all Rhuddlan businesses, schools & organisations.

£10 per entry – all proceeds donated to Ty Gobaith & Hope House Children's Hospice

Entry fee to be paid to Rhuddlan Town Council or via Just Giving referencing your business or organisation name. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rhuddlantreesofhope2021>

Votes to be counted on Sat 18th December and winner announced!

Members of the community are asked to vote for the best dressed tree.

Votes are £1, you can vote for as many trees as you like.

Votes can be made via collection boxes in each location or via <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rhuddlantreesofhope2021> with a reference to which tree you are voting for.

The entry with the most votes will win a very special Christmas Hamper oozing with lots of local produce and goodies!

Trees to be ready for the 1st December.



Rhuddlan Library and the services it provided during the pandemic

April 2020 to August 2021

A report for Rhuddlan Town Council

Throughout the initial pandemic period and as restrictions eased in 2021, the library in Rhuddlan continued to provide a range of services for the local community. Even whilst the buildings had to close in accordance with Welsh Government requirements, the staff in Rhuddlan and in the wider service across Denbighshire provided services by phone, digitally and by home delivery. This report highlights some of these initiatives and services.

1. Proactive Calling (April/May 2020)

Early in the first lockdown in April 2020, Denbighshire County Council developed a proactive phone call support service for those that were shielding, in order to offer help in obtaining food, medicine and care and to offer a befriending service to help combat loneliness during the lockdown. The County Council recognised that the skill set of library staff positioned them ideally for such a role. Managers were involved in the shaping and management of the new service, alongside other local authority colleagues. Work included adapting the scripts sent from Welsh Government, setting up the database of residents, collating information about local sources of help and support, and organising the teams. 85% of library service staff were redeployed to undertake the phone calls. Staff were enabled to work from home if they had to shield themselves. Each group of staff was responsible for contacting people within the local area that their library served, to benefit from their local knowledge.

Library staff, including the team from Rhuddlan Library, were involved in delivering the service until the end of May/early June when they were released to prepare for the gradual re-opening of the library's direct service delivery. Library staff thus played a crucial role in connecting with and supporting local residents during the challenge of the first lockdown, and were pleased to be able to support their community as part of the Covid-19 response.

2. Phased Re-opening of Library Services (from June 2020)

2.1 Order and Collect: a new library offer for the pandemic

In June 2020 we created and launched a new Order and Collect service to enable customers to once again borrow printed books and audiobooks from their local library. Customers could choose their own books via the online catalogue, or they could ask staff to choose books for them, placing their order via an online form or by phoning their local library. The vast majority of customers chose to use the phone – as for many people forced to stay home to shield, it was an opportunity to have a chat and reduce their isolation. When the books were ready for collection we contacted the customers to arrange an appointment to come and collect from the library door, or we arranged a home delivery for people unable to come to the library. Feedback on the service has been overwhelmingly positive and it has made a significant impact on how people were able to cope with lockdown, shielding and a general anxiety about going back into community facilities.



New Order and Collect Service

or



- Order books online or phone your local library
- Tell us what sort of books you would like
- We'll contact you to arrange an appointment when your books are ready for collection
- Visit www.denbighshire.gov.uk/libraries for more information



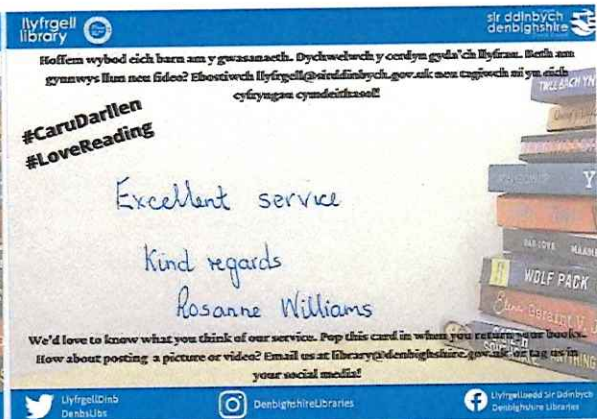
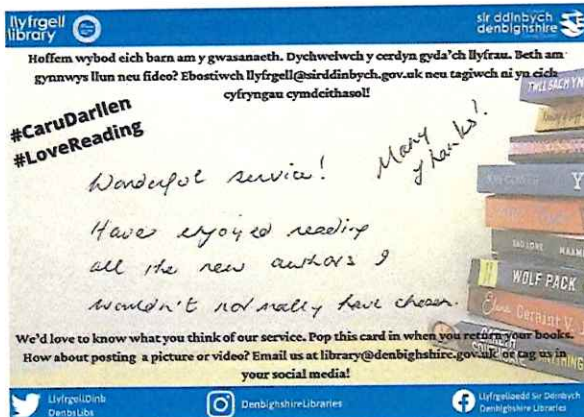
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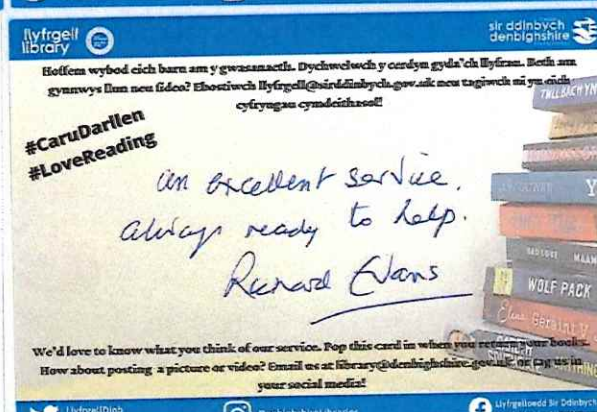
DenbighshireLibraries



Llyfrgelloedd Sir Ddinbych
Denbighshire Libraries



Thank you to Rhuddlan Library staff for all the support during this pandemic. Despite being stuck at home we have been on many adventures & miles far of places because of the thoughtful selections & brilliant skills of the Rhuddlan team. Massive thanks! Mom to a Syreld & Syr Old



2.2 Investment in digital resources

With access to physical printed library books severely limited in the first lockdown, we were keenly aware of the potential impact this could have on people's wellbeing and mental health, already severely impacted by having to stay at home. One development which could offer access to alternative reading materials was to invest in a greater range of digital reading resources – e-books, e-audiobooks, and online newspapers and magazines.

With investment from Welsh Government in the collaborative all-Wales Borrowbox offer, and by investing our own resources into additional titles and new online services, we were able to greatly increase the range and choice of digital reading materials available free to all library members, in both Welsh and English, for adults and children.

We also enabled people to join the library online directly so they could access the resources without having to come into a library building.

The resulting success from this investment has been clear to see. Across Denbighshire, during 2020-21, total downloads of digital material increased by 166% with Borrowbox (ebooks and eaudiobooks in English and Welsh) loans increasing by 94%. E-zine loans increased by 55% and 37662 newspaper issues were accessed through the new PressReader app.

Remote access to the online family history research resource, Ancestry, was also made available for library customers to access free of charge from home.

2.3 Browsing and accessing the One Stop Shop and library ICT by appointment

The next step of re-opening was to allow public access to the building for browsing, pc and one stop shop services. To make this possible we had to make significant changes to library buildings, changing layouts, removing furniture and implementing one way systems to allow for social distancing as well as the installation of screens to protect staff working in the building.

During this phase we were very careful to ensure that those who were still shielding or too nervous to come out still had access to our service. We took the early decision to continue the order and collect service for those who requested it, and often delivered bags of books directly to people's car boots in the car park.

During this phase we also made it a priority to invite classes from local primary schools to visit the library, recognising that the recent lockdowns and periods of isolation would have had an impact on both their learning and access to reading materials.

On 3 separate occasions children from Ysgol Y Castell visited Rhuddlan Library to select books and learn about the service. In addition, the children enjoyed a story outside on the grass with Mat the Library Manager. In order to facilitate school visits the library was closed to the public for a short period each time, so as to ensure the safety of staff, customers and the children.



It was also important to us to consider the effect that lockdown had had on new parents, and so we decided that small and intimate Rhymetime sessions should be offered to parents of babies born during the lockdown period, offering them the opportunity to socialise their new baby in a safe and controlled way, as well as have a chance to talk with the highly experienced Bookstart team about their parenting experiences and any worries that they may have had. Sessions were limited to two families a time and were a resounding success, with each quickly becoming fully booked. A total of 24 children along with parents joined the Bookstart team to play and socialise (although singing was not then allowed!), as well as be offered help and advice.



2.4 Open browsing and Group activity

With the further easing of restrictions in Summer 2021 we have been able to provide an expanded range of facilities to customers, whilst keeping the health and safety of customers and staff paramount.

We have already seen many of our loyal customers return to us, with a significant amount continuing to use the click and collect service for convenience. We are continuing to actively promote the reopening of our service through text message and email communications, as well as social media posts and physical service posters in our buildings and throughout the town. As a result, we have seen the number of regular users, along with book issue figures, jump significantly in the past few months.

We have resumed use of our meeting rooms in the building, they are currently available for service providers working 1-1 with a client, or library customers wishing to use a private space for study or research.

- book borrowing has increased by over 400% since January (2021) as customers regain the confidence to return to using services in their local community
- 99 children from the local area have participated in the Summer Reading Challenge during the summer holidays, borrowing over 300 books
- Bookstart sessions for Children and Toddlers have resumed, with an increased capacity of up to 8 families per session
- since January 2021, Rhuddlan Library has prepared over 450 bags of books for customers to collect via the Order and Collect service
- The DCC Working Denbighshire Project team are regularly using our space to provide Support, Assistance and Mentorship to those seeking employment
- The Rhuddlan Local History Society are now holding their monthly committee meeting in a private room at the library.

2.5 Solo Digital Spaces: a new offer

Recognising that the pandemic has significantly changed the way people work and interact with each other and public services, Denbighshire Libraries have created a Solo Digital Space in every library. Rooms and spaces too small for safe distancing have been repurposed and equipped thanks to a successful bid to Welsh Government's Cultural Recovery Fund.

The space includes a new secure and networked public access laptop which is fully equipped with camera and microphone. This facility can be used by customers and clients of service providers to communicate via video conferencing software such as teams, zoom, skype or messenger. It provides a safe, quiet and relatively private space for online job interviews, medical consultations or support meetings. It also allows those who are without an appropriate device or privacy to maintain contact with friends and loved ones whom they cannot visit.

2.6 Summary

This report demonstrates that during the challenging period of the pandemic to date, the library has continued to provide a range of crucial services for the local community – all of which have been highly valued by the customers. The staff have shown a great commitment to the community, and have made every effort to create a safe and welcoming place for

customers to return to. We now look forward to being able to widen further the range of services and activities.

Mathew Baker

Library and Customer Service Assistant Manager

01/10/2021

1. BROWN SIGNS ON A55.

The highway works unit have been preparing the tender documents ready to go out to procurement for the sign manufacture and installation works. They have requested a date from the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road agency for when DCC will be able to undertake the works on the A55 eastbound and westbound carriageways. This will require two separate lane closures for both carriageways because of the need to let the concrete bases to strengthen (cure) for at least one week before the signs can be erected. All funding is in place for the works.

With regard to the timescale: the plan is to get them done this financial year so that they are in ahead of Easter 2022. DCC won't know a more exact date until the Trunk Road Agency tell them when they can do the work.

Updates will be given as soon as the DCC hear from the Agency.

2. SPEED DEVICES

I have been informed by the highways engineer that the speed devices for Abergele and Rhyf Road have been delivered, he has contacted the contractor and residents, hopefully the work to install these signs will be carried out in the next two weeks.

3. PUBLIC ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS PROJECT

Rhuddlan is very likely to be in phase 2 for the EVCP. We won't know exactly when phase 2 will happen yet because it depends on how popular the charging points implemented in Phase 1 prove and also on funding.

The electric charging points need bigger parking spaces and room for charging hardware. Parliament Street was felt to be a bit tight on space. Therefore, it is likely to be Vicarage Lane that DCC would consider. The land lease agreements are being progressed by the Estates team which will make things easier when they come to look at Vicarage Lane car park.

1) Y Warchodfa Natur - The Nature Reserve.

Dog walkers are using this facility regularly and on the whole no dog muck is seen . You may have noticed that the warning signs regarding fines of dog poo have been removed to be replaced soon. They were dangerous, Town Council signs are rounded at the corners whilst these were had angles of 90 degrees. They were also loose- plastic tags not strong enough and slip down on posts. Metal clamps are to be used on new ones.

Fly tipping in the car park has been reported and removed, thanks to Garry Davies and his team. Sadden to see a young tree vandalised near the entrance to the Reserve.

Looking forward as Chair of RHUDDLAN Dementia Group to the occasion of the Memory Wellness Walk to the Reserve on Friday the 22nd of October, after the roast dinner organised by the volunteers of the luncheon club. Main aim is to show the Reserve at its best and the continuation of the Sensory Dementia Garden project which has been fully supported by the Management Committee of the Reserve and the Rhuddlan Dementia Group. Hopefully we will have the local MP, members of the Senedd from Cardiff and Denbighshire Cabinet Members present on the walk.

During this month I had a meeting with Cabinet member Brian Jones, Highways Officer Tim Towers, Garry Davies Countryside Manager and Gareth Rowlands Vice Chairman of the Reserve to discuss if it's possible to have a parking area near where the Sensory Dementia Garden is placed. This is now in the capable hands of the two officers and it's seems to be supported by all present.

2) Climate Change and Reduction of Carbon.

Since Denbighshire have a policy of reducing carbon emissions, they are now looking to plant trees and other plants in places the county owns for example " Community Woodland at Maes Esgob Dyserth"

They are also looking at areas they can purchase. I have proposed the purchasing of two pieces of land by the river. One is on Tan yr Eglwys Road, trees recently removed and land by river Clwyd under the ancient castle. The landowner is very interested when I discussed the matter with him. The officers involved will now be in contact with him.

3) Levelling up fund.(Coed y Brain)

I was pleasantly surprised that Coed y Brain could be supported by this fund in a meeting last week. I believe the Clerk will have more details.

4) Gypsy and traveller's liaison officer. During the meeting for Elwy Mag members, we listened to Rachel Wood Bignall who is the officer who deals with the movement of Gypsy and Travellers. She is aware that this a very serious problem and I wish her well.

5) Weeds and Clearing of Streets.

I have had to report blocked manholes, gullies and drains. Very concerned that weeds when sprayed are left on them and rainstorms push them to the drains. One car owner has parked his car (left front wheel on top of a drain) for at least three weeks or more. Have been in touch with Street Scene asking for more assistance- use of sweepers for example.

6) Farmers Market.

Looking forward to the next market 16th of October. My wife and I were present in a similar event in Dinbych and found some contacts for our project Officer.

7) Golf Competition (1st of October)

Supported this event all day nearly. There with the secretary of the Dementia Group. His enthusiasm is fantastic. I also sponsored a tee and gave the organisers a raffle prize of £40 . It was excellent to learn during this week that the event raised over £13k to the Saint Kentigern Hospice.

8) A55 Brown Signs

The Highway Works Unit have been preparing the tender documents ready to go out to procurement for the sign manufacture and installation works. They have requested a date from the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency for when we will be able to undertake the works on the A55 eastbound and westbound carriageways. This will require two separate lane closures for both carriageways because of the need to let the concrete bases to strengthen (cure) for at least one week before the signs can be erected. All funding is in place/agreed for the works.

With regard to timescales: the plan is to get them done this financial year so that they are in ahead of Easter 2022. The exact date won't be known until the Trunk Road Agency tell DCC when we can do the works.

Eich cyf / Your ref

Ein cyf / Our ref : 44/2021/0877

Dyddiad / Date : 29/09/2021

Rhif ffon / Direct dial : 01824 706727



Item 9

Rhuddlan Town Council
Mrs Sian Mai Jones Clerk

c/o Rhuddlan Library
Vicarage Lane
Rhuddlan
LL18 2UE

Annwyl Syr / Fadam

Dear Sir / Madam

CAIS / APPLICATION: 44/2021/0877

CYNNIG / PROPOSAL: Trosi garej ac adeilad allanol i ddarparu llety ategol i'r annedd bresennol ac adeiladu mynediad newydd i gerbydau / Conversion of garage and outbuilding to provide ancillary accommodation to existing dwelling and construction of a new vehicular access

LLEOLIAD / LOCATION: Church Gates Church Street, Rhuddlan, Rhyl

Derbyniwyd y cais a ddisgrifiwyd uchod gan y Cyngor Sir.

The above-described application has been received by the County Council.

Os oes gennych unrhyw sylwadau yr hoffech i'r Cyngor eu hystyried pan fyddant yn ymdrin â'r cais, anfonwch nhw ar bapur o fewn 21 diwrnod o ddyddiad y llythyr hwn.

If you have any observations which you would like the Council to consider when they deal with the application, I would ask you to forward them in writing within 21 days of the date of this letter.

Byddwn yn gwerthfawrogi'n fawr iawn pe gallech nodi ein cyfeirnod a chynnwys disgrifiad byr o'r cynnig ar eich ymateb os yw hynny'n bosibl.

It would be very much appreciated if you could quote our reference number and include a brief description of the proposal in your response if at all possible.

Byddaf yn cymryd nad oes gennych unrhyw sylwadau os na chlywaf gennych o fewn y cyfnod o 21 diwrnod. Mae'n bosibl y gwneir penderfyniad ar y cais ar ddiwedd y cyfnod ymghynghorol hwn, ac oherwydd mae'n bosibl nad ystyriir unrhyw sylwadau a gyflwynir ar ôl y dyddiad cau gan y Cyngor.

I will assume that you have no observations if I do not hear from you within the 21-day period. The application may be determined at the end of this consultation period, hence any representations received after the expiry date may not be taken into account by the Council.

Yn y fan hyn dylwn ddweud na all y Cyngor Sir ond pendefynnu ar geisiadau cynllunio ond ar sail ystyriaethau cynllunio dilys. Fel arfer ni

I should respectfully advise at this stage that the County Council can only determine planning applications on the basis of valid planning considerations. Matters such as loss of view,



chymerir bod pethau fel colli golygfa, gwrthwynebiad ar sail foesol, cystadleuaeth annheg ac anghydfod cyfreithiol preifat, er enghraifft, yn berthnasol i deilyngdod cais cynllunio, a dylech wybod na all y Cyngor Sir roi unrhyw bwys arwyddocaol ar faterion o'r fath wrth wneud penderfyniad.

Sylwch os gwelwch yn dda bod raid i'r Cyngor Sir, o dan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol (Hawl i Wybodaeth) 1985, sicrhau bod unrhyw lythyr a dderbyniwyd fel papurau cefndir i'r cynnig ar gael i'w archwilio gan y cyhoedd.

Fe all y cais uchod gael ei ystyried gan aelodau'r Pwyllgor Cynllunio, ac os felly bydd eich ymateb yn cael ei gyhoeddi yn adroddiad y pwyllgor, a fydd ar gael i'w archwilio gan y cyhoedd yn Swyddfeydd y Cyngor ac ar y rhyngwyd.

Sylwch y gallwch weld manylion am y cais cynllunio ar-lein:

www.sirddinbych.gov.uk/cynllunio

Edrychaf ymlaen at glywed gennych.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir

EMLYN JONES

Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cynllunio, Gwarchod y Cyhoedd a Chefn Gwlad

objections on moral grounds, unfair competition and private legal disputes, for example, are not normally accepted as material to the planning merits of an application, and you should be aware that the County Council would not be able to attach any significant weight to such matters in making a decision.

Please note that under the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the County Council is obliged to make available for public inspection any letter received as background papers on the proposal.

The above application may be considered by members of the Planning Committee, in which case your response will be published in the committee report which will be available for inspection by the public at the Council Offices and on the internet.

Please note that application details can be viewed on-line: www.denbighshire.gov.uk/planning

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

EMLYN JONES

Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services



List of Payments made between 01/10/2021 and 14/10/2021

Item 10

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
14/10/2021	Web Studio North Wales	DD	240.00		Website & FB Management
14/10/2021	NEST Pension	DD	220.18		Period 18th Aug - 17th Sept
14/10/2021	G Rowlands	102700	14.39		Zoom Payment
14/10/2021	Public Works Loan	DD	3,438.40		Loan for Coed y Brain
14/10/2021	Vodafone	DD	58.58		Vodafone
14/10/2021	Town Clerk	SO	1,224.66		Salary
14/10/2021	Project Officer	SO	693.52		Salary
14/10/2021	Clerical Assist / Minute Clerk	SO	200.07		Salary
14/10/2021	Town Clerk	102577	137.75		Expenses
Total Payments			<u>6,227.55</u>		



Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Item 11

**Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the Anti-Speed Campaign Working Group held on
the 21st September 2021**

Virtual Meeting during the Covid 19 Restrictions

Present:

Cllr Mike Elgin (Mayor & Chair of Working Group)
Cllr Ann Davies
Cllr Syd Gaskin
Cllr Charlotte Frobisher
Cllr Arwel Roberts
Cllr Andrew Smith
Town Clerk
Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk

1. Apologies

None given

There was one member of the public present, Giles Kennedy

2. Minutes of the last Meeting held on 2nd February 2021

Approved at Full Council Meeting held on 11th February 2021, along with the recommendations made from the working group.

Matters arising – all on this meeting agenda

3. Declaration of Interest

None given

4. Speed Indicator Devices (SID's)

The Clerk informed Members that the Agreement with DCC had been signed and the SID's were thought to have been ordered in March. Unfortunately, the officer concerned had not actioned this and had now left the authority which had caused a delay. DCC had now ordered the SID's and arrangements to install them at the 2 agreed sites are in place. Not installed yet though.

The A525 Rhyl Road SID is to face traffic entering Rhuddlan but a member of the public had requested it to be facing the other way. DCC advised that due to the data received the agreed position is the best to adopt.

The A547 Abergele Road SID is to face leaving Rhuddlan just after the roundabout leading towards HTM Business Park & Abergele. DCC advised again that this was the best position to adopt. Mr G Kennedy was invited to comment. Mr Kennedy commented that there is a business park in this location, as well as many HGV's travelling at speed along it, and that crossing the A547 was a lengthy process and he was concerned that a serious incident could occur. Mr Kennedy would like to see a SID placed facing the direction of entering Rhuddlan too and pressure put on DCC to review the data it will provide before 3 months has passed and look at 30mph in this location and not 40mph.

There then followed a discussion on the GoSafe vehicle most recent siting in this area being three times in 24 hours, and after 7pm in the evening, which was considered by those present as a good deterrent being very visible from a far during daylight hours. The two County Councillors present explained the difference between the data gathered by GoSafe and a SID as possible evidence of speeding enforcement, and both commented on the frustrating length of time taken on this particular project by DCC. All agreed that both forms of evidence are relevant and were informed by the Chair that the GoSafe laser equipment now has a range of 1 mile and can be operated at night so will be more covert than before. One Member asked that the data from speed strips on other routes, which are not main routes into Rhuddlan, such as Highland Road, be reviewed too so as to provide a wider picture of speeding.

Cllr Andrew Smith proposed that the Town Council write formally to DCC officers Mike Jones, Ben Wilcox Jones and Emlyn Jones to install the two SID's as soon as possible and to look at a limit of 30mph in the future and not 40mph as previously suggested. Seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved to recommend this resolution to Full Council.**

5. Poster Competition

The Chair, Cllr Mike Elgin, reminded Members that this item had previously been deferred to September due to the schools Covid closures, and their increased workloads as a consequence. A paper had been circulated by Cllr Elgin to Members on a suggested poster competition that he had researched for discussion, and all confirmed they had read it.

The Clerk reminded Members that the DCC Head of Education had agreed and was supportive of our idea in principle but the Head of Ysgol y Castell would still need to be informed and agreement made. Similarly that Town Council could place such posters on our bus stop shelters for 12 weeks, but not on street lamp posts or signs.

Several points were made during the debate including

- Requesting a 30mph and not 40 mph limit
- Involve businesses by asking them to place in their windows
- Look at areas for posters in the town which are not main routes such as Highlands Road where speeding occurs
- Consider where the Welsh Government 20mph in residential areas policy will be rolled out in Rhuddlan. The Clerk to investigate where this might be.
- Consider other speed reducing measures such as cut outs of children standing by the road as a deterrent.
- Agreement to the poster measurement suggested in the paper

- Any agreed poster must be bilingual
- Town Council logo to be used on the poster

In response to a Members question, Members were encouraged to send photos of poster sites they would like to see used to the Clerk so planning officers can confirm if the site is permissible.

Cllr Andrew Smith proposed that the above recommendations be taken to Full Council for approval. Seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

Members also agreed to recommend that Full Council consider a prize of a £10 book token for each child whose poster design is used, a certificate with their used design on it to be presented by the Mayor, and a donation made to the PTA for the assistance in the poster competition (£250 suggested). **Resolved.**

The meeting finished at 7.40pm