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Please note: The direct online links to pages set out below are to pages in the English language. To access pages in the Welsh language, please go to the homepage of the subject website and select your preferred language. For Powys County Council this is [Powys.gov.uk](https://www.powys.gov.uk)

1. Community Information

Warm spaces in Powys

The county council is updating its register of venues which offer residents a warm space to socialise, work or take part in leisure activities during the cold weather.

The council is also offering grants for establishing or making improvements to warm spaces. The grants are funded by Welsh Government, via the Welsh Local Government Association. A total of £1.5 million has been allocated for warm spaces work.

Any organisation, business or community group interested in being included on the register is invited to learn more and submit their details via the county council's website, [here](#).

Current providers of warm spaces already known to the county council have been contacted by email seeking confirmation that they wish to remain on the register and any updates about their offer.

The warm spaces team can be contacted by email at: costofliving@powys.gov.uk

Safety work on Powys memorial stones

A memorials inspection programme was undertaken in 2025 across county council-owned cemeteries. Memorials were assessed and placed into one of three categories:

- Category 1 (Red): Unsafe and in need of immediate attention
- Category 2 (Amber): Unstable but not posing an immediate risk
- Category 3 (Green): Stable and no action required

Category 1 memorials were made safe at the time of inspection. Notices advising of the work undertaken and the reasons for the work were placed on the memorials.

Category 2 memorials were marked with notices advising of instability, a requirement of the owner to repair and notice that they would be laid flat or made safe by other appropriate means if not made safe within six months of the date of the notice.

This six-month period has now elapsed. From November, work to lay flat or make safe memorials in Category 2 will commence. Information signs will be placed at cemetery entrances ahead of the work to inform visitors.

Further information can be obtained from the county council's Environmental Protection Service as follows:

Email: environmental.protection@powys.gov.uk

Telephone: 01938 551300.

Increase in Powys council housing

In the financial year 2024-25 the county council added 22 extra homes to its council housing stock. It purchased four new build houses from a private developer in Ystradgynlais and 18 older properties in Newtown, Ystradgynlais, Llandrindod Wells, Knighton and Llanspyddid.

The 18 are all former council houses sold previously via the right-to-buy scheme.

The 'At Home in Powys' Housing Business Plan is a five-year programme to increase the number of high-quality homes available for social rent across the county. It includes an aim to build more than 430 new council homes by 2029-30. The programme involves an investment package of over £151m.

The common housing register holds applications for Powys County Council homes and for social housing offered by eight housing associations.

Applications to the register should be made via the Homes in Powys website, [here](#).

More information is available on the housing application page of the county council's website, [here](#).

New Welsh language immersion centre at Ysgol-Y-Bannau

A new dedicated Welsh-medium immersion centre for South Powys will open in November 2025. The purpose of the centre, Iaith Brycheiniog a Maesyfed, is to support learners to transition with confidence into Welsh-medium education via a specialist 12-week intensive immersion ('trochi') programme. The programme is designed to build fluency, confidence, and enjoyment in using the Welsh language. It focuses on developing oracy and language patterns via engaging, lively experiences across the curriculum.

The centre is located at Ysgol y Bannau in Brecon. The programme will run from Monday to Thursday. Pupils will return to their home schools on Fridays.

Establishing Welsh-medium immersion centres is a key component in the council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), which supports the Welsh Government's ambition to reach one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Further information about immersion education and the Iaith Brycheiniog Maesyfed provision can be obtained from the county council's website, [here](#).

Further information about Welsh-medium education can also be obtained on the council's website, [here](#).

Fake popular character dolls found across Powys markets

More than 600 counterfeit 'Labubu' toys have been confiscated by Powys County Council's Trading Standards Service from shops and markets stalls across Powys since July this year.

500 were removed from sale at the Royal Welsh Show, with further confiscations in recent weeks.

Labubu dolls are produced by the Chinese brand Pop Mart and have been made popular by celebrity endorsement. Fake imitations of the brand can be dangerous. The dolls confiscated in Powys were tested for safety and found to present a serious choking hazard due to small detachable parts, rendering them unsafe for children and in breach of safety regulations.

The Trading Standards Service is urging parents and guardians to exercise caution and follow the following advice before purchasing Labubu dolls:

- Check packaging for a UKCA or CE mark and ensure a UK-based importer or manufacturer is listed. Warnings and usage instructions should be present.
- Look for authenticity markers on Pop Mart Labubu dolls, including a holographic sticker, a scannable QR code linking to the official website, and a UV stamp on one foot (on newer editions).
- Inspect the toy's appearance – signs of a counterfeit include overly vibrant colours, poor stitching, or the wrong number of teeth (authentic Labubu dolls have nine teeth).
- Be aware that lower prices often mean higher risks of counterfeiting
- Buy from trusted retailers and avoid unfamiliar online vendors or third-party sellers on marketplace platforms.

Concerns can be reported to Powys Trading Standards at trading.standards@powys.gov.uk or to the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 123 1133.

Perthyn small grants for community groups

Perthyn Grants provide funding to support with start-up fees during the early stages of developing social enterprises, co-operatives, community-led housing or community land trusts through the medium of Welsh.

Up to £10,000 is available for revenue funding per group. Grants are only available to unregistered or newly-registered groups. Groups previously funded via Perthyn are not eligible.

Applications opened on 21st October 2025 and close on Friday 21st November, at 12:00 midday. Revenue funding received must be spent and the funded work completed by 31st March 2026.

The main focus of the Perthyn Grant is the Welsh language. Applicants will need to demonstrate that the Welsh language is central to the initiative proposed to be established and its future delivery.

Further information can be obtained by email from: perthyn@cwmpas.coop

Please share with your networks, clients and community.

Application documentation is attached and can be accessed via the Perthyn webpage, [here](#).

Proposal to close Ysgol Golwg Pen Y Fan Cradoc campus

The county council is consulting on a proposal to close Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan's Cradoc campus. The proposal is as follows:

- To make a regulated alteration to reduce the capacity of Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan by closing the school's Cradoc campus from 31st August 2026.
- Pupils currently attending the Cradoc campus to transfer to the school's other campuses in Brecon.

The consultation began on 6th November 2025 and will end on 18th December 2025.

A copy of the consultation documentation is available on the Council's website [here](#).

Further information can be obtained from the Transforming Education Team.

Phone: 01686 611553

Email: transforming.education@powys.gov.uk

Marches initiative to boost visitor economy

The Marches Forward Partnership (MFP) is a collaboration between Shropshire, Powys, Herefordshire and Monmouthshire county councils focused on unlocking investment and delivering transformational change in the Marches region. The MFP is developing a new strategy with the aim of revitalising tourism across the Marches.

Powys County Council commissioned a feasibility study on behalf of the MFP to create a roadmap for enhancing the region's appeal to visitors over the next three to five years.

The study was undertaken by Rieth Consulting. It identifies a series of strategic projects aimed at improving access, promoting local heritage and showcasing the area's natural beauty and culinary excellence.

Consumer research conducted as part of the study revealed that while the Marches is widely described using the words beautiful, peaceful, relaxing, scenic, quiet, green, historic, rural, interesting and natural, half of respondents had never visited the region, indicating a need for targeted marketing and infrastructure improvements.

Among the key proposals are:

- Marketing: A coordinated campaign to raise the region's profile through cross-border

- branding and data-driven promotion.
- Walking: Restoration and conservation of Offa's Dyke and surrounding trails, coupled with improved access and visitor experiences.
- Access: Initiatives to support car-free travel to countryside destinations, making tourism more sustainable.
- A lifestyle-focused campaign celebrating local food, drink, and gentle walking routes.
- The Marches Story: A digital and physical interpretation programme to bring the region's rich history to life.
- The Marches Festival: A branding strategy to unify and amplify existing events under a single umbrella.

The proposals will be the subject of a dedicated MFP workshop in November, where stakeholders will discuss next steps and begin shaping business cases for priority projects.

NAAFI monthly coffee morning

Please see attached.

Brecon neuro Café (developed from Brecon Stroke Café)

Please see attached.

Partner agency updates

Stagecoach reduced fares for military personnel and veterans during Remembrance

Stagecoach South Wales will be offering free travel across all of its bus services in South Wales for serving military, cadets, and veterans on Remembrance Sunday, November 9th, and Armistice Day, November 11th.

The initiative aims to support military personnel and veterans to attend local services and memorials with ease.

Free travel will be granted to any individual in uniform, those presenting a military ID card, or veterans wearing medals or regimental badges.

The initiative is supported by the work of the company's internal Stagecoach Veterans Network, which is dedicated to supporting ex-forces colleagues currently working with Stagecoach and encouraging more veterans to join the company.

The company has been a member of the Armed Forces Covenant since March 2015.

Expansion of young persons' discounted Stagecoach travel to include children

The discounted travel for 16-21 year olds initiative launched in September this year by a partnership between Stagecoach, the Welsh Government and Transport for Wales, was extended on 1st November to include young people aged 5-15.

Young people aged 16-21 must still obtain a free mytravelpass to access the discounted fares, but 5-15 year olds do not require one.

Flu and Covid 19 vaccinations

Please share the attached information further, where appropriate, to promote and encourage uptake of flu and COVID vaccinations in eligible population groups.

See attached zip folder.

Powys Teaching Health Board update on Better Together process

The Better Together community engagement programme has run to date for one year. Its aim is to involve residents and communities in conversations with the Health Board to help shape the future of health services for Powys residents.

The process has been conducted via in person events in communities, online surveys, staff roadshows, stalls at community events, and in meetings and workshops with health and care partners.

The programme aimed initially to bring more detailed options for the future shape of adult physical and mental health services back out to communities from Autumn 2025 but the Health Board has reported that the process is delayed owing to the complexity of the issues the programme covers and has raised, and to the need to devote appropriate time and space to consideration of the inputs and the development of the options.

In place of a formal consultation this Autumn, the Health Board plans to extend direct engagement with the public. It is working currently on developing the timeline for the work ahead and is preparing to share a further update later in November.

Contacting the county council

Set out below is a range of ways to contact the council, report faults or issues with council services, and make a complaint.

[Opening a My Powys Account](#)

A My Powys account can be used for a range of activity, including:

- Keeping a record of requests and reports made by the resident, and information obtained by the resident (such as school bus routes, as discussed above)
- Enabling the resident to view and track requests and reports
- Pre-filling forms submitted by the resident with the resident's address and contact information
- Expediting phone calls made by the resident by enabling the call handler to view and track the resident's requests and reports
- Enabling the council to send residents updates about their requests and reports

Residents can open a My Powys account [here](#).

The pathway is via the 'Log in/Register' function at the top right of the county council's homepage, [here](#).

All residents, with or without a My Powys account, can contact the council by any of the following means:

Contacting the county council online

- Use the online live Chat function on the website's Contact Us page, [here](#).

The pathway is via the 'Contact Us' function at the top right of the council's homepage.

- Identify the email address for the service required and contact the service direct (on the same Contact Us page, scroll down to the grid of different services at the base of the page)

Contacting the county council by phone

General Enquiries: 01597 827 460

Enquiries for a specific person whom the resident can name: 01597 826 000

Contacting the county council in person

Several transactions with the council can be undertaken at local libraries, Monday to Friday.

Library staff can signpost residents to the council services required and put them in touch with the appropriate council staff member/s for their enquiry.

Information about all Powys local libraries is available [here](#).

The pathway from the county council's [website](#) is:

Homepage > Services > Libraries (page 2 of the Services section).

Reporting an issue online

Residents can report a range of service-related issues directly via the council's website, [here](#).

Pathway: From the county council's [homepage](#), scroll to the first row of options below the search bar. 'Report' is second on the left. The function enables the uploading of photographs, also.

Complaining and commenting about a service online

Residents can submit complaints and comments about any council service directly via the 'Contact Us' page of the county council's website, [here](#).

Scroll down to the grid of options at the base of the page. The complaints and comments function is the first option in the second row in the grid. There is a separate function (second grid on the second row) specifically for complaints and comments about Social Services.

Complaining formally in this way ensures that the complaint is logged and can be tracked by the resident making the complaint.

The direct link to the general complaints page is [here](#).

All of the functions outlined above can be performed via a resident's My Powys account, and 'as a guest' for anyone without an account.

2. Council Information

Cabinet and Full Council meetings

Cabinet, Full Council and Scrutiny Committee meetings are all open to the public and are live-streamed and recorded for public view. The links to the live-streaming and the webcasts, the Minutes, and all documents discussed, are available on the PCC website.

The pathway to access the material for all Cabinet, Full Council and Committee meetings is:

PCC homepage > My Council (top menu bar)

From the My Council page, all public meetings can be accessed from the left-hand menu, via **Calendar** or via **Meetings**.

Public participation at Full Council meetings

Members of the public are invited to submit questions to Full Council. Questions are submitted and responded to in writing in advance of the meeting. Questioners are able to submit one

supplementary question each and also to attend Full Council to ask their supplementary questions. They are not required to give advance notice either of their intention to ask a supplementary question or of the question itself.

Further information about public participation at council meetings is available [here](#).

It can be reached via the following pathway:

Powys home page > Contact Us (top right) > Consultations (bottom left) > Get Involved (bottom right) > Document Public Participation (bottom right)

Cabinet met on 14th and 21st October

Items discussed on [14th October](#) included:

- A proposal to commence the statutory notice to close the Cradoc campus of Ysgol Golwg Pen-Y-Fan in Brecon
- Approval of the Powys Local Development Plan annual monitoring report (2025) for submission to Welsh Government
- Revisions to the approach for the county council's first Panel Performance Assessment process
- An update on the county council's financial planning in light of the latest economic projections
- Draft Budget book for 2025/26

The papers, minutes and livestream link are available on the calendar page via the pathway outlined above. A direct link to the calendar page is [here](#).

The meeting on [21st October](#) focused on the outcomes of the consultation carried out on proposals to establish an all-through Welsh Medium school in Builth Wells.

A direct link to the calendar page is [here](#).

Full Council

Full Council met on 9th October.

Items discussed by full council on 9th October included:

- A public question regarding upgrading the standard of housing in Ystradgynlais.
- The Visitor Accommodation Register and Levy outlined in this report.
- Amendments to the Constitution and other legal and administrative matters

Four motions were moved, for the county council to resolve to:

- Challenge misinformation about asylum, immigration and other matters affecting social cohesion (resolved)
- Call of Welsh Government to address issues on the A470 (resolved)
- Call on Welsh Government to pause its invitation to submit applications for Developments of National Significance, with respect to new wind farms (resolved)
- Call on the Wales Pension Partnership and the Powys Pension Fund to review its investments with a view to divesting from investments in companies listed by the UN as complicit in or enabling breaches of humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories by the State of Israel (resolved)

The agenda, associated papers and webcast of the meeting are available on the corporate calendar page via the usual pathway, as follows:

Homepage > My Council (top menu bar) > Calendar (side menu bar) > 9th October.

The page can be viewed via the pathway set out above. A direct link to the page is [here](#).

Sian Cox, Councillor for Llangors with Bwlch

5th November 2025

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<https://www.facebook.com/SianCoxLlangorsBwlch/>