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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

1. Community Information

Update on waste and recycling collections

Some residents have experienced disrupted waste and recycling collections for an extended period while crews adjust to new routes and schedules introduced in March this year. The service is now operating more consistently and most waste and recycling collections are working as scheduled.

When the new routes were first introduced, the average number of daily missed collection reports was 182. By the last week in April, this had reduced to 67. Most missed collections were due to normal operational issues such as vehicle breakdown, access restrictions caused by parked vehicles

and other day to day service pressures that can affect collections, and were not related to the recent route optimisation.

Where disruption occurs, the service continues to provide updates on its Highways, Transport and Recycling Facebook page, and to keep the online postcode checker on its website page up to date. The service is monitoring performance closely and responding to issues as quickly as possible.

Waste and recycling collections were scheduled to take place as normal on Bank Holiday Monday, but Bank Holiday working is not compulsory for crews and achieving full cover represents a challenge for the service. In mitigation, the service offers crews enhanced Bank Holiday working arrangements to encourage uptake by workers and support continuity of service for residents. A wider review of Bank Holiday working arrangements across the council is being planned, to consider whether these arrangements could be extended on a more permanent basis.

The most effective means by which to have missed collections or service issues logged and rectified is to report them via the Report function on the county council's homepage, at powys.gov.uk or at <https://en.powys.gov.uk/missedbins>

Further information about collections more widely is available at: www.powys.gov.uk/binday

Speed enforcement and community-led measures

Go Safe carried out an enforcement session in the 20MPH section of the A40 through Bwlch on Monday 13th April. I have requested enforcement sessions on the B4560 through Llangors and on the C0096 through Llanfihangel Talyllyn.

The Speed Watch volunteers will start to carry out monitoring sessions over the Spring and Summer months. The replacement Dyfed-Powys Go Safe trainer will not be recruited until the completion of the Welsh Government review of the community speed-watch scheme Wales-wide, so recruitment and training of new volunteers remain suspended, and the existing group remains too small to be able to carry out sustained regular monitoring.

The effectiveness of the mannequin in hi-vis which the Bwlch community has been using to temper speeds on the A40 through the village was beginning to wane in its current location, as predicted, and it was relocated on 1st May. Residents noticed an almost immediate impact on speeds, which sustained all afternoon and evening. At midnight that night, a group of young men stopped their car and tried to steal him. The publican from the New Inn intervened and retrieved the mannequin but the men took away the hi-vis jacket. The level of unwanted attention on the first night has deterred the mannequin's new hosts, and I'm seeking a new location. If no Bwlch resident with property adjacent to the high speeding routes in Bwlch wishes to host it, I will explore appropriate locations in Llangors or Llanfihangel Talyllyn.

The hi-vis jacket was donated by then Head of Highways at Powys County Council. I have asked the current Head of Highways if he would be willing to donate a replacement.

Estyn inspection report Crickhowell High School

Crickhowell High School has been recognised by Estyn for its positive relationships and safeguarding culture.

Inspectors described the school as a caring and inclusive community where most pupils feel safe, supported and proud of their school. The inspection confirmed that safeguarding arrangements are effective, behaviour is generally positive, and pupils benefit from a broad range of enrichment activities, leadership opportunities and pastoral support.

The report also notes the positive impact of the headteacher's leadership since his appointment in September 2025, including clearer strategic direction, strengthened safeguarding practice and steps to improve behaviour and aspects of teaching.

Inspectors found that further, sustained improvement is required across several important areas of the school's work and made six recommendations. These are:

- Develop self-evaluation and improvement planning so that they focus more precisely on the impact of provision on pupils' progress and well-being
- Improve teaching to ensure that expectations are always sufficiently high and that all pupils receive appropriate challenge
- Improve attendance
- Strengthen the provision for developing pupils' literacy and numeracy skills in relevant subjects across the curriculum
- Ensure that pupils have access to the full range of learning experiences until the end of Year 9
- Ensure robust management and monitoring of the budget.

Inspectors observed that attendance has improved in recent years but highlighted that it remains below pre-pandemic levels and below that of similar schools.

The report raises concerns about the school's ongoing budget deficit.

The county council is working closely with the school's leadership team and governing body to support the development of a clear and focused action plan to address Estyn's recommendations. This will include appropriate challenge and support in taking forward the areas identified for improvement and strengthening outcomes for learners.

The Estyn report is available to read at: <https://estyn.gov.wales/>

Libraries volunteering opportunity for young people

Young people aged 14 - 25 are being invited to volunteer in libraries as part of this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge, developed by The Reading Agency, encourages children aged 4 to 11 to read for pleasure during the summer holidays. This year's theme, Read to the Beat, celebrates

music, rhythm and creativity, aiming to inspire children to discover new stories while having fun.

Volunteers will be based in their local Powys library and will support families taking part in the challenge by helping children to sign up, choose books, track their progress and get involved in activities linked to the theme. The role also includes helping to create displays, prepare resources for activity sessions and support library events.

Desirable attributes for the role are friendliness, reliability and confidence in engaging with children and families.

No previous experience is required, and full guidance, an induction and ongoing support will be provided by library staff.

Volunteers aged 16–25 will need an enhanced DBS check, which will be arranged as part of the process.

The time commitment is one to three hours per week from mid-July to the end of August.

Volunteers will gain experience working with the public, develop communication and teamwork skills, build confidence in a customer-facing role, gain experience which might help them with future job applications, apprenticeships or UCAS personal statements, and make a positive difference to children's reading confidence.

Young people interested in volunteering can apply online via the Summer Reading Challenge Volunteers page at: <https://storipowys.org.uk/summer-reading-challenge-volunteers/>

The closing date to apply is Friday 5th June.

Further information is available from the library staff at any local Powys library.

Information about other volunteer opportunities with Cultural Services is available at: <https://storipowys.org.uk/join-us/volunteering-current-opportunities/>

Partnering Powys businesses and foster carers

Powys businesses are being encouraged to consider becoming a Foster Wales Partner.

Nearly 40 per cent of foster carers combine fostering with other work. Having a supportive employer helps them to find a balance between the two roles, and supportive employers also influence employees' decisions to become foster carers.

To become a Foster Wales Partner, businesses commit to:

- Understanding and promoting fostering
- Supporting foster carers and care-experienced young people
- Helping find the right homes for some of the most vulnerable children in our communities

Foster Wales Partners are aware of and accommodate the challenges of the fostering role, such as responding to emergencies, children arriving at short notice, attending meetings and training.

Foster Wales calculates that a further 800 fostering households or families are needed across the country to help provide the right homes for the growing number of children who are in the care of their local council. Powys social services are committed to vulnerable young people being cared for in their home communities or as close to them as possible.

The Marches Business Group, based on the Ddole Road Industrial Estate in Llandrindod Wells, has recently become the first private sector Foster Wales Partner in Powys.

Businesses interested in becoming a Foster Wales Partner or learning more can contact the service by email at fostering@Powys.gov.uk and by phone on 0800 22 30 627.

Further information about fostering in Powys is available at: powys.fosterwales.gov.wales/

Further information about being a supportive employer in Wales is available at Foster Wales, [here](#).

Further information about the Marches Business Group is available at: marchesbusinessgroup.co.uk/

Reading initiative to inspire children to enjoy books, creativity and storytelling

Stars of the Shelves is a children's reading initiative, funded by the Welsh Government and coordinated by the Books Council of Wales, which brings well-known authors to local libraries for interactive workshops with children aged seven to 11.

Authors including Siôn Tomos Owen, the current Bardd Plant Cymru, Eloise Williams, Nicola Davies, the current Children's Laureate for Wales, Jenny Valentine, Lucy Owen and Rhian Cadwaladr took part in the 2025/26 programme. More than 500 children from over 20 schools across Powys took part, many of them visiting a library for the first time.

Staff involved in the programme believe that it supported children's wellbeing, confidence, creativity and the development of a love of reading, and connected them to local services that support learning and wellbeing.

Library staff hope the experience will help build lasting connections and give young people the confidence to return regularly.

Food and Drink Hospitality Rates Relief scheme for financial year 2026/27

The Business Rates Food and Drink Hospitality Rates Relief scheme for the financial year 2026/27 offers a 15% discount on rate bills to eligible businesses.

The Welsh Government has provided funding of £197,000 to the council for its administration of the scheme.

Businesses must be operating within the pub, bar, restaurant, cafe or live music venue sector and up to 200 Powys businesses may qualify. The scheme will apply to all eligible ratepayers. The total relief or any one business is capped at a maximum of £110,000.

Businesses who meet the eligibility criteria must apply to receive the rate relief.

The scheme is available until 31st March 2027.

Further information about the scheme, including the application form and how to apply, can be found on the county council's website at Powys.gov.uk and searching 'Business Rates Food and Drink Hospitality Rates Relief 2026 / 2027'

Suppliers required to register for new procurement requirements

Registration on the UK Government's Central Digital Platform is now a mandatory requirement for organisations wishing to provide goods, works or services to local authorities.

The requirement is set out in the Procurement Act 2023 and the Procurement (Wales) Regulations 2024, which introduce a new national approach to public sector procurement.

Under the new legislation, all suppliers must be registered on the Central Digital Platform and must obtain a Unique Supplier Reference Code, also known as a Unique Supplier ID or Public Procurement Organisation Number (PPON).

The Central Digital Platform enables public sector bodies to access validated supplier information and helps ensure procurement processes are transparent, consistent and compliant across the UK.

To support suppliers with the changes, the county council worked in collaboration with Business Wales to deliver a series of fully funded online training sessions through April. The 'Public Sector Procurement: Getting Fit to Tender Under New Legislation' sessions helped suppliers to understand the new requirements and to register on the Central Digital Platform. The sessions covered:

- How to register on the Central Digital Platform
- What suppliers need to know about tendering under the new legislation
- Key steps to help businesses prepare for future public sector opportunities

Further guidance and support for businesses are available on the county council's website, [here](#).

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 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.

Partner updates

Powys Nature Partnership

The Powys Nature Partnership (PNP) is a collaborative initiative between organisations and individuals focused on halting and reversing the decline of biodiversity across Powys.

It is one of 25 Local Nature Partnerships across Wales which form part of a national Wales-wide nature recovery network.

The Powys partnership is hosted by Powys County Council and acts as the main coordinating body for nature recovery activity in the county. It exists to coordinate, promote and record nature recovery actions across Powys; provide a collective voice for nature in local decision-making; support collaboration and funding opportunities between public bodies, charities, community groups and land managers; and embed national biodiversity priorities into local action for communities in Powys.

A central function of the partnership is delivering the Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan, which translates the Welsh Government's Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales into local priorities, identifies key habitats, species, threats and opportunities, guides projects, partnerships and funding bids across Powys and supports the development and effectiveness of ecological networks.

Membership is open and includes public bodies, environmental organisations and wildlife charities, community and voluntary groups, local experts, land managers and individual volunteers, and the Biodiversity Information Service for Powys and the Brecon Beacons (BIS).

In practice, the partnership supports and enables habitat restoration and creation (woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, pollinator sites); community-led nature projects through programmes such as Local Places for Nature; wildlife recording and citizen science; advice to communities, councils and organisations on biodiversity; and engagement with schools, businesses and residents to reconnect people with nature.

The partnership produces a monthly newsletter. April's edition is attached.

Growing Mid Wales newsletter

The April newsletter includes articles on transport, investment and skills, amongst others, and how readers can help shape future priorities in the newsletter.

The newsletter is available on the Sway platform [here](#).

An accessible version of Sway is available via the 'Accessibility view' function, via the 3 dots in the right-hand corner of the screen.

Previous newsletters can be viewed at: <https://www.growingmid.wales/Newsletters>

If you would like to unsubscribe please email us via growingmidwales@ceredigion.gov.uk.

Welsh Ambulance Service Trust newsletter

WAST paused its monthly newsletter, WAST Connects, in April to observe the pre-election period protocol. The newsletter will resume in May.

Further information can be obtained from the WAST website at: ambulance.nhs.wales

2. Council Information

Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and Full Council meetings

Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and Full Council 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)

[Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet](#) did not meet in April owing to the pre-election period protocol.

Cabinet meets next on 19th May. The Economy Residents and Communities committee meets next on 10th June.

The agendas, papers and live stream links will be published in the weeks before the meetings on the corporate calendar pages for the meetings via the pathway outlined above.

A direct link to the calendar page for the ERC scrutiny committee meeting is [here](#).

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

Information about other scrutiny committees (Learning and Skills, Health and Care and Finance Panel) is available via the calendar or meetings pages as set out above.

[Full Council](#) meets next on 14th May.

The agenda comprises:

- Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Assistant Vice-Chair of Council
- Election of council committee members
- Appointments to county council committees
- Appointment of Chairs of scrutiny committees
- Appointments to outside bodies
- Appointments to county council working groups
- Consideration of county councillors' salaries, allowances and expenses

The agenda, papers and livestream link are available on the calendar page for the meeting, via the pathway outlined above. The webcast recording will be available on the same page following the meeting.

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

Sian Cox, Councillor for Llangors with Bwlch

10th May 2026

Cllr.sian.cox@powys.gov.uk

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[Facebook.com/SianCoxLlangorsBwlch](https://www.facebook.com/SianCoxLlangorsBwlch)