

# Pecyn Dogfennau Cyhoeddus

## Aelod Portffolio ar faterion yr Amgylchedd

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Man Cyfarfod

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Dyddiad y Cyfarfod  
**Dydd Mercher, 20 Hydref 2021**

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Amser y Cyfarfod  
**Amser heb ei nodi**

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I gael rhagor o wybodaeth cysylltwch â



Neuadd Y Sir  
Llandrindod  
Powys  
LD1 5LG

Dyddiad Cyhoeddi

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Mae croeso i'r rhai sy'n cymryd rhan ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg. Os hoffech chi siarad Cymraeg yn y cyfarfod, gofynnwn i chi roi gwybod i ni erbyn hanner dydd ddau ddiwrnod cyn y cyfarfod

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### AGENDA

1.	<b>TRAWSNEWID TREFI - CANLYNIADAU'R AROLWG</b>
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(Tudalennau 1 - 8)

Mae'r dudalen hon wedi'i gadael yn wag yn fwriadol

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**  
**PORTFOLIO HOLDER DELEGATED DECISION**  
**by**  
**COUNTY COUNCILLOR HEULWEN HULME**  
**PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT**  
**October 2021**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Matt Perry  
Head of Highways Transport and Recycling  
**REPORT TITLE:** Transforming Towns – Results of Survey

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the initial findings of the Towns Survey and to seek approval to develop proposals where support has been demonstrated which will then be subject to further detailed public consultation.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 In response to the Covid pandemic various travel restrictions, lockdowns / firebreaks, alongside an array of social distancing rules have been introduced at various stages.
- 2.2 Lockdowns had an immediate impact on how our town centres operated with many non-essential businesses having to close for a significant period. Towards the end of the first lockdown, the Welsh Government made funding available to facilitate social distancing on our high streets across the county.
- 2.3 Encouraging the public back into our town centres and enabling businesses to open and operate safely and in-line with ongoing government restrictions and regulations has been essential, not just for the businesses themselves, but also for the local communities who rely on them.
- 2.4 It was imperative therefore, to make our public realm areas safe to gain the public's confidence to return to the high streets to ensure our local businesses and high streets remained viable. To facilitate social distancing in our town centres, Powys County Council liaised with Town Councils and Local Members to reallocate road space, and re-shape our high streets to provide social space that people could enjoy, as well as being functional. This was achieved using a variety of measures such as parking bay suspensions through to full road closures. The measures introduced were bespoke and varied from town to town and have continued to evolve through the pandemic.

- 2.5 As lockdown eased at various stages, this gave the opportunity to create space for businesses to utilise areas of the high street for other purposes, such as hospitality, and a pavement licensing programme was introduced to accommodate this. This enabled businesses to trade in a Covid safe manner and to have extra capacity, post lockdown, to initially make places viable to reopen and also help them to recover from the economic impacts of the Covid crises.
- 2.6 Some of the measures introduced during the height of the pandemic have been broadly popular with businesses, visitors and residents, with communities beginning to enjoy their outside spaces. So, as we begin to plan for a safe and resilient future, this is the opportunity to look at things differently and review the use of our public spaces. It is essential to aid further recovery of our towns; making them places people want to visit by ensuring their businesses are viable and resilient, and communities strong and vibrant. Now is our chance to work in partnership to develop 'new look' town centres – creating dynamic healthier spaces and happy, strong communities.
- 2.7 This work complements the aspirations of the wellbeing of future generations act by helping create vibrant and sustainable town centres that are resilient to the changing nature of high streets, making Powys a desirable place to live, work and play. This work also feeds into aspects of the Active Travel and decarbonisation agendas.
- 2.8 As part of this transition, we undertook a public consultation exercise across four towns that had been more receptive to the initial temporary changes to gauge the opinions of the public and businesses with regards to measures implemented, and whether they want to retain some of their measures going forward.
- 2.9 The next stages will be to develop plans for those locations where support has been demonstrated and to progress more detailed public consultation to help refine and define a detailed proposal for each location.

### **3. Advice**

- 3.1 The public consultation started on 21 June 2021 and was open for four weeks closing on 19 July 2021. The scope of consultation included Brecon, Hay on Wye, Crickhowell and Newtown. There was extensive feedback received from the consultation, with 576 respondents. The results and summary of the surveys can be found in Appendix A.
- 3.2 The overall response rate was higher than the 1% response rate considered "good" by the Consultation Institute and considerably higher than the average response rate (0.7%) for UK public consultations

- 3.3 In Brecon, most respondents indicated that the measures implemented made them feel safer and improved the experience of visiting Brecon town. An analysis of the comments indicated a strong desire for all the measures implemented to be retained and this was supported by both the town council and local members for Brecon.
- 3.4 The Brecon Chamber of Trade & Tourism expressed concerns with the existing measures and have put forward a counter proposal for more flexible road closures for certain days or functions.
- 3.5 In contrast, the survey found that the measures in Hay on Wye were not generally supported and there is a strong desire to have the measures removed.
- 3.6 Responses in Crickhowell were equally split, with a strong concern for any loss of parking in the town which is recognised as an ongoing issue. Despite issues with parking however, the town council are enthusiastic about retaining planters and support the growing café culture with regards the attraction of visitors. Any options will therefore need to account for any loss of parking which is already under pressure in the town.
- 3.7 As with Crickhowell, Newtown had an even spread of responses, however many comments received stated that measures did not go far enough in terms of the re-allocation of road space, and there is a strong appetite for exploring more long term measures that may help the wider regeneration of the town. A large proportion of the comments regarding wider regeneration of the town fall will be informative for any future regeneration initiatives.
- 3.8 It is considered that there is sufficient mandate from the survey to retain the current measures in Brecon, Newtown, and Crickhowell, whilst we look to conduct a further set of more specific consultations to explore more permanent options with concept designs.

#### **4. Resource Implications**

- 4.1 Powys County Council has secured grant monies from Welsh Government to explore and develop options for retaining some or all these measures in the four key towns in Powys. The award was £425,000 with £200,000 being awarded for consultation and design with a further £225,000 for Minor works. There has been some spend against the grant to date for the initial engagement exercise. We anticipate spending the full amount of design consultation funding and although it is subject to the next stage of consultation we envisage spending the bulk of the allocation for minor works in this financial year.
- 4.2 There are ongoing resource implications in Brecon with the setting up of street closures and for the Team in managing the consultations and

writing any future bids. However, these costs will be met by existing budgets thus not be an additional budget pressure.

- 4.3 With the support and financial backing from Welsh Government, Powys County Council will work with town and community councils, local businesses, chambers of trade and residents to design and install bespoke measures with the aim to open up space for people to enjoy and improve the retail and social experience for shoppers and encouraging visitors to stay longer in our unique historic towns.
- 4.4 The service will continue to work with communications in future consultation exercises.
- 4.5 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the content of the report and can support the recommendations on the basis that costs will be met from existing budgets or the grant allocation.

## **5. Legal implications**

- 5.1 Legal : The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view.
- 5.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services ( Monitoring Officer ) has commented as follows: “ I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report”.

## **6. Data Protection**

- 6.1 The Data Protection Officer notes the content of the paper and reminds the service of the requirements of GDPR when processing personal data obtained during public consultations.

## **7. Comment from local member(s)**

- 7.1 Local Members have been involved in the progress of the temporary measures and have fed back to the consultation process and are supportive of the proposals to take forward in Brecon. Crickhowell and Newtown

## **8. Impact Assessment**

8.1 An impact assessment will be undertaken where necessary, should proposals be considered for implementation.

**9. Recommendation**

9.1 To approve the undertaking of design work to develop proposals for permanent measures within Brecon, Crickhowell and Newtown and to undertake further consultation with the public.

9.2 To agree not to progress any measures within Hay on Wye following the lack of support from the consultation

Contact Officer:	Tony Caine/Vincent Goodwin
Tel:	01597826000
Email:	<a href="mailto:active@powys.gov.uk">active@powys.gov.uk</a>
Head of Service:	Matt Perry
Corporate Director:	Nigel Brinn

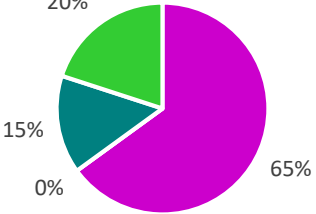
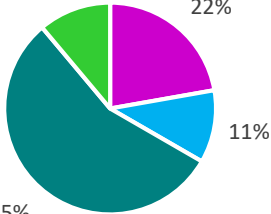
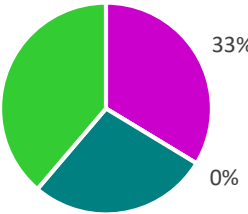
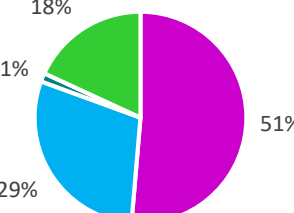
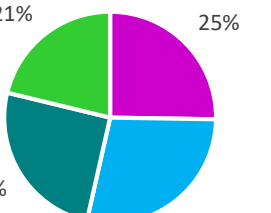
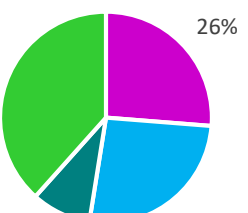
# Annex A The Future of our Town Centres – Engagement exercise summary of responses

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	Brecon	Hay-on-Wye	Crickhowell	Newtown																																
<p>Number of responses</p> <p><b>Residents</b> <b>Businesses</b> <b>Visitors</b></p> <p>(Some respondents will be both residents and business owners)</p>	<p>Total: 252</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Category</th><th>Count</th></tr> <tr><td>Residents</td><td>203</td></tr> <tr><td>Businesses</td><td>45</td></tr> <tr><td>Visitors</td><td>35</td></tr> </table>	Category	Count	Residents	203	Businesses	45	Visitors	35	<p>Total: 371</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Category</th><th>Count</th></tr> <tr><td>Residents</td><td>260</td></tr> <tr><td>Businesses</td><td>82</td></tr> <tr><td>Visitors</td><td>76</td></tr> </table>	Category	Count	Residents	260	Businesses	82	Visitors	76	<p>Total: 216</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Category</th><th>Count</th></tr> <tr><td>Residents</td><td>182</td></tr> <tr><td>Businesses</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>Visitors</td><td>28</td></tr> </table>	Category	Count	Residents	182	Businesses	19	Visitors	28	<p>Total: 205</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Category</th><th>Count</th></tr> <tr><td>Residents</td><td>174</td></tr> <tr><td>Businesses</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>Visitors</td><td>28</td></tr> </table>	Category	Count	Residents	174	Businesses	14	Visitors	28
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<p>The temporary measures introduced have benefited the businesses in the town centre and allowed them to operate safely:</p> <p><b>Strongly agree &amp; agree</b> <b>Neutral</b> <b>Strongly disagree &amp; disagree</b></p>	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Strongly agree &amp; agree</td><td>66%</td></tr> <tr><td>Neutral</td><td>15%</td></tr> <tr><td>Strongly disagree &amp; disagree</td><td>19%</td></tr> </table>	Response	Percentage	Strongly agree & agree	66%	Neutral	15%	Strongly disagree & disagree	19%	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Strongly agree &amp; agree</td><td>57%</td></tr> <tr><td>Neutral</td><td>12%</td></tr> <tr><td>Strongly disagree &amp; disagree</td><td>31%</td></tr> </table>	Response	Percentage	Strongly agree & agree	57%	Neutral	12%	Strongly disagree & disagree	31%	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Strongly agree &amp; agree</td><td>51%</td></tr> <tr><td>Neutral</td><td>16%</td></tr> <tr><td>Strongly disagree &amp; disagree</td><td>33%</td></tr> </table>	Response	Percentage	Strongly agree & agree	51%	Neutral	16%	Strongly disagree & disagree	33%	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Strongly agree &amp; agree</td><td>49%</td></tr> <tr><td>Neutral</td><td>20%</td></tr> <tr><td>Strongly disagree &amp; disagree</td><td>31%</td></tr> </table>	Response	Percentage	Strongly agree & agree	49%	Neutral	20%	Strongly disagree & disagree	31%
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<p>The temporary measures introduced have made shoppers and pedestrians feel safe when visiting the town centre:</p> <p><b>Strongly agree &amp; agree</b> <b>Neutral</b> <b>Strongly disagree &amp; disagree</b></p>	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Strongly agree &amp; agree</td><td>65%</td></tr> <tr><td>Neutral</td><td>15%</td></tr> <tr><td>Strongly disagree &amp; disagree</td><td>20%</td></tr> </table>	Response	Percentage	Strongly agree & agree	65%	Neutral	15%	Strongly disagree & disagree	20%	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Strongly agree &amp; agree</td><td>40%</td></tr> <tr><td>Neutral</td><td>16%</td></tr> <tr><td>Strongly disagree &amp; disagree</td><td>45%</td></tr> </table>	Response	Percentage	Strongly agree & agree	40%	Neutral	16%	Strongly disagree & disagree	45%	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Strongly agree &amp; agree</td><td>48%</td></tr> <tr><td>Neutral</td><td>11%</td></tr> <tr><td>Strongly disagree &amp; disagree</td><td>41%</td></tr> </table>	Response	Percentage	Strongly agree & agree	48%	Neutral	11%	Strongly disagree & disagree	41%	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Strongly agree &amp; agree</td><td>50%</td></tr> <tr><td>Neutral</td><td>21%</td></tr> <tr><td>Strongly disagree &amp; disagree</td><td>28%</td></tr> </table>	Response	Percentage	Strongly agree & agree	50%	Neutral	21%	Strongly disagree & disagree	28%
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<p>I would be more likely to visit the town centre for shopping or leisure in the future if the temporary measures to the street layouts were to remain:</p> <p><b>Strongly agree &amp; agree</b>  <b>Neutral</b>  <b>Strongly disagree &amp; disagree</b></p>				
<p>The temporary measures encourage people to spend more time in the town centre for either shopping, leisure, or both:</p> <p><b>Strongly agree &amp; agree</b>  <b>Neutral</b>  <b>Strongly disagree &amp; disagree</b></p>				
<p>Notwithstanding Covid-19 restrictions, I feel that the temporary measures have increase footfall into the town centre:</p> <p><b>Strongly agree &amp; agree</b>  <b>Neutral</b>  <b>Strongly disagree &amp; disagree</b></p>				
<p>The temporary measures have a positive impact on the town centre:</p> <p><b>Strongly agree &amp; agree</b>  <b>Neutral</b>  <b>Strongly disagree &amp; disagree</b></p>				

<p>What measures could we have done better/differently?</p> <p>Answers have been grouped into the following main themes:</p> <p><b>Pedestrianisation</b>  <b>Parking related</b>  <b>None – leave as is</b>  <b>Other</b></p>	 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Theme</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pedestrianisation</td> <td>65%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parking related</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>None – leave as is</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Theme	Percentage	Pedestrianisation	65%	Other	20%	Parking related	15%	None – leave as is	0%		 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Theme</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Parking related</td> <td>55%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pedestrianisation</td> <td>22%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>None – leave as is</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Theme	Percentage	Parking related	55%	Pedestrianisation	22%	Other	11%	None – leave as is	11%	 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Theme</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>38%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pedestrianisation</td> <td>33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parking related</td> <td>27%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>None – leave as is</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Theme	Percentage	Other	38%	Pedestrianisation	33%	Parking related	27%	None – leave as is	0%
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<p>What measures would you like to see remain/implemented going forward?</p> <p><b>Pedestrianisation/leave as is</b>  <b>Parking related</b>  <b>None – go back to previous</b>  <b>Other</b></p>	 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Theme</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pedestrianisation/leave as is</td> <td>51%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parking related</td> <td>29%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>18%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>None – go back to previous</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Theme	Percentage	Pedestrianisation/leave as is	51%	Parking related	29%	Other	18%	None – go back to previous	1%		 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Theme</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Parking related</td> <td>28%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pedestrianisation/leave as is</td> <td>25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>None – go back to previous</td> <td>21%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Theme	Percentage	Parking related	28%	Pedestrianisation/leave as is	25%	Other	25%	None – go back to previous	21%	 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Theme</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>38%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pedestrianisation/leave as is</td> <td>26%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parking related</td> <td>26%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>None – go back to previous</td> <td>9%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Theme	Percentage	Other	38%	Pedestrianisation/leave as is	26%	Parking related	26%	None – go back to previous	9%
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