

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL**

**County Council  
22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Jonathan Wilkinson, Portfolio Holder  
for Housing and Countryside Services**

**SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan**

**What are the costs to date, and annual costs to the Council in relation to the  
use and rental of the storage at Hirddol, Machynlleth?**

**Response**

Countryside Services rent yard space from Dyfi Waste Services at Hirddol,  
Penegoes, Machynlleth.

The rental costs per annum are as follows:-

2011 - £1,296

2012 - £1,296

2013 - £1,296

2014 - £1,350

2015 - £1,400

2016 - £1,450

2017 - £1,450

Total: £9,538 over 7 years

The Hirddol yard is used to store materials for Countryside Services, including gates, stiles, posts, step kits, signs, railing etc. Some materials for the Glyndwr's Way National Trail are also stored here. The Service buys materials in bulk, wherever possible, so that discounts can be achieved. Buying in bulk means that storage of materials is required. The Service also tries to buy wooden items in advance, in order to dry or season them, so that the life of the item is extended. This is especially important as the ingredients used to tanalise wood have changed and posts etc. no longer last as long. Having dry and seasoned wood items to install can increase the life span.

Countryside Services have volunteers and contractors working across the whole of the county. We have a couple of yards set up so that people can access materials without travelling excessive distances. If the Service didn't have these spaces, we

would not be able to store materials and service costs may increase. Having yards at key points across the county keeps mileage costs down. Without them the Service would have to spend significantly more on mileage and transportation.

Countryside Services try to seek the cheapest options for yard rental and have approached Highways Depots in the past. If there are options to securely store materials in the right locations for free, then the Service would be pleased to learn of them. Any new site would need to be secure, provide undercover storage, have good access, turning/parking space and meet H&S requirements.