



CYNGOR TREF LLANDEILO FAWR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of Llandeilo Town Council held in Hengwrt on
Wednesday October 19th 2022, in Llandeilo at 6:30PM.
To discuss the County Council Report on the Carmarthen Street Road Closure**

Present : Deputy Mayor Christoph Fischer (Chair)
Cllr Geraint Price Cllr Simon Brownsill Cllr Rob Jones

Apologies : Mayor Gordon Kilby (Prior Commitment)
Cllr Charlotte Walker (Medical)
Cllr Charlotte Morgan (Holiday)
Cllr Bryony Preston (Prior Commitment)

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Cllr Geraint Price stressed disappointment that the Chair had not been able to attend the special meeting that they had initially called

Min 104 / October / 22 – Declaration of Interest

Cllr Christoph Fischer signed the book of declaration as he was involved in the initial consultation period. Cllr Fischer will comment on the matter

Min 105 / October / 22 – To discuss the Carmarthen Street closure report issued by Carmarthenshire County Council

Clerk had shared the CCC report, along with comments and letters received from residents and local organisations prior to the meeting to councillors.

The report offered 3 possible options going forward which include speed measures, road improvements and a possible closure if the first two options were not successful.

Each Councillor present added comment as follows :-

Clerk firstly read out a statement from Mayor Cllr Gordon Kilby who was not present but wanted his views presented. A 20 mph speed limit, which is going to be applied in 2023, is insufficient to calm the potential hazards. This is an extremely narrow, medieval street, among the oldest in Llandeilo. The pavements, in places are barely more than 16 inches. In consequence, pedestrians frequently walk in the road itself. Occasional very heavy vehicles (e.g. large modern tractors sometimes seen) are a threat to pedestrians and possibly foundations, though admittedly rare, are dangers in the road.

With the opening of the restored Market Hall, many visitors, and local people, will choose to walk up the street to access the new facilities. They have to, because at present there is little or no parking facilities at the top. Pedestrianisation of the street will not only make it easier and encouraging for walking to the ‘new’ Market Hall, but enable several businesses to re-

open in that street. There are several 'shop-fronts' waiting to be re-opened, and this could be an opportunity to extend the trade economy of the town; the creation of a continuous link between King Street - Market Street - Carmarthen Street - Market Hall. A sensible link for the business economy of the town, flowing easily from Rhosmaen Street, on foot, without impediment.

Councillor Rob Jones stated the report is all around safety and not much else which is disappointing. The traffic flow states vehicles go towards the old provisions market but then no information from there which would be useful to determine if a larger percentage leads to New road square or out of town. Cllr Jones thanked residents for their input and after reviewing the comments, saw their point that the narrow pavement is very dangerous and was concerned with the County Council approach of 'there's been no accidents, therefore there isn't an issue'. Preventing an incident will be better than curing an issue.

Councillor Simon Brownsill first questioned the length of the "Temporary" closure, why did it last so long during the Shire Hall renovation.

Regarding the report, Cllr Brownsill reiterated the findings that a road closure is not sensible currently. If there is any progress on a bypass, there will be a better argument for closure. New Speed limits are being introduced by Welsh Government in 2023, which will be welcomed. Cllr Brownsill added that a shared space/pedestrian priority would be a more valid solution at the moment. Closing roads simply moves traffic from A to B.

Cllr Christoph Fischer added to Cllr Kilby's comment where the square of New Road and Rhosmaen Street was not overly stressed when the road was closed. Traffic still flowed well. The exit point at the bottom of Carmarthen Street is very dangerous with limited viewing up toward the town centre when pulling out. From what residents and businesses have sent, there is an obvious need for a review of the report as it does not take their issues into consideration.

Cllr Geraint Price re-iterated comment from Cllr Brownsill in that any traffic diverted from the Carmarthen Street through road would only backlog Rhosmaen Street, which has always been the main polluted issue. Being an ex-fireman, Cllr Price mentioned that response times would not be affected if the road was closed, with the service already opting to use New Road when possible.

Cllr Brownsill replied to state that the only noted death by being run over was at Rhosmaen street/New road square junction. Adding more traffic to this junction would only worsen conditions.

Min 106 / October / 22 - Formulate a response to Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the report issued

Cllr Rob Jones proposed the report be reviewed for a closure of Carmarthen Street for pedestrian use, with access to emergency services when required. Seconded by Cllr Fischer.

A counterproposal was issued by Cllr Simon Brownhill to accept the report and await the new speed restrictions before considering anything else such a shared space/pedestrian space layout. Seconded by Cllr Geraint Price.

2 votes for the **counter proposal**, 2 votes for the **proposed motion**. Under Council orders, a split vote is decided by the Chair. The Chair Cllr Fischer passed the Proposed Motion.

Therefore the Clerk is to write to Carmarthenshire County Council and County Councillor Edward Thomas to review the report and propose a solution for closure of Carmarthen Street.

Meeting closed 7.33PM