

18 MAR 2013

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TREF Y TRALLWNG CYNGOR WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

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14th March 2013

Welsh Assembly
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 1NQ

Dear Sir

Active Travel - Consultation

Good morning, I hope you are all well.

I confirm that my Council considered the above consultation at its Planning, Development and Environment Committee held on Wednesday 13th March 2013.

The Town Council has been in discussions with Powys County Council over cycle routes for many years with not a lot happening to date with regard to our own area of Welshpool.

The Council supports the general principles of the proposals to seek to provide cycle and walking routes to encourage people to use them and do so safely.

The Council stands to be convinced that the proposals will actually work as there are several factors which are a challenge, they are:

a) Finance - there never appears to be any money for such projects and what money there is finds its way to pay for staff to design schemes that never surface into a completed project.

b) If delivered at County level it will take an age to complete. Local Councils should be used wherever possible. I know this is the view of the North Wales Association of Councils and my Council supports that view.

c) The rural areas require radical thinking to stand any chance of providing such routes. Our roads are narrow and cycle routes on them would not work. This is where local knowledge is important.

The Town Council supports the North Wales Association of Councils view that suggests that perhaps two or three Town Councils, who have the ability to perform, are selected to complete a plan and receive funding from the Welsh Assembly direct to complete the approved schemes. This could be done on a Pilot basis and if it works well to roll this out as a preferred way forward.

This response to the consultation are meant to be helpful and not negative.

Welshpool would be willing to be considered if you felt you wanted a pilot scheme involving a local council

The Council at Welshpool is willing to aid anything which would achieve the objectives of the proposals being considered.

I confirm that the Town Council is prepared to give oral evidence if it were felt that would be of an advantage.

Thank you for the opportunity the take part in this consultation.

Yours faithfully



Robert Robinson FRICS ALICM
Secretary