

## **News Release by Powys County Council and NPTC Group of Colleges - 17 July 2019**

### **y Gaer – position update**

Exciting plans to enhance Brecon's new cultural and historic attraction y Gaer, by adding in a learning offer, are being considered by the county council.

The town centre attraction is nearing completion and the county council is in negotiation with a partner to strengthen the scope of the facility even before it opens.

Corporate Director Economy & Environment, Nigel Brinn said; "We are working on plans to make the fantastic new y Gaer facility even better when the doors open in a few months' time. We ask residents to be patient for a little longer, we are confident that y Gaer will be worth the wait.

"We are exploring exciting partnership opportunities with Brecon Beacons College, part of NPTC Group of Colleges to expand the range of potential opportunities for the community delivered from the building. Our aim is to provide an exciting base for history, art, culture and learning for the town and surrounding communities.

"By working with the college we have an opportunity to create an exciting and vibrant centre, combining learning, history, art, culture, a library and community services - a truly unique facility for Powys.

"While no final decisions have been made our discussions have been productive. Plans for the collaboration will be initially considered by the council's cabinet in July."

Mark Dacey, Principal of Brecon Beacons College and CEO of the Group said:

"This is a very exciting opportunity for Brecon Beacons College to support Powys County Council's aim of providing what can only be described as an unparalleled facility for the community.

Continuing to work closely with Powys CC we will be able to offer far more to the people of Brecon and surrounding areas, by tying some of our Adult and Community Learning to the wide-ranging exhibits in the Museum. We will redefine our University Degree programmes to take advantage of the resources that this great resource provides and continue to provide "degrees on your doorstep".

We will be able to support local businesses in the town centre by bringing young people and adults into the area on a daily basis, giving a well needed boost to trade. This will contribute greatly to the footfall in the town centre and to the economic prosperity.

This new centre, combining sensitive renovation and refurbishment of the Grade 2\* Listed Museum with a state of the art modern Library creates the perfect space for uniting learning, history and culture. The partnership between Powys CC and the College will see y Gaer being used for its intended purpose at the heart of the community."

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