

News Release

Issued by Powys CC - 08.10.19

Y Gaer update

Brecon's new cultural and historic attraction y Gaer will boast an impressive library to compete with the best in the county when it opens, Powys County Council has vowed.

The town centre attraction, which is due to open in the coming weeks, will be comparable to the county's main libraries and larger than most, regardless of the partners involved in its operation.

In a joint statement Cabinet Members Cllr Rachel Powell and Cllr Phyl Davies said; "We revealed this summer that we were in discussion with Brecon Beacons College, part of the NPTC Group of Colleges, to potentially expand the range of opportunities delivered from the building. Since then we have invited expressions of interest from others as possible partners.

"But, regardless of the final decision y Gaer will be one of the best facilities in the county, comparable in size to other main town libraries in Powys, being larger than the new facility in Llandrindod and Ystradgynlais and bigger than Welshpool and Machynlleth.

"Having a partner will require minor adaptations with adjustments to the library layout to free up areas within the building for flexible and income generating uses compatible with the cultural theme of the facility.

"The library floor space is being reduced but due to careful design mitigation, the re-configuration will not affect the effective delivery of library services, which will be offered as planned.

"The staffing and volunteer support remains as intended, the range and volume of stock will meet expectations as will the suite of services and activities – all housed in a wonderful new, town centre building with the added bonus of adjacent gardens, car parking facilities, community spaces and the first fully accessible Changing Places public toilet facility in Powys.

"Although initial discussions have been positive no final agreement has been made and we are inviting expressions of interest from other organisations who may want to partner with the county council in this exciting facility.

"Work is ongoing within the building to set up the shelving and work spaces required for a dedicated children's space, room for study and research, as well as the general public library offer. Once that has been finished we will be able to relocate the library from its existing facility in Ship Street and plan for the building's opening.

"The final internal configuration of the facility will depend on the partners involved at y Gaer and no final decision has been made. It is unlikely that the cabinet will consider any firm proposals until November at the earliest. We understand that concerns have been raised about the children's library within y Gaer and can confirm that there is no intention of removing this important space," they added.

ENDS

John Evans
Communications Manager
01597 826377