



MAYOR'S MESSAGE 20.05.20 - Cllr Gareth John

STAY SAFE – SHOP LOCAL

Being Carmarthen's first ever Mayor to take office over the internet via Zoom sums up how much life has changed over the last two months. Things that we thought important all of a sudden don't and things we all took for granted aren't possible. Everyone has made sacrifices for the common good and two months in I continue to be amazed at the fantastic work being undertaken within the Carmarthen community to help people cope with the ongoing impact of Covid 19.

The Mayor may have changed but the message remains consistent. Thank you one and all for supporting one another. Carmarthen's incredible community spirit and resolve, combined with the truly outstanding and continuing response by the County Council locally has ensured effective practical help and support is being given to our heroic NHS and Care staff, the elderly, vulnerable and every aspect of life and business you could mention. Diolch yn fawr i chi gyd.

Now that the support networks to provide essential services are firmly established the focus is turning to how we can help businesses and venues gradually reopen in a safe environment – when that day comes.

Over the last week we have been working with colleagues from other organisations including the Chamber of Trade and the Carmarthen Round Table to develop plans to promote the recovery of the town - as the lockdown is hopefully gradually eased over the coming few weeks and months. I have been very impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment of these organisations, and together we will do our very best to support our local businesses in town.

Some ideas that we are developing include the introduction of 'safe socialising havens' in the town centre, and also 'hygiene stations' that will promote public safety and help people to shop in the safest possible environment. We will be doing this with the safety and wellbeing of all people at the forefront of our planning.

Carmarthen Town Council will be providing our hanging baskets free of charge this summer to all those businesses who supported the scheme last year, and work will start immediately to brighten up the appearance of the town centre in readiness for the opening of more businesses. As ever volunteers to help us with this work would be most welcome.

Anyone who would like to help us on these projects in the town centre should contact our Town Clerk on ajharries@carmarthentowncouncil.gov.uk or our Carmarthen Community Care facility: carmarthencommunitycare@gmail.com