Local companies make progress on new Transport Hub

Council Leader, Ali Thomas OBE was pleased to see work underway at the new integrated Transport Hub at Port Talbot Parkway station, led by award winning Port Talbot based contractor, Andrew Scott Ltd.

The Council Leader was joined by Neath Port Talbot Council’s Head of Engineering and Transport, Dave Griffiths, Welsh Government’s Regeneration Manager, Gillian McGregor and Andrew Scott’s Managing Director, Mark Bowen, to unveil a daffodil imprinted wall last month.

The Welsh themed feature wall has been created using Tessellform Ltd. formwork moulds prepared by local company, HOS Hire Ltd in Neath, adding a unique floral design to the wall that divides the hub from Port Talbot Parkway Railway Station.

The £5.6m Transport Hub project links up with the £11.3m redevelopment of Parkway train station by Network Rail, providing easier access to employment and residential areas in and around the town and valleys areas.

The works will comprise the re-alignment of the A48 Heilbronn Way and main Talbot Road through Port Talbot, and road junctions with Station Road, Grove Place and Oakwood Lane. This will create a large area to facilitate a bus terminal, taxi rank and drop-off and pick-up bays, providing a safe and attractive pedestrian-dominated concourse.

The project is identified in the joint Regional Transport Plan and Swansea Bay City Region Strategy, and endorsed by the City Region Board as a priority.

It forms part of the Council’s Vibrant and Viable Places Regeneration Programme, funded by the Welsh Government, and supported by the Local Transport Fund and European Structural Funds. Continued on page 2
Vibrant and Viable Places

Aberafan House gets go-ahead for redevelopment

Neath Port Talbot Council have approved plans submitted by Swansea-based development company, Hacer Developments, to redevelop Aberafan House into 41 new apartments.

The distinctive building is prominently positioned in the town centre, adjoining the popular Aberafan Shopping Centre and highly visible from the M4.

The £4.7m redevelopment scheme designed by Powell Dobson Architects in consultation with the Design Commission for Wales will begin later this month, undertaken by Hacer Developments in partnership with Pobl Group.

The investment will help to meet a shortage of housing in the community and enhance the vibrancy of the town by bringing additional footfall and introducing more residential dwellings into the town centre.

The development will also see the improvement of the immediate surroundings, including improved lighting, cycle racks for residents, benches and street furniture along the riverside walk to create a safer and more welcoming space for both residents and the public.

Work is due to commence on Aberafan House in January 2017.

For more information contact Ian Williams on 01639 686414 or email i.williams@npt.gov.uk.

Continued from cover:

Local companies make progress on new Transport Hub

Councillor Ali Thomas OBE, Leader of Neath Port Talbot Council said: “The new integrated hub, paired with the recently completed Parkway Station is an important Transport development at the heart of Port Talbot’s regeneration plans. “It will not only provide a safe pedestrian access between the main rail line and local bus services, but will also link the town centre to key employment sites such as Harbourside, whilst forming an attractive gateway to Port Talbot and the wider City Region.”

Mark Bowen, Managing Director, Andrew Scott said: “As a Port Talbot-based company, we are delighted to be working with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council on a project that will provide immediate benefits to the area. “We’ll be looking to create supply chain opportunities for other local businesses, generating employment and training opportunities for local people, and most importantly we’re proud to retain and deploy staff based in Port Talbot and surrounding areas onto this project.”

Maxine Barrett, Director of HOS Hire said: “As a local company, we are pleased to be involved in such a significant project that forms part of the ongoing transformation of Port Talbot town centre. “We work on many projects across the UK and it has been a pleasure to add a Welsh touch to a project so close to home”.

For more information contact Amanda Phillips on 01639 686483 or email a.phillips2@npt.gov.uk.
Loans available to improve standard of Port Talbot homes

The Home Improvement Loan initiative aims to improve the standard of owner-occupied residential properties in need of renovation by providing low cost, medium term loans to make their properties warm, safe and secure.

The Council aims to improve 50 homes in Port Talbot through the Vibrant and Viable Places programme in a bid to improve the standard of housing within the town and reduce the number of empty properties. Subject to criteria and affordability, homeowners can apply for loans up to the value of £25,000 per property for a term of up to 10 years for owner occupiers and up to five years for landlords and companies.

The Council will also identify empty properties in need of renovation and engage with the owners to inform them of the Home Improvement Loan and Houses into Homes initiatives.

The goal is to bring the property back onto the housing market and boost the housing supply in the town.

The Home Improvement Loans are recyclable up to March 2030, meaning that loan repayments can be recycled to new applicants until the Vibrant and Viable Places funding comes to an end.

To find out more, please contact the Housing Renewal Team on 01639 763288 or email hras@npt.gov.uk.

Continuation of Neighbourhood Renewal Programme

Neath Port Talbot Council are pleased to announce that funding for the Neighbourhood Renewal programme will continue for another year, enabling the Council to carry out energy saving improvements to a further 100 homes in Port Talbot.

The Council has successfully secured further funding from the Welsh Government’s Vibrant and Viable Places programme, Npower’s ECO scheme and the Welsh Government’s Arbed project to continue the improvements.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme has already seen 245 ‘hard to heat’ houses in Port Talbot benefit from a number of energy efficiency improvements such as external wall insulation, energy efficient boilers and loft insulation. Additional renovations such as double glazing, repointing and pressure washing are carried out on some homes under the scheme to make them more secure and weather proof.

For further information contact: Chris Davies 01639 686504 c.davies7@npt.gov.uk

Green Park Housing Development Completed

Green Park housing development, delivered by Neath Port Talbot Council’s Regeneration and Economic Development team and Coastal Housing, is the first housing scheme to benefit from funding from the Welsh Government through its Vibrant and Viable Places programme. The project has transformed a disused industrial estate into a safe and desirable place to live, improving the aesthetics of the town and providing much needed housing in the town centre.

The Green Park estate now offers 34 affordable homes, including houses, bungalows and flats. The homes overlook the new Riverside Walk and Park, which connects the residential areas of Port Talbot with the town centre, Aberavon seafront and surrounding walkways, improving accessibility and links for pedestrians and cyclists between employment, housing and leisure areas.

The park will provide a seating area and new planting, adjacent to the river, offering a tranquil green space in an otherwise urban environment.

The redevelopment of Riverside Walk and Park is being carried out by local company, Afan Landscapes, and is due for completion in 2017.

For further information contact: Lindsey Williams 01639 686411 a.l.williams@npt.gov.uk
Neath Port Talbot Council has approved a planning application submitted by Coastal Housing Group to redevelop the former Glan Afan Comprehensive School on Station Road in Port Talbot town centre. Councillors approved the proposals to convert the structure to accommodate a commercial unit with a ground floor extension and twelve residential apartments, whilst maintaining the red brick façade of the Victorian building.

Other buildings from the rear of the school site will be demolished to allow the construction of apartments, detached and semi-detached houses and a further commercial unit, alongside associated access, car parking and landscaping works.

Glan Afan Comprehensive closed its doors for the final time in July 2016 with pupils transferring to the brand new Ysgol Bae Baglan for the new academic year in September. The move is part of Neath Port Talbot Council’s Strategic Schools Improvement Programme (SSIP). The redevelopment of Glan Afan School is one of a number of projects for Port Talbot’s three-year housing led regeneration programme which will see over £35m invested in and around the town centre, part funded by the Welsh Government’s Vibrant and Viable Places (VVP) programme.

Council Leader, Ali Thomas OBE said:
“The redevelopment of the former Glan Afan Comprehensive school site will provide much needed housing in Port Talbot town centre,
“The Vibrant and Viable Places programme aims to create communities where people can live, work and socialise. This redevelopment, paired with other VVP projects such as the Port Talbot Integrated Transport Hub, will help to enhance the vitality of the town centre.”

For further information contact: Lindsey Williams on 01639 686411 or email a.l.williams@npt.gov.uk.