

Councillor J Williams – Julie.Williams2@rctcbc.gov.uk
Councillor A Cox – Alun.G.Cox@rctcbc.gov.uk

Date/Dyddiad:
14th April 2022

Dear Councillors,

EMPTY PROPERTIES

I refer to part 2 of the petition submitted to the Council.

As you will be aware, Cabinet approved the Porth Town Centre Regeneration Strategy in 2019. Within the Strategy, the Implementation Plan sets out an objective to redevelop existing underused, disused and derelict buildings throughout the town to create modern, housing, office and retail accommodation. Whilst this is a medium-term objective, the Council has begun addressing this issue through a range of interventions.

The Council works closely with Welsh Government to access Placemaking grant, a funding scheme within its Transforming Towns programme. Already, this has enabled a vacant building at 38 Hannah Street be transformed from a dilapidated property into modern, high quality office accommodation with a view to offering flexible desk space and facilities for small business.

Nonetheless, the Council continues to discuss opportunities with private property owners in the town to consider accessing such funds. A Town Centre Maintenance Grant has also been implemented to encourage businesses to offer an attractive and tidy presence in the town, which continues to be available to business owners.

Furthermore, with regards to the properties mentioned, I can confirm that the owner of the former Top Ten Bingo Hall was served with a Section 215 (Maintenance of Land) Notice in February which requires numerous improvements to the building.

The Notice has to be complied with by 15th June. A prosecution can be pursued if the works remain outstanding after the compliance date elapses.

Cont...

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Croesawn ohebu yn Gymraeg a fydd gohebu yn y Gymraeg ddim yn arwain at oedi. Rhowch wybod inni beth yw'ch dewis iaith e.e Cymraeg neu'n ddwyieithog.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh and corresponding with us in Welsh will not lead to a delay. Let us know your language choice if Welsh or bilingual.



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Aside from the Council's enforcement powers, depending on the nature of proposals, the Council is happy to discuss opportunities with private owners for Placemaking grant to bring properties back into beneficial use.

I trust the above is of assistance and would ask that as lead petitioner, you share this response with your fellow petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. James', written in a cursive style.

Derek James
Service Director Prosperity and Development