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Corporate Director of Economy & Environment  
**Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol yr Economi a'r Amgylchedd**

**Nina Davies**  
Head of Housing & Community Development  
**Pennaeth Tai a Datblygu Cymunedol**

**Cyngor Sir Powys County Council**  
Y Gwalia/The Gwalia, Heol Ithon/Ithon Road,  
Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 6AA

**Os yn galw gofynnwch am / If calling please ask for:**

**Enw / Name: Mark Stafford-Tolley**

**Ffôn / Tel: 01597 827677**

**Ebost/Email: mark.stafford-tolley@powys.gov.uk**

**Eich cyf / Your Ref:**

**Ein cyf / Our Ref: HCD/CS/**

**Dyddiad / Date: 22 October 2019**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Countryside Services and Outdoor Recreation manage public rights of way and Access land, as well as a lot of public green space.

As part of our Rights of Way Improvement Plan, I would like to make you aware of the Service's on-going desire to work with Town and Community Councils and other community groups to improve public access. The Service is looking to apply to the Big Lottery (People and Places) funding, which can be found at <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/people-and-places-medium-grants>. There is also a large grant programme (up to £500,000), and this could be considered should there be a lot of interest.

The objective of the project will be to encourage residents to identify public access opportunities, and be proactive in undertaking basic path maintenance and improvements in your locality. Communities will also be able to prioritise the various projects identified as the community sees fit. Improving public access not only has mental and physical benefits for residents, but can also play a significant role in improving opportunities to diversify the local economy such as tourism.

It would be most helpful if you could inform me if you are interested in being part of an application, and if you could include groups and organisations who might like to input at this stage as well as possibly access projects you would like to develop. A key criteria is the ability to prove there is a demand, so if this could be evidenced then that would be appreciated.

The success of the scheme is entirely dependent on volunteers coming forward from the community to identify opportunities, and help undertake works should the project be successful. They can expect enjoyable days out in the countryside in the company of like-minded people undertaking basic maintenance tasks such as vegetation clearance, or path improvements like replacing stiles with gates.

The project will provide any Town or Community Council volunteers with their own tool kits and safety equipment and will supply all materials for the works. Initially, the Community Liaison Officer employed by Countryside Services will be present on site; but the long-

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term aim is to train volunteers and Volunteer Team Leaders to fulfil all the health and safety, pre-planning and on-site requirements in the mid to long term, so the community is not so reliant on the County Council.

This is a grass roots project, and the hope is to strengthen the cohesiveness of communities, by bringing people together to improve public access. With landowners and volunteers all living in the local neighbourhood, it is hoped they may get to know each other better, developing a greater understanding of each other's concerns and mutually looking after each other's interests.

The statutory responsibilities and liabilities will still reside with the County Council, but with a closer working relationship with Town or Community Council's the aspiration is to develop public access provision that will be more focussed and fulfil the demands of your community. As such, it is expected that a Memorandum of Agreement should be entered into to clarify the roles and responsibilities of both the County Council and the Town or Community Council.

Below, is a list of typical subjects that will be contained in the Memorandum of Agreement, but it is not an exhaustive list.

1. Recruiting Volunteers.
2. Training Volunteers/VTL.
3. Insurance and Liabilities.
4. Identifying PRoW to be worked on.
5. Standards of Installation/Work & Competencies.
6. Communication and data sharing between the T&CC and PCC.
7. Diversions/enforcement and general advice on public right of way matters.

Please send expressions of interest to myself at the contact details below by **13<sup>th</sup> December 2019**. We welcome correspondence by post or email. However, if you would like to discuss the details of the project you can contact me via:

Contact details:

Mark Stafford-Tolley  
Countryside Services  
Powys County Council  
The Gwalia  
Ithon Road  
Llandrindod Wells  
LD1 6AA  
01597 827677

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Yours faithfully,



Mark Stafford-Tolley  
Senior Countryside Access Officer