

YSBYTY ENFYS SELWYN SAMUEL SELWYN SAMUEL CENTRE UPDATE

In March 2020, at the beginning of the first COVID19 lockdown, Hywel Dda University Health Board approached Llanelli Town Council to request that the Selwyn Samuel Bowls Centre be provided for provision of an emergency field hospital. The centre has proved to be very important to Hywel Dda University Health Board's ongoing fight against the virus and in early 2021 they requested an extension of the original lease term for a further year to March 2022. The Town Council would have wished to return the centre for use as a bowling facility, however felt that it would be impossible to refuse the Health Board's request for continued support.

The Ysbyty Enfys Selwyn Samuel has been used by the Health Board over the winter and early spring for secondary care of patients. With case numbers and hospitalisations having fallen dramatically since the December peak and currently remaining stable, the decision has been taken to place the hospital into hibernation post June, with the transfer of clinical staff back to their respective acute sites. The site will remain in a position of readiness and they will be able to re-engage the site within 14-21 days should it be required for any third wave or winter pressures on the Health Board.

When the centre was converted to the Ysbyty Enfys Selwyn Samuel, a very limited number of bowling lockers were removed from the site, but nearly all have remained in their original location in the on-site locker room facility. During the last year, the Town Council has occasionally been contacted by bowlers to arrange transfer of equipment to the Town Council offices for collection. This service can be arranged for other club members on request. Other than via these requests, no bowling equipment has been removed from the site without approval.

In order to accommodate internal hospital space, the furniture and hospitality equipment that was in the Selwyn Samuel Centre before the conversion, is stored away from the premises in readiness for return to the Centre at the end of lease agreed with Carmarthenshire County Council / Hywel Dda University Health Board. Discussions have begun with these organisations regarding this process.

With the lease expiring in Spring 2022, we fully expect the bowling centre to be returned to the Town Council in good time for summer activities and the 2022-23 bowling season. We are very much looking forward to the return of our colleagues and friends from the Llanelli Indoor Bowls Club to their home in the centre along with the concessionaire company Anyone Waiting.