



Hello Big Weekenders!

How are you all? **We have decided to go ahead with the Big Weekend but we need your help to make it as safe as possible. If you can't read all of this message – the bits we need your help with are in red.**

On Monday 19th July 25 Carers, volunteers, trustees and staff from Credu came together to decide whether or not to proceed with the Big Weekend event on the 31st July – 1st August. **We were recently informed that Covid cases are rising, particularly in the Newtown area, near Broneirion where we are holding the event. Powys Teaching Health Board are expecting a spike in Covid cases in early August.** This has indeed made us nervous because we are worried about making the situation worse and putting people at risk. However we decided to proceed with caution after considerable discussion. We reflected against the three guiding principles that we have used as 'handrails' throughout the pandemic:

a) Listen to carers as experts in their own lives

Carers and Parents are experts in your own/families lives and you know what is best for you and your family. Therefore we need to be clear that the event does carry risk but we will do everything within our power to make the event as safe as possible. You might decide that the Big Weekend is a reasonable risk when there are much larger gatherings / events and festivals taking place across Wales. These are the measures Credu & the Big Weekend team are going to have in place:

1. **We need everyone of all ages to get a lateral flow test done 24 hours before coming to the event – it is surprisingly easy to get a pack sent to you**
HERE IS THE LINK FOR RAPID FLOW TESTS
<https://gov.wales/get-rapid-lateral-flow-covid-19-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms>
2. Social distancing outside
3. Face masks inside
4. Regular handwashing / sanitising

b) Stay within the law

The event is well within the law and we are taking additional measures to make the event as safe as we can though we cannot guarantee a Covid free event.

5. **By practicing social distancing outside / mask wearing inside / regular handwashing – you are helping us stay within the law.**
- Our numbers are less than the maximum allowed by the law.

c) Do what carers, volunteers and staff feel comfortable with.

No carer / family member / staff member or volunteer should feel obligated to come to the event if you are not comfortable to do so.

- 6) **Please only come along / give permission for your child to come along if you feel comfortable to do so. We cannot guarantee Covid safety, only take the above measures.**



There is still a risk of Covid and it can still have serious consequences such as long covid / serious illness / fatality. You will be fully refunded any costs incurred in the booking if you cancel on these grounds by **26th July**.

- 7) If you are in a dilemma about whether you want to come along and want to talk to someone about it – please speak to your outreach worker or call 01597 823800. We won't advise you. We will be honest about what we know and what we are doing to reduce the risk and we will be a 'sounding board' for you to make the best decision for you and your family.
- 8) Some people are anxious about mixing, others feel great. Please help EVERYONE have a good time by letting us know what would make the event a good experience for you and your unique needs and strengths. Some people are asking for badges to explain that they are autistic for example. There will be quiet areas you can go if you just need some space and you can leave the event whenever you want to. There are free buses arranged for anyone who needs transport. Please book in advance if you would like a space by calling Credu on 01597 823800.

Saturday 31st July 2021. CELTIC TRAVEL

Pick up 9.00 am from Builth Wells Groe car park, Metropole car park, Llandindod Wells 9.15 am and bring to Broneirion Llandinam. Drop off at the car park. Collect from Llandinam car park at 6.00 pm and return to Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells. 52 seater

Sunday 1st August

Collect from Llandinam Car Park at 12 midday and return to Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells. 32 seater.

Saturday 31st July 2021. COOKSONS

Pick up passengers from Town car park (opposite tourist information) Welshpool departing 09.30 and Newtown Back Lane car park (near Oriel Davies gallery) departing 10am to Llandinam car park for day activities. Return at 18.00 back to original pickup points. Full sized coach.

PLEASE NOTE there is a 5 minute walk across the bridge. If you need shuttle transport please let us know.

- 9) **Please let us know by Monday 26th July if you choose not to come to the event to help us organise things**

When you arrive at Broneirion, there will be car parking stewards in yellow high vis jackets and event stewards in pink high vis jackets to support and direct you so we hope you feel comfortable at the outset should you decide to come along.

We hope we are doing the right thing and will hugely appreciate your help in making this event good fun for everyone.