



CJ

PRN 61861

22/03/17

Dumped rubbish at the workhouse in Penlan Road, Carmarthen.

Civic Society say clock is ticking to save workhouse

CALLS are being made to save Carmarthen's workhouse from ruin.

The workhouse in Penlan Road has been on the market for some time and Carmarthen Civic Society says the clock is ticking to save it from falling further into disrepair and an eyesore.

Chair of Carmarthen Civic Society, Linda Jones said: "It would be a huge shame if we are to have a repeat of the Priory Street hospital saga.

"That has taken so many years to sort and caused such bad feeling before a solution was found."

Civic Society member Mary Thorley has also contacted the journal over the state of the workhouse.

She said: "Carmarthen Workhouse was the scene of one of the most impor-

IAN LEWIS

01267 610452
ian.lewis@mediawales.co.uk

tant events in Welsh social history when the Rebecca Rioters stormed the building in June 1843.

"The 4th Light Dragoons were sent for and a cavalry charge took place up Waterloo Terrace.

"This ended the riot and resulted in the prosecution of several rioters."

Speaking about the current situation facing the building she said: "The Carmarthen Civic Society have placed a blue plaque on the building and it is one of the most significant historical sites in the town. Should a visitor to the town see this they would be shocked that we have allowed the site to get into this condition, apart from public health issues."

"How it looks today?

"Rotting, vermin infested rubbish surrounds the building. Almost on a daily basis, windows are smashed and more trash is dumped."

The workhouse was opened in 1837 for 140 inmates. The architect is believed to have been George Morgan who designed many religious and public buildings across Wales.

During the First World

War the workhouse was used as an auxiliary Red Cross Hospital and troops were also stationed there during the Second World War.

The infirmary section, the boiler house and the Gatehouse were first placed up for sale with an asking price of £359,900 in 2015 which had planning consent for conversion, plus the construction of two new dwellings.

