

CYNGOR TREF **LLANIDLOES** TOWN COUNCIL

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Llanidloes
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LLANIDLOES TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Llanidloes Town Council (LTC) is a first-tier local government organisation operating from a base located in the Town Hall, Great Oak Street, Llanidloes. LTC is pleased to present the annual report which focuses on priorities, activities and achievements during the fiscal year ended on 31 March 2026.

Contact Information:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mayor: Councillor Dr J G Hughes

Deputy Mayor: Councillor W D Craig

Councillors:

Councillor Mr A Bennett

Councillor Mr G Davies

Councillor Mrs T Davies

Councillor Mrs K Hawkins-Selly

Councillor Mrs A M Jones

Councillor Mr J Jones

Councillor Mrs E Leguay

Councillor Mr G Macarthur

Councillor Mr A Morel

Councillor Mr G Morgan

Councillor Mrs A Morgan

Councillor Mr G Preston (County Councillor)

Councillors receive no remuneration but are entitled to allowances. In 2025/26 there were 2 non-taxable, mandatory, allowances of £156 (home working) and £52 (consumables). 2 Councillors claimed the former, 3 Councillors claimed the latter, and all confirmed their entitlement for work done. All other allowances, if claimed, are taxable. Apart from the

Mayor's Allowance (£500) which was used for donations, all other allowances were not claimed.

LTC is a member of:

One Voice Wales
Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management
Society of Local Council Clerks (Town Clerk)
PAVO

And is registered with the Information Commissioners Office for Data Protection Act purposes.

REMUNERATED STAFF

Responsible Financial Officer, Town and Cemetery Clerk: Mr David Powell (28 hours per week)

General Operative and Cleaner – Ms C Taylor (28 hours per week)

Caretaker and Groundskeeper: Mr R W Smith (28 hours per week, reduced to 10 hours per week in March 2026)

Cemetery Caretaker: Mr R A Evans (Retired in June 2025 and returned on a 10 hours per week contract)

Gro Toilets Cleaner: Mr R L Sheppard (11 hours per week)

COMMITTEES

Finance, Staffing and Town Hall Committee – Chair: Mayor Dr J G Hughes

Regeneration, Development and Events Committee – Chair: Councillor W D Craig

Environment and Planning Committee: Chair: Councillor A Bennett

Charter Market Committee: Representative: Councillor G Davies

Affiliated Committee – Llanidloes Christmas Lights Committee

TRAINING

LTC produces a published training plan for Councillors and Staff, reviewed annually. All new Councillors undertake an induction course and commit to a Code of Conduct. Most training is provided by One Voice Wales through online courses.

OPERATIONS

LTC owns and/or manages the following properties/areas:

The Town Hall, Great Oak Street, Llanidloes.

An imposing Grade 2 listed building, gifted to the Town by the Davies family in the early 1900's. The Town Hall offices are let to local and national businesses on a combination of long and short-term arrangements. An annual rental income of c£35,000 mitigates the level of precept required from Powys County Council. At the rear of the Town Hall are public toilets owned and managed by the Council. Solar panels are located on the roof to mitigate power

costs. Cost of entry was increased to 50p in May 2025 and LTC subsidised this facility in 2025/26 with c£5,000 (reduced from £10,000 in 2024/25) from cash reserves/precept.

The Old Market Hall, China Street, Llanidloes

A Grade 1 listed building in the centre of Llanidloes owned by LTC and leased to Powys County Council, expiry 2031. The property has recently undergone significant repairs and maintenance, some of which has not been to LTC satisfaction and further work is anticipated during 2026. Additionally, there remains a constant issue with large vehicles causing damage to the roof of the building while passing, despite signage prohibiting their travel, and LTC is expecting to meet with Powys County Council Highways personnel during 2026 to agree a remedy. LTC is hopeful of reopening this building as a tourist attraction during 2026/27.

The Recreation Ground, Llangurig Road: owned by LTC and home to Llanidloes Cricket, Bowling, Croquet and Tennis Clubs. The Clubs are responsible for their individual areas. A children's play area and grass area located within the boundary is the responsibility of LTC.

The Severn Porte: owned by LTC - a public area alongside the River Severn. During 2025/26 the Town Council has continued a tree management programme. Biodiversity is represented by areas collaboratively managed with Zero Carbon Llanidloes.

Skate Park & The Riverside Walk, Penygreen Road: owned by LTC the skate park provides an amenity use for locals and visitors. The riverside walk is alongside the River Severn. The play park adjoining is owned and managed by Powys County Council.

Victoria Avenue Children's Park and Parkland to include the Football Club: owned by LTC although the Football field is the responsibility of Llanidloes Football Club. An orchard was planted in recent years and tree management has been undertaken. LTC, in collaboration with local groups, is hopeful of upgrading the playground during 2026/27.

Allt Goch & Pen yr Allt Woods, Trefeglwys Road: owned by LTC this community woodland lies on the outskirts of the Town, comprising Oak, Sycamore, Beech, Birch, Rowan and many other species of Trees. The woodland provides a diverse habitat for wildlife. Access to the woods is accessible to all. Forest Schools regularly take place in the woods. The woodlands have undergone extensive management over the last 25 years and collaborative work with Tir Coed and Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust continues to add to the biodiverse nature of this valuable piece of the local landscape. Safety inspections and corrective work has continued in 2025/26.

Millenium Garden, Llangurig Road: owned by LTC and managed by a willing group of volunteers. A tranquil garden area used by many for rest and contemplation.

Dolhafren Cemetery, Trefeglwys Road, Llanidloes: owned by LTC this cemetery was managed for over 50 years by a joint committee between LTC and Llanidloes Without Community Council. After an extensive review of the operations during 2023/24 the Committee was dissolved on 31 March 2024 and LTC took over full management and operational requirements on 1 April 2024. LTC approached this responsibility with a commitment to ensure the facility remained open and available to the residents of, and visitors to, Llanidloes. The fee structure was reviewed and LTC believe they have now

secured the future of the facility. A financial assessment indicates the facility is now returning a surplus enabling vital maintenance to be accelerated.

Gro Toilets, Gro Car Park, Llanidloes: a facility owned by Powys County Council and previously operated by Llanidloes Community Services Committee. During 2024/25 a review of operations resulted in management and operational responsibility being transferred to LTC. A 30 year lease of the premises, commencing in March 2025, was secured and LTC is committed to maintaining this facility alongside the Town Hall toilets, as vital services for residents and visitors. The entry cost is 50p. LTC has subsidised the facility during 2025/6 with £5,000 from cash reserves/precept.

Charter Market, Great Oak Street, Llanidloes: the history of the Charter Market can be traced back over many centuries. The market is owned by Powys County Council by virtue of the 1972 and 1994 Local Government Acts. A lease in favour of LTC was renewed in April 2024 at which point the Charter Market Committee commenced reporting to LTC. LTC is committed to ensuring the market is a success, attracting visitors to the town every Saturday.

Library/Museum: located on the ground floor of the Town Hall this facility is leased to Powys County Council who employ the staff. The operating costs are met by LTC resulting in a subsidy of c£5,000 per annum which has been met from cash reserves/precept. LTC remain committed to ensuring this facility remains open and available for residents and visitors.

Christmas Lights: LTC purchased a new set of Christmas lights in 2023/24 with a donation from a local community fund. LTC is responsible for the cost of the annual putting up and taking down of the lights. The Llanidloes Xmas Lights Committee are a collaborative body who work tirelessly to ensure Llanidloes is blessed with a fantastic display each year, attracting people into the town during the festive period. Funding was obtained to upgrade the lights in 2025/26 with £4,500 spent.

Llanidloes Youth Centre – in October 2025 a 25 years lease was acquired from Powys County Council under a Community Asset Transfer at a peppercorn rent. This property had been closed for many years and had suffered from dilapidation. Llanidloes Youth Club relocated to the building and has grown in popularity with the Club now meeting 2 evenings a week. LTC hires out the premises as and when to local organisations and groups. Plans are in course to refurbish and renovate the building during 2026 to ensure maximum economies in energy usage are achieved.

Other assets managed – LTC manages 18 benches/seats and various planters around Llanidloes on a maintenance/management programme.

LTC meets monthly (except August and, possibly, December) and the Mayor, Councillors and the Town Clerk take part in Remembrance Day Services, Welsh Government and Powys County Council consultations, planning applications, resident and visitor enquiries, local network meetings and Cemetery information. The property portfolio attracts maintenance costs and LTC policy is to support local tradespeople/businesses wherever possible.

During 2025/26 LTC held a successful Fayre as well as a triumphant production of the historic play, Pim Diwrnod o Ryddid. This play was held in the open air in Great Oak Street and attracted a significant audience and many complimentary comments.

In March 2026 LTC were pleased to be part of a month long festival of events and activities created to promote Welsh culture in Llanidloes, Cymraeg Amdani Llani. Businesses in the town made considerable efforts to support the event and the finale saw children from Ysgol Gynradd Llanidloes perform with musicians. The festival was lauded as a huge success and has created what is hoped to be lasting boost to Welsh culture in the town and the possibility of an annual event.

FINANCE

LTC is funded through a mechanism known as the 'Precept' which sits alongside other income streams. The precept is a sum of money sourced from Powys County Council annually through an item on the Council Tax charge and results from a rigorous budget process in November/December each year. For the 2025/26 fiscal year LTC predicted a negative budget cash position of c£19k with a precept request of £128,750. This deficit was to enable a reduction in cash resources to be made, resulting in ongoing levels held being below the Precept request. The budget out-turn for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2026 has seen the budgeted £19k excess of expenditure over income achieved. Future budgets will look to achieve a breakeven position. LTC Policy is to attempt to seek any capital costs through various grant sources.

LTC has a reserves policy of requiring an amount equivalent to between 3/6 months costs to be held in General Reserve and £57k is invested in a near cash, low risk, investment with CCLA in the Public Sector Deposit Fund.

A calculation is undertaken each year of the Band D equivalent cost of the Precept and this is shown below.

2020/21	<u>160,680</u> 1195.81	£134.37 equivalent to Band D Property
2021/22	<u>118,540</u> 1193.32	£99.34 equivalent to Band D Property
2022/23	<u>118,540</u> 1218.94	£97.25 equivalent to Band D Property
2023/24	<u>119,000</u> 1222.47	£97.34 equivalent to Band D Property
2024/25	<u>125,000*</u> 1227.66	£101.82 equivalent to Band D Property
*Should result in a reduction in cash reserves of c£28k.		
2025/26	<u>128,750*</u> 1235.20	£104.23 equivalent to Band D Property
*Should result in a reduction in cash reserves of c£19k.		
2026/27	<u>132,000</u> 1248.57	£105.72 equivalent to Band D Property

AUDIT

LTC is subject to annual internal and external audits with outcomes published on the web site. The 2025/26 internal audit has just been finalised and the final report from the auditor is awaited. A full (triannual) external audit by Audit Wales was undertaken in 2024/25 with the results posted on the LTC website. A basic audit for 2025/26 will be undertaken during June 2026.

GRANTS

LTC has the ability to make small grants available to local organisations under S137 of The Local Government Act 1972 and during 2024/25 the following were supported:

Llanidloes Carnival -	500.00
Marianna Maximouse t/as Rixi Dance -	200.00
Llanidloes Chamber of Trade -	200.00
The Wilderness Trust re Youth Event -	200.00
Aztec Print re Guided Walks Leaflets -	190.00
Total	- £1,290.00

LTC made a quasi-donation of £2,620 to Llanidloes Community Transport (Dial A Ride) during the year through rent rebate for the office and parking spaces at the Town Hall. LTC makes a monthly donation of supplies (c£40) to Llani Pantri (foodbank).

LTC encourages local organisations to submit requests for grant funding – these are considered in May and November annually.

SUMMARY

This is the second annual report prepared by the Council. It is produced with a desire for transparency in our work on behalf of the residents of Llanidloes. The Council has limited powers but will always try to assist with enquiries where possible or direct requests to the appropriate channels.

2025/26 was a financially successful year with budget achieved alongside which the Council undertook various projects across the estate. LTC has a policy of managing the precept by ensuring outside income sources are maximised, cash resources are used to invest to save and the estate remains a considerable asset to the town of Llanidloes.

For the future LTC is committed to acquiring Community Assets where it can add value whilst ensuring such assets remain available for the community.

LTC would welcome any feedback on this report or any other Town Council matters.

Mayor Dr J G Hughes

David Powell, Town Clerk