

CYNGOR TREF **LLANIDLOES** TOWN COUNCIL

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SY18 6BN

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LLANIDLOES TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 INCLUDING BIODIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS DUTY (Part 1, Section 6, Environment (Wales) Act 2016)

Llanidloes Town Council (LTC) is a third-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 2025.

Contact Information:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mayor: Councillor Mr Jamie Jones

Deputy Mayor: Councillor Doctor J G Hughes

Councillors:

Councillor Mr A Bennett
Councillor Mr W D Craig
Councillor Mr G Davies
Councillor Mrs T Davies
Councillor Mrs K Hawkins-Selly
Councillor Mrs A M Jones
Councillor Mrs E Leguay
Councillor Mr G Macarthur
Councillor Mr A Morel
Councillor Mr G Morgan (County Councillor)
Councillor Mrs A Morgan
Councillor Mr G Preston (County Councillor)

Councillors receive no remuneration but are entitled to allowances. In 2024/25 there were 2 non-taxable, mandatory, allowances of £156 (home working) and £52 (consumables), claimed by 4 Councillors who 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

REMUNERATED STAFF

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

Caretaker and Groundskeeper: Mr R W Smith (28 hours per week)
Cemetery Caretaker: Mr R A Evans (full time)
Gro Toilets Cleaner: Mr R L Sheppard (11 hours per week)
Cemetery Clerk: Mrs S E Owen (until October 2024).

COMMITTEES

Finance, Staffing and Town Hall Committee – Chair: Councillor 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

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 is 20p and LTC subsidised this facility in 2024/25 with c£10,000 from cash reserves/precept. Entry cost remains under review.

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 and the Town Council is hopeful of reopening this building as a tourist attraction during 2025/26.

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. During 2024/25 various maintenance issues were addressed.

The Severn Porte: owned by LTC - a public area alongside the River Severn. During 2024/25 the Town Council has continued a tree management programme and installed a new bench to be dedicated to the volunteers and essential workers who kept the public safe during the Covid 19 pandemic. 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 2025/26.

Allt Goch 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.

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.

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, has been secured and LTC is committed to maintaining this facility alongside the Town Hall toilets, as vital

services for residents and visitors. The entry cost of 40p is under review as LTC has subsidised the facility during 2024/25 with £7,000 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 remains 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 in to the town during the festive period.

LTC meets monthly (except August) and 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 is planning a Llanidloes Autumn Fayre (September) which will sit alongside other events planned at the same time. Further information on this new event will be published in due course.

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. In 2024/25 LTC predicted a negative budget cash position of c£28,000 with a precept request of £125,000 which was designed to bridge the gap between C£75k of income (rental, cemetery, etc) and £228k of expenditure. The £28k reduction was met from cash resources and it is LTC policy to manage the precept each year by utilising cash resources if available. The budget outcome for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2025 has seen a £4k excess of expenditure over income - £24k better than expected, however £18k of non-recurring income was received (rates refund & return of funds from Cemetery Committee Account closure) so net result was £6k better than expected. LTC has a reserves policy of requiring an amount equivalent to between 3/6 months costs to be held in General Reserve and £55k 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£20k.		

AUDIT

LTC is subject to annual internal and external audits with outcomes published on the web site. The 2024/25 internal audit has just been finalised and the final report from the auditor is awaited. A full (triannual) external audit by Audit Wales will commence shortly with submission of information required by 7 August 2025. The external audit report for 2023/24, submitted in July 2024, is awaited back from Audit Wales.

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 Explorer Scouts	- £200.00
Llanidloes Carnival	- £250.00
Quilt Association	- £200.00
Twinning Association	- £500.00
Llani Live	- £500.00
Montgomeryshire YFC	- £100.00
Llanidloes Croquet Club	- £200.00
1 st Llanidloes Scout Group	- £100.00
Llanidloes Chamber of Trade	- £200.00
Rotary Club re Fireworks Insurance	- £181.69
Total	- £2,431.69

LTC made a donation of £2,620 to Llanidloes Community Transport (Dial A Ride) during the year.

LTC makes a monthly donation of supplies (c£40) to Llani Pantri (foodbank).

LTC previously supported the local Rugby Hub Officer at a cost of £1,000 per annum although this position has now ceased.

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

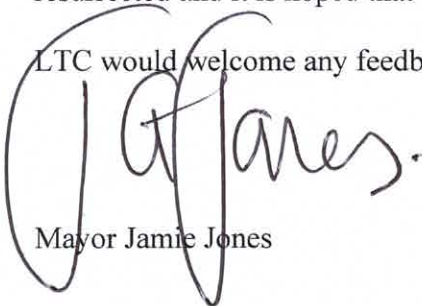
SUMMARY

This is the first 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.


2024/25 was a financially successful year as the Council undertook various projects across the estate. The Council 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. During 2024/25 the iconic Town Hall Clock was fitted with an auto wind mechanism (with the traditional 2 minutes fast chime factored in) at a cost of £8,800, funded from cash reserves. This has saved staff time and removed a laborious task.

For the future LTC is committed to acquiring Community Assets where available and ensuring such assets remain available for the community. Llanidloes Youth Centre building is currently proceeding through this process and the hope is that during 2025/26 this will become a reality. The project to install a much needed lift in the Town Hall has been resurrected and it is hoped that will progress during 2025/26.

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



Mayor Jamie Jones



David Powell, Town Clerk