

Cyngor Tref Caereinion Llanfair

Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

UPDATES JANUARY 2025

1.Introduction

This is a general update on the Council's activities, a report from the Town Clerk on activities and progress on projects. Weekly inspections of all the council's sites are completed and logged on the website under documents and inspections.

2.Financial

2.1 Management accounts

The management accounts up to 31st December 2024 have been prepared. The bank balances are being reported to council at each meeting. The external audit to 31st March 2024 has been submitted but the report is still awaited.

Any councillor wishes to see the accounts and paperwork should contact the Town Clerk who will make them available.

2.2.Audit

The 2025 audit (3 year full audit) will be looking at:

- i) The Independent Review Panel for Wales returns.
- ii) The council Health Check.
- iii) The provision of Hybrid facilities for council meetings.

2.3 Grants

The current grant aid is as follows:

- i) £3,000 remaining in the Youth Club grant (£9,980 originally)
- i) £17,000 grant from PCC - Place Making Plan.
- ii) £3,375 grant for Deri Woods.

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Applications

Grant aid money is currently being researched for:

- i) Tennis Court refurbishment
- ii) Path through St Mary's churchyard
- iii) Deri Woods car park
- iv) Mount Field car park
- v) Youth Club support
- vi) Hybrid facilities

3. Governance

3.1 Training

The training plan (as required by law) has been completed. Councillors are informed of training courses from time to time as offered by One Voice Wales.

3.2 Administration

All records and filing are pretty much up to date and in files clearly marked. Private and confidential files are kept in the top drawer of one of the filing cabinets which is locked. A list of codes for computers, emails, accounts etc is kept.

3.3 Inspections

All property of the council is inspected every week and recorded under 'inspections' on the website.

3.4 Bylaws

The new bylaws have been sent to Powys for approval, no news to date.

3.5 Health Check

Guidance has been issued encouraging town and community councils to complete the extensive health check. The idea is to seek any weaknesses so that they can be addressed. A Health Check for Llanfair Caereinion Town Council has been completed and issued to councillors.

It does identify some actions which are set out on the next page.

- a) A website with a .gov or .wales domain.
- b) Separate emails for all linked to the website domain.
- c) An emergency plan for Llanfair.
- d) Some missing risk assessments.

Work has started on all of the above with the aim to complete them by 31st March 2025.

3.6 Risk assessments

The Health Check has identified some extra documents to be put in place which are:

- i) Data retention and audit
- ii) Emergency plan
- iii) Stress risk assessment

The above has been drafted ready for the council to consider soon.

4.Youth

4.1 General

The youth club is going well with a good regular attendance in the younger group and a growing group in the older section. More volunteers needed and work on this is taking place.

4.2 Staffing

At present we employ a youth worker (part time) and he is supported by three volunteers (two of which are relatives). Contact has been made to PAVO to seek more volunteers.

All volunteers and staff have been DBS checked where required.

4.3 Financial

The current arrangement is covered by grant aid for another 9 months. All has been allowed for in the budget set by Council in November 2024 (year to 31st March 2026)

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4.4 Tuck shop

The youth club has a self-funding tuck shop selling canned or bottled drinks, prepacked sweets etc. All dates are checked regularly.

4.5 Accommodation

The Youth Room is becoming too small for the numbers attending youth club. Alternatives are being investigated including the Cadet HQ.

4.6 Youth club risk assessment

The youth club risk assessment is posted on the council website.

4.7 Youth Council

The Youth Council (following a recent council decision) is now operating within the youth club. The youth area consulted when subjects that affect them come forward.

5. Mount Field (Trust)

5.1 Posts and high fence

The works to replace two posts at the far end of the site are yet to be arranged. One is more urgent than the other.

5.2 Car park

The car park has several potholes which are enlarging. Consideration to some remedial works being given within the 2024/2025 financial year. A grant has been applied for to create a better car park.

5.3 Signage

New signage to be considered once the bylaws have been finalised.

6. Erw Ddwr

6.1 Tree works at Erw Ddwr

A tree report has been received and various minor works to trees will need to take place at some point.

There has been a resident asking if we are going to control the yew tree roots causing damage to graves. Yew trees are preserved and any works to roots would not gain consent.

6.2 Burial records

All burial records are up to date.

6.3 Tidying the site

A new 'rubbish this way' signs have been installed.

Repairs will be needed to the rubbish compound over the next twelve months. Rob Isaac is looking at this.

6.4 Grass and hedge cutting

All under control.

7. Section 137 works

7.1 Land by Fish and Chip shop

The flower beds at the above have been tidied. There is one paving slab that needs re-setting – this is on the maintenance list for completion.

8. Chapel of Rest

8.1 Double doors to the side

The double doors to the side of the chapel of rest have been repaired. They are now to be re-stained to prolong the life of the doors.

8.2 Gate to front of Chapel of Rest

The gate to the road needs to be replaced. This is on the maintenance list for action.

8.3 Electric supply

The electricity bills have been high. To monitor this the cooling unit has been turned off. The last bill was half the more recent amounts. Meter is being checked.

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9. St Mary's Churchyard

9.1 Path

Quotes have been sought for resurfacing the path from the telephone box to the toilets. Two quotes been gained.

It is hoped that the path can be completed alongside the High Street works.

9.2 Lychgate

The cross for the top of the Lychgate is with the Chair. A bracket is to be made so that the cross can be placed on the beam on the lychgate.

9.3 Church Clock

The Friends of Llanfair Clock have completed raising funds to restore the clock and all is now working. There is just the final accounts audit to complete the mission.

9.4 Graveyard proposals

There are two parts to a proposed plan for the churchyard:

- i) The WI have asked for a special area for young children who have died very early.
- ii) The RBI are looking for a home for their information stands.

The Town Clerk is meeting both parties on site to prepare a plan for the council to look at.

9.5 Boundary wall – adjacent to the chapel

The retaining wall by the chapel has been inspected and measured. Pictures are also being taken each month. The movement of the wall is not extensive but will need monitoring to see if it is moving at this time.

10. Deri Woods/Goat Field

10.1 General maintenance

The Town Clerk does visit site every two months to meet the FODW volunteers to offer support for the work that they do.

The general maintenance is progressing with the Friends of Deri Woods. They are working to an agreed plan with the Council. The meadow is progressing and some tree thinning has been completed. A request to meet to discuss the next stages has been received from the FODW.

The tree thinning planned has been completed.

10.2 Grant aid

Grant Aid has been gained by the FODW and the council for much of the recent works in the woods. This included the tree thinning, non-slip steps, meadow planting, training etc. The grant totalled £3,375.

The invoice for paying over the grant with receipts has been submitted to PCC.

10.3 Storm Darragh and damage

The storm damage to Deri Woods was extensive. The woods were closed from the day after the storm until 31st December. The woods have re-opened except for the riverside path where the landslip took place.

The damage and actions taken are listed on this chart.

Ref	Damage	Actions
1	Trees along top and middle path fallen	Trees cut up and areas made safe by Bridgen Contracting
2	Trees along the riverside plan fallen	Trees cut up and areas made safe by Bridgen Contracting
3	Landslip on riverside path	Area closed off. Plan required as to what we do next.

The areas that are restricted have barriers and signs. (thanks to Rob and Gareth for their work to date on this).

Timber is due to be removed from site (some funding from its sale) during the first week in February.

Things to note:

Insurances

Deri Woods has its own separate insurance policy. This covers third party and injury. It also covers the pumping station building and fences. The tree part of the policy is only for damage caused by fire or people working on site.

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The landslip is not covered by insurance. Storm damage to woods is not something that insurance companies normally do.

Fencing works

There is insurance in place for fences. However, it maybe not worth claiming as the wood is on site and the FODW maybe able to complete most of the work.

Riverside path

There have been other areas which have fallen away in the past and there are bridges over these areas. An assessment of the path will need to be completed so that the landslip area can be addressed.

Funding

The cost of repairs (council was aware of the quote) maybe around £5,000. The budget has £3,600 for street cleaning which has not been used. This could be moved to help cover the cost of Deri Woods.

It was agreed Cllr Rob Astley with Cllr Sam Webster who see how we progress keeping the Town Clerk informed. Thank you to all involved.

10.4 Car park

The car park has several potholes which are increasing. Consideration to some remedial works being given. A grant application has been made to improve the car park area. It maybe worth (money is in the budget) sweeping the car park (not been done for at least 3 years).

11. Public Toilets

11.21 Toilet rolls

It appears that ladies visiting the toilets like to 'nick' our toilet rolls.

11.22 Painting on internal men's toilet door

The paintwork on the men's cubicle door has failed in two places. The contractor who did the work has been asked to remedy.

12. Playgrounds

12.1 Glenafton Playground

No issues with the playground at present. Annual inspection has taken place and report is due to be with us in the next month.

Bear bins are working, much less litter around the bins and play areas.

13. Tennis Courts

13.1 Works planned

White lining for the start of the season to be completed.

Painting of the posts holding the nets to be done to prevent rust.

14. Street scene

14.1 Seating and bin (A483 & Bridge Street)

Instructions to the contractor to complete works have been issued. Work will be completed when the weather allows.

14.2 Street cleaning

The council has allowed for some street cleaning starting in the current financial year.

Powys County Council is interested in helping us get up and running. See 'sustainable Powys at no 19.

15. Projects

15.1 Tourism display boards

All tourism display boards are in place. A booklet is to be considered.

15.2 Trim trail (grant funded)

This has been installed.

16. Planning and development

16.1 Lorry traffic through town

Discussions continue. A meeting with Bute Energy is planned for 27th January with the council when more details will be available..

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16.2 Transmission line Cefn Coch to Frankton (Shrewsbury)

There have been various announcements. The important one is that National Grid is looking to complete the statutory consultation in the spring of 2025. The connection route is very similar to the last proposed line.

16.3 Planning applications

All planning applications which are within or affect the town council area are reported to Council. When planning decisions are published these are also reported to Council.

17. Plans and monitoring

17.1 Place Making Plan

This plan has been funded by a PCC grant. The purpose of the plan is to give some direction with regard to regeneration and also to aid future funding. The plan has taken longer than envisaged for various reasons.

The consultants are meeting the council over the next stage on Monday 20th January..

17.2 The annual Town Plan and other plans reporting

An annual review of the action plan takes place at the annual meeting. The Town Plan remains in place alongside the Place Making Plan but will need some revision so that they dovetail.

18. Publicity

18.1 Website

The website is updated every few days and meets government guidelines. However the Council Health Check identifies the need for a .gov or .wales domain and council email addresses for councillors.

18.2 Chronicle

The next issue of the Chronicle is mid February.

Quotes are being gained from other providers for comparison. This work is under way.

19. Powys County Council

19.2 Leisure Centre

There is a potential meeting with PCC regarding the future of the centre. More news when we know it.

19.3 Yellow Line Review

Powys County Council has confirmed the likelihood of anything happening is low.

19.4 Sustainable Powys

Meeting involving Town and Community Council Clerks and the Chief Executive was held in February 2024. We were told that from 2026 the County Council was moving towards only doing what it has a duty to do. Other services would have to be provided differently and by others or they would be lost.

A meeting was held in October (Welshpool) and January (Newtown) which both Cllr Stephen Purser and the Clerk attended.

Apart from a presentation on the council finances and stating again what the Chief Executive alluded to there was little to take out of the meeting. Powys is looking to pass over services but is not wishing to identify anything at this time. The other county councils in Wales are a little more advanced.

The council will soon have to consider what it wishes to do alongside PCC. There is another meeting planned in the 'spring' when we will know more.

20. Town defibrillators

The town defibrillators are checked every week and recorded on the national database.

Rhiwhiriaeth village hall has its new defibrillator in place. Investigation into another unit at the top of the Gibbet is ready for presentation to the council in January 2025.

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22. Llanfair Partnership

The next meeting of the partnership is planned to be part of the Place Making Plan consultation..

23. Events

23.1 Christmas Lights

All went well with new lights and indoor event equipment now in place.

25. Buses

There is a consultation on the final bus timetables for Powys which they are looking to introduce later this year.

There are improvements for Llanfair Caereinion including an early bus to Welshpool and two later back to Llanfair from Welshpool.

The Town Clerk has ensured that those who use the buses are aware of the changes.

26. Update on council plan from the annual meeting

See appendix A for an update.

Robert Robinson

Town Clerk

January 2025

COUNCIL PLAN FOR 2024-2025

APPENDIX A

Proposed activity programme 2024-2025	Status
Place Making Plan for Llanfair to be completed (grant aid funded)	In production
Complete and start street cleaning project	Not commenced
Replacement of part of top rail on Mount Field side of Mount Field	Completed
At far end of field post required as leaning and broken off at base	Leaning a little more, needs to be replaced.
New signage at Mount Field	New bylaws with PCC, once approved signage can be completed.
Repair to car park surface at Deri Woods and Mount Field	Ongoing.
Works of repair at Deri Woods and Goat Field to paths, steps and railings to continue	Ongoing
Replace cross on top of Lychgate	Awaiting bracket to allow fixing.
Minor tree works to Erw Ddwr	Tree report gained ready for decision.
Complete town street furniture painting project	Planned for January 2025
Fitness Trail installation	Completed
Progress to seek grant aid to help with tennis court resurfacing	Ongoing.
Complete Book start Day for reception class at Llanfair	Council to consider if they wish to host a book start day
Completion of installation of Tourism Maps	Completed
Continue with progress proposals to take lorries out of the town.	Ongoing
Complete Christmas Lights plan and implement for December 2024	Completed
Banwy Estate Land asset transfer	Further information requested from PCC solicitors, awaited.

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Other items completed to date in the current financial year include:

Activity	Status
WI & RBL projects in St Mary's churchyard	Ongoing
Deri Woods works (storm damage)	Ongoing
New benches for Deri Woods	Both new benches delivered to site
Complete Council Health Check for Audit	Completed
Hybrid meeting VDU equipment	Ongoing
Council health check	Completed