

Cyngor Tref Caereinion Llanfair

Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

UPDATES – October 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 30th September 2025 have been prepared. The bank balances are being reported to council at each meeting.

Any councillor wishes to see the accounts and paperwork should contact the Town Clerk who will make them available. The current funds available to the council are £102,773.38p.

2.2.Financial review

The council has identified future calls on its finances. A review of policy on spending over the next few years is to be completed.

2.3 Grants

The grant aid in the current year is as follows:

- i) £3,000 remaining in the Youth Club grant for year ending 31st March 2026.
(£9,980 originally)
- ii) Result of Deri Woods (TWIG) grant awaited.

Applications

Grant aid money is currently being researched for:

- i) Town Trail
- ii) Youth Club (when the Children in Need programme is open)
- iii) Feasibility Study for Morgan's Yard
- iv) Hybrid meeting equipment

3. Governance

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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. The Town Clerk does complete training on a regular basis to keep up to date to aid good advice.

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 are ready for approval, no news to date. Once formally approved the signage review (particularly at Mount Field) can be completed.

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. The only item outstanding is the hybrid meetings section.

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. Youth Club recommenced following the summer holidays in the middle of September.

4.2 Staffing

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

All volunteers and staff have been DBS checked where required. Renewal required in 2026.

4.3 Financial

The current arrangement is covered by grant aid for another 6 months. All has been allowed for in the budget set by Council in November 2024 (year to 31st March 2026)

4.4 Governance

The Youth Club is now within the Youth and Community organisation with the council operating as corporate trustee. The arrangements are similar to that of the Deri Woods and Mount Field charities with the council giving a grant to cover the costs which are in turn reclaimed.

4.5 Tuck shop

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

4.6 Youth club risk assessment

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

5. Mount Field (Trust)

5.1 Posts and high fence

The works to replace two posts at the far end of the site are completed.

5.2 Car park

The car park has several potholes which are enlarging.

Some ballast is being arranged for delivery to help with this.

5.3 Signage

New signage to be considered once the bylaws have been finalised which is due to take place at the October council meeting.

5.4 CCTV

The council has resolved to pay a grant towards new CCTV following the most recent vandalism. Awaiting invoice.

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5.5 Litter bins

The council has agreed to provide a new litter bin for the main stand to be maintained by the football club. The new bin is in place.

5.6 Grazing field

Due to misuse of the land for dog walking, NO DOGS signs have been put in place.

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.

6.2 Burial records

All burial records are up to date in the main book but the records file can not be brought up to date until the auditors have finished with the said file.

6.3 Site rubbish

New green wheelie-bin ordered to provide a refuse for rubbish from the site. This has been chased up.

7. Section 137 works

7.1 St Marys churchyard

The new sign to the well has been completed.

8. Chapel of Rest

8.1 Gate to front of Chapel of Rest

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

8.2 Cooling unit

The cooling unit has been serviced.

9. St Mary's Churchyard

9.1 Path

Still awaiting Powys County Council actions – not on their urgent list.

9.2 Lychgate

The cross for the top of the Lychgate is to be refixed in place. This work is complete.

9.3 Graveyard bench and sign

The refurbishment of the sign to St Mary's Well is to be refurbished and relocated. This work has been completed.

9.4 Memorial garden scheme

£2,000 has been allocated.

Scheme being actioned by Cllr Sam Webster and the Town Clerk. The benches have been ordered, the stone acquired, the sculpture acquired, paving to be arranged.

9.5 Boundary wall – adjacent to the chapel

The retaining wall by the chapel has been inspected and measured. The movement of the wall is not extensive but is being monitored.

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.

10.2 Grant aid

Grant Aid is being sought for works to drainage, tree management, paths, signage, digital work and improvements to the entrance to The Goat Field. The grant aid application result is awaited.

10.3 Car park

The car park has several potholes which are increasing. Council has agreed to purchase some loads of ballast which is to be arranged.

11. Public Toilets

11.21 Lighting

The lighting to illuminate the footpath are very bright. A review of this is to take place.

12. Glenafton Playground

12.1 Litter

Bear bins are working, much less litter around the bins and play areas. The slide needs new timber edging – work to be placed soon.

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21.2 Slide

The timber edging to the main slide need replacing. Works to be arranged.

21.3 Fence along public footpath

There are 4 fence posts that need replacing. Works to be arranged.

13. Tennis Courts

13.1 Works planned

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

Some works to remove trees and growth due to weather conditions is being undertaken by Cllrs Paul Wixey and Melvin Jones.

14. Street scene

14.1 Seating and bin (A483 & Bridge Street)

Instructions to the contractor to complete the painting works have been issued.

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. Information on what it involves still awaited from PCC – this is expected by 2th October.

15. Projects

15.1 Tourism display boards

All tourism display boards are in place. A booklet is to be taken forward alongside the Town Trail.

16. Planning and development

16.1 Lorry traffic through town

Discussions continue. A meeting with Bute Energy was held to gain information, the council has considered what it would like to see with regards to lorries and the town centre. An update from Bute Energy is to be sought.

16.2 Transmission line Cefn Coch to Frankton (Shrewsbury)

The statutory consultation has been completed. We now await the next stage which will be the planning application.

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

A Place Making Plan committee is now meeting to take things forward. The council has resolved to advance parts of the plan and funding for feasibility studies is now to be sought. The minutes of the committee meetings are circulated to all members.

17.2 The annual Town Plan and other plans reporting

An annual review of the action plan takes place at the annual meeting. The Planning and Policy Plan is in place alongside the Place Making Plan which sets out council policy.

18. Publicity

18.1 Website

The website is updated every few days and meets government guidelines. Councils have been reminded that all papers for a public council meeting are to be included on the web site not just the agenda.

18.2 Chronicle

The November Chronicle was ready for distribution on 17th October so that the road closures information is out in time. Extra copies have been provided this time around due to demand for the road closure information.

19. Powys County Council

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. No further information on this has come forward.

There is another meeting on Thursday 27th November at the Livestock Market – Cllr Stephen Purser and the Town Clerk will attend.

The council will soon have to consider what it wishes to do alongside PCC.

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19.5 Review of Town and Community Councils

The local council review has been completed and among the 11 recommendations two are being implemented over the next 12 months. They are:

- a) A review of the audit system for local councils – the external audit to be less onerous.
- b) Addressing behaviour's – councillors being required to attend a code of conduct course to try and ensure councillors know what they must do and what to avoid with reference to behaviour. This is due to so many town and community councils having unrest of some sort.

The implementation of other recommendations will follow which includes town and community councils working together or combing to enable better delivery of services.

20. Town defibrillators

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

21. Llanfair Partnership

The next meeting of the partnership is planned for the early in the new year.

22. Christmas Lights

The Christmas Lights plan for 2025 is now in place. Orders have been placed for the essential items such as entertainment, presents for children etc.

23. Buses

The introduction of the new bus timetables has not been the best. Things appear to be settling down a little now. Revisions to bus routes are taking place during the Watergate Street works.

24. Countryside footpaths and bridleways

An approach by PCC has been made to seek council involvement in looking after volunteers for maintenance of the above. No action is being taken until we have a response to the request to be part of the Welshpool area. Currently we are in with Kerry, Caersws, Carno etc.

25. Speeding in town

The council has resolved to purchase a speed camera for checks by volunteers. We are still awaiting the Police to move things forward. Apparently they are still completing a review of how this is to be done in the future and are not willing to progress until that is complete.

26. Minor works list

The minor works list is noted below:

Ref	Location	Works	Organised by	Status
1	Mount Field	Replacement of posts end of field.	Cllr R Astley	Completed
2	Deri woods/Mount Field	Bags of scalpings to be delivered to each site to fill potholes	Cllr G Jones	Awaited
3	St Mary's Churchyard	Make bracket and fix to front of Lychgate.	Cllr R Astley	Completed
4	St Mary's Churchyard	Move and repair sign to the well.	Cllr R Astley	Completed
5	St Mary's Churchyard	Resurface footpath through grounds.	Town Clerk and Cllr G Jones	Ongoing
6	Junction Bridge Street/A458	Painting of bench and bin at junction.	Town Clerk	Contractor instructed
7	Playground	Replace timber edging to steps and path to slide.	Town Clerk	Awaiting contractor
8	Erw Ddwr	New rubbish bin via PCC.	Town Clerk	Ordered and chased up
9	St Mary's Churchyard	Complete Memorial Garden project.	Town Clerk & Cllr Sam Webster	Seats ordered, stone arranged, sculpture received,
10	Mount Field	Extra 'no dogs' signs to be place around Mount Field	Town Clerk	Completed
11	St Mary's Churchyard	Paving in churchyard to memorial garden project		To be arranged
12	Deri Woods	Riverside path and washed out path reinstatement.	Town Clerk	Awaiting grant application result
13	Chapel of Rest	Repair gate and apply preservative on front fence.	Town Clerk	Contractor awaited
14	Toilets	Jetwash area around toilets		Contractor instructed
15	Mount Field	New litter bin to b e installed by main football club stand.	Town Clerk	Completed
16	Tennis Courts	Strim car park side of tennis courts.	Town Clerk	Contractor awaited
17	Tennis Courts	Remove undergrowth around tennis courts.	Cllr R Astley & Cllr M Jones	Contractor instructed
18	Playground	4 fence posts along footpath need replacing.	Town Clerk	Contractor awaited
19	Deri Woods	Refix dog poo bag dispenser	Town Clerk	Completed
19	Tennis Courts	Paint posts holding up nets to stop any rust effects.		Contractor awaited

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Exhibit 2: Qualified audit opinions 2022-23

Income/expenditure	Number of councils	Audits completed	Qualified Opinions	Qualified opinions % of completed audits	Full audits completed	Qualified Opinions Full audits	Qualified Opinions % of full audits
Less than £10,000	209	191	104	54%	62	37	60%
£10,001 - £20,000	142	125	72	58%	37	23	62%
£20,001 - £50,000	155	146	58	40%	48	21	44%
£50,001 - £100,000	81	77	35	45%	26	16	62%
£100,001 - £200,000	67	63	36	57%	19	15	79%
More than £200,000	83	79	32	41%	24	13	54%
Total	737	681	337	49%	216	125	58%

Source: Audit Wales analysis of 2022-23 audit outcomes. These include councils where the audit work has been completed but are to be reviewed prior to certification. The proposed draft opinions are subject to review before issue to councils.