



Llandrindod Wells Town Council

Annual Report

2022/23

Old Town Hall
Temple Street
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5DL

Email: clerk@llandrindodtowncouncil.co.uk

Telephone: 01597 823116

Website: <https://www.llandrindodwellstowncouncil.co.uk/>

Introduction

Contact

The Council rents office space within the Old Town Hall in Llandrindod Wells and the contact for the Council is the Town Clerk (Jane Johnston PSLCC, CiLCA (Wales)).

Meetings

The Council meets remotely on the third Tuesday of each month, with the exception of August, unless urgent business arises. Some in person meetings take place and provide the hybrid facility which is now part of legislation for Town & Community Councils.

The Council

The Town Council consists of fifteen Members (Councillors) covering five wards as follows

North Ward	Five members
South 1 Ward	Two members
South 2 Ward	Four members
East Ward	Two members
West Ward	Two members.

A link to ward details can be found – <https://www.llandrindodwellstowncouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Ward-Map.pdf>

Councillors contact details are available on the link below - <https://www.llandrindodwellstowncouncil.co.uk/councillors/>

The Council elects a Chair/Mayor and a Vice Chair/Deputy Mayor at the council's annual meeting in May. The Council is supported by one member of staff; the Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer who is currently Jane Johnston, PSLCC, CiLCA (Wales).

Training & Development

The Council actively promotes training opportunities for members and the Clerk this ensures that the Council has the strongest possible base for carrying out its work. Some of the training undertaken is listed below:

- Induction to Council
- Code of Conduct
- Chairing Skills
- Planning
- Manual Handling
- The Councillor
- The Council
- Local Government Finance
- Governor Hearings Training
- Understanding Data
- Community Engagement
- Diversity & Equality
- Fuel Poverty
- Climate Change

The Clerk continues to access training whenever possible and has attended the following training:

- Health & Safety
- Fuel Poverty
- Planning
- Manual Handling
- COSHH
- Civility and Respect: Uncovering the Issues for the Public Sector
- Community Engagement II
- Chiring Skills
- Time to Talk About Mental Health
- Effective Staff Management
- Carbon Literacy Training

Members

The following members served on the Council during 2022/23:

Cllr Laurence Weerdmeester Price	North Ward	Chair/Mayor
Cllr Wade Curzon	North Ward	Vice Chair/Deputy Mayor
Cllr Jamie Jones	North Ward	
Cllr Steve Deeks-D'Silva	North Ward	Co-opted
Vacancy	North Ward	
Cllr Marcia Morgan	South 1 Ward	
Cllr Kerry Evans	South 1 Ward	Resigned
Cllr David Markinson	South 1 Ward	Co-opted
Cllr Jill Shaw	South 2 Ward	
Cllr Kim Nicholls	South 2 Ward	
Cllr Steve Sims	South 2 Ward	
Vacancy	South 2 Ward	
Cllr Jonathan Jones	East Ward	
Cllr Jase Hawker	East Ward	Resigned
Vacancy	East Ward	
Cllr Sian Meredudd	West Ward	
Cllr Benjamin Williams	West Ward	

Committees

The Council operates a committee structure with the following committees currently in place:

- Personnel & Staffing
- Employment Appeals
- Finance
- Policies & Procedures
- Skate Park
- Princes Avenue Leisure Park
- Crabtree Green Allotments
- Festive Lighting
- Temple Chambers

Task & Finish Groups

The Council also has several Task & Finish Groups which focus on particular projects which are important to the town and its residents, each group is led by one individual member of the Council and supported by other members.

During 2022/23 the following groups were in place:

- Friends of Lake Park – Cllr Steve Sims
- Llandrindod Wells in Bloom – Cllr Jamie Jones
- Future Banking Provision – Cllr Marcia Morgan

Services & Facilities

Llandrindod Wells Town Council provides the following services & facilities:

- Town Council Office
- Temple Chambers
- Station Crescent Public Toilets
- Lakeside Public Toilets
- Crabtree Green Allotments
- Princes Avenue Leisure Park
- Skate Ramp Half Pipe
- Wooden Adventure Trail
- Oxford Road Recreational Field
- The Bandstand
- Nurture our Nature Garden (Temple Gardens)
- Hanging Baskets
- Town Planters and Flowerbeds
- Town Benches
- Christmas Lighting
- Community Events
- Planting & Maintenance of Community Gardens
- Defibrillators

Grants & Donations

The Council operates a grant system for the benefit of local groups who may apply for grant funding to carry out work for the benefit of members of the community within the electoral boundary of Llandrindod Wells.

The Annual Grants application system has a closing date of 31st October annually and a copy of the criteria and guidance is published on the Town Council website - <https://www.llandrindodwellstowncouncil.co.uk/annual-grants/>

The Council also offers a Small Grants application system for grants up to £250, applications are accepted throughout the year and are evaluated at each monthly council meeting.

A copy of the criteria, guidance and application form is published on the Town Council website - <https://www.llandrindodwellstowncouncil.co.uk/small-grants/>

Below is a list of grants allocated during 2022/23

Group	Amount	Purpose
Carnival Committee	£2000	
Powys Pride	£1600	
Welsh Fire Service Bowls	£750	Tournament Sponsorship
Foodbank	£819`	Shelving
Pavilion Mid Wales CIC	£3000	
Silver Band	£750	Instruments
Tennis Club	£2125	Seating
Twinning Association	£1000	Twinning Exchanges
Victorian Festival	£2500	Firework Display
Royal British Legion	£250	Jubilee Party
Ysgol Trefonnen	£192	Walking Bus Bibs
Spa Town Trust	£250	Drumming Event
Llandrindod Community Events	£250	Barbeque
Law Dogs & Ladies	£250	Victorian Festival Event
Llanwrtyd Com Transport	£500	Community Transport
Radnorshire Wildlife Trust	£250	Talking Shop
Ysgol Cefnlllys	£250	Coronation Event
Royal British Legion	£250	Coronation Event

In addition to the council grants. The Chair and Vice Chair are given an allowance, some of which is allocated as donations to local groups and events Below is the list of their donations from May 2022:

Group	Amount	Purpose
Llandrindod Community Events	£200	Donation
Helping Our Homeless Wales	£100	Donation
Leg Club	£300	Donation
Incredible Edible	£120	Leaflets
Dementia Matters in Powys	£200	Donation
1 st Llandrindod Scouts	£150	Equipment
Falklands Wreath	£50	Anniversary Commemoration
579 Air Cadets	£100	Donation to Mini Bus
Bracken Trust	£300	Plants, Picnic Sponsorship
Twinning Gifts	£80	Mayors of Twin Towns
RBL Poppy Picnic	£50	Event Sponsorship
Fire Service Bowls	£100	Trophy
Celf o Gwmpas	£200	Ukraine Art Class
Tesco Sponsored Bike Ride	£100	Donation
Cefnlllys Charity Shop	£100	Donation
Christmas Toy Appeal	£130	Trefonnen School Appeal
Food Bank	£300	Washing Machine
New Bench	£100	Rock Park Eye Well

Blood Bikes Wales	£100	Donation
Coronation Event	£195	Prizes, Decorations

Financial Information

The Budget

The Town Council raises most of its money via the local government precept. The precept for 2022/23 equated to £205,711.

The Finance Committee sets a draft budget guided by the Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, who presents a set budget heading framework and information on earmarked and general reserves. All future financial commitments and projects are discussed at this point to ensure that sufficient financial provision is made. The draft budget is then presented to Full Council in November/December annually. Amendments are made by Full Council prior to the budget being accepted at the December Full Council meeting. This will then remain as the budget for the next financial year, and is subject to possible variations.

The Council is subject to both Internal audit by an independent auditor and External Audit by Audit Wales. Once again, the council received an “Unqualified Audit for 2021/22.” No issues were identified.

Budget Monitoring

The Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer ensures that the council works within legal parameters at all times and continually monitors the expenditure against budget.

A report is presented to the Council at each monthly meeting which includes details of each payment and receipt and an expenses/budget report. Members have the opportunity to ask questions about any particular item at this point. This allows members to know at the end of each month the actual balances remaining within each budget heading.

This is the 15th consecutive year when the Council has received an Unqualified Audit under the management of the current Town Clerk and Responsible Officer which is a real achievement.

The Council will be introducing internet banking for 2023/24 to reduce charges to the Council and the residents of Llandrindod Wells and to speed up efficient payment of suppliers.

Town Councillors are currently offered an allowance of £150 per annum; this is not claimed by all members.

The Town Council is committed to using local contractors and suppliers wherever possible and believes in the value of the “Powys Pound.”

Council Financial Reserves

The Council holds financial reserves, some of which are held within individual budget headings and others are held within general reserves. It is crucial the Council holds sufficient reserves to maintain its operations effectively and in preparation for future projects and services. A full list of financial reserves is provided to members at the end of each financial year (1st April). These are also reported via the external audit process.

Financial Summary

Budget Heading	Budget
Staff (Salaries, Training, Travel, Subs)	£40518
Admin Supplies & Services	£4600
Members Expenses	£6792
Office & Establishment	£13275
Financial Services	£14850
Civic	£5635
Properties & Assets	£113332
Events & Marketing	£0
Grants	£6709
Devolved Services	£0
Total Budget	£205711
Earmarked Reserves – 31.03.23	£313984
General Reserves – 31.03.23	£67744
Total Reserves	£381728
Total Assets	£576987

The Council remains on a firm financial footing with sufficient reserves to fulfil all existing projects and plan for new ones, whilst carrying out its legal operational duties.

Facilities

The following is a list of projects undertaken:

- Operation of Station Crescent Public Toilets
- Operation Lakeside Public Toilets
- Princes Avenue Leisure Park
- Skate Ramp Half Pipe
- Wooden Adventure Trail
- Nurture our Nature Garden within Temple Gardens via National Lottery Funding
- Crabtree Green Allotments
- Town Centre Hanging Baskets, supply and maintenance
- Town Planters and Flower Beds, planting and maintenance
- Refurbishment of Town Benches
- Provision of Memorial Benches
- Heritage Trail Interpretation Boards
- Facilitated Ice Rink for second year
- Defibrillator installation programme, including provision of grant funding
- Christmas Lighting
- Local Events
- Gazebos and Tables for community events
- Lakeside Picnic Tables
- Putting up Poppies on lamp posts
- Litter picking and clearing of Temple & Memorial Gardens

Projects

During 2022/23 the Council worked on the following projects:

- Skate Park – Committee established – work is on-going
- Climate Emergency declared by Town Council
- Joint Climate Emergency Event with Powys County Council (June 2023)
- Working closely with TLT (Trawsnewid Llandrindod Transition)
- Project on Sports and Wellbeing in liaison with local sports groups and providers – working towards a 3G or 4G pitch for Llandrindod Wells.
- Working closely with Severn Wye Energy Agency Ltd regarding the Hive
- Working with Powys County Council on the Community Asset Transfer of Tremont Road Play Area to the Town Council – work is on-going.
- Additional Public Access Defibrillator provision within the Town.
- Working in partnership with Llandrindod Wells First Responders
- Continued partnership work with Powys County Councils Outdoor Recreation Manager on outdoor projects
- Support Royal British Legion with Remembrance Day
- Development of new Town Council website with Mid Wales Design (launch June 2023)

This will also include a list of local groups and organisations. **If you run a group in Llandrindod Wells and are recruiting members. Please email the Town Council with full details.**

Events

During 2022/23 the Town Council organised events and provided funds for local groups to run events and activities.

The Town Council was pleased to work closely with Fuelled by Cake on the Platinum Jubilee Street Party in Middleton Street



**Fuelled by Cake Team
Preparing for the Jubilee
Celebrations**



The Mayor, Cllr Laurence Weerdmeester-Price with Fuelled by Cake Ladies and Good Morning Britain reporter post TV interview



**A public display of the official photographs taken on the day was hosted by Fuelled by Cake
(images can be viewed - <https://www.facebook.com/Cakefuelled>)**



Volunteers at the event, including members of Team Town Council

The Town Council also planted 15 trees within Memorial Gardens as part of the Queens Green Canopy in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee.



Members of Team Town Council who assisted with this project along with Steve Smith Gardening Services

The Town Council takes great pleasure in being part of the Remembrance Day preparations and Parade along with the Llandrindod Wells Royal British Legion Branch. This event has a huge turnout annually, followed by a reception at the Royal British Legion Club



Some residents taking part in the Remembrance Day Parade

The Town Council facilitated the Annual Christmas Lights Switch On which had a wonderful community turn out. Thanks to everyone who supported this event and volunteered, including Llandrindod Wells Round Table & Llandrindod Wells First Responders



Some of the residents who attended the Switch On

Campaigning

The Town Council has actively campaigned to support residents of the following projects:

- Retention of Wales Air Ambulance Base in Welshpool – now secured until 2026
- To reverse the one-way system for traffic around the Lake – to be reviewed shortly
- Support concerns over the narrowing of the trunk road for the Cycle Path along Wellington Road
- Fought for additional funding for NHS Dentist in Llandrindod Wells. This was successful and funded an NHS Dentist based in Llandrindod Wells to assist with reducing the waiting lists and taking on new patients.
- Since the closure of Barclays Bank, the Town Council set up a group to explore future banking provision in Llandrindod Wells. The group has worked hard to campaign for additional banking provision and availability of cash. Lloyds Bank also closed this year and left only HSBC as a high street bank. The Task & Finish Group, led by Cllr Marcia Morgan is continuing to work closely with County Councillors and Welsh Government MS Members to secure further banking provision for Llandrindod Wells
- The Green Gen Glan Towy project to install pylons within Powys – this is on-going

Looking Forward

The impact of climate change remains an ongoing priority. The implications of the declaration of a climate emergency made by the council in 2019 continues to inform the policies and actions of the Council. The Council is pleased to be working with Powys County Council on an Environment & Nature Event on 14th June 2023 in the Pavilion Mid Wales. This event is for Town & Community Councils in Powys to assist with declaring Climate and Nature Emergencies, and advise with the development of Action Plans and advising residents.

The Council is planning on running some community focused events which will involve resident participation. The first of these will be a Sunflower Challenge. This will be launched in April 2023.



The Council wishes to develop its partnership working and also to continue with community engagement which is crucial when planning and operating future services and projects. County Cllr Pete Roberts, County Cllr Jake Berriman and Cllr Josie Ewing have worked closely with the Town Council as partners on specific projects.

It is envisaged that many new projects will be brought to the table in the forthcoming year, which will be evaluated, with the progression of those which are judged to be most beneficial for Llandrindod Wells and its residents.

Vacancies

The Town Council currently has 3 vacant seats and is looking to co-opt members. Co-option advertisements will be published in late May or early June 2023. If you are interested in applying for co-option and have a passion for Llandrindod Wells, please contact the Town Clerk via email.

Contact Your Council

If you have anything you wish to discuss with the Town Council, please email the Town Clerk who will respond to all requests or sign post you to the relevant contact.

In Lasting Memory

The Council was sad to hear of the passing of HRH Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022.

Only a few months earlier, the world was celebrating her 70th Anniversary as Queen and following the announcement of her passing there was a global outpouring of sadness and sympathy to her family.

God Bless the Queen!



The Council looks forward to the Coronation of King Charles III on 6th May 2023

God Save the King



Llandrindod Wells Town Council hope you found this report interesting and informative.

Should you wish to contact the Town Council please do so via email on – clerk@llandrindodtowncouncil.co.uk



Aerial Image over Llandrindod Wells from the Golf Links