



# Llandrindod Wells Town Council

## Annual Report

### 2023/24

Old Town Hall  
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Llandrindod Wells  
Powys  
LD1 5DL

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## **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).



**CLlr Marcia Morgan Chair, CLlr Wade Curzon Vice Chair and  
CLlr Laurence Weerdmeester-Price Immediate Past Chair**

## 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 by Councillors is listed below:

- Members Induction
- How to Use Online Resources to Solve Planning Problems
- Defibrillator
- Community Engagement Part 1 & 2
- Sustainability/Well Being
- Devolution of Services
- Effective Staff Management
- The Council as an Employer
- GDPR
- Cyber Security
- The Council
- The Councillor
- Local Government Finance
- Charing Skills
- Creating a Community Place Plan
- Tackling Toxic Behaviours in Work Place
- Quallsafe level 3 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (RQF)

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

- Community Building Management
- New Website Maintenance
- Tackling Toxic Behaviours in the Workplace
- Finance Summit
- TUPE for Employers
- Managing Anxiety – Yes You Can
- Navigating the ISDN & Analogue Switch Off
- Emotional Exhaustion & How to Avoid It
- CANVA Design
- Equality & Diversity
- Guide to the Appraisal Process
- One Voice Wales Innovative Practice Conference.

## Members

The following members served on the Council during 2023/24:

Cllr Laurence Weerdmeester Price	North Ward	
Cllr Wade Curzon	North Ward	Vice Chair/Deputy Mayor
Cllr Jamie Jones	North Ward	
Cllr Steve Deeks-D'Silva	North Ward	
Cllr Neil Bastow	North Ward	
Cllr Marcia Morgan	South 1 Ward	Chair/Mayor

Cllr David Markinson	South 1 Ward	
Cllr Jill Shaw	South 2 Ward	Resigned
Cllr Kim Nicholls	South 2 Ward	
Cllr Steve Sims	South 2 Ward	
Vacancy	South 2 Ward	
Vacancy	South 2 Ward	
Cllr Jonathan Jones	East Ward	
Cllr Paul Smith	East Ward	
Cllr Sian Meredudd	West Ward	
Cllr Benjamin Williams	West Ward	Resigned
Vacancy	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 2023/24 the following groups were in place:

- Friends of Lake Park – Cllr Steve Sims
- Local Events – Cllr Marcia Morgan
- Banking Group – Cllr Marcia Morgan
- Climate & Nature Emergency

### **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
- Tremont Park Play & Nature Park
- 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 2023/24

Group	Amount	Purpose
Carnival Committee	2000	Climbing Wall & Activities
Pavilion Mid Wales CIC	2207	Equipment
Twinning Association	2000	Tri-Town Visits
Victorian Festival	£2500	Fireworks
Eisteddfod Committee	460	2023 Eisteddfod
Victorian Festival	250	Children's Entertainment
Fuelled by Cake	250	2024 Big Battle
Spa Town Trust	250	Under the Canopy Events
Wales Air Ambulance	250	Air Ambulance Service
First Responders/St John	2915	New Equipment
Fuelled by Cake	750	2024 Big Battle
Spa Town Trust	250	Event Sponsorship

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 2023:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Twining Gifts	46	Gifts for Mayors of Twin Towns
Help for Heroes	50	Donation
Ysgol Cefnlllys	20	Programme Advert
Blood Bikes Wales	50	Donation
King's Coronation Event	624	In house
Ysgol Cefnlllys	120	Donation
Help for Heroes	50	Sleep Out
Blood Bikes Wales	50	Donation
Royal British Legion Club	100	Roof Fund
Bracken Trust	100	Donation
Holy Trinity Church	150	Donation
Foodbank	100	Donation
Sunflower Competition	82	Presentation Event
Leg Club	100	Donation
Poppy Appeal Prize	39	Auction Prize
Ysgol Trefonnen	75	Food Hamper Appeal
Remembrance Day Photos	50	Community Records
Remembrance Day Reception	167	Ex Servicemen & Volunteers
579 Air Cadets	100	Mini Bus Fund
Incredible Edible	97	Donation
Dementia Matters in Powys	100	Donation
Carnival Committee	100	Donation
High Sheriff Gift	39	Gift
Volunteer Gift	60	Flowers
Ysgol Cefnlllys	133.32	Goal Posts
Ysgol Trefonnen	26.17	Easter Eggs - Prizes
Holy Trinity Church	30	Volunteer Service Refreshments
Football Club	100	Donation
Samaritans	100	Donation
Bracken Trust	100	Donation
Silver Band	50	Donation
Ysgol Trefonnen Community Fund	75	Donation
Holy Trinity Tree Festival	50	Donation
Arwyn Walby – Representing Wales	100	Welsh Schools U18 Football Team at the 2024 Roma Caput Mundi Tournament in Italy
Ysgol Cefnlllys	34.49	Easter Eggs - Prizes



**The Climbing Wall at the Carnival**

## **Financial Information**

### **The Budget**

The Town Council raises most of its money via the local government precept. The precept for 2023/24 equated to £194,577 which equates to £77.50 per annum per residence.

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 2022/23." No issues were identified. This is the 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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.

The Council introduced internet banking in 2023/24 to reduce charges to the Council and the residents of Llandrindod Wells and to speed up efficient payment of suppliers. This has proven to be very successful and a smooth transition.

Town Councillors are currently offered an allowance of £156 per annum towards costs of working from home and an additional allowance of £52 for office consumables. There is also the facility for members to claim travel expenses when undertaking Council business. The Council may also award up to 3 Senior Role payments of £500. These allowances are not claimed by all members. The following amounts were claimed in 2023/24

<b>Member</b>	<b>Home Working</b>	<b>Consumables</b>	<b>Travel</b>	<b>Senior Role</b>
Cllr M Morgan	156	52		
Cllr W Curzon	156	52		
Cllr Jamie Jones	0	0		
Cllr Jon Jones	156	52		
Cllr L Weermeester-Price	156	52		
Cllr S Deeks-D’Silva	156	52		
Cllr Steve Sims	156	52		
Cllr Sian Meredudd	156	52		500
Cllr Jill Shaw	156	52		
Cllr Benjamin Williams	156	52		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1404</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>500</b>

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 (1<sup>st</sup> April). These are also reported via the external audit process.

### **Financial Summary**

<b>Budget Heading</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Staff (Salaries, Training, Travel, Subs)	62,949
Admin Supplies & Services	6,000
Members Expenses	3,494
Office & Establishment	15,225
Financial Services	7,558
Civic	6,612
Properties & Assets	56,093



Events & Marketing	29,264
Grants	7,382
Devolved Services	0
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>194,577</b>
Earmarked Reserves – 31.03.24	310.543
General Reserves – 31.03.24	71050
Total Reserves	381593
Total Assets	<b>651695</b>

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 facilities owned or managed:

- Operation of Station Crescent Public Toilets
- Operation Lakeside Public Toilets
- Princes Avenue Leisure Park
- Skate Ramp Half Pipe
- Wooden Adventure Trail
- Tremont Park Play & Nature Park
- Nurture our Nature Garden within Temple Gardens via National Lottery Funding
- Regeneration Project Funding
- Crabtree Green Allotments
- 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
- Council Events
- Grants to Local Groups and Associations

### **Projects & Campaigns**

During 2023/24 the Council worked on the following projects:

- Skate Park – Committee established – work is on-going
- Nature Emergency declared by Town Council
- Joint Climate Emergency Event with Powys County Council (June 2023)

- Public Meeting to discuss Pylons & Wind Turbines (April 2024)
- Working closely with TLT (Trawsnewid Llandrindod Transition)
- Project on Sports and Wellbeing in liaison with local sports groups and providers – working towards a 3G pitch for Llandrindod Wells in partnership with Llandrindod Wells Football Club
- 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 – completed in March 2024
- Jointly arranged Community Planting Day at Tremont Play & Nature Park with Radnorshire Wildlife Trust and the Powys County Council Biodiversity Department (April 2024)
- Joint Thanksgiving Service for Community Volunteers with Holy Trinity Church, the High Sheriff of Powys and our Mayor, Cllr Marcia Morgan.
- Created a survey of local residents to ascertain the preferred option for the Lake Park Road System Layout
- Campaigned Powys County Council to implement changes to Lakeside Road Layout
- 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 and launch of new Town Council website with Mid Wales Design (launched in June 2023)
- Working with Transport for Wales on a new Totem Board project for the Railway Station.
- Participated in the Powys County Council Car Parking Review
- Regular liaison with the PCSOs including meetings and town patrols

### **Events**

During 2023/24 the Town Council organised events and provided funds for local groups to run events and activities.

The Town Council was pleased to organise a Coronation Pop-Up Picnic which was brought forward by the former Chair, Cllr Laurence Weerdmeester-Price. Due to the bad weather, this was held in the Pavilion Mid Wales without charge to the Town Council.



**Councillors at the event, including members of Team Town Council  
Cllr Laurence Weerdmeester-Price, Cllr Jamie Jones, Cllr Marcia Morgan, Cllr Jill Shaw,  
Cllr Steve Sims, Cllr Steve Deeks-D’Silva**

The Town Council was pleased to take forward the idea of a Climate Conference for town and community councils in Powys to Powys County Council. This event was partly funded by the Town Council and took place on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023. It provided an opportunity for town and community councils to receive advice, guidance and support with their Climate Change journeys.



**Delegates at the Climate Conference**

## Events & Activities

2023 saw the launch of the first Llandrindod Wells Sunflower Challenge, which saw our town light up with a yellow glow thanks to the lovely flowers which were grown. This formed quite a challenge for some people and brought out the participatory spirit in everyone who joined in.

Below is a photograph of the winner of the Tallest Sunflower, Marion Sadler, this was her first attempt at growing anything.



**Marion Sadler – Sunflower measured 341cm**

This was followed in August with the Mayors Local Community Church Service held at the Holy Trinity Church which was conducted by Archdeacon Alan Jevons

This was an open invitation to all residents to attend the community worship.

It was an extremely well attended event which was followed by refreshments in the St Francis Centre prepared by the ladies of the church.

The weather was very kind for this event and lots of photographs were taken of those attending to form a lasting memory of this special event for our Mayor.

Huge thanks go to everyone who helped to organise this event and those who participated and attended.





**The Mayor, Cllr Marcia Morgan, Deputy Mayor Cllr Wade Curzon, Cllr Kim Nicholls, Cllr David Markinson & Cllr Laurence Weerdmeester-Price**



**The Mayor, Cllr Marcia Morgan & Archdeacon Alan Jevons**

In October the Local Events group along with the Clerk organised Pumpkin Pranks which was hosted at The Hive (Temple Chambers).

As part of this children were asked to bring along their carved pumpkins and wear their recycled fancy dress and participate in various games and activities around the theme of pumpkins.



**Some of the competition entries**

### **Children's Christmas Party**

The Children's Party was held at the end of November 2023 and welcomed over 400 people to the Pavilion Mid Wales. The event provided an afternoon of entertainment for all the children with the Fantastic Mr Bamboozle, Mid Wales Bouncy Castle, party games and lots of entertainment and snacks for everyone.

This was the first time the Council had booked Berties Booths for an event and this booth was so popular that everyone queued to have their Christmas Party memories captured on film.

### **Christmas Lights Switch on**

The Mayor, Cllr Marcia Morgan carried out the Switch On and was supported by Town Council members and community volunteers. Thanks to everyone who assisted and attended the event. Once again, this event was attended by lots of local families and visitors to the town. The new Christmas lights were also very popular.





**The Mayor, Cllr Marcia Morgan with Santa**

### **From Seed to Feed**

As a follow-up to the Sunflower Challenge the Council held the “From Seed to Feed” Photographic Competition. Which encouraged residents to dry their Sunflower Seeds or purchase seeds to feed the birds within their gardens. The winner, Mel Evans, submitted a wonderful photograph of a Great Spotted Woodpecker feeding in her family garden.



**The winners Mel and Mark receiving their Bug Hotel from the Mayor, Cllr Marcia Morgan and Cllr Steve Sims**



**The Great Spotted Woodpecker – by Mel Evans**

### **Community Church Service**

The Service of Thanksgiving for Volunteers with our Community took place in March 2024 hosted by the Rev Peter Letson of the Holy Trinity Church, The High Sheriff of Powys, Reg Cawthorne and the Mayor Cllr Marcia Morgan. This celebrated the great work our volunteers within our Community.

Mrs Dorothy (Dot) Richards was presented with a High Sheriff's Award for her services to the community after many years and continuing works. She was also presented by a bouquet from the Mayor on behalf of the residents.

This was wonderful evening with so many local volunteers present.





**Mrs Dot Richards receiving her award from the High Sheriff & Mayor.  
Steph Burton was presented with a bouquet for assisting with the service organisation**

### **BBC's Weatherman Walking**

Last Autumn the Council and town were delighted to welcome the Weatherman Walking team to Llandrindod Wells. The Mayor and Clerk were delighted to assist with the facilitation of this filming which will be screened in May 2024.

Lots of local groups and people were involved in the filming of this episode which demonstrated the strong community spirit in our town.

Tony Dudley of Llandrindod Wells First Responders received the Weatherman Walking Local Hero Award from Derek Brockway for his volunteering and community work within our area as a First Responder, trainer and so much more. Congratulations Tony, this was so well deserved.



**Tony Dudley receiving his Weatherman Walking Local Hero Award from Derek Brockway**

## **Campaigning**

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

- To reverse the one-way system for traffic around the Lake – we await Powys County Council community consultation.
- Support concerns over the narrowing of the trunk road for the Cycle Path along Wellington Road. Subsequently active engagement with local residents over Phase II of the scheme from Llandrindod Wells to Howey.
- The Green Gen Glan Towy projects to install pylons within Powys – this is on-going

## **Looking Forward**

### **Climate Change**

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.

It is hoped that the Climate & Nature Task & Finish Group will, in 2024/25, focus on developing a Climate & Nature Action Plan and work on processes and solutions.

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.

### **Town Regeneration Action Plan**

This report was accepted by the Council in March 2024 and will be used as a working document and a base for funding applications.

The Council has identified 40 projects to improve the town and the current Chair, Clerk and Cllr Jamie Jones have been holding meetings with Powys County Council Regeneration Department to source possible funding opportunities. This work will be on-going

### **Vacancies**

At the end of 2023/24 year, the Council had 3 vacancies for Councillors. These continue to be advertised for co-option.

The role of a Town Councillor is not purely to attend monthly Council meetings, but involves considerable commitment to be part of committees, task & finish groups and assist at events. Task & Finish Groups are also set up to take some of the workload off the Clerk.

### **Staffing**

The Town Council currently only employs one full time member of staff, the Town Clerk who is responsible for a significant variety of tasks and is the Council's legal adviser.

The Council will be employing an Administrative Assistant to take over some of the workload from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024. This will be on an initial two-year fixed term contract for 16 hours per week.

### **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.

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](mailto:clerk@llandrindodtowncouncil.co.uk)