

LLANELLI TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Report 2020-21



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1. Introduction – Cllr. Chris Griffiths – Llanelli Town Mayor 2020-21

It is my pleasure to present the Llanelli Town Council Annual Report for 2020-21. This year's Annual Report outlines the activities and services of the Town Council during the 2020-21 financial and civic year.

My Mayoral Year of 2020-21 was necessarily disrupted by the ongoing COVID19 pandemic and while the Mayoral party has been unable to host or visit local organisations face to face, I have been aware of the great sacrifice that employees of our health and care services have made and are continuing to make providing essential support to our communities. These brave persons are not the only persons putting their lives at risk and I would like to thank all those individuals who continue to provide services as key workers, the charitable and religious organisations who together with the volunteers provided essential support for the elderly and vulnerable during very difficult and dangerous times.

During my term of office, the Council has continued to maintain and build upon its important role in our Community, and it is a role which is very much appreciated by the people of Llanelli.



I have been pleased to see the Council develop its work in the area of biodiversity with tree and shrub planting schemes implemented at all our sites. These projects have achieved lottery funding and involved the public and pupils from the local schools when restrictions were eased.

I was also encouraged to see 4 young volunteers from Coedcae School as part for their Welsh Baccalaureate studies, carrying out improvements to their park in Nightingale Court.



Of course, one of the more solemn moments of my year was the Remembrance Sunday Service in the Town Hall Grounds where numbers were restricted to 30 attendees, but a socially distanced service was put in place to enable serving and retired service men and women to pay their respects to fallen comrades.

I was pleased to be able to support a number of projects in the Christmas period including the Christmas lights switch on in the Town Centre and Community Christmas Trees, Christmas Card competition with Old Road School and provision of living Christmas Trees to all Llanelli Primary Schools.



Living Christmas Tree presentation to Penygaer School

My year as Mayor involved a number of visits to those excellent organisations providing social care, food bank and food distribution services to the Community during the pandemics.



Visiting Hafan Y Morfa

For the 2020-21 year, my Mayoral Charities were, Alzheimer's Society, Ty Bryngwyn Hospice and Threshold. Each of these excellent organisations received a £1,000 donation towards their service provision in Llanelli.

This has been a challenging time for all Llanelli residents, the great honour given to me to serve you as Town Mayor has reinforced my belief that Llanelli is a very special place filled with wonderful people and I am certain that the Town will recover strongly following these difficult times.

Cllr Chris Griffiths
Llanelli Town Mayor
2020-21

2. Annual Review - Cllr Shahana Najmi, Leader of Llanelli Town Council



The COVID-19 pandemic has had a serious impact upon Llanelli and my thoughts continue to be with those who may have been affected or have lost loved ones during the last year.

The year has proved to be very difficult, however as would be expected, the resilience of the people of Llanelli has shone through. So many of you have volunteered to help your neighbours and the wider Community. I have been incredibly touched by these acts of kindness and I pay tribute to you all.

As restrictions continue to be loosened and the health situation improves, our thoughts will turn to the recovery of our business and local services. Llanelli Town Council will continue to seek ways of supporting our businesses and our Community and I have great faith and confidence in a successful recovery having seen Llanelli pull together to support those most in need during this period.

Due to the pandemic restrictions, face to face Council and Community meetings have not always been possible, however through our dedicated staff we continued to support our Community and moved some of our services online or to outdoor environments in order to continue provision in a safe manner.

I am pleased to be able to provide an overview of the work undertaken by Llanelli Town Council in 2020-21 as part of our annual report. The actions carried out by the Town Council during the pandemic are set out in this report. The Council has continued to ensure that all its activities and policies take account of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2016 and we have adopted the 7 key goals and 5 ways of working set out by the Act which continues to inform our community work. This annual report details the Town Council activities in relation to these 7 key goals.

Throughout this difficult year, Llanelli Town Council has continued to provide a wide variety of services to the people of Llanelli. This has only been possible through

extensive partnership working and I would wish to thank all of our key partners for their dedication to the people of Llanelli.

During the 2020-21-year, work has commenced on the programme of Community Centre facilities improvements. This work will continue in 2021-22. The Town Council is also working to secure funding for a new Community Centre and new MUGA facility for the Penyfan area in partnership with the Penyfan Community Facilities Working Group.

When permitted by Welsh Government restrictions, we have supported our local organisations and our sporting clubs in their return to our 7 Community Centres and Stebonheath Park. Each one of these examples shows the Town Council's willingness to think and work in a proactive, progressive and practical way for the benefit of its communities.

The Town Council continues to be very proud to be part of a unique partnership through the Parc Howard Collaboration Group. This Joint Working Group with Carmarthenshire County Council funds and manages Parc Howard, ensuring the facility is improved and remains in public ownership. Maintenance of the museum building will commence shortly.

The Council has continued its work in the Community and has shown how important our Community Development Service is within the Town with extensive support provided to organisations in continuing their service safely in a way permitted by Welsh Government Regulations.



2020-21 has been a busy but restricted year and I look forward with great anticipation for 2021-22 as the Town Council looks to further cement its central role in the Llanelli Community and moves forward with implementation of further services that can be provided to our residents.

Best wishes

Cllr Shahana Najmi J.P.
Town Council Leader

3. Llanelli Town Council Structure and Governance

May 2017, saw the election of the current Llanelli Town Council with 22 members elected for the first time as the Town Council was expanded from the previous 20 members. Members elected were:

Llanelli Town Council Members 2020-21

Cllr M.D. Cranham

Cllr S.A. Curry

Cllr D.Ll. Darkin

Cllr S.I. Davies

Cllr T. Davies (Deputy Town Mayor)

Cllr J.S. Edmunds

Cllr L.A. Edmunds

Cllr M.P. Edmunds

Cllr C. Griffiths (Town Mayor)

Cllr S.J. Griffiths

Cllr J.P. Jenkins

Cllr J.E. Jones J.P.

Cllr W.J. Lemon

Cllr A.S.J. McPherson

Cllr S. Najmi J.P. (Leader of the Council)

Cllr J.G. Prosser

Cllr C.A. Reed

Cllr S. Rees

Cllr B.A.L. Roberts

Cllr W.E. Skinner

Cllr. P.T. Warlow

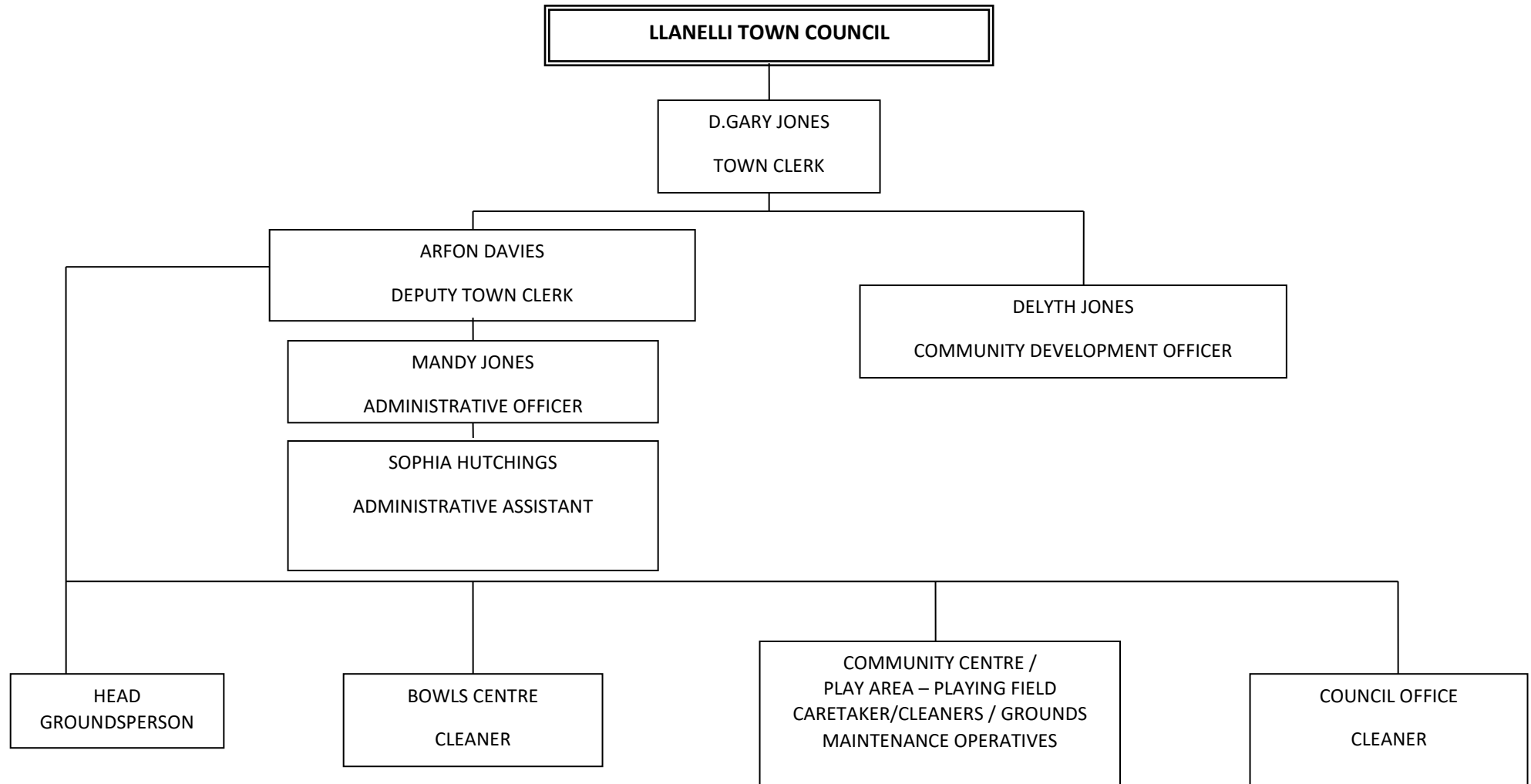
Cllr J. Williams

Council Meetings during the pandemic

During the 2020-21 Civic Year, it was impossible to hold Town Council meetings in the Council Chamber, the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020 meant that Town council meetings moved online with the chamber being used by a limited number of Councillors. This legislation was repealed in May 2021 by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, whereby Section 47 allows continuing attendance at Council meetings by remote means.

Llanelli Town Council employs a group of dedicated officers and staff to support the actions and policies agreed by the Town Council.

Llanelli Town Council Staffing Structure – 2020-21



4. The Services We Deliver

COVID19

During the COVID19 pandemic a number of the Llanelli Town Council facilities were required to close including the play areas and Community Centres. While all facilities re-opened during the summer period, the Community Centres were required to close again during the winter and early spring of 2020-21.

Town Council Splash Pads and Paddling Pools remained closed for the 2020 season.

Town Council Members and staff continued to provide support to the Llanelli Community and a number of actions were undertaken:

- Town Council staff providing delivery services to pharmacies;
- Implementing a National Lottery and Community Foundation Wales and National Emergencies Trust funded food bank, food distribution and school support scheme in partnership with Llanelli Community Partnership. This provided food and hygiene products to a number of food banks and Coedcae School to support pupils and families during the first lockdown period;
- The above funding also provided materials for 'Sew for Front Line Llanelli' to produce over 5,000 face coverings and many scrub bags for the NHS, Care Homes and wider Community;
- Providing the Selwyn Samuel Centre to the Hywel Dda University Health Board for provision of the Ysbyty Enfys Selwyn Samuel;
- Provision of 1 month rent free periods to hirers on their return to use of the Community Centres;
- Freezing Community Centre hiring charges for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years;
- Providing rent free periods to our long-term hirers while their facilities were required to be closed;
- Signposting to individuals and families seeking support during the first lockdown;
- Provision of valid, verified communication via the Town Council website and social media platforms;
- Day to day continuing support by Council Members and Staff to local community organisations and vulnerable individuals. Including supporting them in continuing their services in accordance with COVID19 regulations;

- Purchasing a 3d printer to support the Carmarthenshire 3d printing farm which printed face masks and ventilator valves for the NHS.



Mayoral Visit to the Life Café, Ty Gwyn Church

Recreation and Sport

The Town Council provides excellent facilities at Stebonheath Park, home to Llanelli Town Football Club and West Wales Raiders Rugby League, and at the Selwyn Samuel Indoor Bowls Centre. The Town Council also own Clos yr Ysgol Park, Crown Park, Havelock Park, Morfa Park, Nightingale Park, Penyfan Park and Peoples' Park. The Council continues to work with the County Council to maintain Penygaer Playing Fields and through the Town Council's financial contribution and membership of the Parc Howard Collaboration Group works in partnership with the County Council to manage Parc Howard, ensuring the facility is improved and remains in public ownership.



Events and Promotions

Throughout the year, the Town Council continued to fund events and promotions that were held online in partnership with Llanelli Business Improvement District and Carmarthenshire County Council including:

- Well-being week with Fusion and Llanelli Community Partnership;
- St David's Day activities with Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Elli;
- Town Hall Square Stories with People Speak Up and Fusion;

During the 2020-21 Summer Season, the Town Council continued to fund the provision and maintenance of the Hanging Baskets in the Town Centre, providing a blaze of colour throughout the summer months.

Additionally, in order to support our local businesses in a safe return following COVID restrictions and in partnership with Llanelli Business Improvement District using the Carmarthenshire County Council, Welsh Government COVID recovery grant, bench flower planters and bike parking flower planters were provided in Town Centre locations.

The Council looks forward to working closely with the Llanelli Business Improvement District (Ymlaen Llanelli) to support a number of events in the coming year.

Community Support

The Council owns and manages seven community centres providing subsidised facilities for use by the public of all ages. The unprecedented disruption caused during the year, meant that these well-loved facilities remained closed for much of the period. These were however, maintained to enable access if required. When regulations allowed, the centres were re-opened to provide opportunities to groups to undertake permitted activities. All hirers were supported in their return through discussions and visits to consider appropriate COVID secure arrangements, a 1 month rent free period was also provided to all returning hirers following the re-opening after the first lockdown. The Town Council also supported other hirers by retaining hiring charges at 2019-20 levels for both the 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years.



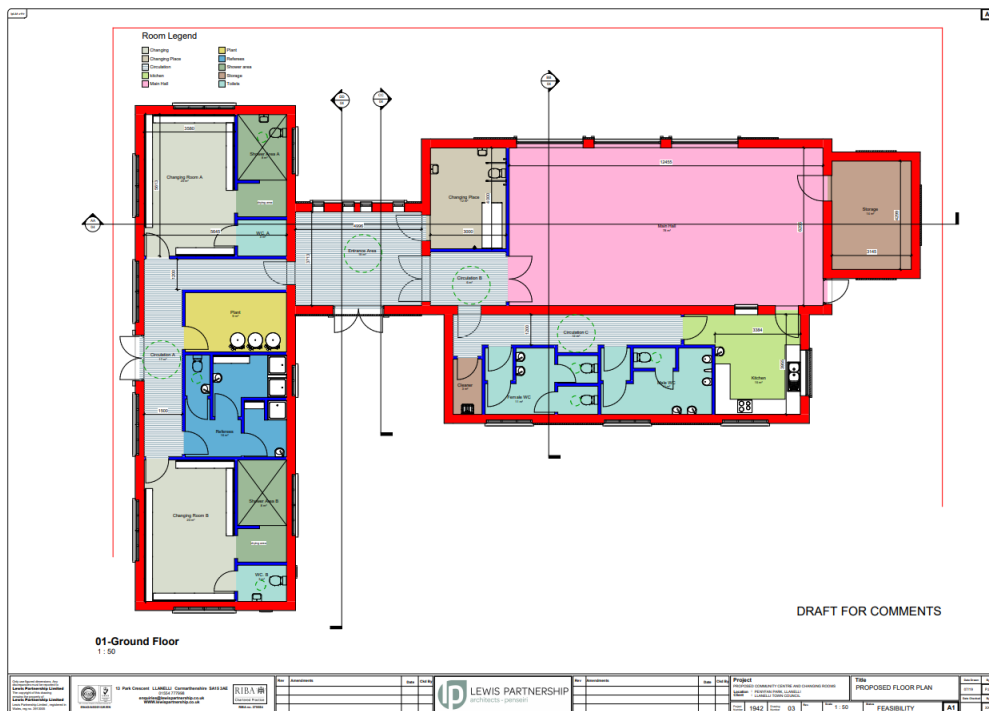
Glenalla Community Centre

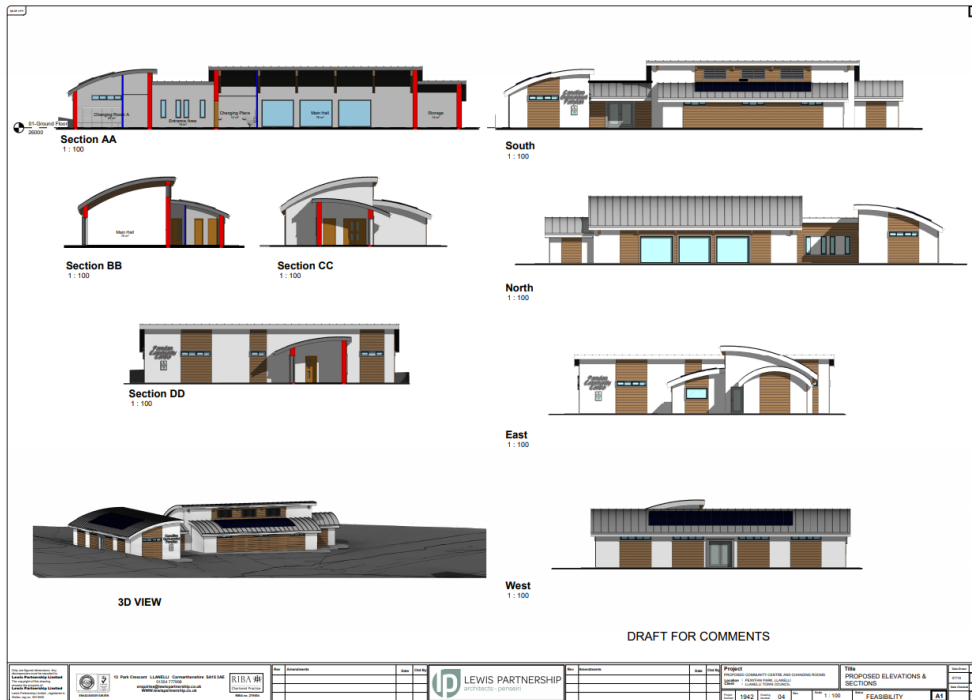


Llanerch Community Centre

Throughout the COVID19 period, the Council continued to advise and assist community groups on a wide range of issues and provided grants and sponsorship to support the work of many local clubs, societies and organisations. Our Community Development Officer continued to work with many organisations on successful grant funding applications and in delivering projects such as Unloved Heritage and My Time.

The Town Council, in partnership with the Penyfan Community Facilities Working Group, has undertaken extensive consultation in support of funding applications to be made to provide for a Community facility, including changing rooms and an upgraded MUGA in Penyfan Park. Funding applications are being developed with the hope of progress being made in 2021-22.





First draft plans of the Penyfan Community Centre

Footpaths and Lighting

The Town Council continues to inspect and maintain the town's public footpaths on behalf of the County Council as well as funding the energy and maintenance costs of the lighting on these pathways.

Work has been undertaken during the 2020-21 year to improve the surfacing of a number of these paths, including at Peoples' Park and between Penywarc Terrace and Coedcae Road.

Llanelli Town Mayor

The Llanelli Town Mayor is the Civic Head of the Council and the first citizen of Llanelli. The Town Mayor is supported by a Secretary and the Town Council Staff.

Llanelli Cemetery

Llanelli Town Council jointly owns Box Cemetery with Llanelli Rural Council and through this partnership and our role on the Llanelli Joint Burial Advisory Committee continue to fund the cemetery.

Cultural and Heritage

Llanelli Town Council owns Llanelly House which it has leased to CHRT on a long lease. The Town Council and the County Council continue to provide financial support to the House to ensure that the Grade I listed building is maintained to the high standards already being set enabling it to be a significant asset to the town centre and its visitors. The Town Council's involvement in the Parc Howard Collaboration Group continues to ensure the Grade 1 listed museum building remains in public ownership and available to the whole Community.

In 2020-21, the Town Council was a key partner, providing funding towards the great places project. The project will see in 2021-22 the launch of a Llanelli Story Book both in print and on-line in order to promote Llanelli. The project has seen a number of projects taking place including a young people photography project and the creation of a history network.

The very successful Unloved Heritage programme came to an end during 2020-21 and has now been further developed into the My Time Project and the Connect 2021 schools project which will form a large part of the 2021-22 Town Council work programme.

Below is:

5. 2020-21 Financial Report and Accounts

	Budget & Actual Comparison Net	Budget £	Actual £	
	Cultural & Heritage	94,817	94,883	-66
	Recreation & Sport	544,796	365,184	179,612
	Community Centres	106,972	159,672	-52,700
	Cemetery, Cremation & Mortuary	66,500	45,387	21,113
	Community Support (including Markets)	128,341	119,994	8,347
	Footpaths & Lighting	13,468	12,800	668
	Events & Promotions	26,136	22,986	3,150
	Llanelli Town Estate	(123,000)	(123,000)	0
	Direct Services Costs	858,030	697,906	160,124
	Corporate Management	43,042	44,952	-1,910
	Democratic & Civic	187,765	173,767	13,998
	Democratic, Management and Civic Costs	230,807	218,719	12,088
	Interest & Investment Income	(1,010)	(385)	-625
	Capital Expenditure		23,816	-23,816
	Proceeds of Disposal of Capital Assets		(13,500)	13,500
	Transfers to/(from) other reserves		70,990	-70,990
	Reversal of Statutory Adjustments	(153,306)	(153,306)	0
	Surplus to/(Deficit from) General Reserve	15,479	105,760	-90,281
	Precept on County Council	950,000	950,000	0
	Analysis			
	-£66 Cultural & Heritage			
	£179,612 Recreation & Sport			
	Stebonheath Park		£28,009	
	Rates Rebate	£14,000		
	Water Rates	£2,162		
	Repairs and Renewals	£5,117		
	Deferred Grants Released	£7,514		
	Selwyn Samuel Centre		£95,644	
	Rates Rebate	£21,500		
	Health Board Rental	£57,847		
	Administrative Fee	£3,974		
	Equipment Maintenance, Repairs and Renewals	£10,500		
	Play Areas		£6,116	
	Crown Park		£29,666	
	Paddling Pool	£18,500		
	Football Pitches	£3,000		
	Transfer to Earmarked Reserve	£4,225		
	Peoples Park		£16,922	
	Paddling Pool	£10,000		
	Transfer to Earmarked Reserve	£10,000		
	Bowls Green Labour	-£3,500		
	-£52,700 Community Centres			
	Lakefield Community Centre Maintenance		-£35,000	
	Llanerch Community Centre Maintenance		-£19,500	
	£21,113 Cemetery, Cremation & Mortuary		£21,113	
	Prior Year End Adjustment	£21,113		
	£8,347 Community Support		8347	
	Marketing & Sponsorship	24000		
	Community Grants	-11000		
	Community Projects	-3000		
	£668 Footpaths and Lighting			
	£3,150 Events & Promotions			
	-£1,910 Corporate Management			
	£13,998 Democratic & Civic			
	Mayoral Expenses	£9,175		
	Mayoral Car Hire	£6,900		
	Election Cost	-£3,000		
	-£625 Interest & Investment Income			
	-£23,816 Capital Expenditure			
	£13,500 Proceeds of Disposal of Capital Assets			
	-£70,990 Transfers to/(from) other reserves			
	£90,281 Surplus to/(Deficit from) General Reserve			

6. The Strategic Context – What’s happening across Wales?

The Well-being of Future Generations Act launched in 2015 and the Carmarthenshire Well-Being Plan 2018-2023 '*the Carmarthenshire We Want*' set out the priorities and themes for Wales and Carmarthenshire for the coming years. Llanelli Town Council has been working in this way for a number of years and is committed to continuing the implementation of the themes which are taken into consideration when developing all Llanelli Town Council future work programmes.

7. How will Community and Town Councils get involved?

The Act places a duty on certain Community and Town Councils in Wales to take all reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives included in their local well-being plan. A Community or Town Council is subject to that duty only if its gross income or expenditure was at least £200,000 for each of the three financial years preceding the year in which the local well-being plan is published.

8. The Carmarthenshire Public Services Board and the Carmarthenshire Well-Being Plan

During 2020-21, Llanelli Town Council has continued to be instrumental in working with the Carmarthenshire Public Services Board (PSB) to develop the outcomes of the Carmarthenshire Well-being plan: The Carmarthenshire We Want 2018-2023 published in early 2018.

<http://www.thecarmarthenshirewewant.wales/media/8331/carmarthenshire-well-being-plan-final-may-2018.pdf>

Town Council members and Officers have continued to meet regularly online with the PSB developing the plan and working to provide an agreed reporting mechanism for Town and Community Councils in order to meet the requirements of the Act. Community and Town Council are full members of the board with a representative of the sector invited to each meeting.

Following the provision of the first annual reports for 2018-19, the reporting mechanism has been updated for 2020-21 to improve the way we report to the PSB against priorities set out in the 'Carmarthenshire We Want 2018-2023'.

The 'Carmarthenshire We Want' sets out Short, Medium and Long-Term goals and targets in the following areas of work



Healthy Habits

People have a good quality of life, and make healthy choices about their lives and their environment.



Strong Connections

Strongly connected people, places and organisations, that are able to adapt to change.



Early Intervention

People have the right help at the right time; as and when they need it.



Prosperous People and Places

Maximise opportunities for people and places in both urban and rural parts of our county.

All Town and Community Councils are encouraged to use the 5 sustainable development principles as set out in the Act:

- **Long Term** - The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.
- **Prevention** - How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.
- **Integration** - Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.
- **Collaboration** - Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.
- **Involvement** - The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

THE WALES WE WANT

Our common purpose – the seven well-being goals for Wales

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A Prosperous Wales	A Resilient Wales	A Healthier Wales	A More Equal Wales	A Wales of Cohesive Communities	A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language	Globally Responsible Wales

The way in which we will measure progress

9. How the Town Council has embedded the Future Generations Act in its activities, structures and policies.

Llanelli Town Council has embedded the core principles of the Future Generations Act and the Carmarthenshire We Want. These can be detailed in three specific areas:

(a) Structures

The Town Council reporting structures for 2020-21 ensure successful delivery of the requirements set out in the Act. Direct reporting mechanisms are in place and Members are fully consulted on the development of activities:

- Well-Being of Future Generations Working Group;
- Monthly, Six-monthly and Annual Reporting to the Town Council;
- Annual Reporting to the Carmarthenshire Public Service Board which in turn reports to the Welsh Government.

(b) Policy and Procedures

All new Town Council Policies and Procedures are measured against the Well-being goals to ensure that all actions undertaken by the Council are working towards these agreed short, medium and long term targets.

(c) Activities

The Town Council is required to show how it is delivering against the identified strategic goals.

All Town Council activities are shaped by Community Need. These are developed by working closely with the Community to ensure that the services provided by the Council are meeting Community requirements. The Town Council utilises national ward and date profiles such as Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation, census data and Public Service Board reports to help inform our strategic plans.

Annual work programmes, detailing the Town Council's proposed Community Activities, are developed and approved by the Town Council. This work programme is kept under constant review and is flexible enough to enable changes as and when the Community requires change. These areas of work are measured against the 7 key national goals and 4 Public Service Board local targets. (Please see annex 1).

10. Review of Town Council Activity in the Llanelli Community 2020-21

Llanelli Town Council works closely with residents within our Community providing a wide range of services within the Town. A review of how the Town Council has performed against the agreed targets for 2020-21 are set out in Annex 1.

(a) Healthy Habits

(i) Biodiversity and Environmental Action Plan

Llanelli Town Council has agreed and implemented a biodiversity and environmental development action plan to support wildlife in our areas and to create a better environment for all residents. Activities undertaken include:

- Increasing litter picking activities in all Town Council parks;
- Carrying out discussions with allotment holders in relation to insecticide use and planting choices;
- Creating a butterfly garden at Peoples' Park in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy and the Local Places for Nature Scheme;
- Carried out a tree planting project in partnership with Natural Resources Wales, the Public Services Board, Llanelli Rural Council and a number of other Town and Community Councils at our parks;
- Provision of living Christmas trees to all Town Council area primary schools;

- Started work on the Crown Park Environmental project with funding from the Welsh Government Local Places for Nature scheme, delivered in partnership with National lottery Heritage Fund.



Peoples' Park Butterfly Garden



Living Christmas Tree presentation to Stebonheath School

(ii) Cancer and Life Limiting Illness Projects

The COVID19 pandemic meant that a number of support organisation activities were suspended. Town Council officers continued to support vulnerable and shielded individuals who had been supported by these projects through creating communication trees and provision of supporting contact and signposting to advice sources.

Many of the patients were supported via the early transfer of the People Speak Up Story Care and Share activities online.

Early discussions have commenced on provision of a new cancer unit at the Pentre Awel Delta Lakes development due to be opened in 2023. These discussions and developments will continue into the 2021-22 year.

(iii) Dementia

Where possible the Town Council supported Story Care and Share activities that were transferred online for Llanelli Care Homes. These proved popular with residents and carers, further development of these services will now be taken forward.

(iv) Mayoral Visits

The Town Mayor normally visits Llanelli Care Homes in the run up to Christmas in order to visit residents, these types of visits were of course not possible this year. However, during the Christmas period, the Mayoral Party did visit the homes to thank staff for their work and to provide donations for support of residents and staff.



Mayoral Visit to provide support to residents and staff at y Bwthyn Care Home

Mayoral Visit to provide support to residents and staff at y Caemaen Care Home



(v) Park and Play Area Improvements

The Town Council continues to invest in the play areas in the Community with a maintenance programme in place and daily visits by our Grounds Staff to each location. Opportunities to carry out improvement projects are continually sought with funding applied for to enable upgrades to Peoples' Park skate park and Penyfan Park MUGA planned for 2021-22.



(b) Early Interventions

(i) Nurturing Programme

Llanelli COVID support scheme

Through the National Lottery and the Community Foundation Wales and National Emergencies Trust, Llanelli Town Council and Llanelli Community Partnership obtained funding to support organisations including Coedcae School with over £10,000 of food and product support for pupils in receipt of free school meals throughout the first lockdown.

Young People Speak Up and Youth Activity Programme

During the summer of 2020 a Youth Activity Programme was supported via Young People Speak Up, with sessions held in Parc Howard and Llanelli Beach. The project was developed to support mental health during the pandemic.

During the Autumn period the Square Stories project was developed in conjunction with People Speak Up and Fusion which focussed on the heritage of Llanelli's Town Hall Square, working with a number of key partners to tell the story of this area of

Llanelli. As part of the project, an online resource was created for use by local schools.



(ii) Tyisha Working Group

The Town Council continues to be a partner of the Tyisha Working Group which is planning major improvements within the Tyisha Community taking account of the social and other issues experienced by residents. A detailed action plan has been developed with an extensive project identified for implementation by the County Council and key partners.

(iii) Llanelli Foodbanks, Food Distribution and Soup Kitchens

The Town Mayor and the Council's Community Development Service worked closely with organisations such as Ty Gwyn Life Café, Greenfield Soup Kitchen and

Sospan Soup Kitchen throughout the year to ensure they had the necessary provision to support service users. The Town Council worked with Llanelli Community Partnership and Carmarthenshire County Council on maintaining these provisions for vulnerable Communities in Llanelli.

(iv) Toy Box Appeal

Every year the County Council undertakes a Toy Box appeal for disadvantaged families and individuals across the County. The Town Council continues to support this appeal in Llanelli by working with a number of organisations, supplying the 'toy boxes' and 'well-being' packs.



(c) Strong Connections

(i) Llanelli Community Partnership

Llanelli Community Partnership has been in place for 6 years. The Town Council and Rural Council support the working of the Partnership. During 2020-21 a detailed working programme was developed and arranged a number of successful events undertaken online. The partnership between the Town Council and the Community Partnership has been instrumental in obtaining funding and developing services throughout the pandemic. We look forward to continuing to develop projects such as Connect 2021 during the coming year.

(ii) Strategic Working with the Public Services Board

The Town Council continues to work closely with the Public Services Board to develop reporting mechanisms for Town and Community Councils in relation to activities undertaken for the Well-Being of Future Generations Act and the 'Carmarthenshire We Want'. These arrangements are seen as an exemplar across Wales and are being adopted in many other areas.

In 2020-21 this partnership led to obtaining, via Natural Resources Wales £25,000 worth of trees, plants and biodiversity resources distributed across 7 Town and Community Council areas in Carmarthenshire.

(iii) Communication and Partnership Working during COVID

The Town Council was instrumental in developing a number of Communication Networks during the first COVID lockdown to ensure information sharing between agencies as staff were unable to meet in the normal way. These developments facilitated partnerships to distribute key public health messages and valid verified information across the Community.

The Llanelli online community was vital in ensuring relevant information and support reached those in need during both lockdowns.

These processes helped ensure that vital service provision could be continued and reached those individuals who were vulnerable or shielding.

(iv) Community and Town Council Development Officer Networks

Town Council Officers continue to work in partnership with a number of agencies to develop Community Officer Network Groups in order to pool resources and to work on areas of commonality across the Town Council area. These include the:

- Town and Community Council Community Development Officer Working Group;
- Town Centre Community Development Officer Working Group;
- Town and Community Council Development Officer Working Group with the Carmarthenshire Public Services Board.

These Networks were important in the dissemination of information and support across our Communities during the COVID-19 crisis in support of Welsh Government, County Council and Voluntary efforts.

(v) Llanelli Christmas Celebrations

The Town Council continued its financial support in conjunction with Carmarthenshire County Council and Llanelli Rural Council of the Annual Christmas Carnival and Switch on. For 2020, this was an online event.

Town Mayor, Cllr Chris Griffiths invited Old Road School to design his annual Christmas card, with the chosen designs from Cain Rees in Year 2 and Michalina Jablonska in year 6.



The Town Mayor donated living Christmas Trees to be planted in each of the Llanelli Primary Schools. This project was undertaken during 2020 as a COVID recovery project funded by National Lottery Awards for All, encouraged the children to look forward to future Christmases during what was a difficult period.

In 2020, for the first time, the Town Council supported local organisation in the provision of Community Christmas Trees or lights, trees were provided by the Town and County Councils in each of the Town Council wards. These included:

- Llanerch;
- Havelock Park;
- Penyfan;
- Seaside;
- Elli Shopping Centre;
- Town Council Offices.



(vi) Prosperous People and Places

(i) Parc Howard Collaboration Group

In 2020-21 Llanelli Town Council and Carmarthenshire County Council continued its partnership in managing Parc Howard and Llanelli Museum through the Parc Howard Collaboration Group. Through its financial contribution and membership of the Group, the Councils manage Parc Howard, ensuring the facility is improved and remains in public ownership. During the year extensive works were planned on the roof of the Museum building, these were delayed by COVID and will commence in early summer of 2021.

(ii) Mayoral Charities

Every year the Town Mayor nominates Charities that benefit from a donation of £1,000 from the Town Council. This year with Fundraising Activities curtailed due to the Pandemic, it was agreed to make a £1,000 donation to each of the Charities:

- Alzheimer's Society
- Ty Bryngwyn Hospice
- Threshold





(iii) Community Projects

The Llanelli Town Council Community Development Service works in partnership with a number of other agencies supporting community projects such as Llanelli Community Partnership, People Speak Up, Fusion and the Unloved Heritage project

The My Time project was created to support a number of young people from across Llanelli during the first lockdown. The project provided an online platform for young people to re-connect with friends in a safe environment, focussing on mental health and wellbeing.

A wide range of Community groups were supported financially during the year and also through the Community Development service support to move services online to continue with their activities in a safe way.

(iv) Partnership Working with Ymlaen Llanelli and support to Town Centre businesses

In any normal year, Llanelli Town Council works closely with Ymlaen Llanelli Business Improvement District providing officer support to the BID and match funding 3 planned events arranged during the year. In 2020-21 these were to include the:

- Food Festival
- Reindeer Parade
- 80s Festival/ Armed Forces Day

These events were of course required to be cancelled in 2020.

During the year, the Town Council and Llanelli BID obtained a Welsh Government Funded, Carmarthenshire County Council administered COVID recovery grant, which purchased amongst other items, gazebos, chairs, tables, heaters and planters which supported Town Centre business to continue trading safely in a socially distanced manner in accordance with the regulations.



Gazebo and furniture in use in Town Centre businesses

The Town and County Councils took part in the UK Markets Federation, UK Young Market Trader Competition. Llanelli Market was the only one in Wales represented and local trader Hannah Megan Jewellery won her category.



(v) Community Funding Support

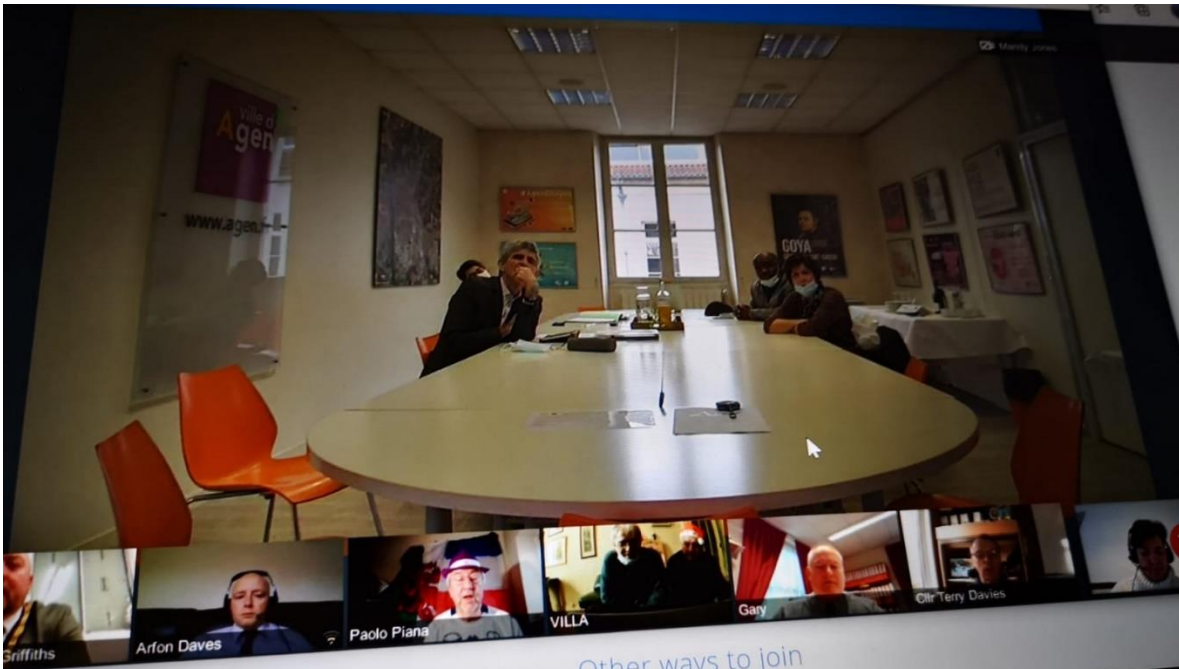
The Town Council continues to provide financial assistance to local Community Organisations and Charities to support their activities. These requests continue to grow year on year.

The Town Council also provided match funding towards a number of online activities undertaken during the year, including:

- Well-being week with Fusion and Llanelli Community Partnership;
- St David's Day activities with Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Elli;
- Town Hall Square Stories with People Speak Up and Fusion.

(vi) Twinning

The 2020-21 activity programme with our Twin Town of Agen was severely disrupted. A pre-Christmas zoom meeting was hosted by the two Mayors and contact has continued between the two Councils and Twinning Associations during the year.



During the year preparations have continued for future activities including those being rolled out via the Connect 21 primary school project.

11. Llanelli Town Council 2021-22 Action Plan

This report provides a flavour of the activities carried out by the Town Council during 2020-21. The Town Council will continue to develop its activities and services throughout 2021-22 and the Community Activity and Development Work Programme for the year has been approved by the Town Council and is attached at Annex 2.

The Town Council would wish to place on record its thanks to all its key partners in the delivery of its services such as Carmarthenshire County Council, Llanelli Rural Council and all the Community Organisations and Llanelli residents who have supported the delivery of our work.