



## CARDIGAN TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

CIVIC YEAR 2021-22

### Introduction

Cardigan Town Council serves the area of Cardigan and its population of around 3,113 residents. It has 14 councillors, covering the Mwldan (6 councillors), Rhyd-y-Fuwch (4 councillors) and Teifi (4 councillors) wards of Cardigan.

The Town Councillors during the 2021/22 period were:

Debra Griffiths (Mayor)	John Adams-Lewis
Trystan Phillips (Deputy Mayor)	Siân Maehrlein
Clive Davies	Catrin Miles
Elaine Evans	Steffan Morgan
Graham Evans	Yvonne O'Neill
Richard Jones	Morvenna Richards
Wyn Jones (deceased)	Shan Williams

The Town Council employs one part time member of staff – Clerk of the Town, Eleri Maskell. They also employ John Morris, a handy man on a self-employed basis.

Cardigan Town Council is responsible for:

- King George V fields and surrounding play areas;
- Cardigan Skatepark;
- Pentop play area;
- Christmas lights;
- Benches and street furniture;
- Hanging baskets and floral displays;
- Providing financial grants and other support for local organisations and good causes;

### Cardigan Town Council Objectives

To provide a good service and value for money of the people of Cardigan by enhancing well-being throughout the Town.

To continue to develop a strategy and action plan for the period of 2022-2027 (an initial annual plan was adopted in December 2021).

To create an engagement and consultation strategy to enable the councillors and clerk to engage widely with the diverse communities of Cardigan, both the younger and older generations, and identify priorities from that engagement and public consultation.

To have a close input into a "Place Plan" for Cardigan Town, currently being developed.

To create a "Digital Place Plan" for Cardigan Town and continue to lead the way with new technologies such as the "Internet of Things".

To re-open the toilets in Chancery Lane under the responsibility of the Town Council re-instating a vital service to bring visitors to the town centre.

To continue to work closely with neighbouring and other town and community councils.

### Financial Summary

The Council Precept is the main source of Council income and represents the amount of council tax paid by households in Cardigan that is allocated to the Town Council. The annual precept for 2021-22 was £83,995.47 for the fifth successive year. The band D property council tax rate equates to £46.96 per household. Other income received in this year is £1,375 in rent from both the Bowling club and Rugby Club and £1,285.25 in grant funding. A full income and expenditure report can be found on our website. The council retains reserves of £40,000 to deal with unforeseen contingencies and emergencies.

A total of £11,914 went to charities and good causes in the town last year. Beneficiaries included Theatre Mwldan, Small World Theatre, Cardigan and Brioude Twinning, Cardigan Castle, Cardigan Swimming Pool, Age Cymru Dyfed, St Dogmaels and Cardigan Junior Football Clubs, Radio Bronglais, Penparc School PTFA, Wales Air Ambulance Charity, Relate Cymru, Cruse the Bereavement support Charity, Jig-So Children's Centre and the Cardi Men 2 Men Shed Group.

### Biodiversity Duty Report to Welsh Government

*Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report:*

The council manages some green spaces and aims to maximise the importance of these areas by embracing best practice to encourage biodiversity in these areas. It is in the council's development action plan to replace old, broken fencing at King George V field, with a natural green boarder of trees, bushes and wild flowers. Also, to utilise new technology, using sensors linked to the Internet of Things projects being implemented around the town to improve biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems by installing air quality sensors, sensors to monitor water quality in our rivers and coastlines etc as our project develops and budgets allow.

### A personal note from the Mayor at the end of her civic reign

I wish to thank my colleagues and the clerk for their support this past year. Due to the ongoing Covid restrictions which remained in place during my year in post the annual functions were somewhat curtailed, but nevertheless I have thoroughly enjoyed the role.

The stand out occasions are the live music events held over 4 weekends last summer organised to lift moral after the long Covid lockdowns and regenerate the centre of the town by encouraging visitors. The re-introduction of the Senior Citizen outing, when we enjoyed a memorable meal in the wonderful setting of Cardigan Castle. The Remembrance Service returned this year, a very important date to honour the fallen and show our respect. The honour of switching on the Christmas lights where I was joined by a choir from Ysgol Uwchradd Aberteifi and the Grinch and some of his friends. It was marvellous to open the mosaic in our Brioude garden and to join in the celebrations with our friends from Brioude to mark the 50 year anniversary of the twinning of both our towns at the end of April. What a wonderful day we had on the return of the much loved Barley Saturday, we are so fortunate to see the return of this traditional day after a absence of two years, it was a lovely event to conclude my term in office. On top of all of these several dinners, openings and other occasions were attended.

My charities of choice this year who have received financial support from the Mayor's fund are Area 43 and Cardigan Cancer Care. £640 was donated to Area 43 to financially assist the group to develop their new location at Pendre. £500 has been donated to Cardigan Cancer Care in recognition of the exceptional work they do in the area.

Thank you.

Councillor Debra Griffiths.