



## CARDIGAN TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

CIVIC YEAR 2022-23

### Introduction

Cardigan Town Council serves the area of Cardigan and its population of around 4,300 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 2022/23 period were:

Trystan Phillips (Mayor)	John Adams-Lewis
Siân Maehrlein (Deputy Mayor)	David Maehrlein
Clive Davies	Catrin Miles
Elaine Evans	Nicholas Bolton
Olwen Davies	Stephen Greenhalgh
Teresa Harries	Richard Jones
Philippa Noble	Marilyn Farmer (Resigned April 2023)

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, this remains to be a work in progress, but looks positive for this year.

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 2022-23 was £83,995.47 for the sixth successive year. The band D property council tax rate equates to £46.96 per household. Other income received in this year is £1,050 in rent from both the Bowling club and Rugby Club and £3,384 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 £21,386 went to charities and good causes in the town last year. Beneficiaries included Theatre Mwldan, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Cardigan Castle, Barley Saturday, Cardigan River and Food Festival, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cardigan Sea Scouts, Cardigan Jig-so Children's Centre, Wales Air Ambulance Service, Cardigan Football Club, Cardigan Rugby Club, Small World Theatre, St Dogmaels Junior Football Club, Ysgol Uwchradd Aberteifi.

The Mayor's fund was shared between the cost of supplying a two course Christmas dinner to our more vulnerable residents and Cardigan Swimming club.

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

It is very hard to believe that 12 months have flown by so quickly; I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart everyone who has supported me during the past year, the members

of the Council, our organized and supportive Clerk, and family and friends who have also supported me. Thanks to everyone.

The hustle and bustle of a community has resumed during this period, as everyone tries to find a path and a new way of life after a period of restrictions and turmoil nationally.

We are all having to adapt to a new way of life, with the alarmingly high cost of living putting enormous strain on our society. Rejecting the usual procedure to get refreshments and food after the establishment ceremony last year, and stepping in to pay for Christmas dinners for the elderly was a completely natural step, especially when considering the suffering in our area; although we are in an area of particular beauty, poverty and deprivation in our society means that we need special and careful consideration with our use of any public money.

I strongly believe that the swimming pool is a vital resource in the town, and I was proud to be able to support the pool also with a financial donation; the pool is a valuable resource in helping to encourage wellbeing, mental and physical health and fitness. I hope that we are in the early stages of a path that will lead us to being able to develop the pool and the site into a modern and effective center for our local community, and the wider community.

I would like to wish everyone well within our special community in Cardigan, and I look forward to continuing to be a member of our town council. It was a privilege to lead the council for the year, and I look forward to playing my part once again, and ensuring that the purpose of our work is to voice the opinions of the local people - and not an agenda or personal feelings.

Thank you very much.

Councillor Trystan Phillips.

Mayor's donations throughout 2022/2023:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Amount</b>
15/05/22	RNLI Service - Poppit	£40
26/06/22	Finch Square to meet a new family from Syria and do a collection for them	£20
02/08/22	Cardigan Show	£50
20/08/22	Dragon – Gift for Brioude Twinning Committee	£80
18/11/22	Mayor of Newport induction service - collection for the RNLI	£100
18/12/22	Cardigan Singers performing the Messiah	£50
01/12/22	Cardigan Christmas Fable	£22
18/12/22	St Mary's Cardigan Christmas Service (collection)	£20
18/12/22	St Dogmaels Christmas Service (collection)	£100
18/01/23	Donation to Cardigan food bank (with collection from Ysgol Penparc Christmas service)	
09/04/23	St Mary's Cardigan Easter Service (collection)	£20
29/04/23	Barley Saturday Collection	£100
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£622</b>

