



CARDIGAN TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

CIVIC YEAR 2025-26

Introduction

Welcome to Cardigan Town Council's Annual Report, which provides an overview of our activities, achievements, and financial performance over the past year. This report reflects our ongoing commitment to serving the community of Cardigan, maintaining transparency in our work, and striving to enhance the quality of life for all residents.

Over the past year, the Council has continued to focus on delivering essential services, supporting local initiatives, and working collaboratively with community groups, businesses, and partner organisations. Despite the challenges faced, we have made progress by refurbishing the local tennis courts and committed to taking responsibility for the four public conveniences blocks in Cardigan, to prevent their closure. We hosted our first Grants Award Ceremony evening which allowed local charities and organisations a public platform to share information on their activities.

We remain dedicated to preserving Cardigan's unique character while promoting sustainable growth and community wellbeing.

Nestled along the stunning coastline of Ceredigion, Cardigan is a charming and vibrant town that offers a perfect blend of natural beauty, history and Welsh culture. It is the gateway to the Teifi Valley and the Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire Coastal Paths. It is positioned on the tidal reach of the River Teifi and the second largest town in Ceredigion.

Cardigan Town Council serves the area of Cardigan and its population of around 4,300 residents, 3,325 on the electorate. 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 2025/26 period were:

John Adams-Lewis

Nicholas Bolton

Mark Cole

Clive Davies

Olwen Davies (Mayor)

Richard Davies

Elaine Evans

Teresa Harries

Richard Jones

David Maehrlein

Siân Maehrlein

Catrin Miles

Philippa Noble

Trystan Phillips

The Town Council employs one part time member of staff – Clerk of the Town and Responsible Financial Officer, Eleri Maskell. They also employ Richard Davies in the role of a handy man on a self-employed basis.

Note from the Clerk

I have been in this part time post now since April 2020. Under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 Cardigan Town Council have met the criteria to adopt the general power of competence (GPC) and we operate utilising this power. The position I hold is diverse and interesting. I enjoy working with the councillors and communicating with the residents. A focus for the civic year 2026-27 will be maintaining efficient and clean public conveniences sites; increasing public consultation with our parishioners; developing a significant improvement plan for our play area at King George V Fields.

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;
- Road closures for annual town centre events;
- The street market element of Cardigan Town Fair;
- Supporting the unitary council – Ceredigion County Council in the maintenance of the green areas in our town;

Cardigan Town Council Objectives

To provide a good service and value for money for 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 create a “Digital Place Plan” for Cardigan Town and continue to lead the way with new technologies such as the “Internet of Things.”

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 2025-26 was £99,024.20. The band D property council tax rate equates to £51.65 per household. Other income received in this year - £1,050 in rent from both the Bowling club and Rugby Club. A grant of £7,969 was received from CCC drawn from the Welsh Government Capital Improvement Grant for play areas which allowed us to purchase new equipment for the Pentop Play Area, used by neighbouring Golwg y Castell and Awel y Môr Estates. The Lawn Tennis Association Grant was completed with a donation of £12,200 and this year will be the first full season where the refurbished courts will be in use, the asset is be managed by Tennis Lawn Wales and benefit from expertise to fully maximise the use of this facility in the town centre. The street market element of the Cardigan Fair raises £1,510 which covers the main costs of organising the event. A full income and expenditure report can be found on our website.

Grant Awards and Other Expenditure

A total of £18,680 was distributed to local charities and community organisations. Beneficiaries included Gwyl Fawr Aberteifi, Small World Theatre, Theatre Mwldan, Cardigan Classic Car Club, St Mary’s Church, St Dogmaels Junior Football Club, Bendith, Cardigan Castle, Barley Saturday Committee, Friends of Cardigan Junior School Society, Cardigan Netball Club, Fflach Community Group, Friends of Netpool Park, Penparc Young Farmers Club, 1st Cardigan Guides, HAHAV Ceredigion, Maesglas Football Club, Cardished, Cardigan Church Bell Ringers, and the River and Food Festival.

The Mayor, Cllr Olwen Davies, allocated her £1,000 Mayor’s Donations between Poppit Sands Lifesaving Club, Cardigan Cancer Care, Ein Cegin and the Cardigan Oxygen Therapy Centre.

A special grant of £10,000 was awarded to Eisteddfod y Garreg Las, which is expected to bring a significant boost to visitor numbers in August.

Other regular expenditures include the maintenance of the King George V Play Area, town centre floral displays, Christmas decorations, and essential administrative costs associated with running the council.

A Personal Note from the Mayor

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported me during the past year: members of the Council, the Clerk, family, and friends, but especially my niece and Consort, Ffion Davies, for her unwavering support and companionship. I have thoroughly enjoyed my second year in office and greatly appreciate every kind invitation extended to us.

Among the many highlights of the year were several outstanding events that it was a pleasure to attend as Mayor. These included the Craft Festival Wales, where the quality and creativity of the exhibits were truly exceptional; and the Other Voices Festival, which was an absolute delight to attend throughout the weekend. It was wonderful to witness the crowds drawn into the town to celebrate a rich and diverse range of musical talent and culture from near and far.

Another enjoyable event during the year was the Cardigan Town Carnival. It was wonderful to see so many people come together to enjoy a fun-filled day, with activities and entertainment for all ages. The success of the event was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the small group of volunteers on the Carnival Committee, whose efforts ensured that the day was both enjoyable and well organised.

The Cardigan Agricultural Show was another highlight of the year and remains one of the largest events in our annual calendar. It provides an important opportunity to celebrate the hard work and achievements of our farming community, while also showcasing local businesses, traders and exhibitors. The event continues to play a vital role in bringing together people from across the region and promoting the rich agricultural heritage of our area.

Cardigan Fair was another memorable occasion. It was particularly moving to witness the joy experienced by members of our special needs community on the evening before the fair officially opened. The rides were provided free of charge thanks to the generosity of Vernon Stud, creating a truly special experience for all involved.

The Mayor Making Ceremony of the Barony of Cemaes is a cherished tradition, rich in historic pageantry. Remarkably, this custom survives only in Newport, Pembrokeshire, and London. Attending the ceremony was a fascinating and eye-opening experience.

The Festival of Light, culminating in the spectacular Lantern Parade, is another unique event that showcases the creativity and community spirit of our town. Cardigan was illuminated by beautiful lanterns, providing a feast for the eyes during the dark winter evenings.

One of the most heart-warming experiences of the year was delivering 33 Christmas lunches to some of the less able members of our community. Delivering such a feast on Christmas Day served as a poignant reminder of how difficult and lonely the festive season can be for some people. It was a truly humbling occasion.

My year in office drew to a close with our traditional spectator event, Barley Saturday. Our town takes great pride in this unique occasion, and long may it continue as a cherished annual fixture in Cardigan's calendar.

Throughout the year, I have continued to play a key role in the Flood Plan, supporting residents living close to the river. In addition, a litter-picking hub and Facebook page have been established to encourage councillors, businesses, and residents to take pride in our town and actively contribute to keeping our streets clean.

An ongoing project that I am particularly pleased to support is the creation of a community garden at Rhos y Dre. This initiative aims to transform an unused piece of land into a welcoming green space for residents to enjoy.

Due to unique circumstances, I have the privilege of continuing in the role of Mayor for another year. This will allow these projects to develop further and come to fruition during my next civic year. I hope that the experiences of my second year in office will be surpassed by those of my third—especially now that I have had a practice run!

Thank you very much.

Cllr Olwen Davies
Mayor of Cardigan

Mayor's Donations and Expenses 2025/2026

Event / Donation	Amount
Maesglas VE Day Celebration	£20
Cegin Teifi Supper	£20
Cardigan Rugby Club Annual Dinner	£50
YFC Rally Ceredigion	£20
Jane Watts Organ Recital	£20
Gŵyl Fawr Aberteifi	£50
Cardigan Agricultural Show	£100
Cardigan Carnival Activities	£30
Eating the Bounds	£20
Brioude Dinner	£30
Hafod Coffee Morning	£20
Catholic Church Remembrance Sunday	£20
Barley Saturday Dinner	£50
Santa's Grotto	£40
RNLI Coffee Morning	£20
Envies Judging, Maesglas	£20

Event / Donation	Amount
St Mary's Carol Service	£20
RNLI Carol Service	£20
100th Birthday Gift	£10
Emergency Services Christmas Hampers (x4)	£150
Parkinson's Support Group Dinner	£50
Sweets to Christmas Lunch Providers	£12
Air Ambulance Coffee Morning	£20
Barley Saturday Parade	£50
Coffee Morning, Hwb	£20
Good Friday Service at St Mary's	£20
Gymanfa Ganu, Bethania	£20

Mayoral Travel

- Aberystwyth Mayor Making
- Narberth Eisteddfod Proclamation
- Verwig YFC Rally
- Newport Mayor Making