

Llanelli Rural Council Annual Report

2019-20

Introduction

<p>Outline of Council</p> <p>Indication of what could be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number and names of councillors• Name of Mayor/Leader• Name of clerk and officers• Geographical area of Council• Number of residents represented• Any other relevant information	<p>One of nine community councils in the Llanelli district area, the Council, formed during Local Government re-organisation in April 1974, is made up of 21 elected members, advised by the Clerk to the Council.</p> <p>The Council's geographic area is approximately 26.78 square miles, with a population of 22,800 and surrounds the urban centre of Llanelli. Its boundaries extend from Loughor Estuary in the east to Burry Port in the west and skirts the Gwendraeth Valley in the north. The area is made up of the villages and districts of Bynea, Cwmbach, Cynheidre, Dafen, Felinfoel, Five Roads, Furnace, Llwynhendy, Ponthenri, Pontyates (south of the railway line), Pwll, Sandy and Swiss Valley.</p> <p>Chairman: Councillor Sharen L. Davies Leader of the Council: Councillor Tegwen Devichand Clerk to the Council: Mark Galbraith ACIS</p> <p>The Council's 21 elected members represent seven wards and it meets on the second Tuesday at 6.00 pm each month except for August.</p> <p>Councillors by ward are: Bynea: Cllrs S M Donoghue, T M Donoghue and I G Wooldridge. Dafen: Cllrs S L Davies, T Devichand, S N Lewis and A J Rogers. Felinfoel: Cllrs H J Evans and W V Thomas. Glyn: Cllrs T J Jones and C A Rees. Hengoed: Cllrs S M Caiach, M V Davies, P M Edwards and J S Phillips. Pemberton: Cllrs F Z Akhtar, J P Hart, E Simmons and one casual vacancy. Swiss Valley: Cllrs A G Morgan and J S Randall.</p> <p>The Council's precept for 2019/2020 was £1,041,560 equivalent to £128.63 per band D property. Since the Council's inception, it has built and maintained nine community halls, sports changing rooms and a community resource centre incorporating community and changing facilities. It maintains seven parks where rugby, soccer, bowls and cricket are regularly played and</p>
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	<p>has provided and maintains 13 children’s play areas. It grant aids voluntary and charitable organisations. Through its Training Department the Council provides work based learning training and job opportunities.</p> <p>The Council also maintains Llanelli District Cemetery which is jointly owned with Llanelli Town Council. The Council also provides a grounds maintenance service to the town council to maintain its parks and open spaces under a service level agreement.</p>
<p>What is the Council’s Vision/Objectives?</p>	<p>The Council is committed to encouraging community development and delivering better customer service while acting as a local voice for the communities it represents.</p> <p>The Council has the following ambitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be recognised as an excellent organisation; • To be an organisation that people are proud to work for and be associated with. <p>The Council aims to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caring and supportive; • Fair and equitable; • Inclusive; • Developmental and Innovative; • Empowering, Enthusiastic and Encouraging. <p>The Council’s general vision is outlined in its Strategic Plan but following the enactment of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WFGAct) it elected to employ a full time Community Development Officer (CDO) and commissioned a 15 year plan that focuses on well-being called the Llanelli Rural Area Whole Place Plan – 2015 to 2030. This plan details the background, approach and methods of delivering well-being for its area. Both its Strategic Plan and Well Being Plan integrate the seven National Wellbeing Goals and five ways of working brought about by the Act.</p>

OUR SPENDING PRIORITIES

How is the Council funded?

The Council is funded entirely from the Council taxpayer and other sources of income collected from charges etc.

Where does your money go?

The Council has agreed a budget of £1,743,150 to spend on the provision of services in 2020/21. For the council tax payer, the Band D tax levied will be £129.83.

The Council has budgeted to spend on:

2019/20		2020/21
£		£
394,760	Halls	322,020
552,150	Parks/open spaces	659,030
97,510	Roads and footpaths	113,270
120,000	Cemetery	133,000
34,260	Arts and tourism	34,620
91,770	Community development	100,690
43,750	Grants	33,000
120,770	Play areas	207,540
71,510	Asset Transfer	70,260
<u>64,670</u>	Other services	<u>69,720</u>
<u>1,591,150</u>		<u>1,743,150</u>

To be financed by:

	£
Council Tax payers	1,079,290
Charges, grants etc	268,510
Reserves	395,350

Financial Reserves

Balances are necessary to provide for the levelling out of normal peaks and troughs of a year’s financial activities. It is estimated that these working balances will stand at around £400,000 on 31 March, 2020.

Continuing Services

- the maintenance of its community halls, sporting changing rooms, parks, play areas, footpaths, open spaces and Llanelli District Cemetery
- providing a grounds maintenance service to Llanelli Town Council
- funding of the Christmas Lights with Carmarthenshire County Council and Llanelli Town Council
- Work Based Learning Programmes as part of the Skills Academy Wales Consortium.

Our Plans

Specific projects this year are:-

- To complete a community adoption plan with Welsh Water for Swiss Valley Reservoir
- To complete the lease transfer of assets from Carmarthenshire County Council
- To negotiate section 106 funding for play and recreational facilities
- To provide new play equipment at Danybanc in Felinfoel, Ponthenri, Trallwm and Tir Einon.
- To provide an Astroturf area at Dafen Park.

Progress against the Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan Objectives

Carmarthenshire PSB Well-being Objective	Steps taken by the Town/Community Council that contribute to the Well-being Objective	How have the 5 Ways of Working been used to shape your activity? (Summary in Appendix A)	Which national Well-being Goals does this work support? (Summary in Appendix B)
Healthy Habits: People have a good quality of life, and make healthy choices about their lives and environment	Provision of meeting spaces: nine community halls / centres	These facilities were in place long before the WFGAct and the way they are run embody the five ways of working. The halls / centres are run by local volunteers and provide a range of uses that impact positively on the well-being of people. The halls host services, classes and clubs such as keep fit, martial arts, knitting groups, historical societies, post offices, yoga, cafes, cylch meithrin, weight loss, birthday parties, NHS staff and more. The Council supports the voluntary effort of running the buildings by carrying out essential maintenance, annual grants and covers the cost of insurance and rates. This model enables each hall committee to make a surplus which it can reinvest in the hall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities • Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
	Maintaining the footpath network within the Council's boundaries	The Council has an agreement in place with Carmarthenshire County Council to maintain public rights of way within its area on an agency basis for the county council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient Wales • Healthier Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities • Globally Responsible Wales
	Provision of seven playing fields used for recreation and sports such as bowls, cricket, football and rugby teams from junior to adult age groups.	These facilities allow for sports teams to participate in leisure and recreation throughout the Council's administrative area. The Council has a positive relationship with these groups and the Council maintains facilities to a satisfactory level at no cost to the user. The Council's grounds maintenance team has good communication links with local clubs. This proactive approach helps to deal with issues at an early intervention therefore preventing problems while safeguarding long term needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities • Globally Responsible Wales
	Capital Works Programme for Dafen Park: Refurbish the old tennis court astro turf facility. Resurface Dafen Park's car park area.	The new astro turf facility will enhance an area of Dafen Park that will provide a welcome space for all, catering for the community to use especially junior, adult, male and female teams that use Dafen park. All potential users were considered and consulted fully during the planning process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities

	Capital Works Programme: Installation of a new bus shelter at Gorsfach in Dafen/Pemberton.	The Council used its powers to provide this shelter after members of the community raised concerns. The Council then fully consulted with each household in close proximity to the proposed location to canvas views and support. Collaboration with Carmarthenshire County Council then followed allowing for the installation of the bus shelter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities
	Capital Works Programme: Community Asset Transfer of the children's play area at Danybanc, Felinfoel from Carmarthenshire County Council.	With this asset transfer, the Council has had to remove old equipment and replace with new. A collaborative approach was taken with local residents involved by being updated of progress. Ideas were generated and acted on following these conversations. The Council invested £20,000 in the play area to save it from certain closure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities
	Working with Keep Wales Tidy in the provision of a Litter Pick Hub	The Council's offices acts as a litter pick hub for Keep Wales Tidy. This enables individuals and groups to loan litter picking equipment for one off clean ups. Measures are in place to financially support newly formed litter picking groups. The Council is also represented at Pride In Your Patch and Llanelli Litter Taskforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wales of Cohesive Communities • Globally Responsible Wales
	Learner Wellbeing	The wellbeing of learners is a priority within Work Based Learning Provision (WBL). Estyn inspections and self-evaluations of training provision will focus on the 'Wellbeing and Safeguarding' of learners along with the 'Care, Support and Guidance' offered to them. This is alongside their progress in learning. Skills Academy Wales has a management group committed to promoting 'Wellbeing and Equality' throughout the consortium and LRC Training plays a full part in leading this group. The Safeguarding and Wellbeing Officer has been created to prioritise learner and indeed staff wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient Wales • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales
	Publication of Council's first biodiversity report	Section 6 under Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requires the Council to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of its functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems. The Council must also publish a plan setting out what it proposes to do to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience. The Council's plan was published in December 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient Wales • Healthier Wales • Globally Responsible Wales
	Working group dealing with climate change and the promotion of biodiversity in place to further support the principle of sustainable development	Biodiversity Working Group established. The working group undertook a review of the council's position in relation to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reduction of target from 2°C to 1.5°C global temperature rise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient Wales • Healthier Wales • Globally Responsible Wales

		<p>The aim of the review: To review the council's position in relation to IPCC and recommend how the Council can contribute towards this target in the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>The working group will consider the potential changes and impacts of global warming across the Council's administrative area. The review will involve gathering information from its own activities in providing local services and consult with other resources such as government advisory bodies, websites, partner organisations, agencies and individuals. Identify the key areas where the council can impact on the IPCC target whilst carrying out its service delivery functions (direct and indirect) and how the Council can also encourage residents to make an impact on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing carbon emissions; • Use energy more efficiently; • Switch to low carbon fuels; • Prepare for climate change. <p>The recommendations of the group are reported to the council's Policy and Resources Committee for consideration. Stemming from this an Environment and Climate change policy, strategy and action plan will be formulated and reported for further consideration by the Policy and Resources Committee.</p>	
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Early Intervention: To make sure that people have the right help at the right time; as and when they need it	Provision of grant funding to voluntary groups and community hall committees	The projects we support are for the community and also by the community. One off grants and continuous support of activities come through via the grants. Criteria in accordance with the WFG act and application scoring is used to ensure the five ways of working are considered in order to maximise the reach of each grant award.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Healthier Wales • Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities
	Work based learning provision for 16-18 year olds	LRC Training's Traineeship programme is available on a roll-on, roll-off basis, ensuring that young people who often face many difficult barriers to learning can access provision when they need to. Inductions are held monthly and some times more often than that and each learners will have an Individual Learning Plan drawn up which will include targets which are SMART and achievable. Progress against these targets are reviewed monthly. Learners will access training opportunities which are appropriate and timely for them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Resilient Wales • More equal Wales
	Apprenticeship opportunities	Apprenticeship opportunities are available at any time. LRC Training will work with employers who have apprenticeship vacancies to help them fill vacancies. The availability of apprenticeship places is promoted to employers in the relevant sectors, particularly in logistics where employers are currently experiencing a shortage in operatives and LGV Drivers. Learning follows pre agreed apprenticeship frameworks but there is flexibility in the method of delivery, a mix of on and off the job training and an opportunity to complete the framework over a longer or shorter timespan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Resilient Wales • More equal Wales
	Community Development Officer (CDO) support	The CDO support for our communities is available. The support follows the principles set out in the five ways of working as well as the well-being objectives set out in the Council's Well-Being (Whole Place) plan. Consideration also goes into how it meets the Carmarthenshire well-being objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Resilient Wales • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities • Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language • Globally Responsible Wales

	Whole Place Plan delivery	<p>The Whole Place Pan was developed back in 2015. The Whole Place Plan is a 15 year well-being plan for the Council. It was the Council’s initial response to comply with the provisions of the WFGAct. The 5 ways of working and national well-being goals are referred to throughout the document. Future updates will link in with the PSB Well-being Objectives. 14 interventions are mentioned in the plan with many already actioned. The plan’s delivery is now into its fifth year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Resilient Wales • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities • Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language • Globally Responsible Wales
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Strong Connections: Strongly connected people, places and organisations that are able to adapt to change	Website & Social Media presence on Facebook and Twitter	The social media presence has allowed the Council to put out public information in a fast and accessible manner. It links well with other local accounts enabling sharing of information for residents. The website has a community focus that is open and transparent providing the user with information on local activities, volunteering opportunities, community hall schedules and so forth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthier Wales • Cohesive Communities
	Nine community halls	The Council's halls are well used and relied upon by our communities. These versatile community spaces host a variety of classes that give residents the opportunity to improve their well-being. The Council recognises that not every community has a hall and it can work with residents to explore options for new facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthier Wales • Equal Wales • Cohesive Communities • Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
	Provision of volunteering opportunities via the Street Buddies initiative	Street Buddies is one of the interventions of the Council's Well-being (Whole Place) plan. They meet monthly as a network to provide updates on various community benefit initiatives. The Council has led a partnership that consists of other public and voluntary services. It has enabled these projects by giving it a platform to promote services whilst in return benefitting from forming relationships with the pool of volunteers that are the Street Buddies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities • Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
	Networking in Training and Education	LRC Training is recognised as a quality provider within Welsh training provision. Membership of National Training Federation Wales and Skills Academy Wales allows the department to participate and contribute to all consultations, training and guidance relevant to WBL provision. The department is particularly well represented in the areas of Equality and Diversity and Traineeship provision. LRC Training is also involved in sector specific networks, notably with the National Logistics Academy which offers apprenticeship opportunities across the UK.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities

		Locally officers network well with referral agencies such as Careers Wales, The Youth Service and JobCentre Plus. There are good communications with other local providers and support agencies who are involved with young learners	
	The Council regularly participates in Public Services Board sub group meetings	The Council is a firm supporter of this forum which meets at intervals throughout the year. It is a forum that embraces the 5 ways of working by opening up discussions around issues affecting individual and collective town and community Councils that are working towards the WFGAct and the Carmarthenshire Well-being plan. Our Community Development Officer also attends meetings with colleagues of other Town & Community Councils to focus on the work that they do which encourages shared learning as well as potential shared community projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Resilient Wales • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities • Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language • Globally Responsible Wales
	Felinfoel Community Resource Centre	This building has additional facilities compared to other Council owned community halls. It is a two storey building with a depot for our grounds maintenance team, office space and changing rooms for the sporting organisations that use Felinfoel Recreation Ground. The management committee is set up as charity and company limited by guarantee which is supported by the Council's CDO. The office space has housed Carmarthenshire County Council staff in the past and now hosts Hywel Dda University Health Board Primary Care team. The community hall sits on the first floor and hosts a varied programme of classes and clubs for the community and is a popular venue for training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities

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Prosperous People and Places: To maximise opportunities for people and places in both urban and rural parts of our county	Time Credits programme	Working in partnership with Tempo to deliver volunteering opportunities in order to address local priorities in return for Time Credits. The time credit currency can be used to access both local and nationwide amenities in return for the volunteer's time. Time Credits are allocated to our Street Buddies volunteers but are also used with the community at large depending on the type of community activity being supported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities
	Supporting the local economy by being included on Carmarthenshire County Council's procurement framework	The Council works on a sustainable footing and strives to ensure best value in all of its spending decisions and where appropriate it looks to support the local economy. Participating in the county council procurement framework supports this general aim.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • More equal Wales • Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
	Opportunities for Learning	LRC Training has developed training opportunities that are not available elsewhere and are not duplicitous with other providers. Traineeship engagement provision exhibits a high level of learner support and pastoral care with dedicated provision for additional learning needs and skills development. LRC Training is unique in its provision of apprenticeship opportunities in Logistics and Transport and one of very few providers in Wales offering Level 4 apprenticeships in Business Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • More equal Wales • Resilient Wales

Reflection and Looking Forward

An opportunity to reflect on how things are going and outline future priorities.

<p>What has worked well for the Council?</p>	<p>Social media page visits and reach is up on last year. Relaying of information of the public health board around the TB screening in Llwynhendy. Biodiversity initiatives undertaken. Tree planting in cemetery grounds, re-wilding areas, improving biodiversity, revised grounds maintenance regimes and amended working patterns reducing journeys, fuel consumption etc. reduce carbon footprint.</p>
<p>What have been the barriers for the Council?</p>	<p>Slow turnaround of asset transfers Available grant funding</p>
<p>Are there any matters the PSB could support delivery/progress on?</p>	<p>To continue to take a pro-active interest in the work of the Council and where appropriate to offer advice and sign posting to support for Council activities</p>
<p>What are the Council's main priorities looking forward to 2020-21?</p>	<p>The Council's plans for this year includes these specific plans: To complete a community adoption plan with Welsh Water for Swiss Valley Reservoir To complete the lease transfer of assets from Carmarthenshire County Council To negotiate section 106 funding for play and recreational facilities To provide new play equipment at Danybanc in Felinfoel, Ponthenri, Trallwm and Tir Einon. To provide an Astro turf area at Dafen Park.</p>

Appendix A: 5 Ways of Working

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.

Appendix B: National Well-being Goals

National Goal
A Prosperous Wales: An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the Global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately, and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.
A Resilient Wales: A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change.
A Healthier Wales: A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood
A More Equal Wales: A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances
A Wales of Cohesive Communities: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities
A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language: Where we have lots of opportunities to do different things and where lots of people can speak Welsh
A Globally Responsible Wales: Where we look after the Environment and think about other people around the World