

Aberaeron Town Council

Annual Report May 2022-April 2023

Organisation of the Council

Aberaeron Town Council is the most local tier of local government for the town of Aberaeron and is a local authority established by way of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Council comprises twelve elected Members.

The Members during the 2022-23 municipal year were Councillors Tim Archer, Aled Davies, Phill Davies, Rhys Davies, Darryl Evans, Elizabeth Evans, Lloyd Garvey, Rhodri Jones, Aga Kalinowska, Diana Mace, and Huw Thomas. There is one vacancy.

The Council employs a part-time Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, Mr Denfer Morgan, who is responsible for the administration of the Council, including its finances.

The Council meets at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday of each month at the Conference Room, Memorial Hall, Aberaeron, other than in August. In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2021, meetings can be attended in person or by remote attendance using Teams.

The Council can be contacted by contacting the Clerk by emailing ctaberaeron@btinternet.com or telephoning 07749320915.

The Council's website is [Home - Aberaeron Town Council \(gov.wales\)](https://www.aberaeron.gov.wales)

Information provided on the website includes:

- Contact details
- Details of Councillors
- Calendar of meetings and agendas and minutes
- Financial information
- Policies

Business Plan 2021-24

The Council produced a Business Plan for the period 2021-24. Progress on the work is monitored at the monthly meetings.

The strategic aims for the period of this Business Plan are to:

1. Make the town an attractive place to live;

2. Promote business growth and enhanced employment opportunities;
3. Retain and improve services for the benefit of the town and the wider community;
4. Maintain and promote its cultural heritage and the Welsh Language;
5. Continue to develop Aberaeron as a major tourism destination. The Key Objectives of Aberaeron Town Council for the period of this Business Plan

It includes eleven key objectives to help achieve these strategic aims.

The main projects undertaken during the year were as follows:

- Improvements at Square Field and Parc-y-fro playgrounds, including repairs to equipment, safety surfaces and fencing
- Review of Christmas lighting
- Tree condition survey
- Supporting the Dyfed-Powys Police CCTV programme for the Town

The projects are progressed by way of an annual Action Plan which is reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The full Business Plan is available on the Council's website.

Recreational and Amenity Land

The Council owns three areas of land in the town which it provides for recreational and amenity purposes, namely:

- Square Field
- Parc-y-Fro
- Allt-y-graig woodland
- Banc Bach woodland.

Square Field has been designated the Ceredigion Centenary Field and is let to organisations to hold events such as the Garden Festival, Junior Football Festival, Shire Horses Festival, Ray Ceredigion Playday and the Annual Carnival. The Field is also used by the Aberaeron Football Club for holding games.

Services

The Council provides the following services:

- Children's playgrounds and recreation areas at Square Field and Parc-y-fro
- A woodland walk at Allt-y-graig

- Floral displays in the town
- Festoon lights at the Harbour
- An amenity area at Banc Bach.

The Council contributes to the cost of providing the following services by the Ceredigion County Council:

- South Beach toilets summer opening

Finance

The Council sets an Annual Budget in January which outlines its proposed expenditure for the following financial year. The expenditure reflects the proposals contained in the Business Plan and the services provided by the Council. This expenditure is funded by way of a precept which is set at the same time. The precept, in turn, is raised by way of a Council Tax payable by each dwelling within the town. Other sources of income are also used together with reserves.

The Council's budget for 2022-23, set at its Meeting held on 11th January 2022, was as follows:

Expenditure

£60,605

Income

Precept: £40,765

Other: £4,305

Reserves: £15,535

Council Tax

A Council Tax of £54.04 was approved for Band D properties in order to produce the Precept.

Annual Accounts

The latest Annual Accounts to have been audited by Audit Wales are those for the previous financial year, 2021-22. The Council received an 'unqualified' report, with no matters requiring attention.

The 2022-23 Annual Accounts have been approved by the Council and sent to Audit Wales for auditing.

Further details can be found on the Council's website.

Community Matters

Representing the Community

Ceredigion County Council is the local education authority, local highways authority, local planning authority and is responsible for the provision of social services for the

County. The Town Council is consulted by Ceredigion County Council on certain matters.

The Town Council has made representations on the following during the year:

- Planning applications
- Experimental Traffic Regulation Order
- Harbour development / coast protection scheme
- Footpath creation and diversions

Voluntary Action

The Council has established a group of volunteers to undertake various work including:

- cutting back and clearing growth at the Allt-y-graig woodland
- litter picking on its land and streets and pavements
- weedkilling on streets and pavements

2023-24 Municipal Year Development Proposals

The Council set its budget for 2023-24 at its January meeting and is continuing with progressing the proposals contained in the Business Plan by way of the 2023-24 Action Plan which is reviewed and updated at every monthly meeting.

This will include:

- Providing new play equipment at the Parc-y-fro playground, including an inclusive roundabout and a see saw
- Developing Banc Bach Common

The Council is working with the County Council to develop proposals for the following:

- A Town Regeneration Plan
- A Green-Blue Initiative
- Town Branding
- A Place Plan
- a Town app
- a Town WiFi service
- a Town Sign/Photopoint

Denfer Morgan
Town Clerk
May 2023