

# **Cyngor Tref Aberaeron Town Council Annual Report May 2024-April 2025**

## **Town Mayor's Report to the May 2025 Annual Meeting**

Firstly, it's been a huge honour to have been mayor over the last year. I'd like to thank all of you, and the residents of the town for the support you've given me.

It's been a challenging year in many respects. Of course, we were all expecting the disruption caused by the coastal defence works and the vast majority of residents and visitors have recognised the importance of the works and tried to ignore the disturbance and carry on as best they can.

Less easy to accept has been the baffling and shameful decision of the county council to move the town library from the county hall to Penmorfa. I'm not someone who usually criticises the county council too much but this strange decision with its questionable justification made against the wishes of almost all residents is a tough one to take. Let's just hope it ends up being a temporary move and we see the library back where it belongs soon.

My first engagement was to attend the D-Day commemoration at the Yacht Club where Lord Lieutenant Sara Edwards lit the Lamp of Peace. It was an interesting event and it was fascinating to hear the personal recollections of those who were there.

Next I had the honour of being asked to open the book festival at the memorial hall by delivering a short speech. The audience were all book lovers and when I mentioned the library decision, they made it very clear that they all disagreed with the decision.

Two events arranged by the cricket club followed: the annual six a side competition, always a fun event, followed by Aeronfest which will hopefully develop into a regular fixture on the Aberaeron calendar – it certainly deserves to be.

August was busy as usual and I started by opening the beer festival by drinking a ceremonial first pint. It was so nice that I stayed for a one or two more.

August Bank Holiday weekend was busy with the mackerel fiesta parade and Aberaeron rugby sevens. I was hoping to capture the spirit of the Carnival on the Monday by wearing the carnival colours of red, orange and yellow although quite a few people mentioned to me that I looked like either Mr Tumble or, even worse, Michael Portillo.

In the autumn, I was asked to write and host a fundraising quiz for the darts league in the Prince of Wales which raised about £300 for them.

Soon after I attended the launch of the Poppy appeal in the British Legion and in November there was the Remembrance Day service in the hall – always a significant date in the calendar.

With Christmas approaching I had the pleasure of turning on the Christmas lights at the community Christmas event. There followed the Primary school's Christmas show at the Moody Cow – a thoroughly professional show for which I was given a front row seat!

On Christmas Day, my daughter Betty and I visited the residents at Min y Mor to hand out some gifts and have a nice Christmas morning chat.

Eisteddfods in both the secondary school and the primary school followed and I was very happy to have a warm day on which to lead the Primary school's St David's day parade.

The Memorial Hall kicked off their centenary celebrations with a cheese and wine night and the weather held fair for the unveiling of the centenary plaque in Parc y Fro at the start of April. The work the committee do at the hall is fantastic and the number of events now is great to see. The dancing classes that Laura holds on a weekly basis along with Ser Aeron provides a fantastic creative outlet which was probably missing on that scale before.

Finally, if I thought I was going to have a quiet last few weeks as mayor, I was wrong. Over the last ten days I have handed out medals at the darts finals night in the Sports Club and at the junior football tournament.

My final engagement was to attend the VE day celebrations last week and the ceremony at the Yacht Club celebrating the work done by services stationed at Aberaeron during the second world war. At the end of the service I was pleased to present a plaque commemorating the occasion to the British Legion. Thanks in particular to my successor Tim for arranging the plaque and the event itself which I thought was a highlight of the year.

As I mentioned earlier, it's been a challenging year but there have been plenty of positives too.

The work that Lloyd and Diana in particular are involved with is very time consuming and the flowers around town always look great. Keeping the bracken under control in Allt y Graig has been successful and we look forward to welcoming the primary school when they start their forest school project.

The new accessible rides in Parc y Fro have been well received and we thank Rhodri and Darryl for their continued work with the upkeep of both parks. We finally managed to get rid of ratty and the ever-growing family and there are the beginnings of a plan in place for improving the infrastructure in Square Field should a grant become available for the work.

Once the coastal defence works are completed, the festoon lights will go back up and maybe some day we can get lights around Pwll Cam to extend the project. Who knows, we may even find somewhere for the photopoint sign. I think I have a fair idea of where Phil would like to see it go.

The digital projects are all working well and one thing I'd like to do more of over the next year is to use the data from the WiFi project to help local businesses make business decisions based on the data we get from it.

The place plan, which we now have a solid first draft gives us solid guidance on shaping the future of the town based on local needs.

Despite budget constraints we have managed to find a way to keep a street cleaning presence in the town as well as expand the grass cutting contracts as we see the contribution from the county council diminishing year on year. It remains to be seen how many public toilets we'll have in the future.

We've been able to contribute financially to many good causes throughout the year including to the Hall's centenary, Aeron Arts, the swimming pool and more besides. I'm sure this will continue in the future.

I was asked the other day if I'd had to go to any event that I didn't want to go to during my time as mayor. I wasn't sure how to answer at the time but now I've had time to think about it, I'd say the opposite was true. I've been to lots of things this year which I probably wouldn't have otherwise gone to and I'm glad I did – I'm definitely going to be a return visitor to lots of those over the next years.

These events and its residents are what makes Aberaeron and I'm very proud to have been mayor.

Diolch yn fawr.

Aled Davies

## **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 2024-25 municipal year were Councillors Aled Davies (Town Mayor), Tim Archer (Deputy Town Mayor), Phill Davies, Rhys Davies, Darryl Evans, Elizabeth Evans, Lloyd Garvey, Rhodri Jones, Aga Kalinowska, Diana Mace, Sian Stewart and Huw Thomas.

Councillors Sian Stewart and Huw Thomas resigned for personal reasons during the year.

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](mailto:ctaberaeron@btinternet.com) or telephoning 07749320915.

The Council's website is [Home - Aberaeron Town Council \(gov.wales\)](#)

Information provided on the website includes:

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

## **Ceredigion Community Review Final Recommendations**

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission published its Community Review Final Recommendations and the decision was that Aberaeron remains as a Community with a reduced number of eight Members. This will be brought into effect by way of the May 2027 election.

## **Business Plan 2021-24**

The Council produced a Business Plan for the period 2021-24.

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
- 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, 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
- Floral displays in the town
- Festoon lights at the Harbour
- A woodland walk at Allt-y-graig
- An amenity area at Banc Bach
- Street cleaning
- Maintenance of green areas

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

- South Beach toilets summer opening

These services are totally funded by the Council Taxpayers of Aberaeron for the benefit of its residents and visitors to the Town and the wider area. These services are essential for providing the infrastructure which underpins the tourist industry in the area.

## **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 2024-25, set at its Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, was as follows:

### **Expenditure**

£47,674

### **Income**

Precept: £46,824

### **Council Tax**

A Council Tax of £58.24 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, 2023-24. The Council received a 'qualified' report, as the appropriate public notice had not been displayed in accordance with Regulations.

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
- Relocation of the Town Library
- Aberaeron Conservation Area Review
- System for voting at Ceredigion County Council elections

### **Making financial contributions to local organisations.**

The organisations supported during the year were:

Aberaeron and District Swimming Pool - £500  
Aberaeron Comprehensive School Musical - £250  
Aeron Arts - £500

## **Voluntary Action**

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

- planting the borders and planters
- weedkilling on streets and pavements
- cutting back and clearing growth at the Allt-y-graig woodland

## **Community Christmas Event**

The annual Community Christmas event was held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and the Christmas tree was lit as part of the festivities.

## **Place Plan**

During the year, the Council developed its Draft Place Plan which will be the subject of further consultation and review in the autumn of 2025.

The Place Plan is intended to align with the Ceredigion Local Development Plan and be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance in order to assist with decision making in relation to the use and development of land, and changes and improvements to local services.

The Place Plan can be found on the Ceredigion County Council website [2024-aberaeron-place-plan.pdf](#)

## **Digital Projects**

The Council developed the following during 2024-25:

- Town app
- Town WiFi service
- webcam
- Town Sign/Photopoint

Denfer Morgan  
Town Clerk  
July 2025