

Cyngor Tref Aberaeron Town Council Annual Report May 2025-April 2026

Town Mayor's Report to the May 2026 Annual Meeting

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as Mayor of Aberaeron over the last 12 months.

Early on, as I wasn't brought up in Town I visited both of the Town's School's on a number of occasions never failing to be impressed by the friendly welcome of both headteachers and staff and their high standards and that theme of supporting youngsters in the Town became the cornerstone of my year.

Official duties have included invitations and visits to The Ceredigion WI conference, Town Book Festival, 100th Anniversary of the Town's WI, St Davids Day event, Remembrance Services, Town Rugby, Cricket and Football events, Min y Mor for carnival queen and deliver Christmas presents, National Road Cycling Town Christmas lights ceremony, Annual carnival parade, Mackerel Fiesta, best of all the Real Ale Festival.

Other highlights include supporting RAY Ceredigion on a number of occasions, never failing to be impressed by their outstanding contribution to lives of so many ranging from babes in arms to senior citizens in Town and beyond.

My timing in office also benefitted from coinciding with 2 major events. First was the 100th Anniversary of the Town's Memorial Hall and I was honoured to be asked to read the Roll of Honour at the Service to commemorate the centenary and be invited to other events. Of note was the contribution both Schools made to the celebrations, not least an outstanding performance by Ysgol Gynradd Aberaeron in the Hall marking the occasion.

The other major event was the completion of the Flood Defence Works which, despite a few teething troubles, should be remembered for the overall outcome which is the protection of the Town from flooding for future generations.

As a result of both events, I sense a fresh and positive feel within the Town following the combination of Covid and its subsequent effects, and 2 summers of restricted access to Pwll Cam, the Quay and South beach.

I was pleased to be able to represent the Town twice in Cardiff at events linked to the 30th Anniversary of Remembering Screbrenica In Wales, joining the ministers and other dignitaries at the Senedd and Memorial Gardens in the Civic Centre.

I enjoyed supporting and working in collaboration with Town Improvement's Committee, not least on providing Christmas Trees in the Town, and have also been impressed with the work of the Round Table in introducing the 10k and more recently the Triathlon that are attracting competitors and their families from far and wide

The most impactful events of my time in office have without doubt been supporting youth activities. I've enjoyed going to dress rehearsals, performances and demonstrations by Ser Aeron Stars Youth Theatre, Laura McCabe's Dance Academy, Aeron Art's and Aeron Rock Band, meeting not just the young people but their proud parents and sharing in the youngsters success. Additionally, given my PE teacher past, I was particularly pleased that we could financially underwrite the Swimming Pool from reserves to ensure (hopefully) its future.

Indeed, the contribution of volunteers in the Town through not just youth organisations but also the plethora of Sports Clubs, various groups and activities is significant and an example of what community can achieve when it comes together.

I have very much appreciated chairing the Town Council and receiving without exception their support. However, I would be less than honest if I didn't highlight the fact that I believe as a group they do not enjoy the recognition they deserve in achieving so much with minimal and ever reducing resources. Similarly, I consider it important to address the impact of changes to the Town Council in May 2027 through both the reduction in Councillor's and loss of some long standing expertise.

Finally, a couple of comedy moments. The first was sharing the platform with Nia Butch at the Ser Aeron future stars evening, an experience that will stay with me for many a year. The second was a visit to City Hall in San Francisco where Jane and I found ourselves outside the Mayor's Office and Jane dared me to go in and announce myself as the Mayor of Aberaeron. Not one to shirk a challenge I went in to received a warm welcome and enjoyed a tour around the offices by the Mayor's PA meeting, amongst others a chap with the surname Thomas who's family emigrated from Cardiff in the late 1800's. I was asked what our budget was and then informed that their mayor had just signed off a budget of USD15.9 billion.

Mayor's fund

Ser Aeron Youth Theatre - £100

Laura McCabe dance Group - £100

Aeron Art Group - £100

Aeron Rock band - £100

RAY Ceredigion - £100

Town Improvements - £50

Additional Leaning Needs – Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron - £50

Councillor Tim Archer
May 2026

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 2025-26 municipal year were Councillors Tim Archer (Town Mayor), Rhodri Jones (Deputy Town Mayor), Aled Davies, Phill Davies, Rhys Davies, Darryl Evans, Elizabeth Evans, Lloyd Garvey, Aga Kalinowska and Diana Mace. There were two vacancies.

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.gov.wales/aberaeron)

Information provided on the website includes:

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

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 2025-26, set at its Meeting held on 14th January 2025, was as follows:

Expenditure

£59,174

Income

Precept: £50,708

Council Tax

A Council Tax of £61.15 was approved for Band D properties in order to produce the Precept. The balance was funded from reserves.

Annual Accounts

The latest Annual Accounts to have been audited by Audit Wales are those for the previous financial year, 2024-25 and the Council received an unqualified report with Audit Wales indicating that there were no matters having come to its attention to give cause for concern.

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

Recreational and Amenity Land

The Council owns 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 used by the Aberaeron Football Club for holding its home 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
- Street cleaning
- Maintenance of green areas
- Festoon lights at the Harbour
- A woodland walk at Allt-y-graig
- An amenity area at Banc Bach

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.

Digital Projects

The Council developed the following during 2025-26:

- Town WiFi service
- Webcam at the harbour
- Photopoint

Tidy Towns Initiative Funding

The Town Council received a grant of £9,803.50 during the year as part of the Cynnal y Cardi 'Tidy Towns' initiative.

The work undertaken was as follows;

- The provision of twenty flower tubs throughout the town
- The renovation of twenty public benches throughout the town
- Power washing pavements with high footfall
- Purchase of hi-vis jackets for Members and volunteers
- Purchase of additional litter grabber tools.

The work was undertaken by local contractors and supplemented by volunteers.

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
- Objecting to increases in the Harbour mooring fees
- Ceredigion County Council Consultation on the Review of Household Waste Sites - Rhydeion Household Waste Site
- Ceredigion County Council Consultation on its Engagement and Participation Policy
- Hywel Dda Health Board Clinical Services Plan Consultation

The Council was represented by Councillor Tim Archer on the Harbour Users Consultative Committee and the Swimming Pool Committee.

The Council was represented by Councillor Rhodri Jones on the Ysgol Gynradd Aberaeron governing body.

Making financial contributions to Local Organisations.

The Council made a significant contribution to the Aberaeron and District Swimming Pool in the sum of £7,000 in order to assist with financial difficulties during the second half of the financial year. This enabled the Swimming Pool to continue with the invaluable contribution it provides to the health and well-being of residents of the Town and others in its catchment area of all ages.

The other organisations supported during the year was:

Aeron Arts - £500

50% of the cost of the Christmas trees and lights for the Town provided by the Aberaeron Town Improvements Committee - £987

Voluntary Action

Regular inspection and maintenance work on playground equipment is undertaken by two trained Members of the Council on a volunteer basis

Planting and maintenance of tubs and planters throughout the town is undertaken by three Members of the Council and volunteers.

Cutting back and clearing growth at the Allt-y-graig and Banc Bach woodlands is undertaken by Members and volunteers.

Council Members contributed to the holding of the Annual August Bank Holiday Monday Carnival organised by the Aberaeron Town Improvements Committee.

Community Christmas Event

The annual Community Christmas event was held on Friday 28th November 2025 and the Town Christmas tree and the Square Field lights were lit as part of the festivities

Place Plan

The Council contributed to the development of the Aberaeron Place Plan which 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](#)

Ceredigion Community Review Final Recommendations

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission published its Community Review Final Recommendations in 2025 and the decision was that Aberaeron remains as a Community but with the Town Council having a reduced number of eight Members to represent its inhabitants. This will be brought into effect by way of the May 2027 election.

Denfer Morgan
Town Clerk
September 2026