



Water Sports Licence – Tenders Invited

Lower Lliedi Reservoir, Swiss Valley Llanelli

The Lower Lliedi reservoir is a site of outstanding natural beauty. It lies within an area of stunning scenery surrounded by a mosaic of habitats and supports a wide diversity of flora and fauna. The site is already very popular with local people and has toilets and car parking on site.

Welsh Water has a long-term aspiration to develop more sites as hubs for recreation, health and wellbeing, reconnecting people with water and our beautiful environment. In November 2020, Llanelli Rural Council (LRC) agreed to a five-year community adoption agreement with Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) for the Lower Lliedi reservoir at Swiss Valley. The adoption is the first of its kind in Wales.

The Site Management Plan agreed with DCWW sets out the following vison, aims and objectives for the facility:

'To create a hub for recreation, health and wellbeing, reconnecting people with water and our beautiful environment whilst protecting, conserving and enhancing the conservation value of the site'.

Aims & objectives:

- 1. To enable public access and recreation to a well-loved local beauty spot
- 2. To create a high quality visitor experience balancing recreational use of the site with conservation and enhancement of its ecological character
- 3. To promote a variety of activities that meet the recreational, health & wellbeing needs of local residents and visitors
- 4. To preserve the quality and quantity of water available for supply to Trostre steelworks

Funding has been secured from Welsh Government for a range of visitor improvements at the reservoir. Informal paths have been upgraded and Public Right of Way paths have been extended to improve access for all abilities; a pontoon that allows easy access to water for people of all abilities and wash down facilities for biosecurity have been installed. A second pontoon and expansion of the angling offering is planned for 2023.

The opportunity

Llanelli Rural Council would now like to open up the opportunity for an interested party to provide commercial services based at the Lower Lliedi Reservoir.

The council are inviting the submission of Tender proposals from individuals or organisations to operate non-motorised water sports/adventure activities. This might include: stand-up paddle

board, canoe, kayak or other non-motorised water sports and will include the hiring of equipment, collecting self-launch fees and provide training and experience opportunities at the reservoir.

Applications will also be considered to include additional adventure opportunities, such as orienteering, nature walks, wellbeing sessions, woodland crafts, cycling, hiking etc as deemed suitable for the facility.

Location

The licence includes the use of designated areas of the Lower Lliedi reservoir environs, the reservoir, pontoon and washdown facilities.

The licensee will have access to occupy three areas at the reservoir as indicated in red on the attached plan. One of which is adjacent to the Dam. One is located within the service block, that is suitable for development as a retail opportunity, and one is space suitable for siting a storage container or similar.

The licence will operate for twelve month periods. A licence fee of £2,500 per annum will apply.

Timeframe

- Formal Tenders invited from Wednesday 22 March 2023.
- Questions are permitted from Wednesday 22 March 2023 via email: enquiries@llanelli-rural.gov.uk with: "[your (company) name] + Lower Lliedi Water sports licence application" in the subject line
- Deadline for Tender submissions is 5pm on Monday 3 April 2023.
- The sub-committee will meet to review the applications by Friday 7 April 2023.
- The sub-committee will report to the Recreation and Welfare Committee 18 April 2023.
- Successful applicant will be contacted on Wednesday 19 April 2023.

Hours of operation

Commercial operations at the reservoir is to be restricted to the hours of 9am - 8pm (or dusk, whichever is the earliest), to ensure that all water users leave the reservoir in daylight hours.

Llanelli Rural Council is not obligated to accept or be bound by any of the offers received. It reserves the right to vary the terms and conditions of the opportunity at its discretion.

A proviso of this agreement is that a Licensee must charge a maximum fee of £5 per person for a 3.5 hour session for managing 'Self-launch' activities (i.e. for those who wish to access the water using personal water sports equipment). This is to support the Councils intent to provide affordable services for residents.

The successful licence-holder will be required to:

- Work closely with the council, angling society, and stakeholders at the licensed location, demonstrating consideration for local residents and all other users.
- Help manage unauthorised access.
- Manage self-launch access permitted by payment of the fee and adherence to safety requirements, i.e. possession of appropriate equipment and skills, consideration of risk, weather conditions etc.
- Comply with water safety advice and guidance from LRC, DCWW, HSE and national sports governing bodies.
- Demonstrate awareness and ability to risk assess local weather conditions.

- Demonstrate awareness of the importance of biosecurity and water quality.
- Demonstrate awareness of potential hazards associated with operational reservoirs.
- Demonstrate awareness, practices and policies in regard to site ecology and conservation, site heritage, visitor management, community involvement, education and health and safety.

Applicants will be required to set out their business proposal including any specific or additional benefits they believe the business will bring to the Lower Lliedi reservoir.

As part of the application evidence of the following must be provided:

- Adherence to the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations 2004.
- Proof of relevant professional experience and qualifications.
- Public liability insurance cover of at least £10million.
- Standard operating procedures, including:
 - number of staff members on site during operating hours.
 - risk assessment of the proposed water sports operating area, with reference to the site plan showing launch points, water course and safety zones.
 - process for ensuring a safe channel for entry to and exit from the water; including the placement and removal of marker buoys if required.
 - details of daily set up/clear down procedures, including equipment unloading and loading.
 - first aid / life-saving qualifications.
 - risk assessment of any other proposed activities and services.
 - emergency action plan, including rescue procedures and safety equipment.
 - child protection procedures, including DBS checks.

How to apply

Via email: Submit your proposal and all supporting documents to: enquiries@llanellirural.gov.uk, with "[your (company) name] + Lower Lliedi Water sports licence application" in the subject line.

Or

By post: Submit your proposal and all supporting documents in a sealed envelope to Llanelli Rural Council, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, SA15 3BD with: Lower Lliedi Water sports licence application" in the subject line. The envelope must not display any personal or company name.

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