



# Cyngor Gwledig LLANELLI Rural Council

*Clerc i'r Cyngor*  
**Mark Galbraith** A.C.I.S.  
*Clerk to the Council*

Adeiladau Vauxhall, Vauxhall, Llanelli, Sir Gaerfyrddin, SA15 3BD  
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*Fy nghyf:*  
*My ref:*

*Eich cyf:*  
*Your ref:*

*Gofynnwch am:*  
*Please ask for:*

5 Chwefror, 2025

Annwyl Gynghorydd

Gelwir arnoch i gymryd rhan mewn Cyfarfod o'r **CYNGOR** a gynhelir yn Siambr y Cyngor, Adeiladau Vauxhall, Llanelli, a thrwy bresenoldeb o bell ar Ddydd Mawrth, 11 Chwefror, 2025, **6.15 y.h.**

Yr eiddoch yn gywir

**CLERC y CYNGOR**

## AGENDA

1. Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.
2. Derbyn Datganiadau o Fudd Personol gan Aelodau o ran y materion sydd i'w trafod.
3. Cyfranogiad y Cyhoedd – cyfle i aelodau'r cyhoedd ofyn cwestiynau a chyflwyno sylwadau am unrhyw eitem o fusnes sydd i'w thrafod yn ystod cyfarfod heddiw ac sy'n agored i drafodaeth gyhoeddus. Mae eitemau busnes cyfrinachol wedi'u heithrio.
4. (1) Cadarnhau ac arwyddo'r Cofnodion canlynol fel cofnod cywir o'r cyfarfod:-

Y Cyngor	14 Ionawr, 2025	Tud. Rhif: 158 - 160
Y Pwyllgor Polisi ac Adnoddau	15 Ionawr, 2025	Tud. Rhif: 161 - 162
Y Pwyllgor Lles a Hamdden	21 Ionawr, 2025	Tud. Rhif: 163 - 165
Y Pwyllgor Cynllunio a Chyswllt	27 Ionawr, 2025	Tud. Rhif: 166 - 167
Y Pwyllgor Cyllid A Dibenion Cyffredinol	29 Ionawr, 2025	Tud. Rhif: 168 - 169
Y Pwyllgor Ymgynghorol Datblygiad A Dysg	30 Ionawr, 2025	Tud. Rhif: 170 - 171
Y Pwyllgor Dinesig a Seremonïol	3 Chwefror, 2025	Tud. Rhif: 172
Cyfarfod Arbennig o'r Pwyllgor Polisi ac Adnoddau	3 Chwefror, 2025	Tud. Rhif: 173 - 174



Mae Cyngor Gwledig Llanelli yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg  
Llanelli Rural Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English



**INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE**

(2) Ystyried unrhyw faterion sy'n codi o'r Cofnodion er gwybodaeth yn unig.

5. Paratodau cyllideb 2025/26 - derbyn ac ystyried y rhybudd o gynnig a ganlyn a gyflwynwyd gan y Cynghorydd S. L. Davies:

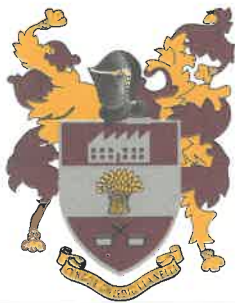
“O ystyried yr argyfwng costau byw parhaus, mae'n hanfodol bod y Cyngor hwn yn arfer rheolaeth ariannol gyfrifol trwy flaenoriaethu gwasanaethau craidd a lleihau gwariant nad yw'n hanfodol.

“Ni wnaeth Panel Annibynnol Cymru ar Gydnabyddiaeth Ariannol fandadu nac argymhell bod Cyngorau Cymuned yn cyflwyno taliadau presenoldeb; yn syml roedd yn caniatáu'r disgresiwn iddynt wneud hynny, hyd at uchafswm o £30 y cyfarfod.

“Er bod y weinyddiaeth hon wedi dewis taliad o £15 fesul cyfarfod yn hytrach na'r £30 a fabwysiadwyd gan Gyngor Tref Llanelli, mae'r pwysau ariannol presennol yn golygu bod angen nodi arbedion a chyfyngu ar unrhyw gynnydd pellach i'r praesept.

“Am ddegawdau, deallwyd bod rôl Cynghorydd Gwledig Llanelli yn wirfoddol. I gydnabod yr anawsterau ariannol sy'n wynebu ein cymuned, mae'r cynnig hwn yn cynnig dychwelyd at yr egwyddor hon drwy ddileu'r taliad presenoldeb o £15 fesul cyfarfod.”

6. Llanelli'n Unites – Adroddiad Cynhadledd – derbyn gohebiaeth gan Gadeirydd, Llanelli Unites yn amgáu adroddiad o gynhadledd a gynhaliwyd yn ddiweddar ynghyd â chais am gyfarfod ffurfiol gyda'r cyngor ac i gytuno ar ymateb y cyngor.
7. Nodi er gwybodaeth amserlen o'r materion a nodwyd.



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*Please ask for:*

5 February, 2025

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to participate in a **COUNCIL** Meeting to be hosted at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, and via remote attendance on Tuesday, 11 February, 2025 at **6.15 p.m.**

Yours sincerely

**CLERK to the COUNCIL**

## AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest in respect of the business to be transacted.
3. Public Participation – an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions and make representations about any item of business to be transacted during today's meeting and which is open for public discussion. Confidential items of business are excluded.
4. (1) To confirm and sign the following Minutes as a true record of proceedings:-

Council	14 January, 2025	Page Nos: 158 - 160
Policy and Resources Committee	15 January, 2025	Page Nos: 161 - 162
Recreation and Welfare Committee	21 January, 2025	Page Nos: 163 - 165
Planning and Liaison Committee	27 January, 2025	Page Nos: 166 - 167
Finance and General Purposes Committee	29 January, 2025	Page Nos: 168 - 169
Learning and Development Consultative Committee	30 January, 2025	Page Nos: 170 - 171
Civic and Ceremonial Committee	3 February, 2025	Page No: 172
Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee	3 February, 2025	Page Nos: 173 - 174



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**INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE**

(2) To consider any matters arising from the Minutes for information purposes only.

5. Budget preparations 2025/26 - to receive and consider the following notice of motion submitted by Cllr S. L. Davies:

“Given the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, it is essential that this Council exercises responsible financial management by prioritising core services and reducing non-essential spending.

“The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales did not mandate or recommend that Community Councils introduce attendance payments; it simply allowed them the discretion to do so, up to a maximum of £30 per meeting.

“While this administration chose a £15 per meeting payment rather than the £30 adopted by Llanelli Town Council the current financial pressures make it necessary to identify savings and limit any further increases to the precept.

“For decades, the role of a Llanelli Rural Councillor was understood to be voluntary. In recognition of the financial difficulties facing our community, this motion proposes a return to this principle by removing the £15 per meeting attendance payment.”

6. Llanelli Unites – Conference Report – to receive correspondence from the Chair, Llanelli Unites enclosing a report from a recently held conference together with a request for a formal meeting with the council and to agree the council’s response.
7. To note for information the schedule of matters reported.

**Dawn Jones**

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**Subject:** Healing the Divide Llanelli Conference Report and follow up actions  
**Attachments:** PDF Healing the Divide Conference Report Published Jan 2025 .pdf

-----Original Message-----

From>

Sent: 23 January 2025 12:31

To: Carol Lloyd <Carol.Lloyd@llanelli-rural.gov.uk>

Subject: Healing the Divide Llanelli Conference Report and follow up actions

To Leader and Clerk Llanelli Rural Council

Please find attached a copy of the report issued by Llanelli Unites following our recent conference.

You will see that the report includes a "Call to Action" to leaders of public bodies - including the Town Council - to come together as a Llanelli Community Cohesion Partnership and to develop and act on a recovery plan form the community.

The BBC Wales Undercover documentary this week showed the dangers of far Right extremism in Llanelli and this should give us all added impetus to act.

We are sending the report to all the main public bodies:

Welsh Government  
Carmarthenshire County Council  
Llanelli Town Council  
Llanelli Rural Council  
Police and Crime Commissioner

We are also sending to community and voluntary groups.

We would like to follow up the report with a formal meeting with the Rural Council to discuss how we could take forward the actions. Could you please let me know the best way for us to meet and discuss?

Diolch.

Chair - Llanelli Unites

**Llanelli Unites**

**Conference Report**

**“Healing the Divide”**



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**January 2025**

## Contents

1. Introduction .....	3
1.1. Aims of the Conference .....	3
1.2. Attendance.....	3
1.3. Format.....	3
1.3. The start of a journey .....	3
2. Summary .....	4
3. Feedback from Workshops .....	5
3.1. Workshop 1: The causes and impact of the divide .....	5
3.2. Workshop 2 - How do we work together to tackle hate and extremism? .....	7
4. Recommendations/ Call to action .....	9

## 1. Introduction

This report summarises outcomes from the “Healing the Divide” conference held in Llanelli in November 2024. The conference was organised by Llanelli Unites, a voluntary group committed to promoting and celebrating the multicultural and diverse communities of Llanelli.

The conference arose from the divisions and hatred largely promoted by Far Right groups following the Home Office proposals for the Stradey Park Hotel.

### 1.1. Aims of the Conference

In planning the conference the organisers set out 3 broad aims for the event:

“... to listen to a range of voices and opinions on the causes of the divisions in Llanelli

...to enable community leaders to understand the impact such divisions are having on the people of Llanelli

...to explore ways in which the community can work together to tackle extremism and hate”.

### 1.2. Attendance

Over 50 individuals attended the event from a range of local and national organisations. A full list of attendees has been recorded. We are not publishing the names or organisations of those attending for security and confidentiality reasons.

### 1.3. Format

The event included presentations and 2 workshop sessions involving multi-agency, small groups which considered set questions. Details are provided in section 3.

### 1.3. The start of a journey

This conference represented a significant step forward in bringing different parts of the community together to consider challenges and opportunities in the aftermath of recent events in Llanelli and identify constructive ways forward.

We recognise that any single event will not solve the problem and that there is more that needs to be done to truly “heal the divide”. We would like to see more engagement with the community and a wider range of voices contributing to the debate.



## 2. Summary

The community of Llanelli has been damaged by divisions resulting from the protests at the Stradey Park Hotel in 2023, with subsequent smaller re-occurrences in the intervening period. We have seen an increase in extremist and hateful actions both online and in person. Many people, particularly those from minority communities, are fearful for their safety.

There is recognition that the lack of any organised, co-ordinated, response to the Home Office proposals, involving the community and the public bodies serving the community, has left a void which is often filled by Far Right and other groups. On too many occasions a narrative of hate, extremism and misinformation has been left unchallenged.

This report concludes with a call to action for a renewed partnership between public bodies and the community to work together to put together a strategy and to take actions to “heal the divide”.

### 3. Feedback from Workshops

#### 3.1. Workshop 1: The causes and impact of the divide

Workshop participants identified a number of issues which they believed had led to the divisions in the community:

##### **Causes of the divide**

###### **Pre - existing social conditions**

- Austerity
- Poverty
- Divisions and language post-Brexit
- Anti migrant rhetoric from some national politicians
- Impact of social media
- Communities feeling excluded from political processes and decisions

###### **Decisions and communication around proposals for Stradey Park Hotel**

- Lack of consultation with the community before proposals were announced
- The impact of loss of jobs and the hotel as a community asset
- The lack of communication and engagement from the Home Office during the whole process
- Some participants criticised the decision by Carmarthenshire County Council not to inform the community prior to the announcement that the hotel was being considered as accommodation for asylum seekers resulting in a lack of trust

###### **Protests at the hotel**

- Far Right groups exploited local concerns and used the legitimate local campaign against the closure of the hotel to push an anti migrant agenda
- The existence of a permanent camp at the hotel attracted a number of people from outside the community, the spread of disinformation and the radicalisation of a large number of people.
- Counter protests against perceived racism and the Far Right left some members of the community feeling caught between competing groups
- The increasingly hostile atmosphere at the protest camp led many local people to feel intimidated and unable to voice their opinions

###### **Issues since announcement not to use hotel for asylum seekers**

- Far Right groups have become established in Llanelli and have used local and national issues to promote their agenda

###### **Lack of any counter narrative**

- The lack of any organised response to the messaging from the Far Right and from individuals expressing anti migrant and other discriminatory views has allowed unwanted views to spread with little or no challenge
- In some cases issues to do with school curriculum or housing policies have been the subject of misinformation but no factual responses have been forthcoming from the local authority or other bodies

## **Impact of the divisions**

### **Hostile atmosphere**

Many participants gave examples of a hostile atmosphere in Llanelli since the hotel protests. The hostility was generally aimed at migrants; asylum seekers and refugees; members of the the LGBTQ+ community; local politicians; Police, etc. The hostility was most prevalent on social media but was also apparent in a number of protests and demonstrations. One impact of this hostile environment was to close down legitimate discussions on issues such as migration.

### **Racism and extremism becoming normalised**

Many participants expressed a view that since the protests at the hotel there had been a change in the “public discourse” in Llanelli and that racist and extremist views had become normalised.

### **Safety fears**

Many community groups had either cancelled events, been forced to pay for security or restricted publicity for events due to a fear of Far Right disruption. Some individuals had been personally targeted and faced harassment online and on the street. Some schools had been subject to threats and intimidation when they were seen as promoting positive messages around refugees and asylum seekers or supporting Pride events.

### **Attacks on local democracy**

Many local politicians at all levels from community councils to members of the Senedd and Parliament have faced threats and have had to change practices such as public surgeries and canvassing.

### **Far Right activity**

There have been a number of protests and demonstrations called by Far Right groups and supported by local people - these have targeted local schools; national campaigns such as farmers protests and campaigns against 20 mph. In some cases groups have travelled to take part in Far Right protests in Telford and London.

### **Fears from the BAME community**

Participants working and supporting minority communities gave specific examples of hostility online and on the streets towards visibly minority community members. In some cases Muslim women and children were afraid to be seen in public because of fears of attack.

### **Hostility towards economic migrants**

Fears were expressed for the number of new migrants who have arrived in Llanelli - usually to work in health and social care. In some cases there has been direct discrimination verbally and online. There is also a fear that “misinformation” from some Far Right groups will lead to attacks on individuals who have been labelled “illegals”.

### **Fears amongst the LGBTQ+ community**

Participants gave a number of examples of discriminatory and threatening behaviour aimed towards the LGBTQ+ community. Far Right groups had targeted events such as Pride and had given a platform on their social media channels to openly hostile groups and individuals. Some Far Right groups had organised protests at Pride events and filmed examples of harassment.

### **Damage to the reputation of Llanelli**

Many participants expressed a view that Llanelli's reputation had been tarnished by the nature of the protests and the Far Right activity which has continued.

There are fears that the damage to the reputation of the town could result in less tourism, a lack of inward investment and difficulties in attracting workers in shortage areas.

### **Positive impacts**

Some participants gave examples of positive changes arising from the protests. There was a feeling that more progressive groups and individuals had come together to organise actions and campaigns within the community. In some cases dialogue had opened up with individuals that allowed a more balanced discussion.

## **3.2. Workshop 2 - How do we work together to tackle hate and extremism?**

A number of themes for action to address hate and extremism were identified from workshops. The common thread across these views was the need for a co-ordinated response from public bodies and the voluntary sector.

### **Action Plan for Recovery**

There was a call from a number of people for an action plan to address the issues raised in the previous workshops and to begin the process of "recovery". There were also concerns that there is no identifiable public body currently leading this work or accepting responsibility for the work to take place.

### **Community Healing**

There was a consensus across many participants that there needs to be a "community healing" exercise to allow the community an opportunity to voice concerns around the issues raised by proposals for the hotel. There is a need for individuals and groups with a range of opinions to put forward their views. This should include those who were opposed to the proposals for the hotel; those with anti-migrant views; local people concerned about the impact on services; those who are supportive of asylum seekers and refugees.

There is a recognition that this work is difficult and requires skills and resources which are not currently in place.

### **Building Resilience**

A number of people put forward the need for greater community resilience in the face of the challenges faced by the community. The "form" of such resilience included more communication and consultation with the community; more information to be provided and a 'counter narrative' to be used in face of misinformation from Far Right groups; more education and learning in schools, colleges and the local community around issues of

racism, migration, asylum seekers and refugees, etc; more opportunities for local people to interact with migrants.

**A Joined Up Approach**

The need for a co-ordinated response across public bodies and community groups was seen as an important starting point for community recovery.

## 4. Recommendations/ Call to action

Following the conference and other discussions Llanelli Unites is making the following recommendations as a call to action:

### 1. Formation of a Llanelli Community Cohesion Partnership

We call on Welsh Government to establish a Llanelli Community Cohesion Partnership to bring together a range of organisations from the public sector and voluntary sector to promote better dialogue and understanding of community need.

The partnership would meet regularly to review community tensions and to plan actions which could lead to better community relations.

The partnership would have an advisory role in determining the allocation of resources to community cohesion in Llanelli.

The partnership would consist of representatives at least of the following:

- Carmarthenshire County Council
- Llanelli Town Council
- Llanelli Rural Council
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- Victim Support
- Elected representatives
- Voluntary sector / Community groups

**We believe this work should start immediately.**

### 2. A Community Healing and Recovery Plan for Llanelli

We call on Welsh Government to lead on the formation of a Recovery Plan for Llanelli.

The recovery plan should be based on partnership working involving:

- Carmarthenshire County Council
- Llanelli Town Council
- Llanelli Rural Council
- Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys
- Victim Support
- Elected representatives
- Voluntary Sector / Community partner organisations

The recovery plan should take into account the impact of the divisions identified above and lead to a series of actions around building community resilience.

Given the delays in starting this work and the need for work to commence before the Senedd elections in 2026, **we call on Welsh Government to start this process by March 2025.**

### 3. Communication and counter narratives

There is a need for public bodies to be more proactive in communicating factual information to counter misinformation published by extremist and Far Right groups e.g.

We are calling on the following bodies to work with a Llanelli Community Cohesion Partnership to consider the following:

- **Home Office (through the Wales Strategic Migration Partnership or other nominated partners)** - to lead on providing more factual information on migration and asylum.
- **Welsh Government** - to lead on information relating to Nation of Sanctuary; Anti Racism Strategy; aspects of the curriculum such as relationship education.
- **Carmarthenshire County Council** - factual information around housing policy and any other areas of responsibility subject to misinformation campaigns by extremist groups.
- **Police and Crime Commissioner** - to coordinate a campaign to provide reassurance to minority communities and to provide a more proactive approach to tackling hate crime and other threats.

**This work should start by February 2025**

### 4. Actions from the community

There is a continuing need for community groups, individuals, political parties and organisations working in the community of Llanelli to challenge hateful language and activities and to promote a positive view of the town and its diverse communities.

We must all accept that we have a responsibility and a role to play.

We are calling on **Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS)** to bring together interested parties to map out community services and to promote a positive set of actions to build on the sense of community in Llanelli.

**We believe this work should start immediately.**

Schedule of reported matters by Members

Item No.	Date	Raised by	Description	Action	Matters Resolved/Outcome
1.	16.01.2025	Cllr. A. G. Morgan	Debris on the path from Llethri Road up to the Community Centre. Path needs clearing as a person has fallen recently in muddy areas.	DLO	Debris cleared by DLO
2.	29.01.2025	Cllr. R. E. Evans	Light not working behind bowls area.	CCC	