

**PWYLLGOR LLES A HAMDDEN**  
I'w cynnal yn Siambr y Cyngor a thrwy bresenoldeb o bell ar  
dydd Mawrth, 15 Gorffennaf, 2025, am 4.45 y.p.



CLERC y CYNGOR

9 Gorffennaf, 2025.

**AGENDA**

1. Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.
2. Derbyn Datganiadau o Fudd Personol gan Aelodau o ran y materion sydd i'w trafod.
3. Cyfleusterau Cymunedol - Gwaith Cynnal A Chadw - nodi, er gwybodaeth, adroddiad cynnydd y Rheolwr Cyfleusterau ar y gwaith a wnaed.
4. Canolfan Llwynhendy –
  - 1) Derbyn a nodi cofnodion cyfarfod yr Is-bwyllgor Hamdden a Lles a gynhaliwyd ar 7 Gorffennaf, 2025.
  - (2) Parc Y Gwili – Ymddygiad Gwrthgymdeithasol – i dderbyn papur trafod gan y Swyddog Datblygu Cymunedol ac i gytuno ar ba gamau gweithredu a allai fod yn angenrheidiol gyda chefnogaeth trydydd parti.
  - (3) Agoriad Swyddogol – trafod trefniadau cyffredinol ar gyfer yr agoriad swyddogol.
5. Tir Hamdden Pum Heol – derbyn llythyr gan breswylydd lleol ynghylch y difrod i'w eiddo o ganlyniad i beli criced yn cael eu defnyddio ym Maes Hamdden Pum Heol a chytuno ar ymateb y cyngor.
6. Tir Hamdden Ponthenri - ystyried llythyr gan Ysgrifennydd Clwb Pêl-droed Ponthenri yn gofyn am ganiatâd i glwb pêl-droed lleol ddefnyddio'r cyfleusterau ym Maes Hamdden Ponthenri a chytuno ar ymateb y cyngor.
7. Canolfan Adnoddau Phil Bennett OBE – Darpariaeth Toiledau - ystyried cynnig dylunio i newid ardal y cyntedd i greu lle i'r toiled a derbyn adroddiad llafar gan y Rheolwr Cyfleusterau ar y camau nesaf i hwyluso'r gwaith.
8. Cronfa Ddŵr Dyffryn y Swistir – ymhellach i Gofnod Rhif 29 (cyfeiriad 21 Mai, 2024), i nodi er gwybodaeth gohebiaeth gan Goedwig Genedlaethol Cymru ar Gronfa Ddŵr Dyffryn y Swistir yn dod yn rhan o rwydwaith Coedwig i Gymru.
9. Deddf Cyrff Cyhoeddus (Mynediad i Gyfarfodydd), 1960 – ystyried eithrio aelodau'r cyhoedd pan ystyri'r y materion canlynol oherwydd natur gyfrinachol y busnes a drafodir.

10. Derbyn y Cyfriflenni ac ystyried darparu cymorth ariannol oddi wrth:  
(1) Neuadd Gymunedol Saron – 31 Rhagfyr, 2024.

  
C. J. Evans

21 Rhagfyr 2024

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**Aelodau'r Pwyllgor:**

**Cyng.** D. M. Cundy (Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor), A. J. Rogers (Is-Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor),  
T. M. Donoghue, E. M. Evans, J. P. Hart, S. N. Lewis, A. G. Morgan, J. S. Phillips, W. E.  
Skinner, A. G. Stephens a O. Williams.

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**  
Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli. SA15 3BD  
Tel: 01554 774103

**RECREATION AND WELFARE COMMITTEE**  
To be hosted at the Council Chamber and via remote attendance on  
Tuesday, 15 July, 2025, at 4.45 p.m.

  
CLERK to the COUNCIL

9 July, 2025.

**AGENDA**

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest in respect of the business to be transacted.
3. Community Facilities - Maintenance Works – to note for information, the Facilities Manager's progress report on work undertaken.
4. Canolfan Llwynhendy -
  - (1) To receive and note the minutes of the Recreation and Welfare Sub-committee meeting held on 7 July, 2025.
  - (2) Parc Y Gwili – Anti Social Behaviour – to receive a discussion paper from the Community Development Officer and to agree what action may be necessary with third party support.
  - (3) Official Opening – to discuss general arrangements for the official opening.
5. Five Roads Recreation Ground – to receive a letter from a local resident regarding the damage to his property from cricket balls being used at Five Roads Recreation Ground and to agree the council's response.
6. Ponthenri Recreation Ground – to consider a letter from the Secretary, Ponthenri AFC seeking permission for a local football club to use the facilities at Ponthenri Recreation Ground and to agree the council's response.
7. Phil Bennett OBE Resource Centre – Toilet Provision - to consider a design proposal to alter the foyer area to create space for the toilet and to receive a verbal report from the Facilities Manager on the next steps to facilitate the work.
8. Swiss Valley Reservoir – further to Minute No. 29 (21 May, 2024 refers), to note for information correspondence from National Forest of Wales on Swiss Valley Reservoir becoming part of Forest for Wales network.
9. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960 – to consider excluding members of the public during consideration of the following matter owing to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

10. To receive Statement of Accounts and to consider providing financial assistance to Saron Community Hall – 31 December, 2024.

**Members of the Committee:**

**Cllrs.** D. M. Cundy (Chairman of Committee), A. J. Rogers (Vice-Chairman of Committee), T. M. Donoghue, E. M. Evans, J. P. Hart, S. N. Lewis, A. G. Morgan, J. S. Phillips, W. E. Skinner, A. G. Stephens and O. Williams.

Date of meeting: 15 July, 2025

Dear Councillor,

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES – MAINTENANCE WORKS**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide Members with an information report on work undertaken by the Council's DLO workforce during June 2025.

**2. WORK ACTIVITIES**

- (1) Vauxhall Buildings  
Litter pick external areas  
Fire risk assessment works  
Change door batteries
- (2) Dafen Community Hall  
Repaired leak on water feed to building
- (3) Dafen Changing rooms  
Purge water system  
Adjusted shower timers  
Changed faulty taps
- (4) Dafen Park  
Litter picked  
Empty bins
- (5) Felinfoel Community Resource Centre  
Litter pick  
Empty litter bins  
Purge water system  
Repaired taps cleaner's cupboard
- (6) Felinfoel Recreation Ground  
Litter pick  
Empty bins
- (7) Five Roads Recreation Ground and Community Hall  
Litter pick  
Empty bins
- (8) Furnace Community Hall  
Litter pick  
Removed wooden fence  
Removed Heras fencing

- (9) Llanelli District Cemetery  
Preparation, backfilling, levelling of graves and cremation plots  
Inspect and make safe memorials  
Litter picking, empty litterbins and clear spent wreaths  
Tend and maintain remembrance gardens  
Clean roads and paths  
Transport wheelie bins  
Mark new burial plots
- (10) MUGA Llwynhendy/Gwili Fields  
Litter pick  
Monitor/cleared broken glass  
Installed litter bin play area
- (11) Ponthenri Recreation Ground/Community Hall/ Changing Rooms  
Litter pick  
Purge water system  
Secured play shed
- (12) Pwll Pavilion and Recreation Ground  
Empty litter bins and litter pick  
Repaired toilet in changing rooms
- (13) Sandy and Stradey Community Hall  
Litter pick
- (14) Saron Community Hall and Square  
Litter pick
- (15) Swiss Valley Community Hall and Shops  
Litter pick
- (16) Swiss Valley Reservoir  
Empty bins, litter pick  
Cleared litter around site, footpaths, shore areas and pontoon  
Continued patrols to check fishing licenses  
Prune vegetation  
Clean toilets  
Swept footpaths  
Installed signs
- (17) Tir Eion play area and recreation ground  
Litter pick  
Empty bin
- (18) Trallwm Community Hall and park  
Empty bins, litter pick  
Purge water system
- (19) Berwick play area  
Litter pick  
Empty bins
- (20) Dan y Banc play area  
Litter pick  
Empty bins

(21) Pontyates Park  
Litter pick  
Empty bins

(22) Cynheidre Park  
Litter pick

(23) Footpaths

**Hengoed ward**

36/54 Cwtta Farm

36/56 Cwm Ty-du to Furnace ponds

36/58 Furnace ponds entrance

**Felinfoel ward**

36/72 Pleasant View Panteg

36/73 Parc Brynmawr

36/78 Park View

36/79 Brohawddgar

(24) Porterage Services

Fill fuel storage.

Consumables, materials.

Vehicles to garages for repairs/tyres etc.

Litter waste and fly tipping removal to waste disposal sites.

(25) Machinery and vehicles

Daily maintenance, pre use checks, adjustments and minor repairs to vehicles, tools and equipment.

Clean vehicles, wash and disinfect vehicles, trailers and equipment following litter picking and bin emptying.

Arrange servicing and maintenance.

(26) General maintenance works to play areas and recreation grounds

Regular litter picking and emptying litter bins.

Sports pitch work included cutting aerating.

Fine turf summer work including fertiliser treatments and grass cutting to maintain playing height of cut.

(27) Maintenance works on behalf of Llanelli Town Council

Regular grounds maintenance services including grass cutting, hedge-cutting and sports surface management to:

Nightingale Court / Clos yr Ysgol / Penyfan / Penygaer / Seaside / Parc y Dre /

Morfa / Havelock. Also, additional sports pitch cutting, aeration and marking to

Penygaer / Seaside / Parc y Dre and fine turf works at Parc y Dre and Havelock.

Additional work includes porterage services and playground repairs.

### 3. LONG TERM IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The work programme is organised on a cyclical basis covering the summer and winter periods. In the summer period the majority of the time focusses on ground maintenance activities, whereas in the winter period the focus switches more to buildings' maintenance activities. Cemetery and Portage activities are performed throughout the year.
- The Council has put in place a preventative maintenance budget based on an annual list of priorities and to cater for day to day contingencies. By adopting a preventative approach this supports sustainable development principles. The cyclical annual maintenance programme ensures community assets are kept in good order, extending the life cycle of the assets over many years.

### 4. SUSTAINABILITY AND WELL-BEING CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The Council's capital and revenue investment in the community facilities meets the following aims, core values and well-being goals.

Strategic Aim	Core Value	National Well-Being Goal						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Community Development	CD7, CD8			✓	✓	✓		✓
Serving the Public	STP1, STP3, STP4, STP5, STP6	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Acting as a Local Voice	LV1, LV2				✓	✓	✓	✓
Quality of Life								
(1) Environment	QL1	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
(2) Social Inclusion								
(3) Safe and Healthy Places	QL5			✓	✓	✓		
Sports, Leisure and Cultural Activities	SLC1			✓	✓		✓	
The Local Economy								
Local Democracy								
Partnership Working	PW2, PW6	✓			✓	✓		✓
Communication								
Health and Safety	HS1, HS4, HS5	✓		✓		✓		✓
Resources	R2, R3	✓	✓					✓
Management and Control	MC2, MC4, MC5, MC6	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓

### 5. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- 5.1 There are no public involvement opportunities identified in preparing this report. However, the Council will examine public involvement in this area of activity as part of plans to promote volunteering initiatives and opportunities in the wider community.

### 6. COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

- 6.1 The council works in collaboration with Carmarthenshire County Council on certain tasks such as footpath maintenance. The council works in collaboration with Llanelli Town Council by providing grounds maintenance services and support.



**7. PREVENTATIVE MEASURES/CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 The work activities undertaken by the workforce are essential to support the Council's preventative maintenance programme in order to maintain community facilities and assets and to keep them in good safe working order. It is important to carry forward appropriate budget provision to support the Council's area of responsibilities and its general programme of works. This will ensure the Council is contributing to a safe and healthy environment, removing the risk of harm to members of the public when using Council/community facilities.

**8. RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 That Members note this information report.

Yours sincerely

**FACILITIES MANAGER**

9 July, 2025

7 July, 2025

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 1 - 4**

At a meeting of the **RECREATION AND WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE** of Llanelli Rural Council, at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, and via remote attendance on Monday, 7 July, 2025 at 4.45 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. D. M. Cundy (Chairman)

**Cllrs.**

S. L. Davies	A. J. Rogers
S. N. Lewis	A. G. Stephens

**Absent :** J. P. Hart, S. K. Nurse

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

**2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following members declared an interest in the following matters:

<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
4(2)	D. M. Cundy	Personal and Prejudicial – the applicant for Tiny Tots Town was a relative.
4(1)	A. G. Stephens	Personal interest – Trustee and Treasurer, Pro-Vision Llwynhendy.
4(2)	A. G. Stephens	Personal interest – the applicant for Tiny Tots Town was a distant relative.

**3. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960**

**RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the following matters be considered in private and that the power of exclusion of the public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960 be exercised.

7 July, 2025

**4. CANOLFAN LLWYNHENDY  
(1) VENUE HIRE CHARGES**

*Cllr. A. G. Stephens declared a personal interest in the following item as he was the Trustee and Treasurer, Pro-Vision Llwynhendy.*

Members considered a schedule of venue hire charges for the main hall and side rooms at Canolfan Llwynhendy.

Members suggested the hire charge for the main hall would be £10.00 per hour for non-commercial use, £15.00 per hour for commercial use and £5.00 per hour for the side rooms. Cllr. S. L. Davies requested a recorded vote on the hire costs and it was recorded as follows:

<i>For:</i>	<i>Against:</i>	<i>Abstained:</i>
D. M. Cundy	S. L. Davies	None
S. N. Lewis		
A. J. Rogers		
A. G. Stephens		

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The hire charge for the main hall would be £10.00 per hour for non-commercial use, £15.00 per hour for commercial use.
2. Hire charge for the three smaller meeting rooms shall be £5.00 per hour standard rate.
3. Hire charges shall be reviewed on 1 January, 2026.

*Cllr. A. J. Rogers (Vice Chairman) chaired the meeting following Cllr. Cundy's temporary withdrawal from the proceedings during discussion of item 4(2). Upon Cllr. Cundy's return to the meeting he resumed his role of chairing the meeting.*

**(2) CAFÉ LICENCE**

*Cllr. D. M. Cundy declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item as the applicant for Tiny Tots Town was a relative and left the meeting before discussion commenced. Cllr. A. G. Stephens declared a personal interest in the following item as the applicant for Tiny Tots Town was a distant relative.*

The Community Development Officer informed members of two licence applications that had been received to operate the café facility at Canolfan Llwynhendy, it was

**RESOLVED** that the application received from Ms G. Hilde and Ms S. Davies, Tiny Tots Town be accepted as the council's preferred application for the operation of the café catering concession and that a licence agreement be drawn up between respective parties based upon the terms specified in the recent independent market valuation report commissioned with Mallard Estate Agents.

*Cllr. D. M. Cundy re-joined the meeting.*

7 July, 2025

**(3) SIGN DESIGN**

Further to Minute No. 27, the Community Development Officer informed members of the recent public consultation that had been undertaken to garner suggestions for the new design logo for Canolfan Llwynhendy.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that the most popular design namely option three be selected as the preferred choice for the production of signage and the logo at Canolfan Llwynhendy.

.....

The site visit concluded at 5.48 p.m.

.....

**Parc Y Gwili - Timeline of instances of anti-social behaviour****Discussion Paper for Action****Recreation and Welfare Committee Meeting****15 July, 2025****March / April 2025**

Play area equipment installation completed. The play areas are to remain closed whilst building work and drainage work to western side of the field is completed.

Play area is in separate sections:

1. Toddler play with surrounding fencing for smaller children
2. Outdoor gym
3. Junior play zone for older children on western side of the green including a zip wire

**13 April**

Reports of residents breaching the heras fencing and taking their children into the play area. These reports are frequent over the coming weeks.

Also received report of new graffiti on the Canolfan building

**19 April**

Council removed Heras fencing to open up the outdoor gym area.

## Parc Y Gwili - Timeline of instances of anti-social behaviour

### 1 May

Pictures of outdoor gym showing ingrained marks and graffiti



### 23 May

Council removed Heras fencing to entrance of toddler play area to open up use of play area in time for Whitsun half term.

### 28 May

Residents reported that the fencing was down and children in the junior play area using the swings.

### 4 June

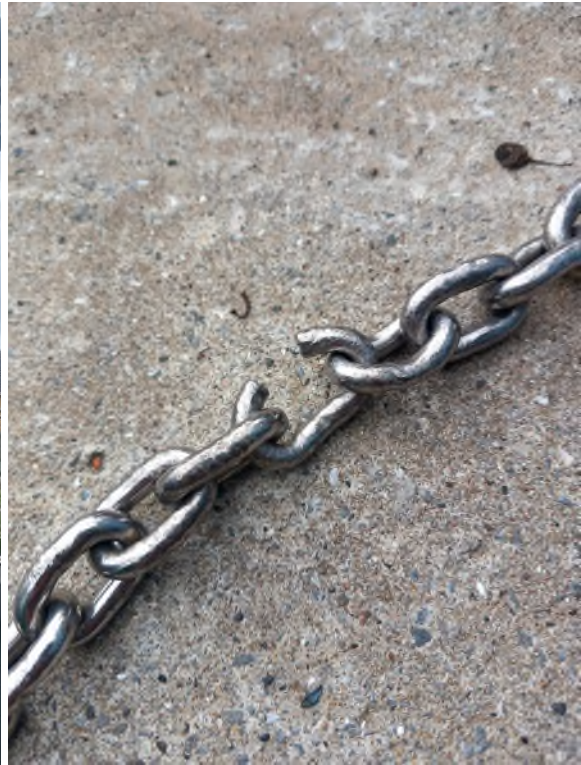
Reports of rubbish and a shopping trolley in toddler play area. Some of the equipment had come apart. On inspection this was down to an installation error meaning the play equipment was loose.

### 22 June

Toddler play area swing chain snapped. There are clear indications that this damage was intentional. Both chains show significant wear, and there is visible damage to the red crossbar as well. It would have taken considerable force to cause this level of damage



## Parc Y Gwili - Timeline of instances of anti-social behaviour



### 26 June

Resident and member of Our Llwynhendy reported the following: *“Kids going into the closed off section of the park, a construction worker has told them to leave. They did, but one of my neighbours promptly ushered her child back into the closed off park, so now the other kids have gone in too. I feel there needs to be some sort of camera set up for however long the park will be closed as not only is this person putting her own child in danger, with the construction work ongoing in the same area, but now other people's children, too.”*

## Parc Y Gwili - Timeline of instances of anti-social behaviour

Separate report:

*"The playground at the community hall is being destroyed. The children's swings are being destroyed by the youth. The youth sit on the swings, smoke, litter and are rude. Small children are not allowed there. Parents who come with small children simply go home because they are afraid."*

### **30 June**

Graffiti on equipment within toddler play area

Bin installed in the play area on the weekend has been ripped out just days later and left on the floor. The bin has been since put back and with a stronger base.



### **8 July**

New bin installed ripped out again even after stronger base fitted 3<sup>rd</sup> July



## Parc Y Gwili - Timeline of instances of anti-social behaviour



**What can be done to ease regular vandalism at the park? Some suggestions for further discussion:**

- Works completed at the park and building
- Regular users of the building
- Volunteer opportunities
- Staff at the building both café and building manager
- Youth Club
- Detached youth workers
- Housing officer presence and patrols
- PCSO cuppa with a copper
- Regular police controls
- A combined effort amongst stakeholders promoting a 'report it' campaign
- CCTV

**Alexandra Einon**

**From:**  
**Sent:** 25 June 2025 20:41  
**To:** enquiries  
**Cc:** Cllr. Alex Evans  
**Subject:** Urgent – Ongoing Cricket Ball Incidents at Parc Elin Mair

LLANELLI RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL	
DATE	26 JUN 2025
FILE REF.	
PASSED TO	ACK/R&W

Hi Graham,

We're writing to you following a series of recent emails and incidents regarding cricket activity at Parc Elin Mair. As the senior officer overseeing this matter, we would appreciate your urgent attention.

This evening, another cricket ball entered our property and struck our house during a match. In addition, a young child was found inside our garden attempting to retrieve the ball, and had to be let out by my wife through the gate as he couldn't get back over the fence, they are sending children over to get balls that they strike into our garden. This follows a previous incident where a ball damaged a roof tile on our porch, and other occasions where balls have entered our garden while we or our children were outside.

We have been in contact with Cllr Alex Evans over the past several weeks to request:

- A confirmed date for a formal risk assessment of the pitch,
- Clarification on whether the cricket team holds active insurance,
- Interim safety measures to protect residents while the above is being addressed.

To date, none of these questions have been answered definitively, and we remain extremely concerned that games are continuing while serious safety and liability issues are unresolved. We were advised that you are the appropriate person to raise these concerns with directly.

We would be grateful if you could please confirm:

1. When the risk assessment will take place.
2. Whether the cricket team has provided proof of insurance, and if so, whether those details can be shared.
3. Whether the council will take responsibility for any future incidents, given that this risk has now been formally raised multiple times. The pitch is too small for adults to be playing on with the pitch only 35m from our property.

We would welcome a constructive resolution to this matter, but due to the risk involved — especially to children — we feel we must now escalate this formally if immediate action is not taken.

We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

**Ponthenri AFC**

LLANELLI RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL	
DATE	20 JUN 2025
FILE REF.	
PASSED TO	Ack/RHW
	✓

To Whom it may concern,

I write to you in looking to use the facilities in Ponthenri Park. We are a new football club with none of the previous committee members as part of our team.

We've had numerous people coming up to us wanting to start a football team again especially 16-21 year olds who are always playing on the football pitch, this is one of the reasons we have decided to give it a go.

We as a new committee understand there were issues with previous members, and we have made sure that they are not involved with the club/committee. We are now putting things in place very quickly to make sure that we can keep this great club going for many years. With your support I think we can start up again.

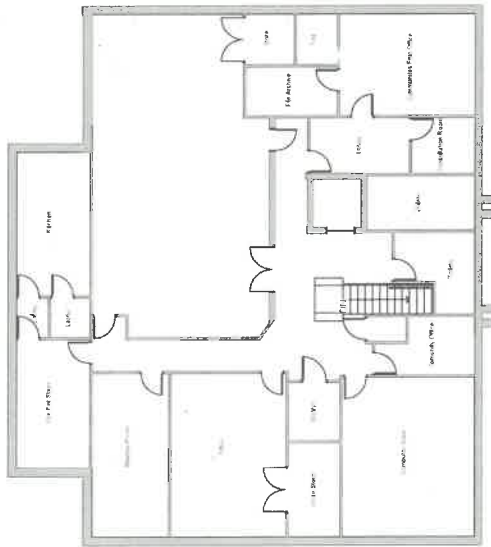
I look forward in hearing from you.

Best regards,

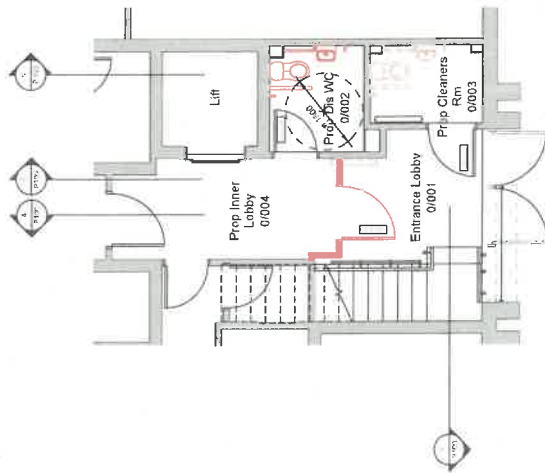
Ponthenri AFC Secretary



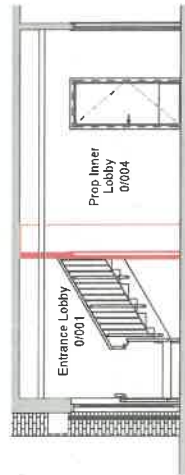
1 GROUND FLOOR PLAN  
1:100



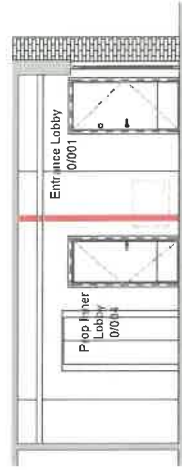
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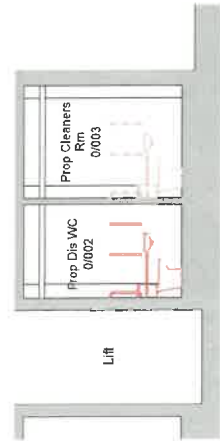
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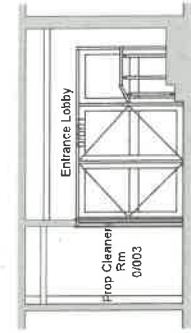
4 PROPOSED SECTION 1  
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5 PROPOSED SECTION 2  
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6 PROPOSED SECTION 3  
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7 PROPOSED SECTION 4  
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ITEM 7

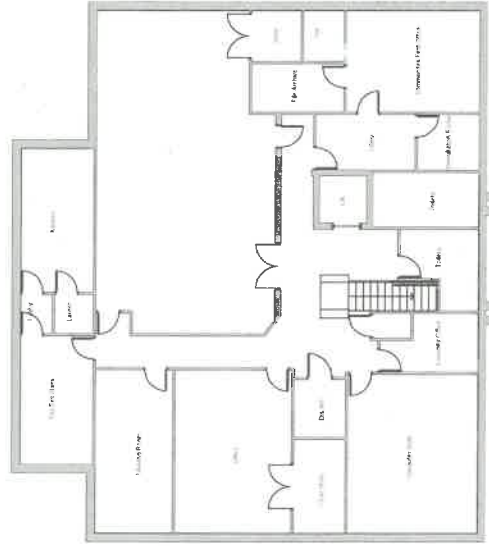


Cyngor Gwladig Llinelli Rural Council	
Phil Bennett Resource Centre	
PROPOSED PLANS	
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As indicated	A1
120629	



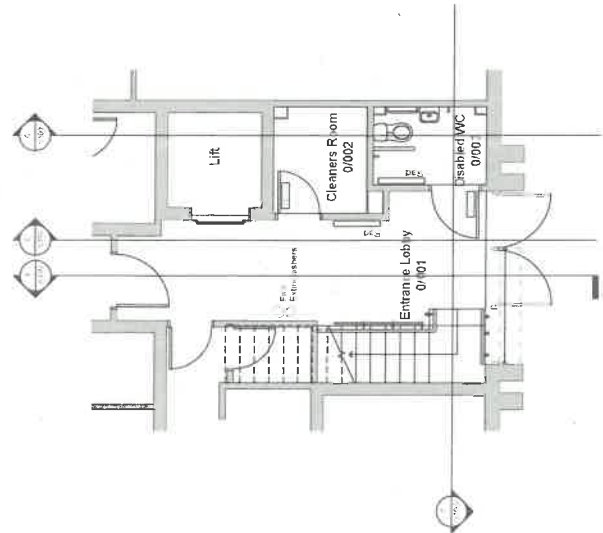
① GROUND FLOOR PLAN  
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Windows not shown for purpose of drawings

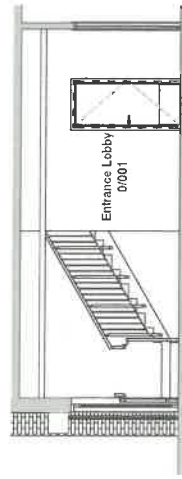


② FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
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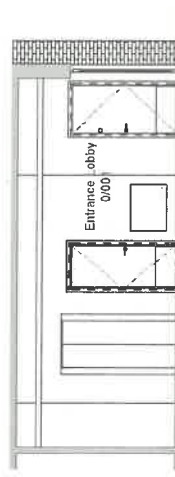
Windows not shown for purpose of drawings



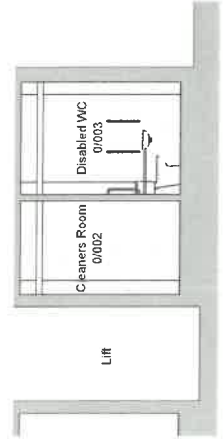
③ ENTRANCE LOBBY  
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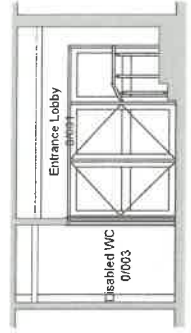
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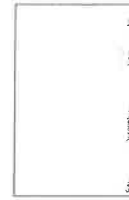
⑤ SECTION 2  
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⑥ SECTION 3  
1 : 50



⑦ SECTION 4  
1 : 50



Cynon Gwladys Llewellyn Rural Council	
Phil Bennett Resource Centre	
SURVEY PLANS	
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As indicated	A1 1206/28
U	N/A



PRESS RELEASE

## Branching out: Ten new sites join National Forest for Wales

**People across Wales will benefit from increased access to nature as ten new woodland sites join the National Forest for Wales network.**

First published: 12 June 2025

Last updated: 12 June 2025

Communities and wildlife are set to benefit as 389 hectares of woodland are added to the **growing forest network** (<https://www.gov.wales/visit-national-forest-wales>).



The sites include Wales' first agroforestry National Forest location and woodlands delivering green prescription programmes through local health boards.

The ten sites are as follows:

- Lllys y Fran, Pembrokeshire
- Coed Parc y Moch, Gwynedd
- Penpont, Powys
- Pembrey Country Park, Carmarthenshire
- Halkyn Castle Wood, Flintshire
- Lower Lledi Reservoir, Carmarthenshire
- Coed Uno, Pembrokeshire

- Pontyclun Woodlands (Ivor Woods, Riverside Walk and land at Hollies), Rhondda Cynon Taf
- Denmark Farm, Ceredigion
- Sirhowy Hill Woodlands, Gwent

Deputy First Minister with responsibility for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, Huw Irranca-Davies, said:

“ It's wonderful to see the continued expansion of the National Forest for Wales and to be able to welcome this next group of woodlands to the network. We have a great ambition to have more of these throughout Wales, where they can be enjoyed by everyone.

“ This is a very strong round with all the sites meeting all six of the National Forest outcomes, and shining a real light on the diversity of National Forest sites and the breadth of impacts and activities they undertake.

“ I'd encourage other sites to join the National Forest so we can continue to expand the network of good quality, well designed and managed resilient woodland – as well as opening up more outdoor spaces, which are good for our wellbeing, and creating new green job opportunities. ”

Among the new additions is Coed Uno, the first agroforestry site to join the network. The woodland hosts workshops through the Hwb Dysgu'r Tir project, offering visitors opportunities to learn about integrating trees with agricultural production.

Several sites offer exceptional community programmes, including green skills training that benefited over 200 young people last year and health initiatives in partnership with local health boards.

Halkyn Castle Wood serves as an educational and wellbeing centre for vulnerable people through socially prescribed courses. Working with local authorities and community organisations, it provides safe spaces that help reconnect people with themselves, others and nature.

Management of the woodland and streams in line with the UK Forestry Standard has provided better access for people along rights of way and enhanced the woodland quality and biodiversity value.

Vanessa Warrington, Halkyn Castle Wood, said:

“ We're excited to become part of the National Forest for Wales. As a landowner this has been an opportunity for me to realise the vision for our woodland and we are well on our way to becoming a sustainable, healthy, vibrant woodland with a rich biodiversity, through mindful management, education, wellbeing programmes and training. Reconnecting people with forests not only helps their holistic wellbeing but also fosters a sense of connection, ownership and citizenship which will be crucial in the years to come. ”

The new locations also create crucial biodiversity corridors, with one site connecting to three existing National Forest woodlands, enhancing wildlife movement across the landscape. The expansion marks the seventh round of site



additions since the National Forest was launched in 2020.

These additions bring the total National Forest for Wales network to 70 woodland sites beyond the Welsh Government Woodland Estate, covering more than 4,056 hectares across the country.