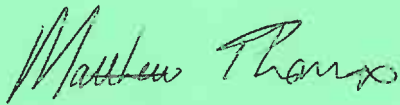


CYNGOR GWLEDIG LLANELLI
Adeiladau Vauxhall, Vauxhall, Llanelli, SA15 3BD
Ffôn: 01554 774103

PWYLLGOR LLES A HAMDDEN
I'w cynnal yn Siambr y Cyngor a thrwy bresenoldeb o bell ar
dydd Mawrth, 15 Medi, 2026, am 4.45 y.p.



CLERC y CYNGOR

9 Medi, 2026.

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. Parc Dafen – Coed:
(1) Derbyn gohebiaeth gan y Cadeirydd, Pwyllgor y Cynulleidfaoedd, Eglwys Sant Mihangel a'r Holl Angylion a thrigolion lleol ynghylch y coed sydd wedi'u lleoli ar y ffin rhwng eiddo'r trigolion a neuadd yr eglwys, a chytuno ar ymateb y Cyngor.
(2) Adroddiad coed.
5. Maes Chwarae Caeau Gwili – cais i gynnwys y mater ar yr agenda gan y Cynghorydd S. L. Davies ac i ystyried gohebiaeth e-bost gan breswlydd lleol, a chytuno ar ymateb y cyngor.
6. Cwrt Pêl Maes Chwarae Pen-y-graig – Rhwyd Amddiffynnol:
(1) Mater y gofynnwyd amdano ar yr agenda gan aelodau lleol y ward.
(2) Ystyried adroddiad y Rheolwr Llywodraethu a Phrosiectau a chytuno ar ymateb y cyngor.
7. Cronfa Ddŵr Dyffryn y Swistir – derbyn adroddiad y Swyddog Datblygu Cymunedol ar y gwaith a wnaed ar y Balsam Himalaya yng Nghronfa Ddŵr Dyffryn y Swistir.
8. Mainc Goffa – Sgwâr Bynea – i ystyried gohebiaeth gan Gadeirydd Fforwm Dosbarth Bynea yn gofyn am ganiatâd i osod mainc goffa yn Sgwâr Bynea ac i gytuno ar ymateb y cyngor.

Aelodau'r Pwyllgor:

Cyng. D. M. Cundy (Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor), A. J. Rogers (Is-Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor),
R. E. Evans (Arweinydd y Cyngor) 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 September, 2026, at 4.45 p.m.



CLERK to the COUNCIL

9 September, 2026.

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. Dafen Park – Trees:
 - (1) To receive correspondence from the Chairman, Congregational Committee, St Michael and All Angels Church and local residents concerning the trees situated on the boundary between the residents' properties and the church hall, and to agree the Council's response.
 - (2) Tree report.
5. Gwili Fields Play Area – matter request for inclusion on the agenda by Cllr. S. L. Davies and to consider email correspondence from a local resident, and to agree the council's response.
6. Penygraig Play Area Ball Court – Protective Netting:
 - (1) Matter requested for inclusion on the agenda by local ward members.
 - (2) To consider the report of the Governance and Projects Manager and to agree the council's response.
7. Swiss Valley Reservoir – to receive the report of the Community Development Officer on work undertaken on the Himalayan Balsam at Swiss Valley Reservoir.
8. Remembrance Bench – Bynea Square – to consider correspondence from the Chairperson, Bynea District Forum requesting permission to install a memorial bench at Bynea Square and to agree the council's response.

Members of the Committee:

Cllrs. D. M. Cundy (Chairman of Committee), A. J. Rogers (Vice-Chairman of Committee), R. E. Evans (Leader of Council), 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.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Recreation and Welfare Committee:**

Date of meeting: 15 September, 2026

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 July and August 2026.

2. WORK ACTIVITIES

- (1) Vauxhall Buildings
Litter pick external areas
Change batteries door closer
Fit blinds in offices
Re-arrange furniture in offices
Isolate toilet leak
Fit door numbers
- (2) Dafen Community Hall
Checked toilets
Refit boiler cupboard door
- (3) Dafen Changing rooms
Purge water system
Inspected drains and disinfected showers
- (4) Dafen Park
Litter picked
Empty bins
Replaced damaged inspection chamber cap
Removed damage fencing
Visual inspection of MUGA
- (5) Felinfoel Community Resource Centre
Litter pick
Fitted new toilet cistern
- (6) Felinfoel Recreation Ground
Litter pick
Empty bins
Painted rugby posts
- (7) Five Roads Recreation Ground and Community Hall
Litter pick
Empty bins
- (8) Furnace Community Hall
Litter pick

- (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/Canolfan
Litter pick
Monitor/cleared broken glass
Increased litter patrols
- (11) Ponthenri Recreation Ground/Community Hall/ Changing Rooms
Litter pick
- (12) Pwll Pavilion and Recreation Ground
Empty litter bins and litter pick
Refit door closer
- (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
Swept footpaths
- (17) Tir Einon play area and recreation ground
Litter pick
Empty bin
- (18) Trallwm Community Hall and park
Empty bins, litter pick
Purge water system
Clear glass from pitch
- (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

Glyn Ward

Number	Description
36/1	Pontyates-Pontyberem
36/1a,b,c	Pontyates crossing to Carway
36/3a	Incline Ponthenri
36/7	Ynyshafren
36/8	Fire station Pontyates
36/9	Cae Pontren colliery
36/11	Ynys Fawr
36/12	Noddfa Chapel
36/13	Cae Cefn farm
36/14	Pontyates park/New Inn
36/15	Myrtle Hill
36/16	Efail-Heulog farm
36/18	Sustran cycle path 47
36/19	Link 17/18
36/20	Blaen Lleidi/Sylen Lakes
36/27	Ffarm Fach
36/28	Danybanc
36/29	Herberdeg/Marael Villa
36/30	Grlli Gelynog
36/31	College/Cilferi-Uchaf
36/33	Maes Gwilym/Aalt y Sgrech Farm
36/35	Heol H, Five Roads
36/36	Horeb Chapel/Min Hurtach
36/37	Myrtle Hill/ Tan y Ddrew

Hengoed Ward

Number	Description
36/54	Furnace ponds to Hengoed Farm
36/56	Cwm Ty-du to Furnace Ponds
36/57	Cilaugwyn
36/58	Furnace pond entrance
36/59	Green lawns
36/60	Bwlchfedwen/Penyfai Road
36/62	Cwmbach
36/63	Dell to Penyfai Lane
36/64	Dell steps to B4309
36/65	Beach Road
36/66	Cefn Padrig
36/69	Sandy Bridge
36/70	Craig Wen
36/71	Cae Mawr
57/83	Llettyr Ychen Fawr
57/84	New Lodge
57/85	Gwreath/bluebells
57/86	Maesyrfhaf

57/87	Pwll park
57/88	School to memorial park
57/89	Cilymaenllwyd
57/90	Links 57/88 and 57/89
57/92	Pant
57/94	Penrhyn
57/95	Strady lane
57/96	Soar Chapel

Bynea Ward

Number	Description
36/99	Gelli Fach Farm
36/110	Pant Bryn Isaf
36/111	Cae Bryn
36/114	Bryn Martin
36/115	Llys Pendderi
36/116	Pant Glas
36/117	Pendderi Farm
36/118	Pencoed Ichaf
36/119	Pencoed Isaf
36/120	Pencoed Isaf rd
36/121	Ffos-fach
36/123	Saron Road
36/124	Off Saron Road
36/125	Station Road
36/126	Incline
36/127	Bell Inn
36/128	Sychnant Fach
36/129	Steps
36/131	Dogs home
36/134	Tir Morfa Fawr
36/136	Berwick Farm
36/137	Ysbitty Road
36/140	Ina Bearings

Swiss valley

Number	Description
36/42	Cwm Llechrd Ganol
36/43	Llannon 33/53
36/46	Pennant
36/47b	Hilltop
36/47a	Heol Nant
36/48	Y Lan
36/52	Swiss Valley Reservoir
36/53	links 52/141

Pemberton Ward

Number	Description
36/109	opposite White Lion
36/130	Parc Gitto/Tir Einon
72/27	Ivy Cottages to Parc y Scarlets

Dafen Ward

Number	Description
36/81	Danycwm Lane
36/82	Brynsiriol
36/90	Dyfed Ssteel
36/94	Crematorium
36/97	Avon
36/98	Pen Prys
36/103	Halfway

Felinfoel Ward

Number	Description
36/72	Pleasant View
36/73	Parc Brynmawr
36/74	Tre Baun
36/75	Tanyrhodyn
36/76	Rhandirfelin
36/76a	Panteg to Tanyrhodyn
36/77	Rhodfa Llwyneithin
36/78	Park View
36/79	Brodawddgar

(24) Porterage Services

Fill fuel storage

Consumables, materials

Vehicles to garages for repairs/tyres etc.

Litter waste and fly tipping removal to waste disposal site

(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 cutting in preparation for the seasons play

(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

8 September, 2026

St Michael and all Angels Church, Dafen

c/o 39 Hendre Park

Llangennech

Llanelli

SA14 8UP

**For the attention of:
Councillor Andrew Rogers**

Llanelli Rural Council
Vauxhall Buildings
Vauxhall
Llanelli SA15 3BD

Dear Andrew

At a meeting of the Dafen Church Committee held on 18 August 2026, concerns were raised regarding the trees along the boundary of the Dafen Park and the Church Hall. These trees have become excessively tall, and large branches have fallen into the car park, creating a risk of damage to vehicles and potential injury to members of the public.

The Committee considers this to be a significant health and safety concern. As the trees are understood to be the responsibility of the Park/Rural Council, we would be grateful if this matter could be investigated and addressed as a matter of urgency.

With our kindest regards

Claire

Claire Phillips

Chair of the Congregational Committee
Dafen Parish Church
Bro Lliedi LMA

Email: claire.brolliedi@btinternet.com

Mobile: 07974 150753

Nant y Bryn
Dafen
Llanelli

Date: [3rd August 2026]

To: Llanelli Rural Council

Subject: Formal Complaint Regarding Overhanging Trees from Dafen Park

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to make a formal complaint regarding the large trees located in Dafen Park which overhang my property at Nant y Bryn. This has been an ongoing issue for a considerable period of time and is having a significant impact on both my home and wellbeing.

The trees have now grown excessively tall and dense, resulting in a substantial loss of natural light to my kitchen and bathroom. This has negatively affected my enjoyment of my home and has become increasingly frustrating over the years.

In addition, the amount of leaves and debris falling from the trees creates a continuous maintenance burden. I regularly have to clear leaves from my garden and gutters, often at considerable expense. Since the passing of my husband, Neil, this has become much more difficult for me to manage, both physically and financially.

I am also becoming increasingly concerned about the safety risks posed by these trees. During periods of high winds, I find it very frightening as the branches sway close to my property. There is a genuine concern that a branch could snap and strike either my kitchen window or bedroom window, potentially causing serious damage or injury.

Furthermore, I am worried that the roots may be affecting nearby structures. My side wall is already showing signs of cracking, and I have concerns that the continued growth of the tree roots could cause further damage to my property, including my rear boundary wall. The lane alongside Nant y Bryn is also becoming hazardous, and I believe the situation requires urgent assessment.

I respectfully request that the council arrange for an inspection of these trees as soon as possible and take the necessary action to reduce their height, remove dangerous branches, and assess any risks associated with root growth.

I would appreciate a written response outlining the actions that will be taken and an expected timescale for addressing these concerns.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours faithfully,

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm writing to highlight a long-term issue I've had with the trees from Dafen Park growing into my garden.

Although I totally accept that I live in a house adjacent to a green space, the situation has become completely unmanageable for myself and my recently widowed neighbour.

The crown of the tree in question has reached such a height and depth it's now impossible to maintain. Large branches are encroaching well into my garden towards the house. Branches have also been known to fall into my property, and it's causing a big issue in terms of blockages to my guttering. Whereas previously I've been able to clear the problem myself for my own property and that of my neighbour, I now feel it to be unsafe for me to climb ladders to clear the debris away.

Whereas I've previously been advised that I can arrange independently to get the branches cut that encroach into my property, I am also at a loss as I've been told that cutting on one side only could imbalance the tree.

I have reached the stage where this issue has become a huge concern for me. I'm becoming increasingly anxious about the situation.

I would appreciate some action on the matter."

Keep me posted.

Ref	Tag Number	Species	Google Maps	Measurements	Description	Survey Notes	Recommendations	Work Priority	Minimum Inspection Frequency (months)	Photo
G4	N/A	European lime (<i>Tilia x europaea</i>)	G4	Height (m): 12 Crown Radius (m): 6 Stem Ø (mm): 550 Life Stage: M	18 large trees bordering the edge of the playing fields. High target occupancy.	Dense epicormic and ivy growth limits the reliability of inspection.	Sever 1m ivy bands and remove epicormic shoot growth around the bases of trees prior to the next scheduled inspection.	L	18	I
T1	0344	Pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	T1	Height (m): 14 Crown Radius (m): 7 Stem Ø (mm): 1000 Life Stage: M	Large tree next to footpath. High target occupancy.	Failed branches hung up within the crown. Small and medium diameter deadwood up to 75mm in diameter and >300mm in length. Loss of a neighbouring tree has led to altered exposure to winds, resulting in an increased risk of failure.	Remove all deadwood >50mm in diameter over potential targets. Remove hung up branches from the crown. Reduce crown by 1-2m using natural target pruning and cutting to the nearest suitable growth point.	H	12	6

Dawn Jones

From: Accounts
Subject: FW: Parc Gwili

From: Cllr. Sharen L. Davies <Sharen.Davies@llanelli-rural.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 July 2026 15:36
To: Matthew Thomas <Matthew.Thomas@Llanelli-Rural.gov.uk>
Cc: Mark Galbraith <Mark.Galbraith@Llanelli-Rural.gov.uk>
Subject: Parc Gwili

Good afternoon,
I've received the below message from a resident. Please could the request of a fence around the park be put forward to the next Rec and welfare Committee.
Thank you
Cllr Sharen Davies

"Dear Sharen,

I wanted to get in touch about a concern I have regarding the playground by Llwynhendy Library near the MUGA.

My children attend Brynsierfel. They often go to this playground after school and use the one which is aimed at children around 6 to 12 years old. The other playground looks like it is intended for infants and much younger children, perhaps around 6 and under, and is fenced in.

I initially found it odd that the playground my children use had no fence around it. I assumed the fencing was perhaps still to come, but it has now been open for around a year.

I appreciate that children need increasing independence as they get older. However, this is still a children's playground, and the equipment and facilities are obviously aimed at primary aged children rather than older children and teenagers.

Before the playground was built, as you will know, pedestrians would naturally walk straight across the large green rather than going around on the pavements. The problem is that the playground has now been placed directly in the middle of that green, so people are still using the same route they always have, but it now takes them straight through an area where children are playing.

If there was a fence around the playground, people could still walk from one side of the green to the other, but they would have to walk around the the play area rather than directly through it. Physical boundaries can also help children feel safer and more secure, and given the specific location of this particular playground, the lack of fencing is a particular concern.

The fact that the play area is surrounded by roads has also been a concern to me. In particular, it appears relatively easy for vehicles, including e-scooters and e-bikes, to mount the grass and enter the play area. Given the number of serious accidents involving these types of vehicles lately, this makes me feel particularly uneasy about the lack of a physical barrier. I can't think of many other playgrounds in the area without boundaries, and certainly none that are surrounded by roads.

Nevertheless, when my children have wanted to use the playground, I have allowed them to do so, ensuring that they are well supervised.

Unfortunately, on Wednesday after school, my children were playing on the zip line when a man with a large, powerful-looking dog walked straight through the play area. The dog was not on a lead and began chasing my son, who was absolutely terrified. Thankfully, the dog quickly gave up, but it was pure luck (and probably the fact that it was so hot and the dog was tired) that the situation didn't become more serious. The owner was too far away to have been able to control the dog and given the dog's size and build, I found the situation very worrying. It would not have happened if the play area had had a fence around it.

The lack of a boundary is also not very safe or inclusive for children with certain additional needs, who may be more likely to run off in certain situations and potentially end up on or near the road. My daughter is autistic and is now too old and too big for the other, enclosed playground, but she is still at an age where something could happen or overwhelm her and cause her to run off. A boundary would provide an additional layer of safety for children like her without preventing them from using the playground independently.

I have also noticed a significant amount of litter within the unfenced play area. By comparison, the other, fenced playground and the actual MUGA itself appear to have very little, if any, litter inside them, despite litter being present in the surrounding area. This suggests that the fencing is helping to prevent litter from entering those particular play spaces.

Another worry that with dogs cutting through the playground with their owners, there is the potential for dog mess to be left exactly where the children play, which would be much less likely to happen if the area was enclosed.

A physical boundary would provide an additional layer of safety and protection from all of the issues outlined above: uncontrolled dogs, dog mess, pedestrians walking directly through the playground, litter, vehicles and the risk of children running towards the road. It is about creating a clear separation between a well-used, albeit unofficial, pedestrian route and a designated children's play area.

I would be so grateful if you could look into this as a matter of urgency, particularly given the potential risks to the local children. I fear at the moment this is an accident waiting to happen.

If this is not something you are able to address directly, I would appreciate it if you could let me know who would be the appropriate person or department that I should raise it with.

Many thanks for your time.

Briefing Summary for Members

Gwili Fields Play Area

Consideration of Perimeter Fencing and Boundary Treatments

Purpose

To provide members with a summary of the findings of a site-specific risk assessment undertaken at Gwili Fields Play Area and to assist in determining whether any further action is required regarding perimeter fencing or alternative boundary measures.

Background

The Council has received a request from a local resident seeking the installation of additional fencing around the play area at Gwili Fields.

Most concerns raised in the complaint relate to the absence of perimeter fencing and the complainant's belief that fencing would mitigate:

- Uncontrolled dog access.
- Dog fouling.
- Pedestrian movements through the site.
- Children leaving the play area.
- Access by vehicles, e-scooters and e-bikes.
- Litter entering the play space.

National play safety guidance and advice from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) recognise that not all play areas require fencing and that decisions should be based on site-specific factors, including the age of users, nearby hazards and the findings of a risk assessment. The Council's primary duty is to ensure that facilities are reasonably safe through appropriate design, inspection, maintenance and management.

The Junior play area facility at Gwili Fields forms part of a wider open recreation space and is primarily intended for older children. Open-access play facilities of this nature are common across Wales and the UK. Whilst fencing can provide certain management and amenity benefits, its absence does not in itself indicate a safety deficiency.

In response to the issues raised, a site-specific risk assessment was undertaken to determine whether additional fencing is necessary on safety grounds.

Risk Assessment Findings

A site-specific risk assessment was completed on 3 September 2026 by the Council's Facilities Manager.

The assessment concluded that:

- The play area is well separated from nearby highways, with approximately 15 metres between the equipment and the nearest roadway.
- The site benefits from good visibility and natural surveillance from surrounding residential properties and the wider recreation ground.
- Existing control measures are considered effective.
- No immediate safety defects or urgent interventions were identified.
- The overall risk profile of the site was assessed as **Low to Medium Risk**.

Additional Needs and User Safety Considerations

The assessment considered concerns relating to children with additional needs, including those who may leave the play area unexpectedly. Whilst some children may require enhanced supervision, the identified risk arises primarily from individual circumstances rather than from any defect or inherent hazard associated with the play facility.

As a public recreation facility serving a wide range of users, responsibility for assessing a child's suitability to use the facility and providing appropriate supervision rests with parents, guardians and carers, who are best placed to understand their child's individual needs and behaviours.

Officers found no evidence that additional perimeter fencing would materially reduce the risks identified by the complainant, including concerns relating to children with additional needs, litter, dog interactions or the adjacent footpath. Likewise, no evidence was identified to suggest that the public footpath presents an inherent or unacceptable risk to play area users.

The proposal to divert the new footpath around the play area is considered disproportionate, unlikely to significantly reduce risk, and would create additional costs, accessibility implications and disruption to an established and intended public route.

Overall, the assessment concludes that the play area presents a low and manageable level of risk, supported by existing inspections, maintenance arrangements and appropriate parental supervision.

Potential Benefits of Fencing

Although not considered necessary on safety grounds, perimeter fencing could provide certain amenity and management benefits, including:

- Improved boundary definition.
- Reduced opportunities for dog access.
- Assistance with supervising some users.
- Discouragement of informal pedestrian movements through the play area.

Any future fencing should therefore be considered as a discretionary enhancement rather than a response to an identified safety deficiency.

Alternative Measures

Should members wish to strengthen the definition of the play area without installing full perimeter fencing, consideration could be given to:

- Enhanced signage.
- Knee-rail boundaries.
- Landscaping or planting.
- Limited or targeted sections of fencing.

Financial Implications

There is currently no approved budget provision for perimeter fencing or footpath diversion at Gwili Fields Play Area.

Based on current market rates, the installation of RoSPA-compliant anti-trap powder-coated fencing is estimated at approximately £120-£200 per linear metre, with self-closing access gates costing approximately £1,000-£2,000 each.

A fully enclosed play area requiring around 100 metres of fencing and four gates could therefore be expected to cost in the region of £20,000-£30,000, subject to design requirements, site conditions and procurement costs.

Based on current market rates, a new DDA-compliant tarmac footpath is estimated to cost in the region of £40-£80 per square metre, equivalent to approximately £80-£160 per linear metre for a 2.0 metre-wide footpath, subject to design requirements, excavation depths, drainage provisions, ground conditions and contractor rates. A 100-metre section of new footpath could therefore be expected to cost in the order of £8,000-£16,000 excluding any significant ancillary works.

Officer Recommendation

Members are recommended to:

1. Note the findings of the site-specific risk assessment, which identifies an overall Low to Medium Risk profile and no immediate safety concerns requiring intervention.
2. Note that additional perimeter fencing is not considered necessary on safety grounds.
3. Recognise that fencing may offer amenity and site management benefits but would constitute a discretionary enhancement rather than an essential safety improvement.
4. Continue the existing inspection, maintenance and monitoring regime for the site.
5. In the absence of a demonstrated safety requirement or available budget provision, make no commitment to install perimeter fencing at this time, whilst keeping the matter under review and considering lower-cost boundary definition measures if deemed beneficial.

Officer Conclusion: The evidence from the site-specific risk assessment does not identify a safety-based justification for the installation of full perimeter fencing. While fencing may provide some management benefits, the current arrangement is considered safe, proportionate and consistent with the intended function of an open public recreation facility.

Graham Williams

Governance and Project Manager

3.9.26

Gwili Fields Junior Play Area Risk Assessment

Location: Gwili Fields Play Area

Assessment Date: 3 September 2026

Assessor: Gareth Austin, Facilities Manager

Risk Matrix: Likelihood (1-5) x Severity (1-5)

Hazard	Persons at Risk	Existing Controls	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Further Actions for consideration
Child entering roadway	Children using play equipment	Play equipment located within a wider recreation ground and set back from surrounding roads. Approx. 15m separation from nearest highway. Residential properties are generally closer to the carriageway than the play equipment itself. Excellent visibility and routine inspections.	1	4	4 (Low)	Continue routine inspections and monitoring.
Pedestrians crossing play area	Children and pedestrians	Formal surfaced pathway passes through recreation ground. Open layout and excellent sightlines reduce conflict.	2	2	4 (Low)	Monitor usage patterns.
Uncontrolled dogs	Children using play equipment	Open visibility across the site. Routine inspections and maintenance programme.	2	2	4 (Low)	Consider additional dog control signage.
Dog fouling	Children using play equipment	Grounds maintenance programme and routine inspections.	3	2	6 (Medium)	Install/refresh signage advising responsibilities and reporting. Fines up to £1,000.

E-scooters / cyclists	Children and path users	Good visibility. Defined pathway network. Known local e-scooter and cycle activity.	3	2	6 (Medium)	Monitor and record incidents.
Vehicle intrusion	Children using play equipment	Significant grass buffer and low-speed residential roads.	1	5	5 (Low)	No further action identified.
Litter	Site users	Routine grounds maintenance and cleansing inspections.	2	2	4 (Low)	Continue arrangements.
Children with additional needs absconding	Children with additional needs and carers	Open visibility and good supervision opportunities. Parents and carers responsible for assessing suitability of facility for individual needs and providing appropriate supervision. Dynamic assessment by carers required based on the child's specific needs and behaviours.	2	4	8 (Medium)	Consider enhanced boundary definition measures.
Anti-social behaviour	Site users, Council assets and play equipment	Excellent natural surveillance from surrounding housing, adjacent community facilities and users of the wider recreation ground. CCTV installed around the community center. Site benefits from extensive passive surveillance due to its open layout and unobstructed sightlines. Routine inspections. Historic incidents include graffiti, vandalism, damage to play equipment and isolated arson incidents.	3	3	9 (Medium)	Continue monitoring and inspections. Consider enhanced boundary definition, signage and community engagement.

Lack of perimeter definition	Children and other site users	Open recreation ground design. Clear visibility throughout site.	3	2	6 (Medium)	Consider signage, knee rails, landscaping or perimeter fencing.
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Consideration of Fencing

The assessment has not identified any significant unmanaged safety risk that would necessitate perimeter fencing on safety grounds. However, fencing or alternative boundary treatments may provide benefits including improved play area definition, discouraging dog access, assisting supervision of some children with additional needs and reducing informal movements through the play area. Any fencing should therefore be considered a discretionary enhancement rather than a response to a significant safety deficiency.

Assessment Conclusion

Overall Assessment Outcome: **Low to Medium Risk.** The play area provides a reasonable standard of safety consistent with its location within a large open recreation ground. No immediate safety defects requiring urgent intervention were identified.

Dawn Jones

From: Accounts
Subject: FW: Re: RE: Penygraig Play ground - extra netting

From: Deryk Cundy <deryk.cundy@gmx.com>
Sent: 25 August 2026 18:48
To: Matthew Thomas <Matthew.Thomas@Llanelli-Rural.gov.uk>
Subject: Penygraig Play ground - extra netting

Hi Mathew

Could you please put the following item on the Rec and Welfare Committee meeting for September.

An extra net to be put up behind one of the goals at the Penygraig MUGA to prevent footballs entering neighbouring properties please.

Gareth has all the details.

Michelle and I will try and get \$106 money to cover this cost .

Many thanks

Best wishes - Deryk

Hysbysiad Preifatrwydd E-bost

Gall y neges hon gynnwys gwybodaeth breifat a chyfrinachol. Os nad chi yw'r derbynnydd y bwriadwyd hi ar eich cyfer neu'n gyfrifol am drosglwyddo'r neges i berson arall, ni allwch gopïo na throsglwyddo'r neges hon i neb. Yn yr achos hwn, fe ddylech chi ddileu'r neges hon ac unrhyw atodiadau sy'n cael eu cynnwys gyda hi a hysbysu'r un anfonodd y neges yn garedig trwy e-bost.

Ni chaiff barnau, casgliadau a gwybodaeth arall yn y neges hon nad yw'n perthyn i fusnes swyddogol Cyngor Gwledig Llanelli gael eu rhoi na'u cadarnhau ganddo.

Bydd pob e-bost i'r cyfeiriad hwn ac oddi yno yn cael eu prosesu gan system e-bost y Cyngor a gallant fod yn atebol i gael eu harchwilio gan rywun ar wahân i'r derbynnydd a fwriadwyd. Gall hyn arwain at rannu'r e-bost gyda Chynghorwyr ac asiantaethau allanol ar gyfer gwybodaeth a gweithredu. Er mwyn diogelu data personol oddi wrth fynediad a datgeliad anawdurdodedig argymhellir yn gryf i beidio ag anfon gwybodaeth bersonol mewn cysylltiadau trwy e-bost. Os na ellir osgoi hyn, dylid cadw'r wybodaeth bersonol i'r lleiafswm.

Nodir gwybodaeth bellach ynglŷn â sut y bydd y Cyngor yn prosesu cysylltiadau trwy e-bost yn natganiad preifatrwydd y Cyngor.

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Dawn Jones

Subject: FW: Penygraig play area

From:
Sent: 02 August 2026 09:29
To: Darren Rees <Darren.Rees@Llanelli-Rural.gov.uk>
Subject: Penygraig play area

Good Morning,

Would it be possible to raise an issue with the new play area that has been built in penygraig?

I am a resident who's garden backs on to the play area near where the football court is located.

We are forever having footballs coming in our garden and hitting our parked vehicles and I would like to request that a higher fence is installed as the current fences are very low.

We have also had footballs nearly hit our grandkids while playing in the garden.

If you are not the person to deal with this, could you point me in the right direction please?

Many thanks,

Hysbysiad Preifatrwydd E-bost

Gall y neges hon gynnwys gwybodaeth breifat a chyfrinachol. Os nad chi yw'r derbynnydd y bwriadwyd hi ar eich cyfer neu'n gyfrifol am drosglwyddo'r neges i berson arall, ni allwch gopïo na throsglwyddo'r neges hon i neb. Yn yr achos hwn, fe ddylech chi ddileu'r neges hon ac unrhyw atodiadau sy'n cael eu cynnwys gyda hi a hysbysu'r un anfonodd y neges yn garedig trwy e-bost.

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Nodir gwybodaeth bellach ynglŷn â sut y bydd y Cyngor yn prosesu cysylltiadau trwy e-bost yn natganiad preifatrwydd y Cyngor.

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**To the Chairman and Members of the
Recreation and Welfare Committee:**

Date of meeting - 15 September, 2026.

Dear Councillor,

PENYGRAIG PLAY AREA BALL COURT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise members of concerns raised by neighbouring residents regarding footballs leaving the Penygraig Play Area Ball Court and to consider potential mitigation measures that balance community recreational use with the protection of neighbouring residential amenity.
- 1.2 To advise members that Section 106 funding has been secured from Carmarthenshire County Council to fully fund the installation of mitigating measures at the facility.
- 1.3 To seek members approval to proceed with the installation of ball-catch netting as a proportionate and cost-effective measure to reduce the incidence of footballs leaving the playing area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The council has received correspondence from residents living adjacent to the Penygraig Ball Court regarding footballs regularly leaving the playing area.
- 2.2 Concerns raised include:
 - Footballs entering neighbouring gardens.
 - Potential injury to residents and young children.
 - Potential damage to property, vehicles, fencing and garden structures.
 - Children entering private property to retrieve footballs.
 - Ongoing nuisance and disruption to neighbouring residents.
- 2.3 The Penygraig Play Area Ball Court is an important recreational facility that supports community participation in sport and healthy outdoor activity. The council should therefore seek to balance the continued recreational value of the facility with its obligations as a responsible landowner and neighbour.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The existing fencing surrounding the facility has generally proved effective in containing day-to-day recreational activity. However, recent reports received indicate that footballs occasionally leave the facility, particularly from the South Eastern goal end area where balls are struck at greater height and velocity, escape over the rebound fence line and reach neighbouring properties.
- 3.2 Whilst the number of recorded incidents remains limited, members may wish to consider whether proportionate mitigation measures should now be implemented to minimise future occurrences.
- 3.3 A risk assessment for the Ball Court facility is supplied at Appendix 1.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The detailed risk assessment contained in Appendix 1 demonstrates that the installation of ball-catch netting behind the goal areas would significantly reduce the likelihood of footballs leaving the confines of the ball court and entering neighbouring residential properties.
- 4.2 The assessment identifies that the principal risks associated with the current arrangement relate to:
- Footballs entering neighbouring gardens.
 - Potential injury to residents and children.
 - Potential damage to private property and vehicles.
 - Unauthorised access to neighbouring land by individuals retrieving footballs.
 - Ongoing nuisance and complaints from neighbouring residents.
- 4.3 The mitigation measures proposed under this option are considered sufficient to substantially reduce both the likelihood and potential impact of these hazards. Whilst the risk cannot be completely eliminated, the controls identified within Appendix 1 demonstrate that the residual risk would reduce to a level considered acceptable and manageable through routine inspection and maintenance of the netting system.
- 4.4 Furthermore, the risk assessment indicates that this option provides a proportionate response to the concerns raised. It addresses the principal hazards identified without the significant financial implications associated with full perimeter fence replacement. Given the anticipated reduction in risk, the comparatively modest capital cost involved, and the continued preservation of community access to the facility, this option represents a reasonable and balanced approach to managing the identified risks.
- 4.5 Accordingly, having regard to the findings set out in Appendix 1, it is considered that the installation of ball-catch netting behind the South Eastern goal area offers the most appropriate balance between risk reduction, operational effectiveness and affordability and is therefore the preferred option for members' consideration.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Members should note that no allocation has been made within the Council's approved 2026/27 budget for the installation of ball-catch netting or replacement perimeter fencing at the Penygraig Ball Court facility. However, Section 106 funding of £2,000 has been secured from Carmarthenshire County Council to fund the installation of mitigating measures at the facility.
- 5.2 Initial research by officers indicate that an effective ball-catch netting system can be procured and installed for a cost of £1,500-£2,000.

6. LONG TERM IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Llanelli Rural Council has a long-standing commitment to maintaining and improving outdoor recreational facilities throughout its communities.
- 6.2 The Penygraig Play Area facilities are an important community asset and investment in suitable mitigation measures will assist in protecting the long-term sustainability and community acceptance of the facility.
- 6.3 Failure to address resident concerns may result in continued complaints and potential pressure for more substantial interventions in future years. Over time, unresolved concerns could place pressure on the Council to consider more substantial and costly interventions, including the replacement or enhancement of perimeter fencing, additional site management measures, or restrictions on certain activities within the Ball Court.

6.4 Continued incidents may also have implications for community relations and could undermine public confidence in the Council's ability to respond proactively and proportionately to matters affecting local residents.

6.5 The installation of ball-catch netting would provide a proportionate medium to long-term solution whilst preserving the recreational value of the facility.

7. SUSTAINABILITY AND WELL-BEING CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 The recommended option supports healthier lifestyles, encourages continued use of community recreational facilities and promotes positive relationships between facility users and neighbouring residents.

Strategic Aim	Core Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Community Development	CD1 CD2 CD3 CD4 CD5 CD7 CD8 CD10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Serving the Public	STP1 STP2 STP3 STP5 STP6	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Acting as a Local Voice	LV1 LV2 LV3 LV4 LV5			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Quality of Life - Environment	QL1	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Quality of Life - Social Inclusion	QL3			✓		✓		✓
Quality of Life - Safe & Healthy Places	QL5			✓	✓	✓		
Sport, Leisure and Cultural Activities	SLC1 SLC2			✓	✓		✓	
Partnership Working	PW1 PW2 PW5	✓			✓	✓		✓
Communication	C2 C3 C9	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Health & Safety	HS1 HS2 HS3 HS5	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Resources	R1 R2 R3	✓	✓					✓
Management & Control	MC2 MC4 MC5 MC6	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓

8. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

8.1 The matter has arisen directly from correspondence received from local residents.

8.2 Further engagement with neighbouring residents may be undertaken following implementation of any agreed mitigation measures to assess their effectiveness.

8.3 User feedback and incident monitoring will assist the council in reviewing the success of any improvements undertaken.

9. COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

- 9.1 The council may engage with residents and local user groups in relation to the ongoing management of the facility.
- 9.2 Collaboration between facility users and neighbouring residents may assist in identifying practical measures to reduce future incidents and foster positive community relations.
- 9.3 The council is collaborating with Carmarthenshire County Council in asset transferring the former play area and developing new community play facilities.
- 9.4 The council is collaborating with Carmarthenshire County Council regarding Section 106 funding for the proposed mitigating measures.

10. PREVENTATIVE MEASURES / CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 The council has a responsibility to take reasonable steps to minimise nuisance arising from facilities under its control whilst preserving community access.
- 10.2 The installation of ball-catch netting represents a preventative measure designed to reduce the likelihood of future complaints, property damage and unauthorised access to neighbouring gardens.
- 10.3 Progressing the recommended option at an early stage may prevent escalation of concerns and demonstrate the council's commitment to responsive asset management and community engagement.
- 10.4 The proposal has no effect on council budgets as initial estimate costs indicate that the Section 106 funding will fund the project.
- 10.5 The proposal represents a balanced approach that supports both community recreation and neighbouring residential amenity.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 That members note the concerns raised by neighbouring residents regarding footballs leaving the Penygraig Ball Court and the potential impact upon residential amenity, safety and neighbouring properties.
- 11.2 That members agree the installation of a ball-catch netting system behind the South Eastern goal end of the facility as the council's preferred and proportionate mitigation measure, utilising Section 106 funding secured from Carmarthenshire County Council.
- 11.3 That neighbouring residents who have raised concerns be kept informed of the council's proposed actions.

Yours sincerely,

Governance and Projects Manager

2 September, 2026.

Risk Assessment

Penygraig Ball Court

Assessment Date: 2 September 2026

Location: Penygraig Play Area

Assessor: Llanelli Rural Council

Hazard 1: Footballs Leaving the MUGA and Entering Adjacent Gardens

Persons at risk: Residents, visitors, children and pets. Existing control: 2m rebound fencing. Potential consequences include injury, nuisance, property damage and possible claims. Recommended measures: install ball-catch netting behind both goals, consider increasing containment height, monitor incidents and install advisory signage. Residual risk: Low/Medium.

Hazard 2: Unauthorised Access into Private Gardens

Persons at risk: Children and residents. Potential consequences include trespass, conflict and injury. Recommended measures: install ball-catch netting, provide signage discouraging entry into private property and engage with local users. Residual risk: Low.

Hazard 3: Injury to Persons Outside the Play Area

Persons at risk: Residents, visitors and children. Reported concerns include footballs striking or nearly striking children. Recommended measures: ball-stop netting behind goals, incident monitoring and investigation of future reports. Residual risk: Low/Medium.

Hazard 4: Damage to Private Property

Persons at risk: Adjacent residents. Potential consequences include vehicle and garden property damage. Recommended measures: ball-catch netting, incident monitoring and review of fencing arrangements if complaints continue. Residual risk: Low.

Assessment of Proposed Ball-Catch Netting

The installation of ball-catch netting behind both goal ends represents a proportionate and reasonably practicable mitigation measure. It is likely to reduce the number of balls leaving the MUGA, reduce nuisance to residents and lower the risk of injury and property damage.

Overall Conclusion

The complaints received indicate a foreseeable risk of footballs escaping the playing area. The existing 2-metre fencing provides some containment but may not be fully effective. Installation of ball-catch netting should be considered as a reasonably practicable control measure. Following installation, incidents should be monitored for 12 months to assess effectiveness.

Overall Risk Rating Before Mitigation: Medium/High

Overall Risk Rating After Mitigation: Low/Medium

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Recreation and Welfare Committee:**

Date of meeting – 15 September, 2026

Dear Councillor,

**EFFORTS TO CONTROL HIMALAYAN BALSAM AT LOWER LLIEDI RESERVOIR,
SWISS VALLEY**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on the recent efforts to control Himalayan balsam at Swiss Valley Lower Lliedi Reservoir. The report summarises the work undertaken, the contribution of volunteers, key findings, what has worked well, what has been less effective, the proposed future approach, and recommendations for next steps.

2. WHY IS HIMALAYAN BALSAM A PROBLEM?

- 2.1 Himalayan balsam is a fast-growing, tall, upright annual plant. Seeds germinate in early spring, producing broad, almost square seed leaves, followed by lance-shaped true leaves with finely serrated edges. Sturdy hollow stems, often with reddish tints, can grow to around 2m (6½ft) during the summer. Scented flowers in shades of pink and purple, and occasionally white, appear from June to November.
- 2.2 Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) is considered a highly invasive and problematic plant because it spreads rapidly, forming dense monocultures that outcompete native plants for light, nutrients and pollinators. Its exploding seed pods can disperse seeds up to 7 metres, while watercourses can carry them even further downstream. Its shallow roots can also contribute to riverbank erosion and increased flood risk, making it a significant threat to biodiversity.
- 2.3 The most effective control measure is to prevent the plant from setting seed. This is usually achieved by hand-pulling, cutting or strimming plants between May and July, before seed pods develop. Infested sites should be monitored and treated annually for at least two to three years, as seeds can remain viable in the soil and new plants may germinate after the initial clearance.

3. CONTROL MEASURES TO DATE

- 3.1 Himalayan balsam is present at Swiss Valley above the weir at the top of the reservoir and below the Upper Lliedi dam, as outlined on the map appended to this report at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Over the last two years, volunteers from the Friends of Swiss Valley Reservoir have assisted the Council by pulling up the plants by the roots and leaving them in piles on site at the reservoir. This is necessary because removal requires a special licence, which the Council does not currently hold. Appendix 1 also shows the areas worked on by volunteers. These areas were chosen because they are easier to access and have fewer obstructions such as nettles, brambles and fallen trees.
- 3.3 Despite the efforts of volunteers, a large area remains untreated. The treated and untreated areas are also shown on the Appendix 1 map.

- 3.4 Himalayan balsam is also present in harder-to-reach areas. These are difficult to access because they are on steep banks, in swampy or waterlogged areas, and on islands that require crossing water to reach. Most of the volunteers who help with balsam bashing are of retirement age, and the sessions last for an hour. Pulling up the plants is relatively easy, as they come out of the ground readily when pulled, but doing so for an hour can still be tiring.

4. VOLUNTEERING EFFORT

- 4.1 The work carried out by volunteers so far is commendable and highly appreciated. However, it is clear that further help is needed. Recent photographs of the work completed by volunteers, together with areas of balsam that remain unmanaged, are included in Appendix 2.
- 4.2 The area on the north side of the bridge near the car park requires attention, as the watercourse feeds into Lower Lliedi Reservoir and may carry seeds downstream. However, this land is not currently covered by the agreement the Council has with Welsh Water, so permission will be required before any treatment takes place. In addition, the area is difficult to access because the route on foot is obstructed by Japanese knotweed.
- 4.3 Volunteers recognise that there are areas, referred to in paragraph 3.2, which cannot be reached. They are keen to know what else can be done to control balsam in these locations. It has been suggested that strimming should be trialled in selected areas to assess whether it is as effective as hand-pulling.
- 4.4 The table below shows the number of sessions held, the number of volunteers involved and the time spent by volunteers over the last two years. This year, more time was allocated to balsam pulling, but the volunteer base has reduced. This may be due to sessions being limited to weekday mornings, whereas the previous year included afternoon slots and Sunday morning sessions. In addition, three sessions were cancelled this year because of wet weather or extreme heat.

DATE	NO. OF VOLUNTEERS	TIME SPENT	DATE	NO. OF VOLUNTEERS	TIME SPENT
2025			2026		
5 June	7	1 hour	20 May	2	1 hour
19 June	3	1 hour	26 May	1	1 hour
26 June	6	1 hour	9 June	4	1 hour
28 June	6	1 hour	12 June	1	1 hour
			22 June	4	1 hour
			30 June	6	1 hour
			7 July	4	1 hour
No. volunteer hours in 2025		22 hours	No. volunteer hours in 2026		22 hours

- 4.5 As a thank-you for their efforts, volunteers were offered free refreshments at Hiatus Café, and some have signed up for Tempo Time Credits. The refreshments were paid for from the Council's community development budget.

5. LONG TERM IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 If Himalayan balsam at a reservoir is left unchecked, the long-term consequences are usually:
- Reduced biodiversity – it can outcompete native plants and leave the banks less ecologically diverse.
 - Weaker bank stability – because it is shallow-rooted, the plant dies back in winter and can leave bare, unstable ground, increasing erosion risk.

- c) Higher siltation and poorer water quality – erosion can wash more soil into the reservoir, affecting water clarity and increasing maintenance needs.
- d) Spread downstream and to neighbouring land – once established, it can seed widely and spread along waterways, making later control more costly and less effective.
- e) Loss of amenity and access – dense stands can dominate bankside areas, making paths, verges and work areas harder to manage.
- f) Rising future costs – early control is usually much cheaper than repeated clearance after the plant becomes established.
- g) Longer-term habitat degradation – over time, invasive dominance can reduce the reservoir’s value for wildlife and make restoration slower and more expensive.

6. SUSTAINABILITY AND WELL-BEING CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The work to tackle an invasive non-native species such as Himalayan balsam supports the following themes and values in the Council’s Strategic Plan:

Strategic Aim	Core Value	National Well-Being Goal						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Community Development	CD1 CD5 CD8		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Serving the Public	STP14			✓		✓	✓	
Acting as a Local Voice	LV2 LV4	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Quality of Life								
(1) Environment	QL1 QL3	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
(2) Social Inclusion								
(3) Safe and Healthy Places								
Sports, Leisure and Cultural Activities	SLC2			✓	✓		✓	
The Local Economy	LE3 LE4	✓				✓	✓	✓
Local Democracy	LD5			✓		✓		
Partnership Working	PW1 PW2 PW6 PW7	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Communication	C6 C7	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Health & Safety	HS4 HS5	✓		✓		✓		✓
Resources								
Management and Control	MC5 MC6 MC7	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓

7. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 The opportunity to volunteer is offered to the Friends of Swiss Valley Reservoir mailing list. An email is circulated in the lead up to planned sessions.
- 7.2 Notices of upcoming “Balsam Bashing” sessions open to volunteers are displayed on the notice boards at the reservoir and posted on the council’s social media pages.

8. COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

- 8.1 Opportunities have been offered to Perthyn and Carmarthenshire County Council’s Coleshill ground maintenance team, but nothing has come of these to date.
- 8.2 It may be beneficial to approach large local employers as part of their corporate social responsibility or team-building activities. Potential organisations include Tata Steel, Marelli and Gestamp.

- 8.3 It may also be worthwhile to work with Live Free Adventures to incorporate paddleboarding or rowboat activities after the balsam bashing has been completed.
- 8.4 There is also an opportunity to contact local volunteer-led groups, attend meetings and recruit additional volunteers to the Friends of Swiss Valley Reservoir.
- 8.5 Another collaboration option is to approach the Probation Services. They helped the council previously by planting hedgerows at Ponthenri Recreation Ground and asked to be made aware of further opportunities.

9. CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 The Site Management Plan agreed with Welsh Water encourages the involvement of volunteers at the reservoir. The Friends of Swiss Valley Reservoir was established for this purpose. Balsam bashing is one of the regular volunteering opportunities currently offered to the group.
- 9.2 As seeds remain viable in the ground for two to three years, progress cannot be properly judged until 2028.
- 9.3 Herbicide treatment is not permitted because of the proximity to the watercourse.
- 9.4 The volunteer sessions are supported by Council staff. The Charge Hand must be on site for water safety purposes. Although risks are minimised by working in safe areas, the watercourse is always nearby. The Community Development Officer also takes part in the sessions, and administrative staff within the Council have expressed interest in becoming involved.

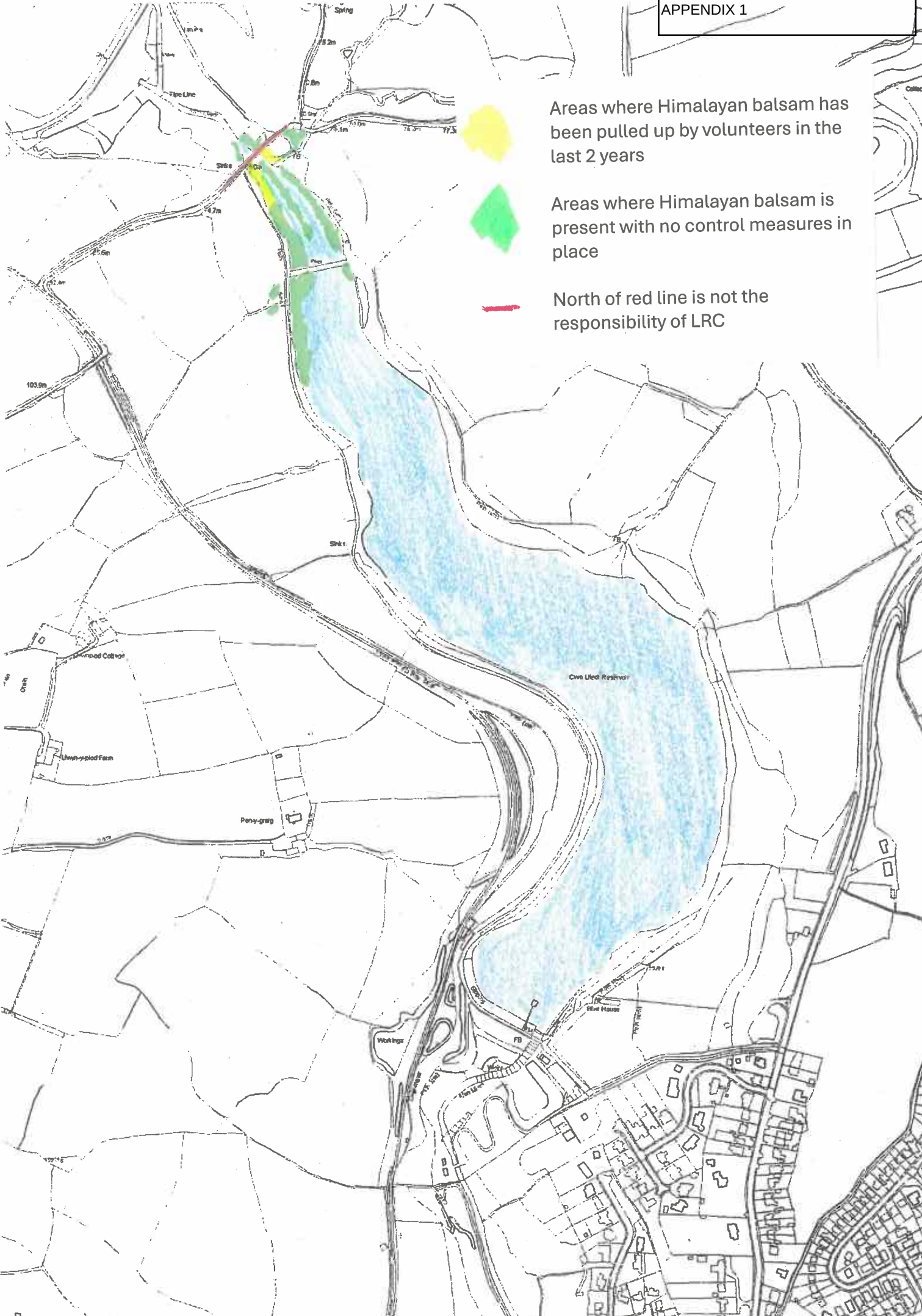
10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Members note the work carried out to date by volunteers and the challenges identified in managing the invasive species in areas that have not yet been reached.
- 10.2 Members approve approaching the organisations listed in paragraph 8.2 and 8.3 in order to make a greater impact next year.
- 10.3 Members consider engaging with probation services to explore whether they can assist.
- 10.4 Members consider allowing administration staff to support the Community Development Officer and Charge Hand at the volunteering sessions.

Yours sincerely,

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

9 September, 2026



Areas where Himalayan balsam has been pulled up by volunteers in the last 2 years

Areas where Himalayan balsam is present with no control measures in place

North of red line is not the responsibility of LRC

Appendix 2



Last session held on 7 July 2026. The balsam was now in flower and seed pods were starting to form. Time to leave it alone. Note it has now grown to over 6 foot tall.



Large concentration on the weir – pic taken 1/9/26



Just off the weir and hard to reach. pic taken 1/9/26



Balsam bash session in action next to the car park bridge



The root system.



02 September 2026

To the Chairperson
Recreation and Welfare Committee
Llanelli Rural Council

Dear Mr Cundy

I am writing on behalf of the Bynea District Forum who is an elected committee of volunteers, collaborating with the community to benefit the community. We run activities such as craft fairs, trips, workshops, quizzes and we also help improve our community environment through litter picking, bulb planting and other projects. Essentially we strive to bring local people and the wider community together.

One of our current projects includes purchasing and adding a new remembrance bench as a permanent fixture in the village square.



The bench would be an addition to the memorial wall and somewhere to sit and reflect. We would like to place the bench against the wall in the circular

section facing the road. The seat is 5ft wide and is made from mild steel with a powder-coated finish. We have already discussed the fixing with Gareth Austin- which would involve fixings to the floor (pavings), and in the event that this application is passed he has agreed that the Rural Council would be able to support us with this.

In the event that this does become a permanent fixture, we would donate this to the rural council for use by the Bynea community.

We would welcome your support for this request, as the Bynea District Forum has the community at the heart of its incentive to make any improvements.

Yours sincerely

Alison Williams

Chairperson

Bynea District Forum