Newsletter

Cyngor Gwledig
LLANELLI
Rural Council

Welcome to the 1st edition of Llanelli Rural Council's Newsletter!

November 2026 Issue #01



Welcome from the Chairman

Cllr. Michelle Donoghue

It is a privilege to hold the position of Llanelli Rural Council Chairman for the 2026/27 municipal year, and I am proud to represent the Llanelli Rural area and Bynea ward, and will do so to the best of my ability.

During the year ahead, I look forward to supporting the council's work and helping to raise money for my chosen charities, LARS (Loud Applause Rising Stars) and Ty Bryngwyn Hospice Appeal.

I would also like to warmly welcome Matthew Thomas as the new Clerk to the Council. I wish him every success in his new role.

Finally, I would like to offer my sincere thanks and best wishes to Mark Galbraith, our retiring Clerk for his dedication, support and valued service to the council. Mark's steady hand, unmatched expertise and absolute integrity has been of great comfort to me and my fellow councillors over the years. A great clerk does not just keep the minutes; they keep the peace, they uphold our governance, and they guide us safely through the complex waters of local government. On behalf of the entire council, the staff and the residents we represent, thank you, and we wish Mark a healthy and happy retirement!

Happy Retirement.....



Llanelli Rural Council was proud to celebrate a truly special occasion as Clerk to the Council, Mark Galbraith, was presented with an award recognising 25 years of dedicated service to Llanelli Rural Council.

This remarkable achievement reflects a career marked by commitment, professionalism and outstanding public service. For a quarter of a century, Mark has played an important role in supporting the Council, its Members, staff and the wider community, helping to guide the organisation through many years of growth and change.

At the presentation, the Chairman, Cllr Michelle Donoghue, paid tribute to Mark's exceptional contribution and thanked him for his many years of loyal service to Llanelli Rural Council and the residents it serves.

As Mark now begins a well-deserved retirement, Members and staff extend their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for the years ahead.

With sincere thanks for everything Mark has done, and with best wishes for a long, happy and fulfilling retirement.

We Will Remember Them.....



On Sunday November 8th, communities across Llanelli will come together at their local places of worship and war memorials to mark Remembrance Sunday. Residents are warmly invited to attend and join us in paying tribute to those who served and sacrficed.

Remembrance Service	8 November, 10:30am	Bynea Square, Cwmfelin Road, Bynea
Remembrance Service	8 November, 10:45am	St Michaels and All Angels Church, Dafen
Remembrance Service	8 November, 10:15am	Felinfoel Church
Remembrance Service	8 November, 3:00pm	Five Roads Community Hall
Remembrance Service	8 November, 10:00am	St Davids Church Llwynhendy
Remembrance Service	8 November, 10:00am	The Cenotaph, Llanelli Town Hall
Festival of Remembrance	14 November, 7:00pm	Ffwrnes Theatre, Llanelli

News in the Community.....

Parc Y Gwilli Officially Opened

Parc Y Gwili celebrated its official opening in July with representatives from project funders and key stakeholders joining pupils from Bryn Teg and Brynsierfel Schools to mark the occasion. Play equipment provider KOMPAN also helped make the day extra special by providing the children with free goody bags.



Hoffi Coffi Open at Llwynhendy

We are delighted to welcome Hoffi Coffi Cafe to Canolfan Llwynhendy. The new cafe is a fantastic addition to the centre, providing another reason for residents and visitors to come together and enjoy the community facility.

Spotlight on...

Lower Lliedi Reservoir, Swiss Valley

LiveFree Adventures provides a range of land and water-based activities at Lower Lliedi Reservoir, Swiss Valley. Visitors can enjoy Sauna Y Coed, a woodland sauna experience, and refreshments from Hiatus Coffee at the site's Visitor Hub. Llanelli Rural Council wishes to offer Ben and the team congratulations on their recent success at the Carmarthenshire Business Awards held at Parc Y Scarlets. The team won the "Tourism & Hospitality Business of the Year 2026" category.



During the months of May, June and July, volunteers of the Friends of Swiss Valley Reservoir assisted the council in its attempts to control the spread of Himalayan Balsam in the concentrated areas of Lower Lliedi Reservoir. The council wishes to express its thanks to the volunteers who gave up their time to help. For more information on the Friends of Swiss Valley Reservoir, please get in touch.

Another noteworthy mention must go to the volunteers that helped the Local Places for Nature funded project in laying traditional Welsh style hedge rows. This took place at the end of last and beginning of this year, with more work planned this winter. Big thanks to Matthew and Malcolm for their help with the project.

Volunteer, Get Involved & Make a Difference!

From litter picks and community events to outdoor activities and helping at local venues, there are lots of ways to volunteer with the Council. Give as much or as little as time you can, meet new people and make a positive difference in your community.

Plus, volunteers can claim Tempo Time Credits in recognition of the time they give. Interested? Get in touch to find out more!



Did you know?

Llanelli Rural Council is responsible for 10 Community Facilities, some are managed directly by the Council, while others are successfully run by voluntary committees.

This time, we're putting the spotlight on Sandy and Stradey Hall, a popular and busy community venue hosting a variety of regular activities, including classes in art, knitting, dance, exercise, music and dog behaviour. It's a great example of how our community halls bring people together and provide spaces for local groups and activities. Discover what's happening at all our community halls at https://www.llanelli-rural.gov.uk/community-facilities/

Our Annual Report 2025/26 is now available, providing an overview of the Council's work, achievements and activities over the past year. The report is available to download at https://www.llanelli-rural.gov.uk/wellbeing/council-annual-report/



Christmas Events in your community

Sunday 15 November
- Christmas Fayre @ Bryn & Trallwm Club / 12-5pm

Friday 20 November
- Llanelli Christmas Carnival / 6pm

Thursday 26 November
- Swiss Valley Christmas Lights Switch On @ Tafarn Y Felin / 6pm

Friday 27 November
- Bynea Christmas Light Switch On @ Saron Hall, Bynea Square / 6pm
- Dafen Christmas Fair @ Dafen Park / 6pm

Thursday 3 December
- Santa's Sleigh Journey through Pwll / 6pm-7pm

Friday 4 December
- Pwll Winter Festival @ Holy Trinity Church, Elgin Road / 5pm-8pm
- Llwynhendy Christmas Light Switch On @ Canolfan Llwynhendy / 5pm
- Children's Christmas Party @ Trallwm Community Hall / 4pm-6pm

Thursday 10 December
- Our Llwynhendy Christmas Event @ Canolfan Llwynhendy / 5pm-7pm

Sunday 20 December
- Five Roads Annual Santa Tractor Run / 6pm



Upcoming Council Meetings

10 Nov 2026 - Council
17 Nov 2026 - Recreation and Welfare Committee
18 Nov 2026 - Policy and Resources Committee
23 Nov 2026 - Planning and Liaison Committee
25 Nov 2026 - Finance and General Purposes Committee
8 Dec 2026 - Council
14 Dec 2026 - Planning and Liaison Committee
15 Dec 2026 - Recreation and Welfare Committee
16 Dec 2026 - Civic and Ceremonial Committee
16 Dec 2026 - Policy and Resources Committee
17 Dec 2026 - Finance and General Purposes Committee
4 Jan 2027 - Planning and Liaison Committee
12 Jan 2027 - Council
19 Jan 2027 - Recreation and Welfare Committee
20 Jan 2027 - Policy and Resources Committee
25 Jan 2027 - Planning and Liaison Committee
28 Jan 2027 - Learning and Development Consultative Committee

LRC Training Helps Drive Home the Road Safety Message

Mega Drive 2026, held in Carmarthen, brought together a range of agencies to help pre- and newly-qualified drivers understand the importance of safer driving through practical and interactive road safety sessions. LRC Training supported the event by providing the simulator, giving young drivers an engaging insight into the dangers of HGV blind spots, unsafe overtaking and the shared responsibility all road users have for keeping Carmarthenshire's roads safe.



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