

Llangurig Community Council / Cyngor Cymuned Llangurig

Annual Report 2025–2026

Foreword

We are pleased to present our Annual Report for the financial year 2025–2026. This has been an active and productive year for the Council, marked by continued determination to improve village life, pursue long-standing infrastructure priorities, and responding to the concerns of our community. We have worked closely with Powys County Council, the Trunk Road Agency, and a range of other bodies to deliver progress on both practical matters and longer-term projects. We extend our gratitude to all residents, partner organisations, and volunteers who have supported the Council's work throughout the year, and we hope this report provides a clear account of our priorities, activities, and achievements.

Priorities

Throughout the 2025–2026 financial year, Llangurig Community Council maintained a strong focus on several key areas to improve the well-being and infrastructure of our community.

Highway Matters remained a central and persistent priority. The Council continued to press Powys County Council Highways and the Trunk Road Agency (TRA) on numerous outstanding issues affecting residents. These included road surface deterioration, drainage problems, blocked drains, issues on School Lane, Glynbrochan Road, Dernol Road, and the Back Road to Llanidloes, as well as concerns about safety at Maes Y Llan, surface water turning to ice in winter, and the need for grit bins and salt bins at appropriate locations across the village. Fly-tipping and rubbish disposal on Dernol Road, in lay-bys, and at other sites continued to require active reporting and follow-up.

Village Infrastructure and Amenities were also a sustained priority. The Council committed to replacing the damaged memorial posts by the war memorial, installing a new bleed kit, pursuing funding for defibrillator replacement, and progressing the Village Play Area from initial planning

through to full planning consent. The Village Green boundary, the Council's website, and village noticeboard improvements all required ongoing attention throughout the year.

Environmental and Community Concerns continued to demand the Council's engagement. Fly-tipping and the management of the lay-by clearance, sewage and drainage issues (including the ongoing problem at School Lane), and questions about bus timetables and service provision were all raised. The Council engaged actively on issues relating to the proposed new wind turbines and energy parks affecting the area, and participated in wider community consultations on health services, and local governance.

Governance and Financial Oversight remained paramount. The Clerk's salary was reviewed and increased. The precept was carefully managed, being confirmed at £8,500 for 2026–27, an increase of 2.6% from 2022/23. Policy reviews including Standing Orders, the Complaint Policy, the IT Policy, and the Training Policy were completed, and a new Councillor — Ann Hamer — was successfully co-opted.

Activities

In pursuit of its stated priorities, Llangurig Community Council engaged in a wide range of activities throughout the 2025–2026 year.

Under Highways Initiatives, Councillors and the Clerk consistently maintained an updated spreadsheet of all outstanding highway matters, which was forwarded to the relevant authorities at each meeting. Reports on specific issues — including the road surface on School Lane, fly-tipping on Dernol Road and in the lay-by, abandoned cars, surface water issues, drainage problems, and the safety of Maes Y Llan — were submitted to Powys County Council and the TRA. The Council n raised the speed limit derestriction of Llangurig and wrote to request a 40mph buffer zone. Concerns about the A44, track widening and salt bin provision were pursued with a member of the public and Powys County Council. Road side erosion issues were reported using the fixmystreet and What3words systems to improve precision reporting.

For Infrastructure and Amenities Projects, A new bleed kit was successfully purchased and housed at the Bluebell Inn. A new laptop was purchased (£416.99) to support the Clerk's work. The Councillors actively progressed the Village Play Area: planning was submitted and granted, a SuDS (Sustainable Drainage) assessment was commissioned, quotes for groundworks were sought, and discussions were held with a WindFarm Community Fund regarding funding. The Village Green boundary plan was redrawn and formally sent to solicitors for submission to the Land Registry. "No Dog Fouling" signage were ordered and displayed. A handrail was requested for the Village Green steps. It was resolved to move the Council's website and email service to a new carrier and create individual email accounts for all Councillors.

Regarding Defibrillators, the Council pursued multiple funding avenues after one replacement defib remained outstanding. An application to LCIC was refused; applications were submitted to BHF (British Heart Foundation), and ultimately the Green Man Trust. Batteries and pads were purchased at a cost of £102 plus VAT. The remaining replacement defibrillator is still being sought as the year closes.

Within Environmental and Community Engagement, the Council arranged a wreath for Remembrance Day, discussed litter picking, and resolved to hold a formal Litter Pick on 17th May. Councillors actively engaged with consultations on Hywel Dda health board changes and PTHB regarding the downgrading of Llanidloes Hospital services, Bronglais Hospital. The Council formally sent a letter of objection regarding changes proposed by Powys Teaching Health Board on hospital services. Councillors attended meetings of Sustainable Powys and the Powys Engagement events. The Council also resolved to purchase additional poppies for the village and arranged for a wreath to be laid at the Remembrance Day service.

Wind Farm and Energy matters were actively monitored. The Council reviewed applications for temporary meteorological masts and wind turbines in the area. Councillors attended a meeting at Llanidloes Town Hall regarding wind turbines and LCC was invited to give evidence. Concern was

expressed that Llanidloes received a disproportionate share of Wind Farm Funding compared to Llangurig, and the Council submitted comments to the wind farm funding committee. A letter of concern was formally submitted regarding the Banc Du & Rhiwlas Energy Parks planning application.

Governance and Administration saw a number of significant improvements. The Council successfully co-opted Ann Hamer as a new Councillor following a formal election process in which four candidates applied and were assessed. Standing Orders were reviewed and updated. An updated Complaint Policy was adopted following a formal complaint from a member of the public about the visibility of meetings. The IT Policy and Training Policy were adopted. The Council resolved to use CILCA-certified training for the Clerk and confirmed a contribution of up to 1/8th of cost. An IT Policy was adopted, and the .gov email and website migration was resolved and the process commenced. The Biodiversity Plan requirement was noted and action to create such a policy agreed.

Financial and Governance Activities: The Clerk's pay was reviewed and a pay increase to £375 per month from 1 April 2026 was agreed with back-pay to April 2025. The Precept for 2026–27 was set at £8,500, the same as 2023/24 and marginally above 2022/23. Annual accounts were reviewed, and the Audit Report was discussed and accepted at the March 2026 meeting. Reserves were managed carefully and a sum of £2,248.57 was utilised in respect of the Play Area planning applications. Microsoft Office subscriptions and operational costs were maintained throughout the year.

Achievements

Llangurig Community Council made meaningful progress and delivered a range of tangible outcomes across its priority areas during 2025–2026.

In terms of **Infrastructure and Amenities**, the bleed kit is now purchased and housed at the Bluebell Inn. The damaged war memorial posts will shortly be repaired following the long-running process of securing agreement from Powys County Council and sourcing materials. A new laptop was

purchased, enabling the Clerk to work more efficiently. The Council secured "No Dog Fouling" signs for display across the village and progressed the handrail installation on the Village Green steps.

In terms of **Village Play Area**, the Council made significant strides: a SuDS report was commissioned and received, planning applications were submitted with engagement from MMP, and the application was granted. The Council agreed to engage with residents in a survey on equipment preferences and sought to involve community members in the planning process from the outset.

In terms of **Village Green Boundary**, after a process spanning multiple years, the boundary plan was successfully redrawn and sent to solicitors for formal submission.

In terms of **Governance**, the Council adopted a full suite of updated policies including Standing Orders, IT Policy, Training Policy, Complaint Policy, and Behaviour Policy (to be reviewed in May). The Council moved to a .gov website and email addresses for Councillors, improving public trust and transparency. A new Councillor was successfully co-opted following a thorough and open process. The Clerk's training and professional development were actively supported.

In terms of **Financial Management**, the precept was managed prudently and the annual accounts were accepted. A VAT refund was received, contributing to the Council's financial resilience. The Clerk's salary was formally reviewed and increased in a transparent and well-documented manner.

In terms of **Community and Environmental Issues**, the Council successfully engaged on health service consultations, reported fly-tipping through appropriate channels, progressed the Litter Pick, maintained regular noticeboard updates.

The Precept

For 2026–27, following careful review of reserves and anticipated expenditure — including the Play Area project and ongoing operational costs — the precept was confirmed at £8,500, maintaining the levels seen since 2022/23. The Council remains committed to sound financial management and will continue to keep precept increases to a minimum while ensuring adequate resources for community priorities.

Other

The Council continues to be grateful to the members of the community who maintain the Village Green and the flagpoles and flags used for Remembrance Sunday and other important community events. The Council thanks all residents who attended meetings, contributed to consultations, and engaged with the Council's work throughout the year.

The Council would also like to acknowledge the significant commitment of both our County Councillors, who have and continue to serve as a vital liaison and facilitate engagement with Powys County Council on a range of issues. We are grateful to our County Councillors for attending site meetings and providing direct feedback and advocacy on behalf of the community.

We look forward to another productive year ahead.

Signed: Chair

Note: This report has been drafted based on the minutes of Llangurig Community Council meetings held between April 2025 and March 2026 inclusive, following the structure and style of the 2024–2025 Chair's Annual Report. Some items from the minutes were still ongoing or unresolved at the end of the reporting period and are reflected accordingly.