

MAYOR'S REPORT May 21. 2025

Annual General Meeting of Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council.

This year, in my official capacity as Mayor, I have attended a wide range of events including presentations, two visits from our friends in Merioneth, church services, cultural events including Llanwrtyd Eisteddfod, book launches, conferences and funding events, transport meetings, also many meetings on flooding. The BBC featured us this year and ran excellent film reports on the link between the Kinder transport and the town. I also organised the National Walkers are Welcome conference and attended that event every day. Recently I have attended two meetings on Sustainable Powys in Brecon and Llandrindod, more on this later.

The two biggest challenges throughout the year have been flooding and the ongoing disputes involving Victoria Hall and neighbours. Flooding in the town attracted a wide media interest and sparked some help and actions from politicians. Flooding repair work is still not complete, and I am continuing to lobby for examinations to take place between the Neuadd and the culvert outlet at the river. The disputes at Victoria Hall are ongoing and have taken up large amounts of time for both me, the Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk. The disputes are currently placed with the Land registry, and we await developments, however through our legal representative, we are making progress, and the issues should be resolved in the coming months.

Next year, our town council is going to face many challenges.

- The Victoria Hall disputes will reach their conclusion.
- The flooding repair work needs to be completed, and we will need to be engaged in the flood alleviation plan that Powys should undertake. I think as a Town Council we need to have an active role in this.
- We need to support the play-park sub-committee to access grants to improve the facilities at Dolwen Field.
- Sustainable Powys is going to become a big issue for us as a Town Council. Following the meeting at Llandrindod I am now convinced that we need to demonstrate to Powys how effective we are as a body servicing this town and wider area. The hub at Llandrindod puts us 40 minutes away from what was described as a “minimum level of service”. Transport is also going to be a big issue for residents to access services. Can we provide more localised digital services for our residents?
- If necessary, we will need to be prepared to support and campaign for our fire service and help them fight the cuts to this vital service.
- On a more concluding upbeat note, we are gaining a grant to refurbish the town toilets, and through that work we hopefully will cut some of our costs and provide a more modern convenience.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for all their help and support throughout the year, the County Councillor, the Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk who all work tirelessly for the town.