

# **Cyngor Tref Talgarth**

## **Talgarth Town Council**



**Annual Report**

**2024/2025**

## Chair's Introduction

Welcome to the annual report 2024/2025, which we hope will provide you with an insight and information of the Town Council throughout this year, as well as ongoing and future plans for the community.

The mayor's charity of choice this year is Drew Barker-Wright Charity: Paediatric Chordoma Support, a charity which aims to make a difference in supporting families in the UK affected by rare childhood cancers.

This year saw the 104th birthday of our oldest resident Mr John Gwynne, it was again a privilege to be invited to enjoy his celebratory tea. The Town Council wish to thank Mr Gwynne for his service to the town and his country during WW2 especially this year when we commemorate and celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE/VJ Day.



Photograph credit to Anne Seymour

Residents and the town council are concerned about the flooding we have seen this past winter. It is imperative the town council looks at emergency planning and flood management with stakeholders. Gratitude to our local fire crew and volunteers who came to the rescue over the past winter.

I would like to thank our town clerk who without the council would not function effectively.

Personally, it has been an honour and privilege to serve as Mayor and Chair of the Council. Community volunteers and groups support many events and make our town an idyllic place to live. We as a Council are proud to represent you.

Kind Regards

Cllr Louise Elston-Reeves

Chair and Town Mayor 2024/2025

# About The Council

Talgarth Town Council serves as the local governing body for representing the community with 12 councillors for Talgarth, Pengenfford and Trefecca..You can find details of all councillors, wards, and much more on our newly updated Town Council website: [Home - Talgarth Town Council](#) The website also provides information on council meetings, councillor attendance, allowances paid, grant guidance, application forms, and details of events happening in Talgarth.

We encourage residents to attend council meetings, either in person or remotely via hybrid meetings. During these sessions, you have the opportunity to voice your thoughts during the public session at the beginning of each meeting. Meetings are now held in the Committee Room at the Town Hall. For more information on how to attend, either in person or virtually, please contact our town clerk.

The town council is committed in providing residents with services and facilities designed to enhance the social and environmental wellbeing of the community.

## Your Town Council Members in 2024-25 to date

### **2024/25 Mayor, Cllr. Louise Elston-Reeves**

Telephone: 07717294332

Email: [louise.elston-reeves@talgarthtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:louise.elston-reeves@talgarthtowncouncil.co.uk)

I was born and raised in our lovely town and left to do my nurse training in 1992. My early career was spent in the Southeast of England working in the speciality of Burns and Plastics. I returned home to Wales in 2015 with my daughters seeking a slower pace of life. I was elected as a Town Councillor in 2018.

### **2024/2025 Deputy Mayor, Cllr Andrew Lord**

Telephone: 07432009308

Email: [andrew.lord@talgarthtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:andrew.lord@talgarthtowncouncil.co.uk)

I first moved to this part of Wales in 1981 having previously worked here. My wife and I moved to Trefecca in 1995. Since 1981 I have worked in computer engineering until retirement this year. I have been a Town Councillor for 13 and half years and currently I am Deputy Mayor.

### **2024/2025 Cllr Andrew Bufton**

Telephone:07774631312

Email: [andrew.bufton@talgarthtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:andrew.bufton@talgarthtowncouncil.co.uk)

### **2024/2025 Cllr Malcolm Dodds**

Telephone: 07982776857

Email: [Malcolm.dodds@talgarthtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:Malcolm.dodds@talgarthtowncouncil.co.uk)

I am Leslie Malcolm Dodds and originally from the North of England. I have been in Talgarth since 1981, working at the Mid Wales Hospital and Powys Health Authority as Director of Nurse Education. I have been an elected Town Councillor for over 25 years, plus membership of a number of community organisations for many years.

### **2024/2025 Cllr Glyn Jones**

Telephone:07976649382

Email: [glyn.jones@talgarthtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:glyn.jones@talgarthtowncouncil.co.uk)

**2024/2025 Cllr Beth Dale**

Telephone: 07449174287

Email: [bethan.dale@talgarhtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:bethan.dale@talgarhtowncouncil.co.uk)

I've lived in Talgarth for 3 years and currently work as a Senior Project Manager in the telecommunications industry. I enjoy walking in the beautiful Black Mountains, playing board games and attempting to grow fruit and vegetables in the garden. I'm involved in several community groups, last year becoming Chair of Talgarth Festival, and I look forward to being able to make a difference in the community of Talgarth.

**2024/2025 Cllr Adam Brown**

Telephone: 07539226513

Email: [adam.brown@talgarhtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:adam.brown@talgarhtowncouncil.co.uk)

I have lived in Talgarth for most of my life, being born here and growing up attending Talgarth Primary School, Gwernyfed High School and Sixth Form College. I left Talgarth aged 18 for further education and employment opportunities and returned 'home' in my 30's. Talgarth has always been home for me. I currently work as the Manager at the Castle Hotel in Talgarth and I am also the Chair of the Talgarth and District Regeneration Group.

**2024/2025 Cllr Douglas Coleman ( resigned April 2025)**

Telephone: 07568391873

Email: [douglas.coleman@talgarhtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:douglas.coleman@talgarhtowncouncil.co.uk)

I was born in the West Pennines and after a career working in a research laboratory I began working for the Government. I retired to live in Talgarth in 1993 and was co opted to become a town councillor a couple of years ago.

**2024/2025, Cllr Carol Briggs (resigned February 2025)**

Telephone: 07515728819

Email: [carol.briggs@talgarhtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:carol.briggs@talgarhtowncouncil.co.uk)

I was born in Hanover in Germany, a child of the military I have lived in many places and have met many people along the way. I have lived in Talgarth for 11 years, now with my mother and 2 children aged 15 and 5.

**2024/2025 Cllr. Christine Green**

Telephone: 07484333419

Email: [Christine.green@talgarhtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:Christine.green@talgarhtowncouncil.co.uk)

Served as a Magistrate for some years; also involved in setting up one of the first women's refuges in the UK. Moved to Wales in 1980s; worked as Geographic Information Systems Officer, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. Since retirement, have been involved in many roles as a volunteer.

**2024/2025 Cllr Jon Evans**

Telephone : 07814345715

Email: [Jon.evans@talgarhtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:Jon.evans@talgarhtowncouncil.co.uk)

I was born in Talgarth, following in the footsteps of numerous generations before me. Leaving to gain a degree in Computer Science at Aberystwyth in 2005; I returned and have been working in that profession since. I became an on-call Firefighter at Talgarth Fire Station in 2015 and became a Town Councillor in June 2023

## **2024/2025 Cllr William Powell**

Telephone: 07703 112113

Email: [Cllr.William.Powell@powys.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.William.Powell@powys.gov.uk)

I was born and raised on the family farm at Pengeffordd and left Gwernyfed High School in 1983 to study Modern Languages at Pembroke College, Oxford.

My first career was in teaching Modern Languages in Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, latterly as Head of German and European Officer at Hereford Sixth Form College.

I returned home to Wales full time in 2004, when elected as County Councillor. I have subsequently been elected to the Town Council and served a term in the National Assembly for Wales (now Senedd) 2011 – 2016.

Since 2017 I have served as a member of Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Panel and since 2022, have re-joined BBNPA.

I am committed to capacity building in Talgarth and beyond and want to continue to play my part in the regeneration of my hometown, whilst celebrating the stunning beauty of the Black Mountains.

The community and the Town Council wish to thank Cllr C Briggs and Cllr Douglas Coleman for their commitment over 2024.

Due to resignations to date (April 2025) the Council comprises of 10 current members. May 2025 will see the Council commence the process of filling of these vacancies.

The council has two employees: A Clerk to the Council, Proper Officer, Responsible Financial Officer and main contact for the Council:

Josephine Rumsey, Ty Carreg, Bronllys road, Talgarth, Brecon, Powys. LD3 0HH - 01874711565

Tel 07970 547996 Email: [clerk@talgarthtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@talgarthtowncouncil.co.uk)

Josephine has served the council and the town of Talgarth for many years. We thank her for her selfless service.

Our Caretaker/Cleaner for the Town hall and public conveniences is Emma Hayles. Emma does an exceptional job and has received compliments on how clean our premises are.

The town council meets regularly face to face however we have the technology to offer hybrid meetings.

Town Council representatives have also attended the quarterly meetings of:

PCC and Town and community councils.

OVW, Brecon and Radnor area committee meetings.

Members are appointed annually to serve as Council representatives on the following external organisations and sub-groups:

One Voice Wales

Burial sub-group

Town Hall works and development.

Financial planning group

Communications group

GDPR

All Planning Applications are considered at a full meeting of the Town Council.

There are six appointed members on the burial sub-group who submit recommendations for the full Council's decisions – final decisions made by the full Town Council. Fees are reviewed annually and align with the Church in Wales charges. The Council has a Memorandum of Understanding and does not charge for burials of those under the age of 18.

An appointed Councillor carries out regular health and safety inspections of all assets and one Councillor is appointed to oversee accounting procedures.

Members volunteer to serve on our towns volunteer and community groups:

Christmas lights group

Talgarth festival group

Grow for Talgarth

On the Verge/Ar yr Ymyl

Talgarth Visitor Centre

Talgarth and District Regeneration Group

Talgarth health groups

Ysgol y Mynydd Du

TADSCA

Walkers are Welcome

GP Biotec Liaison group

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION.

An annual audit of accounts and procedures is carried out. A person independent of the Council is appointed as internal auditor annually. They carry out an annual internal audit in April/May. Wales Audit office then follow on with an external audit of the council.

The Council is grateful to the current internal auditor and the Town Clerk for their work.

The Council sets a budget annually which is funded by residents of the community via the Council Tax collected by Powys County Council and paid to the Community Council, known as the precept. Councillors set the precept value when the budget is considered and do everything possible to keep the value to the minimum possible.

The Annual Return of the Council for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 is published on the Council website: [www.talgarthtowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.talgarthtowncouncil.co.uk).

Summary of accounts is:

Opening Cash at Bank- £24,945.42

Total Income received (including precept)- £93,889.02

Total Expenditure (Inc. wages, running costs etc.) – £69,084.86

Closing Cash at Bank - £49,749.88

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales produces an annual report in February of each year, which allows members of the council to receive this certain statutory allowances.

# RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRINCIPAL COUNCIL

The Council worked in partnership with County Councillor William Powell the County Councillor for Talgarth. He has attended most meetings of the Council providing a written report for each meeting and listened to issues raised by councillors relating to the responsibilities of Powys County Council and took up matters for action with relevant officers as appropriate.

The council would like to thank County Councillor William Powell for his continued loyalty and commitment to the residents of Talgarth.

## COMPLAINTS.

The Town Council has received 1 complaint to date, this is ongoing.

## CODE OF CONDUCT.

Councillors have been trained in the Code of Conduct and are fully aware of their commitment to the Council.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2024/2025

I had the pleasure of attending Talgarth Fire Station alongside Lady Kathryn Silk the High Sheriff of Powys when watch manager Bryan Davies received a long service award. We are extremely proud of our local fire service and eternally grateful for the work they carry out.



Photograph Credit to Ann Seymour Photography



## On the Verge/Ar yr Ymyl

One of our community environmental groups carry out wild planting in and around Talgarth. Promoting the benefits of biodiversity and educating the future generation.

Groups achievements over the year:

Involved with 10 environmental major collaborations, including:

Christ College Brecon - Presentation & re-wilding project over a 3-5 year period

Green Man - Invited to have a stand at the event over 3 days.

Wild Earth Movement - West Midlands, England based - asked to contribute to future event/initiative in '25 and beyond.

Globe in Hay - Funding arranged and advice given for re-planting an area with environmental plants/bug houses.

Llais Y Goedwig - Involved with free tree sapling project.

Powys CC - Assisted in planning of first Green bus stop in Powys at Brecon - 4 other sites agreed.

Old Railway Line - Agreed a joint initiative for 1MM package to be offered to customers - initially online; UK wide.

West Midlands National Park - Future collaboration into micellia / wellbeing research possibilities.

Gwernyfed school - Initial talks planned for Mid - late '25 onsite nature project.

Talgarth Bio-Diversity day - April '25

### **Others:**

CIO status - late '25

Distributed over 2500 gms of FOC wildflower seeds.

### **Continuing Projects**

Our Tiny Veg Growers/Wildings Meadow/Brecon planters/Enig Bank.

Throughout the period presented to approx: 50 clubs, schools, local councils, individual gardens



## Walkers are Welcome

Yet again this year WaW managed to have a sold-out walking festival over the early May bank holiday. This event attracts more and more each year which in turn increases the turnover of our local businesses.



## Tuesday Lunch group

Tuesday Lunch Club continues to go from strength to strength. This is a well needed asset to the community and TTC continue to provide free rental of the Town Hall to assist the group with ever spiralling costs of living.

## Christmas Lights

The Christmas lights event 2024 was another success, huge thanks and congratulations to the Lights team, Festival Group and Grow For Talgarth

## TADSCA

Gwernyfed rugby club's senior men's side have gone from strength to strength this season having been crowned Division 4 East League champions. This will see them play in the final at Rodney Parade, Newport May 10<sup>th</sup> 2025.

Our Mayor was present to see them receive their trophy from the WRU.



**Talgarth Bowling Club** invited members of the council to the opening game of their 105<sup>th</sup> year. It was a glorious afternoon and wonderful to see such a vibrant, welcoming and diverse club.



## Talgarth Community Hall

The former Church Hall is now known as the Community Hall, now run by local charity trustees, Tony James and Doris James. The Council wish to thank them both for their commitment and hard work in developing this valuable community asset. Grant was awarded towards their roof repair.

# Festival Group

Over the last year the Festival group have expanded their fundraising operations in order to update their assets and expand the main event in August. The Festival are investing into additional gazebo's to expand the under cover area's of the Festival and starting to bring back favourite activities from previous Festivals that have ceased due to lack of funds.

Last August, the group fully sold out on its 2500 strong duck race, the first time this has happened since before 2020, signalling a return to pre-COVID numbers at the Festival. Music also continued into the early evening with a strong focus on local food and drink offerings encouraging residents and visitors to stay in town into the evening and continue onto venues such as the Football and Rugby club afterwards.

The Group celebrated their long term chair Tony James who stood down at the AGM, and Beth Dale was elected to lead the festival into it's 30th anniversary year. The upcoming Easter event kicks off a summer of community focused activities in the run up to the main event in August.

# Dyfed Powys Police

The Town Council works closely with Dyfed Powys Police (DPP) Community Support Officers on any issues that arise in the community.

A monthly PCSO surgery happens in the committee room for residents to attend to discuss any matters of concern.

Talgarth has a patrol every day and it is always a pleasure to catch up and chat about, matters which concern our residents.



They are engaged in training and assisting members of the Community Speed Watch (CSW) team in a constant bid to deal with prevention of speeding vehicles in the community. DPP resources and budgets mean that they are limited in how much time they can spend enforcing speed limits, so we encourage residents to come forward and join the CSW team.

# Annual Act of Remembrance/DDAY 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/80<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary VE Day

Following our annual act of Remembrance 2024 a tea was held at the town hall. The hall had been decorated with the help from local volunteers and the whole community came together to remember those fallen in conflict and those still suffering.

2024 marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day.

Residents joined to reflect when lighting the beacon and lamp of peace.

The Town Council organised a day of WWII displays, residents came out to gather for a good sing song.

The town was gifted a beautifully crafted steel soldier from ACS stainless and he stands in silent reflection at our war memorial, thanks to Cllr Adam Brown.

2025 will see the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE/VJ day, events will be organised throughout the week.

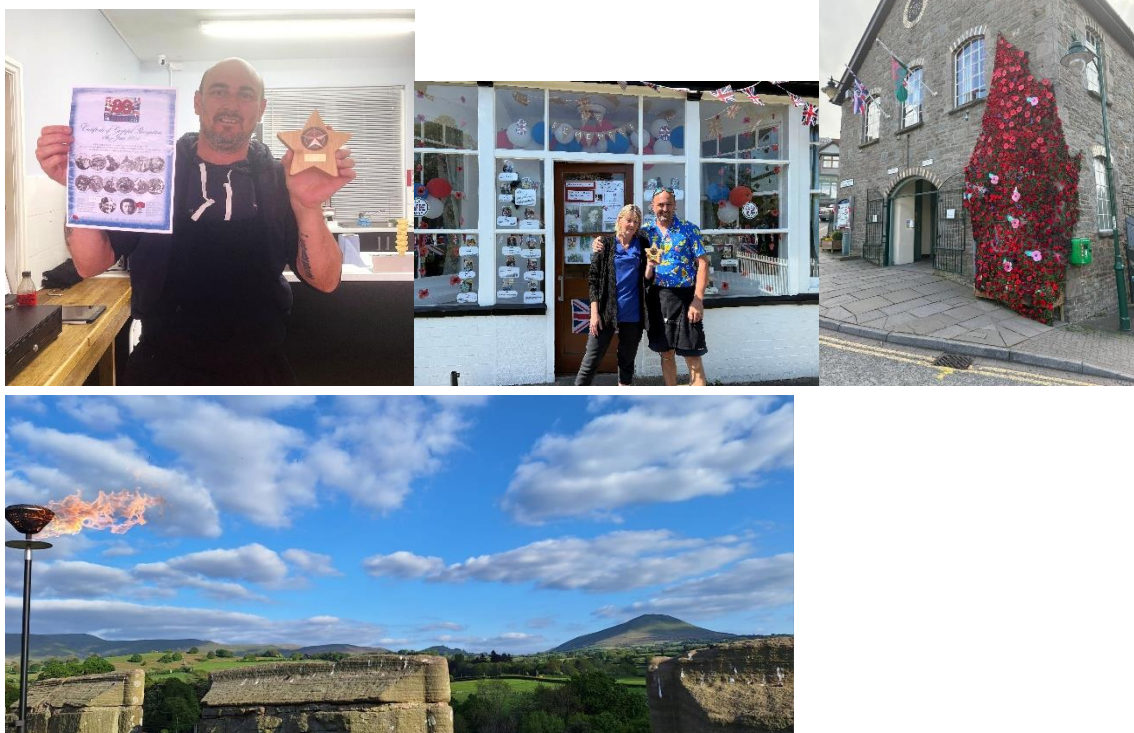
Our church service was well attended on the 8<sup>th</sup> May and we were all delighted when the beacon was lit on the church Tower.

We held a wonderful street party full of joy and refreshments were provided by the council.

The community has been so generous in making poppies for our poppy waterfall. This will be displayed in our town square for all to view and take a moment to reflect.



The town council organised a best dressed window competition for 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of DDay won by Parry's Ice Cream, David chose the winner for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day, which was Glanenig Care home. There were some beautiful displays in town.



## ASSETS

Talgarth Town Council's full Assets Register, as of 31 March 2024, is on the Council's website and includes the following:

Town Hall

St Gwendoline's Churchyard: Following a tender process every three years, a grass cutting contractor is appointed to maintain St. Gwendoline's Churchyard.



King George V Playing fields/Pavilion/Children's Play area/Tennis Courts

Bowling Club House/Green

War Memorial

Bus Shelter, Trefecca - and land that it's built on

Red Phone Box – disused at Trefecca – In memory of Cllr Reid the phone box will be renovated to become a book loaning library/Defibrillator

Various Gates, Seats/benches (Town Centre & surrounding areas), 2 Gazebos/3 Picnic Tables (Town square area), Speedwatch equipment, Zoll Defibrillator, Computer equipment.



# Policies

The Council has limited legal powers to operate as a corporate body and has several policies to comply with, which are reviewed annually. These include Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, General Data Protection Regulations/Security & Confidential, Complaints, Freedom of Information, Financial and Management Risk assessments, Insurance and Councillor Code of Conduct, Equality and diversity.

St Gwendoline's Churchyard Management, St Gwendoline's Churchyard Risk Assessment, Town Hall – Fire Risk Assessment, Town Hall Risk Assessment, Public Conveniences Risk Assessment.

All councillors have completed a personal training needs analysis. Our deputy mayor has now submitted our on-going training needs plan.

The Council website, [Home - Talgarth Town Council](#) is regularly updated with the work of the Council and is also subject to several legislative requirements, such as accessibility. All agenda, minutes, notices, and policies can be viewed on the website.

The Council does now have a current presence on social media. Information about public events and important notices are posted on the Town's notice board, and website.

## Biodiversity Plan

### ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016

#### PART 1 – SECTION 6

#### THE BIO-DIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS DUTY

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The Council manages sites that are ideally suitable for the development of bio-diversity initiatives as follows:

St Gwendoline's Churchyard

King George V Playing fields/Pavilion/Children's Play area/Tennis Courts

Bowling Club House/Green

The Town Hall

Swift boxes have been placed around the town hall to encourage these migrant visitors.

The town council agreed to pay the annual fee for a community allotment, we are working with Muddy Care and residents to enhance this area for growing.

PCC have been advised to please not use herbicides/fungicides and pesticides on our town's verges and pavements this is supported by On the Verge, Grow for Talgarth and Black Mountains College. The PCC have accepted this request and for the short term no pesticides shall be used.

A successful biodiversity day was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 at our town hall, with stakeholders working collaboratively to introduce residents to the Section 6 obligations.

The town council biodiversity to be submitted to WG.

## Statement Going Forward.

The Town Council aims to continue to represent the views of residents on differing topics and where possible provide services to meet local needs, to support and develop any initiatives to enhance our community life and the well-being of our residents now and for future generations.

As a council we need to look more at sustainable energy projects, Emergency planning for the town and the cost of living crisis. We hope to develop and support a food larder in 2025. We have supported the new repair café which is held monthly.

Compliance with any new legislation will be actioned and the development of the required training plans will be completed.

Community engagement and participation by Town Councillors will continue as always. This will be achieved by Councillors being part of community life, being visible and attending community group meetings.

We will continue to work with our partners Powys County Council and BBNPA.

The Town Council continue to work alongside County Councillor William Powell to ensure optimum outcomes for the residents of Talgarth.

## How Can the Council Help You?

The Town Council is interested to know what you want from your council.

If you have any ideas for future projects, please do get in touch.

Please note the following matters fall under the County Council and the Town Council can lobby for action or change but cannot insist.

County Council Matters are:

Highways

Street sweeping

Refuse/Recycling

Road Signs

Education

Council Housing

Social Services

Planning

The Powys County Council phone number is: 01597 826000