



# **Rhayader Town Council**

## **Annual Report**

**2025-2026**

Approved at the Rhayader Town Council Annual Meeting Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026

***“ Making Rhayader a vibrant town, enhancing the natural environment, supporting local jobs, local people and tourism and improved leisure facilities in a healthy, green and attractive town”***

# Rhayader Town Council

Formed in 1974, the Council covers both Rhayader and Cwmdauddwr wards and provides grass root services to all parts of its community. Its strategic direction is set by elected Councillors (members) reflecting local needs and priorities. Members provide opportunities for the community to comment on proposed plans and priorities for the coming year through participation in Community Events and Forums.

The Council consists of 14 elected or co-opted members. These members make decisions on a range of services and activities that support the local community and input into Powys County Council strategic plans and policies from the perspective of local knowledge.

The Mayor who is also the Council Chair is elected annually in May, in 2025-2026 this was Christian Walton.



**Mayor and Chair  
Cllr Christian  
Walton**

**Dep. Mayor & Vice  
Chair Cllr James  
Stuart**

**Cllr Angela  
Davies**

**Cllr Clare  
Evans**

**Cllr Rhys  
Thomas**



**Cllr David  
Evans**

**Cllr David  
Lloyd**

**Cllr Clive  
Hamer**

**Cllr Paul  
Roberts**

**Cllr Hannah  
Hill**



**Cllr Julie  
Davies**

**Cllr Owain  
Harries**

**Cllr Rachel  
Smalley**

**Cllr Namrata  
Bhardwa**

Councillors carry out their duties on a voluntary basis following the principles set out in the “*Code of Conduct*” to act lawfully, openly and with honesty and integrity in the public interest. Councillors reaffirmed their commitment to the Code of Conduct at the Annual Meeting in May 2025.

## Employees

The Council employs a part time Clerk, a Responsible Finance Officer and Toilet Caretaker to carry out the day to day operation of the council and its amenities.

It also contracts the services of a Town Caretaker to help keep the town clean and tidy for both residents and visitors to enjoy.

## Meetings

Throughout the year, regular council meetings were held on the penultimate Tuesday of each month, agendas and minutes of these meetings are published on the council website and posted on local noticeboards to ensure transparency and provide opportunities for residents to engage with the Council.

Additional meetings for Committees and Working Groups also took place throughout the year.

## Committees and Working Groups

The Council has standing committees and working groups which councillors can opt to serve on.

The Standing Committees are the:

- Allotment Committee
- Toilet Committee
- Events Committee
- Staffing and HR Policy Committee
- Assets Committee
- Project Management Committee
- Weirglodd Committee

The working groups operational during the year were the:

- Car Park working group
- Toilet refurbishment group
- Biodiversity group

## Council Responsibilities

The Council is responsible for:

- Llangurig (North) Road Allotments & field - 5 full size allotment plots
- Y Weirglodd Allotments - 20 full size allotment plots
- Y Weirglodd Pump Track

- Dark Lane Car Park Public Toilets
- Cwmdauddwr Public Toilets
- Rhayader Cemetery Public Toilets
- The Old Council Pound, at Cwmdauddwr
- The Old Council Pound, at Tanners Road
- Cwmdauddwr Car Park
- Flower planters around the town and the flower beds on the Llangurig (North) Road roundabout.
- Benches, local signs, noticeboards and other Street Furniture throughout the town
- Provision of 2 Dog Waste Bag dispensers

## Financial Information

### The Precept

The Council receives almost all of its civic funds from its Precept. The Precept is collected annually by Powys County Council and is an amount added to Council Tax. The amount requested by the Council is calculated as a contribution towards its annual operating budget prepared in December each year by the Responsible Financial Officer.

The total Precept income for 2025-2026 was £65,091

### Allotment Fees

In addition to the Precept the Council receives annual Allotment Tenancy fees paid by Plot Holders, this income is reserved for use for the running and development of the 2 Allotment sites.

### Toilet Income

In 2024, the Council was faced with the difficult decision to either close the toilets due to increased running costs or charge a small fee to use them. In order to keep the toilets open the Council made the decision to implement a fee. This income is reserved for use to operate the toilets only and now covers the majority of the running costs.

### The Bryntitli Fund

The Council manages the Bryntitli Windfarm Trust Community Fund and receives an annual payment based on the electricity generated by the Bryntitli Windfarm. This fund is used to support projects that benefit the communities of Rhayader and Cwmdauddwr.

## Governance and Accountability

The Council aims to be open and accountable in all that it does whilst ensuring sound and rigorous management of its assets and resources. It does this by having Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Internal Controls and by adopting pro-active Risk Management practices. The Council is subject to annual internal and external Audits and publishes the outcomes of these and other statutory documents on its website. These include:

- Standing Order
- Financial Regulations

- Training and Development Plan
- Biodiversity Action Plan
- Committees Terms of Reference
- Policies and Procedures
- Risk Assessments
- Financial Information and Audit Reports
- Register of Declaration of Members Interests
- Payment of Councillor Allowances

## Environment and sustainability

Rhayader Town Council is committed to reducing the decline of biodiversity and realises the important role it plays in reducing its impact on the environment. Through its Biodiversity Group it has undertaken the following key actions:

- Created the 2026-2028 Biodiversity Action Plan
- Updated the Councils Environmental Policy
- Continued to plant Pollinator friendly plants throughout the town including 12 apple trees
- Engaged with the Local Wildlife Trust Officer for advice on Allotment land management

## Community Engagement and Communication

A key priority for the Council is transparent and effective communication with the community it serves, over the last year it has:

- Launched a refreshed website allowing easy access to important council documents
- Joined the “Community Conversations” Open Day, organised by the Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO) sharing Council Plans and providing the community with the opportunity to discuss the plans and offer feedback and suggestions.
- Participated in 2 Rhayader Tourism Partnership Business Forums to gain an understanding of what’s important to local businesses.
- In conjunction with Rhayader and District Community Support (The Arches) and Community Arts Rhayader and District (CARAD) secured funding for a quarterly printed community newsletter

## Supporting the Community

Council Representatives or Trustees are present on many of the local community organisations including those listed below. Through these links the Council can help support and enable groups to deliver vital community projects and services for the benefit of the town.

- The Waun Capel Park Trust
- The Groe Park Trust,
- Rhayader Tourism Partnership (Rhayader 2000 Ltd)
- Rhayader and District Community Support
- Rhayader & District Sports & Recreation Association
- Dolmynach House

- Elan Links
- The Smithfield Market
- The Elan Valley Trust

## Funding Community Projects

In 2025-2026 Rhayader Town Council provided £3,400 from its Precept income to support the following community groups:

- Rhayader Tourism Partnership (Rhayader 2000 Ltd)
- Community Arts Rhayader and District (CARAD)
- Waun Capel Park Trust; Sandy Play Area
- Waun Capel Park Trust; Multi Use Games Area
- The Groe Park Trust
- Rhayader and Cwmdauddwr Churches and Chapels for the upkeep of Churchyards
- The Carnival Committee

In 2025-2026 The Town Council also supported many community groups with grant funding of £8,833 through the Bryntitli Windfarm Trust Community Fund or donations from the Mayors Allowance these included:

- Rhayader Football Club
- Rhayader & District Motor Cycle & Light Car Club
- Community Arts Rhayader and District (CARAD)
- Rhayader Young Farmers Club
- Cylch Ti a Fi
- Rhayader and District Community Support, The Arches Community Transport Scheme
- Rhayader and District Community Support, The Arches Memory Lane Club
- St John Ambulance
- The Carnival Committee

## An overview of the last year

During 2025-2026 the Council has:

- Welcomed new council member Cllr Namrata Bhardwa, co-opted to fill one vacant seat
- Reviewed and commented on 8 planning applications
- Raised local concerns over Street Lighting, Parking, Road Safety, Traffic on St Harmon Road and Caerberbert Lane and School Crossing issues
- Lobbied for increased access to ATM Cash services in the town
- Engaged in challenges to Cross Border Healthcare Issues
- Lobbied to retain the Phone Kiosk and ATM by the Smithfield
- Met with new leaders of Powys County Council to raise awareness of key issues in Rhayader
- Lobbied Powys County Council for the retention of the Leisure Centre
- Met with the local PCSO to better understand and support their local policing efforts

- Met with senior operational members of Powys Highways, Transport and Waste Management teams to raise issues and better understand how they provide local services in a challenging financial climate
- Met with the St John Ambulance Team to gain a better understanding of their critical role serving the community
- Met with the Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru Elan Valley Visitor Attractions Manager to discuss their development plans and identify ways the town can benefit from the investment
- Renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with the Rhayader & District Sports & Recreation Association to operate the Pump Track on behalf of the Council
- Arranged the Annual Service of Remembrance and V E Day

## Town Council Projects

During 2025-2026 the Town Council secured Welsh Government grants through Powys County Council totalling £99,600 for two key projects:

### Toilet Refurbishment at Dark Lane and Cwmdauddwr

Funding was secured to carry out further works on Dark Lane and Cwmdauddwr Toilet Blocks including further energy saving measures and a fresh new look with Solar PV panels on the roof at Cwmdauddwr, new LED lighting in both blocks and new cubicles and redecoration in Dark Lane.

### Brilliant Basics, Dragon Trail Project

Working in partnership with CARAD, Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru, The Rhayader Tourism Partnership and the Waun Capel Trust funding was secured for the new Dragon Trail Project. Focussed on tourism, this project has enabled the group to update the signage and information throughout the town, highlighting walks through Waun Capel Woodland and Sculpture Trail, along the Riverside Walk and the Town Trail. The Project has also created a new *Dragon Trail* linking the Elan Valley Visitor Centre to Rhayader and the TimeScape Museum using the Elan Valley Cycle Path.

Through this project, the new signage and information will encourage visitors to explore the town by making it easier to find their way around, encouraging them to stay longer and showcasing all that the town has to offer.

## Plans for the Year Ahead

The Council starts the year with work on three exciting community projects and updates to its plans

### Transforming Towns Shop Frontage Improvement Scheme

The Town Council has secured £317,000 of Welsh Government funding to support 38 local high street businesses to upgrade their shop fronts with repairs and redecoration improving their appearance and helping to showcase Rhayader as an attractive and vibrant town centre for both residents and visitors to enjoy. Works start during Summer 2026.

## Y Weirglodd Community Asset Transfer

The council are working with Powys County Council on the Community Asset Transfer of the Weirglodd Site from Powys County Council to the Town Council on a 99 year Lease, securing its long term future as a community hub for sports and recreation

## The Rugby Club

The council has submitted a grant funding application for the development of the Rugby Club to create a modern, flexible Community Hub for use by a wide range of community groups.

## Repairs and Maintenance

Alongside the projects, the council will continue its programme of repairs and maintenance of benches and other street furniture

## Council Plans

Incorporating valuable feedback from the community, the council will be reviewing and updating the Town Investment Plan and Council Business Plan setting out its aims and objectives for the coming year.

## Contact Information

For further information on the Councils work, to provide feedback, or to get involved please contact any of our Councillors or the Clerk Julie Stephens via email: [Clerk@rhayader.gov.wales](mailto:Clerk@rhayader.gov.wales)

Signed by Councillor James Stuart, Chair Rhayader Town Council