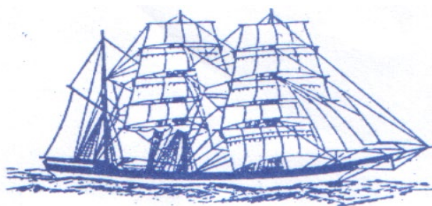


CYNGOR TREF PORTHMADOG



ANNUAL REPORT 2023– 2024



CONTENTS

Page 3	Welcome
Pages 4, 5	Porthmadog and the surrounding area
Page 6	Responsibilities
Pages 7,8,9	Cae Pawb
Page 10	Bryn Coffa
Page 11	Bodawen Playing Fields
Page 12	Porthmadog Town Council Members
Page 13	Staff and Council meetings
Page 14	Council website and external membership
Page 15	Accountability and Finance
Page 16	Balance Sheet 2023 – 2024
Pages 17, 18	Annual Return 2023 – 2024
Page 18	Contributions
Page 19	Policy matters
Pages 19, 20	Raising Issues with Gwynedd Council and other Agencies
Page 21	Youth Club, Premier Inn
Page 22	Planning Applications
Page 22	Defibrillators
Pages 23,24	Development Working Group
Pages 25,26,27	Tree planting
Pages 28,29	Llyn and Eifionydd National Eisteddfod 2023
Pages 30,31, 32,33	Plans for the future

Welcome

The Porthmadog Town Council area includes the town of Porthmadog itself as well as the villages of Porth-y-Gest, Morfa Bychan, Pwllgoleulas and Tremadog.

Tremadog was built on land taken from the sea after William Alexander Madocks completed the breakwater or Cob over the estuary of the Afon Glaslyn or Traeth Mawr in 1811. Porthmadog then grew due to the development of the Blaenau Ffestiniog slate industry as a port for exporting the blue stone to the rest of the world. During this period Porthmadog and Porth-y-Gest were also important merchant shipbuilding centres. The area is now a popular destination for visitors as they flock to the magnificent beaches of Tremadog Bay or to the challenging mountains and cliffs of Snowdonia. There is a variety of accommodation as well as restaurants and pubs that offer interesting, tasty and affordable meals.

Porthmadog is a Welsh-speaking community with the language and culture at the core of its identity. This was the home of Eifion Wyn and William Jones Tremadog, Alltud Eifion - and Percy Bushe Shelley also in turn. Twm o'r Nant walked the area and this is the birthplace of Thomas Edward Lawrence of Arabia and the well-known tenor, Rhys Meirion.

Porthmadog is twinned with the town of Wicklow (Cill Mhantáin) in Ireland.

So come to the Porthmadog area to experience our unique culture, our exciting history and the spectacular scenery. You will not be disappointed.



The Porthmadog area

A description of the area represented by the Council.

The Porthmadog Town Council area includes the town of Porthmadog itself as well as the villages of Borth-y-Gest, Morfa Bychan, Pwllgoleulas and Tremadog.

Porthmadog and Tremadog are relatively new towns and 2011 was an important year as the area celebrated the bicentenary of the building of the famous Cob by William Alexander Madocks.



Porthmadog is a harbour town and the area is a popular tourist destination. Thousands flock here every year, whether to visit the beaches and mountains, to enjoy the various shops and restaurants, or to get a taste of the rich cultural and industrial history that belongs to the area. .

The harbour is the centre of Porthmadog. If it wasn't for the harbour Porthmadog wouldn't exist as a town. In its day the harbour was bustling with activity as the world's busiest port for exporting slate and as home to the shipbuilding industry that developed in its wake. Today pleasure ships are moored in Porthmadog harbour and there is a wonderful calm to be had from walking along the quay imagining the hustle and bustle of the past and the prosperity that resulted from that. A visit to the nearby Maritime Museum is an opportunity to relive the past and learn more about the unique maritime history of Porthmadog harbour.

The Welsh language is a living language and an important part of the culture and identity of the residents of Porthmadog and the area.

The town of Porthmadog is twinned with the town of Wicklow in Ireland. Porthmadog was twinned with Wicklow in 2006 when a charter of friendship and collaboration was signed between the councils of the two towns. The charter can be seen at Y Ganolfan in Porthmadog and at the Town Hall in Wicklow. Since then there have been frequent visits between the two towns as choirs, bands and various societies travel back and forth across the Irish Sea creating connections and meeting old and new friends. The Sailing Clubs of the two towns have been familiar with each other for years and the connection made between Porthmadog and Wicklow Fire Services is one of the great successes of the twinning.

Visit www.porthmadog.co.uk

to view the Porthmadog guidebook and for more information about the town.



Responsibilities

Porthmadog Town Council meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month in the Glaslyn Room, Y Ganolfan, Porthmadog at 19:00. Full Committee meetings are also accessible on Microsoft Teams. These meetings are open to the public and the Agenda for the meetings is published on the Council's website, on the notice board outside Y Ganolfan and on the notice board near the Park. The public is encouraged to contact the Council with their comments or concerns and the Council believes that it is essential to have a good relationship with the electorate.

Porthmadog Town Council is responsible for providing a variety of different services within the area it represents and operates openly and transparently for the benefit and on behalf of the whole community.

Some of the responsibilities of Porthmadog Town Council are:

- Setting the precept, which is the domestic tax that is distributed to the Town Council every year.
- Presenting comments on planning applications that are submitted to the planning authority.
- Maintenance of our lands and properties namely Cae Pawb, Bryn Coffa, Cae Chwarae Bodawen and the public paths that come under the responsibility of Porthmadog Town Council.
- Porthmadog Town Council works in partnership with community and voluntary groups for the benefit of the environment, the surrounding area and the community.

Porthmadog Town Council has the following sub-committees:

Finance and General Purposes Committee and Property Committee. They meet 4 times a year.

The Finance and General Objectives Committee discusses all aspects of the Town Council's financial work examining the accounts, questioning the Clerk about expenditure and receipts and making recommendations for savings. The Committee will consider the Clerk's Salary annually in accordance with the Clerk's employment agreement and make recommendations to the full Council. They monitor expenditure and income making recommendations for full discussions on setting the level of the Precept annually. Occasionally they will also discuss planning applications that have a closing date before a full meeting of the Council and any other financial matter that needs attention.

The Property Committee discusses all aspects of their responsibilities regarding the maintenance and upkeep of the following properties: Bodawen Playground, Bryn Coffa (Memorial to the two World Wars), Mr Madocks Statue, the paths in the area they are responsible for, the bus shelters they are responsible for and Cae Pawb Allotments.

Cae Pawb



Cae Pawb is Porthmadog Town Council's allotments located at the eastern end of Chapel Street on the way to the Eryri Highland Railway works past Siop Darlun and on the left by the Welsh Water site.

As a result of investigating the history of Cae Pawb it was found that the land had been bought by The Town Council for £315 at an auction of the lands of the Tremadog Estate in 1921. A loan had to be obtained from the Ministry of Health in order to buy it as vegetable gardens for residents of Porthmadog

There are fifty-three allotments in Cae Pawb with each one is rented out. The allotments are allocated to residents of the Town Council's catchment area which is Post Code LL49.

The annual rent for an allotment is £20 and £3 is collected in addition for the costs of mowing and maintaining the site.

There is a tenancy committee, the Cae Pawb Allotment Committee, which looks after the site.

If you wish to add your name to the waiting list for an allotment , contact the Clerk on clerccyngtreport@gmail.com

Cae Pawb's allotments have recently received attention as a result of the S4C TV programme Garddio a Mwy. One of Cae Pawb's most productive tenants, a young man called Rhys Rowlands, was invited as a regular guest and presenter on the programme and he is very successful in sharing his extensive knowledge and demonstrating his gardening skills in a very natural and professional manner.



On September 18 2022 an open day was held in Cae Pawb in order to raise money for the Llŷn and Eifionydd National Eisteddfod 2023 and for the Cae Pawb Allotment Association. It was an opportunity for the tenants to open their gardens to the public in order to show the fruits of their labour. Produce sales tables were set up at the entrance and over £400 was collected on the day. It is the intention of the Cae Pawb Allotment Association to hold an open day annually.



Grants

The Cae Pawb Allotment Association was successful in their application for a grant from the Gwynedd Council Allotment Fund. A grant of £1,475.88 was received and the money was used to install a new gate post; pebbles to improve the road into the site; fertiliser; and wooden stakes for fencing among other things.

Cae Pawb Allotment Association received a financial contribution of £250.00 from Porthmadog Town Council in April 2024.

Bryn Coffa



Bryn Coffa is Porthmadog Town's memorial to those who lost their lives in both World Wars. The Cross is clearly visible above the road on Ynys Galch when traveling from Porthmadog towards Tremadog near Ysgol Eifionydd. The column was donated to the town by a family from Porthmadog who lost a son in the Great War. A Remembrance Day service is held here every year. Recently a handrail was placed on the path to the memorial and concrete was put on its surface.

On the wall near the bottom of the stairs there is a QR code which gives you access to historypoints.org where you can find details about the history of the site as well as details about the local men who lost their lives during the two World Wars.



Bodawen Playing Fields



Cae Chwarae Bodawen was purchased by Porthmadog Town Council in the mid-seventies and regular investment is made in the play equipment there - including play provision for children with disabilities. The site and the play equipment is inspected annually by G.L.Jones Ltd, Bethesda and the Town Council will act on any recommendations from them to improve the condition and safety of the equipment. In June 2023 the play equipment was renewed with a fresh coat of red and green paint. In Cae Chwarae Bodawen there are the Gorsedd y Bards' Stones which were placed there for the ceremonies of the National Eisteddfod of Wales Bro Madog which was held on the outskirts of the town in 1987.

Unfortunately it is anticipated that the playing field will have to close for a period of some months in the coming years. Due to the National Grid's long-term plan to reinforce the network between Pentir and Trawsfynydd, from 2027 onwards a large part of the field will be excavated in order to install new electricity cables. This will disrupt public access to the field and the playing equipment will be dismantled and taken down. The Town Council is confident that National Grid will install new and better play equipment in the field and a new gate at the entrance once the work has been completed.

Hawlfraint Lluniau:

Prif Llun Harbwr Porthmadog: [Ken Bagnall](#)

Llyn Bach: [Kenneth Allen](#), Graig Ddu: [Chris Carlson](#), Harbwr Borth Y Gest: [David Medcalf](#), Gist Gerrig: [Dewi](#), Harbwr Porthmadog: [Alan Fryer](#),

Stryd Fawr, Porthmadog: [John Lucas](#), Stryd Fawr, Porthmadog: [Eric Jones](#), Tremadog: [Eric Jones](#)

Members

PORTHMADOG TOWN COUNCILLORS

July 2023

Community Ward Porthmadog – Tremadog

1. Councillor Aled Griffith (Chairman)
2. Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd (Vice-Chairman)
3. Councillor Sandra Bodden Jones

Community Ward Porthmadog – Gêst

1. Councillor Dr Melfyn Edwards
2. Councillor John Gwynedd Roberts

Community Ward Porthmadog – West

1. Councillor Llywelyn Rhys
2. Councillor Michael Roberts
- 3.

Community Ward Porthmadog – Ynys Galch

1. Councillor Carol Hayes
2. Councillor Gwilym Jones (also County Councillor)
- 3.

Community Ward Porthmadog – East

1. Councillor Llinos Murphy
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Community Ward Porthmadog – Morfa Bychan

1. Councillor Connor Westwood

Employees

Porthmadog Town Council's current Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer is Marian Roberts. The Clerk works part time, 24 hours a week.

Here are the contact details:-

email : clerccyngtreport@gmail.com

telephone : 01766 513709

address : Tawelfan
29 Maes Gerddi
Porthmadog
LL49 9LE

Meetings

We have responded to the Local Authorities Coronavirus Meetings Wales Regulations passed by the Welsh Government in April 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic to enable Community and Town Councils to meet remotely in order to continue our work in light of the lockdown and a ban is given for face-to-face meetings. Appropriate arrangements were made to be able to continue our business through a remote meeting in 2020-21

Because the restrictions have now been relaxed, the Regular meetings of the Council's Full Committee from September 2021 are hybrid ones - in the Glaslyn Room, Y Ganolfan and on Microsoft Teams. The meetings are held at 19.00 on the second Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held in Welsh. All meetings are recorded by the Clerk on Microsoft Teams.

The public is welcome to attend and to let the Clerk know if a prospective translator is needed. There will be no meeting in August.

The Agenda for each meeting is published on the Council's website.

<http://www.cyngortreporthmadog.org>

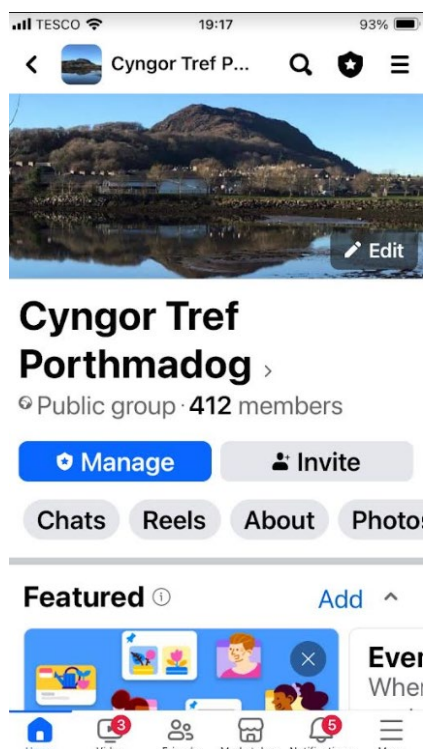
The Draft Minutes of each meeting are published on the website within 7 days after the meeting and the Final Minutes after they have been approved at the following meeting. A meeting of the Property and Finance and Development Sub-Committee is held 4 times a year in Ystafell Glaslyn, Y Ganolfan.

Porthmadog Town Council website

<http://www.cyngortreporthmadog.org>

On the website there is information about the Town Council which includes membership, meeting agendas, minutes, documentation and the Council's accounts.

Since March 2023 Porthmadog Town Council has had a Facebook page where relevant information is shared for the residents of Porthmadog and the area.



External membership

The Town Council is a member of One Voice Wales, which is the main body for community and town Councils in Wales. Membership of One Voice Wales includes access to legal advice, training, advice on policies, information from the Assembly and advice on improving the Council's provision and services. The Clerk is a member of the SLCC Clerks Association and benefits from correspondence and training from them.

The Town Council has representation on the following:-

- Porthmadog Harbour Committee
- The Rebecca Trust
- Y Ganolfan
- Porthmadog Maritime Museum
- Madog Sports Club
- Caru Port
- Twinning Committee
- Arfon Dwyfor Committee (One Voice Wales)

Accountability.

Councillors are required to declare any interest on an item to be discussed at the start of each meeting. This will be noted in the minutes. The accounts are managed by the Clerk who is also Porthmadog Town Council's Responsible Financial Officer. Gwynedd Council carries out an internal audit of the accounts and the external audit is carried out by Wales Audit Office on behalf of the Welsh Government. Porthmadog Town Council's Finance Sub-Committee ensures the accuracy and standard of management of the accounts.

Finance and Expenditure

The budget is set annually and is approved by the Full Council. There will be a review throughout the year by the Council and the Finance Sub-Committee with regular reports from the Clerk. The Precept is the Council's main financial source. Setting the Precept is a process that takes into account the likely costs of the Council and any projects that lead to the determination of the size of the Precept.

There is an Annual Audit of all aspects of the Town Council's financial activities. At the end of the financial year the Responsible Financial Officer (the Clerk) will first prepare the Annual Return and relevant documents for an Internal Audit by Gwynedd Council Finance Department officers, before handing the documents over to the Community Council Audits Auditor in the Wales Audit Office in Cardiff. The findings of the final Audit will be published on the Town Council website and on the Town Council notice board for the sake of transparency. Dates will also be announced when the documents will be available for members of the public to come and inspect.

BALANCE SHEET 2023-2024

CYNGOR TREF PORTHMADOG					
INCOME	TO 31.3.24				
Receipts			In the bank 1.4.23		
			Current account	£ 22,589.15	
Precept	£ 62,581.43		Un- cashed cheques	£ 2,178.40	
VAT repayment	£ 6,471.61			£ 20,410.75	
Cae Pawb	£ 1,060.00		Savings account	£ 34,086.30	
Bank Interest	£ 603.06				
Car parking Income 2022	£ 17,983.79				
Car parking Income 2023	£ 9,947.44		Total	£ 54,497.05	
N.Grid Cae Bodawen Surveys	£ 1,000.00				
Advent calendars refund	£ 129.00				
	£ 99,776.33				
			In the bank 31.3.24		
Payments			Current account	£ 59,635.84	
			Un-cashed cheques	£ 997.23	
Administrative costs	£ 10,648.96			£ 58,638.61	
Clerk's salary	£ 15,071.12		Savings account	£ 34,689.36	
Christmas	£ 13,279.70				
A137 contributions					
A145 contributions	£ 5,750.00		Total	£ 93,327.97	
Cae Pawb	£ 1,675.44				
Parks and open spaces	£ 14,520.19				
	£ 60,945.41				
Income after expenditure	£ 38,830.92		Increase in balance	£ 38,830.92	
			Marian Roberts		
			31.3.24		

Annual Return of Town and Community Councils in Wales for the Year Ending 31 March 2024

Accounting statements 2023 – 2024 for :-

CYNGOR TREF PORTHMADOG

	End of year		Notes
	31 March 2023 (£)	31 March 2024 (£)	You should round all figures to the nearest £. Do not leave any boxes blank when recording balances of £0 or nothing. All figures must be consistent with the underlying financial records for the relevant year.
Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments			
1. 1. Balances brought forward	64,407	54,497	The total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. It must be consistent with line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+)Income from local taxation/levy	62,581	62,581	Total income received/receivable during the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from main bodies.
3. (+)Total other receipts	33,387	37,195	Total income or receipts recorded in the cash book minus the amounts included in line 2. It includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-)Staff costs	12,669	15,071	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of each employee. You should include wages, taxable allowances, PAYE and National Insurance (employees and employers), pension contributions and termination costs. Exclude minor expenses.
5. (-)Interest on loans/ capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or capital and interest payments made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-)Total other payments	93,449	45,874	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash book minus staff costs (line 4) and interest on capital loans/repayments (line 5).

7. (=)Balances brought forward	54,257	93,328	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. It must be equal to (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).
Statement of balances			
8. (+) Debtors	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body at the end of the year.
9. (+)Total money and investments	54,257	93,328	All accounts: The sum of all current bank accounts and deposits, cash holdings and investments held on 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cash book balance in accordance with the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of money owed by the body (excluding borrowing) at the end of the year.
11. (=)Balances brought forward	54,257	93,328	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter total (8 + 9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long term assets	33,443	35,894	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held at 31 March.
13. Borrowing total	0	0	The outstanding capital balance at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

Contributions 2023 – 2024

In January each year local charities, associations, organizations and clubs are invited to make applications for financial support from the Town Council. Each request is usually discussed individually at the Council meeting in February but there was a delay this year and it was not discussed until March 2024 and the money was not paid until April 2024. This means that no A137 or A19 contribution was made out of the 2023 - 2024 budget.

A145 contributions were made as follows:-

- Llŷn and Eifionydd National Eisteddfod Appeal £5,000.00
- Hiring costs for the Youth Club sessions in Y Ganolfan £ 750.00

Policy Matters

The following Documents and Policies are reviewed annually at the Annual General Meeting each May.

- Standing Orders
- Financial Rules
- Code of Conduct
- The Council's Internal Audit
- Risk Assessments
- Asset Register
- Planning Policy
- Paperless policy
- Language Policy
- Press Releases Policy
- Training Policy

Raising issues with Gwynedd Council and other agencies

Porthmadog Town Council welcomes the contribution of the public by receiving and responding to letters or emails from them. During the past year we have succeeded in directing their concerns about the following issues and have succeeded in taking action to try to solve the problems by referring the issues to Gwynedd Council or to other relevant agencies.

- Gritting
- Condition of roads
- Bus shelters
- Condition of paths
- Condition of historic buildings
- Seagull problem



Like all seaside towns, Porthmadog suffers from flocks of seagulls during the Summer season. The Town Council has employed a falconer for the third year in a row to try to prevent the seagulls from nesting on the roofs of the streets of Porthmadog. This is the falconer, John Parry Evans, at work on the back streets of Porthmadog.

The Council has also written to Members of Parliament, Members of the Assembly, Dŵr Cymru and Natural Resources Wales regarding wider issues such as:-

- lack of local affordable housing
- second homes
- sewage
- flood risk
- landslides

Here are some of the employees of Natural Resources Wales at work clearing the Cut and monitoring the growth of "Japanese Knotweed".



The Town Council tries to foster a good relationship with public agencies and Gwynedd County Council officers. Much of the Town Council's work depends on good cooperation with Gwynedd Council officers. These officers are very willing to give their time to come and visit Town Council meetings when there is demand.

(See the Town Council website for full minutes of the above meetings.)

Youth Club

The Town Council has, for some time, discussed the possibility of re-establishing Porthmadog Youth Club. Following discussions it was decided that the Town Council would finance the hire of a new location for the Club in Y Ganolfan, Porthmadog. By coordinating with Nia Heledd Rees, Youth Support Worker for the Eifionydd and Ardudwy Schools catchment area, we managed to organize a weekly Youth Club for young people between the ages of 11 and 16.

A programme of activities was organised between October 2023 and the Easter holidays 2024. There was a very wide range of various activities such as:-

Karaoke; board games; sports; Christmas party. There were also visits from Big ideas Wales; Ffa Da from Llandanwg showing the young people how to make coffee as a barista; the Urdd coming to do a session with Ukaleles; Gaming Van; Cyrco Arts teaches circus skills; and to finish during the Youth service's well-being festival there was a car wash night to raise money for charity.

The Youth Club was very successful and proved to be very popular with the young people. The Town Council continues to fund the hiring of Y Ganolfan for the Youth Club between September and the Easter holidays each year.

Premier Inn

On the former site of the Britannia Foundry and the former Tax Office, Tŷ Moelwyn, a new Premier Inn hotel was built. It is in a wonderful location between the sea and the mountains with magnificent views over Traeth Mawr and out over Cardigan Bay. The hotel has 80 rooms and has created work for many local people. The hotel officially opened in June 2022 but before that as a sign of goodwill the members of the Town Council were invited to the hotel on June 3 2022 to have breakfast in their restaurant.

The Town Council is very grateful to the management of the hotel for agreeing to the Council's request to install a slate plaque which indicated the official opening of Tŷ Moelwyn in 1977. The hotel agreed to keep the plaque and it has been placed at the entrance.



Planning Applications

The Town Council discusses all Planning Applications received by Gwynedd Council's Planning Department at their meetings and expresses an opinion or decision as a body in order to report back to the Planning Department on any comment, condition or objection to a Planning Application. The Clerk will email the details of each Application to the Councillors so that they have enough time to study the details of the application before the meeting in order to come to a decision on it. The Planning Department will be informed of the Council's decision and the Council's decision on the application will be published in the minutes of the meeting.

At times when the application has reached the Clerk too late to be included in the Agenda and to be discussed in a meeting, then the Councillors will respond individually to the Planning Application directly to the Planning Department.

34 Planning Applications were discussed and a decision was made upon between May 2023 and May 2024

Defibrillators

The Town Council funded 2 Defibrillators out of the A19 Well-being budget for 2 sites in the 2020-2021 financial year. One was placed on the outside wall of Meithrinfa Hen Ysgol and the other on the outside wall of the Lidl store. This year the Town Council has collaborated with the Ambulance Service to compile a list of the location of every defibrillator in the Town Council's catchment area and published the list in the local Village paper, Yr Wylan. A copy of it is also available on the Council's notice board and on the Council's website.



In September and October 2022 the Town Council received 3 new Defibrillators through the Ambulance Service's Save a Life scheme. One was put in place of the one outside the Post Office; one on the outer wall of Canolfan Morfa Bychan; and one on the Cerrig yr Afon homes site. There is a detailed list of all defibrillators in the Porthmadog area on the Town Council's website. The defibrillators in the care of Porthmadog Town Council have been registered with The Circuit, BHF and the Clerk monitors them regularly to

ensure they are ready for use in an emergency. The Town Council provides new pads and batteries for the Defibrillators when needed.

Development working group

In July 2021 a small group of the Town Council came together to form a Development Working Group. The main objective of the group was to decide on projects to improve facilities and the general appearance of the area by making use of the money in reserve and the car park income. Porthmadog is now part of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites and it is anticipated that additional grants will be received as a result of this which can be used to facilitate the work of the Development Working Group.

The Working Group has already arranged for a new sign for Bodawen Playground and commissioned 2 information boards about birds and wildlife from a local artist to be placed on the Cob Crwn walking path. It is hoped that in the near future we will be able to take action to improve the Pencei area, install new signposts around the town and publish a pamphlet and a map of the town.

By September 2022 the 2 information boards were in place on the Round Cob - one facing Llyn Bach and the other looking out over Traeth Mawr. They were designed by a local artist, Ffion Gwyn.

The Development Working Group has now been dissolved and issues relating to improvements within the town are now discussed at the meetings of the Finance and Property Sub-Committee. It is the intention of the Town Council to commission 2 more information boards from Ffion Gwyn - one next to the Madocks statue and the other on the Garth Road. We are awaiting approval on the matter by Gwynedd Council.





In 2022 5 flower planters were bought - 3 for Porthmadog and 2 for Tremadog. They are maintained and filled regularly by a local garden centre, Gardencraft.



Tree Planting

The Town Council met with the Biodiversity Officer, Gwynedd Council's Environment Department to discuss the possibility of applying for funding to plant trees on the Bodawen Playground site. This came as a result of discussing the Welsh Government's plan, a National Forest for Wales at a previous meeting of the Town Council. Funding was received from the Gwynedd Nature Partnership Community Fund to plant trees and increase areas of wild flowers for the benefit of pollinators in places on the Bodawen playing field. The fund encourages public or voluntary organizations within the County to promote the wide range of diverse habitats we have for the benefit of bio-diversity.

In 2022 over a hundred trees were received for free from the Woodland Trust and in November 2022 children from the area's primary schools planted trees on the west side of Cae Bodawen. Mr John Hywyn Williams, Gwynedd Local Nature Partnership Coordinator and Mr Jack Walmsley, Gwynedd Council's Biodiversity Officer supervised the planting.

Here is a report from Gwynedd Council's website:-

Gwynedd Council supporting pupils planting trees in Porthmadog

Date: 28/11/2022



“ Local school children have planted more than 150 trees on a playing field in Porthmadog for the benefit of the environment and wild habitats.

Thanks to a partnership between Gwynedd Council and Porthmadog Town Council, the young generation of the area has been able to do something 'real' to try to tackle the climate crisis at a timely period, namely during Welsh Climate Week and on the tail end of a meeting of the COP27 in Egypt.

Porthmadog Town Council has earmarked a large part of the Bodawen field for the scheme. It is in a prominent place for people travelling in and past the town, namely near the roundabout where Cerrig yr Orsedd stands since the 1987 National Eisteddfod.

The spot will be managed for the benefit of nature for the future - in addition to the 150 native trees that have been planted there are plans for a community orchard with around 40 fruit trees and a large wildflower meadow.

Hywyn Williams, Gwynedd Council's Biodiversity Officer, said: "Thank you from the bottom of my heart to the pupils and staff of Eifion Wyn, Borth-y-Gest and Gorlan schools for being so willing to show their support and contribute so much to the project.

"This has been a worthwhile activity and I hope the children have enjoyed it and learned about the importance of protecting and promoting habitats and diversity in wildlife."

Councilor Dafydd Meurig, Gwynedd Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment, added: "It's great to see the young generation having the opportunity to learn and contribute in this way, and I'm very grateful to the Town Council for their vision and their enthusiasm towards the scheme on the Bodawen field.

"Perhaps many of us feel frustrated by all the talk at the COP27 so small contributions like this are important as we all consider our responsibilities in the context of climate change."

In addition to this, the Town Council managed to secure a grant of £6,600.00 from the Gwynedd Local Nature Partnership 2022-23 to :-

1. Scarify a plot of land in the western half of Cae Chwarae Bodawen and sow a carpet of wild flowers on it. This spot would then be left alone to grow without the usual need to cut grass and offer a feast for the senses to everyone who goes in and out of the field, as well as creating an area for promoting landscapes and species to benefit pollinators and increase biodiversity.
2. Create a zigzag walking path through the centre of the flower field.
3. Plant 24 apple, pear and plum trees along the southern side of the site with "stakes and ties".



Llŷn and Eifionydd National Eisteddfod 2023

The arrival of the Eisteddfod in Boduan has been much anticipated since it was announced that the Eisteddfod would be held there in 2021. It was therefore a great disappointment to have to postpone everything when Covid struck. Despite this, the National Eisteddfod went ahead as planned in Boduan in August 2023. There was a flurry of activity in every local village and town area with everyone trying their best to raise money for the local Appeal Committee in order to ensure the success of the Festival. The Porthmadog Appeal Committee managed to reach the target of £50,000 and the Town Council contributed generously to the appeal over a period of four years.

As well as raising money for the Eisteddfod, every town and village in the area of the Eisteddfod and beyond was seen busily decorating in order to welcome the Eisteddfod and the Eisteddfod competitors and visitors to the area. The Town Council bought a flagpole and a Welsh Dragon flag for businesses along Porthmadog High Street; vinyls to welcome the Eisteddfod on the Bodawen roundabout and at the approach to the town over the Cob next to Premier Inn. Local schools painted flags to be placed on the Bodawen roundabout and a variety of artwork was seen here and there in the town and the surrounding area.

Here are some of them:-





Plans for the future.

A busy period in the history of the town of Porthmadog is anticipated in the coming years because there are 3 regeneration schemes underway :-

1. Place making plan

As part of the Gwynedd Town Centre Regeneration scheme at the beginning of 2023 there was a series of meetings and workshops between Gwynedd Council's Economy and Community Department officers and members of the Town Council and other agencies with the intention of drawing up a Place Making Plan for Porthmadog. A commission was given to Savills to draw up the plan and a site visit was held on October 9 2023 with some Savills officers, members of the Town Council and members of Gwynedd Council in order to identify the needs of the town of Porthmadog. During the visit the Town Council had the opportunity to show Savills officers around the town focusing on the areas that need to be developed and regenerated.

The Town Council is very excited about the plan and appreciates every effort to improve the appearance of the town as well as the town's facilities for its residents. In February 2024 Gwynedd Council published the comprehensive document Creating Places for Porthmadog. It contains a very detailed study of the social and economic considerations and implications of the plan. Here is some of the content of the document's Introduction:-

“ Gwynedd Council has commissioned Savills to establish the strategic priorities and present a final vision to lead the regeneration of Porthmadog town centre. The plan focuses mainly on the town centre, which extends from the Harbour to the west towards the High Street to the Old Coliseum, recognising the importance and links with the town and the wider area.

Placemaking

Placemaking is a place-led and community-based approach to planning, urban design and place management. Placemaking forms a core part of Welsh Government's approach to supporting town centres and the Welsh Government stated in the Town Centre Position Statement that regeneration funding will be targeted toward towns with a placemaking plan. The approach

is also recognised as an important means of delivering the national well-being goals set in Well-being of Future Generations Act.

Placemaking is defined by the Welsh Government as “a holistic approach to the planning and design of development and spaces, focused on positive outcomes. It draws upon an area’s potential to create high quality development and public spaces that promote people’s prosperity, health, happiness, and well-being in the widest sense”. To achieve these positive local outcomes, the Design Commission for Wales (DCfW) advocates for “working collaboratively across sectors and disciplines to comprehensively consider the future development of distinctive and vibrant places”. This involves delivering on a range key themes at the same time - these themes are identified in the ‘Placemaking Wales Charter’ as people and community, location, public realm, identity, movement, and mix of uses.

Good placemaking requires developing a detailed understanding of the activity, form and meaning of a place, and subsequently building on these components to deliver new development, improvements to existing places or interventions such as events which help to create activity in a space. DCfW define the three components as:

- ‘Activity – The activities that occur in the place supported by land uses, pedestrian and cycle movement, play and social life within the public realm and events.
- Form – The physical setting that makes up the place including the townscape, built form, landscape, topography, ecology, microclimate and public realm.
- Meaning – The unique features of a place including the context, identity of existing places, unique sense of place, significant built and natural features, cultural associations, sensory experiences, safety and inclusiveness and sense of belonging.’

Key sites

The review of previous local plans for Porthmadog (2007 Area Regeneration Plan and 2014 Action Plan) identified three defined sites in the town centre as key opportunity sites:

1. Porthmadog Harbour and Pen Cei Square
2. Parc y Dref
3. Old Coliseum Site

Since the previous plans, the Coliseum Cinema has been demolished and is currently a vacant site, being considered by the Health Board as a potential site for a new health centre. Parc y Dref and the Harbour remain largely unchanged, and the opportunities highlighted in previous plans to improve play facilities, promotion of heritage, and the public realm of both sites,

remain. This Plan retains a focus on these four sites and in the Options Analysis introduces an additional two sites:

4. DWP Car Park

5. Cob Crwn

These five sites present the key spatial opportunities for Porthmadog, and targeted site-specific interventions have the potential to deliver significant economic, social and environmental benefits for the town. “

2. What's next for Port?

Following a public consultation on 9.3.2024 plans are underway by Gwynedd Council's Communities Department led by Gareth Thomas, Haydn Jones and Ffion Gwyn to establish a community initiative in Porthmadog. The discussions are at the early stages still to try to identify a problem that needs to be solved or opportunities to set up a business that could be a boost for the local area as well as creating a business that could employ and inspire local people. It is hoped to be able to offer an opportunity to develop the talents of young people in the area and an opportunity for them to contribute to the success of this initiative.

3.Llewyrch o'r Llechi

Gwynedd Council's Economy and Community Department is implementing various schemes across the slate valleys under the banner of Llewyrch o'r Llechi through the funding of the Ffyniant Bro Fund and the Shared Prosperity Fund. The plan is part of the 'Llewyrch o'r Llechi' programme, where Gwynedd Council has secured £18million of British Government funding to develop and implement plans to regenerate Gwynedd's slate valleys and to celebrate the rich heritage of the area and their designation as World Heritage Site. This plan is fully funded through the UK Government's Levelling Up and Shared Prosperity Funds.

Funding will be given to commission 4 pieces of public artwork that interpret the local slate heritage and celebrate Porthmadog's rich history.

Opportunities for artists to work in these communities are now open and local artists are expected to submit a tender for the commission to create the artwork.

The opportunities have been advertised on the Gwynedd Creadigol website and on Llechi Cymru's social media accounts, it has also been included in the Gwynedd Council Business Bulletin.

The Town Council is very keen to take advantage of this opportunity to offer a proper place to display high quality artwork and is looking forward to finding out who will receive the commission and is also looking forward to seeing the work installed in the four locations around the town.

Porthmadog Town Council will be looking forward to being able to report in more detail about the proposed developments and plans here in the 2024-2025 Annual Report.

Marian Roberts

Clerk

Porthmadog Town Council

May 2024