

Cyngor Tref Talgarth

Talgarth Town Council



Annual Report
2025/2026

Chair's Introduction

Welcome to the annual report 2025/2026, 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.

Last year saw the 104th birthday of Talgarth oldest resident Mr John Gwynne, however it is with great sadness that that we have to note his passing.

The Town Council employs two members of staff. Firstly the clerk to the council and secondly a caretaker. I would like to thank our town clerk without whom the council would not function effectively. Thanks are also sent to our caretaker who performs an exemplary job.

It has been an honour and privilege to serve as Mayor and Chair of the Council for the last year. We as a Council are proud to represent the people and Community of Talgarth.

Kind Regards

Cllr Andrew Lord

Chair and Town Mayor 2025/2026

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 2025-26 to date

It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing of Cllr Andrew Bufton who was a very dedicated councillor. Andrew had served as Mayor in the years 2004 – 2006. More recently he oversaw the maintenance of the Town Hall, monitoring water, gas and electricity consumption. He also took care of the setting of Town Hall fees.

Andrew also took care of the burial ground in particular negotiating with the undertakers allocating burial and cremation ashes internment plots for the funerals.

It has taken two Cllr to take over his duties such was the energy he applied to his duties.

2025/2026 Mayor, Cllr Andrew Lord

Telephone: 07432009308

Email: andrew.lord@talgarth-tc.gov.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 Mayor.

2025/2026 Deputy Mayor, Cllr Jon Evans

Telephone : 07814345715

Email: Jon.evans@talgarth-tc.gov.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 become a Town Councillor in June 2023

2025/2026 Cllr Louise Elston-Reeves

Telephone: 07717294332

Email: louise.elston-reeves@talgarth-tc.gov.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.

2025/2026 Cllr Malcolm Dodds

Telephone: 07982776857

Email: malcolm.dodds@talgarth-tc.gov.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.

2025/2026 Cllr Glyn Jones

Telephone: 07976649382

Email: glyn.jones@talgarth-tc.gov.uk

I have lived in Talgarth for 25 years + but much of my work involved me outside the area. I trained as an engineer for 6 years but moved to retail work in the supermarket/ trade and agricultural areas for a number of years in the mid-Wales region. I was offered an opening in the social care field and spent quite a number of years in various aspects of social care, much of it with clients with mental health issues a rewarding but intensive arena until retirement

2025/2026 Cllr Adam Brown

Telephone: 07539226513

Email: adam.brown@talgarth-tc.gov.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.

2025/2026 Cllr. Christine Green

Telephone: 07484333419

Email: Christine.green@talgarth-tc.gov.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.

2025/2026 Cllr Ben Shorthouse

Telephone: 07484 635957

Email: ben.shorthouse@talgarth-tc.gov.uk

I have lived and worked in the area for many years, and I currently lead a team at the Co-operative in Hay-on-Wye. That role has taught me a lot about looking after people, solving problems quickly, keeping things organised, and making sure everyone feels heard - skills I bring straight into my work on the council.

Alongside my council duties, I'm Secretary of the Talgarth Allotment Association and the Town Council's representative on the Talgarth & District Allotment Group. I'm really passionate about community growing, local food projects like Talgarth Foodshare, and making the most of our green spaces. I believe small, practical steps - whether it's supporting allotments, community gardens, or helping residents with everyday issues - make a real difference to how our town feels.

I enjoy getting out and about, growing my own vegetables, and chatting with people. I'm a straightforward, approachable person who believes in listening first and working together to get things done. Whether it's planning, local services, or looking after our environment, I always try to take a sensible, resident-focused approach.

I am grateful for the trust you've placed in me and I'd be honoured to continue representing Talgarth. If you have any concerns, ideas, or just want a chat about what's happening locally, please get in touch - I'm always happy to hear from you.

2025/2026 Cllr Kerry Price

Email: kerry.price@talgarth-tc.gov.uk

I have lived in Talgarth for most of my life, with my family having lived here for generations. After studying Accounting and Finance at Aberystwyth University, I built my career in the financial advice sector, where I continue to work today. I became a Town Council in October 2025.

2025/2026 Cllr David Evans

Telephone: 07854 700155

Email: david.evans@talgarth-tc.gov.uk

I grew up in Bwlch and had the luxury of growing up around a good friends Farm. This encouraged me to expand my knowledge in Agriculture, Forestry and the Automotive industry where I spent over 15 years in business, I hope this can help understand the needs of our local economy better. I have most recently spent, since 2020 as a volunteer being a school governor at Ysgol y Mynydd du, which has given me an opportunity to meet many local members of the community, and young people. This has given me the opportunity to speak to many people and hear the different perspectives and challenges within our area. Health and safety is something I enjoy and have had the opportunity to see within the education setting, from both an adult and young person's perspective. This is something I hope to bring to the local community where possible to help ensure an enjoyable, safe and thriving community of which I have lived in for over 20 years.

2025/2026 Cllr Aaron Lewis

Telephone: 07456 540931

Email: aaron.lewis@talgarth-tc.gov.uk

I grew up in Talgarth, went to Talgarth Primary School and Gwernyfed, then living here until my early twenties until I moved to London to study law and ended up staying for 12 years managing restaurants in the West End. Returned in the last 2 years for a less intense pace of life and to feel a sense of community again. I currently work at the Honey Café and was Co-opted on to the council in Spring 2026

2025/2026 Cllr Beth Dale (Resigned 18/01/2026)

Telephone: 07449174287

I have 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.

2025/2026 Cllr William Powell

Telephone: 07703 112113

Email: Cllr.William.Powell@powys.gov.uk

I was born and raised on the family farm at Pengefnordd 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.

With the co-option of four new members the Town Council is currently at full strength and consists of 12 members.

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@talgarth-tc.gov.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

Biodiversity group

Talgarth health groups

The Mill

Ysgol y Mynydd Du

TADSCA

Walkers are Welcome

GP Biotec Liaison group

Foodshare

Repair Cafe

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 31st March 2026 will be published on the Council website: www.talgarth-tc.gov.uk

Summary of accounts:

Opening Cash at Bank- £49,749.88

Total Income received (including precept)- £98,463.12

Total Expenditure (Inc. wages, running costs etc.) – £78,481.04

Closing Cash at Bank - £69,731.96

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 no complaints to date.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillors have been trained in the Code of Conduct and are fully aware of their commitment to the Council. This includes the four new members of the Council.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2025/2026

The Town council has initiated three major projects during the last year.

Sustainable Saturdays

When Cllr Louise Elston-Reeves completed her term as Mayor she initiated a Foodshare project. This involved collecting out of date food from the local Co-op and offering it for free to local people. This was achieved by mustering a group of volunteers to man a rota to collect the food and distribute it on two/three days. This took place in the basement of the Town Hall. Very soon a third date was added. Over the winter a coat exchange was added. People could collect a donated coat for free or simply swap a coat. This was open when the food share was open. This then expanded to include a clothes swap. These were held occasionally to begin with but have now moved to monthly. This has now been moved to coincide with the repair cafe which is held the second Saturday of the month.

Pride in Place

Applications were invited for a sizeable grant. One of the conditions of the grant was that a place plan had to be in place. The application window was very short. The Deputy Mayor Cllr Jon Evans in short order put together a plan to build a pump track for younger residents. At present to application is awaiting a final decision

Renovation of the Public Toilets

At the precept a sum was set aside for the renovation of the public toilets in the Town Square. A survey of the drains has already been conducted. This identified a couple of issues but nothing too serious. A local resident has volunteered to work on this renovation and has drawn up a specification for the work. This has to be turned into a tender to invite quotes.

Farmers Market

Black Mountains College has organised a farmers Market which is held in the Town Hall basement. This is held once a month.

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:

Continuing Projects

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

Walkers are Welcome

Yet again this year WaW managed to have a very successful walking festival over the early May bank holiday. This event attracts more and more participants each year which in turn increases the turnover of our local businesses. In conjunction with TDRG group new sign boards and finger signposts are to be erected around the town.

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.

Grow For Talgarth

GFT are preparing to enter Wales in Bloom this year. A schedule for painting around the square is being organised. This includes some repairs.

Christmas Lights

The Christmas lights event 2025 was another success, huge thanks and congratulations to the Lights team, Festival Group and Grow for Talgarth group. In addition the switch on culminated with a visit by the locally organised tractor run.

TADSCA

The Town Council has applied for grant applied for a pump track which will be sited at the King George V Playing fields.

Currently the Children's play ground, in this location, is being surveyed for essential repairs to the play equipment.

Talgarth Bowling Club

Members of the council have been invited to the opening game of their 105th 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. A 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 gazebos to expand the under-cover areas 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 its 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.

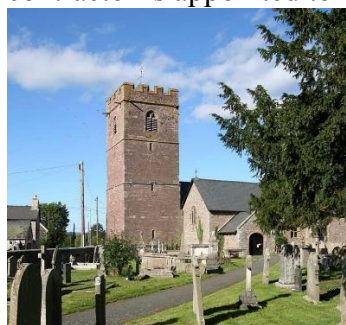
They are engaged in training and assisting members of the Community Speed Watch (CSW) team in a constant bid to deal with prevention of speeding vehicles in the community. DPP resources and budgets mean that they are limited in how much time they can spend enforcing speed limits, so we encourage residents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

Assets

Talgarth Town Council's full Assets Register, as of 31 March 2025, 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 contain a Defibrillator

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

All councillors have completed a personal training needs analysis. Our 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.

The Town Council has now published a Biodiversity Action Plan. This very much a working document and will continually be update as things progress. Currently Brynderwen estate has various areas designated to have a new mowing plan. This includes areas that are left completely unmowed and other areas mowed less frequently.

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
