

PONTARDDULAIS TOWN COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT - MAY 2023 to APRIL 2024



Information on the organisation of the Council, Councillors, Sub-committees and key contact information.

The town of Pontarddulais

Pontarddulais lies approximately 12kms North West of Swansea City Centre, is 15.58 square kms in size and has a population in excess of 6,800 (2011 census). The major employers are Tesco, Macmillan Distribution, the districts shopping centre and Pontarddulais Industrial Estate occupiers.

A literal English translation of the name Pontarddulais is "Bridge on the Dulais", with Dulais meaning "black stream", probably due to its journey through coal measures. The earlier name of Pontaberdulais is in reference to a dismantled 14th century road bridge over the Loughor River (Afon Llŵchwr) which formed part of the main highway between Swansea and Carmarthen. The Bridge was so named because of its position upstream of the mouth of the Dulais stream, and not as many believe, because of it spanning the Dulais stream. The Pontaberdulais bridge spanned the River Loughor. This bridge was also known as "Y Bont Fawr". The village that developed around this bridge took the shortened form of Pontardulais as its name, also written as Pontarddulais because of the assumption that the bridge was "over Dulais". The bridge also gave the town its nickname "Y Bont" ("The Bont").

Most of the town lies within the Parish of Llandeilo Tal-y Bont (apart from the small section west of the bridge that lies in LLanedi Parish). Llandeilo Tal-y Bont (the

Church of St Teilo at the end of the bridge) also contains a bridge in its name, but this is not to be confused with the Pontaberdulais bridge. The church bridge was located near to the old church on the earlier Roman road that crossed the river Loughor near Hendy. The medieval church was carefully reconstructed stone by stone and now stands proudly in The Museum of Welsh Life in St Fagan's Cardiff.

CONTEXT

The Town Council is served by 16 Town Councillors who represent and implement the community's views; ensure that all services are efficient and make best use of community money; and continue to improve the facilities and quality of life for all the Council is made up of five wards - Dulais West, Dulais East, Talybont, Pentrebach and Goppa and the following councillors:

Dulais East

Councillor Rhian Harris

Councillor Jamie Johnstone

Councillor Jacob John

Dulais West

Councillor Catherine Evans

Councillor Kelvin Williams

Councillor Darren Hardy

Councillor Stephen Lloyd-Janes

Goppa

Councillor Jason Beynon

Councillor Andrew Owen

Pentrebach

Councillor Gary Chambers

Councillor Phillip Downing

Talybont

Councillor Jane Harris

Councillor David Beynon

Councillor Kevin Griffiths

Councillor Huw Roberts

Councillor Alison Wilson

The Council has a number of standing committees and working parties and councillors chose to serve on some of these. The standing committees for 2023/24 were:

- Policy and Resources Committee

- Special Events Committee
- Estates and Development Committee
- HR & Training Committee
- Welsh Language Committee

The working parties operational during the year were:

- Housing Development Working Group
- Pontarddulais St Teilo Street Regeneration

Membership of the Committees and Working Parties together with councillors contact details can be found on the council website [town council website](http://www.pontarddulaistowncouncil.gov.uk)
www.pontarddulaistowncouncil.gov.uk

The main contact for all council business is Susan Rodaway, Clerk to the Council.

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1. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Income and expenditure in the financial year which ended on 31 March 2023 is summarised as follows:

Balance brought forward from 2022/23	114,283
Income from local taxation	137,538
<i>Receipts other than local taxation</i>	<i>36,900</i>
Sub-total	288,721
<i>Staff costs</i>	<i>52,607</i>
<i>Total of all other payments</i>	<i>164,017</i>

Sub-total **216,624**

BALANCE C/FWD IN TO 2023/24 **72,098**

The value of fixed assets of the Council are £2,237,412

The accounts were approved by the Internal Auditor on 13th May 2024, and were submitted to Audit Wales on 20 June 2024.

2. LINK TO COUNTY COUNCIL

Pontarddulais has two County Councillors serving as members of the Town Council. These are:

Councillor Phillip Downing and Councillor Kevin Griffiths

Council also has representatives on each of the following:

- Larger Councils Committee
- Swansea reia Committee
- Community/Town Councils Forum
- Swansea Local Service Board

3. COMPLAINTS

No complaints were received about the work of the Town Council during the year.

One complaint was received from a member of the public in relation to a cancellation of a booking at the Institute. This was investigated by a Complaints Panel and it was found that there were no grounds to substantiate the complaint.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

All councillors have received training in the Code of Conduct. New Councillors will receive training within 12 months of being appointed into office.

5. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2023/24

Key achievements during the year include the following:

IT Systems

- Network systems were updated to BT Fibre, and cabling was installed on each floor to provide WI-FI throughout the building for members of the public.

- Microsoft 365 was purchased for all councillors and staff. This provided the ability to use Microsoft Teams, enabling documentation to be shared with councillors and committees. The council is also able to provide hybrid meetings.
- Financial and Facilities Systems packages were purchased with AdvantEdge. All data for 2022-2023 and 2023-24 was input into the system, which provides the option to analyse data and produce comprehensive reports for council and committees. The systems safeguard the council and is advantageous for submission of audits.

Vision Setting

An external company were engaged to undertake a vision setting workshop with councillors. This will deliver a Vision for the Council enabling a more strategic approach for the future.

Summer Festival

On 15th June 2023, the inaugural Summer Festival took place in Coedbach Park, Pontarddulais and was held over 3 days. Historically, there had been a Festival Committee who had produced a summer carnival for over 50 years, however this was ceased several years ago, and the opportunity for the community to come together once a year was greatly missed. The Town Council then agreed to deliver a similar event.



The festival was a free 3-day event, commencing on Thursday with a well-being evening of Pilates/yoga followed by wellness talks from local practitioners, all taking place in the outdoors under the big top marquee. On the Friday 85 schoolchildren from KS4 in Pontarddulais Primary School and YGG Bryniago

attended a whole day event in the big top marquee. The day consisted of several activities including recycling talks and games, hands on contact with bees, goats, ducks and chicks from Swansea Community Farm; and bushcraft activities including whittling from Tread Gower.





The main festival event commenced on the Saturday at 11am and finished at 10pm, with two football pitches used to accommodate 35 traders with a mixture of craft, food, information and charity stalls and the big top marquee.

Demonstrations were given from the local Star Dance group, Fire Brigade, and City & County of Swansea pipers,

There was a range of music from local groups throughout the day to attract all age ranges and included: Pontarddulais Town Band, Rock Project Group, Pontarddulais Ukulele Band, and local up and coming artists Jo Williams and Leigh Woolford.

Coleg Sir Gar provided food demonstrations featuring budget recipes and samples. A local artist provided free glass painting for children.

Other activities were provided throughout the day for children, young people and families to enjoy such as circus skills games by Circus Eruption, and bushcraft sessions.

The event was a resounding success and met the aims of the festival in delivering a free, fun event for the community of Pontarddulais.

Cinema Club

On the first Saturday of each month, the council provided a free film show for children and young people, held in the council building, the Mechanics Institute Hall. Soft drinks and sweet refreshments were also provided. The films were well received and supported by families.

Pantomime

The annual pantomime was held on 3 January 2024, and was Cinderella. Over 130 attended and the event was enjoyed by all. Sweets and drink were given to all children and refreshments provided for adults during the interval.



Council Quiz

The council holds a summer and Christmas quiz with the mayor taking the challenging role of quiz master. Both events were well attended by organisations in Pontarddulais who enjoyed a light buffet.

Halloween

Halloween activities included a story competition, best carved pumpkin, and a fancy dress competition.

Christmas Parade

The Christmas parade was held on Friday 1 December 2023. The monthly local pop-up Christmas market was arranged to commence prior to the event which provided an excellent Christmas atmosphere.

The Christmas parade was led by the local Star Dance group who led Father Christmas initially to the Dulais Glen gardens for the switch on of the lights, before continuing the parade to Dantwyn Park for the tree lights switch on.

Christmas Grotto

Following the Christmas parade there was a rush to the Institute to meet with Father Christmas in the Grotto. As was last year, there was a great atmosphere and children parents remained in the hall whilst the children played and refreshments were provided for all.

Hanging Baskets

The hanging baskets scheme was managed and delivered by the City and County of Swansea with a contribution from the two County Councillors budget. Shops situated on the main road were keen to have a basket, although due to the closure of some businesses there were slightly less than previous years. In addition, the displays on railings around the town gave a truly magnificent display.

6. ASSETS AND SERVICES MANAGED BY THE COUNCIL

- Cenotaph
- Dulais Glen Gardens
- Mechanics Institute

7. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2024/25

- Summer Festival: following the huge success of the event, and numerous requests from the public for it be held again, the date has been arranged for 15th June 2024.
- Halloween activities
- Remembrance Service
- Organising Christmas Parade and Grotto
- Pantomime