

Cyngor Tref Castellnewydd Emlyn



Newcastle Emlyn Town Council

ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL

2025 - 2026

ANNUAL REPORT

NEWCASTLE EMLYN TOWN COUNCIL

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01 – 04 -2025 – 31 – 03 - 2026

TOWN COUNCIL

Newcastle Emlyn is a Non-Political Town Council and comprises of 10 Councillors :-

- Cllr Rhodri Phillips (Mayor)
- Cllr Alan Jones (Dep. Mayor)
- Cllr Allan Davies
- Cllr Barry Evans
- Cllr Hazel Evans
- Cllr Alanna Jones
- Cllr Peter Lewis
- Cllr Jayne Ludgate
- Cllr Alex Matthews
- Cllr Maureen Webley

The Clerk & RFO is Mrs Stella E M Jones, Awelon, Velindre, Llandysul SA44 5JF –
Tel 01559 370773 e mail: clerk@newcastleemlyntowncouncil.co.uk

Regular attendees to monthly meetings are County Councillors H Evans & K Howell who provide valuable information and advice as required

Nine of the Councillors reside in the Town area with one in the permitted distance as well as owning property within the town council area served by the council.

A Mayor and Deputy Mayor is elected every year with a transfer of Chain of Office held in the Annual Meeting in May. Presentation of Mayor's awards is generally held in this meeting also when appropriate.

MEETINGS

The Council meets on the third Thursday of the month except for the months of August & December.

The Council held regular meetings throughout the year and considered matters including finance, planning, correspondence, community assets, committee work, and reports from representatives on outside bodies.

There are also seven other sub committees that meet as when necessary with the Finance meeting at least four times within the Financial Year

The Sub Committees are:-

- Town Council Planning Committee
- Finance Committee
- Procedures Review
- CCTV & Christmas Lights
- IT Committee
- Property Committee
- Victorian Night

Newcastle Emlyn Town Council represents the local community and works with partners including Carmarthenshire County Council, community organisations, local traders, voluntary groups, and regional bodies. The Council's role includes local representation, management of community assets, consideration of planning matters, support for civic events, and promotion of improvements that benefit the town and its surrounding area. Councillors continued to serve on committees covering areas such as finance, planning, procedures, property, Christmas lights and CCTV, IT, the Amphitheatre, Traders and community events.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2025-26

- Supported Town Centre Regeneration and Enhancement activity linked to the Ten Towns Programme and wider investment in Newcastle Emlyn.
- The development of an 88-seat Amphitheatre in the Castle grounds intended for performances, cultural activity, community gatherings and visitor footfall
- The former Court House building, now known as Yr Hen Gwrt, is leased to Menter Gorllewin Sir Gâr as a hub for their events and services to support and develop the Welsh Language in the community and surrounding areas.
- Continued attention to public facilities, town centre appearance, accessibility, public safety and local environmental matters.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

The Council recognises the importance of Community Events, local culture, bilingual identity and voluntary action in maintaining Newcastle Emlyn's character. A major initiative to attract footfall to the town is the Annual Victorian Evening at the beginning of December. The aim is to encourage participation, support initiatives and bring people in to the town and celebrate local heritage.

Environmental quality and appearance of the Town remain important priorities. The Council continued to consider matters such as planting – ensuring biodiversity is given priority, public spaces, street furniture, public conveniences, lighting and the overall appearance of the town. The aim being that these practical improvements will benefit both residents, traders and visitors.

FINANCE

Newcastle Emlyn Town Council receives its income primarily from the Precept which for the year 2025-26 amounted to £34,454

Income is also generated from the rental of four small business units, the Attic Theatre, lease of Yr Hen Gwrt as well as the CCC Digital Library.

The Council's expenditure for this year was in respect of

- Staff salary
- Payment for the upgrade of Street Lighting to LED
- General Maintenance for which the Council is responsible for e.g. The Cawdor Hall, Castle Grounds, Dol Llewellyn, Plonovez Garden, Public Conveniences, Amphitheatre, town planters, upkeep of seating, bin emptying etc
- Upgrading of CCTV Cameras, Christmas Lights and Defib
- Support for requests for Financial Assistance from local organisations
- No Councillor accepts the Annual Payment offered of £156 set by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

AUDIT – Annual accounts are subject to an Internal Audit by a professional person appointed by the Council and following this are then presented for auditing by an External Auditor namely Audit Wales, Cardiff.

A full breakdown of the Council's income and expenditure is available in the Annual Accounts for 2025-26 on the council website.

PRIORITIES FOR 2026-27

- Complete the work on the Amphitheatre and ensure full use of the site for entertainment within the restricted permission granted by CCC
- To continue to work and improve accessibility, public spaces, safety and appearance of the town
- Plan a Bio-diversity programme for the coming year with the assistance of OVW and ensuring the implementation of its objectives.
- Continue supporting local events and activities that increase footfall and civic pride

It is my pleasure as Mayor to present Newcastle Emlyn Town Council's Annual Report for the 2025–26 financial year. This has been a year of continued community partnership, practical local improvement, and investment in the town's future. The Council has worked to support residents, local businesses, community groups, and visitors while preserving the distinctive character of Newcastle Emlyn as a historic market town in the Teifi Valley.

Newcastle Emlyn Town Council thanks residents, volunteers, businesses, community organisations, partner authorities, and councillors for their contribution during 2025–26. The Council looks forward to continuing its work to support a vibrant, welcoming, and resilient Newcastle Emlyn.

Rhodri Phillips,

Mayor Newcastle Emlyn Town Council