



Barmouth Town Council Annual Report 2022-23

Reviewed and approved on: 27-Jun-2023

Welcome from the Chair of Council 2022-23

It gives me great pleasure to endorse this Annual Report for Barmouth Town Council. Once again in 2022-23 the elected Councillors have worked together for the benefit of the community. We were able to celebrate the Jubilee of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, with a joyous weekend of events that were well supported despite the weather. Then three months later we observed a more sombre event in marking her passing.

The Council arranged other successful events including a Food Festival and the annual Late Night Shopping/Christmas Light turn on. It was good to see those events return to full strength following Covid.

As well as carrying out our statutory duties, we manage the distribution of the income gained from the car park surcharge and it was a pleasure this year to be able to support many local groups to further their aims.

I would personally like to thank the councillors for their time and commitment to Barmouth. The role is un-paid and they all give up much of their own time to support events, attend meetings, review plans and contribute to many other voluntary groups. Without them, the work of Barmouth Town Council could not go ahead.

Trevor Roberts

Chair of Barmouth Town Council 2022-23



Contents

1. Barmouth Demographics
2. About the Council
3. Finance
4. Achievements
 - 4.1. Local Groups Supported
 - 4.2. Keep Barmouth Tidy
 - 4.3. Events
 - 4.3.1. Jubilee
 - 4.3.2. Food Festival
 - 4.3.3. Late Night Shopping
 - 4.4. Responding to Consultations
 - 4.5. Gwynedd Council inter-working
 - 4.6. Projects
 - 4.6.1. CCTV
 - 4.6.2. History Project
 - 4.6.3. Tanio Bermo
5. Future Plans

1. Barmouth Demographics

Barmouth Town Council is responsible for the area covered by the LL42 Postcode. Although most of the residential properties are outside of the National Park, the Council also covers land within the Park (shown in darker green).



Barmouth has a population of around 2,500. It has a primary school with approximately 200 children primarily from Barmouth. There is a doctors surgery, ambulance station and fire station (retained staff).

There are around 70 shops and 45 places to eat or drink. The majority of these are independent and locally owned. The main industry is tourism with a variety of accommodation providers including hotels, guest houses, self-catering, camping and caravan sites.

Memorial Park provides tennis courts, a five-a-side football pitch, children's play area and hosts the Bowls Club. There is an active Football Club. Wern Mynach is a reclaimed nature reserve with a community garden. The town has easy access to the hills and mountains with a variety of walks available.

The Dragon Theatre provides a community centre with meeting rooms, an Arts Room and Theatre space that can also show films.

2. About the Council

The Town Council exists to enable the development and improvement of the facilities and services to residents and also to visitors.

It has some statutory responsibilities and discretion to act in a number of other areas. It is restricted by legislation on what it can spend money on.

Barmouth Town Council has 13 elected Councillors. They were all elected in May 2022 and will serve a 5 year term. Councillors can stand for re-election.

The Council does not have a dedicated Council Office but uses facilities at the Dragon Theatre that also acts as the postal address for the Council: c/o Dragon Theatre, Jubilee Road, Barmouth, LL42 1EF.

The Council usually meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month in Parlwr Mawr in the Dragon Theatre. Meetings start at 7pm and are open to all members of the Public. There is not usually a meeting in August, and the December meeting is usually on the second Tuesday to avoid Christmas. An AGM is held in May, before the normal meeting. The chair and vice-chair are elected at the AGM and serve for one year.

The Council hold other meetings as necessary to fulfil their duties, these are open to the public when required by statute.

The Town Council has adopted a member's Code of Conduct and requires Councillors to declare any interest they have in items to be discussed at the start of any meeting. These are noted in the minutes for each meeting.

The work of the Council is governed by Standing Orders based on Local Authority legislation. A copy of the Standing Orders and other policies are available from the Council Website. The Council has written and approved a Training Plan for Councillors and a Biodiversity Plan that are available on the website.

The Council is audited by internal and external auditors annually. This covers the accounts and operating practices of the Council. The internal audit is carried out by the Audit Department of Gwynedd Council and the external audit by the Wales Audit Office.

The Council has one member of staff, Heather Brown who works part-time and is the clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for the Council. She can be contacted by email or phone, or by post c/o the Council Offices.

3. Finance

The council receives income from Gwynedd Council in the form of the precept - this is the money collected from local Council Tax payers and in 2022/23 equated to an average of £54 per household. We also receive money from the car parks - 10% is added to the car park fee that comes to us to be used for community and environmental projects. This, and other donations go into a community fund.

In the last couple of years, the Council has built some reserves, mainly due to under-spend during Covid. This money has been ring-fenced for a couple of major projects. It has been recognised that a significant sum of money would need to be spent on the Town CCTV system (more later in this report), and money has also been set aside to support asset transfer projects, moving assets from Gwynedd Council into Town Council ownership and developing them for the benefit of the community.

Council Expenses			
Income	Precept	£63000.00	
	Stallholders for Food Festival	£390.00	
	Interest	£953.68	
	Donation	£100.00	
Expenses	Council expenses		£23,271.02
	Council Projects		£57,545.43
	Town Project Support		£7,913.75
	Other Financial Support		£10,921.26
Total		£64,442.68	£99,651.46

Community Fund			
Income	Car park & other donations	£51,886.68	
Expenses	Toilets		£10,000.00
	Jubilee		£12,502.00
	Gardening		£6,904.90
	Beach Maintenance		£300.00
	Footpath Maintenance		£1,650.00
	Tanio Bermo setup		£5,724.11
	Local Groups		£35,184.63
Total		£51,886.68	£72,265.64

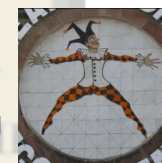
Many Community Groups ceased to meet during Covid and had not requested financial support. In 2022/23 the Council was keen to ensure the reserves that had built up were distributed to local groups, many of whom needed extra support post-Covid to start up again.

	1 st April 2022	31 st March 2023
Council Expenses	£109,148.35	£73,940.57
Community Fund	£63,437.18	£33,780.70
Asset Transfer Reserve	£90,722.48	£100,000.00

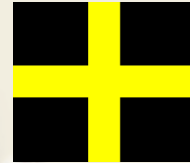
4. Achievements

4.1. Local Groups Supported

- Dragon Theatre - new sound system, fixed long standing drainage problem and Down with the Arts funding
- Bro Ardudwy - contribution towards clock repairs
- Bowling Club - purchase of new lawnmower
- Youth Club - cost of running youth club for Summer, Autumn and Spring terms



- Barmouth & Dyffryn Football Club - contribution towards new fence
- Friends of Wern Mynach - Viaduct wood
- Brownies & Guides - contribution towards meeting expenses
- Cymdeithas Gymraeg Y Bermo - supported St David's Day event



4.2. Keep Barmouth Tidy

The responsibility for maintaining the environment around Barmouth is split between Barmouth Town Council and Gwynedd Council. As the budgets at Gwynedd have become more restricted in recent years, this has fallen more to the Town Council. From the Community Fund we support:

- Gardening Services to maintain the planted areas, clear weeds, prune trees, cut grass etc.
- Footpath maintenance - this cost is shared with Gwynedd Council but co-ordinated by the Town Council.
- Sand Clearance - this is primarily the responsibility of Gwynedd Council, but the Town council sometimes does additional clearance, particularly to maintain access to Ynys y Brawd across the causeway.



We are also in the process of procuring Caretaker services to maintain some of the assets belonging to the Council, e.g. the Astro turf, Skate park etc. We hope to have this in place early in 2023 fiscal year.

4.3. Events

4.3.1. Jubilee

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was celebrated with a weekend of events for all ages. There was music in Talbot Square, on the Quay and at the Boathouse. "Have a Go" sessions allowed people to try Martial Arts, SUP, Bowling, bell ringing, sailing and organ playing. There was a firework display, stalls on the quay, Punch & Judy and a Civic Service. Add in a lantern parade, fancy dress, sandcastle competition, crabbing competition and a best dressed window competition and there really was something for everyone.



The weekend was mainly funded by the Town Council with contributions from many businesses around town. It was a great weekend with a really good atmosphere. A lot of effort was put in by a few key people, and although there was generally a feeling that this sort of event should happen every year it was acknowledged that there would need to be more people involved in the planning and stewarding on the day to make it feasible.

4.3.2. Food Festival

The food festival returned after the cancellations due to Covid. There was a good range of food and drink, both to eat there and then and also to take home and enjoy later. With the addition of Batala Bermo and a couple of live music performances there was a lively atmosphere on the quay and lots of tasty food and drink to enjoy. The stalls were there were well supported by visitors, and good feedback was received (with a request for chairs to sit on and enjoy even more of the atmosphere!).

The event was funded with a small grant from the Town Council and through the fees charged to stall holders and is planned to be held in 2023 with more stalls and a wider variety of produce, both to eat on site and to take away.



4.3.3. Late Night Shopping



Back to it's full strength after the previous years pared down events, the weather stayed fine and a good crowd turned out to witness the lights being turned on and to enjoy a bit of late night shopping. The Christmas trade in town has been impacted by the bridge closures as the lack of trains makes it less convenient for people to visit from the neighbouring towns. Hopefully this will not be an issue from 2023 onwards.

The Town Council pays for the Christmas lighting. Each year this involves the costs of testing the lights, installing them, and removal and storage after Christmas. We also replace lights and extend the display as appropriate. We're grateful to RJ Electrics for their help in all this work.

4.4. Responding to Consultations

One of the roles of the Council is to respond to consultations raised by the Welsh Government and Gwynedd Council. In 2022/23 we reviewed the following consultations:

- Licensing of holiday accommodation - Response sent in.
- Regulations to extend exceptions to second home premiums - the changes were very minor so no response needed to be sent.
- Tourism Tax - response sent in.
- Reforming of Domestic Rates - After review it was not felt necessary to respond to this consultation.
- Electoral Administration and Reform - After review it was not felt necessary to respond to this consultation.
- Gwynedd Council 300% premium for second homes - there was no opportunity to provide feedback as a Town Council on this consultation. Individuals were encouraged to respond.

4.5. Gwynedd Council inter-working

Barmouth Town Council maintains close links with Gwynedd Council, liaising with the different departments to ensure smooth operation. The County Councillor (Rob Triggs) is also a member of Barmouth Town Council.

- Planning - Barmouth Town council reviews all planning applications in the LL42 postcode area, providing feedback as appropriate.
- Maritime - We work closely with the Maritime department on a number of areas including Sand Management.
- Highways - we receive notification of future road closures and review alternative routes to ensure they are appropriate.
- Refuse - as a Town Council we are aware when additional bin collections are likely to be needed, during busy weekends or when

events are planned.

- Toilets - the Town Council contributes £10,000 a year towards the upkeep of the toilets. We regularly work with the team particularly to request extended opening hours when events are planned.
- Tidy Teams - there is a team within Gwynedd Council who are responsible for minor maintenance work e.g. on street furniture, with whom we are in regular contact so they know which areas of Barmouth need extra attention.
- Streetworks - are responsible for the licensing of street furniture (tables, chairs etc) so we work with them to provide local feedback on applications.
- Real Estate & Assets - identifying assets currently owned by Gwynedd Council that we wish to take over the lease on. This will give us more control over the use of those assets to develop them for the benefit of the community.

4.1. Projects

4.1.1. CCTV

The existing CCTV system had been requiring more repair work, and following discussions it was agreed that Barmouth Town Council would put out an RFQ to replace the existing system with up-to-date cameras, WiFi backhaul and extend the coverage to provide additional security to other areas of town. This work would be funded from the reserves that had built up in the Town Council account following lower than expected spending during the Covid pandemic. This project had been anticipated in the previous budget cycle that set the precept for 2022-23.

After the RFQ process, the contract was awarded to Dyfed CCTV who have experience in setting up large CCTV systems. Work has been taking place since September 2022 to install the new cameras and equipment. This is in parallel with the “old” system that has continued to provide coverage. There have been a number of hurdles to overcome as is to be expected in a project of this size, but it is anticipated that the core system will be live in the summer of 2023. At that time the outlying locations can be added in as logistical issues are solved.

Website: www.barmouthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BarmouthTownCouncil>

This project has been undertaken in partnership with Gwarchod Bermo and the Police. Support has been provided by Gwynedd Council, particularly in relation to locating camera and WiFi links on lamp-posts.

4.1.2. History Project

The History Project grew out of a desire to record the “lived history” of Barmouth from the residents and to record the stories they knew from their parents and grandparents. Barmouth already has one of the best town archives in the country in the form of Hugh Roberts’ Flickr gallery but there was a wish to record the stories as well.

After checking out various locations to place the materials, it was agreed with St John’s church that there would be space for some display banners and an archive case with artefacts in the church.



Local residents have been approached to help write Barmouth’s history covering Maritime, Agriculture, the Railway, Tourism and other aspects of life. It is hoped that the facility will be open in the summer of 2023 and will complement the archives at the Sailor’s Institute and Tŷ Gwyn Museum.

4.1.3. Tanio Bermo

There have been discussions for two years about bringing a “Ffiws Makerspace” to Barmouth. This is a successful project run by Mentor Môn in various other locations around Gwynedd. It involves providing hi-tech equipment to locals to be able to be innovative and support businesses. This equipment usually includes a 3D printer for prototyping, vinyl cutters, dye sublimation equipment for design and engraving/milling machines. Funding support has been promised, but finding a suitable location was proving difficult.

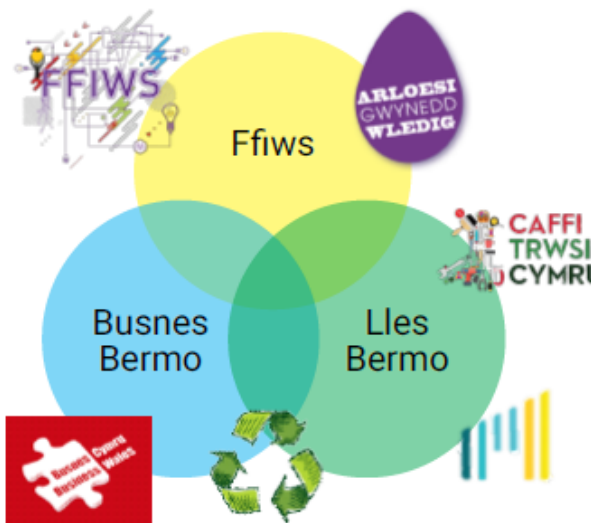
Phone: 07799 290635

Email: clerk@barmouthtowncouncil.gov.uk

In December an agreement was made to be able to take on the lease for the shop next to the Royal Hotel. It was also decided to extend the scope of the Ffiws project to include Business support and a community hub focusing on wellbeing and the environment. And so Tanio Bermo was born.

The lease started on 1st March and work has been carried out to make the space usable for Tanio Bermo. It is currently expected to be opening in Summer 2023. It is planned to develop the project to host a Repair Cafe and a Library of Things as well as the Makerspace. There will be facilities for workshops and the space will be available for local groups to use the equipment.

This project will depend on some local volunteer support. Once it is open we will be able to advertise its use and facilities more widely. It is hoped that the local community will benefit from the space, both for their personal use and also to support others using it.



5.Future Plans

The priorities for 2023/24 will be to bring some of the current projects to completion as well as to carry on supporting Community Groups.

- CCTV - complete the installation of the new system including the new areas that are not currently covered. The remaining cost of this project will use most of the reserves in the Council Expenses account.
- History Project - complete the text for the banners, translate and typeset. Aim to open in Summer 2023.
- Tanio Bermo - complete the refurbishment of the shop, acquire and set up the equipment and make it available for use. This will also involve liaising with Business Wales and Gwynedd council Business Support. Set up and start running a Repair Cafe and Library of Things.
- Asset Transfer - continue working with Gwynedd Council to identify suitable assets to take over the lease for. Put in place plans for improvements in partnership with local community groups to ensure the assets meet the need of local people.
- Continue to contract gardening services and caretaker services to maintain the environment around the town.
- Continue to support community groups, particularly those that support work with disadvantaged groups, young people and the environment.

CYNGOR TREF ABERMAW
BARMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Barmouth Town Councillors



Trevor Roberts
Mayor
Retired
Joined abt. 1981



Owain Pritchard
Deputy Mayor
Works for Bangor
Diocese
Joined 2016



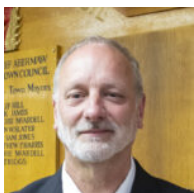
Jamie Brooks
Owns Stonewest
Constuction
Joined 1998



Wendy Cleaver
Works for Coleg
Meirion Dwyfor,
Joined 2022



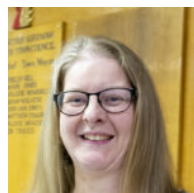
Matthew Harris
Works for
Caerddaniel
Joined



Phil Hill
Owns MP
Wholesale
Joined 2017



Adam Hills
Works for NHS
Joined 2018



Katie Price
Owns Crystal
House
Joined 2016



Dylan Roberts
Works for Dulas
Joined 2012



Robert Triggs
Gwynedd County
Councillor
Joined 2013



Damian Williams
Works at
Caerddaniel
Joined 2020



Rob A Williams
Owns Caerddaniel
Joined 1991



Rob C Williams
Works for RNLI
Joined 2022