

## Information about Llanelli

Llanelli is within the Llanelli parliamentary constituency, which is presently represented by the elected Labour party member Nia Griffith MP, and the National Assembly for Wales constituency, which is represented by Plaid Cymru's Helen Mary Jones AM. Llanelli is run on a community level by **Llanelli Town Council** and **Llanelli Rural Council** (depending on the area of town) and Carmarthenshire County Council on a local government level. Note that Llanelli Rural Council addresses some part of the town, but mainly the Llanelli Rural community. Recently, there have been many decisions made by the Carmarthenshire authorities, including the Carmarthenshire County Council and Local Health Board that have been very unpopular and damaging to the communities of Llanelli. In reaction to this, there have been calls to reinstate the local government district of Llanelli either as a county or as the City of Llanelli, making the entire area independent of Carmarthenshire.

**Llanelli Town Council** (Welsh - **Cyngor Tref Llanelli**) is the community council that governs the majority of wards in Llanelli town. The council appoints a presiding officer who is then known as the ***Mayor of Llanelli***.

Some wards of Llanelli town are governed on a community level by Llanelli Rural Council, even though they are part of the urban area.

The motto, seen in the coat of arms says "**Cyfoeth Cymdeithas: Cymuned**", which translates as "**A society's wealth is its community**".

### Town areas

Bigyn	New Dock
Bynea	Sandy
Llanerch	Seaside, Llanelli
Machynys	Stradey
Morfa	Llanelli Town centre

## Llanelli Waterside

Llanelli Waterside, a joint venture between Carmarthenshire County Council and the Welsh Assembly Government, is a project that aims to drive the regeneration of the Llanelli area by transforming the waterfront into a business, leisure and residential community. Currently, there are two seafront housing developments under construction. Pentre Nicklaus Village, located on the Machynys Peninsula has been the subject of recent criticism for being above the price range of local people. Pentre Doc Y Gogledd (North Dock Village) in the historic North Dock area is currently being developed by David Mclean homes and is currently on the last phase of development.

## Famous citizens

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### Sports

Phil Bennett, fly-half, Wales and British Lions.

Jonathan Davies, rugby player

Ray Gravell, Rugby player for Wales, the British Lions and Llanelli RFC, actor and broadcaster.

Terry Griffiths, world snooker champion (1979).

Gareth Jenkins, coach: Llanelli RFC (1982-2003), Llanelli Scarlets (2003-2006), Welsh national rugby team (2006-2007).

Derek Quinnell, Rugby player for Wales, British Lions and Llanelli RFC

Eirian Williams, snooker referee.

Steve Naylor, bodybuilder, Mr Europe 2005, Mr Britain 2006

### Government and politics

Michael Howard QC, former Leader of the Opposition and former leader of the Conservative Party, Home Secretary (1993-1997).

Lord Elwyn Jones, Labour Lord Chancellor 1974-79.

Rod Richards, former Conservative member of parliament for Clwyd North West and former leader of the Conservative party at the National Assembly for Wales

## Media and entertainment

Keith Allen, British comedian, actor, singer and writer, father of pop singer Lily Allen.

Huw Edwards, newsreader, BBC News.

Pam Ferris, Actor.

Jessica Garlick, Eurovision Song Contest 2002 UK entrant and Pop Idol finalist

Christopher Rees, Singer, Songwriter, Musician.

Sophie Dee, well-known porn star, also said to be the stepdaughter of fellow adult performer Linsey Dawn McKenzie.

Donald Swann, of the 1950s TV singers, Flanders and Swann, was born in Llanelli.

## Other

Rev'd Dr Leslie John Griffiths, The Lord Griffiths of Burry Port, Methodist Minister

Richard Taylor, TV Presenter, Author and Minister

Sir John Meurig Thomas, chemist

Brian Trubshaw, pilot of first flight of British Concorde

## Facts and figures

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In the United Kingdom Census 2001 the population of both the town of Llanelli and Llanelli rural was recorded as 44,475.

People from Llanelli are sometimes nicknamed "Turks". The origin of this name is uncertain. One theory is that many Turkish sailors once called at the port of Llanelli during their voyages.

It is also recorded that almost 47% of the population have a combination of skills in the Welsh language. However, according to the 2001 census, only 29.69% of the population of Llanelli town is able to speak Welsh.

Llanelli has hosted the National Eisteddfod five times: in 1895, 1903, 1930, 1962, and 2000.

Llanelli was the focus of TV show *Most Haunted Live* in June 2006 for a three-night investigation with Yvette Fielding and David Wells.

The first Welsh medium primary school, Ysgol Dewi Sant was established in Llanelli in 1947 by the Local Authority.

During the 1950s, Trefor and Eileen Beasley campaigned to get Llanelli Rural Council to distribute tax papers in Welsh by refusing to pay taxes until their demand was met. The council reacted by sending in the bailiffs and selling their furniture to recover the money owed. Fortunately, their neighbours bought the furniture and returned it to them. The council finally reversed this policy during the 1960s when they accepted that the Welsh language should be equal with the English language.