

# Appeal to ALL Supporters of Harlech and Ardudwy Leisure



We operate your local community swimming pool, climbing wall and café

You may be aware, that Gwynedd Council decided to close the Harlech swimming pool in 2008. Following a long public campaign the pool was saved and since then has been operated by a not for profit company and managed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

Our motto is:

## ***Run by the Community for the Community***

Since we have been operating the centre, we have received major grants and funding from the Big Lottery and Gwynedd Council. In addition there are many other fund raising initiatives including the Community Lottery and Rock Ardudwy Events. These grants and funding have subsidised the costs of running the centre and enabled us to stay open.

We received our final payment from the Big Lottery in 2015 and following successive rounds of finding cuts, in 2016, Gwynedd Council informed us that they were no longer able to continue funding at previous levels. For the current year Gwynedd Council reduced it's funding by nearly 90%.

The reduction in funding was £50,000 per year. Following a number of meetings with local community councils last year, we agreed a proposal which was put to the Barmouth, Dyffryn & Tal y Bont, Llanbedr, Llanfair, Harlech and Talsarnau community councils for help to fund the centre and enable it to stay open.

You may have noticed an increase in your local community council contribution on your current year community charge bill. A proportion of this was towards funding to keep the Harlech swimming pool open.

The amount you pay in community charge varies depending upon the community charge banding of your home. For a 'band D' community charge payer the community charge contributions for each household are as per the table below and vary depending upon how close you live to Harlech. The annual amounts for the 2017/18 council tax year are as follows:

<b>Barmouth</b>	<b>£6.55 a year or 54p per month</b>
<b>Dyffryn &amp; Tal y Bont, Llanbedr and Talsarnau</b>	<b>£13.33 a year or £1.11 per month</b>
<b>Harlech &amp; Llanfair</b>	<b>£26.23 a year or £2.18per month</b>

We have requested an inflationary increase of 3% for the 2018/19 financial year, which are included in the above figures.

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[www.harlechleisure.co.uk](http://www.harlechleisure.co.uk)

In return for the community council contributions, we offer community charge payers in the respective community councils free memberships for each person who lives in the household. These memberships are worth £16 per year per adult and £5.50 per year per child. Membership gives discounted entry for public swimming and climbing, these are typically a discount of £1 per session. To claim your free membership, simply call in at the centre to collect and fill in an application form. If you bring your current community charge bill, you should be able to get your membership card there and then.

Your community councils are currently in the process of setting their budgets for the 2018/19 council year. Many of the community councils have announced that they will be holding public meetings to gauge the opinion of local residents before deciding on continuing to financially support the pool.

**The public meetings that we have been made aware of to date are:**

- **Dyffryn & Tal y Bont – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm in the Dyffryn Ardudwy Village Hall**
- **Harlech – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm in Harlech Band Room (next to swimming pool)**
- **Talsarnau – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 6:30pm in Talsarnau Village Hall (School)**

We are asking our supporters to attend the public meetings in their area and voice their support for the centre and for the community council funding to continue.

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November there will be someone in the café from 10:00 until 12:00 for a drop in should you like any more information; can offer other more support and/or wish to ask any other questions about the centre.

For more information on the centre including timetables please visit our web site:

**[www.harlechleisure.co.uk](http://www.harlechleisure.co.uk)**

Without the continuation of the financial support from **ALL** of the six community councils the centre cannot continue to operate and will close.

**Thank you for your on-going support to maintain this vital local amenity**

Diolch!

***Chris, Dylan, Irene, Joy, Pauline,  
Sheila and all the Harlech and Ardudwy  
Leisure Team***