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## Guidelines for Ceredigion's 2025 'Caru'ch Cymuned' Community Awards

The Ceredigion 'Caru'ch Cymuned' Award competition provides an opportunity for your community to be recognised and to celebrate its community spirit. It is an opportunity to share the great things that are going on within your area and celebrate why it's great to live in Ceredigion

### Who can apply – what are the categories?

There are **three categories** in the competition for 2025 Awards

Small village	Villages which have fewer than 5 amenities
Village	Individual villages, a specified area within a community or Town Council area which has 5 amenities or more
Town	The towns of Aberaeron, Cardigan, Aberystwyth, New Quay, Lampeter, Llandysul and Tregaron. i.e. towns with a Place Plan

**Step 1:** Submit an Expression of Interest form by: **23:59 Monday 7<sup>th</sup> of July, 2025**

**Step 2:** Submit the Full Application and supporting evidence by **September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

### Ceredigion towns' Place Plans:

<https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/planning-building-control-and-sustainable-drainage-body-sab/planning-building-control/placemaking/place-plans/>

### What is an amenity?

An amenity is anything that is available for the use of the community, or that is looked after by or for, the community.

In the context of this competition, for the purpose of differentiating between the 'small village' and 'village' categories, amenities include public buildings such as a hall, place of worship, school, shop, public house, public toilets and green areas such as sport or children's play areas, community gardens or allotments or similar.

When submitting your full application, list all the amenities and add features and initiatives in your community that you wish the judges to be aware of. Include structures such as memorials, information and interpretation panels, benches, provision of drinking water or bike racks. Don't forget to add all the 'little things' such as bins, flower tubs or bug hotel.

## **Who can submit the entry on behalf of the community?**

The applications must be submitted by a recognized body such as:

- A Town Council
- A Community Council
- A body, association, club or voluntary group relevant to the community for which the application is being submitted. The group must have a formal constitution.

It is not mandatory for the Town or Community Council to submit the application. More than one application representing the same community will not be accepted.

Joint applications on behalf of communities are welcome from community/town councils and voluntary groups or organizations (such as a village hall committee, youth club etc).

If there is more than one village within a Town or Community Council, an individual application can be submitted for each of them, as long as the application is submitted by a recognized body.

Applications from individuals or voluntary groups which do not have a formally constituted status cannot be accepted.

## **Awards**

**The Ceredigion 'Caru'ch Cymuned' Award competition** provides an opportunity for your community to be recognised and to celebrate its community spirit. It is an opportunity to share the great things that are going on within your area and celebrate why it's great to live in Ceredigion. 2025 is the first year that the 'Caru'ch Cymuned Award is being held. The competition has been designed to acknowledge efforts at all levels to care and sustain communities across Ceredigion.

Communities, irrespective of their size and population are encouraged to submit an entry. In this introductory year, the intention is providing an opportunity to draw attention and to celebrate what is already being done in communities across Ceredigion.

All entries in each Category with a minimum score of 6 will be awarded a Bronze Certificate.

A Bronze Award will be awarded to the highest scoring entry in each of the three Categories (Small Village, Village and Town)

It will be possible for communities to apply for a Silver Award within two years. This will provide an opportunity for communities to build on what is already being done and to plan ahead and start work on new ideas.

Details of a Gold Award will be published in due course.

## **What will be assessed by the judges?**

Judges will be looking for evidence of a vibrant and caring community.

Three aspects will be assessed:

- Community activities, events and services
- Effective communication
- Care and condition of amenities and features

Assessment is initially based on the Application Form, and the supporting evidence submitted.

What is the community most proud of? What are the successes?

This is followed by a site visit, focusing primarily on communal buildings and their surroundings and other public areas. It is emphasised that it is not a "chocolate box" competition! It is not the size or number of amenities and facilities that is important, but the quality and community effort to look after them. Judging is based upon how well a village is presented, not on its setting or how pretty it is.

**Amenities and features** that contribute to the community's sense of identity and pride of place **that are to be assessed for the competition** (show locations on a map)

- Community buildings (halls, places of worship etc) and their environs
- Pub, shop, garage etc
- Village entry signs, noticeboards and information signs
- Features such as monuments, war memorial, commemorative plaques or similar
- Other structures (eg bus stops, shelters, telephone boxes (including repurposed for new uses) public art etc
- Seat, benches, picnic tables or similar
- Public spaces (playing fields, playgrounds, burial grounds etc)
- Planting schemes and/ or areas for nature
- Other (please provide details)

## Map

A map of the area to be judged must be attached or enclosed with the entry form.  
Features/amenities to be judged in this competition must be identified clearly on the map.

The map can be hand drawn or based on a digital map ( eg pins on a Google map)

There is a detailed map of the whole of Ceredigion on the Ceredigion County Council website – you can zoom in to the desired level of detail.

<https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/coast-countryside/public-rights-of-way/the-definitive-map-public-right-of-way-registers/rights-of-way-map/>

<https://www.google.com/maps/about/mymaps/>

## Judging and scoring criteria

	1	2	3	4
Scoring criteria	Some evidence	Good	Very Good	Exceptional

Section 1 Community led initiatives and participation in activities and events	
Opportunities to participate and contribute to community initiatives, activities and events	Application form and accompanying evidence such as photos and/or reports of the activity.
Initiatives and facilities to support health and wellbeing	Application form Photos and/or reports of the activity.
Nature and sustainability initiatives	Application form and supporting evidence such as photos and/or reports of activity. Site visit.

<b>Section 2: Communication</b>	
Evidence of good and effective communication	Application form. Examples of information/ promotional materials
Impression of a caring and welcoming community	Application form. Site visit;
<b>Section 3: Care and condition of public amenities and features</b>	
General condition, tidiness and evidence of care of public buildings and green/recreational spaces and their immediate environs	Application form, Site visit

### **Top Tip!**

Collate evidence for your entry throughout the year.

e.g if spring or summer flowers around the community are a strong feature you would like the judges to consider, make sure you have photos of them at their best to present as evidence to the judges, who will be judging entries later in the year. Or if you are organising an event after the closing date for this year's competition, keep the evidence for next year's competition!

Similarly, take photos of events and activities eg litter picks, community meals, club activity etc  
If these take place after this year's closing date, the evidence collated will be useful for next year's competition.

You may select amenities and features for the judges to focus on. **These must be noted on the application form and their location shown on the map.**

### **Submitting your entry – Checklist**

Application Form, <b>Signed</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Permission to use photos of children	<input type="checkbox"/>
Map	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photographic evidence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newsletters, articles etc (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Link(s) to website, social media (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Use the Checklist to ensure you have included everything required and that the application form has been signed by an authorised person

### **Questions and clarifications**

If you have any queries regarding the application form, how to present evidence, timetable or competition rules, please contact: [ce.cynnalycardi@ceredigion.gov.uk](mailto:ce.cynnalycardi@ceredigion.gov.uk)