

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2014 - MAY 2015



Councillor Allan Rees

ADDRESS:

c/o Caerphilly County Borough Council
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ELECTORAL WARD: Blackwood

PARTY: Labour

PROFILE: This is my first year as a councillor since I was elected as part of a by-election in April 2014. I have lived in Blackwood for 2 years, Ystrad Mynach before that for four years, a further 3 years in Caerphilly Town and since a birth I lived in the Aber Valley. So you could say this gives me a good feeling for the demographics of the borough.

At 35 this year I am one of the younger councillors in the authority.

I work full time as a social worker in a busy child protection team, so although I endeavour to make it to all committees and panels I am associated with I do have to give my apologies on occasion.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Council
Democratic Services Committee
Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS:

Blackwood Town Centre Management Group
Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS:

N/A

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY:**ATTENDANCE:**

From May 2014 to May 2015 my attendance at Council meetings was as follows:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>No. Attended</u>	<u>No. Held</u>
Council	8	12
Health Social Care and Wellbeing	8	11
Regeneration and Environment	8	13
Democratic Services Committee	2	5
Blackwood Town Centre Management Group	2	3
Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee	2	4

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

I undertook the following training and development seminars and courses: -

Health Social Care and Wellbeing (Update)
Health Social Care and Wellbeing (Annual Training)
Regeneration and Environment (Update)
Medium Term Financial Plan (Seminar)

CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY:

For full details of my activity please keep visiting www.blackwoodlabour.org.uk .

Myself and the two other ward councillors are trying to reinvigorate how we engage with our residents, we've set up a website, we will soon be printing a quarterly leaflet and we'll be opening monthly surgeries in the Blackwood St John Ambulance Hall. Our surgeries will also be open to people who don't need advice and we aim to create an environment where residents can come for a chat and a cup of tea just to put the world to rights if need be.

I have not kept a full record of my casework for the year; however I've advocated a number of enquiries for residents to the council and the list is pretty extensive. From nuisance neighbours, to sinks falling off the wall, pot holes, bushes needing trimming, dead road kill etc.

There has also been 2 occasions where I have advocated for individuals outside of matters

of the councils remit.

Following a serious incident that happened on my estate and to reassure residents myself and the local police inspector organised a street surgery.

In Palmer Place I've worked with the residents to combat anti-social behaviour and organised a street surgery. I've also posted advice letter to direct the resident to ring their local area housing office and 101.

I've raised a total of £300 for a local autism group and a further £100 for the Rainbows and Brownie Group.

Currently I am going to support residents in their representations against the proposed closure of Cefn Forest Leisure Centre and the building of houses on Cwm Gelli.

Finally Nigel Dix, Pat Cook and myself want to do something special for Blackwood and together with the local community we hope to bid for funding to bring a social enterprise to the town that will provide the community with a social hub, possibly better access to the credit union, affordable produce and other locally sourced goods and a food bank for those in need. Hopefully this will be open by 2017.

If you feel that you need help or advice on an issue that relates to the council and possibly beyond that then please ring me, email me or tweet me. If you require I will carry out home visits and I am quite happy to advocate on your behalf.