

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2014 - MAY 2015



Councillor Colin Durham

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ELECTORAL WARD: Ynysddu

PARTY: Labour

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council

Education for Life Scrutiny Committee

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Caerphilly Home-Start – Trustee

Lower Sirhowy Valley Partnership

Ynysddu Local Flood Prevention Group

Ynysddu Rugby Football Club

Ynysddu Workingmen's Club

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Ynysddu Primary School LA Governor

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	7	12
Education for Life	7	8

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

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

Microsoft Upgrade IT Training
Webcasting

CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY

Ty Llwyn Quarry, Ynysddu: the working group still meets annually to ensure monitoring of the site is ongoing and the results are published and actions taken if required.

In co-operation with the engineering department the planned scheme to alleviate possible flooding to Upper Ynysddu, has been completed, with very little disruption to activities of the villagers.

The old gas supply pipe to the east side of Ynysddu village has been replaced with a new one, which now traverses the existing bridge across the river.

Much resurfacing work has been carried out throughout the villages of Ynysddu, Cwmfelinfach and Wattsville, roads, back lanes and walkways included.

Both local Councillors have been active in pursuing an adequate settlement to the situation of adoption of roads and drainage systems in Woodside Walk, Wattsville, following the liquidation of the contractor. We have managed to acquire the bond from the contractor insurers and have had the roadways surfacing finished. Other matters are ongoing.

We raised objections on behalf of the local residents association and partnership and managed to halt the proposed transfer of public land to the rear of Brynawel to a third party. Local residents made clear their feelings to retain this land as public access for right of way and the plain enjoyment of walking the land.

Both local councilors have continued to operate "Street Surgeries", in conjunction with the local PCSO, regularly throughout the ward. Constituents give a very positive return on "seeing their councilors" "in the street", available for advice and requests for tackling any local issues. We shall endeavor to continue this practice for the next year.

This year has seen the review of the Local Development Plan. Attendance at seminars and putting forward local views for or against tables' developments has been and is an on going process. Some proposals put forward, have already been successfully challenged and have been dropped from the plan going forward.

This year will see a tough financial settlement to Wales via Central government. Continued support of our local facilities and services will be tough. We see some very hard decisions having to be made for the next financial year.

Local Activities

I have been very active in following the progress of our local rugby team this season. It was a great pleasure to be at the games where they achieved a win in the Ben Francis Plate and secured promotion to the next league. I have great hope for next season.

I have also attended various local events and activities in halls and community centre's, which has offered the opportunity to meet local residents in a more social setting.

My plan for the coming year is to carry on consulting residents via our street surgeries which have been very successful.

Continue to campaign for improved local services and facilities for the ward.

Put forward the views of our community at all available council meetings and occasions ensuring our valley has a high profile.