

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2014 - MAY 2015



Councillor Dave Rees

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ELECTORAL WARD: Risca West

PARTY: Independent

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council
Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee
Audit Committee - Chair
Investigating and Disciplinary Committee
Planning Committee
Scrutiny Leadership Group

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Crumlin Arm Working Group
Risca Town Centre Management Group
Constitutional Working Party

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Risca West and East Community Activity Group - Chair

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Risca Primary
Trinity Fields Special School

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	10	12
Crime and Disorder	1	2
Policy and Resources	10	12
Investigating and Disciplinary Committee	2	2
Audit	4	4
Planning Committee	10	13
Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal (Crumlin Arm)	0	3
Risca Town Centre Management Group	2	3
Scrutiny Leadership Group	5	8

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

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

Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee (Annual)
Planning (Mandatory)
Audit (Mandatory)
NATO Summit (Seminar)
Medium Term Financial Plan (Seminar)
Performance Objectives

CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY

I held weekly Sunday Street Surgeries where two hundred households per week were given the opportunity to meet face to face with their Councillors to have a chat and raise any concerns/issues they might have. Constituents can also communicate with me via telephone, e-mail and twitter. Once again during the past twelve months I received and responded to thousands of e-mails, received and made in excess of 1100 telephone calls and travelled a good 3000 miles undertaking constituency duties.

Once again over the past 12 months due to constituency commitments and priorities I was not always available to attend all Council Committee meetings but I always prioritised my attendance to ensure that where resident's issues were concerned they took precedence and those concerns were always fully represented.

As Chair of the Risca West & East Community Events Group I met weekly with the Community Members at Moriah Church to organise the two annual major events in Risca Park- The Summer Fayre consisted of a Country theme with over 3000 people attending the event. The Christmas Event was once again fully supported by the community where the local primary schools along with learners at Lylac Ridge made hundreds of lanterns for our spectacular lantern parade and by utilising the Area Forum Budget a Christmas tree was purchased for Risca Park.

I produced a bi-annual newsletter for my constituency, which highlighted areas of interest, events and updates of the work being carried out by myself and other ward member.

This year I successfully worked closely with the Council and National Resource Wales to meet with the people of Pontymister in relation to the flood alleviation works soon to be commenced. These works will bring approximately 300 families out of detriment to flood risk

resulting in many families and individuals being able to gain flood insurance for their properties for the first time. I worked closely with the Council, National Resource Wales and the Environment Minister Mr Allan Davies to find a solution that would bring Risca West out of danger from floods. Work will commence in the Autumn.

I worked closely with many sporting clubs in our area to ensure that leisure and play facilities in Risca meet the needs of the community. Working with Leisure Officers, significant improvements, maintenance of facilities and repairs had been made at all our parks.

I worked closely with officers from highways over the past year to improve road conditions and traffic management systems in my area, which included extending the bus stop in the town to allow bus passengers to embark and disembark the bus safely from the pavement.

I met and spoke to officers of the Housing Dept. on a regular basis with regards to repair and re-housing issues.

After clocking over 3000 miles carrying out constituency duties during this year, no claims were made by me for the mileage undertaken.

Excitingly during the past year I have been working with the council to bring a major visitor attraction to Risca and will be able to reveal more details late summer 2015.

Finally, constituents should be aware councillors had no increase to their salary/allowances this year.