

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2014 - MAY 2015



Councillor Hefin David

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ELECTORAL WARD: St. Cattwg

PARTY: Labour

PROFILE:

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council
Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee (Chair)
Democratic Services Committee
Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee (Chair)
Scrutiny Leadership Group (Chair)
Non-Domestic Rate Payers Committee (Chair)

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

Bryn Compost Liaison Group

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Tiryberth Village Hall Management Committee (Chair)

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Glyngaer Primary School
Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre (Vice Chair)

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	12	12
Crime and Disorder	2	2
Policy and Resources	11	12
Democratic Services	4	4
Bryn Compost Liaison Group	4	4
Non Domestic Rate Payers Committee	1	1
Scrutiny Leadership Group	6	8
Standards Committee	0	3

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

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

Democratic Services Committee (Annual)	Webcasting S1
Scrutiny Leadership Group (Annual)	Webcasting
Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee (Annual)	NATO Summit (Seminar)
Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee (Annual)	Constitution (Mandatory)
Medium Term Financial Plan (Seminar)	
Common Housing Register (Seminar)	
Caerphilly Collection Services (Seminar)	

CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY

Every week I dealt with casework for individuals and groups from every area of my ward. These involved a range of issues, including housing, planning, social, educational and environmental matters. I am available via telephone seven days a week and I ensure that my number is widely circulated.

In past reports, I stated that, as Chairman of Tiryberth Village Hall Management Committee, I was involved in the successful application for a Big Lottery People and Places grant of nearly £400,000 in order to demolish and rebuild the Hall. The project has been subject to some unavoidable delays but is very nearly complete. We hope to hold a grand opening in the month of August or September 2015. The volunteers on the Management Committee, who are all local residents, have given a great deal of time and effort to this project.

I have worked in the past year with many small businesses in my ward and beyond to examine how to encourage employment in the small firm sector and encourage connections between firms. I have made representations to council officers and cabinet members on the approach that may be taken to support these businesses.

As Chairman of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, I have again worked closely with members and officers to review council policies and find budget savings. This year, the committee held a meeting at a community centre in Rhymney and prior to this visited council

homes to assess the progress of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard programme. The subsequent meeting discussed ways in which the council could make progress on housing improvement. Members of the Caerphilly Homes Task Group also met with committee to give their views.

The Committee will also be instrumental in helping find savings this year in the light of a significantly reduced council budget. My aim as Chair has been to open up the committee to members of the public and residents and I will continue to strive to do this in the year ahead.

In December 2014 I took part in a BBC Radio Wales programme called 'Decisions Decisions' in which I emphasised the need for consultation on future budgets and meaningful involvement with a wide range of stakeholders. This view was supported by the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA).