

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2014 - MAY 2015



Councillor Ken James

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ELECTORAL WARD: Abercarn

PARTY: Labour

PROFILE:

Cabinet Member for Regeneration Planning & Sustainable Development -my cabinet duties involved visiting factories, businesses, social enterprises and shops. This is to celebrate their success and promote their business and ensure that the Council is able to offer help and advice to all those who need it. I Chair several grant funding panels offering grants to businesses and organisations helping to safeguard their job opportunities or to expand and develop their business and job creation.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council
Cabinet

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

Bargoed Town Centre Management Group
Blackwood Town Centre Management Group
Caerphilly Local Access Forum
Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group
Caerphilly Homes Task Group
Joint Consultative Committee
Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Crumlin Arm Working Group
Rights of Way Cabinet Committee

Risca Town Centre Management Group
Rural Development Partnership.
Ystrad Mynach Town Centre Management Group
Sustainable Development Advisory Panel
Sustainable Development Core Group
View Point Panel
Welsh Housing Standard Quality Cabinet Sub Committee
Ystrad Mynach Town Centre Management Group
Cwmcarn Visitor Centre Supervisory Board Chairman
Chairman Community Regeneration Grant Fund Panel
Chairman Community Economic Development Grant Fund Panel
Chairman of the Focus Group for the LDP Review Panel
LAG Committee Member
Chairman Local Investment Fund Panel
Technical Assistant Grant Funding Panel
Independent Remuneration Panel
Newbridge Town Centre Management Group
Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Capital Regional Tourism Partnership
Carbon Reduction Group
Caerphilly Tourist Association
Industrial Communities Alliance (formerly Coalfield Communities Campaign)
Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Regeneration Partnership
South East Wales Economic Forum
South East Wales Strategic Planning Group
Caerphilly Business Forum Representative
Navigation Colliery Regeneration Sub Committee with the Prince's Trust
Regional Technical Statement (Aggregates)

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

I am the Chairman of Cwmcarn Primary School Governing Body. I am a member of Abercarn Primary School Governing Body.

I am Chair the Cwmcarn Primary School Appointments Committee and Finance Sub Committee.

I am a Trustee of Cwmcarn OAP Hall and Association.

VISITS

I have visited several businesses this year. These have included ISCA, Stately Albion and Nuair. I have also visited London to attend the Regeneration Awards in relation to Bargoed Town Centre.

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>
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Appointments Committee	1	1
Bargoed Town Centre Management Group	6	6
Cabinet	24	26
Caerphilly Homes Task Group	5	7
Caerphilly Local Access Forum	1	3
Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group	2	3
Council	10	12
Joint Consultative Committee	4	4
Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal – Crumlin Arm	2	3
Rights of Way Cabinet Committee	0	1
Risca Town Centre Management Group	2	3
Sustainable Development Panel	2	3
Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee	3	4
Ystrad Mynach Town Centre Management Group	2	3

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

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

Caerphilly Homes Task Group (Annual)	SDAP (Annual)
Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group (Annual)	Constitution (Mandatory)
Risca Town Centre Management Group (Annual)	NATO Summit (Seminar)
Microsoft Upgrade IT Training	20mph Zones (Seminar)
Information Governance (Mandatory)	Planning (Enforcement)
Appointments (Mandatory)	Planning (Update)
Pensions/Compensation (Mandatory)	Webcasting
Rights of Way Cabinet (Mandatory)	
Medium Term Financial Plan (Seminar)	
School Categorisation (Seminar)	
Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (Seminar)	
Caerphilly Collection Services (Seminar)	
Roles and Responsibilities of Cabinet Members (Requested)	

CABINET MEMBER ACTIVITY

As Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development, I acted as the Cabinet expert in these areas, ensuring that the views and needs of the service are built into the Council's policy framework and the decision making process. I attended 6 Scrutiny meetings where I updated other Members on my key portfolio activities.

These included the Vibrant and Viable Places, Tackling Poverty Fund which made an award to the Rhymney area including the refurbishment of the Hafod Deg building as a multi-agency resource centre. In 2014/15 I attended the opening of the Cognation Mountain Bike project at Cwmcarn Forest Drive and various local events including the Caerphilly 10K event, Big Cheese, Caerphilly Food Festival, Blackwood Beach Party, Risca Summer Festival, Caerphilly Monitoring Festival, the Welsh Model Show and the Urdd Eisteddfod 2015.

I also provided updates to Scrutiny on the progress of the Draft Preferred Strategy for the Replacement Local Development Plan, Choose the High Street Campaign and the ongoing regeneration works at Newbridge.

CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY

I do not hold surgeries my constituents prefer to contact me by telephone, email, and post or in person. Once contacted, I investigate every complaint and endeavour to resolve their problems, I always provide an answer and feedback.

This year I am facilitating the award of the Cwmcarn Memorial Hospital Fund when we hope to present cheques for approximately £6,000 to the St. Luke's Doctors Surgery in Abercarn and the Risca Surgery.

I will also be presenting a cheque to the Cwmcarn Residents Association for the same amount to help provide a memorial for the Flannel Factory disaster.