

# ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2015 - MAY 2016



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 Mangement 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

### **OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS**

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.

### **ATTENDANCE**

From May 2015 to May 2016 my attendance at Council meetings was as follows:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>No. Attended</u>	<u>No. Held</u>
Bargoed Town Centre Management Group	2	3
Blackwood Town Centre Management Group	3	3
Cabinet	21	21
Caerphilly Homes Task Group	6	8
Caerphilly Local Access Forum	2	4
Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group	3	3
Council	11	12
Joint Consultative Committee	4	4
Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal	3	3
Risca Town Centre Management Group	3	3
Sustainable Development Advisory Panel	2	3
Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee	3	4
Ystrad Mynach Town Centre Management Group	3	3

## **TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

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

Medium Term Financial Plan (Seminar x 3)  
Probity in Planning  
Gypsy and Travellers and the Housing Act  
Risca Town Centre Management Group (Annual)  
Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal (Annual)  
Blackwood Town Centre Management Group (Annual)

## **CABINET MEMBER ACTIVITY**

As Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration I was involved in the production of the Local Development Plan and the completion of the regeneration projects in Newbridge and Bargoed.

Town Centre Management Groups and improvements continue despite budgetary constraints. Work with Blackwood Miners Institute and Llancaich Fawr following the completion of their grant funding schemes. Working with Cwncarn Visitors Centre to see that it isn't affected to any great extent due to the tree felling.

I have also visited numerous Local Businesses including General Dynamics, Hurleys International Foods Ltd, Primacare Ltd, Norgine Ltd, Direct Healthcare, Braces Bakery and Penny & Giles Ltd. I also attended regular meetings with Cwmcarn Forest Drive, Town Centre Management Groups, Llanciach Fawr, Caerphilly Tourism Association, Local Action Groups, LDP Focus Group, Industrial Community Alliance, Business Forum and the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee and welcomed the opening of Poundworld in Bargoed as part of their regeneration project.

I was very proud to attend the X-Forces Launch in Wales, Communities First Celebration and Landscape Anti-Crime Tool Kit Launch along with the Pride in Your Place Awards, the Young Enterprise Awards and Caerphilly Learning Festival Awards.

I attended visits to the Lammas Eco Village, Cwncarn Visitors Centre, Y Gwindy and the newly refurbished Hafod Deg Resource Centre along and attended various funding panel meetings including the Community Regeneration Fund, Communities First, Oakdale Community Benefit Fund and the Memorial Hospital Fund.

## **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 have been involved with the provision of a 'living Christmas tree' in both Abercarn and Cwmcarn. I have also been heavily involved in obtaining the Flannel Factory Memorial Fund with over £6000 being donated to both Abercarn and Cwmcarn Surgeries. I am facilitating the provision of a memorial for the disaster with the Local Residents Association

using £6800 from the fund. I have also been involved with the provision of the 20mph speed limit through the village centre and around the local Primary School.