

# ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2015 - MAY 2016



Councillor Judith Pritchard

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**ELECTORAL WARD:** Hengoed

**PARTY:** Plaid Cymru

## **PROFILE:**

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Council

Health Social Care and Well Being Scrutiny Committee

Appointments Committee (Chief Officer Related Posts/Heads of Service)

Appeals Panel (Disciplinary/Grievance)

Audit Committee

Investigating and Disciplinary Committee

### **SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS**

Bryn Compost Liaison Group

Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee

Voluntary Sector Sub-Committee

Sustainable Development Advisory Panel

Ystrad Mynach Town Centre Management Group

Corporate Parenting Group

### **OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS**

Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council  
Gelligaer Community Council  
Penallta Community Park Forum  
Hengoed Community Centre ( Treasurer)  
Youth Centre, Cefn Hengoed (Treasurer)

### **SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY**

Derwendeg Primary School  
Hengoed Primary School

### **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>
Appeals Panel	1	1
Audit Committee	3	4
Bryn Compost Liaison Group	2	2
Community Centres Task and Finish Group	3	4
Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee	3	3
Council	10	12
Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny	7	8
Hospital Discharge Task and Finish Group	4	4
Investigating and Disciplinary Committee	3	3
Sustainable Development Advisory Panel	2	3
Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee	2	4
Ystrad Mynach Town Centre Management Group	3	3

### **TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

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

Investigating and Disciplinary Committee (Update)  
Medium Term Financial Plan (Seminar x2)  
Treasury Management (Seminar)  
Negotiating and Influencing Skills  
Community Council Liaison Committee (Annual)  
Understanding the Statement of Accounts (Audit)

### **CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY**

Together with my ward colleagues, I held twice-monthly surgeries throughout the year but these were poorly attended in spite of being advertised so we have now discontinued them. Constituents prefer to email or phone when they need to contact us. For Christmas 2015 we distributed a card to all residents which included our contact details and a list of useful phone numbers.

In 2015-16 I dealt with a range of constituents' queries about housing (applications, repairs and improvements), some of which were regarding WHQS work. There were also queries about social services, litter, dog fouling, road and pavement maintenance and other issues.

A particular cause for concern this year was the Local Development Plan (LDP) I liaised with residents and submitted an objection to the plan for housing development on land next to Carn Gethin in Cefn Hengoed. This site was added following the Preferred Strategy Stage, as the original larger site submission had been disregarded and was then resubmitted and included in the Deposit LDP later as a smaller site.

My involvement in plans for the establishment of a 20mph speed limit on Hengoed Rd outside Derwendeg School continued. This scheme is to be implemented shortly.

I kept in touch with local pensioners' groups and made representations about their concerns. On being informed at short notice that the remaining Area Forum money allocated to the Hengoed Ward would be lost if projects to spend it were not put in place very quickly, with the consent of the Management Committee I arranged for it to be spent on new showers for the changing rooms at the Youth Centre, requested by our successful Cross Keys FA, together with essential fire prevention work at the Youth Centre as required by a Fire Risk Assessment Survey that was carried out. Since the CAB, Communities First and the Youth Club operate from the building (together with other clubs) we felt that this was a good use of the money.

In my role as a member of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee I continued to scrutinize the officers' reports, in particular their responses to the cuts required by the Medium Term Financial Plan. I was an active member of the Hospital Discharge Task & Finish Group and carried out a number of rota visits to Social Services establishments.

I continued to take an active part in the work of Gelligaer Community Council.

As a governor of Derwendeg Primary and Hengoed Primary I attended a number of meetings and school visits.

As a result of my active membership of Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council (I am a CCBC appointee) I attended many meetings and training events, including monthly meetings of the Executive. I participated in a number of hospital visits, interviewing patients about their experiences of their stay in hospital and making observations about the cleanliness, health and safety and organisation of their wards.