

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**AUGUST 2015 - MAY 2016**



Councillor Julian Simmonds

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**ELECTORAL WARD:** Crosskeys and Pontywaun

**PARTY:** Labour

## **PROFILE:**

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Council  
Planning Committee  
Education for Life Scrutiny Committee  
Audit Committee  
Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee  
Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

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

Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal – Crumlin Arm Working Group

### **OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS**

Greater Gwent Crematorium  
Caerphilly Disability Access Group

### **SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY**

Newbridge School  
Wunfar Primary School, Crosskeys

## **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>
Audit Committee	2	2
Caerphilly SACRE	1	1
Council	7	9
Crime and Disorder Scrutiny	1	1
Education for Life	1	1
Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal	2	2
Planning Committee	8	9
Policy and Resources Scrutiny	6	6

## **TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

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

New Thinking in Performance Management  
Finance (Seminar)  
Planning (Mandatory)  
Probity in Planning  
Negotiating and Influencing Skills  
Gypsy and Travellers and the Housing Act  
Understanding the Statement of Accounts (Audit)  
Equalities and Diversity  
Treasury Management (Seminar)  
Effective Communication and the Digital Landscape  
Information Governance (Mandatory)  
Medium Term Financial Plan (Seminar)

## **CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY**

I would like to begin my first annual report by paying tribute to former Councillor Michael Gray and his wife Ruth for completing 30 years service in the Crosskeys and Pontywaun Wards of Caerphilly.

I was elected as the new Ward Member on the 13th August 2015 and would like to say a big thank you to the people of Crosskeys and Pontywaun for their faith in me. Although I have not completed a full year in office, I can say already that it is a privilege to serve both communities and it has been a real baptism of fire with getting down to work and dealing with matters in hand that affect the area I have responsibility for.

Over the past months I have undertaken many training courses offered to me and they have given me a better understanding of how local government works and the knowledge I need to conduct my role as Councillor effectively. As well as sitting on various Council Committee's I have also taken an interest in the Caerphilly Disability Access Group for the borough and attend meetings on a monthly basis.

My day to day case work included: -

Visiting constituents in both wards.

Working closely with the Police and Community Wardens concerning issues of anti-social behaviour and speeding.

Residents Meetings.

Attended the Crosskeys and Pontywaun Partnership meetings when I was able.

I also want to begin a Saturday morning 'Drop-In' surgery on a fortnightly basis and I hope to have this up and running for my next Annual Report.