

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2018 - MAY 2019



Councillor Ross Whiting

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ELECTORAL WARD: Risca West

PARTY: Labour

PROFILE: Ward Member for Risca West

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council
Democratic Services
Education for Life Scrutiny Committee
Licensing and Gambling Committee
Taxi and General Committee
Planning Committee

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

Community Council Liaison Sub Committee
Future Generations Advisory Panel
Licensing and Gambling Sub Committee (when required)
Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal – Crumlin Arm Working Group
Risca Town Centre Management Group
Taxi and General Sub Committee
Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee (when required)

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

ATTENDANCE

From May 2018 to May 2019 my attendance at Council meetings was as follows:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>No. Attended</u>	<u>No. Held</u>
Council	11	11
Democratic Services	2	4
Education for Life Scrutiny Committee	6	9
Licensing and Gambling Committee	2	3
Licensing and Gambling Sub Committee	1	6
Taxi and General Committee	4	5
Taxi and General Sub Committee	0	12
Planning Committee	12	12
Community Council Liaison Sub Committee	3	3
Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal – Crumlin Arm Working Group	3	3
Risca Town Centre Management Group	2	2
Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee	3	4

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

I have undertaken the following training and development: -
Corporate Safeguarding Briefing (Seminar)
Education for Life Scrutiny (Annual Refresher)
Planning Committee (Annual Refresher)
Licensing Committee (Annual Refresher)
Civil Parking Enforcement (Seminar)
Planning Policy Wales & Technical Advice Notes (Recommended)
Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee (Annual Refresher)
Licensing Procedures (Mandatory)
Planning Rules & Procedures (Mandatory)
Nature Conservation – Planning (Recommended)

Medium Term Financial Plan (Seminar)
The Appeals Process – Planning (Recommended)
Mon & Brecon Canal Group (Annual Refresher)
Schools Causing Concern (Recommended)
Equalities & Diversity (Requested)
The LDP Process – Planning (Recommended)

CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY

These are the issues that I have worked on over the past year many of which are ongoing: -

Toilet Closure

I am very aware that many residents are unhappy with the closure of the toilets near Tredegar Park in the town centre. My view on this matter has been that the community is well-placed to be able to find a solution which will lead to the toilets being re-opened. That is why I requested that the toilet block be preserved until a solution could be found. I have offered my support to residents groups seeking to take on the toilet block, and I was pleased to attend a public meeting in Moriah Church where it was agreed that a charity would be set up to manage the toilets in the future. As Chair, I have also ensured that this matter was top of the agenda of the most recent Risca Town Centre Management Group. I have also requested that officers consider options for a crossing near to Risca Library, which is the next nearest public toilet. This is to increase safety of anyone who wishes to cross the busy road in order to use them, while the main toilets are closed. This remains an ongoing matter.

Parking Enforcement and Residents Permits

Since CCBC has taken on enforcement of parking I have been contacted by residents, particularly on Commercial Street, who are concerned that the increased enforcement is making it difficult to park near the more residential parts of the street. I have requested that the council consider introducing a residents permit zone along Commercial Street to ensure parking is available for those residents who need it, balanced against the needs of shopkeepers. I have also been made aware of a number of instances where yellow lines may be unnecessary, and these have been reported.

A467 Dual Carriageway

The matter with the road noise associated with the A467 is ongoing. I have raised concerns where necessary about overgrowth on the grass verges to ensure that the road is as safe as possible.

Church Road

Residents have been consulted on the proposal to introduce a one-way system on Church Road, however there has been varying opinion about the detail of the proposal. I will be meeting with officers to progress this.

Potholes

Much the same as last year, I have requested road repairs which have been completed. Some of the roads most affected by potholes have been resurfaced in recent months so hopefully this issue will not be as severe next year.

Environment

I have reported a number of fly-tipping and litter incidents around Risca and Pontymister, most of which have been dealt with. Much like last year, this is an ongoing problem and will continue to be reported wherever issues arise.

Social Media

I have continued using social media to communicate and inform residents about important ward related matters. My Facebook page 'Cllr Ross Whiting – Risca West' has increased to 522 'likes', and I regularly receive queries and messages via the page.

Risca Town Council

Although I am not a member of Risca Town Council, I have continued to attend the majority of their meetings over the past year. At these meetings I have been able to provide them with County Members' updates on matters important to them. I have also received representations from Town Councillors and raised them with the relevant officers within the County Borough Council.

General Casework

In addition to the above, I have also received a wide range of miscellaneous queries, questions and issues from residents which I have raised and pursued on their behalf with the relevant council departments.