

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2019 - MAY 2020



Councillor Carl Cuss

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ELECTORAL WARD: Twyn Carno

PARTY: Labour

PROFILE: Cabinet Member for Social Care and Wellbeing

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Cabinet
Cabinet as Trustees for Blackwood Miners Institute
Council

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

Corporate Joint Consultative Committee
EAS Board (substitute)
Pensions Compensation Committee
Rights of Way Cabinet Committee
Community Council Liaison Sub Committee

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Child Poverty Champion
Corporate Parenting Group
Corporate Safeguarding Group
Young Offenders Service Local Management Board
Gwent Regional Partnership Board (Vice Chair)

LGBTQ Champion
Pen Bryn Oer Wind Farm Fun Advisory Group (Chair)
Youth Forum

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Upper Rhymney Primary School (Vice Chair)
Idris Davies 3-18 School

ATTENDANCE

To view my attendance record, please follow the link below:

<https://democracy.caerphilly.gov.uk/mgUserAttendanceSummary.aspx?LLL=0>

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

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

Equalities Act & Protected Characteristics (Mandatory Training)

Medium Term Financial Plan (Seminar)

Building a Healthier Gwent (Seminar)

Civil Parking & Traffic Regulation Orders (Seminar)

Education Performance Indicators (Seminar)

CABINET MEMBER ACTIVITY

Lockdown brought many new challenges to my Cabinet role, with daily updates and situations never before experienced.

As Cabinet Member for Social Care and Wellbeing, I acted as the Cabinet expert in these areas, to ensure that the views and needs of the service are built into the Council's policy framework and the decision making process. I attended Scrutiny meetings where I regularly updated other Members about my key portfolio activities.

Along with my regularly scheduled committee, cabinet and council meetings during 2019/20. I also attended the following events and meetings:-

Celebrate Fostering Fortnight events, visit to Links Project, Launch of St John Ambulance in Lower Rhymney Community Centre, Pen y Dre Tenants & Residents Quarterly Meetings, Boundary Commission Working Group, Regional Partnership Board Meetings, Young Promoters Projects, Caerphilly Youth Offending Service, visit to Windy Ridge and Woodfieldside Units, LGBT/Pride meetings and events, Dementia Awards at St Gwladys School, visit Energlyn and Ystrad Mynach Resource Centres, Health & Social Care Leadership Group, National Social Care Conference, visit with Julie Morgan AM to Family First, Heads of Valley Masterplan meetings, Meet with new Inspector at Rhymney Police Station, National Safeguarding week events, opening of Llamau's Multi Agency Centre, Caerphilly, Community Engagement events at White Rose Resource Centre and Bargoed Library, Annual Prize Evening at Idris Davies School, Ty Ni Christmas Party, 100th Birthday Presentation with Mayor at Beatrice Webb Care Home, visit to Min y Mynydd with Leader of Council, Comedy Musical Performance and Presentation at Upper Rhymney Primary School, Affordable Housing Road Trip, View Point Panel, ADSS Cymru Event, Corporate Parenting Group, Drug and Alcohol visit with CEO, photoshoot at Susanna House & Royal Park, Rhymney, Voluntary Sector Awards Evening, National Care Awards Presentation Evening.

I also met regularly with Heads of Service, Directors, the Chief Executive, Police and Crime Commissioner and Trade Unions with regard to my portfolio priorities.

WARD ACTIVITY

During lockdown I continued carrying out my role as a Councillor, representing my community and providing assistance during a difficult time.

I am a member of the Ael y Bryn Community Centre Management Committee and was also re-elected Secretary of the Pen y Dre Tenants & Residents Association. I am now also a Trustee of Rhymney Trust which decides on funding community groups in the Rhymney area.

I continue to meet on a Quarterly basis with the local Tenants & Residents Association, the police, community safety, dog warden, environmental health and the housing team to discuss and deal with issues within the ward.

I met with Jeff Cuthbert, Police Commissioner, regarding community safety concerns in Rhymney along with our AM, MP and other Councillors.

Worked with Gerald Jones MP and hosted a Jobs Fayre at Ael y Bryn Community Centre.

Continue to hold joint surgeries with our Assembly Member Dawn Bowden and Street Surgeries with our Member of Parliament Gerald Jones & Dawn Bowden.

Work is still ongoing regarding the £4.2M Regeneration Programme at Rowan Place. I am also part of the Multi Agency Group to look at tackling the wider issues in this area. Over the coming months I will be working with residents to implement the Environmental Programme in this area.

Organised a remembrance service at our new memorial garden in Princetown and Tafarnaubach, honouring those who served in the two world wars.

Held a number of public meetings and advice sessions for residents regarding the unauthorised development on Rhymney Bridge. The matter formed a planning application for a Gypsy/Traveller Site that was refused at Planning Committee and the applicant has appealed. I'm still working with residents and council departments regarding ongoing issues at Rhymney Bridge.

I will continue to support local community groups and residents regarding issues affecting our area to ensure our place is a better place to live.