

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2019 - MAY 2020



Councillor Mark Evans

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ELECTORAL WARD: New Tredegar

PARTY: Labour

PROFILE: I am proud to represent the residents of New Tredegar. I have lived within the New Tredegar area all my life and know the demographics of the local and county area. I was Youth Champion until 17/10/19.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council
Social Services Scrutiny Committee
Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

River Rhymney Task Group
PRU Management Committee

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

The Learning Centre (Formerly Pupil Referral Unit)
Youth Champion (until 17/10/19)
Youth Forum (until 17/10/19)
New Tredegar Partnership
Community Councillor for New Tredegar Community Council
Building Communities Trust (Phillipstown – Treasurer)

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Rhymney Comprehensive School
Phillipstown Primary School

ATTENDANCE

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

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

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Education Performance Indicators (Seminar)
Civil Parking & Traffic Regulation Orders (Seminar)
Medium Term Financial Plan (Seminar)

WARD ACTIVITY

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

Over the last year I have operated an open-door policy, and residents are welcome to contact me at home, by telephone, email or through social network.

I held street surgeries with my ward colleague Cllr Eluned Stenner, our MP Gerald Jones and our AM Dawn Bowden in various locations within New Tredegar. Many of these street surgeries have also been attended by Caerphilly CBC Safety Wardens, who were able to solve many issues for residents on the spot. When undertaking these surgeries we pick up various concerns from residents, including issues with anti-social behaviour, house repairs, highways issues, planning issues and many more.

Since the re-opening of New Tredegar Police station, Cllr Eluned Stenner and I have worked closely with Gwent Police on building up the relationships between the police and the community. We held weekly meetings with New Tredegar NPT to discuss policing issues and concerns of residents. I also liaised with the fire service to highlight various issues of concern within the ward, especially the issue of mountain fires that have blighted many communities including ours.

I helped a number of groups within the area to look for and find funding to run various activities within the ward, and also helped to support the few community buildings we have. I attend Residents Association meetings regularly within New Tredegar, where again complaints are discussed and solutions sought for them.

Unfortunately, in February of 2020 parts of our community were extremely affected by storm Dennis, with many families' homes being badly damaged. During this time Cllr Stenner and I spent as much time as possible at the three flood sites within the ward, ensuring the residents had as much support as they needed during this terrible time and that communication between the agencies that were there to help was being passed through to all residents. We held a street surgery with MP Gerald Jones and departments from CCBC to ensure that every resident could access the information and funding they needed to help with the clear up of the devastation.

Then in March the coronavirus struck and much of my time has been taken over by the issues that have arisen around this. During the lockdown there have been no easy answers and the situation we have found ourselves in is rapidly changing. I have found that during this time community engagement has become an even more crucial role, and during the first weeks of the lockdown I spent the majority of my time sharing information and advice to residents to try and prepare the community.