

# ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2020 - MAY 2021



Councillor Colin Elsbury

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**ELECTORAL WARD:** St. Martins

**PARTY:** Plaid Cymru

## **PROFILE:**

I'm privileged to have been a Caerphilly Town Councillor since 2008 and a County Councillor for St. Martins Ward since 2009. I have lived in the ward for most of my life, having attended both Twyn Junior School and St. Martins Comprehensive School.

## **COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Council  
Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee  
Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

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

Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group  
Prosiect Gwyrdd Joint Scrutiny Panel  
Car Parks Task & Finish Group until 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## **OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS**

Cardiff Capital Region Joint Scrutiny Committee (Deputy) – attendance is only required when the Chair is unavailable  
South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority  
Sight Cymru

## **SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY**

St. Martins Comprehensive School

## **ATTENDANCE**

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

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

## **TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **WARD ACTIVITY**

Over the past year I have continued carrying out my role as a Councillor, representing my community and providing assistance during a difficult time.

The Pandemic has made the last 12 months (May 2020 to May 2021) of Council related activity unusual but still as busy. Council meetings resumed via remote access in May for Town Council and June for County Borough as well as for the Fire Authority. Less travel and less need for paper generated Agenda and Reports!

Ward surgeries and face to face meetings with Residents could not take place for the whole 12 months. Communication has been through telephone, email and social media. Many people have been working from home or furloughed, and as a result more complaints and requests for services have followed. Whilst the list is not exhaustive I have dealt with problems of Anti-Social Behaviour, issuing of parking permits, requests for changes in residents parking conditions, noise complaints, lots of fly tipping, over-flowing public bins, flooding and drainage issues, planning applications and enforcement, dog fouling and abandoned vehicles.

During this period, I still continued to volunteer for the CCBC Community response Team (Buddy Scheme) in shopping for self-isolating or shielding households, as well as shopping for neighbours. In total I did shopping for 4 households, one of which lasted until January 2021. I also continued to volunteer to collect and deliver prescriptions for residents throughout the Caerphilly Basin. This involved numerous trips a day and lasted until July 2020.

As easing of lockdown continued myself and my fellow Ward Councillors (James Fussell and Steve Kent) met Council Officers in the Town Centre on numerous occasions in relation to proposed improvements in the Town Centre including outdoor eating areas.

Understandably there were no public events this year (Flower Festival, Fireworks Display, Christmas lights switch on) however I did attend a very low key Remembrance Service. As many children could not get to see Santa in his Grotto or have a nativity show in school I arranged for Santa to travel on his sleigh around the Town Council area (St Martins Ward and Morgan Jones Ward). This was done over a two week period, weather permitting, and prior to the pre-Christmas lockdown. I'm very grateful for help from my colleagues Steve Kent, James Fussell as well as Mike Prew, Huw Jackson, Jeff Grenfell and of course Santa.

As a Governor of a school within the ward I attended full Governing body meetings via remote access every six weeks, plus termly sub committees that dealt with finance, staffing, curriculum, building maintenance and school development.

During the year I also received hundreds of emails a week from Council Officers and numerous other official bodies and voluntary organisations.

I am also the Honorary President of a local Children's Charity, Shining Stars, which hopefully in the foreseeable future can again organise events for physically and mentally handicapped children and their families.

The last 14 months have been very difficult for many people especially those who have lost relatives and friends to Covid. I extend my sincere condolences to all.