

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2020 - MAY 2021



Councillor James Fussell

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ELECTORAL WARD: St. Martins

PARTY: Plaid Cymru

PROFILE: I have had the privilege of representing the residents of St Martins Ward since 1999 and the residents of Caerffili Town since 1995 (Town Council).

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council
Planning Committee

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group
Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Councillor on Caerffili Town Council
Chair and Trustee of Twyn Community Centre
Chair of Caerffili yn ei Blodau / Caerffili in Bloom Group
Cwrt Rawlin Community Group

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Ysgol Gymraeg Caerffili: Chair of Governors
Cwrt Rawlin Primary: Governor

ATTENDANCE

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

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

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Mass Vaccination Programme (seminar)

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.

There is no doubt that the last year has been a bit of a challenge to carry out the normal activity expected. Meetings recommenced via remote access which allowed both Town and Borough council work to continue, and in some cases is a far better alternative as no travel involved and paperless agendas.

Meeting with public is another matter as face to face meetings could not take place hence no ward surgeries or door to door visits either. Work continued via other means (telephone or email) and of the issues to try and resolve, littering, residents parking, planning and environmental issues are but a few.

On a positive note I was able to assist local pharmacy "Nelsons" on its application for a 24/7 Automated Dispensing Machine, part funded by Wales Government, and Caerffili can now boast one of only 8 to have been installed throughout Wales.

Supporting individuals via the Buddy scheme continues and has not ceased as the pandemic eases. Shopping and pharmacy collections are being carried out although these are now run by GAVO. The personal connections made with those in need will continue perhaps well beyond the current health crisis.

Governing body work has also continued with remote meetings, as well as the occasional meeting on site in advance of school opening, whilst risk assessment was being produced.

There were no organised litter picks during the last year, but I made a number of collections in areas local to my home, as did many other residents. It's disappointing to find that after lockdown how much rubbish is generated along our road networks and never ceases.

The Caerffili yn ei Blodau / In Bloom group also suspended activity during the year, although the floral displays organised by Town Council still went ahead. Towards the end of the year thoughts turned to entering the 2021 Wales in Bloom competition and preparations have been on-going since spring, with a new display enhancing the town centre.

Twyn management has been suspended for most of the year with a slight opening between first and second wave of Covid. Working with the bookings clerk Angela Lloyd the centre has been transformed internally with head to toe painting, new flooring to main hall and passageways, renewed doors and door furniture. The centre is now fit for another good many years of sustained use by all. Many thanks to Angela for her continued hard work on behalf of the centre.

Town council activity has been curtailed as far as events go but meetings have gone ahead via remote access. No doubt our annual events programme will return to normal at some point, all subject to being carried out safely for all concerned.