

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2012 - MAY 2013



Councillor Colin Durham

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Ynysddu
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ELECTORAL WARD: Ynysddu

PARTY: Labour

PROFILE:

This was my first term as a local Councillor, I am proud to have been elected to serve my local community. I have been associated with the local ward area for 22 years. Married to Nancy, we have two daughters both of whom attended Ynysddu Primary School.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council
Education for Life Scrutiny Committee
Licencing Committee

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

21st Century Schools Working Group

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Caerphilly Home-Start – Trustee
Lower Sirhowy Valley Partnership
Ynysddu Local Flood Prevention Group
Ynysddu Rugby Football club
Ynysddu Workingmen's club

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Ynysddu Primary School LA Governor

ATTENDANCE

From May 2012 to May 2013 my attendance at Council meetings was as follows:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>No. Attended</u>	<u>No. Held</u>
Council	8	9
Education for Life	8	9

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

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

Code of Conduct	Corporate Parenting
Community Infrastructure Levy	Secondary Rationalisation
Aneurin Bevan Health Board	POVA
Medium Term Financial Plan	Welsh Language
School Governor	

CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY

I made efforts to attend as many committee meetings as an observer to assimilate as much information as I could about how the council works and what councillors are responsible for in this my first year. This was a steep learning curve, but one which I have enjoyed. Subsequent to this activity I have been selected to sit on the Licensing Committee.

With my fellow Councillor, I took part in regular street surgeries and from September 2012 to May 2013 we joined with our local police officers and held 6 very successful joint Police and Councillor Street Surgeries throughout the ward area.

A minimum three times per year, with my fellow councillor we agreed and produced a newsletter and delivered it to the whole ward.

All documentation distributed included the telephone and email details of both councillors for residents to easily make direct contact with us.

I was involved in reconciling differences between Housing Department and Council Tenant's in various parts of the constituency with respect to works / repairs being carried out.

I took part in the local flood defence scheme development in conjunction with other residents and Officers of the Council and Welsh Water.

Pursued improvements to local ward roads and pathways infrastructure following receipt of representations from residents.

I pursued improved maintenance schedules and frequency for local parks and playing areas in the ward.

I was involved in tackling problems of administration of county Allotments Federation and a local allotment society in reference to relations with the local authority funding and boundary responsibility issues.

I attended local authority presentations and consultation with sheltered housing residents within the ward area as an updated programme of support is developed.

I represented the local residents at meetings with organisers of a festival being planned for the local village playing fields.

I worked towards securing funding to refurbish Ynysddu local children's play area via association with Lower Sirhowy Partnership and GAVO.

I attended several local events throughout the ward held by local community groups in halls, churches and community centres.

I attended the local primary school as often as possible and their events representing the authority as a School Governor.

I provided advice on a project headed by the Committee of the local Workingmen's club which sought funding to develop the club facilities in order to provide an extended range of social activities.

Working with local residents, I was involved in returning a disused allotment site in Ynysddu with local residents to a more natural local flora and fauna site that can be used by residents as a peaceful reflective area, which overlooks the local valley.

I met with Constituents, Officers and Stagecoach to make representations from the local residents to maintain a bus service timetable on a more frequent basis.

I liaised with Environmental Health Services on behalf of a local resident and as a result they investigated noise issues between the resident and a local business, which was subsequently amicably settled by the business re-siting the equipment, which was causing the annoyance.

I was actively involved in the 21st Century Schools Secondary Schools surplus places rationalisation programme.