

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2012 - MAY 2013



Councillor Ken James

ADDRESS: Glen View
Graig Bungalows
Cwmcarn
Crosskeys
NP11 7FA

TELEPHONE: 01495 270537

EMAIL ADDRESS: kenjames@caerphilly.gov.uk

ELECTORAL WARD: Abercarn

PARTY: Labour

PROFILE:

Cabinet Member for Regeneration Planning & Sustainable Development -my cabinet duties involved visiting factories, businesses, social enterprises and shops. This is to celebrate their success and promote their business and ensure that the Council is able to offer help and advice to all those who need it. I chair several grant funding panels offering grants to businesses and organisations helping to safeguard their job opportunities or to expand and develop their business and job creation.

I have visited: -

Tower Print, Isca UK Ltd., Direct Healthcare Ltd., Seda Ltd., PTS Renewables, General Dynamics, DS Smith Recycling Ltd., Attenda.Ltd., Greencap, Anne's Kitchen, Groundwork Caerphilly, Groundwork Caerphilly Woodwork Project, Groundwork Furniture Recycling Facility, Rainbow Community Cycle Recycling, Opened Groundwork Caerphilly Furniture Recycling Shop.

My Planning duties involve me in policy setting in collaboration with the Planning Department, keeping abreast of development and changes to relevant legislation. I am also involved with monitoring the Local Development Plan.

My Sustainability portfolio is crosscutting throughout the Local Authority involving preserving precious natural resources, reducing our carbon footprint and our energy consumption.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council
Cabinet

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

Bargoed Town Centre Management Group
Cabinet Sub Committee (Welsh Housing Quality Standard)
Blackwood Town Centre Management Group
Caerphilly Local Access Forum
Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group
Caerphilly Homes Task Group
Joint Consultative Committee
Newbridge Town Centre Management Group
Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Crumlin Arm Working Group
Rights of Way Cabinet Committee
Risca Town Centre management Group
Rural Development partnership.
Ystrad Mynach Town centre mangement Group
Sustainable Development Advisory Panel
Sustainable Development Core Group
View Point Panel
Welsh Housing Standard Quality Cabinet Sub Committee.
Cwmcarn Visitor Centre Supervisory Board Chairman.
Chairman Community Regeneration Grant Fund Panel.
Chairman Community Economic Development Grant Fund Panel.
Chairman Local Investment Fund Panel.
Technical Assistant Grant Funding Panel.
Independent Remuneration panel

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Capital Regional Tourism Partnership
Carbon Reduction Group
Industrial Communities Alliance (formerly Coalfield Communities Campaign)
Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Regeneration Partnership
South East Wales Economic Forum
South East Wales Strategic Planning Group
Caerphilly Business Forum representative.
Navigation Colliery Regeneration sub committee with the Prince's Trust.

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

I am the chairman of Cwmcarn Primary School Governing Body. I am a member of Abercarn Primary School governing body.

I Chair the Cwmcarn Primary School appointments committee and Finance sub committee.

I am a trustee of Cwmcarn OAP hall and Association.

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
Cabinet	19	21
Sustainable Development Advisory Panel	6	6

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

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

Code of Conduct	Medium Term Financial Plan
Planning	Aneurin Bevan Health Board
Welfare Reforms	Appointments
Prosiect Gwyrdd	Corporate Parenting
Statement of Accounts	South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Community Infrastructure Levy	Local Bus Service
Winter Maintenance	Secondary Rationalisation
Treasury Management	Miller Argent Presentation.

CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY

I do not hold surgeries my constituents prefer to contact me by telephone, email, and post or in person. Once contacted I investigate every complaint and endeavour to resolve their problems, I always provide an answer and feedback.

Several residents who were concerned with the effects of the benefit changes have contacted me; I was able to direct them to the relevant council department who were able to resolve their queries.

Many residents have contacted me concerning dog fouling, I have arranged for officers from the Environment Department to investigate the issue and for the areas to be monitored by wardens.

I received regular complaints/queries regarding road cleaning, grass cutting and maintenance; I liaised with relevant officers to resolve them.

Residents have contacted me regarding vandalism to their parked cars. I have liaised with Police and Community Safety Wardens to increase patrols and deter this anti social behaviour and detect those responsible.

Residents contacted me regarding the need for and the pace of their council housing repairs, I assist with their resolution. Residents who report potholes in the highway regularly contact me, I ensure the matters are dealt with by appropriate council departments and rectified. I have been dealing with the issue of flowerbeds within my community, which were overgrown and unkempt. I have arranged for them to be weeded and filled with fresh bedding plants and perennials.

I am supporting the local rugby club in their wish to build a new changing rooms and viewing facility. I have been liaising between the club and council regarding a lease of land for the building.

I supported the development of a new library for the Abercarn ward.

My fellow Ward Councillor and I worked with the local community to provide a memorial to commemorate residents killed in the Llandow air disaster 1953.

I regularly attended meetings of the Cwmcarn Residents Association and try to help them resolve issue that are raised by residents.

I have been contacted regarding over age groups using junior sized football pitches. I have approached the correct Council departments and this issue has been resolved.

As Chairman of the local Primary School Governors I have been involved with the resolution of parental complaints at the school.