

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2012 - MAY 2013



Councillor Gerald Jones

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ELECTORAL WARD: New Tredegar

PARTY: Labour

PROFILE:

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Housing and Anti Poverty & Homeless Person Champion.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council

Cabinet

Appointments Committee (Chief Officer Related Posts/Heads of Service)

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

Cabinet Sub Committee (Welsh Housing Quality Standard)

Caerphilly Homes Task Group

Joint Consultative Committee

Poverty Action Group

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Association of Public Services Excellence (formerly ADLO) - Welsh Regional Committee

Care and Repair - Caerphilly

Consortium of Local Authorities Wales (CLAW)

Joint Council For Wales

Local Government Association

Welsh Local Government Association

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Chair of Governors at White Rose Primary School
Vice Chair at Phillipstown Primary School

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	9	9
Cabinet	18	21

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

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

Code of Conduct	Corporate Parenting
Welfare Reforms	South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Medium Term Financial Plan	Secondary Rationalisation
Nant Llesg	

CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY

10 Ward Surgeries held throughout the ward. Other than surgeries, residents are able to contact me by telephone or by e-mail.

With my ward colleague, Cllr Eluned Stenner we held monthly surgeries with the Neighbourhood Policing Team. These surgeries took the form of street surgeries where notices were posted door to door a few days before hand and we then called on any residents who placed the notice in their window. During the past year, surgeries were held monthly on a Saturday morning, except during August & December. During these surgeries, we picked up countless queries and concerns about a wide range of issues including housing, litter, anti social behaviour, parking, dog fouling as well as more individual concerns from local residents. Joint surgeries with the Police were very useful in ensuring that concerns from residents were tackled whether they were council or policing concerns or, as is the case very often, a mixture of both.

I received most queries & complaints by phone and these were responded to and taken up on behalf of residents. There was a very wide range of issues dealt with on a weekly basis. Some of these are straight forward, others were more in depth and required site meetings, liaison with our AM or MP or other agencies

In March 2013, Cllr Stenner & I undertook a questionnaire / survey in New Tredegar to ascertain whether residents still required traffic calming measures. An excellent response was received by knocking door to door and the results were fed back to the highways department and implemented in line with the wishes of the majority of residents.

Ward Newsletters were also produced approximately 3 times a year and delivered to the 2200 properties in the ward.

I attended the ward PACT meetings at White Rose Resource Centre where along with my ward colleague Cllr Eluned Stenner and the ward Policing team, we discussed issues of concern to local residents, mainly anti social behaviour and worked out between us how best the issues can be resolved. Regular ad hoc meetings are held with the Policing team to discuss and find ways of resolving matters of concern.

Concerns & Queries about housing related issues were frequent and I have a good working relationship with local housing officers that helps when finding a resolution in these cases. In addition, meetings were often held at the Area Housing Office to discuss general matters of concern in the ward.

I have been Secretary of Phillipstown Residents and Community Association and later Phillipstown Community House from its inception in 1987 until its 25th anniversary in September 2012. During my last few months with the Association, I was actively involved in the planning and organising of a community carnival to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. Other events included a charity show and street parties.

As Secretary of the New Tredegar Communities' Partnership during the past year, I had been actively involved with a sub group of the Partnership in planning a Community Event & Fireworks Display to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. I am also involved with another of the Partnership's sub groups in trying to secure a play park for New Tredegar. Almost £120,000 has been raised in grants towards this project and following meetings with Welsh Government, council officers and local residents, a lease for the land and appropriate planning permission has been secured, we now hope to be on site in Summer 2013.

I am a volunteer Director of White Rose Resource Centre, New Tredegar and along with my fellow directors we met monthly to oversee the work of the centre and provided a steer for the future direction of the centre and its staff.