

# ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2012 - MAY 2013



Councillor James Pritchard

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**ELECTORAL WARD:** Morgan Jones

**PARTY:** Labour

## COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council

Education for Life Scrutiny Committee

## SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee - I attended 3 out of 3 meetings

Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group - I attended 2 out of 2 meetings

## OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Young Persons Forum

## SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Caerfilli

Plasyfelin Primary

## 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
Education for Life	8	9

## **TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

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

Code of Conduct

Licensing

Welfare Reforms

Medium Term Financial Plan

Corporate Parenting

## **CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY**

In August 2012 I set up a ward surgery running on the first and second Thursday of every month in Caerphilly Library. To date I conducted 23 surgeries and have met with an average of two people per surgery. The surgeries offered a good opportunity to speak to people in a safe and warm environment however most of my engagement comes through knocking doors in the ward. This was done twice a week and was also used as an opportunity to drop off surgery notices.

I knocked on an average of 300 doors per month and as a result was made aware of far more issues than if I'd simply waited for people to contact me. Through door – knocking alone I made hundreds of enquiries on behalf of residents not only with Caerphilly Council but with Welsh Water, Arriva Trains Wales, Natural Resources Wales, Gwent Police, The Fire Service, Welsh Assembly Government, Royal Mail and Supermarkets. I ensured that I kept all constituents informed of the enquiries made usually by letter. Since my election in May 2012 I wrote 300 letters mainly to constituents in response to my investigations on their behalf.

In December 2012 I advertised and organised a public event in the Ward. The intention of the event was to ask anybody to come along and speak to me about the issues affecting them personally or their community. A number of sheets were left on tables for constituents to fill in and space was left for anybody to air their views. The information was very beneficial and provided a good guide to local opinion.

I arranged and attended a number of meetings in my ward. These meetings were in the form of site meetings to discuss possible planning developments, environmental matters, housing concerns, road safety and school developments. I met with housing representatives and local residents who were concerned that facilities at a sheltered housing complex were not uniform. Residents were pleased that upgrades to housing were made after the meeting.

I attended PACT meetings and regularly liaised with the police about various matters. After contacting CCBC Officers, Gwent Police were the second most prevalent point of contact primarily with regard to speeding and anti-social behaviour issues. I also knocked doors with the Police to ask residents specifically if there are any issues in the area after local intelligence suggested there was. I think this proved useful to both the police and myself.

As a member of Caerphilly Town Council I attended all but one meeting since my election in May 2012 and I regularly raised issues affecting the community. Working with colleagues on the Town Council we reviewed and approved numerous applications to assist various local schemes, clubs and organisations in the area. I valued my membership of the Town Council immensely as its meetings concentrated on local matters and primarily concerned issues that people raised to me on the doorstep.

As governor on Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Caerfilli and Plasyfelin Primary Schools I worked closely with the Head Teachers, this was a rewarding privilege and I took those matters before the Governing Body seriously. I also contacted Ysgol Y Castell, another school in my ward and met with the Head Teacher to discuss road safety issues in Heol Trecastell. Regarding the above concern, I had also spoken to parents of children attending Ysgol Y Castell about the parking / road safety issues during the school run to help boost public awareness.

I attended meetings of the newly formed Heol Trecastell Residents Association and assisted in taking issues forward.

I produced a regular newsletter for all ward members and if there was a particular matter of interest I produced an additional leaflet specifically relating to that concern and the outcome achieved. To further keep constituents up to date with my activities I have set up a facebook and twitter account. In an age of increasing social media I think it is important to reach out to people in ways that were previously unthinkable.