

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2021 - MAY 2022



Councillor Colin Mann

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ELECTORAL WARD: Llanbradach

PARTY: Plaid Cymru – the Party of Wales

PROFILE: I am a member of the Plaid Cymru – the Party of Wales Group on Caerffili CBC. I am a member of Llanbradach and Pwllpant Community Council. I am also a member of the Llanbradach Community Centre Management Committee.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council
Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Democratic Services Committee
Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
Appointments Committee
Governance & Audit Committee
Standards Committee

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

Community Council Liaison Sub Committee

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Gwent Police and Crime Panel (Vice Chair)
Member of the Board of Caerphilly Groundwork Trust
Chair of the Board of Data Cymru - via the Welsh Local Government Association – (formerly Local Government Data Unit-Wales)

Member of the Trustee Board of Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Citizens Advice Bureau
Member of the LGA Independent Group Executive (Group includes Plaid members)
Member of the IDeA Peer Clearing House
Chair of the Caerffili and District Twinning Association

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni
Ysgol Bro Sannan

ATTENDANCE

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

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

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Gwent Public Services Board (seminar)
Team Caerphilly (seminar)
Elected Members Safety (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. This has been carried out via email, phone and social media as appropriate. More enquiries are now being made via social media, including several WhatsApp groups

I do not hold formal surgeries, as my constituents prefer to contact me in person or by social media, phone or email.

Over the past 12 months, in addition to dealing with individual issues, eg housing, litter, highway problems, etc I undertook the following constituency activities and achieved the following positive outcomes for my ward -

Llanbradach Surgery / Centre for Health. After a very long campaign constituents were finally able to use the new GP surgeries in the Llanbradach Centre for Health. As a matter of record, I believe that I sent the first email asking for a new centre in the last century – as far back as 1998. It is impossible to keep count of the vast number of emails, phone calls and meetings made over this period. In addition, two large petitions were submitted to the Health Board.

The Centre was officially opened by the then Chief Executive of the Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Ms Judith Paget. I also spoke in support of Ms Paget (Judith)

As your local county councillors Rob Gough and I were particularly grateful for the support we had from the Judith Paget over the many years the project took to come to completion.

Apollo has constructed a building which now provides modern up-to-date facilities which our constituents richly deserve after putting up with sub-standard facilities over many years. It is still a disappointment that, due to what were termed as 'minor amendments', the commitment to re-use some of the stone from the former Church Hall was dropped. This decision was taken by planners without our knowledge. Although we have both received an apology, the apology does not re-dress what we strongly feel is a detriment to the new building. Other construction changes mean that the exterior of the building is not as attractive as it might otherwise have been. We now look forward to the two GP practices providing more services to their patients as was promised prior to scheme being completed.

Tynygraig footbridge. Progress on the scheme to replace the former footbridge is still painfully slow. After much pressure via emails and meetings, plus several letters to the Chief Executive of Transport for Wales some progress is finally being made and a formal planning application is expected to go ahead in the foreseeable future. This will be very much welcomed by the large number of people who used the bridge.

Llanbradach Calendars. I continue to work with Andrew King to produce the Llanbradach Past and Present calendars. I would like to complement Andrew on his technical expertise in producing the print-ready copy whilst I concentrate on the sales. Sales of this year's calendars have again raised several hundred pounds as the calendars were well supported by both local and ex-pats of Llanbradach living literally all over the world. Donations to local causes have yet to be finally decided, but our defibrillators and local organisations for our young people and schools are likely to benefit.

Special thanks to all the shops and clubs who have stocked the calendars and thanks, of course, to everyone who has bought copies. As mentioned above, copies of the calendars are literally sent all over the world to people with Llanbradach connections

Llanbradach Partnership. Unfortunately, due to inactivity the Partnership has now ceased to exist.

Newsletters. Together with Councillor Gough and other colleagues, I have distributed newsletters on a variety of subjects to various groups of residents.

Twinning Activities. I have again represented Llanbradach & Pwllypant Community Council on the Caerffili & District Twinning Association and am presently Chairing the Association's committee. At the time of writing, the Association is planning the 2022 visit in the hope that the Covid situation will have eased enough to enable the visit to ahead. This will be the first exchange since 2019. We look forward to belatedly celebrating the 25th anniversary of signing the twinning agreement with our Breton friends in 1995.

Unfortunately, the Llanbradach junior footballers have also had their twinning exchanges with AFC Serval in Brittany put on hold.

The Association is always looking to welcome new members. Please get in touch with me if you would like further details, either by phone, social media or email, as per my details above. New members will have the opportunity to enjoy a visit to Brittany with the Association next year.

Llanbradach Football Club. It is good to see that the club continues to flourish and provides an interest for a very large number of youngsters - from under 8s to under 18s. The club gives a warm welcome to anyone who can offer help. There are many ways to do this.

Schools. I keep in touch with both local schools and support their activities whenever possible. Together with others in the area, our teachers are still coping with the difficulties created during the Covid pandemic.

Park and Ride. We are still awaiting any firm proposals in relation to this scheme. We fully support the idea of persuading commuters to travel to Cardiff by train, but we have asked for a review of the scheme due to the substantial change in commuting patterns since the pandemic. A review is ongoing to re-assess the need for the scheme post-pandemic and we await the conclusions of this.

The proposals for a very large scheme on the site seem particularly irrelevant now and are just unacceptable to your councillors and to our constituents.

Garth Owen. I keep in touch with staff at the house, which provides much needed accommodation for 16 and 17 year old youngsters who cannot live at home for a variety of reasons. The home also helps prepare young people to live independently. Garth Owen is run by Llamau, and the staff are always willing to explain more about their work to interested visitors. I am happy to give contact details for anyone interested in the work of Garth Owen and Llamau. It was good to see that Garth Owen again benefited from a Christmas tree donated by Veg of Evans in Ystrad Mynach. Grateful thanks to Susanne and Simon.

Community Empowerment Fund. This is money allocated to each ward in the county to benefit priorities decided locally. To date some money has gone towards the latest defibrillator for the Cwm Glas estate which will make five in total across the ward. Another scheme being supported is a proposal by the Llanbradach Junior Football Club for Keep Fit equipment. It is hoped that this will be completed before too long.

NOTE. If any resident or voluntary organisation in our area has ideas for improving both Llanbradach and Pwllypant please get in touch. There is quite a wide range of schemes that could be considered.

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