

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2022 - MAY 2023



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 Pwllypant Community Council. I am also a member of the Llanbradach Community Centre Management Committee.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council
Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Democratic Services Committee
Appointments 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/mgUserAttendanceSummary.aspx?LLL=0>

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Code of Conduct Training

Information Governance and Data Protection Training

Introduction to Social Services and Housing

Unconscious Bias/Protected Characteristics Equalities Training

Developments of National Significance Seminar

Performance Framework and Corporate Plan Seminar

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Seminar

Houses in Multiple Occupation Seminar

WARD ACTIVITY

Over the past year I have continued carrying out my role as a Councillor, representing my community and providing assistance where needed. 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. This facility has now been open for over 12 months. There were times during our very long campaign for the Centre that we wondered if it would happen. A note of disappointment is that the general shortage of GPs means that there are times when the Centre struggles to be adequately staffed.

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 planning permission has been granted. It is very disappointing that progress is now being delayed due to protracted negotiations over land. The completion of the bridge will be very much welcomed by the large number of people who formally used it.

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 will be given locally mainly to benefit our young people - to our local schools, to the football club and youth activities in Ebenezer church.

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

Newsletters. Together with Councillor Enright 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 looking forward to our visit to our friends in Brittany. The sequence was of course interrupted by the pandemic.

Llanbradach junior footballers welcomed a team from ACC Servel at the end of May. The visit marked the delayed 25th anniversary of the exchange between the clubs. I particularly welcome these activities as it gives our young people the chance for an experience that they would not otherwise have.

The Twinning 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.

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.

The club is looking forward to improving its headquarters building with the installation of solar panels in the near future.

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 aftermath of 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.

Community Empowerment Fund. This is money allocated to each ward in the county to benefit priorities decided locally. Unfortunately the sum was reduced this year. To date money has gone towards the latest defibrillator for the Cwm Glas estate. There are now seven defibrillators across the ward, including the station. We are possibly the best provided

community in the borough for these machines. We all hope of course that the circumstances that need the machines will not occur.

The Keep Fit equipment has now been completed at Cwm Glas field. We are hoping to use this fund to help with the installation of solar panels for Llanbradach football club and Pwllpant Village Hall.

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

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