

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2013 - MAY 2014



Councillor Hefin David

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ELECTORAL WARD: St. Cattwg

PARTY: Labour

PROFILE:

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council

Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee (Chairman)

Democratic Services Committee

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee (Chairman)

Investigating and Disciplinary Committee (Chairman) (until April 2014)

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

Bryn Compost Liaison Group

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Tiryberth Village Hall Management Committee (Chairman)

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Glyngaer Primary School

Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre (Vice Chairman)

ATTENDANCE

From May 2013 to May 2014 my attendance at Council meetings was as follows:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>No. Attended</u>	<u>No. Held</u>
Council	8	9
Crime and Disorder	2	2
Policy and Resources	7	8
Democratic Services	3	5

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

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

South Wales Programme Presentation	E Voting
Private Sector Housing	Medium Term Financial Plan
Common Housing Register	
Questioning and Listening Skills	Holding Effective Pre-Meetings
Chairing Skills	

CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY

Every week I dealt with casework for individuals and groups from every area of my ward. These involved a range of issues, including housing, planning, social, educational and environmental matters. I am available via telephone seven days a week and I ensure that my number is widely circulated.

Damp from condensation has been an increasing problem for properties in Gelligaer and I have worked closely with the council's housing team to try to resolve this. In January 2014, the council was able to secure funds to externally insulate and re-render all of the council flats in Gelligaer. After this work was complete, many residents reported a significant reduction in damp problems and I was able to help residents address minor issues that had arisen as a result of the work. I will keep in touch with residents to monitor this. I will continue to work with the council so that all properties are improved in the area as part of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard.

The odour problems in Gelligaer and Penybryn generated by the activities at Bryn Composting at Gelliargwellt Uchaf Farm remain, although Natural Resources Wales report that the number of calls of complaint have reduced in the past year. In spite of any improvement, this is a continuing issue and I will continue to ensure that residents remain represented on the Bryn Compost Liaison Committee. In February 2014, my fellow ward members, our Assembly Member and I met with senior officers from Natural Resources Wales to discuss further action that can be taken to resolve this issue. I will campaign for further improvement in the coming year.

In my last report, I stated that, as Chairman of Tiryberth Village Hall Management Committee, I was involved in the successful application for a Big Lottery People and Places grant of nearly £400,000 in order to demolish and rebuild the Hall. The project is now well underway and due to be completed by the end of 2014. We hold regular meetings to assess progress and ensure that the work is completed on time and on budget. The volunteers on the Management Committee, who are all local residents, have given a great deal of time and effort to ensure that this project is successful.

As Chairman of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, I worked closely with members and officers to review council policies and find budget savings. This year, the Committee took evidence from campaigners against the Bedroom Tax and endorsed a set of proposals that would ease the impact of the Bedroom Tax on the most vulnerable. This was agreed unanimously by the cross party committee, over a series of three meetings and in cooperation with the tenant-led Caerphilly Homes Task Group. It is my intention to hold a meeting of the Committee at a community venue in the coming year, in order for members of the public to gain better access to meetings. The Committee will also be instrumental in helping find savings this year in the light of a significantly reduced council budget.