

# ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2013 - MAY 2014



Councillor Carl Cuss

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**ELECTORAL WARD:** Twyn Carno

**PARTY:** Labour

**PROFILE:** I am Secretary of the Pen y Dre Tenants & Residents Association, Secretary Rhymney Communities First Partnership, Member of Ael y Bryn Community Centre Management Committee

## **COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Council  
Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee  
Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee  
Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

## **SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS**

Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee  
Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel

## **OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS**

St Johns Cymru Wales  
Youth Forum

## **SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY**

Upper Rhymney Primary School  
Rhymney Comprehensive School

## **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	9	9
Crime and Disorder	2	2
Policy and Resources	8	8
Regeneration and Environment	7	8

## **TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

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

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation	South Wales Programme Presentation
E Voting	Private Sector Housing
Medium Term Financial Plan	
Freedom of Information and Data Protection	Planning (LDP Review)
Planning (PINS Presentation)	Holding Effective Pre-Meetings
Questioning and Listening Skills	

## **CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY**

I am a member of the Ael y Bryn Community Centre Management Committee and was also re-elected Secretary of the Pen y Dre Tenants & Residents Association.

I continue to, on a Quarterly basis, meet with the local Tenants & Residents Association, the police, community safety, dog warden, environmental health and the housing team to discuss and deal with issues in the ward.

I am currently working with GAVO and local residents to finalise the bid for a new play area at Ty Coch – all the technical issues have now been resolved e.g. on-going maintenance and insurance and we hope to be in a position very soon to submit.

I have worked with the Allotments Group in Rhymney to support them with getting funding for a number of projects within the Allotments.

I have worked closely with the Upper Rhymney Valley Anglers with issues and support their ongoing projects.

Held various public meetings with residents concerning community safety issues within the ward and have worked collaboratively with Gwent Police, the council and other agencies to tackle these issues.

Met with Heritage Lottery, Cabinet Member Cllr Ken James and Council Officers and applied for Round 1 of the townscape heritage grants programme with the Heritage Lottery Fund to address the Butetown roofs and associated works. Also to incorporate works on the Union Iron Works Site near the Rhymney House Hotel to further enhance and strengthen the

funding application. Round 1 has been granted and we are working towards getting round 2 approval which should be known next year.

I continue to make representations about Susannah Houses behind Pen y Dre about the condition of the cottages –planning application has been submitted and is still waiting to be determined to renovate the buildings.

I am a member of the PACE Group which is a collaboration of agencies and local authorities within Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly to look at the issues with “Meow-Meow” Class B drug and the effects on our young people. As a result of this group, a film has been produced by the group called The Good Drug Dealer which has had national recognition.

I held surgeries in the community centre and held special surgeries about the Nant Llesg Planning Application. I have also submitted a petition to Council recently about the Open Cast Mine Application on behalf of residents.

Worked with officers and the relevant Cabinet Member to seek funding for regeneration works for Rhymney. We have been successful in obtaining 1 million pounds from the Vibrant and Viable Places Fund.

Recently met with other Councillors, Huw Lewis AM and Edwina Hart AM to discuss a long term strategy for the A469 road Pontlotyn-New Tredegar. We are still working with Welsh Government to pursue this strategy.

Presented awards to the Table Tennis Club at Ael y Bryn and also the Haylemma Centre Horse Riding School Awards Night in Rhymney and presented the awards to the local volunteers.

Attended the Launch of the new Integrated Health and Social Care Centre in Rhymney opened by HRH Prince Edward also local members and our MP Dai Havard was in attendance.

Attended the Launch of the new repaint scheme at the CFE along with other Councillors, AM Huw Lewis, MP Dai Havard and Derek Vaughan MEP.

I attended PACT Meetings in order to highlight local concerns.

I attended the Upper Rhymney Valley Cluster Meetings and am actively involved with the new Communities First Programme.