

# ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2013 - MAY 2014



Councillor Colin Durham

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**ELECTORAL WARD:** Ynysddu

**PARTY:** Labour

## **COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Council

Education for Life Scrutiny Committee

Licensing Committee (until April 2014)

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

21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Working Group

## **OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS**

Caerphilly Home-Start – Trustee

Lower Sirhowy Valley Partnership

Ynysddu Local Flood Prevention Group

Ynysddu Rugby Football Club

Ynysddu Workingmen's Club

## **SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY**

Ynysddu Primary School LA Governor

## **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	7	9
Education for Life	5	8

## TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

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

Area Forum Expenditure	E Voting
Medium Term Financial Plan	Community Leadership
South Wales Programme Presentation	Medium Term Financial Plan
Planning (LDP Review)	Planning (PINS Presentation)
Planning (New Permitted Development Rights)	Charing Skills
Common Housing Register	
Private Sector Housing	Assertiveness
Freedom of Information and Data Protection	Equalities and Diversity

## CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY

Ty Llwyn Quarry, Ynysddu - Many residents of Ynysddu will know that the quarry above Ynysddu was used as an unauthorized dump of industrial waste materials back in 1969 and 1970. The Council, who took over the responsibility of monitoring and assessing the site, closed it down. Due to the severe weather last winter there was some liquid run-off from the site. The Council-owned woodland area below the site at which liquid was leaching out was taped off. We have just been notified by the Council's Environmental Health Department that *'the latest monitoring of the soil in the community woodland shows no concerns relating to public health'*. We have been told that monitoring will continue. For the sake of openness and transparency, a residents committee is to be re-convened and a newsletter issued with an up to date report on the repair work and monitoring.

Contractors who built Woodside Walk in Wattsville have gone into liquidation before finishing the site. Residents have been kept updated on the actions taken by the Council's Legal Department in a dispute over resurfacing. Intervention by our local MP Chris Evans was requested and who has subsequently been proactive in assisting the residents.

Our children and young people of the valley will be able to enjoy organised play activities throughout the summer. Also, free tennis during the summer holidays on the Ynysddu tennis courts again this year. As one of your local Councillors, I have been working with the Friends of Ynysddu Youth, the local Partnership Committee and local Youth Clubs.

When visiting Ynysddu Youth Club it became evident that the youth club's back room had been taken over by a private nursery and the building was in need of some attention. Following intervention of the local councilors, the club now has new furniture, equipment and a face lift. The youth leaders are now able to use both the front and back room and the club now feels revitalized with increased attendance by the young people of the surrounding villages.

Two drainage schemes in Wyllie - where the mountain lane opens onto Heol-Y-Coed and the slip road leading from Pen-y-Cwarel Road to The Glades - saved houses from flooding last winter. A small scheme can save such a lot of misery before the severe winter storms.

When residents reported foul smelling discharges along the cycle path near Pont Lawrence, Cwmfelinfach, the relevant authorities were requested to investigate. Natural Resources Wales carried out tests into the cause, which was a blockage and results determined there was no danger to public health.

Tree planting and landscaping at the back of Glen View Terrace and Caerllwyn Terrace has now been completed with the help of our local primary schools and a bench funded by the Local Partnership Committee has been installed. This has developed a run down overgrown area into one that can be enjoyed by the community and encourage local wildlife.

Ongoing, is the push to raise funding to refurbish Ynysddu local children's play area, to possibly also include new equipment in the adjacent area for our older children via association with Lower Sirhowy Partnership and GAVO.

Attended several local events throughout the ward held by local community groups in halls, churches and community centres