

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2013 - MAY 2014



Councillor Gerald Jones

ADDRESS: 71 Derlwyn Street
Phillipstown
New Tredegar
Caerphilly County Borough
NP24 6AZ

TELEPHONE: 01443 834354

EMAIL ADDRESS: geraldjones@caerphilly.gov.uk

ELECTORAL WARD: New Tredegar

PARTY: Labour

PROFILE:

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Housing and Anti Poverty & Homeless Person Champion.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council

Cabinet

Appointments Committee (Chief Officer Related Posts/Heads of Service)

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

Cabinet Sub Committee (Welsh Housing Quality Standard)

Caerphilly Homes Task Group

Joint Consultative Committee

Poverty Action Group

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Association of Public Services Excellence (formerly ADLO) - Welsh Regional Committee

Care and Repair - Caerphilly

Consortium of Local Authorities Wales (CLAW)

Joint Council For Wales

Local Government Association

Welsh Local Government Association

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Chair of Governors at White Rose Primary School

Vice Chair at Phillipstown Primary 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
Cabinet	19	22

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

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

Area Forum Expenditure	Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation
South Wales Programme Presentation	E Voting
Private Sector Housing	Medium Term Financial Plan
Community Leadership	Managing Conflict
Equalities and Diversity	Appointments

CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY

9 Ward Surgeries held throughout the ward. Other than surgeries, residents are able to contact me by telephone or by e-mail.

Along with my ward colleague, Cllr Eluned Stenner we continued our monthly surgeries with the Neighbourhood Policing Team. These surgeries took the form of street surgeries where notices were posted door to door a few days before hand and we then called on any residents who placed the notice in their window. During the past year, surgeries were held monthly, usually on a Saturday morning, except during August & December. During these surgeries, we picked up countless queries and concerns about a wide range of issues including housing, litter, anti social behaviour, parking, dog fouling as well as more individual concerns from local residents. Joint surgeries with the Police were very useful in ensuring that concerns from residents were tackled whether they were council or policing concerns or, as is the case very often, a mixture of both.

I received most queries & complaints by phone and these were responded to and taken up on behalf of residents. There was a very wide range of issues dealt with on a weekly basis. Some of these are straight forward, others were more in depth and required site meetings, liaison with our AM or MP or other agencies

I attended the regular ward PACT meetings at White Rose Resource Centre where along with my ward colleague Cllr Eluned Stenner and the ward Policing team, we discussed issues of concern to local residents, mainly anti social behaviour and worked out between us how best the issues can be resolved. Regular ad hoc meetings are held with the Policing team to discuss and find ways of resolving matters of concern.

Due to concerns expressed by residents in Glyn Syfi sheltered complex, Cllr Stenner & I have held a number of meetings in the communal lounge at the complex to discuss issues of

concern with the residents at the complex. Further meetings are planned on a quarterly basis throughout 2014.

In February 2014, residents and businesses in New Tredegar were inconvenienced by the closure of the A469 north of New Tredegar. The road was closed for 2 months. As local councillors, we met with council officers to keep abreast of the progress on site. Throughout the closure, we sent weekly updates to local businesses and to those residents we had e-mail addresses for. In addition, we placed weekly notices in local post offices and shops.

As local councillors, we have been working with Cabinet Members, Council officers and our Assembly Member to look for a sustainable solution to the road network north of New Tredegar. Edwina Hart AM has recently announced funding to undertake a feasibility study to look at what options are available.

Ward Newsletters were also produced approximately 3 times a year and delivered to the 2200 properties in the ward updating residents on matters of interest.

Concerns & Queries about housing related issues were frequent and I have a good working relationship with local housing officers that helps when finding a resolution in these cases. In addition, meetings were often held at the Area Housing Office to discuss general matters of concern in the ward.

As Secretary of the New Tredegar Communities' Partnership during the past year, I have been actively involved with a sub group of the Partnership to secure a play park for New Tredegar. The Park was officially opened in September 2013 by the Deputy Mayor & the Welsh Government Minister.

Cllr Stenner & I have met with parents and young people in the ward and have identified a need for a new skate park. New Tredegar Partnership has recently agreed to take this forward and is currently consulting with the community before submitting funding applications.

I am a volunteer Director of White Rose Resource Centre, New Tredegar and along with my fellow directors we met monthly to oversee the work of the centre and provided a steer for the future direction of the centre and its staff.