



Elected Member Annual Report - 2013/14

Councillor Rob Jones

Electoral Division: Margam

This is my second report since I took office as the Councillor for the Margam Ward of Port Talbot. I am keen to ensure that people of the ward are kept informed as to what their councillor has been doing over the past year.

I continue to serve on several committees namely:-
The Children, Young Peoples and Education
Democratic Services
Appeals Panel
Safer NPT members briefing Group

I was also appointed onto the following joint council or outside bodies:-
Joint Resilience Committee
Margam Joint Crematorium
Margam Opencast Site Liaison Committee
TATA Steel Joint Consultative Group

I was fortunate to be made the Chairman of the Planning and Development control committee.

I continue to serve as an LEA Governor on both Coed Hirwaun Primary and Dyffryn Comprehensive schools with each school presenting different challenges.

I am pleased to say that the work I helped to undertake on the Task and Finish group for the replacement of the Afan Lido has now come to fruition with the authority having announced the start date for the development that will bring a 21st Century swimming facility for the Port Talbot seafront.

I have been consulted on over 118 various planning applications for the ward from house extensions to tree preservation order applications, an increase on last year by nearly 60%

I was pleased to be involved with the Save the Morfa Beach campaign and give evidence to the planning inspector at the public inquiry on behalf of the group. This combined with others, successfully lead to a victory in keeping footpath 92 open for access to Morfa Beach. The group was made up of a cross section from



the local and wider community. It shows what can be achieved when we all pull together no matter what your politics are.

I think it's fair to say that in the past year I have again dealt with a very mixed cross section of complaints from residents throughout the ward. I still await some resolutions like the signs for Ty Groes/ College Green to be erected but the good news is that they have been approved; I am just waiting for them to be done.

I have and continue to work with the following organisations to address issues that they have encountered, not all of which I hasten to add have received a favourable outcome: Coed Hirwaun Community Assoc. Coed Hirwaun PTA, Margam Village Football and Margam United Football clubs, Bertha Rd. Community Centre, Bryndu Equestrian Group, St David's Resident Assoc. Friends of Taibach Library, Groes Primary School, Friends of Morfa Beach

I was successful in assisting the local shopkeepers and residents of Margam with the campaign to prevent the authority from placing speed restriction (sleep policemen) on the A48 Margam Rd

I have been holding regular PACT meetings at the Round Chapel vestry in Tollgate. (Normally the 1st Thursday every other month see local posters)

This year has also seen the worst ever budget settlement for the authority. It has meant severe financial cuts in many areas mostly in the environment directorate of the authority. This has impacted hugely on many organisations and difficult decisions have and continue to be made. In saying that I continue to fight for resources in the area.

I can only work on your behalf if you inform me and let me know what problems you are facing.

I hope that this reminds you that I am here working for you and the community

Yours sincerely,

Rob Jones