

This is my third 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 within the Authority and likewise I attend several joint Council and outside bodies joint Committees, one being the TATA Steel Joint Consultative Group. This year sees no change in the numerous complaints I have received about dust pollution and fallout in the Margam area and I encourage people to ring the TATA complaint line on **0800 1386560** AND NRW on **0800 807060** to report incidents. When ringing the later make sure you obtain a complaint reference number. It is NRW (Natural Resources Wales) who licence TATA to operate not the Council although during our joint meeting both I and my colleagues who sit on this group ensure that your complaints are brought forward.

I continue to serve as an LEA Governor and Vice Chair on both **Coed Hirwaun Primary** and **Dyffryn Comprehensive** schools governing bodies. I am pleased to announce that through many years of hard work, Dyffryn Comp. has this year been promised a new school built on one site, ensuring that it is a fit school for the 21st Century having been at the lower school for over 100 years and the Bertha Rd site since 1966. There is a lot of work to do before construction begins in a year or two's time.

Many people have raised questions about the new construction taking place near to the roundabout at the beginning of the PDR road. This is the **Bio Mass2** plant under construction. People have been surprised when I have told them that planning permission was granted over 5 years ago by the Planning Inspectorate against the Local authority's recommendation for a refusal to grant the application.

Planning applications in the area have fallen over the last year although one successful major application took place on the **Kenfig Industrial Estate** Water St Margam with the Wernick Group investing over 4 million pounds and securing 80 jobs at their new headquarters on the estate.

It was also pleasing to see that finally, after working with members of the **St David's Park** residents association we managed to get the remaining part of the private sewer system adopted by **Welsh Water** so that area now has after many years peace of mind when it comes to the drains, now moving forward for the roads and lighting (I hope).

Likewise working with the residents of **Ty Groes / College Green** I have finally managed to get the road signage installed and it appears to be having a fair measure of success with the parking, and I have now turned my attention to **Bertha Rd** to attempt to alleviate the parking problems in that area. New road signage has also been placed in the **Pen Y Bryn, Bryndu** area of Margam to warn road users of the large amount of horse traffic through the narrow lanes in that area and for drivers to reduce speed along certain parts of that road network. New signage has also been installed in and around **Ten Acre Woods / Margam Park**. Road repairs and road surfacing work continues through the ward this year concentrating in the **Bryndu, Margam Rd (A48) and Ten Acre Wood** area. I have also had installed a loading bay outside the Coop in **Tollgate** to accommodate the large lorries and the parking bays

repainted. The loading bay is very much a hit and miss dependant on the number of cars illegally using it in the mornings.

The Playing fields of **Coed Hirwaun** received some unwanted guests several months ago in the form of Gypsy Travellers and working with the community and officers of the local authority they were soon moved. Using the social media of the **PTFA and CHCA** websites I managed to ensure that this particular part of the Margam community was kept informed as to developments. It was also great to attend the very successful "Got Talent" event held on the "Green" recently.

Many of you will have noticed the new Wind Turbine on **Newlands Farm**, this has produced a pot of money for community benefits upon which groups and organisations can apply for small grants for use within the **Margam area ONLY**. Please contact me if you want more details.

Finally certain parts of the ward have been overrun with little furry rodents this year and where this has occurred in open spaces the council has dealt with the matter, but I must remind you that should this take place at your residence then there is a one off charge.

I continue to fight for our share of resources even against these severe financial times where that's all we are dealing with is cuts, cuts, cuts under these austerity measures.

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