

2014-2015 Annual Report of Councillor Michael Harvey Coedffranc North.

Roles and Responsibilities

During the year 2014-2015 I have been a member of Neath Port Talbot Council's Democratic Services, Audit, Special Appointments, Cabinet Scrutiny and Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committees. I have attended the two meetings held of the Democratic Services Committee, four out of the five Audit Committee meetings held, seven out of the eight Special Appointments Panel meetings, fourteen of the sixteen Cabinet Scrutiny Committee meetings held and nine out of the ten meetings held of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee. In relation to the Full Council I have attended fifteen of the seventeen meetings held. Therefore I have attended fifty one of the fifty eight meetings of the committees I was allocated to in the past year - an 88% attendance rate.

I am also a member of Coedffranc Community Council and have regularly attended at Community Council meetings and also at sub- committee meetings.

I have made a contribution to all the committees I am on and have never been afraid to speak my mind.

Since 2004 I have been the Chair of Governor's for Neath Abbey Infants School. I take this responsibility very seriously. I rarely miss a governing body meeting - full or subcommittee.

During the year 2014 - 2015 the decision was made to amalgamate Neath Abbey Infants School and Mynachlog Nedd Junior School into one primary school. Both these schools I attended as a child. An interim governing body was formed and I was honoured to be selected by my fellow governors to be the Chair of the interim governing body to oversee the transition into one primary school.

Abbey Primary will open in September.

I regularly attend governor training, meetings with the Local Education Authority and Director of Education and Governor's Association meetings. I have also been a regular attender at PACT Meetings held for the Coedffranc Wards.

Community Activity

In the past year I held street surgeries every month apart from December and January (because of horrific weather conditions). These surgeries allow me to meet the public and to visit all the streets in my ward and see first-hand any problems. I have had a good response to these surgeries and they will continue in 2015-2016.

I have dealt with many issues in the past year e.g. flooding, speeding, yellow lines, parking issues, blocked drains, highway issues, Japanese knotweed, potholes, fly tipping, uneven footpaths, street lighting, anti-social behaviour, overgrown trees, etc. I have had double yellow lines marked on the road surface at the junction of

Woodland Road and Brookeville Drive following complaints made by residents about vehicles parking on the junction. Following consultation with residents I agreed to the speed limit from the Bowens Arms Public House to the Travellers Well Public House to be reduced to 30 miles per hour from 40. In the past year the road surface in Sidings Terrace was also resurfaced.

I have continued to build good links and meet with local groups e.g. youth groups, old age pensioner groups etc. and give advice and help if needed to these groups.

I have published a newsletter every quarter to update people and to circulate the dates of my street surgeries. These have been delivered to every street and virtually to every dwelling in my ward.

Learning and Development

I have attended at councillor training events and at seminars to broaden my knowledge on council issues.

As Chair of Governor's I have regularly attended at Governor Training.

Initiatives and Special Activities.

During the past year I have worked with residents of Dynevor Road to tackle a serious problem of fly tipping in the lane at the rear of Dynevor Road. Persons had dumped baths, fridges, freezers and other items in the lane much to the annoyance of local residents. I circulated a letter to all homes backing onto the lane in question to highlight the problem and to ask the local residents to keep an eye out to try and detect the persons responsible for the fly tipping. I also liaised with Action Wales and the media to highlight the problem.

Following the actions taken there have been no further incidents of fly tipping.

In the financial year 2014/2015 work was carried out on Drummau in an attempt to stop the water cascading down Ormes Road and Newall Road when it rains heavily and this has improved the situation.

As stated in the past year I was elected as Chair of the Interim Governing Body for the school formed by the amalgamation Neath Abbey Infants School and Mynachlog Nedd Junior School. The governing body has overseen the transition from two schools into one primary school and I have been involved in the interview process to short list and then appoint senior staff members i.e. the head and deputy head teachers and much of the decision making process.

My aim is to get a single site school for Abbey Primary School on the Old Rhydhir School site in Longford and I have already raised this issue with senior council officers working in the Education Directorate.

Other Activities and Interests

I have continued as the Referee Liaison Officer for the Ospreys Regional Rugby Team. My role involves looking after and being a single point of contact for all the match officials, including top international referees, who visit the Liberty Stadium. I also act as the link between Steve Tandy and the coaches and the officials. I am also a Skewen Rugby Football Club season ticket holder and have been for a number of years. I attend Skewen matches as and when my other commitments allow. I enjoy all sports and also taking my Shih Tzu dog Harry for long walks with my wife Debbie and family.