

Elected Member Annual Report - 2012/13

Councillor Mike Harvey

Electoral Division: Coedffranc North

Roles and Responsibilities:

During the year 2012-2013 I have been a Member of Neath Port Talbot Council's Democratic Services, Audit and Special Appointments Committees. I have regularly attended meetings of these committees. I have attended 3 out of 3 Democratic Services Committee meetings, 4 out of 4 Audit Committee meetings and in relation to Full Council meetings I have attended 9 out of 11.

I have missed 2 Full Council meetings. I missed the Full Council meeting in September due to a bereavement and the other Full Council meeting I missed was the May meeting. On this date I was representing Neath Port Talbot Council at an event in London.

I have in the past year represented Neath Port Talbot Council on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee. I attended the one meeting held of this committee.

I am also a Member of Coedffranc Community Council and have regularly attended at Community Council meetings. During the past year I was a member of the Community Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Estates Committee.

I have regularly contributed at all meetings I have attended.

Since 2004 I have been the Chair of Governor's for Neath Abbey Infants School. I take this responsibility very seriously. I regularly attend governing body meetings i.e. Full and Sub Committee meetings. I rarely miss a Governing Body meeting. I regularly attend governor training and at meetings with the Local Education Authority and Governor's Association.

Community Activity:

I have regularly held street surgeries in my ward. In the past year I held street surgeries every month apart from September (due to personal circumstances already outlined) December and January (because of horrific weather conditions). I have held 35 street surgeries in my first year and I have had a good response.

These surgeries have allowed me to meet people on their doorsteps, to listen to issues that are of concern to them and to address these issues.

I have dealt with many issues in the past year e.g. overgrown trees, flooding, blocked brooks, speed humps, yellow lines, parking issues, blocked drains, housing transfers, highway issues, Japanese knotweed, potholes, weeds, rats, dangerous buildings, dog bins, street lighting and anti-social behaviour.

I have met with many local groups during the past year and given advice, discussed issues and made presentations on my role and work as a councillor.

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

Learning and Development:

During the past year it has been very important for me to increase my knowledge of Council related issues and of departments within the Council. To achieve this I have regularly attended at councillor training seminars/sessions. From May to July 2012 Councillor Induction Training was held. Out of 17 training seminars/ sessions held for my role I attended 16, a 94% attendance rate.

As Chair of Governor's I have regularly attended Governor Training to expand my expertise and knowledge.

Initiatives and Special Activities:

During the past year I have been involved in a number of initiatives which have given me a great deal of satisfaction.

The first relates to Woodland Road back lane where, through my intervention, the surface was re-instated by Dwr Cymru at a better level of repair than had been there previously.

I was delighted to play a part in having the Old Depot in Park Avenue pulled down. This dilapidated landmark building had been an unsightly eyesore for a number of years and I had received numerous complaints about its dangerous condition. To see it demolished was great.

Also at Park Avenue, a number of properties had experienced flooding to their rear gardens for years. In addition a ground floor flat had also been flooded on a number of occasions. Through my interventions this problem which as stated had existed for years has been significantly reduced with the buildings now not experiencing flooding at times of heavy rain.

Other Activities and Interests:

I am the Referee Liaison Officer for the Ospreys Regional Rugby Team. This is a volunteer position and my role involves looking after and entertaining all the match officials, including top international referees who visit the Liberty Stadium.

I am also a Skewen Rugby Football Club season ticket holder and have been for a number of years. I attend matches when my other commitments allow.

July 2013