

2015-2016 Annual Report of Councillor Michael Harvey Coedffranc North.

Rolls and Responsibilities

During the year 2015-2016 I was a member of Neath Port Talbot Council's Audit Committee, Democratic Services Committee, Special Appointments Committee, Cabinet Scrutiny Committee and the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee. I was also a member of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee and the Corporate Parenting Panel. I was also a substitute for the Appeals Panel.

In the year 2015-2016 I attended five out of five of the Audit Committee meetings held. I attended one and missed one of the two meetings held of the Democratic Services Committee and attended nineteen of the twenty Cabinet Scrutiny Committee meetings held. In relation to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee of the 13 meetings held I attended eleven and in respect of Full Council meetings I have attended ten of the twelve meetings held. I attended all three meetings of the Corporate Parenting Panel and the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee held one meeting which I attended and as a substitute for the Appeals Panel I attended one meeting I was requested to attend.

Therefore out of the sixty committee meetings I was expected to attend in 2015 – 2016 I attended fifty one. This is an attendance rate of 85 per cent.

There were no meetings held of the Special Appointments meeting.

I also represented the council on the Neath Port Talbot Community Chest Committee which awards grants of up to £1500 to sporting clubs within the borough. I did not miss a meeting of this committee.

As a member of Coedffranc Community Council I have regularly attended at council meetings.

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

During the past year Neath Abbey Infants and Mynachllog Nedd Junior School amalgamated into one school and as a result the governing bodies of both schools also joined as one. I was thrilled and honoured to be selected by my fellow governors as the first Chair of Governors for the new Abbey Primary.

I regularly attend governor training and meetings with the Local Education Authority and Director of Education.

I have also attended at PACT Meetings held for the Coedffranc Wards.

Community Activity

In the past year I have continued to hold street surgeries which I have held since I was elected in May 2012. These allow me to meet the public and to visit all the streets in my ward. During the surgeries I see at first hand any problems in a street e.g. rubbish, weeds etc. and I arrange for any issues to be sorted out. I have held these surgeries every month apart from December and January.

I have had a good response to these surgeries and they will continue in 2016-2017.

I have dealt with many issues in the past year e.g. Japanese knotweed, overgrown rights of way, flooding, speeding, yellow lines, parking issues, blocked drains, highway issues, fly tipping, uneven footpaths, street lighting, anti-social behaviour, overgrown trees, etc.

I have also assisted constituents in accessing services they needed to have respite care and the road surfaces in a number of streets have been improved through resurfacing and potholes being filled in.

I have continued to enjoy a good relationship with local groups e.g. sporting clubs and 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. These will continue in 2016 -2017 as it is vital that residents are updated in respect of council issues, especially during these testing times when finance is a real issue.

Learning and Development

I have attended at councillor training events and at seminars when appropriate.

I also attend at Governor Training events

Initiatives and Special Activities.

During the past year I have worked with residents of Drummau Road and Sunnyland Crescent to solve a problem of dog mess being left under the dog bin on the path leading down from the Highlands to Dynevor Road.

Selected residents were circulated with a letter highlighting the issue and also the dog bin at this location was moved further away from the properties in Sunnyland Crescent. As a result of my initiative this problem has now been resolved.

A serious problem of fly tipping arose on open land at the rear of Ellens Row on top of Drummau to the annoyance of residents. Through my intervention the fly tipping was cleared up and a person was prosecuted for the offence.

During the year 2015/2016 work was carried out at Oakhill Park to solve a problem of water continually flowing down the hill to Dynevor Road. This has been a problem that has existed for years and at last this problem now appears to have been solved.

Work was also undertaken in Sidings Terrace to repair a culvert which was causing flooding in the vicinity of number 51 Sidings Terrace.

As already stated, in the past year I was elected by my fellow governors as the first Chair of Governors for Abbey Primary School and I will continue to do my best for the young people in this area.

My primary aim is to get a single site school for Abbey Primary School on the old Dwr y Felin Lower School site in Longford and I have continually raised this issue with senior council officers working in the Education Directorate.

I have attended meetings, including a public meeting, held to discuss the future of Skewen Library and I am determined that a library service will be kept for the people of Skewen and wider afield.

Other Activities and Interests

I enjoy all sports and also taking my Shih Tzu dog Harry for long walks with my wife Debbie and family.

I have continued as the Referee Liaison Officer for the Ospreys Regional Rugby Team a roll I have carried out for 10 years. My role involves being the 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 officials and look after the officials pre and post match. 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.