

Elected Member Annual Report - 2012/13

Councillor David Whitelock

Electoral Division: Bryn and Cwmafan

This is the first member's Annual Report that I have written since my election to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council as a member for the Bryn and Cwmafan Ward in May 2012.

As a new member, this has been a year of learning, about the workings and systems used and operated by the Authority, so I have made a special effort to attend as many training seminars and courses as possible, in an effort to become familiar with what may be expected of me as a councillor.

That said I would like to thank all the officers who have helped and assisted me to solve some of the problems within my ward during this last year. They have been patient with someone who asked perhaps some odd questions but were unfailingly polite and consistently helpful. To them go my grateful thanks. Without them I would be unable to do the work that has been achieved.

Roles and Responsibilities:

I have been appointed to the Registration and Licensing Committee, processing applications for taxi and taxi driver licences, as well as licences for dog and cat boarding kennels these meeting have seen us look at some very unusual vehicles in the civic centre car park.

I have also been made a member of the Planning Committee, with responsibility to determine planning applications in the light of reports and advice from planning officers, trying to ensure that any applications are within the appropriate guidelines, whilst always ensuring that I declare any interest in line with the advice of legal officers.

For my part in the Scrutiny of Council decisions, I have been appointed to the Social Care Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee; here we look at work being carried out in this sector which includes the work of NPT Homes and Grwp Gwalia.

Community Activity:

During this first year I have been able to address some of the difficulties in the ward such as the flooding and housing issues including allocation and repairs. In addition working with the street care team and other officers to improve the local area.

There are always small issues that crop up and by working with the officers I have been able to get these matters addressed. I hope that I have been approachable and easy to contact, holding regular monthly surgeries so that residents can bring their issues to me to try to get them resolved.

I am also active in my community I am still a member of Cwmafan Residents Action Committee, and I sit on the PCC of St Michaels Church in Cwmafan I also work closely with the Bryn Residents Action Group.

I am a governor of the Bryn and Pontrhydyfen Primary Schools, which is a particularly pleasing role, enabling me to have an input into the education of local children.

Learning and Development:

In this coming year I hope to undertake some further training to help me to be an effective representative of the people of Bryn & Cwmafan, and seeking to improve the lives of the people that I represent.

July 2012