

City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2014-2015

This Councillor's Annual Report outlines their activities over the year ending **18 May 2015**. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose. The views expressed in this report are those of the Councillor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the City and County of Swansea.

Councillor:	Mark Child	Electoral Division:	West Cross
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Cabinet / Executive Portfolio:	Cabinet Member for Wellbeing & Healthy City
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Section 1: Constituency activities

- Surgeries held every Monday in West Cross Community Centre, alternating attendance with fellow West Cross Councillor Des Thomas. The biggest single issue, as it has always been, was the lack of affordable housing. Did my best to help people present their case as well as possible, and this helped in some but by no means all cases.
- Conducted a number of Street surgeries across the ward.
- Surveyed residents about parking problems around Alderwood Road, have agreed a number of measures with residents, looking to bring as many forward as possible.
- Surveyed residents about 20 mph speed limit introduction for Sweet Briar Road, Ambleside and Kennilworth Place, and introduced it.
- Introduce 20mph limit on Fairwood Road outside Mayals School, as part of manifesto promise.
- Worked with officers of the council to prevent the improper and illegal use of the Recycling Stations in West Cross, particularly Warwick Place and Kenilworth Place, so that residents have a cleaner environment
- Worked with Mumbles Community Association (the joint arrangement between Mumbles Rangers Football Club and Mumbles Rugby Club) towards gaining a long term lease for Underhill Park so they were able to make much needed improvements, including speaking at a public meeting where the clubs and I were able to gain a great deal of community support.
- Member of Mumbles Forum.
- Beach Clean work organised by Mumbles Development Trust and Marine Conservation Society.
- Arranged for the removal of certain parking restrictions on Norton Road and Norton Avenue to free up room for local residents and businesses.
- Additionally I undertook a number of individuals cases.

Section 2: Councillor attendance at selected Council body meetings

Attendance at Council body meetings is only one of the important elements of a Councillor's duties. Councillors are also active by holding surgeries, attending meetings and dealing with general electoral division enquiries.

Attendance % based on Committee membership shown below:

Area 2 Development Control Committee	2	/	8	25	%
Cabinet	14	/	16	88	%
Council	17	/	17	100	%
Development Advisory Group	1	/	1	100	%

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Development Management & Control Committee	3	/	7	43	%
External Funding Panel	1	/	1	100	%
Gower AONB Partnership Group	2	/	5	40	%
OVERALL	40	/	55	73	%

Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

- Governor at Grange Primary school helped the school to deal with particular issues such as Finance and ICT.
- Vice Chair of Governors in Bishop Gore with special responsibility for Maths and safeguarding where I participated in the Estyn inspection of the school.
- Member of the Gower AONB partnership Group.
- Became a member of the ABMU Community Health Council.
- Member of the Board of the Wales National Pool.
- Attended and participated in UK and European Healthy Cities Conferences.
- Chaired Swansea's Healthy City Forum, where Council, Health, Police, Fire, 3rd Sector, Universities and other seek to improve the health of us all.
- Participated in the selection and awarding of Swansea annual sports awards.
- Member of Communities First Programme Board.
- Spoke at Conference on Collaborative Working between GPs and 3rd Sector in Swansea.
- Attended "Our Bay", a coastal management seminar for Swansea Bay.
- Member of Swansea Biodiversity Partnership.
- Provided evidence to various Scrutiny Committees.

Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

Worked with planning and housing officers to find options for more affordable housing in West Cross.

Participated in the presentation of Swansea's night-time offer to inspectors. This was part of our bid to gain Purple Flag status for its quality, safety and variety. Attended Purple Flag awards and received Swansea's flag.

Participated in "Giving every child the best start in life" seminar, where the current readiness for school of 3 year olds in Swansea was discussed and agreed on. Too many were not ready for a teacher to start teaching them. Have been working since on agreeing what needs to improve, and how to improve it. If we can help children and families be ready for school when they start, it will make a massive difference in their lives, in health, in education in work, in housing, in earnings etc. This is one of the key parts of my work as cabinet member.

Meetings with Mumbles Community Council about how to compensate for the cuts in Swansea Councils budget over the coming years. Disappointingly they decided to discontinue these.

Launched Local Area Co-ordination, a new scheme to help people remain safe, confident and independent in their communities. To reduce the need for Social Services or Health intervention in their lives. This way of working originates from Australia which has Local Area Co-ordinators within areas / communities, whose job it is to give guidance, information, encouragement and occasional support to older

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people, those with learning difficulties or who have a mental illness or disability to improve their wellbeing, their quality of life. They can also help build community capacity to include and involve such individuals. This is one of the most important elements of my portfolio, which I hope will benefit a large number of people across Swansea. In a time where council resources are being reduced, this initiative is even more important. We have introduced LACs in Gorseinon, Sketty and St Thomas / Bonymaen, and I hope I can find resources to expand the service.

Set up an initial meeting of Friends of Parks across Swansea, to link all the various groups, new and old, so they can learn from each other, and the council and others can give advice and assistance. Often money is available to these Groups for improvements which is not available to the council. This is becoming more important as the money available for Parks in Swansea is being reduced dramatically as Central Government imposes austerity.

Section 5: Learning and Development

I attended the following training sessions:

13/05/2015 – Media Training & Interview Skills

12/05/2015 – Anti-Slavery & Human Trafficking Awareness

26/11/2014 - Defamation

31/10/2014 - Safeguarding

In addition, I attended events in relation to:

Child Sexual Exploitation; Understanding Primary School data;

Wales AONB seminar on future of Designated Landscapes in Wales

Seminars on Local Government reorganisation; Licencing Training

Section 6: Other activities and issues

- Part of delegation that visited Nottingham City Council to gain understanding of various elements of their work and what they were succeeding in.
- Attended introduction of City Centre plan to local audience, assisted in presentation of City Centre plan to investors and financiers in City of London.
- Member of City Centre advisory group, where I am trying to ensure a healthy City centre, that means fewer cars, space for safe cycling and walking, green spaces and mini parks, a design where people feel they fit in, and well as it being inspiring.
- Attended Beaches stakeholder meetings to help design a destination management plan for our Blue Flag beaches.

Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Senior Salary: £32,000.00 Cabinet Member - Wellbeing & Healthy City

Councillors travel and subsistence claim forms can be viewed here:

<http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13266&path=0&LLL=0>

Councillors annual expenses and allowances can be viewed here:

<http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13284&path=0&LLL=0>

Date:	31.05.15
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