

# City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2015-2016

This Councillor's Annual Report outlines their activities over the year ending **18 May 2016**. 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.

<b>Councillor:</b> Wendy Fitzgerald	<b>Electoral Division:</b> Penllergaer
-------------------------------------	--

## Section 1: Constituency activities

I do not hold surgeries as I believe it's unacceptable that residents have to wait to see me at a surgery held once or twice a month (which I used to do) when they may have matters that to them are urgent. All residents are therefore encouraged, via my regular newsletters, to ring or e-mail whenever there is something they need to discuss or require advice on. This means I carry out home visits, usually several times a week, to see for myself what the problems are and then take the necessary action. Throughout the year I have corresponded with various external organisations on behalf of residents as well as being the focal point for handling matters involving the Council. I'm sure there are several Council officers who could vouch that I'm in frequent communication about highway, parks and refuse issues as well as sending almost daily e-mails to the District Housing Office in Gorseinon. Through my newsletter I'm able to update residents on all that I do in various parts of the ward and when this is delivered, the responses I get, via phone calls or e-mails, provide very useful feedback for me.

## 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:

Constitution Working Group	1	/	1	100	%
Council	14	/	18	78	%
Scrutiny Programme Committee	14	/	15	93	%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>%</b>

### Scrutiny Meetings:

Building Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Working Group	5	/	9	56	%
Education Inclusion Scrutiny Inquiry Panel	6	/	8	75	%
Local Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Working Group	0	/	1	0	%
Streetscene Scrutiny Inquiry Panel	0	/	1	0	%
Sustainability Scrutiny Working Group	0	/	1	0	%
Tree Preservation Working Group	1	/	1	100	%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>%</b>

## Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

Representing my ward is my top priority and most of what I do is therefore focussed around the benefits I can bring to the community. I am a Trustee of the Penllergare Trust which is the inspiration and organisation behind the restoration of Valley Woods. I attend monthly meetings of the Trust and various other events that it runs.

## City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2015-2016

I'm also a long standing community councillor and, in Penllergaer, this is the body that owns and runs the village hall, the sports field and the pavilion. There is much to do in ensuring these assets are maintained and valued.

### Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

My major focus has been the Local Development Plan and the impact a further 850 houses will have on my ward. I am spear heading the opposition to this proposal, have held several public meetings and keep residents updated on progress via my newsletters and additional flyers.

This last year also saw the upgrade of the playground on Gors Common. I was involved in the early negotiations with Bellway who provided the funding via the 106 agreements for the Parc Penderrri development. The money in full was not available until this estate was moving towards completion and I was then horrified to find that the Council wanted to use almost two thirds of this sum to deal with the longstanding drainage problems in and around the playground. That meant further hard negotiations to ensure there was sufficient money available for the radical improvements needed and long awaited.

With the Community Council funding what our children most wanted – a zip wire - the outcome has been a huge success. However, the downside is that the playground, with its all-weather surface and equipment for all ages, attracts families and children from the whole of north Swansea which brings significant parking problems to the immediate residential area. I've thus had to obtain some welcome off-road parking and double yellow lines on the south side of Gors Road are due to be installed before the school summer holidays to ease the situation for residents.

### Section 5: Learning and Development

I attended the following training sessions:  
13/04/2016 - S.106 Planning Agreements / Obligations  
25/11/2015 - Introduction to Community Engagement

Due to my involvement with the LDP I have developed a certain expertise in this area which I continue to put to good use.

### Section 6: Other activities and issues

-

### Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Basic Salary: £13,300

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>

<b>Date:</b>	29.07.2016
--------------	------------