

City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2016-2017

This Councillor's Annual Report outlines their activities over the year ending **24 May 2017**. 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: Wendy Fitzgerald	Electoral Division: Penllergaer
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Section 1: Constituency activities

I continued to lead the community's opposition to the LDP proposals for Penllergaer which involved further public meetings and the submission at the end of August 2016 of our detailed objections. This was a 240 page report which took a great deal of time to compile and write and I did this in conjunction with the help of a resident and the support of the Penllergaer Community Council.

Throughout the year I kept all residents informed of my activities carried out on their behalf by writing and distributing to each house my regular newsletter in April 2016, September 2016 and November 2016 and in March 2017.

The issues I handled were wide ranging and often involved working closely with Council officers to achieve a satisfactory outcome. I also provided advice to residents and dealt with many personal matters for a number of individuals

My newsletters ensured that everyone was regularly reminded of my contact details and that I am usually able to respond quickly to any problem that comes to me. I carry out frequent home visits and I try to ensure that everyone knows that I can do this often at very short notice.

I do not hold surgeries as in my view it is unacceptable that anyone should have to wait to see me when I am generally available.

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:

Chief Executive's Appraisal & Remuneration Committee	1	/	1	100	%
Constitution Working Group	2	/	2	100	%
Council	16	/	16	100	%
Scrutiny Programme Committee	13	/	13	100	%
Overall	32	/	32	100	%

Scrutiny Meetings:

Building Sustainable Communities Inquiry	3	/	3	100	%
Children's Readiness for School Inquiry Panel	9	/	10	90	%
Education Inclusion Inquiry Panel	1	/	2	50	%
Local Flood Risk Management Working Group	0	/	1	0	%
Planning Working Group	2	/	3	67	%
Overall	15	/	19	79	%

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Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

I was leader of the Independent Group, a member of the Scrutiny Programme Committee and the Appointments Panel. I also took part in other scrutiny functions.

I am a Community Councillor and Trustee of the Penllergare Trust.

Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

The major issue has been the Local Development Plan and its implications for Penllergaer. Preparing the response to the Deposit Plan consumed a great deal of time and entailed considerable research.

Section 5: Learning and Development

Having been a teacher and then running my own business for several years, I am used to working with people and 'people skills' are invaluable for a ward member.

In addition, I attended the following training sessions:

19/05/2017 - Good Decision Making, Bias, Pre-determination & Rules of Natural Justice

11/05/2017 - Code of Conduct

07/11/2016 - Safeguarding

07/07/2016 - Wales Planning Act - Development Management Procedures

Section 6: Other activities and issues

I am a founder member of Penllergaer Crafters and Icers, two very active groups within the community. During the autumn of 2016 year we held a Ladies Vintage Night raising £1500 for two local charities and in March 2017 we organised a Coffee Morning and Art Exhibition that raised £900 for Headway. My 'Open Garden' at my home in July of 2016 (now an annual event) raised £1100 for the Forget Me Not Clubs despite uncooperative weather.

I'm also active in the Penllergaer Gardening Club (with a large membership of over 90) and have helped run a second very successful Italian night following our third trip to Italy.

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>

Date:

19.01.2018