

City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2013-2014

This Councillor's Annual Report outlines their activities over the year ending **07/05/14**. 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:	Philip Downing	Electoral Division:	Pontarddulais
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Section 1: Constituency activities

Two advice surgeries held each month between the hours of 5 and 7pm held in Canolfan y Bont . I regularly attended the local PACT meetings and addressed any complaints or queries that arose. As a member of Pontarddulais Town Council and a past Mayor, I regularly attended monthly meetings. Minutes of these meetings can be found on the council's website at www.pontarddulaistowncouncil.gov.uk. I was (and at the time of writing still am) Chairman of the Finance Committee, and one of our priorities was to find financial assistance to open our Heritage Centre on the top floor of the Institute. The Town Council provides a range of local services including: the management of the Institute to provide space for community organisations, office space for the Police, flower displays around the Town, children's film, contributes to the Christmas parade, decorations, trees, and pantomime. Financial grants to worthy causes. I was Governor of Pontarddulais Comprehensive school and Chairman of the Resources Committee; I was also Vice Chair of Governors at Pontarddulais Primary school. I stood down as treasurer of Pontarddulais football club after holding the post for 40 years, the club made me very proud when they offered me, and I accepted the position of President. The club has gone from strength to strength in pontarddulais, and now boasts a strong junior section with 10 junior sides and 2 senior sides.

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.

Area 1 Development Control Committee	11 out of 12 meetings	92%
Audit Committee	8 out of 11 meetings	73%
Council	15 out of 15 meetings	100%
Development management & Control Committee	6 out of 8 meetings	75%
Licensing Committee	14 out of 15 meetings	93%
Licensing Sub Committee	6 out of 6 meetings	100%
Pension Fund Committee	4 out of 4 meetings	100%
Scrutiny Programme Committee	13 out of 16 meetings	81%
Standards Committee	5 out of 8 meetings	63%
OVERALL	82 out of 95 meetings	86%

Attendance % based on Committee membership shown above.

Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

I was Vice Chairman of the Licensing Committee, which looks at all licensing applications within the City and county of Swansea. Also Vice Chairman of the Council's Pension Fund Panel. One of the outside bodies I served on is The Valuation Tribunal, this looked at appeals from Businesses and individuals who have grievances against their rates. I was also council shareholder on Swansea Waste Disposal Company. I compiled a newsletter to circulate to our constituents. I used these newsletters to inform which streets we would visit on a particular day. I received a considerable number of telephone calls, and people calling at my house seeking advice and assistance on a range of issues. With 281 Council houses in Pontarddulais quite a number of queries related to these. I am always prepared to listen to their concerns and offer appropriate advice and support. I walked and drove

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around the ward at regular intervals, and reported defects such as pot holes, street lights that are not working in residential areas, damaged road signs and fly tipping.

Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

Following representation from constituents road and pavement improvements were acquired. I provided support following representation from constituents through the petition process and continuously supported and negotiated for the wishes of the population of Pontarddulais where there was evidence of concern, a potential for the development of services and an improved lifestyle and a need to support potential developments for the benefit of the community. I worked to develop sustainable partnership approaches across community groups (friends of Coed Bach Park, and the Pontarddulais Partnership) and the council to improve drainage in second woods, recycle equipment required such as waste bins and capital improvements such as the tennis courts. I worked with the council to identify and access additional funds to increase resources available for the town enhancements. I have met with officers for the improvement of our housing stock (Heol-y-Maes) to bring them up to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard. I have also met with Hydar as well as officers to discuss phase 2 of the transportation study as well as the Local Development Plan (LDP) as it will affect Pontarddulais.

Section 5: Learning and Development

I attended the following training sessions:

27/11/2013 Understanding the Council Budget

14/10/2013 Pre Decision Making

Governor training:

14/01/2014 New Chair of Governors

15/01/2014 Finance/Budgets

12/02/2014 Child Protection

In September 2013 I attended a two day seminar on behalf of the Pension Panel, as part of my ongoing training.

Section 6: Other activities and issues

I regularly attended meetings of Pontarddulais Regeneration Partnership of which I am a Trustee. The partnership works with constituents of Pontarddulais to assess community needs, access grants, support the delivery of developments and ensure sustainability for the work on Churchyard and rights of way on the marsh, Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) Railway Station, Bryniago Housing Site, St Teilo parking area, Tennis Courts at Coedbach Park, delivery of the play scheme, Maintenance and continuing development of the training centre Canolfan Y Bont, Bont Bulletin community leaflet.

Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Basic Salary - £13,175 per annum.

Councillor's travel and subsistence claim forms can be viewed here:

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

Councillor's annual expenses and allowances can be viewed here:

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

Date: 28.05.14