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

This Councillor's Annual Report outlines their activities over the year ending **7 May 2014**. 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.

#### **Section 1: Constituency activities**

In conjunction with my ward colleagues we held monthly surgeries at Uplands market, ensuring a visibility and presence in the community. I regularly attended PACT meetings with residents and the police. I have represented the concerns of Uplands residents at Licensing and Planning meetings. I have fought for the interests of all Uplands residents against the effects on the area of inconsiderate landlords and tenants of houses in multiple occupation (HMO's).

I have been involved from the start in the planning and organisation of Uplands market recognising that it is not only a good way to shop but a genuine community event which reclaims public space from the car.

## 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	/	12	92	%
Council	13	/	15	87	%
Democratic Services Committee	6	/	8	75	%
Development Management & Control Committee	6	/	8	75	%
Equalities Committee	8	/	12	67	%
Scrutiny Programme Committee	16	/	16	100	%
Student Liaison Forum	2	/	3	67	%
OVERALL	62	/	74	84	%

Attendance % based on Committee membership shown above.

#### Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

I want to see Swansea become a more sustainable city and my main interest is sustainable travel. It is in this that I have assisted the Cabinet member for sustainability. I lead on cycling issues, chairing the Cycle Action Programme meetings with officers and members of Wheelwrights and Sustrans, working towards an enhanced and integrated cycle network, encouraging people to cycle to work, to study and to the shops.

I have chaired a working party looking at the Authority's readiness for the welfare reforms. I have been a member of a working party looking at how to preserve Swansea's historic buildings. At the time of writing this I am Council representative on the board of the National Waterfront Museum Swansea, a Governor of Brynmill School and a member of Brynmill Community Centre.

## Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

With colleagues from Uplands and Castle wards and the Swansea Assembly Members I have attended regular meetings with officers to try to curb the negative effects of the overdensity of HMO's and their effect on community cohesion. We have lobbied the Welsh Government to change the planning rules to give the authority more control over the planning process regarding HMO's and introduced a voluntary code aimed at controlling the number of 'To Let' signs. I have worked closely with officers to deal with the effects on resident's quality of life from poorly maintained and managed HMO's.

## Section 5: Learning and Development

I attended the following training sessions:-

14.10.2013 - Pre Decision Making

27.11.2013 - Understanding the Council Budget

### Section 6: Other activities and issues

As a long term resident of Uplands I know that its appeal is its combination of homes, parks, shops and nightlife. I have worked to ensure there is a balance between them so that Uplands remains a great place to live, work, shop and have fun. I have helped to improve the look of Uplands Crescent with new bollards, bins and cycle racks. I have supported community events in Cwmdonkin Park and (at the time of writing this) a member of the Friends of Brynmill Park.

I have supported and attended musical and cultural events in the Uplands ward, including those in connection with the Centenary of the birth of Dylan Thomas.

#### Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Basic Salary - £13,175 per annum.

Councillors travel and subsistence claim forms can be viewed here: <u>http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13266&path=0&LLL=</u> <u>0</u>

Councillors annual expenses and allowances can be viewed here: <u>http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13284&path=0&LLL=</u> <u>0</u>

Date:	28.05.14