

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.

Councillor:	LESLEY WALTON	Electoral Division:	TOWNHILL
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Section 1: Constituency activities

I dealt with many casework issues as and when they arose, and in doing so liaised closely with Townhill District Housing officers, and community groups where relevant.

As another way of giving residents the opportunity to raise an issue, and as a member of the team of Townhill Labour councillors (TMG Team) I held my monthly surgery in the Phoenix Cafe. I also attended bi-monthly PACT meetings held in the area's community centres, dropped in on those held in TOPIC House - these were attended by various groups for older people including Townhill Residents - and went along to roving community PACT meetings held on the street at various locations across the ward. I have also carried out Street Surgeries, knocking on doors to see if I can help in any way.

I was a School Governor at Seaview Community School, and as well as attending full meetings and served on both the Finance, and Performance Management sub-committees, amongst others. Outside of formal meetings I have worked closely with LASA Credit Union in order to get a collection point established for pupils to run themselves. I also gave my support in other ways such as with plant donations for their community growing area.

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	10	/	12	83	%
Audit Committee	6	/	11	55	%
Council	12	/	15	80	%
Democratic Services Committee	6	/	8	75	%
Development Management & Control Committee	5	/	8	63	%
Equalities Committee	7	/	12	58	%
Local Development Plan Advisory Group	1	/	1	100	%
Student Liaison Forum	2	/	3	67	%
Trustees Panel	4	/	5	80	%
OVERALL	53	/	75	71	%

Attendance % based on Committee membership shown above.

Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

In addition to council committees I attended meetings on various outside bodies: Communities 1st West Cluster on the Steering Group, Ward Member Forum, and Community Forum, a community focused programme to help those most disadvantaged Hill Community Development Trust provides facilities for the local community to make use of in the Phoenix Centre Townhill Community Centre Committee which administrates all activities held in the centre. Also attended the following Scrutiny meetings :
Public Engagement Inquiry Panel: ongoing since September 2013

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Affordable Housing Working Group: Wednesday 12th February 2014
Scrutiny & Sustainability Conference: Monday 10th March 2014

Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

As one of the TMG Team of Labour Councillors, I helped to address the issue of dog fouling by getting a number of new dog bins placed strategically around the ward. Used some of our environmental money to contribute to the TOPIC House extension and responded to residents' requests to get certain road blocks removed in the Mayhill area.

Further to the work done in the Equality committee which I was and still am on, I helped make a start to get Domestic Abuse notices in toilets in council buildings eg Civic Centre, Guildhall etc, and also in shops, pubs, clubs etc used by the public across Swansea.

I have been very actively involved in campaigning against payday loan companies, being on the ongoing scrutiny group, and a member of Swansea Bay Fair Credit.

Section 5: Learning and Development

05/03/2014 - Making Social Media work for Councillors
27/11/2013 - Understanding the Council Budget
25/10/2013 - Corporate Parenting
14/10/2013 - Pre Decision Making

As a former teacher this has helped me to be a more effective school governor. Also, having undergone the training to work for Citizens Advice Bureau this has helped me handle constituents casework more sensitively & effectively.

Section 6: Other activities and issues

As one of the TMG Team of Labour Councillors, I have helped to keep residents informed of what has been happening in the ward by putting together a regular newsletter. In the same respect I was and still am very keen to make sure I get back to a constituent after following up the issue raised. I do so even if the outcome is not the answer they might wish, as I can at least explain why this was the case.

I am pleased to have resolved some practical issues in the ward, such as getting a new lamppost down Tower Lane, and as requested by Townhill Community Centre in having a fence erected between their building and the Scout Hut to alleviate the problem of anti-social behaviour. Also in support of those in need in the city I have instigated a collection point in the Labour Group room to pass on to one of the Swansea foodbanks.

Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Basic Salary - £13,175 per annum.

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:	30.5.14
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