

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.

Councillor: Lesley Walton	Electoral Division: Townhill
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Section 1: Constituency activities

1) Over the past year I have continued to:

- deal with casework issues as and when they arise, liaising with council officers etc as appropriate, and always get back a constituent to let them know the outcome
- prepare & help deliver regular newsletters to keep all residents informed of activities
- hold my regular monthly surgeries, and cover for my colleagues as required

2) Since joining the governing body of Dylan Thomas Community School, I have attended both regular and additional meetings, and given support where needed, such as liaising with council officers to speed up necessary repairs to the roof.

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:

Audit Committee	7	/	9	78	%
Business & Administration Cabinet Advisory Committee	3	/	4	75	%
Corporate Services Cabinet Advisory Committee	5	/	7	71	%
Council	15	/	18	83	%
Democratic Services Committee	4	/	4	100	%
Education & Young People Cabinet Advisory Committee	3	/	8	38	%
Engagement & Inclusion Cabinet Advisory Committee	3	/	4	75	%
Swansea Student Liaison Forum	2	/	3	67	%
Swansea Student Liaison Forum (Residents Partnership)	1	/	1	100	%
Trustees Panel	1	/	2	50	%
OVERALL	44	/	60	73	%

Scrutiny Meetings

Attainment & Wellbeing Scrutiny Inquiry Panel	0	/	1	0	%
Public Engagement Scrutiny Inquiry Panel	1	/	1	100	%
Streetscene Scrutiny Inquiry Panel	0	/	1	0	%
Tethered Horses Scrutiny Working Group	1	/	3	33	%
OVERALL	2	/	6	33	%

Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

1) I chose to sit on two of the Cabinet Advisory Committees which support the relevant cabinet member working in specific areas of their portfolio.

2) As there are students living in Townhill Ward I attended the Student Liaison Committee held 3/4 times a year, to work with all tertiary educational establishments in Swansea

3) I sat on the Trustees committee which meets 1/2 times a year to allocate grants to voluntary bodies and schemes.

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4) In addition to council committees I have continued to sit on various outside bodies : Communities 1st West Cluster, Hill Community Development Trust, both based in the Phoenix Centre, and Townhill Community Centre Committee

Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

Alongside my fellow Ward Councillors, I have

- used our community budget so that wild flowers were again planted across the ward
- been successful in getting Dŵr Cymru to replace the unsightly barbed wire and repaint the rusty gates alongside the reservoir on Townhill Road
- continued to work with Communities 1st, councillors in neighbouring Castle Ward, and local residents in keeping the potential picnic area around Mayhill Washing 'Lake' clear of all litter & flytipping, and aiming to form a Friends of group to take this forward
- attended a trial exercise on one street in the ward where officers are reinforcing the '3 black bags a fortnight' rule, and what can be recycled instead
- have fed comments into the waste consultation process with a view to having a proactive, co-ordinated & more effective long term solution to the whole issue of rubbish & recycling
- attended various other one-off events including
 - ◆ residents drop-in session in the Phoenix Centre on the 16-17 council budget
 - ◆ an event to celebrate 15 years of Townhill Library
 - ◆ the launch of a trial of Smoke-free beach at Caswell Bay

Section 5: Learning and Development

1) In previous employment I have gained much as a teacher, advisor & Deputy Manager at CAB, and housing officer, to aid me in dealing with residents, in general, and specifically in handling constituents casework sensitively & effectively.

2) I have undertaken the following training over the past year:

13/04/2016 - S.106 Planning Agreements / Obligations

24/02/2016 - Local Development Plan Housing Workshop

05/11/2015 - Introduction to Community Engagement

04/06/2015 - Child Protection Refresher

26/05/2015 - Anti-Slavery & Human Trafficking Awareness

Section 6: Other activities and issues

1) I was on the Scrutiny Working Group seeking a solution to the issue of tethered horses

2) I have continued my involvement on the Swansea Bay Fair Credit group, which is now focusing on providing information on alternatives to all loan sharks, both legal & illegal

3) Please see blog at lesleywaltoncouncillor@blogspot.com

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: 26.05.2016