

City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2014-2015

This Councillor's Annual Report outlines their activities over the year ending **18 May 2015**. 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 have continued to deal with casework issues approaching the relevant council officers, community groups etc as appropriate. I have always responded to a constituent regardless, even if the outcome is not the answer they might wish. Where there have been multiple issues I have continued to liaise with residents & officers, to resolve as much of the concerns raised as possible. I have also continued to hold my regular monthly surgeries in the Phoenix Centre, and the occasional Street Surgeries knocking on doors where I offered help if required.

I have continued to produce regular newsletters to update residents on ward activities, and sent Welcome letters to new ward residents. And As school governor I have moved to Dylan Thomas, attending two meetings so far.

I have continued to attend TOPIC House PACT meetings, attended by various groups for older people including Townhill Ward Residents, and two specific events: The opening of the extension in Jun14; and the service to commemorate WW1 in November 2014.

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:

Area 1 Development Control Committee	5	/	7	71	%
Audit Committee	8	/	10	80	%
Business & Administration Cabinet Advisory Committee	5	/	7	71	%
Council	13	/	17	76	%
Democratic Services Committee	3	/	4	75	%
Development Management & Control Committee	4	/	7	57	%
Engagement & Inclusion Cabinet Advisory Committee	6	/	7	86	%
Equalities Committee	5	/	5	100	%
Local Development Plan Advisory Group	1	/	1	100	%
Student Liaison Forum	2	/	3	67	%
Trustees Panel	2	/	3	67	%
OVERALL	54	/	71	76	%
Scrutiny Meetings					
Car Parking Scrutiny Working Group	2	/	2	100	%
Public Engagement Scrutiny Inquiry Panel	0	/	1	0	%
School Governance (pre-inquiry)	1	/	1	100	%
Streetscene Scrutiny Inquiry Panel	1	/	1	100	%
OVERALL	4	/	5	80	%

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Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

In addition to council committees I have continued to sit on various outside bodies: Communities 1st West Cluster Steering Group, Ward Member, and Community, Forums Hill Community Development Trust runs facilities in the Phoenix Centre, and Townhill Community Centre Committee which administrates all activities held in the centre.

Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

As one of the TMG Team of Labour Councillors, I have

- continued to get more dog bins placed when requested by residents
- as well as getting certain road blocks removed, giving easier access to emergency vehicles, managed to get unsightly bollards either repainted or removed altogether
- Initially instigated by myself, wild flowers were planted in various sites across the ward

I have started three ongoing initiatives during this year:

- getting the unsightly barbed wire replaced, and repaint the rusty gates, alongside the reservoir on Townhill Road, both of which have been tentatively agreed by Dŵr Cymru
- working with Communities 1st, have begun to develop a long term plan for Mayhill "Washing" Pond, to return it to a picnic area, and supported the work done so far
- with the help of the convenor of the Environment & Transport CAC have begun a review of all issues around waste management, from collection to fly tipping

Other events & meetings I have been attending

- White Ribbon Day, to show my support to those who suffer from domestic abuse;
- on Renewable Energy projects, aimed both to involve & benefit the community;
- in various venues following the progress of the Tidal Lagoon project.

Section 5: Learning and Development

I attended the following training session: 31/10/2014 - Safeguarding
Actually carrying out the role of councillor has given me a whole range of experience, knowledge and new skills which I have been able to put to good use.

Section 6: Other activities and issues

I have carried on with my involvement on the Swansea Bay Fair Credit group, which has certainly played a part in getting the UK wide interest cap imposed. In tandem with this I also remain very committed to supporting LASA Credit Union, which provides its members an alternative option to all loan sharks, both legal & illegal. I have also continued to publicise Foodbanks in and around Swansea, and set up a collection box in the Labour Group room.

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:	07.06.15
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