

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:	William Evans	Electoral Division:	Kingsbridge
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Cabinet / Executive Portfolio	Anti-Poverty and Communities
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Section 1: Constituency activities

I held monthly advice surgeries at Garden Village AFC Clubhouse on Saturdays between 11.30 am and 12.30pm (1 Hour Minimum) and dealt with all referred issues/complaints, in a timely manner. I also attended local Police Surgeries and monthly Llŵchwr Town Council meetings, the minutes of which are available on the Council's website at www.llwchwrtaowncouncil.gov.uk. The Town Council serves and supports the residents of Kingsbridge, Garden Village and Loughor Wards, by supplementing some of the services provided by the City and County of Swansea. For example, recreation facilities at the Welfare Hall, hanging baskets and wild flower displays, Christmas Lantern Parade and fireworks display in collaboration with Gorseinon Town Council, providing community seats and awarding financial grants to worthy causes in the Llŵchwr area.

I compiled and delivered a newsletter highlighting local issues and dealt with a considerable number of telephone calls and e-mails for constituents, seeking advice and assistance on a range of topics and offered my support where necessary.

I regularly walked around my Ward and reported defects such as pot-holes, unlit street lamps in residential areas, damaged street furniture and sporadic fly-tipping, to the appropriate Council Departments for action.

I visited the sites of all Planning Applications within the Kingsbridge Ward and called 'Site' visits, where necessary. I regularly liaised with the local Police Neighbourhood team based at Gorseinon and referred local residents complaints such as excessive motor vehicle speed, indiscriminate parking, motor vehicles causing an unnecessary obstruction of the highway, dog fouling and litter. I also informed Council's Enforcement Officers of complaints in relation to blatant abuse and breaches of Road Traffic Regulation Orders (Yellow Lines) and requested their attendance, when appropriate.

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 show below:

Cabinet	14	/	15	93	%
Community / Town Councils Forum	2	/	3	67	%
Council	17	/	18	94	%
External Funding Panel	7	/	7	100	%
Swansea Student Liaison Forum	2	/	3	67	%
Swansea Student Liaison Forum - Residents Partnership	0	/	1	0	%
Trustees of the Christmas Amenities Fund	1	/	1	100	%
Trustees Panel	2	/	2	100	%
OVERALL	45	/	50	90	%

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Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

I am the Cabinet Member and Political Leader for Anti-Poverty and Communities, which is the top over-arching corporate priority for the Council. Tackling Poverty and its impact on individuals, together with educational attainment, employment opportunities and economic growth, are vital in achieving our strategic aims and objectives.

I also sat on the following Committees not listed in 2 above:

Five Community First Steering Groups. (Chairman)
Community First Strategic Partners' Group. (Chairman)
Community Cohesion Leadership Group (Chairman)
Community Food and Growing Panel
Penderry Provider's Forum.

Outside Bodies (2015-2016)

1. Student Advisory Council on Religious Education.
2. Trustee Director Gorseinon Development Trust. (Chairman)
3. School Governor at Tre-Uchaf Primary School.
4. School Governor at Pontybrenin Primary School.
5. Llŵchwr Town Council.

Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

I engaged with Planners and my constituents on the Local Development Plan draft proposals and its huge potential impact on future traffic movements in the Kingsbridge and surroundings areas. Public Meetings were held to discuss the estimated 1600 new homes proposed to be built in the Garden Village and Llewitha areas, over the next 15 years.

September, 2015 saw the opening of the new drop-off and pick-up point for pupils attending Pontybrenin English and Welsh primary schools. Since its operation, there have been some teething problems but it now appears to be functioning effectively. This facility will continue to be managed and closely monitored by both schools.

Working in collaboration with Councillor Wilf Smith (Llŵchwr Town Council) regarding an avenue of mature Cherry blossom trees felled at Stafford Common, Swansea Road, Garden Village and currently in dialogue with the Somerset Trust who are the land owners.

Section 5: Learning and Development

I attended the following training:

04/05/2016 - Development Economics & Financial Viability Training
19/04/2016 - S.106 Planning Agreements / Obligations
18/04/2016 - Guidance on Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment & Scrutinising Changes to Community Services
09/02/2016 - Safeguarding Vulnerable People
25/11/2015 - Introduction to Community Engagement
28/07/2015 - Recruitment and Selection Training

Section 6: Other activities and issues

I was involved in the ongoing work in delivering the 1.4 km Kingsbridge Cycle link from Garden Village to Gowerton, which has been held up by Legal Land issues involving the 'Somerset Trust'. Funding has now been secured.

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Two new Housing Developments (220 dwellings) in Kingsbridge Ward are now underway at Kingsbridge Fields (Persimmon) and Horizon Walk (Barratts). Both these sites were allocated for Housing development in successive Urban Development Plans, dating back many years. A recent Planning Application for an additional 84 houses at Kingsbridge Fields was turned down by the Planning Committee following objections by local residents which I fully supported.

Money from my Councillor's Environmental Allowance was used to improve the walking surfaces at three local Public Rights of Way namely, Public Footpath 24 at Garden Village, Footpath 27 at Llewitha and No.37 the Old Roman Road, Kingsbridge. Large quantities of stone chippings have been laid and existing surface water drainage points cleaned out.

The removal of a highways 'Deflection Island' at Garden Village has enabled service 'buses to pull alongside the raised kerb at the 'Bus Stop outside Kingsbridge Cemetery, which now means that elderly or disabled passengers can get on and off without difficulty.

Disabled ramps have been installed on the footpath at the junction of Loughor Road and Maes-y-Coed, to facilitate disabled wheelchair users.

A new Road Traffic Regulation Prohibition Order (Yellow Lines) has been introduced to safeguard the junction of Pant Glas and Dyffryn Road, Kingsbridge, where parked vehicles were encroaching onto the junction.

A new 20 m.p.h.Road Traffic Regulation Order has been introduced at Loughor Road, Belgrave Road and Dyffryn Road, as a road safety measure and in order to protect pupils and students attending our 2 Primary Schools and College of Further Education.

A new Road Traffic Regulation Order for Prohibited Waiting (Yellow Lines) has been introduced along Victoria Road, Kingsbridge, following numerous complaints of vehicles obstructing the footpath outside the new 'Gym' and to assist the free flow of traffic.

Comprehensive highway re-surfacing work has been carried out at the junction of Swansea Road and Hospital Road, Garngoch, in an area which was consistently breaking up and creating large pot-holes.

Complaints have been received regarding blatant abuse of the 7.5 ton Weight Restriction (Except for Access) Road Traffic Regulation Order, in force at Swansea Road, Garden Village, by convoys of coaches travelling to and from Gower College on a daily basis. Action is being taken with a view to preventing this practice continuing.

Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Senior Salary: £32,000 Cabinet Member for Anti-Poverty & Communities

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:	01.05.2016
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