

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:	Paxton Hood-Williams	Electoral Division:	Fairwood
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Section 1: Constituency activities

I have been very active in the community, and I am Chairman of Three Crosses Community Council and a member of Upper Killay Community Council. I Chaired the Crwys & District Sports Association, which developed Crwys Community Woodland and managed the whole site including the football pitch. Chairman of the Three Crosses Neighbourhood Watch Panel, which works to reduce criminal behaviour in the area.

I found that residents rarely attended surgeries, but always contact me when they have concerns. Consequently, I have dealt with numerous individual problems as well as resolving general Ward problems, such as pothole repairs, drainage problems, etc., as and when I see them or are contacted by a resident(s).

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.

Audit Committee	10	/	11	91	%
Chief Executive's Appraisal & Remuneration Committee	1	/	2	50	%
Constitution Working Group	1	/	1	100	%
Council	14	/	15	93	%
Development Management & Control Committee	7	/	8	88	%
Performance & Delivery Committee	0	/	3	0	%
OVERALL	33	/	40	83	%

Attendance % based on Committee membership shown above.

Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

I had a specific responsibility as Convenor (Chairman) of the Wellbeing scrutiny performance panel, which monitored the performance of Child & Family Services and Adult Services. Adult Services was recently been added to this role and, consequently the Panel now meets on a fortnightly basis instead of monthly. The role of this Panel is crucial to monitoring the effectiveness of these services, and will make recommendations on areas that need improvement and as to how they can be improved. The role of the Chairman is not just confined to the Chairing of meetings, but to work with Scrutiny Officers and Panel members to develop the annual work programme and determine the direction of meetings and the information to be drawn from departmental Officers

I was also a member of the Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny panel, which monitored performance across the Council and particularly monitors financial overspends to try and ensure Departments do not overspend their budget allocations.

I was a member of the Social Care at Home Scrutiny Inquiry Panel, which produces recommendations on the way forward for Adult Services. The Service is currently undergoing a major transformation, and is a key area to ensure the elderly residents of Swansea are properly provided for.

Leader of the Conservative Group on the Council, and the main speaker in political debate.

Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

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Road safety matters are a major concern for the residents of Fairwood Ward. Gower Road in Upper Killay, Tirmynydd Road in Three Crosses and the road through the Wern give rise to most concerns. Consequently, I was in regular contact with Highway Officers to determine means of improving road safety, and particularly reducing the speed of traffic through the villages. However incremental measures are continually being taken, such as the installation of Speed Indicator Display signs, road markings, traffic calming etc., and these will continue to be improved as and when funding becomes available.

Parking around Cila and Crwys primary schools will always be a problem, with no simple solution. However, around Cila, it has the effect of dramatically reducing vehicle speed, with the consequent enhancement of child safety at pupil arrival and departure times.

Lack of pavements is a particular problem in Three Crosses, and I will work with the Community Council to provide alternative pedestrian access, where it is possible. The resurfacing of the footpath between the bottom of Pant-y-dwr and Chapel Road has significantly improved safety and convenience for its users.

Section 5: Learning and Development

I believe that learning never stops, and attend most training courses that are available, as per those below, and also School Governor training course that are appropriate for me in that role.

05/03/2014 - Making Social Media work for Councillors

19/02/2014 - Chairing Skills

22/01/2014 - Rules of Debate

17/12/2013 - Introduction to Media Training

27/11/2013 - Understanding the Council Budget

28/10/2013 - Personal Development Review

14/10/2013 - Pre Decision Making

Section 6: Other activities and issues

I am a Governor of both Cila and Crwys primary schools, and I am pleased to make a contribution to the work of these two schools, which provide such an excellent learning experience for our children. I almost always attend the area PACT (Police and Communities Together) meetings, and work closely with our Community Policeman and PCSO's (Police Community Support Officers) to minimise crime and anti-social behaviour in our communities.

I am a member of the Gower AONB Partnership Group, which has responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the Gower Management Plan, and I am also a Board member of the Gower Landscape Partnership, which is responsible for the administration and implementation of projects resulting from the successful bid to obtain £2 million funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and others for projects across Gower.

Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Basic Salary - £13,175 per annum. I have never submitted an expenses claim form.

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:	28.05.14
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