

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: Ioan M. Richard	Electoral Division: Mawr
------------------------------------	---------------------------------

Section 1: Constituency activities

My "door was always open" in this rural Mawr Ward.

Village life is different to urban life. Just about all of my constituents know me and I know most of them.

As a Councillor who has served over thirty years, the Mawr Ward constituents know they can hail me down in the street; visit my home and phone me any waking hour of the day and I respond as well as I can to help them.

Mawr Ward has the highest percentage of Welsh speakers in the County of Swansea. As a proud Welsh speaker myself, I can converse freely in both languages with constituents which often makes people feel at ease.

"My door is always open" to help anyone I can.

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:

Council	17	/	18	94	%
Joint Consultative Committee	4	/	5	80	%
Planning Committee	19	/	19	100	%
OVERALL	40	/	42	95	%

Scrutiny Meetings:

Tree Presevation Scrutiny Working Group	1	/	1	100	%
OVERALL	1	/	1	100	%

Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

Member of the twelve Councillor Group that makes up the sole Planning Committee on Council.

Planning Officers now use delegated officer powers to determine most planning applications.

The Planning Committee of twelve Councillors now tends to only determine applications of a major size or applications that are contentious and cause community concerns. This can cause stress and requires sharp attention to unbiased duty.

I attended many public functions and events in my Ward. For example:- I am President of the local Senior Citizens Group and similarly I am President of the local History Society etc.

City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2015-2016

Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

Member of the twelve Councillor Group that makes up the sole Planning Committee on Council.

This Committee had a particularly busy year working with Senior Officers to create the draft Local Development Plan LDP. It involved many, many meetings on site and in Committee Rooms.

Outside of the Council I had been very involved with Landscape Protection issues in my rural Ward, and I had spoken and given witness evidence to Public Inquiries.

Inside the Council I am free of any whip and I frequently spoke in the debates.

Section 5: Learning and Development

I attended several training sessions considered essential and appropriate to my needs in this forever changing public world. These are as follows:

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

12/04/2016 - Residential Design Guide Refresher Training

08/03/2016 - Wales Planning Act - Development Management Procedures

25/02/2016 - Planning Committee Training - Rights of Way

25/02/2016 - Safeguarding Vulnerable People

09/12/2015 - Members Responsibility to Gypsy & Traveller Communities under the new Housing & Equality Acts

05/11/2015 - Introduction to Community Engagement

12/10/2015 - The Determination of Applications for Town or Village Green Status

Section 6: Other activities and issues

I never followed any political whip directive as many Councillors do. I always voted according to my own judgement and own conscience and what was best for Mawr Ward constituents, and I never voted on what any Political Party directs.

My public service motto ever since my first election over thirty years ago has been an old Welsh proverb:-

“Ym mhob braint y mae dyletswydd”.

“In every privilege there is a duty”.

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:	06.04.2016
--------------	------------