

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: Susan Jones	Electoral Division: Gowerton
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Section 1: Constituency activities

I held monthly surgeries in Gowerton Library on Saturday mornings between 11 am and 12 noon where residents were given advice on a variety of issues. I gave monthly reports to Gowerton Community Council outlining my activities.

I attended the PACT meetings in the village where residents were able to have their fears recognised and actions implemented eg speeding through the village was addressed and speed reduction measures were implemented. I have regularly met with our local policing team to update and discuss issues concerning the village. I also attended Police Divisions Meetings at Gorseinon Police Station.

I made sure that I was aware of the Planning Applications that had been submitted in the ward and worked to ensure the best outcomes for the village. I attended area meetings with the Housing Department to ensure issues were reported and solutions made – parking issues were addressed for Close Morgan Owen.

I have been and at the time of writing still am a Governor at Gowerton Primary and Gowerton Comprehensive Schools and have attended many committees and training courses relevant to this role. I have regularly dealt with a number of general ward issues eg. potholes, black bin bags, grit bins, parking and dog fouling.

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.

Area 2 Development Control Committee	12	/	12	100	%
Corporate Parenting Forum	5	/	6	83	%
Council	14	/	15	93	%
Development Management & Control Committee	6	/	8	75	%
Equalities Committee	7	/	12	58	%
OVERALL	44	/	53	83	%

Attendance % based on Committee membership shown above.

Please note that Equalities Committee meetings clashed with other meetings I had to attend, hence the lower than usual attendance figure.

Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

In addition to my role as County Councillor I was also a Governor in Gowerton Primary School and Gowerton Comprehensive School. Member of Gowerton Twinning Association.

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At the time of writing this I was an active member of the scrutiny process – Public Engagement, Inward Investment, Home Care Provision, Performance and Well Being Scrutiny and attended many meetings, interviewed many people and visited many establishments. In addition I was also part of the Rota Visit Team visiting council establishments. Also a Gowerton Community Councillor.

Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

I tried to establish a Chamber of Trade for businesses to work together to improve their offer to the customers in the village but unfortunately this failed to materialize because of lack of support.

I worked with Rural Action Swansea to create three evening local produce markets during the autumn period which were successful and at the time of writing this am hoping to have more events. I also negotiated, alongside Council Officers, with contractors who worked on the railway station to build the fence around the allotments in payment for the use of the car parking area.

At the time of writing this I am working with the Parks Department and a group of girls from the Comprehensive School to tackle the vandalism in the park which will result in a video from these pupils and provision of additional park furniture in the near future.

Section 5: Learning and Development

I attended the following training courses:-

27/03/2014 - Understanding Asylum Seeker and Refugee Issues

19/02/2014 - Chairing Skills

22/01/2014 - Rules of Debate

27/11/2013 - Understanding the Council Budget

25/10/2013 - Corporate Parenting

17/10/2013 - Emotional Intelligence

Various dates in 2013 – Leadership Academy

Section 6: Other activities and issues

Attended fetes and concerts in the ward, regular police meetings and other additional meetings associated with being a Governor in the Comprehensive and Primary School. Member of Mawr walking club and interested in environmental issues. Dealt with various residents problems outside of surgery hours.

Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Basic Salary - £13,175

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:	14.05.14
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