

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:	Mark Thomas	Electoral Division:	Penclawdd
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Section 1: Constituency activities

During 2013-2014 I held monthly surgeries shared between Penclawdd and Llanmorlais. I liaised with NRW on the new flood defence scheme for Penclawdd. I worked with the owners of the Railway Inn and a potential developer to restore the building as a Pub / Restaurant. I addressed the many issues raised at surgeries by both email and telephone. These issues include street lighting, pot holes, hedge and grass cutting, stray horses and sheep, speeding traffic and dog fouling. I also helped to campaign to have evening buses restored – successfully! I also planted wild flowers and worked with the Community Council on various other activities.

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	11	/	12	92	%
Audit Committee	1	/	2	50	%
Council	12	/	15	80	%
Development Management & Control Committee	6	/	8	75	%
Pension Fund Committee	3	/	4	75	%
Scrutiny Programme Committee	10	/	16	63	%
Trustees Panel	2	/	5	40	%
OVERALL	45	/	62	73	%

Attendance % based on Committee membership shown above.

Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

In addition to the Committees shown above, I also sat on the following:

Pension Fund Committee
West Wales Valuation Tribunal
Trustees Committee (Church Fund Act).

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Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

I chaired a Scrutiny Working Group on Planning and Enforcement. The Groups recommendations were forwarded to the relevant Cabinet Member in a bid to hopefully improve the process. A follow up meeting is planned for June 2014. I also worked with the W.A.N.T campaign to restore an evening bus service.

Section 5: Learning and Development

I attended the following training sessions:

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

27/11/2013 - Understanding the Council Budget

In addition to the above I have approximately 16 years' experience as a Pension Trustee for my company scheme. This has undoubtedly helped me in my role as a Pension Fund Committee member. My many years as a former Union Rep has also helped. I believe my upbringing and background are my biggest asset as a Councillor.

Section 6: Other activities and issues

I am very approachable and easily accessible. Every day of the week I deal with issues within as well as outside the ward. I understand that certain issues are very important to people, however small they may appear, issues that affect people's quality of life, from noise pollution, transport, traffic, litter, stray animals, etc.

Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Basic Salary - £13,175 per annum.

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:	12 May 2014
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