

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: Sybil Crouch	Electoral Division: Castle
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Section 1: Constituency activities

I have taken a keen interest in planning matters related to my ward and have been involved in supporting residents objecting to planning applications which would have a negative impact on their environment, for example the proposed Boatyard development in the Marina.

I attended ward councillor surgeries held on Saturday mornings in Gloucester House and Dyfatty Community Centre. These provide opportunities for residents to raise issues and for us to take matters forward on their behalf. Additionally I attended Residents & Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings in Brynmelin/Waun Wen, Mount Pleasant, Marina & Sandfields

I responded and dealt with a large number of residents' issues including complaints about waste, parking, street cleansing, anti-social behaviour, transport, traffic, highways etc.

I was, and remain a Governor of Terrace Rd School.

I attended meetings of the District Housing Office to hear about tenant issues and meetings in regards to the Sandfields Housing Renewal Area.

I continued to take a great interest in the Vetch Veg Community Garden which brings together people of all backgrounds from across the Sandfields.

Attended meetings of Communities First – with Castle ward being in 2 cluster areas (South – Sandfields & North West – Waun Wen/Brynmelin).

I have met with police and PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers) to discuss issues around licensing activity, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour.

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	10	/	18	56	%
Economy & Investment Cabinet Advisory Committee	3	/	4	75	%
Scrutiny Programme Committee	14	/	15	93	%
Swansea Student Liaison Forum	2	/	3	67	%
Swansea Student Liaison Forum - Residents Partnership	0	/	1	0	%
OVERALL	29	/	41	71	%

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Scrutiny Meetings					
Sustainability Scrutiny Working Group	1	/	1	100	%
Tackling Poverty Scrutiny Working Group	1	/	1	100	%
OVERALL	2	/	2	100	%

Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

I was the convener of the Tackling Poverty Scrutiny Working Group.

Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

As a ward councillor and with ward colleagues we support the Friends of Bryn Y Don Park group who have been crucial to transforming a neglected slice of green back into a park. I continued to press for improvements in green space for city centre residents and in particular recreation space – Fields in Trust (FIT).

I made representations to the Planning Committee in regards to the Draft LDP and making a case for the Vetch Field and a small area in the Marina to be retained as much needed green space. Unfortunately this was not successful and both sites were included in the sites allocated for housing. The Vetch Field in particular provides a much loved play and recreation facility in the heart of the city as well as being of historic and cultural significance. I will continue to support local residents in the campaign to retain the Vetch as a People's Park.

I am delighted that the considerable work I did as a Cabinet Member in regards to HMOs has helped to change Welsh Government policy with the introduction of changes to the Use Class Order. This brings more HMOs into the planning regime which in turn will allow elected members the opportunity to control the growth in areas of high density of HMO properties.

Section 5: Learning and Development

I attended the following training sessions:

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

05/11/2015 - Introduction to Community Engagement

Section 6: Other activities and issues

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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: 16.06.2016