

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: Sybil Crouch	Electoral Division: Castle
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Cabinet/Executive Portfolio:	Cabinet Member for Sustainability
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Section 1: Constituency activities

Together with the other Castle Ward Councillors, I attended the weekly surgeries held on Saturday mornings in Brynmelin, Marina, Sandfields and Dyfatty. Additionally I attended Brynmelin/Waun Wen, Mount Pleasant, Marina & Sandfields Residents & PACT meetings.

I responded and dealt with a number of residents' issues including complaints about waste, parking, cleansing, anti-social behaviour, transport, 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

With ward colleagues we were successful in getting new play equipment for Bryn Y Don Park and setting up a Friends of Bryn Y Don Park group. We were involved in organising and taking part in bulb planting, a litter pick and other activities.

I enabled the installation of a gate in Dyfatty Park allowing the pupils of Ysgol Crug Las to access Dyfatty Park in greater safety

I took and continue to take, a keen interest in the Vetch Veg Community Garden and have attended numerous events including visits by a range of organisations and government ministers.

I was involved in the meetings and discussions around the Sandfields Neighbourhood Renewal Area – a scheme which we hope will be delivered from 2014.

I have taken a keen interest in planning matters related to my ward.

I have taken special interest in the issues around the Palace Theatre and attempting to get the owners to deal with the serious dilapidation of the structure. Progress is being made with an agreement recently signed between CCS and the owners.

Attended a large number of 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 to discuss issues around licensing activity, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour.

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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.

Appointments Committee	2	/	2	100	%
Area 1 Development Control Committee	7	/	12	58	%
Cabinet	14	/	18	78	%
Chief Executive's Appraisal & Remuneration Committee	0	/	2	0	%
Community / Town Councils Forum	1	/	3	33	%
Council	11	/	15	73	%
Development Management & Control Committee	4	/	8	50	%
Student Liaison Forum	1	/	3	33	%
OVERALL	40	/	63	63	%

Attendance % based on Committee membership shown above.

Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

This portfolio is very broad in its remit covering the 3 "pillars" of sustainability – economic, social and environmental. The introduction of the Sustainable Development Bill in 2014 (now the Future Generations Bill) requires all public bodies to make sustainability a central organising principle. CCS is a lead local authority (an "early adopter") in Wales for Sustainable Development and as the only Cabinet Member in Wales with this portfolio I have attended numerous meetings and given presentations to other local authorities across Wales on our practice and policy development in Swansea.

I have taken a lead on:

- Developing renewable energy projects in the city: (Community Renewable Energy Enterprise Scheme & District Heating)
- Developing new initiatives around community growing;
- Issues affecting community cohesion and safety (see below)
- Becoming a Sustainable Food City
- Joining the Council to the LGA Climate Local scheme
- Developing a new Master Plan for the Vetch Field site as a model of sustainable development

I was and still am the Biodiversity Champion and have promoted good practice such as managing verge cutting etc to promote pollinators.

In addition to the Council committees listed above I have been involved in the following committees and groups:

SD Framework Programme Board – Chair

Grow Local Scheme - Chair

Purple Flag – Arts & Culture Group - Chair

Low Carbon Swansea

Task & Finish Group on Drug Abuse facilities – Chair

Boulevard Public Art Committee

Healthy Cities Board

Swansea Economic Regeneration Partnership

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Meetings with Wheelwrights on cycle route planning and priorities
Biodiversity partnership

Also involved in detailed meetings to discuss the 2014/15 Budget - Sustainable Swansea – Fit for the Future.

Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

I convened a Task & Finish Group to address issues arising from the clustering of substance abuse services in the City Centre and to develop best practice around location and community safety & liaison. The group was attended by the substance misuse agencies, the police, NHS, ABMU & CCS and is ongoing.

I also chaired an officer/councillor Task & Finish Group compiling evidence on the impact of HMO density on community sustainability, street scene and anti-social behaviour. This evidence was submitted to Welsh Government with a view to getting a change in the “Use Class Order” such that all HMO’s regardless of size – within areas of density would require planning permission.

Section 5: Learning and Development

I attended the following training sessions:

14/10/2013 - Pre Decision Making
Various dates - Leadership Academy

I have significant experience in the cultural sector and have contributed to discussions and actions in regard to bid to become UK City of Culture and Ideas People Places bid to ACW.

Section 6: Other activities and issues

I had a hip replacement in July 2013 and had leave of absence from council business for 8 weeks.

Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Senior Salary – £31,900 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:	29.05.14
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