

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

This is the report by Councillor Graham Thomas below regarding his key activities over the year. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose.

Councillor: Graham Thomas

Electoral Division: Rhigos & Penderyn

Section 1: Role & Responsibilities

Role Purpose and Activity:

Representing and Supporting Your Constituents and Communities:

To represent your Electoral Division's interests.

To be an advocate for the Council in your Electoral Division and communities that you serve.

To be a channel of communication to the community on Council strategies, policies, services and procedures.

To represent individual constituents and local organisations, undertaking casework on their behalf and serving all fairly and equally.

To liaise with Executive Members, other Council Members, Council Officers and partner organisations to ensure that the needs of the local communities are identified, understood and supported.

To promote tolerance and cohesion in local communities.

To respond to any public questions (as and when required) at Council meetings
Council Bodies (Attendance) (Possible)

Council (7) (11); Development Control (16) (20); Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee (8) (8) ;

Communities Alliance (2) (5); Tower Liasion Committee (5) (7); Rhigos Primary School Governors (1) (3); Penderyn Primary School Governors (2) (3);

Section 2: Constituency Activity

Two advice surgeries held on a monthly basis (1.) Rhigos Community Centre; (2.) Penderyn Community Centre. These are publicised by poster at key locations; delivery to houses; local press.

Covering a range of topics within the responsibility of RCT Council and other non related Council topics.

from pot holes and recycling through to Education; Housing and Social Service issues together with Development Control matters.

Regular attendance at monthly meetings of two Community Councils; 1; Rhigos Community Council; 2 Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council covering a range of issues raised by members as above.

Section 3: Initiatives and Special Activities

Speed limit Reduction A4059; Penderyn

Attended public meetings/demonstrations and lobbied the Authority on behalf of residents. Outcome was a major investment in speed reduction and the installation of electronic warning signs.

Lobbying for Multi Use Games Area; Rhigos;

Site visit with the Authority for possible venue and to highlight the need for the facility. Attended meetings with Vattenfal highlighted the aspiration for consideration within the wind farm fund.

Placed suggestion on Website of Vattenfal for consideration. Awaiting outcome.

Lobbying for Development of Open Space at Yr Ethin.

Site visit with the Authority to view area and highlighted the need for investment. Attended meetings with Vattenfal highlighted the aspiration within possible wind farm fund. Placed suggestion on Website of Vattenfal for consideration. Kept local committee informed and also communicated other funding opportunities. Awaiting outcome.

Section 4: Learning & Development

Community Leadership & Future Generations (training for elected members in effective scrutiny)

- To explore community leadership as it relates to future generations.
- To understand the relationship between scrutiny and leadership-why representational challenge is key to change.
- To think about different forms of power and influence in the context of partnership working - how scrutiny tests whether partnership working leads to collaborative advantage or collective inertia.
- To evaluate options available to scrutiny in strengthening the Public Service Board.

Covering legislative changes in the context of public service reform, drawing on practice and experience in Wales and in England.

Section 5: Other Activities and Issues

Attended public meeting re improvement to children's play area Penderyn. Sought and achieved funding from RCT. Ongoing public consultation and request for match funding from external funds.

Lobbied and achieved funding from RCT for removing damaged grass areas; replaced with improved parking areas Heol Esgyn Rhigos together with additional bus stop.

Signature of Councillor: Graham Thomas **Date** May 2016

