

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

This is the report by Councillor Susan Karen Pickering regarding her key activities over the year ending 30 April 2015. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose.

Councillor: Susan Karen Pickering

Electoral Division: Ynysybwl and Coed y Cwm

Section 1: Role & Responsibilities

I attend meetings of full Council within RCTCBC.

I am a member of the Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee

I was elected by full Council at their AGM to represent them on South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

I sit on the HR Committee, and also the Finance and Asset Management Working Group of the Fire and Rescue Service.

I was proud to be at the opening of the new fire station at Hirwaun.

I am honoured to attend the National Fire Service for Fallen Fire-fighters in London.

I was also elected to represent the Authority on the Community Chest panel.

I am also a trustee of the Edward Thomas Charity.

I was elected to represent the authority at the Welsh Centre for International Affairs.

Section 2: Constituency Activity

I hold monthly Councillor Surgeries, for constituents who wish to see me regarding any concerns they have. I also make it clear to residents that I am available by telephone, emails and if they need to call at my home to see me.

I am a member of several organisations in my ward. These include:

A Director of the Ynysybwl Enterprise Programme.

A Director of the Ynysybwl Regeneration Partnership.

A member of the Ynysybwl branch of the Royal British Legion.

A Friend of Butcher's Pool.

I am an LEA Governor at Trerobart Primary School.

I attend PACT meetings.

I put out information that is relevant to the residents of the ward that they need to know.

I am in contact with Council Officers on a daily basis in reporting issues for residents and I will try my best to get a reply back to them that day or the next, even if it is not the response they would like.

I provide a monthly Councillor report to the Ynysybwl and Coed y Cwm Community Council.

Section 3: Initiatives and Special Activities

I am actively involved with many events in Ynysybwl.

As a member of the Ynysybwl Enterprise Programme, a group specifically set up to organise and assist with events in Ynysybwl, I am directly involved in organising and running the Ynysybwl Festival. This began in August 2013 to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Lady Windsor Colliery but has become an annual event in Ynysybwl. Now in its third year, it has gone from strength to strength. Planning for 2016 is already well under way. I am also influential in obtaining the Council's support for our Festival and I am pleased that this event continues to receive assistance and support from the authority.

I am involved in the Christmas Fayre at the Roberttown Hotel. I was delighted to be one of Santa's Little Helpers last year and I am already brushing my Elf suit off in preparation for this December. I am also involved in Santa's Magical Journey, where we take Santa out to meet the children of Ynysybwl one evening in December.

I am a Friend of Butcher's Pool. Due to severe budget cuts, the authority had to close all outdoor swimming pools in Rhondda Cynon Taff, but we in Ynysybwl decided we wanted to try to keep ours open. With help and support from the authority, we have kept the pool open for the last two summers with a rota of volunteers, of which I am proud to be one. In order to do this all volunteers had to be subject to DRB checks, First Aid training, COSH and Safeguarding training, not to mention Lifeguard training.

I am a volunteer at the Ynysybwl Youth Club every Tuesday. I have undertaken a Food Hygiene course in order to help with cooking and to sell sweets in the tuck shop.

As a member of the Ynysybwl branch of the Royal British Legion I sell poppies door to door every October and November, and I am honoured and privileged to attend the Remembrance Concert on the Friday evening prior to Armistice Day, and to lay a wreath on Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph.

I am delighted to start and help with the Ynysybwl races every May, and this year to officially start the new Man v Horse v Bicycle race, where runners, horseriders and cyclists all competed against each other.

As a member of the Ynysybwl Regeneration Partnership and as ward Councillor I am involved in issues regarding the Lady Windsor Colliery. The site has recently benefited from a successful bid by the Council for a Vibrant and Viable Places Grant from the National Assembly for Wales, in order to investigate and address any further remedial work required for the site.

Section 4: Learning & Development

I will always attend any training which the Council provide, to assist me in my role as Councillor, along with South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, as I feel it is vital in assisting members to carry out their roles and duties appropriately and effectively.

Section 5: Other Activities and Issues

I am pleased to have been involved in representing residents to the authority in order to help resolve several matters in Ynysybwl. Some of these include:

Work to the River Clydach to help resolve flooding to Clydach Road.

Obtaining dropped kerbs in several areas where they were needed.

Negotiating with the Council and Welsh Water regarding flooding in Augustus Street and Paget Street.

Obtaining help and support from the Council for the Ynysybwl Rugby Club regarding necessary work to the Recreation Ground.

The resurfacing of a large area of road in Coed y Cwm.

Raising the ongoing issues of dog fouling and parking in Ynysybwl, and any other issues raised with me by residents.

I work closely with Communities First regarding their work in Ynysybwl.

I negotiated with the Probation Service regarding painting the Grandstand at the Recreation Ground.

I am committed to helping the residents of Ynysybwl and Coed y Cwm who need my support regarding any concerns they have.