

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

This is the report by Councillor Heledd Fychan below regarding her key activities over the year ending May 2018. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose.

Councillor: Heledd Fychan

Electoral Division: Pontypridd Town

Political Group: Plaid Cymru

Section 1: Role & Responsibilities

Full Council Member

Member of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee

Member of the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee

Governor Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Evan James and Coedylan Primary School

Chair of Friends of the Muni Arts Centre

Chair of the Neighbourhood Watch for Lower Graigwen

Section 2: Constituency Activity

Shortly after being elected, I undertook a Residents survey via a newsletter which was delivered to every house in my ward. The results have informed my first year as a Councillor, and helped prioritise the work that's needed. I have been keeping residents updated on progress via quarterly newsletters and a Facebook page - Heledd Fychan Pontypridd - and have ensured that their views have been represented at various Council committees, including the Cabinet.

Key activities undertaken:

- Responded to the consultation on the Taff Vale Redevelopment, and spoke at the Planning Committee when it was discussed. Ensured concerns of residents were noted, and made representations for a more joint up approach to the future of Pontypridd and an urgent need to rethink parking in the town as well as bus routes, including to Graigwen. This remains an active campaign.
- Launched a petition when the Post Office in the Town Centre closed, and successfully campaigned for it to re-open.
- Spoke at the Planning Committee to oppose the redevelopment of the former M&S building, on basis that there is a shortfall of parking spaces and there would be more cars using the main path leading into Ynysagharad Park.
- Supported residents to oppose the demolition of the woodworking block of the former Coedylan Secondary School, which resulted in the planning committee refusing to grant permission to demolish.
- Supported residents with a number of casework, which includes issues with street lights, potholes, dog fouling, noise pollution, broken pavements, problem neighbours, street cleanliness, overgrowth, council tax.

- Ensured that the refurbishment of two playgrounds were undertaken and completed.
- Secured a commitment for slow/ araf signange on the s-bend in upper Graigwen.
- Worked with the local police to help tackle anti-social behaviour and crime within the ward.

As all Plaid Cymru candidates promised during the election campaign, I have made donations equivalent to a voluntary 5% cut in my annual allowance throughout the year to local voluntary and charitable organisations to assist in their work.

Section 3: Initiatives and Special Activities

Youth Club in Ynysangharad Park: I successfully secured the establishment of a weekly youth club in Pontypridd town, with the hope that this will be expanded. I consulted with young people directly, and made representations to relevant authorities to ensure this initiative was supported.

Provision for the Over 50s at the Muni Arts Centre: I successfully secured funding for this initiative, and currently developing plans to expand and grow this service.

Free Sanitary Products in Schools in RCT: I was an active member of the working group that undertook research and wrote the report which has led to this ground-breaking development which was initiated by Plaid Cymru Councillor for Ystrad, Elyn Stephens.

Neighbourhood Watch in Lower Graigwen: I supported the local PCSO and residents in setting up this Neighbourhood Watch. This has included fundraising and recruiting street reps, and I am now the Chair of the Neighbourhood Watch. I also support the work of the Neighbourhood Watch in Upper Graigwen and regularly attend PACT meetings, and meet with the PCSO's.

Section 4: Learning & Development

I attended all training available for new Councillors.

Section 5: Other Activities and Issues

I shadowed the Street Pastors on a busy Saturday night in Pontypridd until the early hours of the morning. This was a fascinating insight into their work, and how they support the local police and safeguard those who are out in Pontypridd at night.

I have met with, and supported the work of, a number of community groups and businesses and attended events in the town. This included laying a wreath as part of Remembrance Day.

Signature of Councillor:

Heledd Fychan

Date: May 2018