

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

This is the report by Councillor Mark Norris regarding his key activities over the year ending 30 April 2015. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose.

Councillor: Mark Norris

Electoral Division: Cwm Clydach

Section 1: Role & Responsibilities

I sit on the following Committees within Rhondda Cynon Taff Council:

- Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee (Vice Chair then Chair from Nov 2014)
- Medium Term Service Planning Scrutiny Working Group
- Zero Hours Contracts Working Group
- Community Infrastructure Levy, 123 List Working Group
- Meetings of the Chairs & Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Committees
- Democratic Services Committee
- Full Council

I sit on the following Outside Body for the Council:
Capital Region Tourism Board

Section 2: Constituency Activity

I am a Board Member of Cambrian Lakeside Ltd
I am a Governor of Cwm Clydach Primary School
I am a Board Member of Mid Rhondda Community First Cluster
I am Chair of the Rhondda Powerhouse Trust
I give admin support to the Rhondda Trust
I attend PACT meetings on a regular basis.
I am in the process of setting up a group 'Sport Clydach' with local clubs

I compile and deliver newsletters or letters to each address in my constituency – this is based on the topics which I believe my constituents would like information on and what is being done in or issues concerning the ward.

I support hundreds of individuals who contact me on a wide range of issues and have acted as an advocate in Planning matters, Highways issues, Benefit problems, Housing problems, Social Services problems, issues with outside agencies such as Welsh Water & Natural Resources Wales requests to name but a few.

I am also proud to represent Clydach at the Remembrance Services in both St Thomas' Church and St Andrew Church & Tonypany Cenotaph each year. I also try to get external funding into groups in our area when possible.

Section 3: Initiatives and Special Activities

Over several years I have played a very proactive role in improving the physical fabric in the Clydach ward with new bus shelters, bins, grit bins, improved pavements, drainage, more dog bins along with improvements to the Primary School. I am also attempting to improve the road safety in the ward, especially around the Primary School which is an ongoing task.

Section 4: Learning & Development

I have attended the following learning and development activities during the year:

Elected Member Conferences prior to Full Council:

Data Protection Training;

Corporate Parenting;

Winter Maintenance;

Alzheimer's and Dementia;

Women adding more to the economy

I also passed a level 3 ILM course in Leadership & Management

Section 5: Other Activities and Issues

There have been difficult cuts forced on the Council by the Westminster Government in recent years and there will be more big decisions to be made in the near future. I have supported local residents in trying to get the best services for our area and delivered a letter to all constituents urging them to get involved in the Council's consultations on service changes.

I am currently in the process of helping to set up an overarching body to apply for grant funding to take over the lease on the King George's Field and improve the sporting facilities in Clydach. The body will be run by representatives from 3 Local Football clubs including Cambrian, Cambrian Welfare RFC and Coltz, Friends of the Countryside Park, Rhondda Athletics Club and Cambrian Village Trust. We hope to start with the development of the athletics track and drainage on the field to allow rugby as well as football.

I support as many fundraising activities by groups in my ward as I physically can and enjoy taking part in as many festivals, concerts, fetes etc that I am able to each year.