

# **BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL** **COUNCILLORS ANNUAL REPORT**

This is the report by the Councillor named below regarding their key activities over the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose.

*Completion instructions: Councillors are free to include as much or as little information as they wish in each section, however the report is to be kept to this 2 page maximum format.*

**Councillor: Malcolm B. Dally**

**Party: Labour**

**Ward: Nantyglo**

## **Section 1 – Roles and Responsibilities**

During the year 2013-14 my role and responsibilities as a County Borough Councillor became more demanding and time consuming. The difficult decisions that were taken were thought provoking but necessary. Mainly due to the financial circumstances the Council found itself in. The temporary decline in the Nation's economic activity led to those difficult decisions which affected the delivery of Council services in some way. Understandably, those decisions were not welcomed by those affected. In the process my Council responsibilities involved serving on four scrutiny committees: Corporate Overview, Education & Skills, Environment, Economy & Infrastructure, and Social Services & Active Living. In addition I served on the Licensing Committee, the Audit Committee, as well as the Grants Working Group. On 'Outside Bodies' I represented the Council on the following – Coed-y-Garn Primary School Governing Body, the Duke of Beaufort Breconshire Estate Commoners Association, not forgetting my role and responsibilities to the people of Nantyglo who elected me. Any concerns/issues brought to my attention by Nantyglo residents were communicated to officers of the appropriate departments by telephone or letter. Replies received were sent to the complainant, similarly, requests for information were dealt with in the same way.

\* Figures supplied by Councillor

^Figures supplied by BGCBC

## **Section 2: Constituency Activity**

Nowadays, my 'constituency Activity' is limited because my representation for the Council on Outside Bodies has been reduced. The reason being changes in representation are inevitable during the course of time. As a consequence, my constituency activity / workload is less because it is no longer necessary for me to provide written or give oral reports to colleagues, or for that matter in meetings. It was expected of me when I was a member of 'Gwent Police Authority' and in later years the 'Police Authorities of Wales', as well as the 'South Wales Fire Authority'. During that period in time, it was necessary for me to attend PACT meetings throughout the County Borough. Nowadays my attendance at PACT meetings is confined to the Ward I represent. To conclude, I attend as many events as I possibly can that are organised by the following:- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council, Sports Clubs, Art/Craft Exhibitions, British Legion Remembrance Day, Coed-y-Garn Primary School – Christmas and other activities as well as local organisations that hold events/appeals for charities, concerts, not forgetting religious services.

### **Section 3: Executive and Scrutiny Activities**

Executive – to date I have not had the privilege to serve on the Executive Committee of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, however, during the past year 2013/2014 I was appointed to serve on four Scrutiny Committees which are listed in Section 1 of this report. The work areas of the four scrutiny committees were as follows:-

Corporate Overview – Human Resources, Communications, External Regulation (Legal), Finance, Equalities, customers and citizens.

Education & Skills – Education, schools, youth services, leisure and libraries, sports and arts.

Environment, Economy and Infrastructure – Regeneration and Economic Development, Highway and Infrastructure, Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Waste and the Environment, Community Safety.

Social Services and Active Living – Children’s Services, Adult Services, Older Peoples Services.

For my record of attendance at meetings – see list attached to this report.

### **Section 4: Training and Development**

Training and development is an important element in preparing my role as a councillor elected to a multi-million pound organisation. Its overall aim is to prepare members for the changes/challenges taking place within the organisation as well as catering for the needs of councillors to increase their knowledge and understanding of local government services. I consider training and development essential because we live in a society which is changing and becoming more challenging. In my role as a councillor it is necessary for me to adapt as a councillor to openness to change by challenging accepted views without being confrontational and to recognise and respond positively to the need for change, identifying ways in which the Council can be developed. Attending training and development sessions are so important for me to be able to take a balanced, open minded and objective approach in evaluating priorities, assessing candidates for top level appointments, considering complaints, to have an insight into the workings of departments as well as changes that may need to be made. Changes in legislation and finance that affect the delivery of services. Finally, training assists me to make good judgements, assists my ability to scrutinise and challenge constructively, understand data, exercise effective oversight of performance and importantly finance.

For my attendance at Training and Development Sessions – see list attached.

### **Section 5: Initiatives, Special Activities and Issues**

Initiatives – every effort is made to read external as well as officers reports in connection with Council business. I try to be enterprising in thought and demonstrate a readiness to engage in questioning officers about their reports or matters affecting the organisation of the Council. I try to keep pace with a developing Council and the need for change in the delivery of its services resulting from Estyn as well as Wales Audit Office recommendations, not forgetting the effect of cost pressures. The government’s expectation for authorities to do more for less creates the climate for doing things differently. In the process aiming for service improvement.

Special Activities – I actively engage in workshop sessions contributing to question and answer debates. Whenever public meetings are held in Nantyglo I attend and speak when called upon.

Issues – recently I attended a meeting arranged by officers of the North Nantyglo Neighbourhood Watch Association held in the Senior Citizens Hall at Nantyglo. Local issues/concerns were discussed and those present were advised how to proceed.

**Signature of Councillor: Malcolm B. Dally**

**Date: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2014**