

# **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 2013. 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: Barrie Sutton**

**Party: Labour**

**Ward: Brynmawr**

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

I am a member of both the Brynmawr Town Council and the County Borough Council. I am the Executive Member for Governance on the latter Council. I represent the Borough Council on the Joint Council for Wales.

I am a Governor of St. Mary's Church in Wales Primary School as the 'minor' authority's representative. I am a member of Brynmawr Town Council and was Mayor of the town 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12. I am the administrator of two local charities based upon Brynmawr and Llanelly Hill Parish. These charities give financial support where needed e.g. house fires, travel grants to persons having to pay regular visits to hospitals, small book grants to students and housebound residents.

I am frequently seen in public and often accosted by residents with sometimes minor problems which I deal with to the best of my ability.

\* Figures supplied by Councillor

^Figures supplied by BGCBC

## **Section 2: Constituency Activity**

Having found that constituency surgeries 'ran out of steam' after a few weeks, I have abandoned this practice in favour of personal contact with constituents either in person or by phone, finding this system efficacious.

I attend PACT meetings or offer my apologies, whenever necessary. I have regular contact with local PCSO's.

I have acted in matters of neighbourhood concerns e.g. obstructive and thoughtless parking of vehicles, planning, highway and social services matters. I have frequent telephone calls for advice or help in matters of a private nature and where possible support personal concerns and appropriate actions. I have requests for character references in support of job applications and occasionally in support of residents facing legal proceedings. I also endorse passports and driving licence and give licence applications regularly.

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

In view of the County Borough Council's decision to withdraw funding from the Market Hall Cinema, a prime community facility, in my role as Executive Member for Finance & Resources (2012/13), I felt it incumbent upon me to attempt to save this facility at the centre of Brynmawr. Working with council officers, I succeeded in earmarking some £33,000. This sum was required to purchase new digitalized projection equipment for the cinema, without which it could not have survived. The Community Group of Brynmawr Market Hall Cinema secured the leasing of the building from the County Borough Council and now successfully run the cinema. I also secured a further grant of £4,000 for the provision of satellite dishes for diversification, so that concerts, pop music concerts and opera can be received and projected on to the cinema screen. The future looks bright for the community facility in Brynmawr Town Centre.

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

I have attended member training sessions on Treasury Management on 24/09/12; work of Resources Directorate 01/10/12; Facilitated discussion Executive Members 12/11/12; Joint Executive/CMT Development session 18/10/12; Induction: Code of Conduct 22/05/12; Intro to Executive Induction 16/06/12 Questioning & Listening Skills 29/06/12; Data Protection 02/07/12; Social Services Delivering Adults & Children's Services 17/07/12; Financial Position of Authority 09/07/12; Estyn Inspection: Outcome and Update 16/05/12; Induction course: Political and Professional Relations 31/05/12: Induction course and Social Services Bill (WAG) 07/06/12; Members Briefing: Pupil Attainment 13/09/12. Member Briefings Substance Misuse 30/11.12; Audit Committee 29/01/13: Special Executive 13/02/13: Special Executive 18/02/13: Member Briefing: Procurement and Prudential Borrowing 07/03/13: Member Briefing: National Food Hygiene System 26/02/13; Member Briefing; Communications 11/12/12; Members Briefing: Waste Services Business Plan 28/11/12; Member Briefing; Basic Skills Service Improvements 10/01/13 Member Briefing: Health & Safety 18/01/13: Member Briefing : Risk Management 29/01/13: General, Environment & Community Safety 04/02/13: Highways & Transportation 05/02/13.

All Executive meetings and specials and all Council meetings monthly & AGM attended also.

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

Following possible consultation with 67% favourable responses, I endorsed the renewal of Brynmawr Bus Station with funding from SEWTA an agency of WAG.

As Chairman 2012/13 of the Grants Distribution Committee I endorsed grant payment to organisations in Brynmawr e.g. the Institute Snooker facility, Brynmawr Youth Soccer, Brynmawr Cricket Club, Brynmawr Operatic Society, Brynmawr Dance Club, Brynmawr Millennium Committee, Brynmawr Town Centre Partnerships etc.

I represented residents in dispute with Tai Calon Housing over landownership and its consequent responsibilities. I prompted the Town Council to give grant aid to the Market Hall Cinema Community Group for diversification satellite dishes for concert and opera projections. I have written numerous character references getting people into jobs and even avoidance of custodial sentences in legal circumstances. I must admit, however, my advocacy has not always been 100% successful!

**Signature of Councillor: Barrie Sutton**

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013**