

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT MUNICIPAL YEAR 2012 / 2013



Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council operates under executive arrangements. Responsibility for the authority's functions is overseen by a Leader and Cabinet made up of Councillors from the party or group with the most members. The allocation of Chair and Vice Chair posts is also based by law on the number of seats each party or group has, and this number again will have influence on the appointment of Councillors to outside bodies.

Opinions, advice, conclusions and other information in this report shall be understood as neither given nor endorsed by the authority or on its behalf. It is a report by the Councillor referred to below regarding their key activities over the period from the day they signed their Declaration of Office in 2012 up to and including 14th May 2013. It is provided for the information of constituents and for no other purpose.

Councillor:	BILL SMITH
Political Party:	LABOUR
Electoral Division:	GURNOS

Committee Membership, Roles and Attendance

This section relates to membership as an elected member, not in a personal capacity. Democratic Services has provided information on committee membership and attendance for Council Committees. However, where Councillors are a member of any other committees, they have provided details from their own records.

Council Committees: 88% Attendance

Full Council
Scrutiny: Customer Services
Scrutiny: Social Services & Social Regeneration (Chair)

External Committees and Outside Bodies

Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Joint Committee
Merthyr Valleys Homes
Safer Merthyr Tydfil
South Wales Police Authority – Joint Committee of Local Authority Representatives
VAMT Small Grants Panel
My attendance is 95 per cent

The occasions where I was unable to attend these meetings have all been as a result of other council commitments.

Champion:

Carers Champion
Anti Poverty Champion

My Work as a Local Councillor

Under this heading, Councillors have identified the work undertaken on behalf of local constituents. Reference has also been made to any major initiatives or special projects they have been associated with on behalf of MTCBC, which have a direct impact on local constituents.

I have and will continue to hold weekly ward surgeries on Friday between 2pm 3pm at the 3G/s office at the Gurnos shops.

I attend the old Gurnos Tenants and Residents Board meeting

P.A.C.T meeting

The new Gurnos Tenants and Residents Board meeting

And regularly addressed any complaints or queries in a timely manner

I have supported individuals who contacted me on a wide range of issues and acted on their behalf on neighbourhood disputes involving Merthyr valleys Homes and the police, highways matters, street lighting, Social Service, and housing issues.

I have received a considerable number of telephone calls from residents seeking advice and assistance on a range of personal issues, I am always prepared to listen to their concerns and offer appropriate support

Working with the council Regeneration Department I was successful in a two and a half million pounds investment in a new shopping and offices development at the Gurnos

Working with the 3G/s and the Council Leisure Department we received funding from Barclays Bank regeneration department for a new all-weather playing area at the Gurnos Community Centre

I was a member to the project board for the two new Care Homes at the Gurnos and Treharris

Learning and Development

In the Learning and Development section, Councillors have demonstrated instances where they have taken the opportunity for personal development by taking part in initiatives and events aimed at improving their understanding and awareness.

I have taken part in the following Learning and Development initiatives during the past year:

Corporate Parenting
Safe Guarding Children
I.C.T. Training
School Governors Training
Risk Management, Audit management
Merthyr Valleys Home

I have attended the following pre-Council Presentations:

Sportlot Community Chest Merthyr Tydfil Panel
Merthyr Care and Repair
Safer Merthyr Tydfil
Green Horizon Recycling furniture
3G/s Community First
Merthyr Valleys Home

The only occasions I turn down an invitation to a training development course is if I have other council commitments.

Other Activities and Issues

Under this heading, Councillors have provided information on themselves to demonstrate the 'personal' aspect of their role as a local Councillor which they believe would be of interest to constituent.

I have received complaints from the upper Gurnos areas, Cypress Close, Crabapple close, Wellingtonia Close and Hornbeam Close on fly tipping and dumping of rubbish in open areas causing a problem to the local community. Working with the Councils Environmental Department and the 3Gs Zero Waste are changing the ways they are going to collect the wheelie bins and the recycling bins in the area.

I support the Forsythia Close Youth Club and Pen y Dre Youth Club for which I drive the mini bus during school holidays on a voluntary basis to take the youth members on away days

I meet with Pen y Dre High School Teaching Staff to interview pupils and parents on why their children are not attending school; I also support the teaching staff in interviewing pupils and parents on anti-social behaviour during the school day.

Councillor Bill Smith
Date: 8th May 2013