

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:	ERNIE GALSWORTHY
Political Party:	LABOUR
Electoral Division:	TREHARRIS

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: 73% Attendance

- Full Council
- Appeals Committee (Chair)
- Licensing Committee
- Planning, Regulatory and Licensing Committee
- Planning and Regulatory Fact Finding Visits
- Rights of Way
- SACRE (Chair)
- Scrutiny: Chief Executive (Inc. Crime and Disorder)
- Scrutiny: Customer Services
- South Wales Police and Crime Panel (Chair)

Local Authority Panels:

- 50+ Forum (Older Peoples Steering Group) (x9)
- Overview of Chief Executive Directive (x1)
- Merthyr Tydfil Tourism Destination Plan (x1)
- Big Portrait Project, Cardiff Bay (x1)
- Treharris Town Centre, Regeneration Project (x1)
- Single Integrated Plan (x2)
- Joint Councillor Meeting, Treharris Town Centre Regeneration (x7)
- Official Opening, Wild Fishing Wales
- Visit to Regeneration Shop
- Twynrodyn School Environmental Roadshow
- Afon Taf Governors (x6)
- Welsh Language Champion Meeting (x3)
- Welsh Medium Education Forum
- SACRE Sikh Association Conference

Cont'd...

Committee Membership, Roles and Attendance Cont'd...

External Committees and Outside Bodies:

Cwm Taf Community Health Council (x7)
Merthyr Tydfil Heritage Trust (x4)
Nuclear Free Councils
South Wales Police Authority (x7)
Joint Committee of Local Representatives (x1)
Taff Bargoed Regeneration Partnership Board (x6)
Joint Council for Wales (x2)
WASACRE (x1)
Meeting with St. Tydfil's Well OAP group 2nd October.
Age Concern Morganwg AGM 9th August.
Benefits of aging conference 29th November
Young at Heart Trelewis 3rd December
Trelewis OAP dinner 6th December
WLGA Workshop – Travelling Ahead 31st January
Effective engagement with older generation 29th January
Older person's strategy meeting 4th December

Champion:

Older Persons 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.

During my first year of my return as a Councillor I have taken up many queries and complaints which range from general highway problems, grass cutting, litter, to assisting Treharris Phoenix Rugby Club in problems with their ground in relation to dog fouling and disputes with the Local Authority over rent payments.

Within the Treharris electoral division, I have organised surgeries at the Dan-y-graig Labour Club on 13th June, 8th August, 5th September, 14th November and 12th December. Surgeries have been held at Treharris Library on 29th June and 25th September. I have also held surgeries at the Western Hotel on 22nd August, 17th September, 29th October and 26th November.

I am a member of the Treharris Area Community Trust and attended meetings on 17th July, 24th July and 18th September. Among the projects undertaken were to investigate the possibility of taking over and running Treharris Community Centre and at present we are working with Communities First to assist Treharris Athletic Western and Trelewis football clubs in their problems with playing facilities.

One of my major projects has been to lobby Post Office Ltd to maintain post office services in Treharris. This has meant lobbying our Member of Parliament and Welsh Assembly Government Member.

I have supported the Friends of Taff Bargoed group in their support for the Millennium Park Project and attended their meetings on 24th May, 26th July 14th February and 8th May.

On a Borough-wide scene I am chairman of Merthyr Care and Repair, having been involved with them since 1988. I have attended meetings on 22nd May, 27th July, 1st August, 13th September, 25th September, 23rd October, 10th December, 18th December, 12th February and 30th April. I attended the Care and Repair Cymru conference on the 19th and 20th September, I attended the Business Awards dinner on 21st September and organised a surgery on 25th May.

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:

Data Protection Training
Induction Course with Giovanni Isingrini (x2)
Scrutiny Induction
Governor Training, Safeguarding Children
Social Media Training

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 constituents.

My main activities and issues within Treharris are mainly with Treharris Boys and Girls Club where I have been a trustee since 1990 and involved as a volunteer since 1967. My main duties over the last 10 years have been to work as a volunteer in the payroll department which has taken a considerable amount of my time.

I am Secretary of the Treharris Festival Committee which raises funds throughout the year to provide Christmas Presents for children at Santa's grotto. This organisation also provides Christmas trees at Treharris Library, the Navigation Hotel and Treharris Boys and Girls Club. We also provide Christmas lights for the trees and the building at the Navigation Hotel and Treharris Boys and Girls Club.

I am treasurer of the Tydfilians Society which organises the Roman Run with all proceeds going to the Mayor's Appeal and I attended meetings on 31st July, 21st August, 25th August and 12th February.

Councillor Ernie Galsworthy
Date: 27th May 2013