

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15
COUNCILLOR Calum Higgins
Tycroes Electoral Ward



Dear Resident

The purpose of this report is to keep you informed of some of the issues I have dealt with on your behalf during 2014/15. Real progress has been made in respect of these and I hope that you will find this information of interest.

Local Member Activities

Subjects	Main Issues
<i>Planning</i>	<p>Ffordd Y Deri I opposed an application for 27 houses at Ffordd Y Deri, on the basis that highways and flooding would be an issue. Unfortunately, despite local opposition it was passed by the Planning Committee. I am now concentrating on making sure the village gets the best deal in community payments.</p> <p>Parc Gwernen Although a planning application for the second phase of housing at Parc Gwernen was successful last year. I objected to the application's terms unless provision was made for a pavement along Tycroes Road and flooding issues were rectified before development. The application was granted, but the developer will be required to pay around £50,000 for a pavement along Tycroes Road and contribute towards play areas in Tycroes. The developer will not be allowed to build until remedial drainage works have been completed.</p>
<i>Education & Children</i>	<p>Tycroes CP School is growing and improving. As Chair of Governors I am very proud of the hard work put into the School by staff, parents, and children. The School's attendance rates have improved significantly.</p>

<p><i>Regeneration and Leisure</i></p>	<p>I have worked with Llanedi Community Council to support more applications for grants to renew our playing facilities.</p> <p>Betws Wind Farm Grant Following successful grant applications, funds have been secured for developing new changing rooms at Tycroes RFC.</p> <p>Parks, Play Areas, and Sports Facilities Heol Brown Park has seen some investment this year. I asked that some of the local section 106 monies be spent on repairing the old fence around the multi-use games area, making it safe for children this summer. The walls around the younger children's play area have also been rebuilt.</p> <p>Mill Terrace Play area has received new play equipment worth over £10,000 after a successful grant to the Betws Wind Farm.</p> <p>This year the Community Council will be taking over all the play areas and parks from the County Council, which includes Heol Brown Football Pitch and the field by Teglan Park.</p>
<p><i>Road Safety</i></p>	<p>Road safety remains the big issue in Tycroes. Over the last year I have continued to campaign for a safer road through Tycroes, in particular the Welsh Assembly Trunk Road (A483) past the School. I am pleased to say that after writing to the Minister for Transport, and a road safety review, the speed limit outside Tycroes School will be lowered to 20mph.</p>
<p><i>Housing</i></p>	<p>As the local member for Tycroes I often receive requests for letters of support or enquiries about maintenance for Council housing in Tycroes. I am happy to help and advise tenants on any issues they wish to raise, and they can continue to do so by contacting me on the details provided below.</p>

<i>Welsh Language</i>	<p>In the wake of the 2011 Census results Carmarthenshire County Council set up a Cross Party working group to review all Council policies relating to the Welsh language. I was delighted to be appointed vice chair of the group that met frequently through 2013 and 2014 in order to produce a final report with over 70 recommendations. The report received cross party support and was adopted by the Council in Spring time. I attended the National Eisteddfod in Llanelli as the County Council announced its action plan on the recommendations; work is already underway to put the recommendations of the working group into practice. I will now continue to be a member of the Consultation Panel which will monitor the progress of the Council's targets.</p>
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Membership of School Governing Bodies

<i>School Governing Body</i>	<i>Meetings attended</i>
Tycroes Community School	All Meetings of the Full Governing Body

Membership of Outside Bodies 2014/15 (representing the Council)

<i>Outside Body</i>	<i>Meetings attended</i>
Mid and West Wales Fire Authority	All Statutory Meetings

Other activities in connection with my duties as a County Councillor

Fire Authority

Since 2012 I have been a member of the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority, appointed by Carmarthenshire County Council to represent Carmarthenshire on matters relating to the Fire Service.

This year I supported a zero cuts budget, to safeguard all our front line fire stations, including Ammanford.

As your local Councillor, I have supported the following local organisations in their activities in the village:

Tycroes Local Aid raises money for all the charity organisations in the village and beyond. I attend their meetings as a member of the Committee and partake in their activities. I would like to thank them for all their hard work throughout the year, and for organising the village Twmpath and Christmas wine and mince pies.

Tycroes Village Hall is now fully refurbished. As Chairman of the Hall I welcome all new committee members that have started this year, and offer a warm welcome to any others who may wish to join in the future. This year Tycroes Community Councillors have secured a yearly grant from Llanedi Community Council to keep the Hall running safe in community hands.

Tycroes RFC are a well established focal point in the village. I meet with members of their committee regularly, and have been discussing developments for the benefit of the community at their facilities. There will be more developments in the next year.

If there are any issues that are causing you concern then please do not hesitate to contact me:

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<i>Telephone</i>	01269 591913
<i>E.Mail</i>	CHiggins@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AT FORMAL MEETINGS OF CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEES 2014/15

Meetings	Council	Audit Committee	Appointments Committee A Directors	Planning Committee	Total number of meetings	
Actual No held	13	4	3	1	21	
COUNCILLOR	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	NUMBER OF MEETINGS ATTENDED	PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE
Higgins CP	13	4	3	1	21	100%

ATTENDED AS LOCAL MEMBER