

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15
COUNCILLOR Edward Thomas
Llandeilo 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>The Old Provisions Market Hall in Carmarthen Street is to be redeveloped by Dawnus and hopefully full planning will be applied for within the next few months. I believe residents will be pleased with their ideas and hopefully by mid 2017 this building can be returned to use and regenerate that part of town.</p> <p>Brecon Carreg Water had sought permission from Brecon Beacons National Park for extended collection/delivery hours. Residents were opposed to the plans and I have asked for a full planning review to be undertaken and a site meeting. Unfortunately the hours have been extended an extra hour and half but the campaign continues with trying to get a 20mph speed limit imposed.</p> <p>I am always happy to help residents with Planning issues and recently had a planning decline overturned as I felt the Conservation Officer was acting illogically.</p>
<i>Street Scene</i>	<p>I have a good working relationship with the local Street Scene Manager and I have solved a number of concerns affecting the rural portion of the ward and within the Town.</p> <p>Parking remains an issue and I am trying to look at some more solutions. The car park by the Ambulance Station is Free and we have renewed the lines there. In addition there is a car park adjacent to the railway station, also free.</p> <p>New disabled bays have been installed in the main car park and additional road resurfacing and safety bollards installed.</p>
<i>Transportation</i>	<p>The Welsh Government, whilst promising action regarding the high levels of pollution in the centre of Llandeilo, has still not brought forward plans for a strategic road improvement. I will continue advocating action, as I am concerned that these high levels of nitrogen dioxide are affecting the health of residents, in particular the young and the elderly. On occasions traffic in the town comes to a standstill with large HGV lorries mixing with local traffic and local delivery vans.</p> <p>The WG, whilst including Llandeilo within their Transport Plan, have still not made any real commitment to the By-Pass and I am afraid that monies will be spent on the M4.</p>

<p><i>Education & Children</i></p>	<p>Work is progressing on the new School and hopefully the children of the Towy Valley will move into new facilities in September 2016.</p> <p>I have raised with the Director of Education, Rob Sully and the Executive Board Member, Councillor Keith Davies, my concerns regarding the Tregib Campus. I have very strong concerns about the site and the traffic implications for Ffairfach. I want more consultation and a decision regarding the continued use of the Sports Facilities by local groups after the site is vacated.</p>
<p><i>Regeneration & Leisure</i></p>	<p>Llandeilo Town Council Regeneration Group, which I Chair, meets regularly and I am pleased that a Sports Forum has been formed and has met with Local Clubs trying to meet to solve local issues. The Regeneration Group has obtained grants to produce a popular tourist map, a new town logo and a cycle rack. Other plans include applications for grants to spruce up the approach to the railway station and a collaborative partnership with Gwalia & Local Groups to create a community garden on a vacant plot near their site in town.</p>
<p><i>Environmental Health</i></p>	<p>Air Quality is still an issue in the centre of town and I am convinced that the By Pass is the only solution. Road diversion was not successful and we can not ban lorries using the trunk road. I am concerned that Welsh Government has diverted funds to the major improvement of M4 around Newport and are seriously jeopardising the health of our community.</p>
<p><i>Social Care</i></p>	<p>I am happy to assist any constituent who may have issues and needs my help.</p>
<p><i>Housing</i></p>	<p>I am happy to meet any constituent and help with any housing issue.</p>
<p><i>Other Issues</i></p>	<p>A recent fatal accident has highlighted road safety in the town. The Zebra Crossing in Rhosmaen Street needs to be upgraded to a possibly Puffin/Pelican Crossing and I am trying to get officials from SWTRA – part of Welsh Government to meet with me. I and members of Dyffryn Cennen are concerned about the safety of children in Ffairfach and would like to see a crossing here also but again SWTRA are employing delaying tactics.</p> <p>Llandeilo Town Council's Regeneration Group have installed a Cycle Rack in the Main car park and have produced tourist maps for the town traders. Investigating other options including smartening up the Railway station.</p>

	Asset Transfer Negotiations have commenced with the Local Authority and Llandeilo Town Council and I strongly believe that only Llandeilo people will care for the parks and it important that ownership is transferred to the Town.
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Membership of School Governing Bodies

Llandeilo CP School – Regular Meetings each week with Head Teacher plus 6 Governing Body Meetings.

Ysgol Bro Dinefwr – 4 plus 2 Appointment Panels.

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

<i>Outside Body</i>	<i>Meetings attended</i>
Heart of Wales Line Forum	Unable to attend – clash with other duties
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)	1
Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd Landscape Partnership Board	2

Other activities in connection with my duties as a County Councillor

I have attended a number of functions within the Ward and try to support most fund raising activities of the many organisations within the ward.

I am a member of Llandeilo Fawr Town Council representing Twyi Ward, and am a member of a number of sub groups including Finance, Christmas Lights, Regeneration Group and sit as an observer on the Festival of Senses Committee.

I am Vice Chairman of Llandeilo Town Twinning, a member of Llandeilo Civic Trust, and Treasurer of Llandeilo Arthritis Research. Also Chairman of the newly formed Sports Association.

I represent Carmarthenshire on the West Wales Valuation Tribunal and have now attended all the necessary training sessions and observed several tribunal sittings.

I have recently been elected to represent Carmarthenshire on Mid & West Wales Fire Authority and attended just one meeting since appointment in February 2015, plus a Budget Planning Seminar in April.

I continue to hold monthly constituent surgeries in Llandeilo and Llandyfan on the first Thursday of the month, but am happy to meet constituents at their home or any convenient location.

I attend the monthly meetings of Dyffryn Cennen Community Council and Llandeilo Fawr Town Council and provide written and verbal reports to the respective communities.

I maintain a Facebook presence and I try to keep users informed of events and activities on the area.

I am approachable and am willing to discuss constituents' concerns at any time.

In addition, I have attended various seminars and workshops throughout the year to improve my understanding of how the Council works and improve my skills.

I have also worked on various Cross Party Task & Finish Groups, looking at empty properties, media and communication, and helped prepare the Council response to Welsh Language, and continue to serve on the Welsh Language Advisory Panel. I feel I gained valuable knowledge and help contribute to formation of Council policy.

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

<i>Address</i>	Awelfryn , 8 Bridge Street , Llandeilo SA19 6BN
<i>Telephone</i>	07842 649261
<i>E.Mail</i>	EGThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

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

Meetings	Council	Community Scrutiny Committee	Education & Children Scrutiny Committee	Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee	Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee	Audit Committee	Housing Review Panel	Total number of meetings	
Actual No held	13	12	2	2	8	4	1	42	
COUNCILLOR	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	NUMBER OF MEETINGS ATTENDED	PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE
Thomas EG	12	9	2	2	7	4	1	37	88%

SUBSTITUTED FOR A MEMBER OF A COMMITTEE