

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15
COUNCILLOR Peter Cooper
Saron 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.

Local Member Activities

NEW 20MPH ZONE FOR SARON SCHOOL

I am delighted that funding has been secured for a new 20 mile-per-hour zone which will cover the area near Saron School, Llys yr Ysgol, the village playing field and park in Saron.

The scheme has been made possible by funding from the new solar park in the village and a substantial contribution from Carmarthenshire County Council. I have been campaigning for this scheme for many years, along with parents and other residents who are concerned at the amount and speed of traffic in this built up area.

Work will commence on the scheme within the next few months.

PLANNING UPDATE

- 41 objections have been received from residents who oppose plans to expand work at the waste metal site on ***Thornhill Road in Cwmgwili***. I have asked for a site visit following a new application so that these concerns can be raised directly with the Council's Planning Committee.
- I recently held a meeting with Council officers and the Police at ***Capel Hendre Square*** to look at new measures to ease traffic problems, including a mini-roundabout and changing the flow of traffic. Engineers are working on these options which will go out to public consultation.

GILFACH IAGO FIGHT GOES ON

Over the last few years, Celtic Energy has tried to drop its legal obligation to restore roads at the former ***Gilfach Iago Opencast site in Saron***. The company has said that it wants to replace the former roads with bridleways only.

I organised a public meeting in early 2014 which voted overwhelmingly to continue the fight for the re-instatement of roads at the site. Since then, I have continued to campaign on this issue in the Council and will be holding further meetings with Celtic Energy and the Council's legal department to take this forward.

SPEED WARNING SIGNS

As a member of Llandybie Community Council, I am pleased that new electronic speed warning signs - funded by the Community Council - have been placed in a number of locations in the ward.

CWMGWILI COMMUNITY GARDEN

I would like to congratulate residents of Cwmgwili who have worked hard to develop the community garden near Lotwen Road and Thornhill Road in the village.

The garden, which was part funded by a number of grants, is a real asset for everyone in Cwmgwili and I was delighted to visit it recently. I hope that it continues to go from strength to strength.

PENYBANC WELFARE HALL

Congratulations also go to the hard working committee of Penybanc Welfare Hall, which has secured funding over a number of years to make improvements to the Hall.

This work has been completed and I am pleased to hear that the Hall is being very well used during the day and evenings.

GWYNFRYN EXTRA CARE SCHEME

It was an honour to host the First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones, in the ward in early 2014 when he cut the sod at the site of a new Extra Care Scheme at Gwynfryn.

Carmarthenshire County Council is investing £14.3 million in this ground-breaking scheme.

The development will include 50 self-contained apartments for older people, with round-the-clock care offered on site.

Plans for the site also include 12 new affordable homes.

It is hoped that the new extra care scheme will be up and running after construction is complete in September 2015.

ALLT NANT-Y-CI COUNTRY PARK

I am delighted at how popular the Allt Nant-y-Ci Country Park in Penybanc has become. I have asked the Council to do more to tackle dog fouling and litter problems there.

COMMUNITY UPDATE

- I have been regularly attending the monthly **PACT meetings** which bring together residents, the Police and Councillors to discuss anti-social behaviour and other community issues. The meetings are held at Llandybie Memorial Hall on the first Wednesday of every month between 6.30-7.30pm. Meetings are open to anyone who lives in the Saron Ward.
- I was delighted that **Allt Nant-y-Ci park in Penybanc** recently received a grant of £28,000 from Carmarthenshire County Council to carry out badly needed drainage work at the playing fields at the park. Work will begin in the spring when weather permits. I would like to thank the Tycroes Fach Residents Committee for once again working so hard to further improve this impressive facility.

SUT I GYSYLLTU...HOW TO GET IN TOUCH...

Rwyf yma i helpu. Rhowch wybod i mi os gallaf helpu gydag unrhyw broblemau lleol a allai fod gennych - dyma sut i gysylltu:

I'm here to help. Please let me know if I can help with any local problems you might have - here's how to get in touch:



(01269) 596843



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

Meetings	Council	Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee	Planning Committee	Standards Committee	Total number of meetings	
Actual No held	13	8	26	5	52	
COUNCILLOR	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	NUMBER OF MEETINGS ATTENDED	PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE
Cooper AP	11	8	20	3	42	81%