

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15
COUNCILLOR Colin Evans
Pontamman 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.

For the last 2 years I have also been Carmarthenshire County Council's Executive Board Member for Technical Services which has included responsibility for Refuse; Street Cleansing; Transport Services; Grounds Maintenance; Building Services; Catering Services; Caretaking; Building Cleaning; Emergency Planning and Flooding.

Local Member Activities

A huge amount of work has been undertaken on your behalf over the past year despite the budgetary pressures which have affected all aspects of my portfolio.

I hope you will find the enclosed report of interest. It offers an insight into the workings of the Environment Department over the past year.

I have been instrumental in securing funding for the Maes y Coed Play Area including £30,000 from the Betws Wind Farm fund and match-funding from WREN, estimated total cost of £55,000. The construction of the Play area has now been completed.

Executive Board Member Activities

Looking back: 2014/15

- Member of the South West Wales Regional Waste Consortium and attended three meetings in the last year.
- Attended Ministerial briefings on key issues such as Waste and Transport.
- Involved in managing the transition from The South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium (Regional Working) to working as part of the Swansea Bay City Region (a process commenced in 13/14 which has gathered momentum in 14/15).

Highways:

- Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) – carriageway resurfacing £1.3 million.
- LGBI Public Lighting – £0.3 million column renewals.
- LGBI Bridges £1.5 million including two bridge replacement schemes - Carreg Sawdde, Llangadog, which I officially opened on 20th February, 2014, completed at a cost of £445k & Gallt y Bere, Rhandirmwyn at a cost of £763k.
- Remedial Earthworks – £0.517 million; commencement of a highway support scheme on the B4300, Capel Dewi, Carmarthen, which has now been officially opened.
- Winter Maintenance – construction of a new salt storage barn at Nantglas Depot, Crosshands. This will enable us to meet Welsh Government salt resilience stock levels of 16,500 tonnes.
- LGBI Public Lighting - £0.5 million column renewals energy efficient lighting.
- LGBI Bridges £1.3 million, including two major schemes – Cwm Cerrig, Talley, a bridge replacement scheme completed at a cost of £190k, and Parade Wall, Carmarthen, part reconstruction of highway retaining wall at an initial cost of £174k in 2014/1/
- A474 Betws Bridge r/b to Tesco r/b – carriageway resurfacing
- Pinewood Road, Pontamman – carriageway resurfacing (Slurry Seal)

Flood & Coastal Defence:

- Emergency works – workforce continues to respond to all emergencies on a yearly 24 hour 7 days a week basis, including severe weather problems.

Environmental:

- A new litter plan has been implemented and a Business Waste information leaflet has been produced and sent out to all businesses reminding them of their obligations to dispose of waste.

Waste:

- We are ranked 4th in Wales for our carbon savings.
- Recycling outturn likely to be at least 60% against a target of 56%.
- Only 18% of our municipal waste is landfilled, we currently meet the 19/20 EU diversion target.
- Carmarthenshire has 4th lowest cost in Wales for refuse collection service.
- Cost of co-mingled food and green waste collection/treatment rated as 1st out of 7 comparable authorities.
- 119 Carmarthenshire Schools are registered on the Eco Schools Programme.
- 75 schools achieved Carmarthenshire Eco green flag award, 17 of which are Platinum awards, one of the highest in Wales.
- Over 5,500 properties engaged in a door knocking exercise resulting in a 12% increase in recycling participation for those properties visited.
- Officers took part in over 30 public talks/educational events throughout the County.
- Held 12 waste and tyre amnesties in various locations in the County.
- Overall recycling rate of over 80% at 5 of the Household Waste Recycling Centres.
- The Tidy Towns and Keep Wales Tidy officers undertook numerous clean ups and organised skip days in communities across the County.
- Over 170 recycling centres collecting 4,000 tonnes per annum.
- Worked with various Schools and Councillors to raise awareness on litter and dog fouling issues and plans underway to continue this.
- Partnership with Age Cymru/Menter regarding the 50+ glass recycling scheme.

Transport Issues

Roads through Carmarthenshire carry the third highest traffic volumes in Wales, with responsibility split between the Wales Government for the trunk Roads and the County Council. The public transport networks and school transport networks carry over 4 million passenger journeys yearly and the continued investment in infrastructure development and road user safety is essential to facilitate the safe movement of goods and people, which is key to the economy and well being of Carmarthenshire.

Throughout the year we have continued to invest revenue, capital, Wales and European Grant funding, a summary of the main areas of investment detailed below:

Safe Routes in the Communities:

Delivered the £594,000 scheme to improve road safety, walking and cycling infrastructure in the Llwynhendy/Pemberton area. The scheme is aimed at improving safety for local journeys and encouraging sustainable travel, with particular reference to journeys to and from the 3 Schools in the area.

Infrastructure Development:

£2m Local Government Borrowing Initiative Programme (LGBI) over 13/14 and 14/15 which saw the construction of in the region of 50 new highway infrastructure schemes aimed at improving road safety, connecting communities and creating a safer more efficient highway network.

Bus Corridors

Continued to improve passenger transport infrastructure along key strategic bus corridors, particularly Carmarthen to Swansea and Ammanford to Cross Hands. The Bwcabus project in rural areas north West of the County is flourishing with yearly passenger growth.

Developed and implemented the Traws Cymru Carmarthen to Aberystwyth bus services on behalf of the Wales Government. Rationalised bus services in response to the continuing funding reductions. The Authority worked with the bus operators to sustain as many services as possible by redesigning networks to improve efficiency.

Walking and Cycling

Completed a number of sections of Walking and Cycling routes, including:

- Randell Square to Burry port Harbour Pembrey Canal Link
- Carmarthen Riverside Route
- Continued to develop the branded routes programme in Carmarthen Town Centre

Highway Development

Continuing to develop the Cross Hands Economic Link Road.

Work continued on proposals for highway improvements at Ammanford, Wind Street/Tir Y Dail Junction improvements and The Ammanford Distributor Road Phase 2.

Concluded Phase One of investment in a number of Road Safety and Footway improvements.

Secured planning permission for Carmarthen Link Road.

Rail Station Improvement funded by the National Station Improvement Programme

£300k spent on a number of access improvements from the National Stations Improvement Programme (Access to Stations) such as new footways, parking, ramps, lighting bus shelters, signage etc. at various County locations.

Traffic Management, Parking and Road Safety

Increased the provision of disabled parking bays in the Council's town centre car parks, from an average 4% to almost 8%. Modifications were also made to improve access for blue badge holders at 16 town centre car parks.

Friar's Park, John Street, St Peter's (Carmarthen), Murray Street and East Gate (Llanelli), and Carregamman (Ammanford) Car Parks passed the annual round of Park Mark® inspections by a joint British Parking Association/Dyfed Powys Police assessment team. The Park Mark® Safer Parking Scheme is an initiative of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO/S) and is aimed at reducing both crime and the fear of crime in parking facilities.

Road safety engineering projects aimed at reducing the likelihood of road casualties were introduced under the road safety and accident prevention programme. In 2014/15 £0.65m was spent on delivering these programmes through the provision of rural route treatment, traffic calming and speed limit schemes and traffic regulation orders.

Safer Car Park – Park Mark Awards – St Peter's, Carmarthen.

Rural Route Treatments (2014/15):

A476 – Swiss Valley/Felinfoel

A4138/A484 – Trostre Roundabout

A482 – Llanwrda – Cwmann

A4069 – Brynaman – Llangadog (J.M.E.)

Speed Management – Traffic Calming:

Heol y Parc, Cefneithin

A476 – Carmel

Trimsaran – B4308, Phase 1

Gwynfe Village

Pentrecagal Village

Road Safety Education

The following Education and Training Programmes/Campaigns were delivered in 2014-15:

Cycling training; Vehicle Driving / Riding Training: Dragon Rider, Pass Plus Cymru and Young driver programme.

The Road Safety Service continues to engage with the most vulnerable road user groups to promote road safety. In 2014-15 specialist training was provided to motorcyclists, older drivers and school children in the safe use of the roads.

Young children:

Kerb craft training and Childrens Traffic Club

Older Persons:

Older person's driver re-training programme

Speed Management:

Speed awareness initiative outside primary schools

Membership of School Governing Bodies

School Governing Body	Meetings attended
Ysgol y Bedol	04/04/14 and 10/04/15

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

Outside Body	Meetings attended
South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium (SWWITCH)	27/03/15
South West Wales Regional Waste – Joint Management Committee	14/04/14; 01/08/14; 24/11/14

Other activities in connection with my duties as a County Councillor**Surgeries Held:**

06/04/14 at Nantlais
14/11/14 at Nantlais
13/03/15 at Nantlais
20/03/15 at St Thomas' Church

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

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

Meetings	Council	Executive Board	EBM Environmental & Public Protection	EBM Technical Services	Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee	Appointments Committee A Directors	Total number of meetings	
Actual No held	13	12	1	7	8	1	42	
COUNCILLOR	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	NUMBER OF MEETINGS ATTENDED	PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE
Evans DC	11	11	1	7	5	1	36	86%

ATTENDED AS AN OBSERVER

ATTENDED AS A SUBSTITUTE