

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15  
COUNCILLOR Jim Jones  
Glyn 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**

<b>Subjects</b>	<b>Main Issues</b>
<i>Transportation</i>	There are currently problems with the new bus services which have resulted in the people from Ponthenry being unable to go to the Dr's Surgery, Chemist etc in Pontyates as there is no regular bus service, it is limited to 2 hours only. I am currently looking into this to try and alleviate the problem.
<i>Education &amp; Children</i>	Five Roads CP School has now gone into Federation with Pontyates CP School with Mrs. Eira Rumble as the Headteacher.  The new portakabin has been sited at Five Roads CP School and I continue to work closely with the School Council.
<i>Housing</i>	More tenants have moved into Llysydderwen Complex, Ponthenry. We now have a luncheon club on site and are working towards establishing a breakfast club as well.

### **Membership of School Governing Bodies**

<b>School Governing Body</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>
Five Roads Primary School	08.07.14, 22.10.14, 27.10.14, 20.11.14, 15.01.15 and 10.03.15.
Carway, Gwynfryn, Ponthenry Federation School	No longer a governor at this Federation School.

### **Executive Board Activities**

#### **Public Protection – carried on from the previous year's achievements and challenges**

1. I have continued to hold regular monthly meetings with senior officers from the Public Protection team to have an overview on all relevant issues covered by Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Animal Health and Licensing.
2. I have continued to assist in the publicity to promote the Food Hygiene Rating Act. Additionally, I have been liaising with the officers carrying out the regular sampling and monitoring of the shellfish beds in the County to ensure that they remain safe for commercial gathering
3. The teams have been working closely with me during the collation of the Contaminated Land Strategy to ensure public safety during planning and development in the County.

4. The teams have been regularly monitoring the air quality in the County particularly Llandeilo, Llanelli and Carmarthen. As a result, I have been involved in the production of an action plan for Llandeilo and declaration of Air Quality Management Area for Llanelli and Carmarthen.

### **Trading Standards**

Photoshoots carried out during the year:

- 14/10/2014 – Photographed with the sniffer dogs
- 11/12/2014 – Photo shoot - rogue trading etc
- 22/08/14 – Photo shoot - loom band safety

List of events attended:

- Launch of 50<sup>th</sup> No Cold Calling Zone in Carmarthenshire at Bryn y Wawr, Llanpumsaint – 20/05/14 (photoshoot/press release/event)
- Launch of FESS scheme, partnership working with Barclays Bank Ammanford – 20/06/14 (photoshoot/press release)
- Performance of Scams Play at the National Eisteddfod Llanelli (event) August 2014
- Launch of first No Cold Calling Village in Cil y Cwm – 15/01/15 (photoshoot/press release/event)
- Trading Standards training of Royal Mail staff to identify and report scam victims – 17/03/15 (photoshoot/press release/event)
- Training of Carmarthenshire CAB staff on Scams/Fess scheme – 27/03/15 (photoshoot/press release/event)

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES 2014-15**

1. I met with the Director of Technical Services regularly to be briefed on developments.
2. I have been instrumental in developing a single point of contact for fly tipping across local authority land where the budget for fly tipping on Housing land is now dealt with via the Enforcement Section
3. The Police Community Support Officers have now been authorised and trained in the issue of fixed penalty tickets for litter.
4. Worked increasingly with local communities/Council Departments to tackle hot spot areas with regard to dog fouling, litter, fly-tipping etc, which has involved regular enforcement visits to areas all over the county and have met with county

councillors/town and community councils to try to resolve these issues. We have revised our Litter Management Plan for Carmarthenshire to tackle environmental crime e.g. littering, dog fouling, illegal tipping all of which are a blight on our beautiful county. An action plan has been devised to implement our aspirations of keeping Carmarthenshire clean and tidy.

5. Officers have been allocated wards and are encouraged to liaise with the local members and the local Police Teams to enhance communication and to provide information for more effective targeting.
6. Ensured we continue to publicise our increased focus on Enforcement through weekly press releases and promotional campaigns.
7. Worked with Keep Wales Tidy to maintain and enhance our record as one of the best performing Councils in Wales regarding cleanliness of the County.
8. I have been instrumental in developing the Dog Control Orders and looking to implement the new Anti Social Behaviour Act. The proposed orders have been subject to public scrutiny and recommendations are currently going through the political process for implementation
9. I have been involved in the work of educating school children on sustainability etc. and have visited schools who have received the Green Flag Award.

### **Planning Enforcement**

Planning Enforcement was the subject of a review by a Task and Finish and Group made up from members of the Community Scrutiny and Planning Committee. The report and protocol prepared following this review was approved by Executive Boar. The Group made a number of recommendations in relation to the service area, dealing with issues including, prioritisation and timelines, collaborative working, staff safety, and dealing with anonymous complaints, and these recommendations are being implemented in line with the suggested timescales. The service area continues to report on a quarterly basis to the Planning Committee.

### **Parking Enforcement**

The Council's Parking Service begun enforcement of double parking and parking at dropped kerbs, as if they had been introduced using a Traffic Regulation Order. The new powers were approved by myself following complaints from wheelchair and disabled carriage users who are unable to cross safely because of blocking of dropped kerbs by cars.

### **Rural Affairs Annual Update 2014-15**

I attend regular meetings with officers from the department to receive updates and work very closely with the Executive Board Member for Regeneration and Leisure on relevant issues/projects etc.

During the year I have undertaken the following visits:

### **Redundant Rural Buildings Scheme**

CRANC Cyclesport Ltd, Llangunnor – conversion of a derelict agricultural shed into business premises for bespoke fitting, building and servicing of bicycles.

### **Strengthening the Tourism Appeal of Rural Carmarthenshire Scheme**

Llandovery Caravan Park – for the improvements to the Shower Block and conversion of pitches to all-weather pitches.

Kings Bridge, Llandeilo – for the works to the renovation of the bridge.

Barons Court, Llangadog – for shower, toilet and wash facility with full accessibility and hot tub at the park and for solar panels at the campsite.

Myddfai Hall, Llandovery – for the addition of an external centre amenity for outdoor events, outdoor seating, improved customer access and landscaping to the Myddfai Visitor Centre.

### **Support Farms to Diversify Scheme**

Cowpots, Cyffig – for the conversion of the outbuilding into a visitor centre and farm shop and for the purchase of capital equipment and carry out essential capital works for the commencement of the new farm diversification enterprise of a visitor centre and farm shop with ice cream parlour.

Hafodneyddyn, Llandeilo – for the purchase of capital equipment for a specialist animal feed enterprise.

Where diaries permitted, I was joined on the above visits by the Chair of Council and Executive Board Member for Regeneration and Leisure.

### **Community visits undertaken:**

The Level Crossing, Llandovery – structural works to re-open a closed public house and convert into a 4 star bunk house which included total refitting of the premises.

YMCA, Llandovery – Funding secured to set up a Jobs Club, Art Club and the refitting of 2 rooms, which included the purchase of new ICT equipment and art materials.

Business Hub, Llandovery – Conversion of the Old Heritage Centre above the TIC into a modern Business Hub for sole traders and businesses. Involved refitting the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and installing a meeting room space on the ground floor.

Abernant Afterschool Club – Opening of an afterschool club to include the renovation of a portacabin to ensure it was fit for purpose.

Meidrim Park – Installation of new play equipment.

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

I hold walkabout surgeries in my area and undertake regular visits to all organisations and local activities, where concerns are highlighted and processed by myself.

***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**

<b>Meetings</b>	<b>Council</b>	<b>Executive Board</b>	<b>EBM Environmental &amp; Public Protection</b>	<b>Environmental &amp; Public Protection Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>Appointments Committee A Directors</b>	<b>Total number of meetings</b>	
<b>Actual No held</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>39</b>	
<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>NUMBER OF MEETINGS ATTENDED</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE</b>
Jones TJ	12	11	3	5	2	33	85%

**ATTENDED AS AN OBSERVER**

**ATTENDED AS A SUBSTITUTE**