

Cynghorydd / Councillor Kevin Madge

Adroddiad Blynyddol 2014/15

Annual Report 2014/15



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.

Activities as Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council – 2014/15

This year again has been one of the most challenging faced by local Government for a generation. The financial background has forced us this year to re-examine our priorities and make some very difficult decisions in this year's budgets.

I am especially pleased that we have kept pace with bringing the Council's 9,000 homes up to the Carmarthenshire Homes Standard. We have also kept up the momentum in implementing the Modernising Education Programme which is the biggest investment in new and improved schools in the County's history, and we have continued to invest in creating new jobs for local people through projects as the Cross Hands East Strategic Employment Site business Park. We also have continued to implement a programme of providing new "extra care" schemes at Carmarthen and Ammanford which will deliver the quality of accommodation that our older residents deserve.

In August 2014, Carmarthenshire County Council was celebrating the success of the Eisteddfod in Llanelli which was a fantastic week. The Council had worked closely with the Eisteddfod for the last 18 months and it was one the most successful ever Eisteddfod in Carmarthenshire.

Also in August, I attended the opening ceremony of the £1.1m Youth and Leisure facility at Glan-y-Mor School in Burry Port which was officially opened by Children's Commissioner for Wales, Mr Keith Towler.

On 14th September, I attended a ceremony for Mr William Charles Fuller was the first Welshman last year to have a paving stone laid in his honour as part of last year's WW1 100th anniversary commemorations. All VC recipients stones were laid in their home county.

On 4th December, the First Minister visited the premises in Old Castle Road, which will be renovated as a centre to promote the Welsh language in Llanelli. I welcome this funding which will enable us to work with partners and develop a centre dedicated to the promotion of Welsh and living language.

I was very happy with the appointment of telecommunications billionaire Sir Terry Matthews as Chair of Swansea Bay City Region last September. This was excellent news and we have hit the jackpot. Sir Terry is one of the top business people in the world.

Last Christmas we had received the news that progress is being made on the Llandeilo by-pass. The Welsh Government has published the draft national transport plan for consultation. Llandeilo by-pass is referenced by Welsh Government as one of 12 road schemes across Wales where work will progress during the next 5 years.

Finally in April this year I visited the new £30 million Ysgol Bro Dinefwr which is making good progress. This project is part of Carmarthenshire County Council's Modernising Education Programme. It was good to see such progress being made on this School. It is going to be a fantastic facility for hundreds of young people.

I also visited the new £18.4million development at Ysgol Maes Y Gwendraeth. The scheme, which is being carried out in two phases, includes a two storey Design and Technology and Science block linked to the existing building, and also a new sports hall. It's great to see the difference that this investment is already making at the School.

As this is my last report as Leader, I would like to express my sincere and deep felt gratitude to the Council's employees, who have continued to provide our services to a very high standard during this difficult period.

<i>Subjects</i>	<i>Main Issues</i>
<i>Street Scene</i>	The road outside Garnant Day Centre and Surgery area has been resurfaced over the last year.
<i>Social Services</i>	I have been working closely with officers to develop services at Garnant Day Centre, and in early 2016 a new £10 million Extra Care Housing development will be created in Ammanford at Gwynfryn, opposite Coleg Sir Gâr on Station Road. There will 37 one Bedroom flats; 1 double bedroom; 13 flats with two bedrooms, and also the Extra Care complex will have community facilities, including a cafe and restaurant, community lounge, craft and therapy rooms.
<i>Education & Children</i>	<p>I have also been working with officers regarding Dyffryn Aman School which had an extra £1.6 million for the School under the Modernising Education Programme. The School has already had over £21 million over the last few years.</p> <p>In the last year Ysgol Y Bedol has had solar panels of 50kwp pv system installed. The panels will not only generate clean energy and save money, but will also help educate the children on the importance of climate change and sustainability as well as the impact they have on the environment.</p>
<i>Regeneration & Leisure</i>	<p>Work is well under way at Cross Hands West site which will include a brand new store. Hundreds of jobs will be created along with hundreds more during the construction phase, jobs which are badly needed in the area.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire County Council has also made a good start on the Cross Hands East Strategic Employment Site. Land has been secured to enable the implementation of the first phase of the development which will be able to accommodate 1,244 jobs. Also, the new access road has</p>

	<p>now opened at A48 to Black Lion Road.</p> <p>The Workmen's Hall remains an eye-sore. There has been progress and meetings have been held this year with the owners and I am waiting for a planning application. They are currently considering an option to demolish the building and to redevelop the site.</p> <p>I was able to secure grant funding from Mynydd Y Betws Wind Farm of £10,000 towards a new state of the art multi use sports area (MUGA) at Cwmamman Park. Also £14,000 towards the animal project in the arden at Ysgol y Bedol, and £10,000 at Garnant Golf Club towards a new grass cutting machine.</p>
<i>Housing</i>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council has become the first authority in Wales to suspend its right to buy scheme. This will help alleviate the demand on our housing register and support our vision to make more good quality homes available for people in Garnant.</p> <p>Improvements have been carried out to the housing stock at Maes Y Fron, Garnant and the bungalows on Cwmamman Road by the Half Moon.</p>

Membership of School Governing Bodies

<i>School Governing Body</i>	<i>Meetings attended</i>
Ysgol y Bedol	I attended all the scheduled meetings of the full Governing Body during the last year. As Chair of Governors, I have also attended most of the sub-committee meetings, and have been present at a number of appointments. I have also attended informal meetings with the Headteacher.

Other activities in connection with my duties as a County Councillor

As Carmarthenshire's representative on the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) I attend frequent meetings of the WLGA's Council and Co-ordinating Committee. I hold the position of Deputy Presiding Officer and regularly attend Ministerial meetings in my capacity as Deputy Spokesperson on Social Services matters.

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	Appointments Committee A Directors	Appointments Committee B Heads of Services	Total number of meetings	
Actual No held	13	12	3	4	32	
COUNCILLOR	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	NUMBER OF MEETINGS ATTENDED	PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE
Madge K	12	8	3	4	27	84%