

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15
COUNCILLOR Siân Thomas
Penygroes 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

What has Siân been doing this year? Well, as well as helping a great many residents with private matters, across the ward, she has undertaken several activities, and more are in hand.

The Emlyn site. There has been much talk about the financial uncertainty relating to the developer, and there has not been any work for some time. It is pleasing therefore to see that they have recommenced recently. Although there has been no news as yet for the people of Penygroes regarding the new bypass which will go through the site and then close off Norton Road which will directly affect several homes. Also the developer's wooden fence has fallen down near our recycling bins close to the Hall and Club car park, and needs to be fixed.

The Village Hall and Rugby Club Car Park. Apart from the above, there have been many complaints about the lorries which park here overnight. They damage the tarmac surface when turning. The Hall Committee has been trying to prevent them from parking there. Don't worry if you only park there to use the Hall, Nursery or Club, or just to visit the Doctor or pharmacy. It's the lorries that are a cause for concern, especially those from far afield which are there overnight and which, in addition to ruining the tarmac, also cause litter and worse.

Safe Routes To Schools. The missing pavement on Heol y Blac. Money has now been promised for the required section of pavement, the technical inquiry has started, and there is now a need to press for it to be provided as soon as possible. The safety of our children is vital.

Our Parks. Parking Services have been asked to ensure that all is well in our parks before proposing that they be transferred to the Community Council. If there is any remaining 106 funding (a developer's contribution to the community) it will be used to improve the facilities at Blaenau park.

Public footpaths. It came to light that we have several Rights of Way issues. The County has been improving surfaces and tidying some paths and gates, but there are others where owners at the entrances refuse to allow access. These are public footpaths and everyone has a right to walk along them. If you are unable to do so, please let me know as I am determined to keep all of them public.

Village Square. Doesn't the old Sami shop, which has since been a bank and then several other ventures, look a state? I managed to get the Council to make it safe, the roof and the windows. But it looks so ugly. The executors of the owner's will have been given an official warning that they must improve the appearance of the place, but we are still waiting. Please do complain to the County and me to keep them on the case.

Clos y Cwm. I am trying to get additional street lighting for the dark corner of the estate.

Gilfach Iago. The dispute over the proper restoration of this site continues. I will continue to fight for sufficient compensation from the owners.

And within the Council? Siân has served on the Communities Scrutiny Committee, as a Trustee of the Dyfed Pension Fund and Oriel Myrddin, as a representative on the Appeals Committee, and the Corporate Parenting Committee, and the Court of Aberystwyth University.

I am also a Councillor on Llandybïe Community Council; a governor of Penygroes and Blaenau primary schools; a member of the Carmathenshire Diabetes Committee. I was also Chair of the ward's Appeal Committee for the National Eisteddfod of Wales, Llanelli and District 2014, and Chair of Menter Cwm Gwendraeth.

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	Community Scrutiny Committee	Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee	Appeals Committee	Total number of meetings	
Actual number held	13	12	1	0	26	
COUNCILLOR	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED	PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE
*Thomas SE	7	7	1	0	15	58%

SUBSTITUTED FOR A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE

I had a serious operation in June 2014, which affected my ability to attend some of the above meetings.