

Carmarthenshire County Council Councillor's Annual Report 2022-2023

This annual report outlines the activities of the Councillor named below for the period May 2022 to May 2023 (the Council's Municipal Year). It is provided for the information of constituents, and for no other purpose. The views expressed in the report are those of the Councillor and do not necessarily reflect the views of Carmarthenshire County Council.

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| Councillor: Lewis Davies | Electoral Division: Kidwelly & St Ishmael |
|---------------------------------|--|

| Section 1: Role & Responsibilities |
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| <i>Council Committees:</i> |
| Full Council |
| Corporate Performance & Resources Scrutiny Committee |
| Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee |
| Democratic Services Committee (Chair) |
| Governance & Audit Committee |
| |
| <i>Attendance Record:</i> Attendance record - Cllr. Lewis Davies (gov.wales) |

| Section 2: Constituency Activities |
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| <p>Over the past year I have raised 61 Councillor enquiries through the Councillor Enquiry system and additional 21 service requests (missed bin collections, fly tipping, potholes and faulty streetlights).</p> <p>Through the Welsh Government's Local Places for Nature Grant Scheme, we were able to secure funding for tree planting at the Quay in Kidwelly. On the 4th of March, residents of Kidwelly took part in a tree planting session where over 200 trees were planted. A variety of trees were planted, including common alder, downy birch, pedunculate oak, rowan, bird cherry, wych elm, crab apple, hawthorn, hazel, spindle and guelder rose.</p> <p>I also had the pleasure to attend the official opening of the new Ysgol y Castell building. The brand-new facility was delivered at a cost of £7.4 million and was joint funded by the Welsh Government, through its Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, and by Carmarthenshire County Council's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.</p> <p>We have had several challenges across the Ward, from the safety concerns over the Old Town Hall and the on-going survey work being undertaken at the Industrial Museum, to the recent closure of the Post Office in Ferryside. I have been organising meetings with officials in the Council over both Kidwelly & Mynyddygarreg assets over the past 12 months and will continue to provide residents with the latest information on both in the coming months. I have worked closely with our local MP, Community Council, and the Post Office to seek a viable return of post office service to Ferryside.</p> |

We've held 4 surgeries in the last year across the Ward – 2 in Llansaint, 1 in Ferryside and 1 in Mynyddygarreg. We will be looking to increase the number of surgeries we hold this year – please get in touch if you would like to host a surgery at your venue.

Part 3: School Governing Bodies

| List of School Governing Bodies | Attendance Record | |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|
| | Number of meetings | Percentage |
| Ysgol Glanyfferi | 3 | 100% |
| Ysgol Mynyddygarreg | 4 | 100% |

Section 4: Outside Body Representation

| List of outside bodies | Attendance Record | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| | Number of meetings | Percentage |
| Book Council of Wales | 1 | 100% |

Section 5: Learning & Development

- 17/05/22 - Code of Conduct, Ethics, Standards, Legal Duties
- 20/05/22 - Introduction & Overview of Modern.Gov
- 23/05/22 - Constitutional Matters & Meeting Preparation
- 26/05/22 - Local Government Finance
- 06/06/22 - External Regulators
- 09/06/22 - Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire
- 10/06/22 - Climate Change
- 16/06/22 - Equalities & Diversity
- 20/06/22 – Crisis Communications Training
- 08/07/22 - Members of the Governance & Audit Committee
- 12/07/22 - Corporate Parenting & Safeguarding
- 18/07/22 - Personal Safety & Self Care
- 22/07/22 - Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence
- 01/09/22 - Cyber Security
- 22/09/22 - Armed Forces
- 27/09/22 – Effective Casework Management
- 03/10/22 - Corporate Complaints Policy
- 07/10/22 - Introduction to Transformation
- 24/10/22 - Council Owned Properties
- 02/12/22 - Dyfed Pension Fund
- 01/03/23 – Learn Welsh Advanced 3 Course
- 08/06/23 – Carer Awareness Training
- 19/06/23 – Creative Speechwriting

Section 6: Other Activities and Issues

On the 8th of March, I voted in favour of the County Council's policy of premiums on second homes and empty properties. From April 2024, owners of second homes will pay a 50% premium on second homes and a 50% premium on properties which had been empty for one to two years. The premium rises to 100% - or a doubling of council tax - for properties vacant for two to five years, and 200% for those empty more than five years.

The 2021 Census found that our Ward has 60 holiday homes, with 50 of these homes being in the old St Ishmael Ward. The second homes premium is only one of a range of measures I will be looking to support the County Council in to tackle the chronic lack of affordable and suitable accommodation for young people and young families in our area.

Signed by Councillor: Lewis Davies

Date: 03/07/23