

# 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.

<b>Councillor: Martyn Palfreman</b>	<b>Electoral Division: Hengoed</b>
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<b>Section 1: Role &amp; Responsibilities</b>
<b>Council Committees:</b>
Full Council
Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Appointments Committee B – Heads of Service
<b>Attendance Record:</b> <a href="#">Attendance record - Cllr. Martyn Palfreman (gov.wales)</a>

<b>Section 2: Constituency Activities</b>
<p>Following my election as one of two County Councillors for Hengoed in May 2022, I have sought to engage extensively with communities across the Ward, which sits to the north west of Llanelli.</p> <p>With my fellow Ward member, Councillor Edward Skinner, I held surgeries for constituents every month from June 2022, with the exception of August. These surgeries took place on the third Saturday of the month and were held in venues in each of the primary communities within the Ward, namely Furnace, Pwll and Sandy/ Strade. These provide an opportunity for members of the public to meet with us and discuss any issues of concern. Our surgery in January 2023 was co-hosted by the local MP, Dame Nia Griffith MP. We have also produced two public newsletters which have been distributed to households across the Ward.</p> <p>As Ward Councillors, we have actively pursued priority issues within the community, notably the traffic problems on Sandy Road which have been the cause of widespread local concern for some years. On several occasions since our election we have met with Council Officers and their agents Atkins, to discuss possible solutions and also arranged a wider discussion with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services and the Welsh Government's Deputy Minister for Climate Change in March 2023 to explore possible solutions. These are being actively pursued at the time of writing. Alongside this we have also commissioned GoSafe to undertake speed checks at a number of locations across the Ward and continue to keep these areas under review.</p>

To help keep the area tidy, we have led community litter picks in Strade, Pwll and Furnace. This has been a great opportunity to bring residents together and promote collective action to benefit the Ward.

Alongside this, I have also worked with residents and officers to address local issues relating to a range of services, including housing, planning, highways, drainage, parking, litter and fly-tipping and building control, working with Council officers and partners to effect swift remedies to problems experienced by residents. Examples of outcomes achieved for the community include erection of new No Through Road signs to discourage motorists from attempting to use cul-de-sacs as cut throughs, parking restrictions in hazardous locations and improvements to street name plates on the Parc Y Strade development to make it easier for delivery drivers and visitors to navigate the estate.

With fellow Councillors, I have played an active part in the Pwll Carnival Committee, which has been planning for the first carnival in the village in over 30 years. This will take place in June 2023. We have also supported the establishment of a Residents' Group for the Sandy Road area, which will be developed further in the coming year.

### Part 3: School Governing Bodies

<i>List of School Governing Bodies</i>	<i>Attendance Record</i>	
	<i>Number of meetings</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Ysgol Ffwrnes	3	100%

### Section 4: Learning & Development

Upon my election I participated in a comprehensive induction programme which ran over the Summer and Autumn of 2022. Modules completed spanned a range of areas, including codes of conduct for elected members, national policy priorities and key strategies of the County Council. I remain committed to taking part in all learning and development opportunities that will assist me in undertaking my role as County Councillor as effectively as possible.

### Section 5: Other Activities and Issues

I was a member of a cross-party Task Force established by the Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, which developed an Emergency Social Housing Allocations Policy. This simplifies the allocations process and seeks to enable the Council and Registered Social Landlords to use scarce housing resources to meet the needs of vulnerable residents and those in greatest need of housing, as effectively and fairly as possible.

I also sit on a cross-party Tackling Poverty Advisory Panel and have contributed to Council-wide initiatives aimed at supporting residents experiencing poverty and struggling with the effects of the cost-of-living crisis. The Panel has helped shape expansion of the Council's town centre Hwbs to provide enhanced support and advice to residents and overseen development of the Authority's Tackling Poverty Plan.

**Signed by Councillor: Martyn Palfreman**

**Date: May 2023**