

# BCBC Councillor's Annual Report

**Councillor: R L Penhale-Thomas**

**Ward: Maesteg West**

## **Party: Llynfi Independents**

This report identifies my key activities during the year ending **30 April 2018**. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose. The views expressed in this report are those of the Councillor and do not necessarily reflect the views of Bridgend County Borough Council.

### **Role & Responsibilities**

I was first elected to Bridgend County Borough Council to represent Maesteg West in May 2012 and was re-elected in May 2017. I have undertaken a variety of roles within the council this year including being appointed to several committees.

I have supported the residents of my ward on a variety of issues and have formally raised 131 constituent queries with the council and other organisations. This is in addition to informally addressing a number of other issues which you have asked me to help you resolve.

To enable me to fulfil my role as your representative, I have attended a number of member development activities which have assisted me to ensure that my knowledge of national and local issues affecting the council and my ward is maintained.

Further information of my **roles, responsibilities and activities** can be found by using this link.

### **Constituency Activity**

I have made myself readily available to constituents – usually within 24 hours or less - by telephone, e-mail, social media and in person on a wide variety of issues over the last twelve months. These have ranged from matters in housing and public protection, regeneration and planning, to highways, education and social services. In particular, I have received a high volume of concerns regarding waste and recycling, more especially at the time of the inception of the local authority's new contract in the summer.

I have liaised directly with (senior) officers on issues that require more urgent attention and a quick resolution.

I have also worked closely with the local policing team in Maesteg in identifying problem areas and raising the concerns of constituents with the relevant officers.

I regularly advocate on behalf of local residents with partner agencies, including the local health board, housing associations and other public, private and charity bodies.

I work in partnership with my colleagues in Maesteg East and on Maesteg Town Council

on matters that affect the wider Llynfi Valley.

### **Initiatives and Special Activities**

I will often take a 'hands-on' approach to my role as a councillor. During the flooding of a number of local shops in the town centre in May 2017, I helped several business owners and residents to clear their properties of floodwater during an unprecedented storm.

I have developed a keen interest in tackling the blight of empty residential and commercial properties as well as in the authority's digitalisation programme, ensuring that council services are still available to residents in a way that best suits their needs.

During the past year, I have also played a significant role in the scrutiny of the council's budget by sitting on the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel (BREP), which provided an opportunity to question the council's most senior directors. As group leader of the Llynfi Independents, I have also met regularly with fellow group leaders to raise issues of concern across the wider authority.

### **Other Activities/Issues**

On many occasions throughout the last year, I have been privileged to support the many and varied musical and choral events in Maesteg, hosting a number of charity functions and concerts for good causes.

I am proud to be a Vice President of both Noteworthy Mixed Choir and Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society; a member of Maesteg Hospital League of Friends and the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park; and a governor at both Plasnewydd and St Mary's and St Patrick's primary schools.

**Councillor Ross L Penhale-Thomas**

**Date: 04 06 18**