

BCBC Councillor's Annual Report

Councillor R M I Shaw

Ward: Pontycymer Party: Welsh labour

This report identifies my key activities during the year ending to year-end 2019. 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 elected to Bridgend County Borough Council to represent Pontycymer on 8 May 2017. I have taken this responsibility very seriously and strived to represent the residents of the Ward and other areas to the best of my ability. This means engaging fully with Council matters and representing the ward in committee and council, as well as being highly active in the community. I am proud of my record within the Council and believe this has helped me be more effective.

I have supported the residents of my ward on a variety of issues and formally raise over 100 constituent concerns per year. These are confidential in nature and cover a range of issues from housing, health and environment to waste, road conditions, markings and improvements and facilities for children.

To enable me to fulfil my role as an elected 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.

In addition to my ward duties and representations, I have sat on 6 committees, including several for scrutiny, which is an important part of the role of any councillor who wishes to hold the administration to account. As well as my scrutiny committee roles, I sit on the Budget Responsibility Evaluation Panel and Chair the Public Service Board Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

I was appointed Chief Whip and successfully managed the Labour Group. Having lost no votes during my period of office I stepped down from this task after one year in office. I am BCBC's representative for the Reserve and Cadet Forces, providing an external presence, and The County Representative on the South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority, sitting on Authority and two further committees. Attendance of many of these roles is not recorded on the BCBC website but I maintain a high level of attendance for each and every commitment.

I am Branch Treasurer for Unite the Union, West Wales Branch.

Further information of my [roles, responsibilities and activities](#) can be found by using this link.

Constituency Activity

I am committed to community activity and strive to engage and be pro-active at all levels. I have volunteered and taken part in many activities such as bus shelter painting, lane and paths weed clearance and physical efforts keep the community pathway (Garw Valley Pathway on Facebook) as clear as humanly possible.

In addition, I have worked with...

Ffaldau Primary School Llangeinor AFC – as LEA Governor

Keep Wales Tidy – in voluntary capacity

Sustrans – in a voluntary capacity

Halo

Natural Resources Wales

Garw Valley Railway

Llangeinor Rangers

Richard Price Centre

REACH

Coalfield Regeneration Trust

Garw Valley Tennis Club

Community Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Addiction teams

V2C

The Wallich

South Wales Police

Mental Health, drug addiction and alcohol addiction teams

BAVO

Pontycymer Bowls Club

Garw Valley Community Council

Garw Valley Branch Labour Party

Trading Standards

Pest Control

Street Scene

Planning

Property Services, and many,
many individuals

My thanks to everyone who has helped our community.

Initiatives and Special Activities

I initiated the Garw Valley Pathway volunteer group and led path maintenance projects for more than a year. I set up volunteer groups for lane clearance and commissioned public bench restorations in the village, including the Lawrence Park bench so loved by many but neglected by all.

The village has had many highway improvements such as dropped kerbs and resurfacing. Although I acknowledge this is a continuous issue, many have been brought forward by up to two years

I undertook a community consultation and received overwhelming support for 'something for young people'. I worked with youth leaders, the local PCSO and Halo to create a new youth club – the first in the Upper Garw for some time. The planned on around 30 members but have been overwhelmed – there were 120 registered in only 6 months, and over 240 a year later.

On the strength of that, a new pilot youth club for 12 to 13 year olds has been set up in Pontycymer, and a programme to provide qualifications through activity and no exams!

The charity I established in the Garw Valley, Calon y cwm charitable incorporated organisation, now manages both youth clubs and set up a Men's Shed in the village. It also manages the William Trigg Community Centre and is engaged in two other significant projects.

In this year of continued austerity it has been, I believe, very important to be able to apply myself fully to the community. To that end I also tried to engage all sports clubs to establish a Get Garw Active campaign. Sadly, that did not bear fruit but I have continued to provide help to the bowling club in its plan to take over the bowling green and become self-sufficient. Although a difficult path, those bodies that do not engage will have a very challenging future; I wish them all well.

I occasionally post on social media and can be found at

<https://www.facebook.com/rod4pontycymer/>

or

<https://www.facebook.com/Cllr.rod.shaw>

Other Activities/Issues

Although the Garw has stunning natural beauty, Pontycymer is not a ward without issues. My referrals have included calls to many departments within the local authority, and to shared services for resolutions such as Trading Standards, Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government. I am currently engaged with the Welsh Audit Office on a project to share best practice.

I sat on the steering group member for 'Get Garw Active', a project that will be incorporated with a new venture, a 13-17 year-old youth club.

I am currently working with Pontycymer Bowling Club and assisting their transition through a Community Asset Transfer programme.

My work as school governor, chair to several community groups and links with local clubs and individuals helps inform my activities.

I will continue to serve the residents of the ward, although note that should the Boundary Commission accept the Community Council proposal to cut Pontycymer in half, will not be able to sustain the level of support many have enjoyed.

Councillor R M I Shaw Date: 25/11/2019