

# BCBC Councillor's Annual Report

**Councillor R M Shaw**

**Ward: Pontycymer**

**Party: Welsh Labour**

This report identifies my key activities during the year ending **30 April 2020**. 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 undertaken a variety of roles within the Council this year including being appointed to many committees and outside bodies.

I have supported the residents of my ward on a variety of issues and have formally raised **501** 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 helped me ensure that my knowledge of national and local issues affecting the Council and my ward is maintained. This has included numerous meetings with Senedd Member, Member of Parliament and other individuals and organisations outside of Bridgend County Borough Council.

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

## **Constituency Activity** (max 200 words)

I am a highly engaged County Councillor and have responded to the needs of my constituents with many additional roles. For instance:

- I founded the local charity Calon y cwm which has been very active in the valley
- I established the first independent youth club in the valley, with up to 60 young people attending per session
- I arranged trial funding for a senior youth club which looks after up to 40 12 to 17 year olds in the valley every session
- I help run the William Trigg Community Centre to ensure community space is maintained
- I established several groups for litter picking and clean ups as well as a monthly volunteer session on the Garw Valley Pathway
- I have liaised with and assisted with several Community Asset Transfers in the valley
- Many will remember the clean and repaint of bus shelters in Pontycymer!

All these activities are of course over and above the work I do as your County Councillor.

**Initiatives and Special Activities** (max 200 words)

My record on behalf of the residents of Pontycymer is good; I have referred over 500 cases to the local authority, many of which are very complex cases and demand interaction between departments and other agencies. In number alone, this record set me at the very top of County Councillor interactions on behalf of constituents.

It goes without saying that I am a strong advocate for the valley and have built a reputation for tenacity and challenge. I was particularly pleased to note the Garw charity Calon y cwm was shortlisted and eventual runner up in the Innovation Category of the Inspire for Life Awards.

Of course, COVID has been a game-changer and I am pleased to report I have been able to interact with so many small, Garw-based groups that have contributed to the cause. These have ranged from street parties – raising spirits and funds to reward those key workers, producing face masks at home, providing sustenance to all care home workers in the county – not just our valley. It was heart-warming when I was able to secure a small amount of funding to support these local groups doing so much good work with other recognition or reward.

I am immensely proud of the spirit of community and the caring nature that these, and other group and individuals have exhibited.

As a nation we have not experienced a pandemic for a century. My enduring thoughts this year are of the spirit in the valley in crisis. I am deeply grateful to have the privilege of representing such a ward as Pontycymer.

**Other Activities/Issues** (max 100 words)

In addition to my ward duties and representations, I have sat on 6 committees, 3 panels, scrutinising local authority policy and decision-making.

I am Country Representative to the South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, and member of two sub-committees, as well as being the Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association County Representative County Representative.

I currently sit on Scrutiny and Corporate Scrutiny Committees, which are an important part of the role of any councillor who wishes to hold the administration to account. I also sit on the Budget Responsibility Evaluation Panel and Chair the Public Service Board Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

I was asked, and agreed, to sit in the Cross-Party County COVID Recovery Panel

**Councillor R M Shaw**

**Date: 12 October 2020**

