

BCBC Councillor's Annual Report

Councillor **C.E.Smith**

Ward: **Llangewydd and Brynhyfryd**

Party: **Labour**

This report identifies my key activities during the year ending **30 April 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 have lived in this ward since the 1970s and have been its Bridgend County Borough councillor since May 2013. I have also represented the same ward on Laleston Community Council for many years.

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

Constituency Activity (max 200 words)

I have supported the residents of my ward, individually and collectively, on a variety of issues, and during the year ending 30 April 2019 have formally raised 76 constituent queries with the Council and other organisations through the member referral system.

I hold a regular surgery (appointment recommended) at Westward Community Centre, normally at 9.30 am on the first Saturday of the month, but please check with me in advance, and please note that there is no need to wait for a surgery, you can contact me at any reasonable time.. My best contact points are:
email cllr.charles.smith@bridgend.gov.uk or my home mobile 07771 900304.

I am often to be seen walking or cycling round the ward, and I regularly use our local bus service (Cefn Glas Circular, routes 68 and 69).

Initiatives and Special Activities (max 200 words)

I personally hand deliver a Christmas card each year, and an occasional newsletter, to every house in the ward, working with Cllr. Jon-Paul Blundell, who represents the neighbouring ward of Cefn Glas . This ensures that every household in our patch gets a reminder of our contact details, and we get a close look at every street in the area and a chance to report any pot-holes, streetlights or other matters needing council attention.

A current issue which concerns Cllr. Blundell and myself: we are both keenly interested in the Barnes Avenue traffic-calming scheme, a 20 mph zone which is being provided and financed as a planning condition by the company developing new houses at Heol Ty Maen. We are endeavouring to ensure that residents are fully consulted and have a say in the design of the scheme, which we think is supported in principle by the vast majority of local people.

I am a strong supporter of our Westward Community Centre. Whenever I can, I also attend the Friday afternoon sessions of the over-50s "Young at Heart" group which meets at Penybont Football Club, Llangewydd Road. I am also a governor of Cefn Glas Infants School, which my son and daughter attended some years ago. I am very pleased to be involved with Laleston Community Council's ambitious plans to develop the Community Centre on Bryntirion Playing Field at Mount Pleasant.

Other Activities/Issues

As Cabinet member for Education and Regeneration I have contributed to a number of major policy initiatives. On a regional level, I am chair of the Central South Consortium for school improvement, which covers Bridgend, Rhondda-Cynon-Taff, Vale of Glamorgan, Merthyr Tydfil and Cardiff.

In my "regeneration" role I share responsibility for several important projects, such as the development of a cultural centre at Maesteg Town Hall, improvements to Bridgend Indoor Market, and the strategic regeneration around the harbour at Porthcawl. I am also a governor of Bridgend College.

However I think it's very important that councillors should actively represent their own local community, and that is always my first priority. I believe that the County Borough Council should cooperate closely with Town and Community Councils, and I think the modernisation and maintenance of our local childrens' playgrounds, and the proactive and vigorous protection of our open spaces, are good examples of such cooperation, with visible and positive results. As Vice-Chair of the Town and Community Council Forum, I hope to see some major tree-planting schemes encouraged and coordinated county-wide in the near future.

Councillor Charles Smith

Date: 19.2.20