

BCBC Councillor's Annual Report

Councillor C A Webster

Ward: Newcastle

Party: Welsh Conservative Party

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 elected to Bridgend County Borough Council to represent Newcastle on 04 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 47 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 arranged a regular surgery where I am available to meet with residents of Newcastle ward to discuss any concerns. This is held on the first Saturday in every month at the library in Bridgend recreation centre. I have conducted occasional shared meetings with a local assembly member.

I keep residents informed of work I am undertaking in the council by means of an occasional newsletter and other communication, which are not funded by taxpayers money, these are hand delivered throughout the ward every quarter, giving me the opportunity to meet with and discuss concerns of residents informally.

I have been working with the cabinet member for wellbeing to provide a changing place facility in Halo leisure centre, Bridgend town's recreation centre, which is located in Newcastle ward. I have been campaigning for this provision since 2010, prior to my election to BCBC.

I have supported a community action group which has come together to object to a development, which they believe, and I agree, will offer nothing to their residential amenity.

I drive and walk throughout the ward every week, reporting potholes and poor pavements which I become aware of.

I serve residents with my committed attendance record at council meetings and chairing a scrutiny committee.

I maintain a profile in some local media with press releases and letters. Other local media organisations choose not to publish my press releases. I have an active Facebook page and Twitter feed, in which I provide residents with the opportunity to contact me and see links and news from my political organisation and the local authority.

Initiatives and Special Activities

Through access to the Community Action Fund, I have supported three initiatives in Newcastle Ward. These include:

St John's House, Newcastle Hill

An application for grant funding was made by the Friends of this historic house for the purchase of information boards. St John's House is a valuable cultural venue in the borough and has a long history. It welcomes visitors during its open days and special events. I was pleased to support this application as having such a valuable historical and learning resource in our community is a privilege and I hope it will go from strength to strength.

YMCA

A grant application was made from the YMCA, based in the Newcastle ward, to support outdoor learning activities for vulnerable, disabled young adults. I was pleased to support this to enable young people, many of whom would never have the opportunity to experience an overnight camp and outdoor activities without the specialist support offered to them by the YMCA staff. These activities freed up space in the YMCA building to allow other vulnerable children to access the facility.

Young At Heart

A joint application was made to councillors representing the Newcastle, Cefn Glas and Llangewydd and Brynhyfryd members. I was pleased to link with two other members to provide funding for the over 50's members who use Westward Community Centre to fund a minibus which offered the opportunity for members of our older community to have some day trips, reducing isolation and allowing friendships to develop.

Other Activities/Issues

My attendance for the year at recorded meetings is 92%. I attend other meetings throughout the year for which my attendance is not recorded.

I am also elected to serve on Bridgend Town Council, from which I can contribute holistically to the residents I serve in Newcastle.

I attend the church in Newcastle, where I often have an impromptu surgery, and I remain

a committed member of a few charities and organisations which contribute to supporting people in the borough of Bridgend and across the United Kingdom. These range from supporting people with autism and military veterans to voicing a patient's perspective to medical professionals. I also meet regularly with other politicians to discuss matters that affect residents, from the Welsh NHS and education with assembly members and other matters on national issues with MPs.

Councillor C A Webster

Date: 28/05/2018