

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 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 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 2020 have formally raised 75 constituent queries with the Council and other organisations through the member referral system.

I have held regular monthly "surgeries" at Westward Community Centre, but these have been suspended due to Covid. After restrictions end I'll consider whether there are better ways of being available to constituents.

My best contact points are:

email cllr.charles.smith@bridgend.gov.uk or my home mobile 07771 900304. I also have a ward Facebook page (Charles 4 Llangewydd and Brynhyfryd).

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). I have been actively in contact with First Cymru during Covid to lobby for the continuation of their very important services, during conditions which are obviously very difficult for everyone.

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.

Both Cllr. Blundell and myself 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 have seen revised plans which have taken on board a number of comments and suggestions from ourselves and residents. So far, only the vehicle activated speed signs have been installed, and we are strongly encouraging the responsible bodies to install the rest of the scheme as soon as possible.

I am a strong supporter of our Westward Community Centre, and as a Laleston Community Councillor I have backed their acquisition of the community centre at Mount Pleasant, (Bryntirion Playing Field). It is being expanded and refurbished and will be a great asset for our community when community centres re-open.

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, a new Masterplan for Bridgend Town Centre, and the strategic regeneration around the harbour at Porthcawl. I am also a governor of Bridgend College and Cfn Glas Infants School.

However I think it's very important that councillors should actively represent their own local community, and that is always my first priority. I strongly support cooperation between the borough and community councils, and this cooperation is due to enhance our local children's play areas over the next year.

Councillor Charles Smith

Date: 21.1.21