

# BCBC Councillor's Annual Report

**Councillor John C. Spanswick**

**Ward: Brackla**

**Party: Labour**

This report identifies my key activities during the year ending 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 Brackla on 4<sup>th</sup>. May 2017. I have undertaken a variety of roles within the council this year including being appointed to several committees as listed below:-

Corporate Overview & Scrutiny  
Subject Overview & Scrutiny 3 (Chairperson)  
Development Control (Planning)  
Council  
Budget Research & Evaluation Panel

I have supported the residents of my ward on a variety of issues and have formally raised 117 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**

Regular attendance at Brackla PACT meetings and discussion with community members on relevant issues following each PACT meeting. I am always available to discuss concerns raised by residents and continue to act on their behalf on a wide range of topics such as environmental concerns, road safety and police issues, litter and dog fouling enforcement, open space maintenance, highway matters, planning enforcement, children's services and social services. In fact anything that a member of the public has a problem with or a query about I will always endeavour to help.

In addition to being elected to Bridgend County Borough Council on 4<sup>th</sup>. May 2017, I was also elected to Brackla Community Council. While the community council does not have a wide range of powers or responsibilities, there are many activities undertaken by the

community council such as the flower displays, grass cutting, litter bins and general environmental improvements and I hope residents can see the difference it makes within the local community.

I have been fortunate to be appointed as the Chair of the Subject Overview & Scrutiny Committee 3.

In addition, I am the only member from Brackla to sit on the Development Control Committee (Planning)

### **Initiatives and Special Activities**

Since January 2017 I have been an active and founder member of Brackla Environmental Support Team (B.E.S.T.). This voluntary group undertakes regular litter cleansing sessions and environmental clean ups. During last autumn I spent a weekend trying to remove as many leaves as possible from some of our well used footpaths and walkways to help prevent the slippery conditions due to the amount of leaf fall.

It cannot have gone unnoticed that last June saw the introduction of the new waste contract and the confusion and chaos that followed with the new collection system for recycling. I represented many residents of Brackla during the months that followed in trying to ensure they received the correct containers and the new blue bags, etc. and continue to deal with issues whereby some residents are still having problems with the system and receipt of containers and bags.

I have regularly supported and helped organise the Brackla Fun Day since its inception in 1998 when I was the Chair of Brackla Community Council. This continues to be a great success each year and is fully funded by Brackla Community Council for all of the community to enjoy.

### **Other Activities/Issues**

Wherever possible I try to communicate via email and / or telephone but have also made home visits to discuss concerns with residents who prefer to speak with me in person on a confidential basis.

I can always be contacted on my mobile phone, but if I am busy or away from home I will endeavour to reply as soon as possible. Email continues to be the most effective way for me to keep in touch with residents. ([cllr.john.spanswick@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.john.spanswick@bridgend.gov.uk))

I have not arranged specific surgeries as I have found in the past that these have not been well attended and I would prefer to be available as / when people require as opposed to during a surgery session.

**Councillor : J. C. Spanswick**

**Date: 20<sup>th</sup>. May 2018**