

BCBC Councillor's Annual Report

Councillor John C. Spanswick

Ward: Brackla

Party: Labour

This report identifies my key activities during the year ending 30th. 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 Brackla on 4th. May 2017 as a Labour Councillor. I have continued to undertake a variety of roles within the Council over the past year including working on the those as listed below: -

Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Subject Overview & Scrutiny 3 Committee (Chairperson)
Development Control (Planning)
Council (Main meeting held every month)
Budget Research & Evaluation Panel (BREP)
Public Service Board Scrutiny Committee

I have supported the residents of my ward on a variety of issues and have formally raised (**) constituent queries (known as referrals) 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. In addition, I have endeavoured to keep up to date with the activity of local groups and organisations who help make Brackla a great place to live.

Further information of my [\(roles, responsibilities and activities\)](#) can be found by using this link.

Constituency Activity (max 200 words)

I have been 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. I may not have been able to resolve every query in accordance with the wishes of the constituent, but I have tried my best

In May 2019 I became the Chair of Brackla Community Council for the 3rd. occasion since first being elected in 1992. There are many activities undertaken by the Community Council such as the flower displays, grass cutting, litter bins, Christmas lighting, community events and general environmental improvements and I hope residents can see the difference it makes within the local community.

I am also a Local Education Authority Governor at both Brackla Primary School and Tremains Primary School, and previously served on Brynteg Governors and a short period at Archbishop McGrath School.

Initiatives and Special Activities (max 200 words)

In October 2019 I helped a local resident set up a new support group for men and young males with their mental health and wellbeing. The group is called Lads & Dads and I arranged for the first few meetings to be held in Brackla Community Centre for informal meet and chat sessions.

We are fortunate in Brackla to have a local nature reserve at Tremains Wood and wherever possible I have actively supported the Tremains Woodland Rangers who are doing a great job in protecting and enhancing this ancient woodland in the centre of Brackla.

Brackla Community Council entered the Wales in Bloom competition and successfully won the category of Urban Community after competing in this for the past 3 years. I was privileged to attend the award ceremony as Chair of the Council to receive the award on behalf of the Community of Brackla.

I have regularly supported and helped organise the Brackla Fun Day since its inception in 1998 and 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 (max 100 words)

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 and on a confidential basis.

I can always be contacted on my mobile phone (07977 520080), 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. (clr.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 limited surgery session, but happy to take on board any suggestions for ways of improving communication with residents.

Councillor : J. C. Spanswick

Date: 5th. Jan. 2021