

BCBC Councillor's Annual Report

Councillor M J Williams

Ward: Coity Higher

**Party: Bridgend County
Independents**

This report identifies my key activities during the year ending April 2023. 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 Coity Higher on 5th May 2022. Aside from my primary role as a ward member I was also a member of the following committees: Development Control, Standards, Scrutiny & Overview 3 (Communities) and the Town & Community Council Forum.

During the year 2022/23 I had 100% attendance record at meetings and attended many others to view proceedings. I submitted 125 formal referrals & reports on your behalf and corresponded on a number of other issues directly with officers and Cabinet members. In addition to this I corresponded and met with representatives of external bodies on behalf of residents such as Valleys to Coast Housing, South Wales Police and Persimmon Homes.

I have been an active councillor, participating fully in the scrutiny process and tabling questions at full council

In addition to my formal council meetings I have attended regular member development sessions and informal subject matter briefings.

Constituency Activity

Aside from my formal BCBC activity as referenced above I have held regular meetings with Persimmon Homes on behalf of residents and also met with senior executives of Valleys to Coast on various matters.

My activity ranges from support to individuals on sensitive matters where they feel they have been unable to get a satisfactory outcome from BCBC or another body, to community wide issues such as traffic volumes, fly tipping and highway conditions.

My councillor role is varied and during the course of the year I have dealt with landlord grievances, disability benefits, blue badges, council tax queries, planning matters and of course potholes.

I am more than happy to be contacted by constituents at any time.

Initiatives and Special Activities

I am passionate about road safety and in particular specific improvements within Coity Higher including traffic volumes within Coity Village and the surrounding lanes, traffic speed on Litchard Hill and the lack of safe pedestrian routes within our community.

As a member of the community council since 2016 I championed the development of their community access plan and continue to fight for its delivery as a BCBC member.

I am also playing a leading role in the potential asset transfer of Great Western Avenue playing fields and Litchard playing fields and community centre to the community council to allow them to be developed into exemplar sporting facilities which also serve as wider community assets for all residents.

Within BCBC I have a particular interest in their management of capital and projects where I am keen to see better use of resources and reserves to generate efficiencies for residents.

Other Activities/Issues

I've been a community councillor since 2016 and am the current Vice Chair of Coity Higher Community Council. I firmly believe that the community council has the potential to deliver many of the services that BCBC are withdrawing from and that there should be a stronger partnership between the two. I continue to fight for this.

During my period with the community council we have delivered many innovative projects. I'm delighted that this year saw the conclusion of a joint project with Ramblers Cymru entitled Paths to Wellbeing which has seen considerable external investment in our walking routes and biodiversity in general.

I've supported numerous community/sports groups in fundraisers, such as the recent 10 hour football tournament and other school activities. I also organise the popular Jam in the Castle every year to raised funds for local good causes.

During 2022/23 I also wrote a regular article for the Bridgend Buddy magazine.

Following the War in Ukraine I welcomed a family from Ukraine into my home for 6 months until they were able to move on and I have supported Ukrainian refugees by fundraising for Christmas gifts.

Councillor M J Williams:

Date: 30th June 2023