

BCBC Councillor's Annual Report

Councillor Heidi Bennett

Ward: Pen-y-fai & Court Colman

Party: Welsh Labour and Cooperative

This report identifies my key activities during the year ending May 2025. 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

From May 2024 to 2025 I served on 8 committees.

I was a member of Licensing Committee, Licensing sub committee B and Licensing Act 2003 committee and Act sub committee B, Town and Community Council Forum, Democratic Services Committee, Coychurch Crematorium Committee and I serve as Chair of the Appeals Panel. This is in addition to monthly full council.

During this time, I attended and participated in 22 out of 24 committee meetings. The committees serve the strategic and regulatory functions of Council.

Being a member of regulatory committees (premises, gambling and taxi licensing), and to enable me to fulfil my role, I have completed all mandatory training. In terms of member development sessions, on subjects or issues where I have not already had training through other sources, I take advantage of the opportunities that add knowledge and value to my role. I undertook additional leadership training and also became an accredited 'Carbon Literate' councillor.

I have raised and backed motions at full council in support of retaining our vital Crown Post office service in Bridgend Town and raised questions on behalf of residents in relation to tackling private owners who are letting prominent properties to decay, creating a blight on our town for decades.

Further information can be found by using this link:

[Councillor details - Councillor Heidi Bennett - Bridgend County Borough Council](#)

Constituency Activity

I held several local community advice (in-person and telephone) surgery sessions actively engaging with residents and resolving issues personal to them. I periodically door knock to connect to residents and I hand delivered my fuller annual report to homes in May 24.

I received hundreds of interactions and queries and raised. Not all issues fell within the powers/remit of BCBC, but regardless of this I responded to help inform and/or resolve issues wherever possible. I represented and signposted residents wherever appropriate using my local knowledge of expert organisations that provide swift assistance at the point of contact. I submitted 87 formal case work reports and referrals to BCBC departments.

I assisted with a variety of issues: bollards were installed on the school approach to tackle school parking issues, Line marking, drainage and gully cleaning, road resurfacing, bench repairs, rubbish collections, hedge and grass cutting are all examples of referrals submitted. I connected with PCSOs and Go Safe Wales on speed issues. I assisted residents with social

care and housing needs. I reported environmental concerns such as burning rubbish to NRW. I continue to tenaciously campaign for a bus service for the village.

I also linked residents into local planning applications (in the ward or impacting on the ward), and provided resident observations, concerns and feedback to planning Officers and Committee where appropriate.

Initiatives and Special Activities

I have worked with NHCC, PVCA and BCBC staff on achieving funding to develop a green masterplan designed to protect and enhance local biodiversity, support woodland and habitat management and guide new planting and wildflower areas.

I supported NHCC to achieve funding to undertake public consultation in relation to making improvements to the Pheasant Field and there are plans to progress this in the coming year.

I held a public consultation event with officers to show drafted plans for a new active travel proposal and safe crossing route at the A4063. Further to WG review, this has progressed and been awarded a level of funding to work up more comprehensive designs for one of the phases and is subject to further public consultation and approval.

I consulted with local pupils on inclusive play equipment and updated play park equipment is due in 25/26 for Cavendish Park, and Ty'n y Garn the following year.

Other Activities/Issues

I am a member of Pen-y-fai Village Community Association (PVCA) and Newcastle Higher Community Council (NHCC) and connect to local volunteer and community groups. I work collaboratively with residents and community councillors to enhance the village with hanging baskets/floral displays, Christmas lights, community planting and events.

I also had additional responsibilities as Chair of Finance on Newcastle Higher Community Council (NHCC) and was recently elected deputy chair.

I personally maintain a social media presence which strives to keep the community up to date on local, regional and national issues that might affect or support them. Being accountable is important to me but appreciate not everyone is online, so I deliver a fuller annual report to households to highlight work I've been involved with.

I am easily accessible to residents via 1-2-1 surgeries, phone, text, post, email, FB direct messaging and WhatsApp and aim to respond to enquiries within 48 hours.

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Date: 09/06/2025