

COUNTY COUNCILLOR ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

This Councillor's Annual Report outlines their activities over the year ending May 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 Monmouthshire County Council.

Name: County Councillor Tudor Thomas **Political Group:** Labour
Ward: Priory **Electorate:** 1503

RESPONSIBILITIES

Vice Chair of Democratic Services Committee
Vice Chair Corporate Parenting Committee

APPOINTMENTS

I sit on the following committees of the Council:

County Council	Corporate Parenting Panel
Children and Young People Select Committee	Bryn y Cwm Area Committee
Joint Select Committee	Democratic Services Committee

ATTENDANCE

My attendance at Council meetings is available on the Monmouthshire County Council website at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1>

REMUNERATION

Remuneration levels for Councillors throughout Wales are set by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. Details of actual remuneration I have received in relation to my role as Councillor are available on the Monmouthshire County Council website at the following link: <https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1>

TRAINING:

I have attended the following training session this Council year:

Audit Training	Scrutiny Induction
Elected Members Equalities Training	Council Induction
Council Induction	Children & Young People Induction
Governance Workshop	Introduction to ADM
Security at Events	

All of the training events I have attended have been worthwhile and I have made every effort to attend them especially as I was newly elected to MCC in May 2017.

CONSTITUENCY MATTERS

I have been asked to respond to a number of issues by members of my constituency. These have included:

Issues re pedestrian crossing on the Hereford road. I contacted MCC Highways and they responded by having the lights cleaned and the crossing re-painted. I contacted Gwent Police and they monitored the crossing which helped matters. MCC Highways are due to put in Red Warning Triangles at the approach to the crossing to improve warning of the crossing.

Issues of anti-social behaviour occurring in The Fairfield Car Park especially anti-social driving of vehicles in the car park. I have regularly reported this to Gwent Police who have stepped up patrols and have prosecuted some drivers. Some cars have been seized by Gwent Police. The car park is quieter but as in other areas of the county anti-social behaviour is an ongoing issue. I do try to monitor this and respond by taking up the issues with Gwent Police.

I work closely with Friends of Bailey Park and attend their regular monthly meetings. Again there are issues of anti-social behaviour in the park which I report to the police. I undertake walks of the park both with employees of MCC and Gwent Police. I have managed to get dead trees removed, rubbish from the stream cleared and the larger roadway swept.

I met with residents of Park Avenue to discuss issues which concerned them, these included :

- the need to sweep the road
- dropped kerbs needed
- parking on the verge at the top of the road which causes damage to the grass
- a bump in the road at the top of Park Avenue
- an abandoned car

Most of these issues are being looked at by Highways, but some of them cannot readily be resolved due to budgetary constraints.

I regularly walk the ward with the PCSO for the ward and any issues which are identified are reported by me to the relevant departments of MCC.

I have met with residents in a number of areas regarding overgrown trees and then reported these issues to MCC. Unfortunately MCC policy is not to cut back overgrown trees.

General road safety issues have been reported to me and I have taken part in the Community Speedwatch programme in my ward. This has had some effect.

I followed up a report of a property being used for drug taking which I reported to Gwent Police. The property in question was shut down by Gwent Police and has had a very positive effect on houses in that neighbourhood.

I have pursued a number of issues brought to my attention by residents on a whole host of issues which I have raised with the relevant departments of MCC.

ACHIEVEMENTS / INITIATIVES

I am a member of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni and have taken an active role in its governance. I am on a number of its sub committees e.g. the appointment of staff committee, the disciplinary committee. To date I have attended all meetings. I have attended the compulsory training events put on by EAS : 'The role of the Governor' and 'Interpreting Data for Primary Schools'

I have attended a number of events including the Christmas Fayre.

I was involved in the ratification of the appointment of the new head teacher in February. I have tried to assist at a county level with the ongoing issue of parking and safety issues outside the school at the start and the end of the day.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I have enjoyed my first year of office as a county councillor on MCC. I have certainly learnt a great deal about how local government works on a daily basis. It has been a steep learning curve but I feel I have kept up with the training and learning experiences. I have met a large number of people across the authority. I have been very impressed by the amount of help and advice I have received from the full time employees of the authority.

The experience of being in the chamber for committee meetings and full council has been exciting quite challenging! Being live streamed was quite an experience to start with. The debates are lively and challenging. I have contributed to a large number of debates in the chamber both in committee and full council. I have, in particular enjoyed the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Parenting Committee. My background in teaching and working for the Welsh Examination Board WJEC has provided me with a number of very useful experiences which I believe have helped me to contribute to the debate and scrutiny function. I have recently been elected as vice chair of the Corporate Parenting Committee, an appointment that I was happy to take on.

From day one I have tried my best to represent the people of my ward at all levels. I have not been afraid to speak on behalf of my constituents in committees and full council. I always ensure that I keep people in my ward fully informed about what is happening. I produce regular newsletters which I deliver to all properties in my ward. I always ensure that I respond quickly to queries and concerns that are raised with me. I cannot always resolve problems that my constituents have but I certainly do my best.

I joined the cross party group looking at 'Period Poverty' which is trying to identify the extent of the problem of women particularly young school age women not being able to afford sanitary products during their period. I helped formulate and distribute a questionnaire to young women in all of the four secondary schools in the authority. The results will be collated and reviewed in the autumn.

I have put my name forward for the new 'Social Justice' a group which has yet to be set up.

I have tried to attend all meetings, seminars and public events of MCC.