

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2014/15

NAME.

Ronald James Higginson.

WARD.

SEVERN.

ELECTORATE 1385.

OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS.

EAST WALES VALUATION TRIBUNAL.

I have been a Member of this service since 1996 and a Chairman.

The Tribunal deals with Domestic and Non Domestic (Business Rates) appeals. As a Chairman I sit usually approximately once a month. In addition to that there are training sessions which must be attended in order to keep abreast of changing legislation.

The Tribunal Service is the body appointed to deal with all appeals including the Government's Welfare Reform Acts. The content of that legislation is however not active currently given the Welsh Government's position whereby Local Authorities are compensated for the element of the "bedroom" tax in Council Tax charges.

GWENT ARCHIVES SERVICE.

I have been a Member of this committee since 1999 and witnessed its development from the former County Hall to its present situation at the former Steelworks Offices site at Ebbw Vale.

WLGA. (JOINT COUNCIL)

I have been one of the Council's nominees to this body continuously since 1999.

OTHER OUTSIDE BODY.

I am a Member and one of its Chairmen of the Newport City Council's School Admissions and Exclusions panel since 1996 and prior to that with Gwent C.C.

ROLE AS A SCHOOL GOVERNOR.

I am a Member of Durand Primary Governing body and it's Chairman since inception.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES.

I am currently a Member of the Licensing and Regulatory, Planning, Audit, Economy and Development, L.E.A. Governor Appointments, The Council's Remuneration and J.A.G. Committees. I also sit on the local C.S.A.T. for Severnside.

On all committees my attendances are good.

CONSTITUENCY MATTERS.

I do not hold surgeries due to lack of attendance experienced when holding them. I find that on my regular walkabouts people speak to me outlining concerns which they may have and of course I receive many telephone calls of similar nature.

Concerns surround housing and highway issues mainly, but of course many other matters occur such as planning advice if possible. If I cannot provide the appropriate answer then I usually find an Officer that knows the answer which I pass on.

SEMINARS.

Presently many seminars are being held on schools replacement and local authority suggested mergers. I attend these as often as possible.

Cllr Jim Higginson.

Severn Ward Caldicot.