

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIAN STRONG**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 16**

**USK TOWN WARD**

I am a Town Councillor and regularly attend the monthly meetings. I am able to liaise with the County Council on various issues and although it is disappointing that efforts to date to reduce HGV's through the town have been unsuccessful future meetings are planned with MCC and independent consultants with a view to reaching a satisfactory solution.

The excessive speed of traffic entering and leaving the Town is also of great concern but a 20 mph limit on traffic from Usk junior school to the bridge has been agreed and should be introduced early in the new year. The speed watch voluntary system on the Abergavenny Road highlighted the need for a traffic calming solution to be installed. This will be in place in the near future. My sincere thanks to all the volunteers who have agreed that when the new measures are in place they will transfer their attention to lower Maryport Street which is also an area that suffers from excessive speed.

Illegal parking in the Town continues to cause problems and more robust police enforcement is required.

The transfer of Usk Library to the old Junior School site has been successfully completed and residents with queries on local issues are also able to use the one stop shop facilities in this new hub.

I am a Governor at Usk Church in Wales Primary School and the school continues with the excellent progress mentioned in my earlier report. My thanks are due to the Head, all the staff, the school governors and the PTFA for their contribution to the way the school has dramatically improved. I am still a member

of the Finance Committee and it is pleasing that the schools' finances are in such a good shape.

I was a great honour for me to serve as Chairman of Monmouthshire County Council for the year 2015/16. I attended many important events representing Monmouthshire at services in Westminster Abbey, The Royal Albert Hall, Llandaff Cathedral and St Woolos Cathedral. I also met with trade delegations from China who are considering expanding their operations in Monmouthshire. My two chosen charities were Wales Air Ambulance and Noah's Ark Children's Hospital and I am pleased to say the sum raised was in excess of £12 000. I recently presented a cheque to each charity for £6062.

I am still a member of the Planning Committee, the Audit Committee and I am Vice Chairman of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee. I also serve on the Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE) and the Community Chest Panel which allocates grants to sports clubs and associations.

I am a member of the Gwent Best Kept Village Competition which encourages villages and hamlets to maintain a high standard of floral decorations for the enjoyment of locals and visitors throughout the Gwent area.

I am a Trustee of the Roger Edwards Educational Trust which provides and assists in the provision of facilities not required to be provided by the Education Authority at Usk Primary School. We have made many awards to local students to assist them with their further education.

I continue to be a member of the Usk Prison Liaison Committee which monitors the movement of sex offenders to the open prison at Prescoed.