

County Councillor Annual Report 2015-----2016

Name: Cllr Maureen Powell

Ward: Castle Ward , Abergavenny

Electorate: approximately 1550

1. Appointment to outside bodies.

I am a member of the South Wales Fire Authority. This amounts to approximately 20 meetings each year, plus special presentation meetings. During the year we were involved in the pension discussions about the structure of full time fire fighters retiring from full time work and returning as part time workers. Also the outcome of some stations closing down. Part of our job is to oversee the stock of equipment and its renewal when necessary.

2. Role as Governor.

I was governor at King Henry V111 Comprehensive School and Deri View Primary School. At Deri View one of the issues was the change in provision for the Special Needs Pupils. We were pleased that we were coming out of deficit sooner than was thought. Because my term of governor was coming up for renewal, and I had been a governor there for 8 years. I decided not to seek renewal and to make way for someone younger.

At King Henry V111, I attended the Finance Committee and the Curriculum Committee as well as the general meetings. I am the schools representative on the MCC Schools Finance Advisory Forum. The heads of departments attended the Curriculum meetings giving us an update on each set of pupils and subjects. This is extremely useful in our input to the future decisions.

I attend the sports day, prize giving evenings, and the concerts and performances given by the pupils. We had an all day meeting with teachers and ourselves exchanging views and ideas across the curriculum.

3. Select Committees.

I sit on the Children & Young People's Select Committee. I have attended 11 out of 12 meetings during the year. We covered a wide scope of issues, the standards at the different key stages especially the results at GCSE and A levels. We looked at the provision for the Special Needs Children at Primary and secondary schools, whether or not it was better for some to receive education within the main stream with some one to one teaching.

We also studied the home to school transport problems in conjunction with the catchment areas.

4. Constituency Matters

One of the main concerns is the speed of vehicles, particularly down the A40 Monmouth Rd. I did eventually after seven years of dealings with the Welsh Government , get a 30mph speed limit from the Hardwick roundabout to Plas Derwen Way. I got notification of various street lights not working, and I reported this to the necessary departments , who dealt with it. I had various requests for potholes to be filled and after speaking to Andrew Welsh these were mostly attended to. I had a request for a post box at the end of Plas Derwen, but because of the close proximity of the ones at Station Road and Ysbytty Fields, the Post Office said it wasn't warranted. The other regular complaint is about people parking in the roads near to the Railway Station, unfortunately there is little that can be done, as residents do not want permit parking and don't realise that if there were double yellow lines it would prevent their visitors from parking also. There was some vandalism on the footbridge below Pen y Val leading to the old Ross Rd, which the workers responsible for open spaces repaired promptly.

5. Member of other Committees

I am a member of the Planning Committee. Although I have only missed one planning meeting during the year, I do occasionally miss an odd Site Visit because it clashes with the meetings I have to attend on the Fire Authority. We cover all types of plans, some more contentious than others. I like to think that I keep an open mind at all times and make my opinions fairly to all.

6. Training and Development

We attended several seminars PreEstyn, Super Broad Band and ICT, Velothon information, Lagoon for Hydroelectrical provision, several on the budget setting, Community Infrastructure, Welsh Government Infrastructure, Wales Audit Governance review.

7. Additional Comments

I do my best to keep up to date with the workings and information of the County Council and attend as many meetings as I can. I deliver an In Touch leaflet to every house in my Ward, telling the constituents what I have been doing and asking them to contact me with their problems and queries. If I cannot solve their problems myself, I pass them on to the relevant officer.