

COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIAN STRONG
ANNUAL REPORT 2013 -14

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 have been able to help with the ongoing efforts to reduce the amount of unauthorised heavy goods vehicles travelling through the town.

Air pollution in Bridge Street and Castle Parade continues to be well above acceptable levels. It is vital that the ongoing talks between the Town Councils, Monmouthshire County Council and the Police, to reduce HGV traffic through the Town is successful.

The excessive speed of traffic entering and leaving the Town is also of great concern. Even though signage has recently been updated on the old Monmouth Road and Maryport Street, some motorists continue to exceed the speed limit. I have been pressing Monmouthshire County Council officers to equip lampposts with flashing warning signs on these roads and also the Abergavenny Road so that motorists can be alerted to their illegal and dangerous practices. The recent initiative by the Police to introduce a Speed Watch Volunteer System should help to reduce the problem.

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

The transfer of Usk Library from its present site to the old Junior School on the opposite side of the road should be completed by early Summer.

I am a Governor at Usk Church in Wales Primary School and am thrilled with the tremendous progress that continues to be

made at the school following the Estyn Report four years ago. The improvements, started under the leadership of the former Headteacher is being carried on by the Acting Head. All the staff should be congratulated on their contribution to the way the school has improved.

The relationship between Staff and Governors is excellent. I am a member of the Finance Committee and it is pleasing that the schools' finances are in such a good shape.

Committees

I was honoured to be elected Vice Chairman of Monmouthshire County Council at the Council Annual General Meeting in May and as a result, have had to discontinue my membership of the Adults Select Committee.

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 Chairman 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.