

COUNCILLOR MAIR ROWLANDS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012/13

The aim of the Annual Report by the Elected Member is to improve communication between Elected Members and the public, by presenting factual information to individuals from the ward.

Role and responsibilities – To lead the community and to represent the interests of the community on the Council. Corporate governance by attending and participating in Council meetings, scrutiny committees and other committees. To represent the Council on external bodies. I have also been appointed as a Champion for the voice of Children and Young People in Gwynedd.

Main Committees/Additional Meetings Membership

Full Council	Corporate Parenting Committee
Corporate Scrutiny Committee	Bangor Project Team
Language Committee	Bangor University Liaison Group
Arfon Area Committee	Ysgol Cae Top and Friars Governors

Main Committees

Meetings	Present	Absent	Apology
20	17	0	3

Attendance Percentage in main Committees = 85%

Learning and Development – Council Training Sessions attended

- 1 November 2012 – iPad Training
- 28 November 2012 – Corporate Parenting
- 9 January 2013 – Educational Training
- 10 April 2013 – Authority and School Performance Data and a Session on School Governing
- 9 May 2012 – Induction for New Members
- 10 May 2012 - Induction
- 23 May 2012 - Introduction to Planning
- 31 May 2012 - Corporate Scrutiny Committee
- 19 September 2012 – Questioning Methods for Scrutiny

Total in hours = 33.5 hours

Seminars, Conferences and Additional Training

- 29 November 2012 – My role as a Governor
- 4 February 2013 – Seminar for members – The Council's Financial Situation and the proposed funding strategy for the next four years.
- 22 February 2013 – Bangor University and Hunaniaith Conference 'Sustainability and the Welsh language'.
- 27 February – Information Training on the Field of Housing – Your Responsibilities
- 15 March 2013 – Local Action Training on the Welsh language
- 20 March 2013 – Seminar for Members- Census Results on the Welsh Language
- 22 March – Hunaniaith Conference – Future of Welsh Communities

Large Projects

Traffic and safety problems on Ffriddoedd Road

A number of residents were concerned about safety on Ffriddoedd Road, especially at busy periods. Bangor Students Union arranged a meeting back in December with representation from the university, the Civic Council and myself to discuss the matter. These problems also affect local schools, Coleg Menai and residents and are very important matters. Since then, meetings have been arranged to discuss how to improve safety measures in order to make the road safer for pedestrians, cyclists and cars. We are now waiting for the Council to undertake a traffic investigation to draw up a way forward.

Ensuring Upper Bangor is kept clean and tidy

When talking to residents and students during the election period it became apparent that there were problems with rubbish piling up and overflowing in the ward and there were communication problems regarding collection days and different elements of the waste system. As a result of these concerns a number of meetings and tours around the ward were held with officers to discuss the situation. I have also discussed ideas with the council's Tidy Towns officer and the University about campaigns in the future.

Language Initiative for Bangor

Some of the residents of Bangor, along with Councillor Elin Walker Jones and myself have held a number of meetings to discuss introducing a *Language Initiative* in Bangor, with the hope of promoting and increasing the use of the Welsh language in the city. Our aim will be to seek to appeal to Bangor's various communities and encourage them to use the language on a regular basis and also take pride in their culture and heritage. It is early days but we hope to attract finance and more support for the scheme in the future.

Allotments for Upper Bangor

There has been a demand for allotments in Bangor for a number of years and it has been very difficult to get hold of an appropriate site. I have been supporting the campaign to get allotments here in Upper Bangor and helping *Tyfu*, the group behind the campaign. I have discussed the matter with Gwynedd Council officers and there has been a visit to see possible sites with officers, some of the Bangor councillors and the *Tyfu* group, and *Tyfu* is now required to create a business plan. Allotments would support the emphasis on people living a healthy life and would help the environment and ensure a supply of local food. It would also bring people together on a co-operative level and would be a boost for the community in Upper Bangor.

The multi-use path and the Wall along Holyhead Road.

Over the last few weeks work has been undertaken on the pavement of Holyhead

Road to make it a multi-use path for pedestrians and cyclists with a wall being built to replace the existing fence. The work has been undertaken without consulting or discussing with residents and Councillors. A number of people are concerned that the new footway is not wide enough for cyclists and pedestrians considering the number of pedestrians who walk along the path. People are also very unhappy about the wall which has concealed the beautiful view over the Menai Straits. I have ensured that this matter receives plenty of attention. A meeting has been arranged with Gwynedd Officers, Bangor Cycling and the University. I have also questioned Gwynedd Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment on the matter. I am now campaigning to get a better consultation plan in place and a suitable cycling path from Upper Bangor to Menai Bridge that will benefit tourism and sustainable travel on a local level.

Local Activity

- Following complaints from electors during the election regarding highway problems, several visits were arranged across Upper Bangor with Highway Officers and Gwynedd Cabinet Members to draw attention to the poor condition of the roads and pavements, (27 June 2012/ 23 August/January). Since then part of the work has been completed.
- Having received observations from residents on the Dispersal Order imposed on parts of Bangor by the Police and anti-social behaviour problems on Glanrafon Hill, a meeting was arranged along with a tour around the ward (2 November 2012) with the ward's new Community Police Officer to discuss safety in Upper Bangor, and in particular the need to install a CCTV camera on Glanrafon Hill. Another tour was arranged with two of the ward's community police officers in January to receive and update and to visit the businesses of Upper Bangor. The CCTV camera will be installed very soon.
- 1 February 2013 – Surgery for local residents with the Plaid Cymru Assembly Member for Arfon, Hywel Williams.
- 12 February –A tour around the ward with the Principal County Housing Officer to draw attention to the Multi-occupancy dwellings that were creating problems in the area. A number of people were concerned that the condition of houses and gardens affected local amenities. Subsequent meetings have been held and observations have been made on the local development plan regarding the issue of houses of multiple occupancy.