

ANNUAL REPORT- 2014/15

Councillor: Stephen William Churchman

Group: Liberal Democrats

Ward: Dolbenmaen

Purpose of the annual report:

The aim of the Annual Report is to assist the electorate to become better informed of the work and activities of their elected local authority member during the year.

Role and responsibilities:

I serve as a backbencher on Cyngor Gwynedd, serving on the following committees:

Pensions Committee

This committee oversees and directs the management and investment of the Pensions Fund.

Communities Scrutiny Committee

The Communities Committee considers a wide range of matters such as rubbish collections, highways maintenance regimes and implementation of Food safety inspections and regulations

Chief Officers Appointments Committee

In the last year this committee was responsible for the selection/appointment of the new Chief Executive of the Council and a new Chief Education Officer, and other officers.

Area Committee

The Area Committee considers matters that are deemed more relevant to Dwyfor such as the "Dwyfor Employment Plan".

Planning Committee

This committee considers and determines Planning Applications from the public for new builds, extensions to homes, retail planning applications and so on. I serve as a substitute member of this Committee and attend meetings if required should another specified councillor be unable to attend.

Business Group

As Group Leader for the Liberal Democrats on Cyngor Gwynedd, I attend "Business Group" meetings with the leaders of the other political groups, these meetings are facilitated by officers. The role of these meetings is to act as a two-way conduit for information and to assist in planning the "next" full council meeting.

Full Council

The full Council meets throughout the year, and I always take an active part in discussions and debates. I am vocal to ensure that correct decisions are made or to state my position when I think they are not correct.

In summary, the political role of the councillor is to work as a team member to ensure the best for the residents of Gwynedd. Outside the council arena, my role is to be available and to undertake ward work on behalf of my constituents.

The following constituency activities were held:

I have circulated several Ward Newsletters running under the title "Focus" across the entire ward, covering some of my activities and casework. These I write, print and deliver personally (apart from a handful which are posted via Royal Mail). Every house receives two copies every edition, one Welsh language and one English language. These leaflets are translated professionally and are paid for by myself in entirety at absolutely no cost to the residents of Gwynedd.

In order to represent Dolbenmaen, I aim to be proactive and actively seek casework which I tackle. When delivering newsletters I am mindful of issues that I may see and will actively ask residents for their views and concerns. Some of these issues I report about in my ward newsletters. Casework often requires site meetings with council staff to understand issues and discuss solutions.

Specific campaigning activities in the last year include speeding traffic in Penmorfa, Pentrefelin and Bryncir, and liaising with Dŵr Cymru to minimise the impact of their construction works through Golan and Dolbenmaen.

I am not a member of Dolbenmaen Community Council, but do attend some of their meetings as an invited

guest.

The following initiatives and activities were held:

-

I attended the following Committees:

COMMITTEE	PRESENT
The Council	5
Communities Scrutiny Committee	4
Planning Committee	1
Pensions Committee	3
Chief Officers Appointment Committee	4
Communities Scrutiny Committee preparatory meeting	3
Dwyfor Area Forum	2

Percentage of Attendance: 73%

I was not able to attend the following Committee(s) due to the following reasons:

My attendance rate of 73% is I believe reasonable. I have missed several meetings for a variety of reasons, from clashes such as two meetings at the same time (CCG and Council), to personal reasons including two bereavements and family funerals.

I participated in the following additional meetings, seminars, investigations and workshops:

Other meetings attended not shown on the above list include:

Scrutiny Investigation – Post 16 Education Transport: Nine (with one apology)

Scrutiny Investigation – Homelessness: Ten (with one apology)

Members Scrutiny Workshops – Financial Cuts: Four

LGC Pensions Seminar – Cardon Park, Cheshire.

LGPS Pensions Trustees Conference – Bournemouth

I represented Gwynedd Council on the following outside bodies:

1. Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd Cyf. (CCG)
2. RNIB Cymru
3. Welsh Association for the Blind
4. Ysgol Garndolbenmaen (School Governor)

I represented Gwynedd Council in the following meetings:

1. CCG
2. Ysgol Garndolbenmaen
3. LGC Pensions Seminar
4. LGPS Pensions Trustees Conference

I attended the following Learning and Development training sessions:

Corporate	Date
Workshops on Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults	7/5/2014 + 24/6/2014 and 4/7/2014
Transforming Social Services	17/9/2014
Safe Leadership	19/11/2014
Training for Members & Substitutes of the Planning Committee	26/11/2014
Webcasting	26/11/2014

Additional	Date
Planning Training	21/5/2014
Introductory to Social Media	8/7/2014
Effective Presentations	9/1/2015 + 23/1/2015

Total Number of hours: 22.5 hours