

ANNUAL REPORT- 2015/16

Councillor: Stephen W. 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:

Back bench member and Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

The following constituency activities were held:

I have circulated four 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 addition, I have produced and circulated a number of local leaflets and letters relating to very local and specific issues.

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.

In my newsletters I have commented on numerous matters that may be of interest to my constituents such as scrapping VAT on Tourism, public transport, Police and Crime, the Post Office service in Garndolbenmaen, speeding traffic in Pentrefelin, recycling and the new nappy collection service.

The following initiatives and activities were held:

In the last few months I have retired from the Village Hall Committee after a spell of nearly fifteen years, serving as Chair for the last four years.

I attended the following Committees:

COMMITTEE	Number of meetings *	Present	Apology	Absent
Council	6	3	3	0
Pensions Committee	5	4	1	0
Chief Officers appointment Committee	1	0	1	0
Planning Committee	2	2	0	0
Communities Scrutiny Committee	4	4	0	0
Dwyfor Area Committee	4	3	1	0
Annual Pension Fund	1	1	0	0

Number of committee meetings during 2015/16

Percentage of Attendance: 74%

I was unable to attend few meetings due to the following reasons:

Clashes with other activities, for example Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd meetings and convalescence following minor medical procedure.

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

Savings Workshop

Local Government Pension Scheme Seminar (Held in Newport)

I represented Gwynedd Council on the following outside bodies or meetings :

Welsh Association for the Blind

RNIB Cymru.

LGPS (Local Government Pension Scheme) Seminar
School Governor, Ysgol Garndolbenmaen (Vice Chair), I Chair the Finance sub-Committee.

I also serve as one of four Gwynedd Councillors on the Board of Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd Cyf (CCG). The frequency of meetings fluctuates but can be very demanding at times. During the last year CCG has restructured its' Board and now operates a number of Committees. I serve on the Resources Committee and Chair the Audit Committee, utilising my skills as an Auditor gained from my time employed in industry.

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

I attended the following Learning and Development training sessions:

	Date
A Rights based approach to Disability	31-March-2016
Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales 2014) Act	21-January-2016
Equality - Your responsibility	03-December-2015
Efficient Scrutiny	25-November-2015
Leading Safely	15-October-2015
Effective Chairing Skills	23-September-2015
Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales 2014) Act	07-July-2015

Total Number of hours: