

WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEMBER ANNUAL REPORT

This is the report by the Councillor below regarding their key activities over the municipal year ending 31st May 2019. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose.

Completion instructions

Councillors are free to include as much or as little information as they wish in each section, however, the report is to be kept to a 2 page (maximum) format.

Councillor: Andrew Atkinson

Party: Conservative

Ward: Gresford

Section 1: Role and Responsibilities:

I sit on the following Committees (attendance figures supplied by WCBC):

- Executive Board as the Lead Member for Youth Leisure and Anti-Poverty. This role takes up much of my time and also includes libraries, play, equalities and more.

I sit on the following external Committees (attendance figures supplied by Councillor):

- Gresford Community Council (Councillor)
- All Saints School Gresford (Governor)

Section 2: Constituency Activity:

Alyn Family Doctors

I've been leading the campaign locally to inform residents about proposed changes to our doctor's surgery by the partners and working to change it. I've worked alongside Cllr Gilmartin on this. We have held a public meeting and promoted the doctors own public meeting and written to all residents to inform and update them.

Roads

I'm continuing to log all potholes and sections of road that need re-surfacing. I am in touch constantly about these issues, asking for proper, lasting repairs and I'll continue to make the case for this. I'm pleased to have had two large sections of Chester Road resurfaced as well as Gresford roundabout and parts of Griffin Hill and Pant Lane are due to be done very soon. I'm still making the case for other bad sections of road like High Street.

Site on the Corner

I've requested further planning enforcement action take place but it was slowed down as it was believed a planning application for the land was forthcoming. I keep on top of this with officers and continue to do all I can to tackle this long standing issue and push for a compulsory purchase order.

Colliers Park

I've had a great working relationship with the Football Association of Wales and I'm delighted that their exciting plans to create a Centre of Excellence on the site are nearing completion after significant investment. I've represented residents' concerns to the FAW.

Gresford News

I run a village Facebook page to update residents on my work, promote community activities, events, clubs, businesses and more.

Clappers Lane Flooding

The flooding situation on Clappers Lane is unacceptable when it rains. I've been raising this at the highest levels in the council but remain frustrated that it is still not deemed a 'priority'. It is clearly a dangerous situation and this and other areas of the village that are prone to flooding need sorting. Myself and the Community Council will continue to take this up.

Planning Committee

I regularly attend planning committee to speak to applications on behalf of local residents as well as speaking to large applications in neighbouring Llay that will have an impact on our ward. I've been working hard with the Vicarage Lane Action Group to see a planning application refused on the lane due to mainly road safety issues. This was recently refused.

Street Lights

I'm constantly reporting faulty street lights for repair. Please let me know of any.

Community Speed Camera

I've set up a Community Speed Watch scheme for the village and have been out and about with Cllr Gilmartin clocking speeds and raising awareness.

All Saints School Governor

I'm a school governor and do all I can to support the school.

Sign Cleaning

I do numerous jobs myself in the village like sign cleaning, bus shelter cleaning, weeding, litter picking and more.

Dog Fouling Enforcement Action.

I still go out regularly as a 'Community Dog Warden' talking to all dog walkers and asking them to let me know in confidence any details of anyone not picking up so that this can be dealt with. A new enforcement team is needed.

Litter Pick

I've organised a number of litter picks and will continue to do this.

Off-Road Parking

I hope to alleviate some of the parking problems in Narrow Lane, Newtown and Parsonage Close with off road parking paid for by my local member environment budget.

Out and About

I regularly visit local organisations including the Gresford WI and the Gresford Retirement Club as well as attending as many village events as I can.

List of Jobs

It can be extremely frustrating how long it can take to get some jobs done but I won't give up. I keep a rolling list of outstanding jobs that residents have contacted me about and I follow this up every week.

Bins in Newtown

There are constant issues with missed bin collections lately and I spend a lot of time trying to get them sorted.

Santa Visits

The Santa visits took place again last December and were a huge success, we visited lots of children and raised money for Gresford and Marford Playgroups. Thanks to all my helpers, I had a great time as Santa and look forward to next year and hope I can borrow a sleigh again!

Pay Increase for Councillors Refused

I have refused all pay increases as promised in the election. I wrote to the Chief Finance Officer refusing the pay rises. The increase is proposed by an independent body and it's up to all councillors to do as they see fit. I also pay for my own Council iPad, don't claim expenses and did not accept a car parking pass.

Policing

I work closely with our local PCSO on issues of crime and anti-social behaviour in the village.

Inappropriate and Dangerous Parking

I work with council officers to tackle these issues, request enforcement and have secured double yellow lines in dangerous areas where they are needed following residents requests like the top of School Hill, High Street by the lake and Maxwell Close.

Council Housing

I have regular walks around the Newtown and Narrow Lane area with a senior housing officer logging issues for repair. I request various works and regularly follow up on the progress.

Local Issues

I'm constantly walking the ward listing issues and logging them for repair, it takes a frustrating amount of time to get things done sometimes but please do report them to me as I can keep nagging until they're done!

Road Safety

A plan is being progressed to address many road safety issues in the village, particularly around the school. I'm also working on a crossing at the lights by the Plough.

Section 3: Initiatives and Special Activities:

In Constituency Activity.

Section 4: Learning & Development Undertaken:

I have attended numerous member training sessions.

Section 5: Other Activities and Issues:

In Constituency Activity.

Signature of Councillor :

Date: 30th July 2019