

WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBER ANNUAL REPORT

This is the report by the Councillor below regarding their key activities over the year ending 31 May 2015. 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: David A Bithell

Party: Independent

Ward: Johnstown

Section 1: Role & Responsibilities

I sit on the following committees

1. Executive Board (Lead Member Environment & Transport)
2. Executive Board Corporate Trusts
3. Executive Board Sub Group (Scrap Metal Dealers Act)
4. Leader of Wrexham Independent Group
5. Reshaping Services Board
6. Local Rail Member Working Group
7. Full Council.
8. Pay and Reward Panel
9. Corporate Land and Building Strategy Working Group

I sit on the following external committees

1. Rhos Community Council.(Johnstown ward)
2. Johnstown Resource Centre Management Committee
3. Governor at Johnstown Junior School
4. Chair of Governors Johnstown Infant School
5. Hafod Liaison Group Co- Chair

Section 2: Constituency Activity

1. I am working with local residents to address some flooding issues in Worsley Avenue which has included liaising with both internal and external parties.
2. Work on a daily basis on a large number of individual cases some of which include housing applications and council complaints.
3. Helped secure funding for new lighting in Bangor Road, and also Brandy Brook following a spate of thefts in the area.
4. Worked with the local Community Council to secure the future use of the Community Centre and liaised with Wrexham council officers to reduce the costs to maintain its future use.
5. Continue to support tenants with off road parking and security lighting schemes on the Moreton Estate as part of the Environmental schemes.
6. Continue to work with Wrexham council on safety issues of trespass of a local railway crossing in Johnstown, looking to close the public rights of way crossing. Liaised with AM's and MPs to secure political support during the consultation process.
7. In my role as School Governor work closely with local schools to help support and promote schools and raise standards in particular as Chair of the Infant School.
8. Meet with local businesses twice yearly in Vauxhall Industrial Estate to address local concerns.
9. Working with the councils Highways department to look at amending the traffic orders at Merlin Street to allow for some flexibility in parking for up to 1 hour.
10. Produce twice yearly newsletter to keep residents informed of local activities and contact details.

Section 3: Initiatives and Special Activities

I have been working with Johnstown Bowls Club and Wrexham council for over two years to secure funding for a new all-purpose built building. This led to the successful business case being accepted and we have secured external grant funding from Cory and Wren of £125k for a new purpose built building which will support the local community. Work is due to be completed by September 2015.

Section 4: Learning & Development

1. Attended training sessions provided by the council as well as workshops on various subjects during the calendar year. I have also attended Media Training in my role as Lead Member for Environment and Transport.

Section 5: Other Activities and Issues

1. As Lead Member for Environment and Transport I have Lead responsibility for the Environment and Transport Departments. I am the principal political spokesperson and prepare and present reports to the Executive Board. I have been dealing with a number of major issues in my lead role which includes working to address the significant shortfall in our capital program to maintain our road network. I am also working with officers on other projects to support the council's strategy to meet our strategy waste targets by 2015. This involves a successful bid for grant funding and the roles out of new recycling initiatives.
2. As Leader of Wrexham Independent Group, I meet on a monthly basis with the Chief Executive and officers of the council to ensure that members of the group are kept informed on current issues and raise any particular areas of concern in particular the budget issues affecting constituents.
3. I meet on a regular basis with some North Wales Assembly Members to discuss key issues in Welsh Government and the impact this has on local government given the severe financial cuts across Wales.
4. Act as spokesperson for Wrexham Independent Group on key issues at meetings at full Council and Executive Board meeting including responding to the media on a daily basis.
5. Attend Scrutiny Committees to answer questions on my area of responsibility.
6. I am also working with the Town Centre Forum and since September 2014, I have reduced some car parking tariffs in the Town Centre and presented a report on a number of free car parking events during 2015 to boost the local economy.

Signature of Councillor: David A Bithell

Date: 15/9/15