

Member's Annual Report 2014/15

This is the report by the Councillor below regarding his key activities over the year ending 31 March 2015. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose. The views expressed in this report are those of the Councillor and not necessarily reflect the views of the Isle of Anglesey County Council.

Councillor: Carwyn Elias Jones
Group: Plaid Cymru

Ward: Seiriol

1 - Role & Responsibilities

Shadow Economic Portfolio Holder - Discussing matters with the Economic Development Department and the Portfolio holder.

Island of Enterprise Board - This board oversees the projects from start to finish, ensuring value for money.

Isle of Anglesey Charitable Trust - I have spoken out strongly in favour of supporting the Anglesey Island Games Association, Urdd and Young Farmers with their funding request and also the 5 Town Council application for CCTV funding.

Full Council, Appointments Panel, Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee - I have spoken out on many topics at Full Council including the budget and smarter working project. The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee deals with external projects and the Appointments Panel conducts the recruitment and selection process for senior post holders.

Between April 2014 and March 2015, I sat on the following main committees / sub-committees:	¹Attendance Figures
Council	5 (45%)
Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee	5 (62%)
Appointments Committee	4 (57%)
Indemnities Sub-Committee	No meetings held
The statistics provided are relevant only to the committees listed in this table. The statistics do not include attendance at other meetings related to the work of the Council. Attendance levels may vary due to the nature of work and responsibilities of members - as portfolio holder, committee chair or representing the Council on outside bodies, for example.	

2 - Constituency Activity

Working alongside an experienced County Councillor in Lewis Davies has been invaluable to me as a new Councillor and I am really grateful to Cllr Davies for all his help, support and friendship. Below I have noted some of the constituency issues that have been dealt during this year.

Broadband Speed - A major piece of work that I undertook during this past 12 months was looking into Broadband speed within the ward, the results were astounding for some parts of the ward especially the villages of Llanddona and Llansadwrn. Llanddona villagers living down in Wern Y Wylan are on speeds on 0.3-0.4mbps, central Llanddona around 0.8mbps, outskirts

¹ Attendance figures supplied by the Isle of Anglesey County Council

around 1-2mbps on a good day. The mbps figures for residents in Llansadwrn were just as bad especially those living on the Menai Bridge exchange line. Following the investigation I met up with Mr Geraint Strello the BT Wales Manager to press the case. Llansadwrn (Beaumaris) now have access to the superfast of 79mbps, Llanddona will be getting the fibre to the premises (which is the fastest solution), while for Gadlys in conjunction with the AM Rhun Ap Iorwerth and local residents we are looking at a number of options.

Scrapping of the Beaumairs Pontoon Tourist Tax - Set by the previous Council, a tourist tax of 26p per passenger was to be levied for using the new pontoon off Beaumaris Pier. Reversing a matter previously passed by the Council was not easy at all and involved a lot of time and effort, meetings, letters. Through cooperation of the portfolio holder and officers a new simpler fee structure has been introduced and the tourist tax has been scrapped.

Gritting Routes – Lon Hafoty Llanddona - Although the route connecting Beaumaris and Llanddona is a priority route by the Council, many feel the road between Llanddona and Llansadwrn known locally as Lôn Hafoty is the one most use for their daily community to and from the village. Two years ago Anglesey Council cut its gritting priority routes and this road was one that was downgraded. I represented the local views to the Highways department. One development as a result was that the wagon which was stopping at the Owain Glyndwr, will now be going past the Bryn y Felin and Ponc y Felin estate.

Misc - Beaumaris/Llanfaes - Many issues have been dealt with over the past 12 months, including fly tipping, Beaumaris Pier work, one-way consultation, parking, speed limits, pot holes, resurfacing etc. Also good to attend the Queens baton relay, an evening event at the Gaol and Courthouse and attend the remembrance Sunday service alongside the Town Council.

Llanfaes Polling Station Request - During the past 12 months we made a formal request to democratic committee for an election voting service to be provided for the village of Llanfaes. Llanfaes residents currently vote in the Town of Beaumaris and are noted on the electoral register as the Beaumaris East Ward (343 registered electors). Beaumaris voting takes place at the David Hughes centre where around 1385 registered electors can cast their vote. This request was turned down by the Electoral Registration Officer.

Beaumairs Flood Defence - A lot of effort has been put in alongside my fellow Councillors and Council Officers to securing the £1.2m flood defence work for the Town of Beaumaris. The effects of flooding as many residents know from experience can be devastating and we were delighted to be able to secure this funding.

Safer Routes Improvements in Llandegfan - Working alongside the highways department we secured a substantial amount of money for improvements in Llandegfan. Over the past 12 months this work has been taking place, with a very noticeable improvement outside the Village Hall where a new wall and wider footpath can be seen. Other improvements include a number of pathways that have been updated and made safer as a route.

CPO Llaniestyn / Llanddona Cemetery - One of the most important issues that I will ever deal with as Councillor has been to help gain land for and an extension to the Cemetery in Llaniestyn. The process of obtaining the Welsh Assembly Ministerial approval for a Compulsory Purchase Order to extend the Cemetery has been successful. The situation of no burial space is causing considerable worry to a number of local residents and is a matter very close to my heart with three generations of my family buried at the Cemetery. I spoke out with passion along with Cllr Davies, the Llanddona Community Council and the Church Warden in favour of the CPO at the public enquiry which was held in October by the Planning Inspectorate.

Success - Post Box for Old Llandegfan - Following a call by a constituent saying that the old Royal Mail post box in Old Llandegfan had been removed around six months ago without the sign of a replacement I went about to contact the Royal Mail Head Office. After a lot of work and correspondence the Royal Mail agreed to site a new post box to serve the village of Old Llandegfan and we hope this work will be carried out soon.

Secured the Youth Bus Ynys Mon for Llanddona - Llanddona has had a tough time over the past few years with all the uncertainty surrounding the future of the school which finally closed its doors for the last time ever back in July. As a boost to the youngsters we secured the service of the Ynys Mon Youth Bus to the village for the maximum 12 weeks available. The programme provided a range of agreed activities for the Youths and where they all attended an awards ceremony at the end for certification.

Early Years Provision Llandegfan - Much uncertainty surrounded the proposals at the start for the year for the early years provision and how this would look for the next academic year. To this extent we were contacted by a number of concerned parents, we represented their views fully and I then became a member of the task and finish group for the early years provision alongside the Mudiad Methrin and the Play Group. I am pleased to say that an acceptable resolution was sought for all parties involved.

Llansadwrn Play Park Improvements - We have managed to gain funds for improvements to the kids play park in Llansadwrn, we have managed to get a new 90m wire mesh coated fence, a picnic table and new climbing apparatus for the park. The process involved included writing a 5 page proposal for the funding.

Llanddona Village Hal / School - I have been supporting the village hall committee in Llanddona in their quest to take over the School. The committee have been given time and option to present a proposal for the School site.

School Governor Llanddona, Llandegfan and Ysgol David Hughes - Sadly the start of the 12 month period also being the end of Llanddona Primary School which has been close to the heart of many and a place which has proved excellent education. Within this time I worked hard alongside the School staff and Governors to ensure the children and their families were looked after. I accepted an invitation from Ysgol David Hughes to join the Governing body. It is quite strange being back at the School I had previously attended. I have been an active member of the Llandegfan Primary School Governing body and also attend the finance subcommittee.

Community Hub – Llanddona & Llangoed - I have supported the housing department and we now have two refurbished community hubs in the ward, both at Maes Gwyn in Llanddona and Pont y Brenin in Llangoed.

Haulfre Llangoed - Attended a number of meetings to discuss Haulfre gardens in Llangoed including a really well attended public meeting in the village hall. I have also on every occasion in

Llangefni demonstrated support for the Haulfre residential home every time it is mentioned within a meeting.

School Bell Llansdawrn - Though asking the Anglesey Council property department I have been able to secure the old school bell for the village of Llansdawrn. The bell was handed over to the Chair of the Llansadwrn village hall committee during a Cwm Cadnant Community Council meeting.

Seiriol Users Group - As a member of the Seiriol Users group 'Pobl Seiriol' I have actively attended a number of meetings all over the ward and have put my name down for the Communications subcommittee. Within the subcommittee we are trying to come up with ideas of how best to share information across the ward, we can then hopefully over the next 12 months implement some of the ideas.

Dropped Curbs - In conjunction with the highways department, we have managed to install over two dozen dropped curbs which has made a huge difference to a number of residents in Llandegfan, this was in response to a number of constituents complaining about some curbs and the difficulty in mounting and dismounting especially the elderly, disabled and parents with pushchairs.

Road Surface & Potholes - Other highways issues I have helped alongside the Council is road surface improvements, with significant resurfacing work being carried out in various parts of the ward, including Llandegfan, Beaumairs and Llanfaes. In addition numerous pot holes have been filled.

Housing issues & Improvement Scheme in Llanfaes and Llandegfan - I have worked closely with the Housing department and local residents in Llandegfan and Llanfaes on the substantial upgrade investment which has been underway for the best part of the year. This work has included work to the roof, windows, insulation, render, boundary walls etc, the role of Councillor is imperative as the in-between as and when needed. Housing issues have been dealt with on behalf of constituents in terms of care and maintenance and helping with applications for social housing, excellent cooperation has been received from the housing department at all times.

Travellers Site - Another issue which I have been pushing with the housing department is the situation with the unofficial travellers site since 2007 located in the Ward. To this extent a series of recommendations were passed by the Council's Executive, including a need to locate a permanent official site for travellers on the Island.

Planning - I did feel strongly about a number of planning applications and one in particular I spoke out against at the Planning Committee. I am really mindful of our surrounding environment and especially parts of the ward which have the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty status.

No cold Calling Zone Beaumairs - Following a successful launch in Llandegfan and based on reported records of targeting in Cae Mair, Beaumaris we carried out consultation and again successfully launched a 'No Cold Calling Zone' covering Cae Mair. The residents these unscrupulous traders target are more often than not the most vulnerable within our society and are not welcome.

Investment Success Old Llandegfan and Llandegfan Electricity Network - Earlier this year Scottish Power carried out the work I had pressed for. The substantial investment included rebuilding 10.34 Km of overhead line sections to remedy the problems. This was a huge success for me as a Councillor getting a major company to dip into their pockets and rightly so.

Dog Fouling - The dog fouling waste bin for Llansadwrn I managed to get on behalf of residents has made a huge difference to the state of Fferem Isaf road just off the kids play park. Dog fouling is a major problem across the ward and alongside the police and dog warden we had an event at the Owain Glyndwr in Llanddona to discuss ideas to tackle the problem, where free waste bags are now supplied.

Community Councils - I regularly attend the Community Council meetings at Llanddona, Cwm Cadnant and Llangoed, and also attend and report back to the Beaumaris Town Council. Where two Community Council meetings are the same evening, we will ensure between councillors that an attendee can be at each.

Work closely with the PCSO's - I am in close contact with the PCSO's covering the ward who do an excellent job. In early January, as an example of community support PCSO Natalie Tookey, PC Dewi Evans Rural Crime Officer and Barry Owen Dog warden all visited the Owain Glyndwr pub in Llanddona.

3 - Initiatives and Special Activities

Dementia Awareness – Town Hall Beaumairs - I attended a Dementia awareness session that was delivered by the Mayor of Beaumaris Cllr Ian Davies. This session was really useful and I have put my name down to become a Dementia friend.

Wylfa Newydd – Horizon - Writing to the Chief Officer of Horizon I stated as the planning for the Wylfa also includes increasing the numbers at the Gloucester Head Office, that I would welcome a very intense and proactive effort to attract local graduates to work there as a stepping stone before returning to Anglesey. I also pressed for opportunities for local and regional suppliers and the need to work with the education department on Anglesey now to create a 10 year pathway that will develop our young people with the skills, knowledge and understanding in key chosen career areas, be they engineering, trades or management and administration. I pressed for community benefits as I believe it is important that the whole of the Island benefits from the proposed Wylfa Newydd, not just in terms of local jobs but in terms of infrastructure investment and wider community and social benefits.

4 - Learning and Development

As I am also in employment as a Business Lecturer I am constantly updating my knowledge. I have also attended the following learning and development initiatives during the past year (information supplied by the Isle of Anglesey County Council):

Safeguarding	April 2014
Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014	November 2014

5 - Other Activities and Issues

I have found the vast majority of officers to be extremely hard working, committed and a pleasure to deal with. Where individual and team praise is due, and it has been on many occasions I have always communicated this, which I think is really important and a great motivator. I have asked many hard questions but in a respectful way and have worked well alongside officers on many issues.

The past 12 months have yet again been enjoyable as a Councillor and it has given me great satisfaction to have been able to help so many within the Seiriol ward with their issues. The main challenge for me is balancing the demands of the role with my employment as a Business Studies lecturer and home life where I have 3 young children and a supportive wife. I will now be approaching the third year as an elected member with enthusiasm and in the belief that as a Local Authority and Councillors we can make more progress and help more people.

Councillor Carwyn Elias Jones

April 2015
