VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR’S ANNUAL REPORT – MAY 2014 – MAY 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Councillor</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Date Last Elected</th>
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<td>Ian Johnson</td>
<td>Plaid Cymru – the Party of Wales</td>
<td>By-election August 2012</td>
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<th>Ward</th>
<th>Date Last Elected</th>
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<td>Buttrills</td>
<td>By-election August 2012</td>
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Council Positions / Committee Memberships Held (May 2014 – May 2015)

- Member, Vale of Glamorgan Full Council
- Scrutiny Committee (Social Care and Health)
- Voluntary Joint Sector Liaison committee

I am also a member of, and contribute to the work of, the following Outside Bodies, School Governing Bodies and Partnerships:

**Council representative**

- School Governor, Barry Comprehensive School
- School Governor, Gladstone Primary School
- Trustee, Alexandra Gardens Community Association

**Other (e.g. WLGA capacity)**

- Member, Barry Town Council
- Member, Barry Town Council Planning Committee
- President, Cadoxton Barry FC
- Organising Committee, Barry Arts Festival
Constituency Activity and Achievements

- As a trustee of the Alexandra Gardens Community Association, I have supported re-development of the park, including the opening of a new outdoor gym and newly refurbished children’s play park

- Organised consultation meeting on Trinity Street one-way proposals, attended by sixty local residents

- Consulted Hilda Street residents on issues regarding HGV lorries using their street as a rat-run

- Consulted about the opening of a new car-wash on Broad Street, representing constituents at Planning Committee to ensure restrictions on opening hours so as not to disturb local residents

- Traffic lights were improved on upper Buttrills Road following a campaign by myself and parents of local school-children, using a Welsh Government Safe Routes in Communities Grant

- Campaigned for new traffic lights at the foot of lower Buttrills Road to improve pedestrian access from Golau Caredig and Elis Fisher Court towards the town centre. Also supported re-introduction of the crossing on Holton Road towards Thompson Street

- Fought against cuts to library services in Barry, and supported the development of a pop-up library for residential homes around town

- Supported the campaign to make Central Park a Green Flag location

- Requested that the Vale Council consult with local residents about the future of the former maternity hospital site/adult training centre on Woodlands Road

- Supported proposals to improve community access to Jenner Park facilities through a 3G synthetic pitch to increase football opportunities

- Attended building improvements open day at Williams Crescent to inform residents of proposed improvements, and working with residents to ensure a fair deal from the changes

- Working with residents of Tordoff Way to complete long-awaited housing improvements

- Regularly worked with residents on neighbourhood disturbance issues, reported abandoned rubbish and bulky items to the Council’s Visible Services team, reported potholes, and worked with residents facing benefits difficulties

- Attended PACT (Police and Community Together) meetings to liaise with police and residents, frequently met Holton Road traders and and held bi-monthly surgeries at Barry Library with the Plaid Cymru team, dealing with residents’ issues
Council Activities

During 2014-15, I had a 96% attendance at relevant council meetings.

In Full Council meetings, I raised the following issues:

In June 2014, I asked questions on:

• Delays in the implementation of the proposed Regulatory Services merger between the Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend and Cardiff Councils
• How the council monitored the working rights of social care staff in outsourced contracts
• The impact of proposed cuts upon the voluntary sector in the Vale of Glamorgan, and
• What plans the Council had to ban the release of sky lanterns (these were later banned from Council land in January 2015 with support of the RSPCA).

In September 2014, I tabled a motion supporting libraries in the Vale of Glamorgan. This was amended and defeated by the Labour/Llantwit First group. In that meeting, I also spoke to raise concerns about merger proposals between the Vale of Glamorgan and neighbouring councils.

I asked questions on:

• Powers the council has to prevent fracking in the Vale
• The number of houses affected by the bedroom tax in the Vale
• The publication date of the final report on the Barry Strategic Regeneration Area
• Membership of the new Barry Regeneration Advisory Group
• The number of housing completions since the start of the 2011-2026 Local Development Plan period, and
• Clarification on the phrase ‘permanent austerity’ used by the Council Leader

In the November 2014 Special Council Meeting, I expressed concerns at the effect of a loss of almost 1 in 3 staff upon the ability of newly merged joint regulatory services to properly carry out its required workload, noting that a number of Barry premises were illegally not displaying their food hygiene ratings – an issue highlighted in February 2015 by a BBC Wales documentary.

In December 2014, I asked questions on the following subjects:

• What was the impact of the Casteland Regeneration Area and will it be rolled out in other areas, such as the nearby Buttrills ward which I represent
• The impact of increases in National Insurance contributions upon the 2016-17 budget
• The impact of library service cuts upon meeting Welsh Government library standards
• The success of the Intermediate Care Fund in social care
• What assessment had been made of the impact of charging for parking in
Barry town centre, and
• When revised population forecasts for the Local Development Plan would be considered

In the March 2015 meeting I moved an amendment to the budget to increase Council Tax by 2.8%, rather than the proposed 3.9%. This would have protected library services in the Vale, as official inflation predictions are lower than those anticipated in the budget. This was defeated by the Labour/Llantwit First group.

A motion that I proposed to discuss the Vale of Glamorgan becoming a ‘frack-free local authority’ was rejected on procedural grounds.

I asked questions on the following topics:

• Tidy streets and the most recent Local Environment Audit and Management Systems survey by Keep Wales tidy in the Vale of Glamorgan
• The waiting list for allotment spaces in the county
• The impact of the Cog Moors waste water treatment plan upon the Local Development Plan
• The advantages of the Future Generations and Well-being Act for the council
• Governance arrangements for the new merged regulatory services, and
• When the response to the library services review consultation would be published

In the final Full Council meeting, in April 2015, I raised issues regarding bulky waste collections and housing improvement loans, as well as the following topics:

• Which work to support ‘Active Travel’ plans would be carried out in 2015-16
• Clarification of the council’s position on workfare
• Submission of the Local Development Plan, and
• The number of people waiting on the Homes4U list for more than two years

In addition to the above, I requested reports on the Social Care and Health Committee on 1st Grade Care (who have since been the subject of a BBC Wales documentary) and the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS) annual conference.

I was a member of the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee’s Task and Finish Group on Assistive Technology which reported in March 2015.

I regularly attend meetings of other committees, and have twice spoken at Lifelong Learning on cuts to library services, as well as about the proposed Barry secondary school transformation, as a local councillor. They also discussed a report that I requested on the use of the Pupil Deprivation Grant. I have spoken at Planning on new government guidance on hydraulic fracturing (‘fracking’), as well as ward issues, and I spoke at Economy and Environment in October 2014 on a report into the XFOR environmental protection scheme on litter and dog fouling which I requested.
# Learning and Development

This section covers your Personal Development in your role as a councillor. You should include all training events that you have participated in and any developmental events that you have attended.

- Reshaping Services briefing, provided by Grant Thornton
- Reshaping Services briefing, provided by One Voice Wales
- Barry Secondary School Transformation briefing
- Visit to new extra-care facility at Golau Caredig with Social Care & Health committee
- Visit to Llandough Hospital with Assistive Technology Task & Finish Group
- Attended ‘Challenge’ session to improve social care & health scrutiny
- Attended Institute for Welsh Affairs annual Education conference on challenges facing secondary education, including Challenge Cymru scheme
- Briefing with Challenge Cymru adviser on school improvements

# Priorities For The Year Ahead

- To continue to provide the best possible service for constituents in ensuring excellent public service from the Vale of Glamorgan Council whilst scrutinising the council’s strategic direction and effectiveness at providing taxpayers with value for money.
- To secure a Green Flag for Alexandra Gardens
- To continue consultation with residents who live on or near Trinity Street on the one-way trial
- To consult with residents of Woodlands Road about proposed housing developments on the street
- Implementation of improvements to Jenner Park facilities
- Introduction of safer streets proposals on lower Buttrills Road and on Holton Road
- Push for improvements to Gladstone Gardens children’s play area
• Support housing improvements to Williams Crescent area, Tordoff Way and Jenner Road
• Continue to develop the Barry Arts Festival, encourage young people to take up healthy sporting and cultural activities out of school and support deprived parts of the community through Communities First schemes

Signature Of Councillor: Ian Johnson       Date: 15.06.2015