

# Annual Report – Special Responsibilities

(Under the South Gloucestershire Scheme of Members' Allowances, certain councillors who perform significant responsibilities over and above those of other councillors, are entitled to receive additional allowances to recognise those extra responsibilities. The Scheme requires councillors in receipt of such allowances to report on their actions. This report is published on the Council's website).

**Report for period: May 2019 – May 2020** .....

**Name: MICHAEL BELL** .....

**Position held: LABOUR GROUP SPOKES PERSON FOR DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** .....

## A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

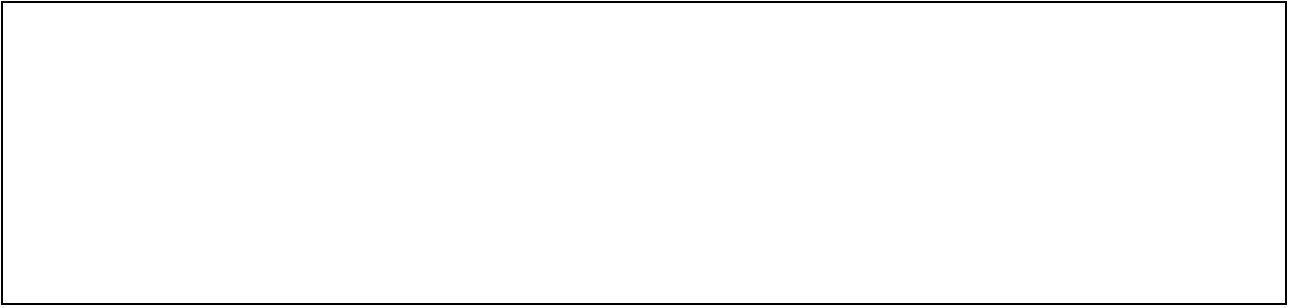
As Spokesperson I attend all Agenda, Committee and Group Spokesperson Committee and Site Meetings, and all Training Meetings.

I give advice to my fellow Councillors in particular in respect of Applications in their Wards.

I give advice to residents with regards to Applications and Objections. This entails explaining various planning laws, South Glos Council policies, and Committee procedure.

## Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

I assisted one resident over a period of 6 months in a complex planning application whilst retaining my impartiality and received numerous appreciation messages, in what was a very stressful period for him.



**What “added value” to the local community have you been able to achieve through your special responsibilities?**

Planning applications can be a very controversial and often causes a lot stress to residents who will be affected.  
In dealing with the public I am very patient listening to any issues they may have and assist them in either applying or objecting.  
I make great effort in promptly responding to any enquiry I receive, and I believe that I am respected throughout my local community as a hard-working Councillor

**How have your special responsibilities enabled the Council to be more effective?**

I keep well informed and up to date on all aspects of Planning so as not to raise trivial and time wasting issues with Council Officers.

**In what ways has the exercise of your special responsibilities supported the core objectives of the Council?**

I deal with a very wide cross- section of the Community, all genders, ages, ethnic or disability background and treat them all equally and to the very best of my ability.

