

Mayor of the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil 2011 - 2012

Councillor Paul Brown

Councillor Paul Brown was born in 1953, raised and lived all of his life in Merthyr Tydfil apart from his time at College and a short time in his first job in Hertfordshire from 1973 to 1977. Paul was educated at Penydarren Junior School, County Grammar school and onto Cyfarthfa High School to study "A" levels. He went onto study at Trinity College, Carmarthen where he qualified as a teacher and youth and community worker.

He took up employment with Mid Glamorgan County Council in 1977 as a full time youth worker, he remained in this area of work and took early retirement as a Senior Youth Officer last year after 33 years working with young people.

During the latter years of his work he was a founder member of a young peoples Counselling service in RCT that is still operating and known as Eye To Eye Counselling Service recognised by the Welsh Assembly as an exemplor of good practice. He was also the Chairperson of Welsh County Youth Sports Association later becoming Youth Events Wales for seven years, during this time Mid Glamorgan Youth Services Association were National Youth Sports champions in a whole range of sports.

During the time of working for Mid Glamorgan County Council, Paul became a qualified football coach and referee whilst at College and went on to later officiate in the Football League at Division one in 1988, now the Premier League, he also was one of the first to earn the new status of FIFA linesman in 1992 to officiate at games in Europe and on the International stage. His refereeing career was unfortunately brought to a premature end as a result of a serious car accident in 1990 when returning from a Football League Conference in Harrogate. He then carried out refereeing assessing for the then Dr Martens League where Merthyr FC used to play. He held a number of regional posts in administering referees education and training for South Wales and the South West of England and was highly thought of in the world of Welsh and English football.

Paul is a keen environmentalist and is known locally for his sterling work against opencast mining on the Rhydycar West site, taking up the cause in 1995. He was instrumental in the establishing of Merthyr Tydfil Anti Opencast Campaign group where he still remains as secretary. The commitment over the past 15 years has brought its rewards where everyone is able to see first hand the value of this long battle resulting with Council now supporting the Campaigns objectives. Indeed the blue print for the future of Rhydycar West to become a potential World Heritage site is now slowly becoming more of a reality.

It was as result of this work that Paul became interested in local politics and became a Councillor in 2004 and has represented the residents of Cyfarthfa Ward for the last 7 years. Paul has also been a Governor of Heolgerrig School for over 22 years and Chair for the last 5 years where he has overseen the build of the new Community School.

Paul is happily married to Katherine and they have a son Jamie - attending Cyfarthfa High School studying A Level in Engineering, Art and Geography - and two daughters, Rhiannon, who is Heolgerrig Community School Secretary and Stephanie who after attending University and obtaining her Law Degree and then Masters in Planning now works for

Blaenau Gwent in Planning Enforcement. They also have one granddaughter, Chloe, whom also attends Cyfarthfa High School. Both Katherine and Paul's parents, who have lived in Merthyr Tydfil for all of their lives, along with their family are extremely proud of the honour proposed both for Cllr Paul Brown and his wife Katherine as Mayor and Mayoress.

Katherine is a Senior Pharmacy Technician in Prince Charles Hospital where she has worked for over 27 years after working in retail.

They both hope to be good ambassadors for the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil as its First Citizens.

Paul and Katherine have chosen [Macmillan Cancer Support](#) as their Charity for the coming year. Any funds raised will go towards the local group who have the task of now meeting revenue costs to staff the new Cancer Unit at Prince Charles Hospital. They chose MacMillan over a number of deserving Charities due to the extremely kind and grateful anecdotes told by local patients whom are benefiting from the new Unit. They wanted to support local services for local people, particularly those who are unfortunate to be afflicted by this terrible disease. To be able to receive exhausting treatment locally and not have to travel long distances is a huge burden reduced for these poor people. They also wish to recognise the dedicated work of all of the staff at the Unit and look forward to working with the local MacMillan Fund raising Committee over the coming year.

The Past Mayor and Mayoress 2011 – 2012 would like to announce that during their year in office a grand total of £64,763.81 has been raised between the Mayor's Office and the Macmillan Cancer Support Merthyr Tydfil Committee. All the money raised will go the Macmillan Cancer Unit at PCH. We would like to thank all the sponsors and residents of the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil for their support and generosity.