

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2017 - MAY 2018



Councillor John Ridgewell

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ELECTORAL WARD: Ynysddu

PARTY: Labour

PROFILE: Ward Member for Ynysddu

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council
Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee
Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Appointments Committee
Licensing and Gambling Committee
Taxi and General Committee
Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
Planning Committee

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

Vice Chair, Community Council Liaison Sub – Committee
Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
Licensing and Gambling Sub Committee
Taxi and General Sub Committee
Street Scene Working Group

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

I am the Council representative on the Cwmfelinfach Community Centre Committee I also sit on the Lower Sirhowy Community Partnership and I'm on the Board of Governors for Cwmfelinfach Primary School.

This July I was elected as the non-executive Member to represent the Authority on the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal,

ATTENDANCE

From May 2017 to May 2018 my attendance at Council meetings was as follows:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>No. Attended</u>	<u>No. Held</u>
Council	9	13
Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee	6	8
Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee	6	8
Appointments Committee	3	3
Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education	2	3
Community Council Liaison Sub – Committee	3	3
Licensing and Gambling Committee	1	1
Licensing and Gambling Sub Committee	2	2
Taxi and General Committee	3	4
Taxi and General Sub Committee	3	3
Partnerships Scrutiny Committee	2	2
Planning Committee	8	11

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

I have undertaken the following training and development: -

Induction 2017

Data Protection (Mandatory)

Planning Enforcement (Recommended)

Planning 5 Year Supply

Treasury Management

Information Governance
Effective Governance – Call-in
VAWDASV E-Training

CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY

These are the issues that I have worked on over the past year many of which are ongoing: -

Ward work occupies much of my time, dealing with issues as diverse as on street car parking – a major problem across many of our communities, to planning matters such as the siting of telecommunication masts and wind turbines and the concerns of residents in connection with the large scale tree felling and removal of timber by NRW. This year's hot dry summer created its own problems with mountain and grass fires. Working with Parks Services to address the fire hazards of long grass and overgrown vegetation occupied much of my time from May to July.

Over the last twelve months, in partnership with the Police and with my fellow Councillor Philippa Marsden, I've have undertaken street surgeries, Heavy Goods Vehicle monitoring at Nine Mile Point Industrial Estate and speed checks on vehicles through Brynawel where there is a particular problem with cars and lorries regularly exceeding the 30 mph limit

On a wider front, I'm heavily involved with Lower Sirhowy Residents group in opposition to the waste recycling plant planned for Nine Mile Point Industrial Estate. We have arranged public meetings and supported by our AM Rhiannon Passmore, our MP Chris Evans and Lord Don Touhig, have held public protests as well as helping develop an online protest presence to keep this matter in the public eye. Together with Councillor Philippa Marsden I have met with Hannah Blyddyn, the Environment Minister and also senior staff in the Future Generation's Commissioner's Office to take our concerns to the highest level.

Linked to the recycling plant, air quality in general is a major issue throughout the valley and at my request additional air monitoring tubes have now been installed in Wattsville, Brynawel and Cwmfelinfach. More locally but of equal concern to residents is the former industrial waste tip at Ty Llwyd, where I'm continuing to closely with Environmental Health Officers to push for improvement in management of contaminated water that sometimes comes to the surface below the former quarry.

Ongoing projects for the autumn I'm involved with include, further community litter picks, raising funding to re-introduce Christmas lights in Cwmfelin and then in every community from Wyllie to Wattsville and, in addition, raising funds for lamp post poppies to mark Armistice Sunday in November

On a final note and one personally close to my heart, in recognition of the one hundredth anniversary of the end of the First World War, I'm in the process of having Glan-y-Nant Memorial Garden submitted for special standing as a Fields in Trust Millennium Field. This important recognition salutes the sacrifice of all those who died in the conflict and ensures the park will be given special protected status and remain a memorial garden in perpetuity.