

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2018 - MAY 2019



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

Community Council Liaison Sub – Committee
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
Future Generations Advisory Panel
Licensing and Gambling Sub Committee
Taxi and General Sub Committee
Street Scene Working Group

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Cardiff Capital Region Joint Scrutiny Committee

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.

ATTENDANCE

From May 2018 to May 2019 my attendance at Council meetings was as follows:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>No. Attended</u>	<u>No. Held</u>
Council	10	11
Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee	7	9
Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee	7	7
Appointments Committee	0	1
Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education	2	3
Community Council Liaison Sub – Committee	3	3
Licensing and Gambling Committee	3	3
Licensing and Gambling Sub Committee	2	6
Taxi and General Committee	5	5
Taxi and General Sub Committee	3	12
Partnerships Scrutiny Committee	2	2
Planning Committee	10	12

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

I have undertaken the following training and development: -
Planning Wales Policy & Technical Advice Notes (Recommended)
Planning Committee (Annual Refresher)
Nature Conservation – Planning (Recommended)

Licensing Procedures (Mandatory)
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (Annual Refresher)
Medium Term Financial Plan (Seminar)
The Appeals Process – Planning (Recommended)
Planning Rules & Procedures (Mandatory)
Developing the Western Powerhouse (Forum)
Sport and Active Recreation Strategy (Seminar)
Licensing Committee (Annual Refresher)
Advanced Chairing Skills (Recommended)
Treasury Management (Seminar)

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.

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 have succeeded in having Glan-y-Nant Memorial Garden dedicated 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.