

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2019 - MAY 2020



Councillor Barbara Jones

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ELECTORAL WARD: St. James

PARTY: Labour

PROFILE: Deputy Leader
Interim Leader from 20/09/19 to 19/11/19
Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Governance (until 17/12/19)
Cabinet Member for Education and Achievement (from 18/12/19)
Chair of Van Community Council

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council
Cabinet
Cabinet as Trustees of Blackwood Miners Institute
Appeals Panel (Nominated Substitute)

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group
Caerphilly Homes Task Group
Corporate Joint Consultative Committee
Non-Domestic Ratepayers Committee
Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Anti Poverty Champion
Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee
Gwent Archives Joint Committee
Local Government Association
Older Persons Champion
Schools Budget Forum
Welsh Church Fund (substitute)
Welsh Local Government Association

ATTENDANCE

To view my attendance record, please follow the link below:

<https://democracy.caerphilly.gov.uk/mqUserAttendanceSummary.aspx?LLL=0>

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Strategic Development Plan Workshop (Seminar)
Communications & Influencing Skills (Recommended Training)
Medium Term Financial Plan (Seminar)
Civil Parking & Traffic Regulation Orders (Seminar)
Wellbeing Workshop – Education (Member Development Programme)
Education Performance Indicators (Seminar)

CABINET MEMBER ACTIVITY

As Deputy Leader of Council (Interim Leader from September to December 2019), Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Governance until December 2019 and Cabinet Member for Education and Achievement from January 2020, I acted as the Cabinet expert in these areas, to ensure that the views and needs of the service are built into the Council's policy framework and the decision making process. I attended Scrutiny meetings where I regularly updated other Members about my key portfolio activities.

Along with my regularly scheduled committee, cabinet and council meetings during 2019/20. I also attended the following events and meetings:

WLGA Councils, photoshoot for Fostering Fortnight, visit Transcend with St James Primary School and CEO, School Budget Forum, Launch of the Joint Scrutiny Handbook 2nd edition with Minister, Wales Fiscal Analysis Conference, Caerphilly PSB Annual Conference, Launch of Education Strategy Conference, photoshoot for Welsh Ambulance relocation, visit to Furniture Revival Centre, NJC meeting, Voluntary Sector Awards Evening, Passing Out Ceremony for Mini Police, Senghenydd Colliery Disaster Memorial Dinner and Service of Remembrance, Healthy Schools Celebration, Wales Care Awards, visit to Families First with Julie Morgan AM, Library Summer Reading Scheme Challenge Celebration Event, visit to Bedwas Writing Circle, Help for Heroes Event at Castle Shopping Centre, CCBC Staff Road Shows, Annual Services of Remembrance, Constructing Excellence National Awards, visit to Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre, Youth Forum Conference, Menter Iaith 20th Celebration Reception, Youth Pilot – What Next? photoshoot for LGBT History Month, Upper Rhymney Valley Partnership Sixth Form open evening, visit Blackwood Comprehensive School, Heolddu Multi Agency meeting, 50+ Forum, Boundary Commission Working Group.

I also meet regularly with Heads of Service, Directors, the Chief Executive, Police and Crime Commissioner and Trade Unions with regard to my portfolio priorities.

WARD ACTIVITY

During lockdown I continued carrying out my role as a Councillor, representing my community and providing assistance during a difficult time.

I continue to carry out my ward work which consists of any issues brought to me by residents for help and advice, eg reporting fly tipping, housing matters, repairs, damp, financial issues. However, one of the most consistent matters brought to my attention is the repair of potholes, which are a constant concern.

During this lockdown, I have received numerous requests from residents regarding concerns about illegal and frightening fire setting around the Rudry area, and also anti-social behaviour of young people gathering in groups with their mountain bikes and motor cross bikes. However, I am pleased that these incidents have been attended by Gwent Police.

Taking part in a number of Community Council events i.e. Soup and Carols for the children and parents of the Van area last Christmas.

I am a member of the Draethen Waterloo and Rudry Lunch club and attendance at this club often acts as a surgery where members know they can speak to me about their concerns. I don't hold regular surgeries, however I have many visitors to my home and people know that I am available via telephone or email.