

# ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2019 - MAY 2020



Councillor John Ridgewell

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**ELECTORAL WARD:** Ynysddu

**PARTY:** Labour

**PROFILE:** Ward Member for Ynysddu

## COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council  
Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee (Chair)  
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  
Scrutiny Leadership Group  
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education  
Future Generations Advisory Panel (disbanded on 23/10/19)  
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**

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

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

## **TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

I have undertaken the following training and development:-

Licensing Committee Training (Annual Refresher)

Strategic Development Plan Workshop (Recommended Training)

Communications and Influencing Skills (Recommended Training)

Education Performance Indicators (Seminar)

Joint Scrutiny Chairing Skills (Recommended Training)

Ethics and Standards (Mandatory Training)

Local Government Bill (Seminar)

South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority (Seminar)

Civil Parkin & Traffic Regulation Orders (Seminar)

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Committee Training (Annual Refresher)

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (Seminar)

Wellbeing Workshop – Education (Recommended Training)

## **WARD ACTIVITY**

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

Ward work occupies much of my time, dealing with issues as diverse as on-street 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 my fellow ward Councillor, Philippa Marsden, I have undertaken street surgeries, HGV 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 Rhiannon Passmore AM, Chris Evans MP and Lord Don Touhig, 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. Environmental Health officers and I continue 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 Cwmfelinfach and hopefully in every community from Wyllie to Wattsville, while also 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 100th 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.