

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2019 - MAY 2020



Councillor Philippa Marsden

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ELECTORAL WARD: Ynysddu

PARTY: Labour

PROFILE: Cabinet Member for Education and Achievement (until 17/12/19)
Leader (from 19/11/19)
Youth Champion (from 17/10/19)

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council
Cabinet
Appointments Committee

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

Advisory Panel for the Appointment and Removal of Local Authority Governors
Corporate Joint Consultative Committee
Pensions Compensation Committee

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Coleg Harlech WEA North
Corporate Parenting Group (until 17/12/19)
Corporate Safeguarding Group (until 17/12/19)
PFI Liaison Committee (until 17/12/19)
School Admission Forum (until 17/12/19)
Schools Budget Forum (until 17/12/19)
WJEC (until 17/12/19)

Youth Forum
WLGA (from 17/11/19)
WLGA Executive (from 17/11/19)
WLGA Workforce spokesperson (from 17/11/19)
- Joint Council for Wales (Chair)
- Workforce Partnership Council
- LGS Employers
- NARE
- National Joint Council
CCR City Deal (from 17/11/19)
G10 (from 17/11/19)
Public Service Board (PSB) Chair (from 17/11/19)

ATTENDANCE

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

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

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority (Seminar)
Local Government Bill (Seminar)
Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (Seminar)
Ethics and Standards (Mandatory Training)
Medium Term Financial Plan (Seminar)
Provision of EAS Support to Schools (Recommended Training)
Civil Parking & Traffic Regulation Orders (Seminar)
Strategic Development Plan Workshop (Seminar)
Communications and Influencing Skills (Recommended Training)
Date Protection eLearning Modules 1&2, 3&4 (Mandatory Training)

CABINET MEMBER ACTIVITY

Lockdown brought many new challenges to my Cabinet role, with daily updates and situations never before experienced.

As Cabinet Member for Education and Achievement until 17/12/19., 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:-

PREVENT interview with Estyn, photoshoot for Fostering Fortnight, Visit to Trinant Primary School, Period Dignity meetings, Citizenship Ceremony, Sophie Howe's visit to St James Primary School, 21st Century Schools Celebration Event, School Budget Forum, Education Improvement Board, EG Meetings, Intervention Planning Board, Medal Presentation at Upper Rhymney Primary School, Dementia Awards at St Gwladys Primary School, Royal Visit to White Rose Primary School, Launch of Education Strategy Conference, A Level Results day at Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni & Bedwas High School, GCSE Results day at Blackwood, St Cenydd & Lewis Schools, photoshoot at Trinity Fields School, Live Vacancy Event, ConnectEd Staff Session, WLGA Annual Education meeting with Kirsty Williams AM, WJEC Board of Directors meetings, Post 16 Provision Single Sex Education and Surplus

Places meetings, Schools Causing Concern meetings, Youth Champion events, Voluntary Sector Awards Evening, Community Period Dignity Launch, Affordable Housing Road Trip, Young Promoters Events, Islwyn High Schools Celebration of Achievement Evening, Video recording for Teaching Awards Cymru, visit to Hendre Primary School with Kirsty Williams AM, Awards Evening at St Martins School, Staff Roadshows, Christmas Lights Switch on in Wattsville, visit by Ministers to Trinity Fields School, G10 meetings, PSB meetings, photoshoot for Santa Appeal, WAO meetings, Welsh Government Headteacher Conference for EAS region, meet with Minister & Deputy Minister for Housing & Local Government, Carol Service & Nativity at Trinity Fields School, Ty Ni Christmas Party, The Future Generations Xchange, Youth Forum Conference, photoshoot for LGBT History Month, Upper Rhymney Valley Partnership 6th Form open evening, visit Min-y-Mynydd, Rhymney with Cllr Cuss, Flood Emergency meeting with First Minister, WLGA Workforce meetings, Unveiling of new Miner Memorial Plaque at Waunfawr Park, Boundary Commission Working Group, meeting with Ken Skates AM & David Davies MP re Cardiff Capital Region, International Women's Day event, Caerphilly Catering event for Schools, Ministerial visit to Crosskeys Youth Centre, visit to Bryn Primary School, Covid-19 Local Government meetings, daily teleconference call with WLGA re Covid-19, WLGA Leaders and Ministerial Teams meetings re Covid-19, Joint Council for Wales Executive Teams meetings, Teleconference call with Chair of ABHB, Zoom conference call with Keir Starmer MP,

I also met regularly with MP's & AM's, the Chief Executive, Directors, Heads of Service, 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.

Lower Sirhowy Communities Partnership – regularly attended meetings and contributed to several actions (Christmas lights fundraiser- delivered letters to local businesses Wattsville and Cwmfelinfach).

Lower Sirhowy Residents Group - attended regular meetings around the planned fuel recycling plant at Nine Mile point – as a key member being involved in protests, petitions, liaison with the media and holding public meetings keeping residents informed on the current position-ongoing.

Councillor Surgeries Held monthly advice surgeries (commenced early 2020 - but Covid-19 pandemic put this on hold until the socially distancing rules change)

General Activity

- Attended local Christmas lights switch on in Wattsville
- Attended community events
- Held a public meeting to discuss the potential of setting up a community group in order to help the progression of an application for CAT, bringing different user groups and residents together to improve community provision and to help create cohesion.

- Casework – both local and general household issues.
- Dealt with the Islwyn Road, Wattsville – Landslip/road bridge collapse updating residents throughout as the disruption lasted for more than two months.