

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2020 - MAY 2021



Councillor John Ridgewell

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ELECTORAL WARD: Ynysddu

PARTY: Labour

PROFILE: Ward Member for Ynysddu

Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure since 3rd September 2020

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council

Cabinet since 3rd September 2020

Cabinet as Trustees for Blackwood Miners Institute since 3rd September 2020

Rights of Way Cabinet Committee since 3rd September 2020

Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee (Chair) until 3rd September 2020

Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee until 3rd September 2020

Appointments Committee

Licensing and Gambling Committee until 3rd September 2020

Taxi and General Committee until 3rd September 2020

Partnerships Scrutiny Committee until 3rd September 2020

Planning Committee until 3rd September 2020

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee until 3rd September 2020

Scrutiny Leadership Group until 3rd September 2020

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education until 3rd September 2020

Licensing and Gambling Sub Committee until 3rd September 2020

Taxi and General Sub Committee until 3rd September 2020
Street Scene Working Group
Car Parks Task & Finish Group until 8th September 2020
Caerphilly Local Access Forum since 3rd September 2020
Corporate Joint Consultative Committee since 3rd September 2020
Pensions/Compensation Committee since 3rd September 2020
View Point Panel since 3rd September 2020

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Cardiff Capital Region Joint Scrutiny Committee until 3rd September 2020
Association of Public Services Excellence (APSE) Welsh Regional Committee since 3rd September 2020
Fields in Trust (Formally National Playing Fields Association)
PATROL since 3rd September 2020
Prosiect Gwyrdd Joint Committee since 3rd September 2020
Regional Transport Statement (Aggregates) since 3rd September 2020
Regional Transport Authority since 3rd September 2020
South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party since 3rd September 2020
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

2021 Census (seminar)
Mass Vaccination Programme Briefing (recommended)
Homelessness (seminar)
Team Caerphilly (seminar)
Treasury Management (seminar)

CABINET MEMBER ACTIVITY

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

As Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure since 3rd September 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 2020/21, I also attended the following Teams events and meetings:

RTA Board meetings, Caerphilly Place Making meetings, PSB Green Spaces Group, LG Corporate Joint Scrutiny Committee, Green Spaces Wales meetings, Cwm a Mynydd Local Access Forum, Walking Tour of Caerphilly Town Centre, APSE Green Space meeting,

Adoption of north Rising, Pontlloftyn meetings, Parks Management Forum, Carbon Literacy Climate Ready Gwent, LDP Focus Group.

I also met regularly with 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.

Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions, I have been unable to meet with residents or hold any surgeries during the past year but hope this will change as restrictions ease. Constituents are welcome to contact me by email, telephone or social media.

Ward work occupies much of my time, dealing with issues as diverse as on-street parking (a major problem across many of our communities), dog fouling, fly-tipping, planning issues, housing issues, neighbour disputes etc.

On a wider front, I am still heavily involved with Lower Sirhowy Residents group in opposition to the waste recycling plant planned for Nine Mile Point Industrial Estate.

Linked to the recycling plant, air quality in general is a major issue throughout the valley and, at my request, additional air monitoring tubes installed in Wattsville, Brynawel and Cwmfelinfach continue to be monitored. 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. I am pleased to report that flower planters have been sited within the Wattsville community and it is hoped these can be extended to other areas within the ward.