

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2020 - MAY 2021



Councillor Philippa Marsden

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ELECTORAL WARD: Ynysddu

PARTY: Labour

PROFILE: Leader of Council
Youth Champion

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council
Cabinet
Cabinet as Trustees for Blackwood Miners Institute

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

Corporate Joint Consultative Committee

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Local Government Association
WLGA
WLGA Executive
WLGA Workforce spokesperson
- Joint Council for Wales (Chair)
- Workforce Partnership Council
- LGS Employers
- NARE
- National Joint Council
CCR City Deal
G10

Public Service Board (PSB) Chair
Youth Forum

ATTENDANCE

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

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

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Armed Forces Covenant Briefing (recommended)
2021 Census (seminar)
Mass Vaccination Programme Briefing (recommended)
Team Caerphilly (seminar)

CABINET MEMBER ACTIVITY

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

As Leader of the Council, I am responsible for developing and providing the strategic direction and overall policy of the Council. I am assisted by the Deputy Leader, other Cabinet Members and Officers and need to ensure that all elements of the Community and Corporate Plans are enacted, monitored and reviewed. As the key spokesperson for the Council, I have to develop good relationships with all of the Council's partners.

Along with my regularly scheduled committee, cabinet and council meetings during 2020/21. I also attended the following events and meetings:

Month	Attendance at Meetings
WLGA Executive Meetings – (this includes all meetings involving Ministers and Leaders)	
May 2020	7 (attended all meetings)
June 2020	7 (attended all meetings)
July 2020	8 (attended all meetings)
August 2020	No meetings
September 2020	5 (attended all meetings)
October 2020	9 (attended all meetings)
November 2020	4 (attended all meetings)
December 2020	8 (attended all meetings)
January 2021	7 (attended all meetings)
February 2021	6 (1 was cancelled)
March 2021	4 (attended all meetings)
April 2021	5 (attended all meetings)
Total Meetings Attended	69
School Social Partnership Forum Meetings	37
Workforce Role (including JCW)	53
ABHB & Leaders	22
City Deal Meetings	25

Trade Unions, CCR Regional Cabinet Public Meeting, Youth Forum, Period Dignity meetings & photoshoot, G10 meetings, JNC Youth & Community meeting, Visit Free School Meals Staff, Photoshoot – handover of Kindle donations, Buddy Scheme visit & photoshoot, Woodland Planting/Carbon Offsetting, visit Penallta CA, Visit Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni for A Level results & Lewis School Pengam for GCSE results, Regional Women’s Committee, Radio Wales and ITV Wales Interviews, Caerphilly Placemaking Plan, Video shoot for Mental Health Day, photoshoot – MOU Signing, site visit to Morgan Jones Park, Public Services Board, Site visit to Woodland Park Newbridge, Boundary Commission Working Group, Cynnal Cymru Living Wage Launch, Video – Make your Mark Voting, Walking Tour of Caerphilly Town Centre, Remembrance Service – Penallta House, Visit to The Grange Hospital, Photoshoot – Ground Breaking at Bedwellty Fields, Filming – People Like You, Photoshoot – Operation Santa, Strategic Board Meeting, Visit Vaccination Centre at Newbridge LC, Local Development Plan, Valleys Regional Park Board, WG Homelessness Transformation.

I also met regularly with MP’s & MS’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 – Unfortunately, due to restrictions we were unable to meet from May 2020 to April 2021, but we are now back in the regular rhythm of monthly meetings via teams.

Lower Sirhowy Residents Group - attended regular meetings around the planned fuel recycling plant at Nine Mile point – as a key member being involved in discussions, albeit virtually because of restrictions.

Councillor Surgeries I have been unable to hold my monthly advice surgeries, but hope to reinstate these once restrictions allow. However, constituents are always welcome to contact me via telephone, email or letter.

General Activity

- Unable to hold a formal Christmas lights switch on in Wattsville, but I am pleased to report that the lights were funded by Wattsville FC and we had a wonderful display once again.
- Continued to support community group on their application journey for CAT, bringing different user groups and residents together to improve community provision and to help create cohesion.
- Casework – various, including dog fouling/bins, street cleansing, grass cutting, housing, environmental issues, highway issues etc.
- Working with Officers to address the issue of the leachates from Ty Llwyd quarry.
- Working with Officers on annual flood prevention measure

- Liaising with Natural Resources Wales throughout the Larch felling Programme
- Dealing with Public Rights of Way issues on behalf of the community
- Repairs to the river road following storm Dennis flooding
- Highway resurfacing works and pothole repairs on Twyn Gwyn and the mountain roads, re above.
- Providing equipment for community litter pick, arranging for collection of the rubbish and participating in the events
- Instrumental in having the speed limit reduced to 40 mph on the Wyllie Bends
- Working with the Police on Operation Harley to control the off-road motorcycle nuisance in the valley.