

# ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2021 - MAY 2022



Councillor Eluned Stenner

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**ELECTORAL WARD:** New Tredegar

**PARTY:** Labour

**PROFILE:** Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Performance & Property Services until 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
Cabinet Member for Performance, Economy & Enterprise since 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## **COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Council  
Cabinet  
Cabinet as Trustees for Blackwood Miners institute  
Appointments Committee  
Rights of Way Cabinet Committee

## **SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS**

Corporate Joint Consultative Committee  
Caerphilly Homes Task Group  
Pensions/Compensation Committee  
Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee  
NDR  
Viewpoint Panel

## **OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS**

Industrial Communities Alliance (formally Coalfield Community Campaign)  
Joint Council for Wales  
Local Government Association  
Schools Budget Forum  
Welsh Church Fund  
Welsh Local Government Association

## **SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY**

Phillipstown Primary School - Chair  
White Rose 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**

Gwent Public Services Board (seminar)  
Corporate Joint Committees (seminar)  
Team Caerphilly (seminar)  
Elected Members Safety (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 Customer Services, Performance & Property Service until 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and Performance, Economy & Enterprise since 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 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:

Team Caerphilly Programme Board, CSC Foundry Board, Corporate Governance Panel, Regeneration Panel Board, Digital Leadership. LDP Focus Group, Community Empowerment Fund, School Budget Forum, WLGA Council AGM, Local Government Association (LGA), Cwm Ifor Solar Farm briefing, HMO photoshoot, Asset Management, Delivery of Hygiene Products photoshoot, Place Shaping photoshoot, Ministerial meetings, Caerphilly Improvement photoshoot, JCC AGM, Virtual Housing Road Trip, Santa Appeal photoshoot, Industrial Coalfields Alliance, Pen March Wind Farm, Choose Local photoshoot, Launch of WiFi in Towns photoshoot, delivery of free school meals.

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.

Over the last 12 months one of the most rewarding experiences, I had was delivering the school meals to families across the borough. It certainly was a huge operation that was carried out with military precision, and it was a shining example of "Team Caerphilly" where staff and members worked collaboratively.

## **WARD ACTIVITY**

During lockdown I continued carrying out my role as a Councillor, representing my community and providing assistance during a difficult time. At the start of the pandemic, just before full lockdown, I along with my ward colleague Mark Evans delivered letters with our contact details on to our OAP's complexes stating if residents required any help or support then to contact us.

As the pandemic continued, I was acutely aware that there were many families who were enduring a loss of income through furlough, job losses and isolation because of Covid 19. I arranged a Covid Support Grant Scheme through my role as Chair of New Tredegar Community Council. The scheme was run by the White Rose Information and Resource Centre and applicants, whose household income had been affected by Covid, could apply for a one-off payment of £100.

Also during the last year when I was Chairperson of New Tredegar Community Council I felt that as we exited the pandemic, the community of New Tredegar needed something to lift their spirits after a somewhat restrictive 2 years, so the decision was taken to host the annual firework display. After much thought it was agreed that as this was an outdoor event and restrictions were being relaxed we were confident that this event could take place. While other areas of the country saw their displays cancelled, our event went ahead and was successful and enjoyed by all.

Over the last two years and many were Covid related where residents required support, I was able to assist in getting the relevant support to these tenants through services operated by the Council. I have been contacted by many residents and very often the complaints are quite similar. These issues range from housing problems, anti-social behaviour, litter, fly-tipping, stray animals and dog mess. Details of complaints received are passed onto the relevant Council Department to pick up, and on most occasions are dealt with swiftly. However, there are occasions when complaints are not easily resolved, and this leads to working with other partners such as Police, Fire Brigade etc.

I operate an open-door policy and any persons wishing to speak to me can call at my home at any time. I can also be contacted by phone, email or social media.

Prior to the pandemic I held street surgeries with Gerald Jones MP and Dawn Bowden MS along with my ward colleague, Cllr M Evans. I work closely with the relevant agencies to try and solve the problems that are presented to me.

Prior to Covid, I attended meetings with the local residents associations from all areas of New Tredegar, where again complaints were received, and solutions sought.

I attended regular meetings with New Tredegar Community Partnership where I am Vice Chair, when restrictions allowed,

I also sit on the Board of Directors at White Rose Resource Centre where, along with other directors, we work to keep this facility open and thriving in New Tredegar. I was instrumental in setting up a meeting with other directors of the centre and the Post Office and this has led to the Post Office opening on a Friday morning at the Centre, providing a service that is vital to the residents of New Tredegar. Since restrictions have been slowly lifting this service is proving vital within the community.

I am also Chairperson of the Phillipstown Forever Fund working alongside Building Community Trust and, along with other members, attend monthly meetings. Throughout lockdown virtual meetings have been held via Zoom.

I have close links with both primary schools within my ward. I am Chair of Governors at Phillipstown Primary School and a Governor at White Rose Primary School. Throughout lockdown, virtual meetings have been held and the day-to-day business of school governors has continued. These roles make me proud of the young people who attend both schools. Being a Governor gives me the opportunity to see these children develop and see what huge talent the children of New Tredegar have.