

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2013 - MAY 2014



Councillor Barbara Jones

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ELECTORAL WARD: St. James

PARTY: Labour

PROFILE:

When I wrote my report for last year, I was eager to explain how excited I felt at actually being elected to represent the people of St James's ward, and to share with residents the work that was being undertaken, I have thoroughly enjoyed being a Councillor for my ward and feel that I have in some small way been able to ensure that matters for residents are being dealt with in an appropriate and timely fashion.

After being a Back Bencher for the last two years, in May 2014, at the Councils Annual General Meeting I was fortunate enough to be elected as one of the two Deputy Leaders of the Council and appointed to the Cabinet as the Member for Corporate Services.

My new role involves many more meetings with Heads of various Departments and Heads of Service, part of my brief is involvement in Information Communication Technology, Finance, Human Resources, Property, Procurement, Legal Services and Governance.

This is a very different role for me, and a new challenge especially in these time of austerity and cuts but it is also something I am determined to make every effort to do well in.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council

Health Social Care and Well Being Scrutiny Committee

Planning Committee

Investigating and Disciplinary Committee
Scrutiny Leadership Group (from December 2013)

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Caerphilly Adoption Panel

Corporate Parenting Group

Member of Rudry W.I.

Member of Rudry Parish Church

A Member of the Home Economics Society of Great Britain.

I have become a trustee of "Right From The Start" a Charity based in Aberbargoed.

I am also a member of the Van Community Council.

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

St. James Primary School

St. Cenydd Comprehensive School

As a school governor at St. James's, I am a member of the Appointments Panel for Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher and Staffing Appointments, Staff Disciplinary and Dismissal Committee, Pupil Discipline and Exclusions Committee, Grievance and Redundancy Committee, Appeals-Pay Reviews, Staff Issues/Job Share/Staff Reviews; I am also the Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding and Looked After Children.

As the Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding, I have also been asked by other schools to become an independent member of their Investigating Committee.

As a Governor of St. Cenydd Comprehensive school I am a member of the Staffing Appointments Committee, the Group discussing the future of sixth form Education within the Caerphilly basin and the Governor for PSE.

ATTENDANCE

From May 2013 to May 2014 my attendance at Council meetings was as follows:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>No. Attended</u>	<u>No. Held</u>
Council	8	9
Health, Social Care and Wellbeing	6	8
Planning	9	12

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

I undertook the following training and development seminars and courses: -

Area Forum Expenditure	E Voting
Medium Term Financial Plan	Common Housing Register
Social Services and Wellbeing Bill	Planning (LPD Review)
Planning (PINS Presentation)	
Planning (New Permitted Development Rights)	Community Leadership
Chairing Skills	

Freedom of Information and Data Protection
Equalities and Diversity
Questioning and Listening Skills

Managing Conflict
Holding Effective Pre-Meetings
Chairing Skills

CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY

As last year, I have not held surgeries but have had an open door policy for anyone to call at my home, telephone or email me with their concerns or problems and this appears to work well and people call regularly with many varied issues. These range from the dreaded potholes to speeding traffic, burst water mains, financial issues and housing issues.

I have on their behalf liaised with Officers, Cabinet Members and other Councillors to resolve these issues and concerns.

I have arranged a site meeting to discuss with Officers flooding issues, I have arranged for a new Manhole Cover to be fitted and the offending drains cleaned, overhanging trees and branches which were becoming a hazard to traffic, speeding issues, I attended a site meeting but no real outcome yet. Enabled access to Resources and Services, made referrals for Aids and Adaptations, and to Social Services.

I have attended a Communities First Partnership meeting, PACT meetings in which I have raised concerns brought to my attention by Constituents.

I hope to continue to represent the people of St. James Ward for the rest of my term of office, I have thoroughly enjoyed doing so to date, I hope that together with we can make a better future for all.