**BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCILLORS ANNUAL REPORT**

This is the report by the Councillor named below regarding their key activities over the year ending 30th April 2025. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose.

**Councillor: Joanna Wilkins**

**Party: Independent**

**Ward: Cwmtillery**

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| **Section 1 – Roles and Responsibilities** |
| Deputy Leader of the Independent Group  Chair of Corporate and Performance Scrutiny Committee  Member of the Cost of Living Working Group  Member of the Flood Management Working Group  Member of the Engagement and Participation Working Group  Member of the Governance and Audit Committee  Mentor for new Councillors |
| **Section 2: Constituency Activity** |
| It is impossible to list everything, but highlights include –  Together with Councillor Day, I have set up regular joint police and councillor surgeries for residents to drop into. These are generally monthly and at a variety of locations/times.  I run a business in town where people (from across Blaenau Gwent) can drop in and ask questions or pass on comments (which they regularly do).  I have dealt with numerous issues ranging from neighbour problems, Tai Calon housing issues, flooding, drainage, Community Asset Transfer issues, crimes relating to waste and recycling to parking and planning and most things inbetween!  Attend police briefings and meetings.  Meet with Town Council Clerks and Councillors.  Helped pupils of ALC set up an environmental project to tackle issues in the area (ongoing).  Attended litter picking events. |

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| **Section 3: Cabinet and Scrutiny Activities** |
| As above – Chair of Corporate and Performance Scrutiny Committee (I also produce an end of year scrutiny report which is available to view on the Council website), Member of Governance and Audit Committee and a member of various working groups.  I also chair Member Briefings connected to Corporate and Performance. |
| **Section 4: Training and Development** |
| Attended various briefing sessions, either at the time or by catching up and watching the recording in evenings.  I am a mentor for new councillors, and I have continued to support new councillors. |
| **Section 5: Initiatives, Special Activities and Issues** |
| Events this year have, unfortunately, been dominated by the land slip in Cwmtillery, which caused considerable damage and made international news. I live very close by and both Councillor Day and I were there on the night and witnessed it first-hand. We have pushed to get public meetings for our residents and to get them access to senior officers and politicians in order to get answers and raise concerns.  The impact in the short/medium and long term cannot be underestimated and continued work will be required to ensure appropriate actions are taken.  Other highlights include:  Councillor Day and I have previously set up a small fund of our own money to support local groups (above and beyond our special levy fund). We have continued it and this year we have supported a variety of causes ranging from school gardening projects, foodbanks, the Blaenau Gwent Christmas present appeal and numerous groups within Cwmtillery.  We have both taken a special interest in parks – we continue to support a local group to become a ‘friends of group’ and have set up meetings with Council officers.  We are also keen supporters of Abertillery Park and Caffi Tyleri (where we regularly hold surgeries) and of our local sporting clubs.  I again volunteered to work at events (e.g. Slug Fest/ Aber Rocks/ Party in the Park).  I am a regular litter picker in my area and have also taken part in organised group litter picks both in Abertillery and Cwmtillery. |
| **Signature of Councillor: Joanna Wilkins**  **Date: 13/06/2025** |