**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 2024. 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** |
| Leader of the Independent Group  Chair of Corporate and Performance Scrutiny Committee  Member of the Cost of Living Working Group  Member of Governance and Audit Committee |
| **Section 2: Constituency Activity** |
| It is impossible to list everything, but highlights include –  Together with Councillor Malcolm 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.  Have dealt with numerous issues ranging from neighbour harassment (one of which took several months to sort out), Tai Calon housing issues, police issues to waste and recycling to parking to planning and most things inbetween!  Attended public meetings relating to town centre anti-social behaviour issues..  Attend police briefings and meetings.  Meet with Town Council clerks and councillors. |

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| **Section 3: Cabinet and Scrutiny Activities** |
| As above – Chair of Corporate and Performance Scrutiny Committee.  Member of Governance and Audit Committee.  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 recordings in the evenings.  Attended training to become a mentor.  Am now a mentor supporting a new councillor. |
| **Section 5: Initiatives, Special Activities and Issues** |
| Highlights include-  Councillor Malcolm Day and I have set up a small fund of our own money to support local groups (above and beyond our special levy fund) last year. We have continued it and this year we have supported a variety of causes ranging from a football tournament for children, the Blaenau Gwent Foodbank, the Blaenau Gwent Christmas Present Appeal and numerous groups within Cwmtillery.  We both have 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).  I again volunteered to work at events (eg 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: J Wilkins**  **Date: 23/05/2024** |