



## Torfaen Councillor Annual Report 2013~14

**Name: Jessica Powell**

**Ward: Pontnewydd**

**Party: Labour**



The following sets out my activities as a councillor during 2013/4.

### SECTION 1: Role & Responsibilities

#### 1. I served on the following council committees

*Please include details of any senior roles*

Council Committees	Attendance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council</li> <li>• Council Overview and Scrutiny</li> <li>• Learning Communities Scrutiny (conflict with my role on the EAS made it difficult to attend and I came off the committee before the AGM)</li> <li>• Resources Scrutiny</li> <li>• Licensing (until AGM)</li> <li>• Planning</li> </ul>	<p><b>9 of 10 (90%)</b>  <b>2 of 4 (50%)</b></p> <p><b>1 of 7 (14%)</b></p> <p><b>5 of 6 (83%)</b>  <b>1 of 4 (25%)</b>  <b>4 of 13 (31%)</b></p>

#### 2. I served on the following outside bodies/committees

Body	Attendance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cwmbran Centre for Young People</li> <li>• EAS (Education Achievement Service)</li> <li>• Gwent Local History Council</li> <li>• NFLA (Nuclear Free Local Authorities)</li> <li>• Torfaen Museum Trust</li> <li>• School Governor at Maendy Primary School and Croesyceiliog Secondary School</li> </ul>	

## **SECTION 2: Local Ward Activities**

I held a regular surgery for constituents with the other members for Pontnewydd Cllrs Ashley and Mawby, and local police on the first Saturday of the month (10:30 am - 12). I was also available via email and telephone, and social media such as Facebook. Residents also visited my home address, and other contacts were made at community events and initiatives like a Thursday morning drop in session at Mount Pleasant Hall held throughout the latter months of 2013.

Throughout the year I dealt with a range of issues on behalf of residents, liaising with the relevant bodies where necessary (eg. Bron Afon on housing, the police on anti-social behaviour, etc). Other issues were identified on regular walks around the ward, such as fly tipping, street lighting, pot holes, and so on.

The various charitable bodies and groups within the ward were contacted to help make decisions on the distribution of small schemes funds, and I have been pleased to attend related events where invited, for example the Sea Cadets' prize evening at TS Kittiwake. I was also proud to lay the wreath at the 2013 Remembrance Day parade on behalf of local members.

## **SECTION 3: Initiatives and special activities**

In terms of more specialised activities, I have worked with Cllr Ashley and Bron Afon on the ongoing regeneration of the Northville subway area. I am also continuing work with other Pontnewydd members and various other agencies on the situation with abandoned shopping trolleys on the estate.

Joint work, again, was undertaken with the police to alleviate residents' fears about the use of legal highs in Pontnewydd earlier this year.

I was pleased to be asked to give a presentation on local government to sixth form politics students at Croesyceiliog School.

Although my motion was put forward in the previous year, I have been very happy to see the success of the webcasting of council meetings which began in the autumn of 2013.

**SECTION 4: Learning and Development**

Throughout the year I have attended various seminars on policy issues, and some of the member development sessions.

I also completed the Welsh Local Government Association's Leadership Academy course, having previously missed the final session due to illness.

**SECTION 5: Other activities and issues**

I am also a member of Cwmbran Community Council, and have served as vice-chair of the events committee for some of the time under review.

I have been active within the local Labour party, serving as chair of Torfaen constituency party and secretary of Pontnewydd branch party.

I have scaled back my voluntary commitments this year on finding out I am pregnant with our first child, but hope to resume them in the future!