

Independent County Councillor Frances Taylor

It has already been just over a year since I decided to stand for election as an independent county councillor for Magor. Knocking on each and every door in Mill ward (Magor and a small bit of Undy), certainly makes you realise how big this once small village has become.

I stood because I felt that Magor needed a strong voice at county level. Magor and Undy still have a real community spirit and I want to play a part in ensuring its longevity. We are lucky to have so many great community events locally such as the Frost and May Fayres, Cake Saturday, Undy farmers market. It has certainly been a very steep learning curve and that will continue for the rest of my term because the business of the council is so diverse.



In our community

Magor with Undy now has a population of around 6,000. However, if you look at the services and facilities on offer in Magor they have not always kept pace. The villages have seen some 1,600 new homes over the past 25 years, but the accompanying community infrastructure such as a community hall, bypass etc. did not follow. If it weren't for the efforts of the many dedicated groups and individuals running some of the events I mentioned above we would be living in a dormitory town already.

Some of the things I continue to work on;

- Dealing successfully with your concerns and casework for residents and businesses including issues associated with Monmouthshire Housing, the maintenance of highway verges, removal and pollarding of trees, planning matters, environmental health issues and pest control.
- Working with the Community Council and Council officers to find solutions, which will alleviate the parking/traffic issues in the Square, improve pedestrian safety and protect our unique Cenotaph. The community council plan a consultation in September.
- Encouraging local organisations to successfully secure grant funding from Severnside Area Committee, the Baptist Chapel, Undy Rugby academy, Stepping Stones have all received small grants.
- Influencing the Severnside Total Place Plan to ensure that the needs of Magor with Undy are well represented.
- Dealing with the Steelwork access and the impact on Llandevenny
- Working with MAGOR the action group to help promote their campaign for a railway access point in Magor/Undy.
- Working with Council officers, Community Council and MUSLA to progress appropriate improvements to our community facilities. You may be aware that MUSLA are revisiting their recent bid to the Big Lottery Fund and I am actively working with Officers and the cabinet member to ensure that Monmouthshire Council provides appropriate support. There will be a consultation event on 8th, 9th and 10th August

- Working with Magor Church in Wales Primary and the Community Council and Council officers to resolve the dispute over the school playing field. Pressing officer to improve the safety of the field for the school and users in the wider community.
- Lobbying Welsh Water and the Council's environmental health team to resolve issues of flooding.
- Helping other parents transform the school garden at Magor Church in Wales Primary, and filling it with edible food.
- Raising local issues with Police and ensuring regular speed monitoring on the B4245, Redwick Road, and Dancing Hill.

Representing your interests at Council

I provide a very strong voice on all issues concerning Magor with Undy, often working with Councillor Jessica Crook and other councillors on matters of local interest.

- In the Local Development Plan debate I spoke against the housing allocation at Rockfield farm and the allocation of employment land and waste site at Llandeenny due to the limited infrastructure and also the impact on the village of Llandeenny.
- In the budget consultation I lobbied against the waste changes in this financial year because there was inadequate consultation. Although I support reducing waste and increasing recycling we needed to take residents along.
- Working with other councillors to raise concerns about the recent Estyn Report. You may have seen in the press that Welsh Government has placed Monmouthshire's Education service in special measures. I and Cllr. Debby Blakebrough will be representing the independent group on the Internal Monitoring Board.
- Lobbying Monmouthshire Council to become a Living Wage Employer and pay those council staff on the minimum wage (most of whom are women) a living wage.
- Lobbying and pressing the council to ensure that Monmouthshire and in particular the South of the county is included in Welsh Government's Metro (rapid integrated transport network) plans.

As a County Councillor I sit on the planning committee, Severnside area committee, the Joint Rail working Group, the Domestic Abuse Forum and the Police and Crime Panel

If you would like to get in touch, please contact me on frances.taylor@monmouthshire.gov.uk Twitter- [@frances4magor](https://twitter.com/frances4magor), Facebook www.facebook.com/FrancesTaylorIndependentCandidateforMillWard or 01633 881198. Otherwise you can stop me while I'm out and about.

Best wishes
Frances

Important Community News which might affect you.

Additonal Houses for Magor with Undy – What do you think?

Monmouthshire County Council has been advised by Welsh Government that they need to add 900 new houses to the Local Development Plan allocation. Undy was to take some 200 at the Rockfield Farm site, this has been increased to 270 and an additional site of some 225 homes at the top of Vinegar Hill/ Grange Road has been proposed. There is a consultation open until 21st August. You can make comments in writing to Development Plans Team, MCC, PO box 106 Caldicot NP26 3AN. Contact the development plans office on 01633 644826 or online at;

http://www.planningpolicy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/info/5/current_consultations

Councillor Jess Crook is currently running a petition and she can be contacted on jesscacrook@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Where will the M4 Relief road go? What will be the impact on Magor?

The M4 relief road is back on the agenda. A consultation will be launched in the autumn, but in the meantime it is worth knowing just where it is planned to go and to understand the impact such a new motorway would have on our community and the surrounding Gwent Levels. Gwent Wildlife trust is involved in CALM and is actively campaigning against the road CALM can be contacted on sjones@gwentwildlife.org and detailed information about their campaign can be found at;

<http://www.gwentwildlife.org/what-we-do/campaigns/m4-relief-road>

MAGOR (Magor Action Group on Rail)

MAGOR continue to work hard on their campaign to open a community walkway (a halt primarily accessed by walking or cycling) in Magor with Undy. If you would like to get in touch they can be contacted at magorstation@gmail.com

MUSLA supported by Monmouthshire County Council will be holding a consultation. The purpose is to check what people feel is needed from the proposed community facility at the 3 fields' site. The dates are, 9th and 10^{th/11th} August at the Baptist Chapel/Budgens. Please go along or fill in the questionnaire to make your views count and help show what is needed.

MUSLA can be contacted at;

<http://www.muslacommunity.co.uk/index.php?q=contact-us.html>