

HELEDD FYCHAN MS

Plaid Cymru - South Wales Central



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Dydd Gwyl Dewi Hapus! Today we remember Dewi Sant's message to "do the little things" and I'd like to pay tribute to the wonderful community groups, organisations and people that do the little things that make a big difference in our communities.

This newsletter is an opportunity to update you on my work and some of the issues I have been raising in the Senedd and across the region over the past month.

One of the key Issues my team and I have been working on has been public transport. I have been raising the concerns of constituents and bus companies regarding the end of emergency funding for local bus routes and finding ways to support local services and the people who rely on them.

In this newsletter, you will also find updates on support for communities at risk of flooding and the campaign to protect Cardiff's cultural assets. If you would like me to raise an issue or if you need support, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Heledd Fychan MS



In Our Community

Over the past month I've been fortunate to visit and meet with a number of community groups and organisations across the region. It's always great to hear about fantastic work that's taking place. I've also continued to support and visit various picket lines, showing solidarity with all workers fighting for fair pay and working conditions.

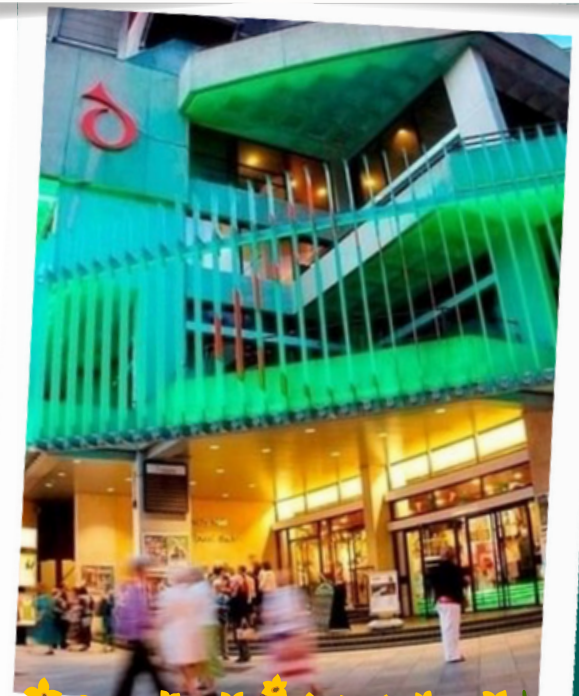
I always enjoy being able to support and visit projects across the region. If you would like me to visit a group or business in your area or if you'd like to get advice, please get in touch. You can learn more about my visits across the region here.



Future of Culture in Cardiff

Last month, I attended a meeting organised by those opposing Cardiff Council's proposals to close the Museum of Cardiff, privatise St David's Hall, and reduce library services across the city. Since the announcement, I have been supporting Cardiff People's Assembly's calls to protect these vital cultural assets.

This past month the campaign has had some success, with Cardiff Council confirming that library services won't be cut and the Museum of Cardiff will remain open at its current location until a new home is found. Further, the Council has agreed to investigate the proposal by Academy Music Group to purchase St David's Hall and look at plans which would safeguard the classical and community calendar of events while also upgrading the hall, before making a final decision. This is a huge achievement, but I will continue to work with activists to ensure that cultural assets in our city are enjoyed by everyone and not just those who can afford them.



Craig yr Hesg

Last October the Welsh Government went ahead with approving planning permission to expand the Craig Yr Hesg quarry. This was despite opposition from residents and the local council.

Back in November my office supported residents to organise a public meeting and since then, working with a group of volunteers from the community, we have been actively engaging with residents in the affected areas, distributing leaflets to properties in the wards of Glyncoch, Pontypridd Town, Trallwn, Cilfynydd, and Ynysybwl inviting community members to get involved and to join a steering group to coordinate the community response.

The first meeting of the steering group was held on February 27th and agreed on several actions. The group will undertake research into the impacts of the quarry on the local community and environment, secure resources to produce a short film telling the community's story, organise an outdoor community event to bring people together, and invite the Penderyn community quarry group to the next meeting.

If you would like to get involved in the campaign and/or join the steering group, please contact my office with your name, contact details, and what you can offer to support the campaign. Together, we can work towards protecting the health and well-being of the local community and the environment.



Support for communities affected by flooding

The 16th of February marked three years since devastating flooding hit communities across South Wales Central as a result of Storm Dennis. During First Minister questions in the Senedd on the week of the anniversary I questioned the Minister about the continued impact on children and adults living in the communities affected and called on the Welsh Government to provide greater support, including mental health services as well as investment in the establishment of flood action groups.

Disappointingly, Lesley Griffiths MS, who was deputising for the First Minister, rejected both calls. Children and adults remain traumatised following the devastating flooding of 2020, living in fear every time it rains heavily and unable to sleep. Some have even been told by Natural Resources Wales that there is a risk to their lives if their homes flood in the future, meaning they aren't just fearful that their homes will be damaged but that their lives are in danger.

Welsh Government has a duty to do more to support children and adults who live in at-risk communities, including providing access to psychological support as well as supporting the establishment of flood action groups.



Future of Garth Olwg

Care home

Following the Rhondda Cynon Taf Council Cabinet's decision to approve a proposal to close Garth Olwg Care Home, I publicly expressed my disappointment on behalf of the residents and staff of the home.

The decision comes following a consultation period, where it became clear that the majority of people opposed the closure of the Home with over 500 names being submitted between two petitions. All but one of the current residents of the home opposed the intention to close their home (one was 'unsure') and a very clear majority of people, over 70% wanted to keep the provision exactly as it was.

It's disgraceful that the Council has decided to proceed with the closure of Garth Olwg Care Home, despite the opposition of the residents of the home, the local community and Care Inspectorate Wales.

Once again, this is an example of Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's Labour Cabinet ignoring the opinions of residents and experts, and reducing the number of places available in care homes despite an increase in demand.

Many will ask what is the purpose of consultation if the Council is not willing to listen to the opinion of anyone other than themselves? This is a wrong move on the part of the Council, which will adversely affect an essential service in the community.



Local Bus Services

across South Wales

Central

Local bus services are essential for people in our community, and for many, buses are their only means of transportation to access vital services. Over the past month I have been contacted by a number of constituents concerned about the end of emergency funding for local bus routes and what this means for services across the region.

For many people, buses are their only means of transportation. Cutting funding to bus services in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis is not the solution. It will only make matters worse for those who are already struggling to make ends meet.

I have long campaigned for better public transport and continue to work with local bus companies to find ways to support local services and the people who rely on them. Cutting funding to bus services will set progress back and further isolate communities who rely on these services.

The ongoing issue with bus driver shortages and the increasing use of agency staff is also concerning. We must ensure that the investment being made is benefiting users and not leading to greater profit margins for agencies operating outside of Wales. We should be encouraging more people to use public transport and investing in services not cutting them. I urge the Welsh Government to reconsider its decision and commit to maintaining funding for local bus services beyond the three months announced, as well as improve access to public transport.

If you live in South Wales Central and are impacted by this decision, I urge you to get in touch with me via email or phone



AM DDIM
FREE



500 DIWRNOD
500 DAYS



Dydd Sadwrn 4 Mawrth / Saturday 4 March

Pentref Plant yn Y Lion, Treorci / Pentref Plant at The Lion, Treorchy

11:00

Parti Babis a Rhieni Ti a Fi Treorci /

Ti a Fi Treorci Parent and Baby Party – Ffa La La

Sgiliau Syrcas / Circus Skills – Citrus Arts

Gweithdy Animeiddio / Animation Workshop – Menter Iaith RCT

12:00

Pentref Plant: Picnic Tedi Bêrs Wini Pot Mêl

Winnie the Pooh Teddy Bears Picnic – Ffa La La

Sgiliau Syrcas / Circus Skills – Citrus Arts

Gweithdy Animeiddio / Animation Workshop – Menter Iaith RCT

13:00

Pentref Plant: Gweithdy Animeiddio

Animation Workshop – Menter Iaith RCT

13:30

Pentref Plant: Sioe Bypedau / Puppet Show – Martin Geraint

14:00

Pentref Plant: Sgiliau Syrcas / Circus Skills – Citrus Arts

Gweithdy Animeiddio / Animation Workshop – Menter Iaith RCT

14:30

Pentref Plant: Sesiwn Gomedï / Comedy – Esyllt Sears

15:00

Pentref Plant: Sgiliau Syrcas / Circus Skills – Citrus Arts

Ariennir yr wyf gan Gronfa Ffyniant Gyffredin Llywodraeth y DU – Grant Cymunedol
Cyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf / The festival is funded by the UK Government's Common
Prosperity Grant – Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Community Grant.

EISTEDDFOD
Rhondda Cynon Taf



#steddfod2024
eisteddfod.cymru

**AM DDIM
FREE**



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500 DAYS**

Dydd Sadwrn 4 Mawrth / Saturday 4 March

Dewch i'r Lion, Treorci i lansio Eisteddfod Rhondda Cynon Taf

Join us at The Lion, Treorchy to launch the 2024 Eisteddfod

10:00

Maes D / Welsh Leaners: Paned a Sgwrs
Coffee Morning – Menter Iaith Rhondda Cynon Taf

11:00

Pentref Plant: Parti Babis a Rhieni Ti a Fi Treorci
Ti a Fi Treorci Parent and Baby Party – Ffa La La

Llwyfan / Stage: Corau ysgol lleol

Local schools choirs (11:00 & 11:45)

Pentref Plant: Sgiliau Syrcas / Circus Skills

– Citrus Arts a Chymeriadau Crwydrol

Walkabout Performers – Kitsch n Sync (11:00 – 16:00)

Pentref Plant: Gweithdy Animeiddio

Animation Workshop – Menter Iaith RCT (11:00 – 15:00)

Theatr Stryd / Street Theatre:

Kitsch'n'Sync Collective (11:00 – 16:00)

12:00

Pentref Plant: Picnic Tedi Bêrs Wini Pot Mêl

Winnie the Pooh Teddy Bears Picnic – Ffa La La

13:00

Llwyfan / Stage: Côr y Cwm

13:30

Pentref Plant: Sioe Bypedau

Puppet Show – Martin Geraint

14:30

Pentref Plant: Sesiwn Gomedï / Comedy – E sylt Sears

16:00

Tŷ Gwerin: Afanc

16:30

Cymdeithasau / Societies: Ar grwydr gydag iaith newydd y Rhondda / Exploring with the Rhondda's new language – Dr Dylan Foster Evans*

17:15

Lansiad Swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Rhondda Cynon Taf / Eisteddfod Official Launch

17:45

Tŷ Gwerin: Afanc & Cloeswyr Bro Taf

18:30

Y Babell Lân / Literary Pavilion: Stomp Beirdd Rhondda Cynon Taf / Light-hearted poetry competition

19:30

Tŷ Gwerin: Gareth Bonello

20:00

Mas ar Y Maes: Clwb Comedi LHDTG+ LGBTQ+ Comedy Club

21:00

Maes B: Candelas

22:00

Tŷ Gwerin: Hyfryd Iawn / Cymanfa Alawon Gwerin Folk Songs Cymanfa – Côr Cwm Rhondda

*** Translation available**

Ariennir y'r Wyl gan Gronfa Ffyniant Gyffredin Llywodraeth y DU – Grant Cymunedol Cyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf / The festival is funded by the UK Government's Common Prosperity Grant – Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Community Grant

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Rhondda Cynon Taf



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eisteddfod.cymru



Meet the team

Danny Grehan - Community Engagement Officer

Amanda Ellis - Community Engagement Officer

Brooke Webb - Communications Officer

Eleri Griffiths - Caseworker

Wendy Allsop - Administrative Officer

Ken Moon - Sustainable Futures Coordinator

How we can help

I am holding regular telephone and in person advice surgeries offering help and support to local people.

Myself and my team are able to help with a range of issues including Health, Housing, Transport, Education and Local Government.

If there's anything we can do to help you please contact us to book an appointment via the details below.

We have also teamed up with citizens advice to hold advice surgeries in the office. A list of upcoming dates and how to book are listed on my website.



Contact Heledd

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