



HELEDD FYCHAN MS

Plaid Cymru - South Wales Central



IN THIS ISSUE

[Out in the Community](#) •
[Senedd Business](#) • [Cost of living](#) • [Get in touch](#)

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 two months.

The cost-of-living crisis continues to be a key focus of the office. Myself and my team have been supporting residents with funding as well as finding practical ways we can support local foodbanks and organisations who are working on the frontline. The team has continued to work on the issue of flooding and has prepared a flood advice booklet for residence.

Some of the key issues I have been raising on behalf of constituents this past month in the Senedd have been hospital waiting times, women's health, support for families impacted by the cost-of-living crisis, lack of school places for children arriving to Wales from the Ukraine as well as continuing to raise the issue of flooding.



Out in the community

Over the past couple of months, myself and my team have been meeting with a number of constituents and community groups across the region. One highlight was visiting Goldsland Farm in the Vale of Glamorgan to meet with local farmers as well as plant a tree as part of NFU's growing together campaign. I was also lucky enough to take part in the Ramadan celebrations at Dar Ul-Isra mosque in Cathays where I was able to learn more about what the Muslim community have been doing across the region.

If you'd like me to visit a group or organisation 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](#).

Speeding in Church Village

I recently held a public meeting with residents in Church Village who were concerned with speeding in their area.

I am aware this is not an issue unique to this area with many concerned constituents contacting my office about similar issues.

The best thing you can do when you see someone driving dangerously is to report it.

You can report speeding through a number of different ways guidance on how to report speeding is linked [here](#).

My office will be monitoring the situation and will raise any further issues in the Senedd.



Supporting Flooded Communities

Over the past few months there has been progress made in tackling the issue of flooding across the region. As part of the co-operation agreement Welsh Government have agreed to an independent review of the floods that happened in 2020. The terms of reference for the review should be announced soon and then I will begin collecting evidence from residents who were affected across the region to contribute to the review.

In addition to this, I had the opportunity to hold a short debate in the Senedd on the topic of supporting communities at risk of continuous risk of flooding: Is it time to establish a Welsh Flood forum? I'm pleased to announce that there was cross party support on the need to establish better support for at risk communities and establish a Welsh Flood Forum will be looked at closely as part of the independent flood review.

You can read my full contribution as well as the Welsh Government's response [here](#).

My team and I have also created and been out distributing Flood Advice booklets to residents who live in high-risk areas. A copy is also available online for those who wish to download it and use it to prepare for future flooding.



Supporting local Foodbanks

Local foodbanks across the region are in desperate need of more donations. I recently went to visit the local foodbank in Pontypridd to meet with volunteers and see how my office can support them.

We have now set up a donation point in the office in Pontypridd. If you are able to help, you can drop off any donations during office hours and we will take them to the local food bank. Thanks to everyone that has donated already your generosity is deeply appreciated.

If you are in need of support our local foodbanks are welcoming and non-judgmental. I know it can be difficult asking for support, but you are not alone, and help is available.

COST OF LIVING: SUMMIT REPORT

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF
HELEDD FYCHAN MS

MARCH
2022

The cost of living crisis continues to be a key issue for many residents. You may remember back in February we invited local organisation from all across the region to discuss practical ways we can work together to support local people.

Following the summit my team and I have produced a report setting out our key priorities in tackling this crisis which include:

- Identifying ways for services to work together to support those in need in our communities.
- Develop community initiatives to support people with the rising cost of living.
- Increase financial support for organisation tackling the cost of living.
- Working together with organisations to put pressure on UK government to do more to intervene.

You can read the full report [here](#).



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament



Plaid Cymru
Party of Wales

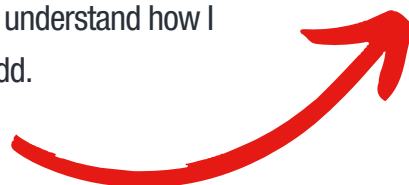
Cost of living

Survey

Following suggestions from local organisations we have also launched a survey for residents to complete either online or in person to share their experiences of how the cost of living crisis has affected them.

If you haven't already completed the survey, please take a few minutes to complete it I'd really appreciate hearing about your own experiences to better understand how I can support you in my roles as your regional member of the Senedd.

You can complete the survey by clicking the link above,



Senedd

Business

I had the opportunity to raise a number of the different issues that constituents have contacted me on in the Senedd over the last few months. Recently, I was contacted by a concerned constituent who had been told her surgery to treat her endometriosis was cancelled two years after her planned surgery because of Lockdown. Since raising this issue in the Senedd my constituent has been offered an appointment.

Sadly, she isn't alone in this, and I have heard many distressing stories from women across the region. It's totally unacceptable that anyone has had to experience this.

The state of Women's health in Wales has been one many health issues that has been labelled as non - urgent during the pandemic. I raised this issue with the minister and am pleased that the government has put a plan in place to address this issue with a further plan to address women's health issues specifically planned to be released later in the year.

Welsh covid inquiry

It's clear from all of the heart-breaking stories by everyone who lost loved ones during the pandemics they do not trust the prime minister to lead a proper inquiry into covid. I raised this with the first minister who has been very vocal about his mistrust in the Prime Minister it was disappoint to hear that the first minister still refuses to support a Welsh Covid Inquiry.

To date 10,082 people in Wales have died as a result of covid and I strongly believe that we should be following the Scottish governments lead of having our own inquiry here in Wales while also contributing to the wider UK one. I will continue to raise these concerns in the Senedd.





Supporting pet owners

Over the past few months, I have heard from many distressed constituents who have been hit with the rising cost of living having to face the difficult decision of choosing to feed themselves or their pets. There currently is little support for pet owners to help with these costs which has led to a worrying amount of pet owners being faced with the decision of having to give up their pets.

This is a decision no one should have to make. Our pets are an important part of our families and not enough is being done to support pet owners. I recently raised this issue in the Senedd with the Minister for Rural Affairs and currently there are no direct plans to support pet owners, but I hope the government considers future support.

If you are struggling with pet costs, please know help is often available through your local food bank – don't be afraid to ask.

Homes for Ukraine

We have all seen the devastating images coming out of Ukraine since Russia invaded the country back in February. Me and my Plaid Cymru colleagues have been vocal in the Senedd about the need for Wales to do their part in supporting Ukraine and the refugees who are coming to Wales.

Over the past few months my office has been supporting constituents and will continue to support those who have signed up to the homes for Ukraine scheme as well as common issues that have risen such as lack of school places for children coming to Wales in the Senedd.

Sponsors in Wales can call the free helpline on 0808 175 1508 for advice from 8am to 8pm.





Local Election

It's been a busy few months of campaigning with our Plaid Cymru Council Candidates across the region. They have worked incredibly hard listening to thousands of constituents and delivering countless leaflets through your doors.

Congratulations to all our newly elected and re-elected councillors - I look forward to working with you all over the next five years. A huge thank you to everyone who has helped support our candidates over the past few weeks their hard work and effort in this election has made a huge difference.





Meet the team

Danny Grehan - Community Engagement Officer

Amanda Ellis - Community Engagement Officer

Brooke Webb - Communications Officer

Eleri Griffiths - Caseworker

Elyn Stephens - Office Manager

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 the my website [here](#).



Contact Heledd

-  01443 853214
-  Heledd.Fychan@Senedd.Cymru
-  2 High Street, Pontypridd, CF37 1QJ
-  Heledd Fychan AS / MS
-  @Heledd_Plaid
-  @Heledd_Plaid