



# HELEDD FYCHAN MS

Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central



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**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 in May.**

It was a busy month, but I'm happy to report that we've made some great progress on important issues such as securing the extension of emergency funding for buses and advocating for better broadband access for businesses in town centres. Of course, there's still more to do, and I'm committed to making sure your concerns are heard by the Welsh Government.

I am also pleased to welcome Llyr Gruffydd as our new acting leader of Plaid Cymru. Additionally, I have been elected to serve as Chair of the Senedd group and the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee during the interim period.

As always, if you have any issues or concerns that you would like me to address, or if you need support, please do not hesitate to get in touch with to me.

*Heledd Fychan*

**Heledd Fychan MS**



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# Working for you

Over the past month we received several requests for help from the residents of the area.

## Over the past month the top 5 issues I was contacted about were:

1. Benefits
2. Additional learning needs
3. Issues with Local buses
4. Quarry explosions
5. National Health Service

As there is an investigation underway by the Senedd about the experiences of children with additional learning needs in the education system, we want to focus on this issue over the few weeks. Several families have contacted us ready to discuss their experiences and I will share their views more widely and influence to improve the situation for them. If you would like advice or if you would like to raise an issue with me directly, you can get in touch with via email or phone. To book a face-to-face appointment, please contact me using the details below.



We have also received over 300 letters on policy issues from people campaigning for bird shooting, hunting with traps, new guidelines for local authorities about teaching in the home, calls for trees on farms and support for better working conditions for nurses and a call to giving free school lunches to the children of students from abroad who live in poverty due to the cost-of-living crisis. I have raised several of these issues in Senedd as a result.

## Have your say:

The Children, Young, People and Education Committee in the Senedd have launched an inquiry looking at if disabled and neurodivergent children and young people have equal access to education and nursery. If you are a Parent, Carer or Teacher please respond to the consultation to help us improve policy in Wales. Click the link below for more information <https://bit.ly/ALNaccessstoeducation>



Yes Cymru March with Sioned Williams MS



# In our community

I have had the pleasure of meeting with several community groups and organisations. Some of the highlights over the past month was meeting with Phil Williams from the Cambrian Village Trust to learn more about the amazing projects they run that benefit people of all ages and backgrounds. From sports facilities for young people to promoting sustainable development and addressing poverty, the trust is making a real and positive difference in the community. It was also great to attend the Mayor's announcement ceremony in Barry. Congratulations to Cllr Ian Johnson who will be a brilliant ambassador for the town.

It was also great to attend several community events across the region including Parti Ponty. It was fantastic to see so many people enjoying the town, the performances and using their Welsh.

I love hearing about the great work going on across South Wales Central, and I'm always honoured to be able to support and visit organisations, groups and projects. 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](#).

## Yes Cymru

Last month I joined the Yes Cymru March for Independence in Swansea. It was an unforgettable experience to see so many people from across Wales come together to show their support for independence. It's clear that the current system is failing us, with the high child poverty rates and the disastrous impact of Brexit on communities across Wales. Events like this march give me hope that we can create a better, more inclusive Wales where everyone feels welcome and valued.

I want to thank everyone involved in organising this event and all who supported Welsh independence by attending the march. Let's keep working together to build a better future for Wales.



Great to catch up with local organisations at Parti Ponty



Celebrating the making of Mayor Ian Johnson in Barry



Great to learn more about the different community projects at the Cambrian Village Trust



# Urdd Eisteddfod

It was wonderful to attend the Urdd Eisteddfod again this year, which was in Llanymdoverry, and great to see so many children and young people from South Wales Central competing and winning.

I am full of admiration for all the coaches and teachers who volunteer their time to ensure unforgettable experiences for children and young people from all over Wales. Thank you all for your important work, and the Urdd for all the opportunities the organization provides.

## Funding for Local buses

In May, the Welsh Government announced that extra funding for local buses will continue beyond July. However, details about how this new scheme will work are still being discussed. Regional planning teams will look at which routes are a priority for funding, but unfortunately, this funding will not be enough to save all routes.

I have been contacted by a number of people concerned about the future of local bus funding and the impact this will have on their lives. So many people don't have alternative transport and rely on local buses to get them to where they need to go.

This announcement is a huge step in securing better transport for our communities and I will continue to campaign on this issue on behalf of residents.

## Have your Say

Due to the closure of train services between Pontypridd and Treherbert and ongoing work on various parts of the line, I have received complaints from several constituents about problems with the train and replacement bus services.

To better understand these issues, I have created an online questionnaire to gather your views on public transport in South Wales Central. The survey is available online, and you can access it by clicking the [here](#). If you prefer a paper copy, please contact me directly.



Enjoying the eisteddfod with Plaid Cymru members  
Mabon ap Gwynfor MS and Luke Fletcher MS



Great to meet with Ambassadors from the  
Armenian embassy in the Senedd



Proud to support UCU members in their fight for  
fair pay and working conditions

# Support for community organisations

There are so many brilliant community organisations and groups working across the region. To help support them with their work my team have gathered information on the latest grants and finance information available across the region.

If you have any questions or would like support, please get in touch.

## Sport Wales Energy saving Grant

Has been developed to support not-for-profit clubs or community organisations to become more sustainable and help to save them money in the long-term. Open for applications of up to £25,000 the grant. Deadline 28 June More information can be found on their website <https://www.sport.wales/grants-and-funding/energy-saving-grant/>

## Interlink Spring and Summer Grants 2023

Grants of up to £1,000 are available for community groups in RCT to fund projects that show strong community involvement and help bring people and communities together. You can find more information here:

<https://interlinkrct.org.uk/blog/2023/05/18/interlink-small-grants-spring-and-summer-grants-2023/>

## Our Communities Together - A cost of living fund

has been specifically set up to fund groups supporting those who are in critical need as a direct result of the cost-of-living crisis with longer-term support of group activities and services rather than grants to individuals that offer short-term support. Deadline Tuesday 4th July 2023 For more info visit:

<https://communityfoundationwales.org.uk/grants/our-communities-together-a-cost-of-living-fund/>

## The National Lottery Fund - Climate Action Fund

This funding aims to help communities across the UK to address climate change. Up to £1.5 million is available over 2 to 5 years, with most projects between £300,000 and £500,000. Development grants of £50,000 to £150,000 over 12 to 18 months. Deadline: 30 June 2023 For more information

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/climate-action-fund-programme>

## Health & Social Care Innovation Fund:

Focus on supporting smaller, local, voluntary organisations based in South, Mid or West Wales that are working to provide innovative care services for vulnerable people and carers that improve their quality of life, with a specific interest in Dementia Care, Carers Support, Workforce Training & Development and Innovation in Health Care. Deadline 30th June For more info visit:<https://communityfoundationwales.org.uk/grants/the-health-and-social-care-innovation-fund/>

[fund/](https://communityfoundationwales.org.uk/grants/the-health-and-social-care-innovation-fund/)





## Meet the team

Danny Grehan - Community Engagement Officer

Amanda Ellis - Community Engagement Officer

Brooke Webb - Communications & Parliamentary affairs 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.



## Contact Heledd



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