



HELEDD FYCHAN MS

Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central



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This week, the Senedd returned after the summer recess. This newsletter provides an update about the work myself and my team have been working on over the Summer, as we have continued to provide support and campaign on issues that matter to our communities.

These issues have included fighting to save vital community services such as Barclays Bank in Pontypridd and the only GP surgery in Cilfynydd. Additionally, I have continued to support constituents in the Rhondda with ongoing road and public transport issues and I will be holding a community meeting in Treorchy later this month.

I remain committed to prioritising the issues that matter to you, wherever you live in South Wales Central. These include better services for our communities, support for children and young people with additional learning needs, and more. If there are any other matters you would like me to address, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

In our community

Over the summer, I had the pleasure of meeting with several community groups and attending various events across the region. I always enjoy meeting with constituents and organisations to hear about the work they do in our communities.

Some of the highlights of my summer included attending community events such as the Travallis Connects Roadshow in Glyncoch, the Pontypridd RFC Fun Day, which raised funds for music in hospitals and care as well as the Cadwyn Housing Association's Supported Housing Summer event.

I also had the opportunity to visit several community projects, including the food banks in Salem Capel and Tabernacl Efail Isaf, as well as Studio 37 in Pontypridd - a community enterprise providing inclusive employment opportunities for individuals with learning disabilities.

If you would like me to visit a group or business in your area or if you need any advice, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can learn more about my visits across the region on my website.



Community Meeting

Treorchy

Join me and our local Plaid Cymru Councillor, Sera Evans, for a community meeting on September 18th at 6pm in Hermon Chapel, Treorchy.

This is an opportunity for residents to discuss the issues that are important to them, whether it's public transport, the health service, schools, or any other issues. I am here to listen. This is one of the many community meetings I will be holding throughout the year. Please get in touch if you would like to raise an issue with me or if you would like me to hold a meeting in your area.

Heledd Fychan AS/MS

COMMUNITY MEETING

CYFARFOD CYMUNEDOL



Treorchy

Topics include / Pynciau yn cynnwys:

✓ Transport	✓ Trafnidiaeth
✓ Flooding	✓ Llifogydd
✓ Health	✓ Iechyd

DATE / DYDDIAD
18.9.23

TIME / AMSER
6 PM-7:30 PM

📍 Hermon Chapel, Hermon Street, Treorchy, CF42 5AF

For more information contact / Am fwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch â:
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Visiting the Manage Money Wales Community Sharing Shop in Porth

In July, I was invited to visit the Manage Money Wales community sharing shop in Porth. They are doing such important work to tackle climate change and cost of living issues. The free community pantry, shop and café are fantastic resources for the community, and they also offer free training, activities, and support services to anyone that needs it. If you're in the area, be sure to pop in and show your support.



Meeting with social support group

'Friends R Us' in Aberdare

I recently had the opportunity to visit Friends R Us Aberdare, a social support group that provides support for people who have suffered from mental health illness, know someone who has, or have been or are a carer. It was founded by Geraint Price and Meinir Williams after Geraint's son, Emyr, died from mental health illness in April 2002. The group undoubtedly offers a great deal of support for those who attend, and as a result, were awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2022 after 20 years of serving the community.



Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru to come to RCT IN 2024

I'm delighted that the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, one of Europe's largest cultural festivals, will be coming to Rhondda Cynon Taf, and specifically to Pontypridd, in August 2024. This annual celebration of Welsh culture, music, and arts will be a major event for the region, providing a fantastic opportunity to showcase Pontypridd and RCT while promoting the Welsh language.

As the festival comes to the area for the first time in decades, I want to ensure that everyone has the chance to enjoy what it has to offer. That's why I will continue to campaign for free entry, so that everyone can take part in this celebration of Welsh culture.



Saving Clifynydd's only GP surgery

I recently wrote a letter to the health board expressing my concerns over the potential closure of the only GP practice in Cilfynydd. This branch of the Taff Vale Medical Practice is a vital lifeline for many residents, particularly the elderly who rely solely on public transport to access healthcare services. The closure of this practice would not only impact the general well-being of the community, but also make it virtually impossible for them to access emergency appointments in a timely manner due to poor public transport services. I also highlighted the fact that many residents would have to wait even longer for a limited service if the practice were to close. While the health board has announced a 6-week patient engagement exercise to hear local voices, I strongly urge them to commit to the future of the Cilfynydd branch of the surgery. I hope that they will listen to the concerns of the community and ensure that this vital service is not lost.

I will continue to fight for the healthcare services our communities deserve. I encourage residents and patients of the practice to respond to the consultation. More information can be found by clicking [here](#).



**Have your Say and
sign the petition to
save Clifynydd
surgery**

 **Sign the petition**

Barclays Bank Closure in Pontypridd

I recently wrote a letter to Barclays Bank on behalf of the customers in Pontypridd and the Rhondda Valleys expressing their dismay at the decision to close the only remaining branch in the area. The closure will have a significant impact on the community, particularly the older generation and businesses who depend on the vital service. With only two banks remaining in the area, I am extremely concerned about the impact this will have on both businesses and vulnerable individuals.

I urge Barclays Bank to reconsider their decision and keep their last branch in Rhondda Cynon Taf open. Our high streets and communities depend on these vital services. I will continue to fight for the needs of our communities and hold corporations accountable for their actions.



Concerns over proposed wind energy park in South Wales

Bute Energy has proposed the construction of an energy park called Twyn Hywel on the border between Caerphilly and Rhondda Cynon Taf. The plan is to install 14 turbines, each 200m tall, along the mountain of Egwysilan and Llanfabon, above Cilfynydd down to Senghennydd.

A number of residents have reached out to me, expressing their concerns about the proposed development. These concerns include an increased risk of flooding, environmental impact, impact on the historic environment, community benefit, and ownership. I have submitted a response to the Welsh Government's Planning and Environment Decisions Wales body, and you can read my full response to the consultation by clicking [here](#).



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