



HELEDD FYCHAN MS

Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central



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This newsletter provides an update about the work of myself and my team in the Senedd and across the region over the past month.

, In October, I’ve continued to support residents and businesses in the Rhondda with the ongoing traffic disruptions and the wider impact on the community.

In the Senedd, I have also raised a number of issues on behalf of constituents. These include public transport, lack of access to support for families with children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN), and support for businesses affected by long-term infrastructure projects.

I remain committed to prioritising the issues that matter to you wherever you live in South Wales Central. If there is an issue you would like to discuss with me or need support, please don’t hesitate to get in touch. I’m always happy to help.

In our Community



Over the past month I have enjoyed meeting with a number of constituents and community groups in the Senedd and across the region. I always enjoy meeting and hearing about the work they do in our communities.

Some of the highlights from my meetings and visits this past month include attending the ALN reform Wales protest in Cardiff Bay. It was extremely heart-breaking to hear the stories of countless families struggle to secure support for their children. Reforms aren't working and Welsh government must listen and take action. It was also great to meet with the Porth and District Chamber of Trade, where we discussed their plans for the future and explored ways in which my office can support them and the wider community. I also was pleased to welcome a group of year nine pupils from Ysgol Plasmawr to the Senedd on day of the Girl to discuss access to period products and ensuring safe routes to and from school.

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](#).



Raising money for the Eisteddfod

This month, as part of my series of walks to raise money for the Eisteddfod, I had the opportunity to join the Cynon Valley Fundraising Team for an incredibly interesting walk in Abercynon. The walk was led by Lisa, and it was a fantastic experience. This walk marks the second in a series of ten trips that I will be undertaking to raise funds for this important event.

You can sponsor me here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/heledd-fychan-1694630120052>

The next trip as part of the challenge is on 19 November. Details to follow soon! To register your interest email Heledd.Fychan@Senedd.Cymru



Save Rhigos Primary School

This month it was announced that Rhondda Cynon Taf council has initiated a consultation to close Rhigos Primary School and transfer current pupils to Hirwaun Primary School. This decision is opposed by parents, children, staff, governors and the community.

I was lucky enough to visit the primary school and meet the dedicated team of staff and lovely pupils. It's such a happy and welcoming school, and it's at the heart of the village. It's extremely disappointing that the council are proposing to close a school where students are thriving, and I fully support the campaign to save the primary school. You can show your support for the school by signing the petition [here](#).



Recap of the Fifth Cost of Living Network Event

As winter approaches, many households are already struggling with high living costs. Many are finding it hard to afford the essentials, with renters, people with disabilities, families with children under 18, and those reliant on benefits hit the hardest.

This month I held my fifth cost of living networking event. A huge thank you to all the organisations and community groups that attended and especially the networks speakers from Pontypridd Foodbank, Riverside Advice and Manage Money Wales & The Community Sharing Shop.

I always leave these events so inspired by the amazing work being done by so many organisations and individuals in our communities, but also angry at the lack of political will and action to improve people's lives. I am determined to keep fighting for justice for all.

The next event will take place in February, so if you are interested in learning more, please get in touch or If you live in South Wales Central and require support on this issue or any other, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me via email at Heledd.Fychan@Senedd.Cymru or by calling my office on 01443 853214. I am always happy to help, so please don't suffer alone.



Communities Fighting to Save Vital GP Surgeries

I recently attended public meetings regarding the potential closure of two Taff Vale practices: one in Cilfynydd and the other in Ynysybwl. The overwhelming feeling by residents is clear – these surgeries are a lifeline for these communities. The closure of either one of these branches will have a devastating impact on those already struggling to secure appointments. I'll be working closely with the local councillors Paula Evans, Amanda Ellis and Hywel Gronow to ensure we explore all options and fight to save these GP surgeries.

If you haven't done so already, please sign the petitions:
[CLICK HERE](#)



500 Workers Face Job Losses in Rhondda



It was recently announced that nearly 500 workers at the UK Windows and Doors sites in Treorchy, Williamstown, Llwynypia, and Taff's Well would be losing their jobs. This news is absolutely devastating for the workers and their families so close to Christmas. These are much needed jobs in the Rhondda, and I recently tabled an urgent question to Welsh Government to find out how they will be supporting all workers and ensure employment opportunities are available for all that have lost their jobs. I'm pleased that the Government is committed to working with the local council to support workers and I will continue to raise the concerns of workers to Ministers.

Public Meeting Cilfynydd

Join me and local Plaid Cymru Councillor, Hywel Gronow, for a community meeting on the 9th of November in Cilfynydd Rugby club at 6:30pm.

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. I regularly hold community meetings across the region. 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.



Urgent action needed to fix Wales' rail services

In response to the ongoing issues with Wales's rail services, Plaid Cymru held a crucial debate in the Senedd, urgently urging the Welsh government to take immediate action. The motion was voted down by the Government, which will leave commuters and residents in South Wales, particularly in the Rhondda, deeply disappointed.

Since Transport for Wales (TFW) took over the rail services in Wales five years ago, the train service across the country has remained unreliable and expensive. In fact, TFW currently holds the lowest customer satisfaction ratings among major rail operators in the UK.

It's incredibly disappointing that the Welsh government continues to ignore the experiences of train users in South Wales Central. We will continue to campaign for better public transport services for all our communities because we cannot accept this is the best we



British and Irish

Parliamentary Assembly

I recently attended the plenary meeting of the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly in Kildare, Ireland.

It was such an honour to represent our Senedd at the event, and discuss different issues and potential solutions with colleagues from across these isles. The committee of which I'm a member has also began an inquiry into the housing crisis affecting rural communities.



Plaid Cymru calls for Ceasefire

I'm sure like me you have been devastated by the images coming out of Israel and Gaza. In response to the conflict, Plaid Cymru have tabled a Senedd motion calling for an immediate ceasefire. You can read the motion by [clicking here](#). We hope the motion receives cross-part support to send a message of unity, humanity and lasting peace for Palestinians and Israelis.



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