

Mid & West Wales

Cefin CAMPBELL MS

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GET IN TOUCH!

It's been a very busy time since I was elected to the Senedd last May as your Plaid Cymru representative for the Mid and West Wales region.

I have now appointed a hardworking team of staff, in the process of opening an office in Carmarthen and have had the opportunity to visit many parts of the country meeting different constituents, groups and organisations to discuss their concerns and plans for the future. I have worked tirelessly in the Senedd to ensure that the voice of our communities across the region are heard - raising concerns on the floor of the Senedd on various issues such as multinationals buying Welsh farms for tree planting, health provision, education, housing, regenerating our market towns and poverty.


This newsletter is an opportunity to update you on some of the issues I have been raising in the Senedd and across the region. Be sure to follow my social media pages for the latest news.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year!


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NEW OFFICE

I am very pleased to note that I will soon be opening a regional office in **Carmarthen** town on the first floor of the NFU building behind Marks & Spencer.

I look forward to welcoming you to the new office and to establishing a presence in the town that will be the focus of our work across the whole region.

IN THIS EDITION:

FROM THE SENEDD



VISITS



IN YOUR COMMUNITY



FROM THE SENEDD

Highlights of my work from the Senedd



Forests instead of farmland?

I know that many rural communities are deeply concerned about the growing trend of farms being bought by large multinational companies to plant trees for carbon offsetting purposes. These companies may well be relieving their conscience of their climate change obligations, but this kind of development is damaging to Wales - we're losing family farms, the communities around them, and good productive farmland for food. The threat to the Welsh language and a way of life is also all too clear.

Over the past few months I have visited communities in Carmarthenshire, Powys and Pembrokeshire who are deeply concerned about these developments, and I am pleased to have brought the concerns of these communities to the attention of the Government. I have called for tougher measures to protect our communities from this kind of threat - including the introduction of more stringent planning regulations.

I have also called on the Welsh Government to reform the agricultural payment system after research by my office revealed that over £1.3m of public funding for woodland planting has gone to companies outside Wales since 2015, through the Glastir Woodland Creation scheme.



RURAL TOWN RECOVERY

The past few years have been difficult times for the high streets in our towns across Mid and West Wales.

With the pandemic, Brexit, and more online shopping, 1 in 7 shops are now empty - while banks, post offices and pubs are closing across our rural communities.

I had the opportunity to raise this concern with the First Minister, calling on the Welsh Government to provide further support to tackle this alarming downturn and to provide increased support for our rural town regeneration.

FAIR PAY FOR NHS STAFF

I was very pleased to have had the opportunity earlier this year to support Plaid Cymru's proposal calling for a fair pay rise for staff in the National Health Service.

Our NHS staff have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic, and for many the proposed 3% uplift would be below inflation. I had the opportunity to speak in the debate, and I will continue to press for fair pay for our NHS staff.





CEREDIGION AMBULANCE CARE

There are concerns in Ceredigion that ambulance provision in the county may be significantly reduced - including possible cuts in **Aberystwyth** and **Cardigan** that would see existing provision drop by around 30%.

Currently, only 48% of red calls in the Hywel Dda Health Board area are answered within the expected 8 minutes, and cutting the service in Ceredigion would put even more strain on the service and jeopardise lives. I had the opportunity to raise this issue with the Health Minister a few months ago.

CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT

I am very proud of the Co-Operation Agreement that was agreed between Plaid Cymru and the Welsh Government in December.

The agreement has ensured that 46 radical and progressive policies are part of a transformative programme of government that will better the lives of people across Wales. These include free school meals for all primary aged children, free childcare for children over two, tackling the second homes crisis that is damaging our rural communities and taking radical action to address the climate change crisis.

I am delighted to have been appointed as a Designated Member as part of the Agreement, and I very much look forward to working with Government Ministers to achieve these goals and ensure that they make a real difference to the lives of the people of Wales.



LLANDEILO BYPASS

The argument for a bypass through the town of Llandeilo has been won for many years, so it was disappointing when the Welsh Government announced back in June that they would not continue the scheme.

I raised the matter urgently in the Senedd, and following sustained pressure was pleased that the government had changed its mind. I welcomed the announcement that Llandeilo would not be included in the road review, and that work would continue on this crucial development.

YOUNG FARMERS

I had the opportunity to contribute to a debate in the Senedd at the end of last year on the huge contribution of **Young Farmers' Clubs** to rural Wales.

Almost 70% of all Young Farmers clubs in Wales are in my region, and I am very aware of the great work they do in supporting their local communities, safeguarding the Welsh language and providing opportunities for our young people to develop their skills in so many different areas.

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Highlights of my work across Mid & West Wales



THE HOUSING CRISIS

The campaign to tackle the challenge of second homes in our communities has gone from strength to strength over the past year, and I am pleased to have had the opportunity to support the campaign on several occasions.

The crisis is now a huge problem in communities across Mid and West Wales, pushing local people out of the local housing market, damaging our communities and the Welsh language. Last year I attended a huge rally at Tryweryn as well as having the opportunity to speak at Cymdeithas yr Iaith's rally at Newport, Pembrokeshire in October. It all culminated in a further rally on the steps of the Senedd in Cardiff in November.

I am delighted that the Agreement between Plaid Cymru and the Welsh Government has taken steps to address the emergency, however, there is much more to be done to ensure that there is enough affordable housing available in our rural communities. This will certainly remain a priority for me over the coming months.



CEREDIGION

I am very proud of the close relationship I have forged with Elin Jones MS and Ben Lake MP, and the ability to work together on a number of issues - including concerns about the local health service and agricultural and rural affairs.

I had a very useful farm visit in **Llanrhystud** during the summer and met with local NFU members to discuss concerns about the future of the agricultural sector.

I also had an interesting visit to **Aberporth** in September, meeting officials from the Welsh Fishermen's Association to discuss the future of the fishing sector in Wales - an industry that is very important given the high percentage of the Welsh coastline in my region!





DWYFOR MEIRIONNYDD

I work very closely with the offices of **Mabon ap Gwynfor MS** and **Liz Saville Roberts MP** on a variety of issues.

I spent a very interesting day with them in **Fairbourne** discussing local residents' concerns about flooding from the sea, and promoting Plaid Cymru's campaign alongside the local Community Council to get the Valuation Office to review the council tax band of threatened houses.



POWYS



I regularly visit communities across **Montgomeryshire, Brecon and Radnorshire**, and have the opportunity to meet local organisations and constituents.

I had a very interesting visit to Cultivate in **Newtown** over the summer, learning more about their community food growing schemes. I also had the opportunity to visit **Welshpool**, meeting a local group that are campaigning to find new playing fields for the town's football teams.

I had a very busy day in **Ystradgynlais**, calling in at the Community Centre and the town's Food Bank, as well as having the opportunity to chat with local residents and distribute my community questionnaire.

In November, I met a group of local farmers in **Llandrindod Wells** to discuss concerns about the future of the agricultural sector. I also had the opportunity to meet CREU Carers and learn more about their work supporting unpaid carers. I had an interesting session talking to local residents in **Llanwrtyd Wells**, discussing concerns about the closure of the local pharmacy.

My office also regularly attends meetings on the shortage of NHS dentists in Powys, as well as meetings discussing road safety concerns in towns such as **Crickhowell**.



CARMARTHENSHIRE

I am really looking forward to opening an office in Carmarthen town in the near future. In the meantime, I work closely with Members of the Senedd and Westminster in Carmarthenshire, as well as local County Councillors.

I had the opportunity to visit the CBSA charity in **Llanelli** and learn more about their important work in supporting disadvantaged young people and communities across the county.

I attended the launch of the Bws Bach Bro in **Trimsaran**, which is supported through a great partnership between the John Burns Foundation and Dolen Teifi.

I know that many communities in Carmarthenshire are concerned about farms being bought by multinationals for tree planting purposes, and I have already met with residents at **Cwrt y Cadno** and **Myddfai** to discuss this further.

I contributed to the NFU's #GrowingTogether campaign, by planting a tree at **Gelli Aur Farm**. I had the opportunity to meet the National Trust in **Dinefwr** and discuss the future of tenant farms. I have often raised concerns about safety on the A40 between **Carmarthen** to **St. Clears**.

I am also aware that many areas of the county suffer from flooding, and I have already visited the communities of **Trimsaran** and **Kidwelly** to discuss concerns from local residents, and raise these cases with the appropriate authorities.

I have visited many local communities across Carmarthenshire - including chatting with local residents and businesses in **Johnstown, St. Clears** and **Five Roads**.

I also had a very interesting question and answer session with **Bro Myrddin** pupils in December.





PEMBROKESHIRE



I have been very fortunate to visit communities, businesses and organisations in Pembrokeshire on numerous occasions since my election.



I had a very enjoyable day in **St. Dogmaels** in August, visiting several of the town's businesses, discussing the housing crisis in the area, and celebrating the success of the co-operative pub, the White Hart.

I have visited a number of thriving businesses and organisations in the county, including **Bluestone** holiday park near **Narberth**, learning more about the contribution of tourism to the local economy.



I have also visited **Clynfynyw Farm** in **Abercych** to learn more about their work supporting disabled and vulnerable individuals, as well as the PLANED organisation near **Narberth** which supports community enterprises.

The agricultural sector is vital to the rural communities of Pembrokeshire, and I had the opportunity to meet members of the Farmers' Union of Wales at a farm near **Eglwyswrrw** in October to discuss the challenges facing the sector. I also attended a public meeting in **Herm** discussing concerns about tree planting on farmland by businesses from outside Wales.



I had an opportunity to speak at a rally in Parrog, **Newport** in November highlighting the growing housing crisis being experienced in communities across Pembrokeshire, especially the growth of holiday homes and AirBnBs.



With my hard working team, I have visited many communities across Pembrokeshire which has given me the opportunity meet and chat with local residents and businesses in **Haverfordwest**, **Clunderwen**, **Crundale**, **Tenby** and **Boncath**.