

# HELEDD FYCHAN MS



Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales  
Rhanbarth Canol De Cymru - South Wales Central



## REGIONAL OFFICE NOW OPEN

On 2 October, I welcomed the Leader of Plaid Cymru Adam Price to Pontypridd for the opening of my regional office.

The office at 2 High Street is in the town centre and close to the train station, and will be open from Monday to Saturday each week.

Myself and the team - Elyn, Eleri, Francis, Danny, Ken and Brooke – have been made to feel very welcome by local businesses and residents, and we are also enjoying getting to know community groups and organisations from across the region.

To get in touch with us or to make an appointment to see Heledd, please click [here](#).



## WELCOME KEN MOON

At the end of September, I was delighted to welcome our newest team member Ken Moon, as our Sustainable Futures Coordinator.

Ken has decades of experience of working with and supporting community groups, and will bring invaluable skills to the team in this new and unique role.

You can read more about his role [here](#).



## MARCH AGAINST POVERTY

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When the announcement came from the UK Government that the £20 increase to Universal Credit would come to an end, I thought of the 275,000 families in Wales who will now be left worse off because of decisions made in Westminster.

Had Universal Credit grown in line with GDP per capita, it would be £40 a week higher, and yet the Tory UK government has scrapped the £20 uplift.

On the 30th of September I took part in a protest against the removal of the uplift with activists from The People's Assembly Wales, Unite Community Cardiff & Area Branch and Cardiff People's Assembly.

The £20-a-week UC increase has been a lifeline for families; it has allowed them to afford to live, feed their children, buy clothes, pay for essentials and reduced some of the worst economic impacts of the pandemic.

I will continue to campaign and press the Welsh Government in the Senedd to pursue the devolution of welfare in order to tackle poverty in Wales and that in the meantime, they maintain flexibility around the discretionary assistance fund to keep a lifeline available for those who most need it. You can watch what I said in the Senedd about this [here](#).

If you are affected by the end of the uplift or the end of furlough, and require support or guidance, please get in touch with my office via the details [here](#).

## PLAID CYMRU AND GREEN PARTY ELECTORAL ALLIANCE IN CARDIFF

Last month, it was announced that Plaid Cymru and the Green Party will form an electoral alliance in Cardiff for next years' council election, recognising the common ground between our two parties and campaigners.

I look forward to this new political alliance in our capital city. This new electoral alternative can be the change that Cardiff needs, offering communities a fresh political voice by standing under a single joint name on the ballot paper.

Issues such as Protecting and enhancing public green spaces, fairer housing, tackling the climate crisis, and giving real democratic power to communities will feature in a joint manifesto, to be launched later this year.

If you share these values and want to make a difference, why not get in touch.



# 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

RCT Council recently released information about plans to further invest in schools across the county borough.

I was particularly pleased to see Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda mentioned as one of the schools due for investment. This is long overdue, and something Plaid Cymru has long campaigned for. I very much look forward to seeing how the plans progress, as there has been significant underfunding in Welsh medium education by the Council.

Similarly, I was dismayed to see as part of the proposals plans to build a new English medium school in Glyncoch despite the fact that local campaigners in Ynysybwl, Coed y Cwm and Glyncoch have been campaigning for a Welsh medium school in the area. We need to ensure equity of access to both Welsh and English medium education, and the current plans do not allow for this.



## TRANSPORT ISSUES

Many people have been in touch to raise concerns about speeding on roads, especially in East Aberthaw and Church Village. Whilst Welsh Government has plans in place to reduce the speed limit in residential areas to 20mph it is crucial that there is also enforcement. I continue to support individuals and community groups to press for action on this.

Another issue has been the consultation regarding charging for using the A470 in the Pontypridd area that took place over the Summer.

You can read more [here](#).

I continue to monitor problems with local buses, and to campaign for greater investment in public transport. If you have a problem with any bus service, you can report directly to me by using this [link](#).



## Culture and Sport

As Plaid Cymru spokesperson for Culture and Sport, I have been busy meeting with different organisations and groups both across the region and across Wales. A highlight last month was welcoming back our wonderful Wales team to the Senedd following their amazing achievements at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic games. Welsh athletes won a collective of 22 Medals this Summer– 8 in the Olympics and 14 in the Paralympics.

They are a great example of our sporting talent here in Wales and are undoubtedly going to inspire a generation of future Welsh Olympic and Paralympic athletes.

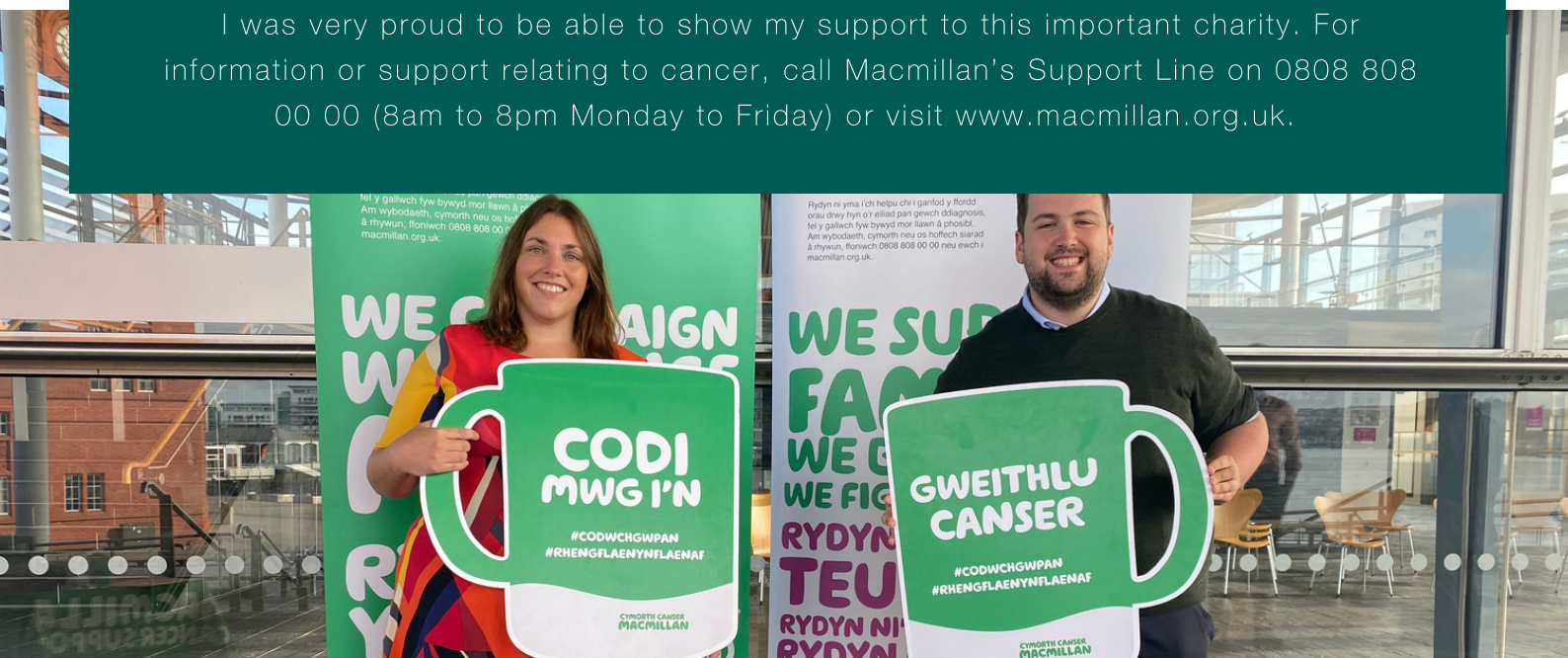


## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

On September 24th, myself and the team hosted a coffee morning to raise funds for Macmillan. Like so many charities, Macmillan has seen a huge fall in its fundraising income as a direct result of the ongoing impact of Covid-19 and has faced a 71% income drop for the second year running (£20m).

Macmillan, alongside our NHS and other partners, works tirelessly to do whatever it takes for people with cancer. They are doing so at a time when the disruption caused by Covid-19 means demand for the charity's services is high, while its income is down.

I was very proud to be able to show my support to this important charity. For information or support relating to cancer, call Macmillan's Support Line on 0808 808 00 00 (8am to 8pm Monday to Friday) or visit [www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk).





# Out in the community

Now that regulations allow me to do so, I have been out and about across the region, speaking with residents about local issues and any concerns they might have. I've also been meeting community groups, charities and businesses and am grateful to everyone who have given their time to meet with me. If you'd like me to visit your area, or community group, please get in touch via [Heledd.Fychan@Senedd.Cymru](mailto:Heledd.Fychan@Senedd.Cymru)



## Pontypridd Green Week

With COP26 just around the corner, I very much enjoyed supporting Pontypridd's very first Green Week organised by local activists.

It was great to see so many people getting involved and coming together to take action against the climate and nature emergency, which unfortunately for our communities is very real following the devastating floods of February 2020.

There were lots of different activities organised over the week including litter picks, workshops and forums for everyone to share ideas, as well as a very moving event to celebrate the rights of the River Taff.

Over the course of the week, myself and the team also ran a Green Week Survey. We received so many great suggestions on the actions we can take on a local and national level to tackle the climate and nature emergency. A summary of the results can be viewed [here](#)



# JUSTICE FOR FLOOD VICTIMS CONTINUES

With winter fast approaching, many communities are naturally fearing floods. Last month, I met with many residents in different parts of RCT who are still waiting for answers about what happened in February 2020 and vowed that I would continue to fight for justice for them.

The majority of the Section 19 reports are yet to be published. And even when they have been published, there are still too many questions left to answer. Indeed, following the publication of the Pentre Section 19 report, I sent a survey to ask residents for their views on the report. 100% of those surveyed in Pentre still support an independent inquiry and I will continue to raise this at every possible opportunity in the Senedd.

I also met twice with the residents of Clydach Terrace in Ynysybwll, who remain traumatised by the flooding they suffered. I am working closely with them to push for the answers they deserve, and for more to be done to help them feel safer.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

To keep up to date with upcoming events  
Follow me on my Social Media Channels.  
[Here.](#)





## MEET THE TEAM

Danny Grehan - Community Engagement Officer  
Brooke Webb - Communications Officer  
Francis Whitefoot - Community Engagement Officer  
Eleri Griffiths - Caseworker  
Elyn Stephens - Office Manager  
Ken Moon - Sustainable Futures Coordinator.

## HOW WE CAN HELP

My team and I can help with a range of issues from Health, Housing, Transport, Education and the Environment.

If there's anything we can help with don't hesitate to contact us via email at:  
[Heledd.Fychan@Senedd.Cymru](mailto:Heledd.Fychan@Senedd.Cymru)

Or get in touch through any of the platforms below.



## Heledd Fychan AS/MS

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