

HELEDD FYCHAN MS



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



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INTRODUCTION

This newsletter is a brief overview of the work myself and my team have been doing across the region and in the Senedd over the past month.

As you will be able to see there continues to be a focus on flooding with many residents already experiencing the impact of the worsening weather as winter approaches.

It has also been a busy month of visits to community organisations and meetings where I have had the chance to meet amazing individuals like Jodie and Kyle from Grief Support Cymru as well as one of the Welsh Youth Parliament candidates from Pontypridd Ffion Fairclough.

I am also happy to announce this month my first annual Christmas Competition for local primary school children. Further details on how to enter can be found [here](#).



OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

It's been a busy month out in the community. In addition to my normal casework appointments, I have been out visiting residents in communities across the region with Plaid Cymru Councillors in Porth, Maesycloed and Tonyrefail. Thank you to everyone that took the time to speak to me and the team. If you'd like us to visit your area, or if you'd like to get in touch, please get in touch.



WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Last month the candidates for the Welsh Youth Parliament election were announced.

It was lovely to meet with **Ffion Fairclough** who will be standing for the Welsh Youth Parliament in Pontypridd.

She has a clear vision, and I loved hearing about her passion for our community and our people, and how she'd like to see equity for everyone in terms of access to services.

Voting opens on 1 November and anyone between 11 and 18 can vote.

[**Register Now**](#)





GRIEF SUPPORT CYMRU

I continue to have the pleasure of visiting many organisations in the region who have been doing great work in their communities. One such organisation is Grief Support Cymru.

Set up by Kyle and Jodie in 2020 following the tragic death of their own baby, Dylan. They have already helped over 200 people deal with their own experiences of grief.

During my visit it was truly heart-warming to hear first-hand about the positive impact Grief Support Cymru.

They are currently trying to establish themselves as a registered charity and are putting together funding bids to help with all the administration costs that they incur, so that the group can take on more clients.

I will be joining Grief Support Cymru this month again during their sponsored walk from Clydach to Pontypridd on the 13th of November. If you'd like to sponsor me, please [click here](#) to do so.

Click [here](#) to find out more about how you can support Grief Support Cymru.

NANTGARW PUBLIC MEETING

On 13 October, I met with residents in Nantgarw at a Public Meeting in Coleg y Cymoedd. It was a very productive meeting, and I was grateful to hear directly from residents their thoughts on issues that were important to them.

Flooding was an issue that many were concerned about, following the devastating impact of the 2020 floods which ruined many of their homes. With some only starting to return to normal they shared their anxiety of still not knowing what happened that night.

The section 19 report looking into the flood in Nantgarw is yet to be published by RCT council but despite this residents fear this will not be enough to truly understand what happened that night and strongly support the idea of an independent inquiry. This is also something that other residents support across RCT, and I continue to fight for justice and answers for all.



FLOODING UPDATE

Yet again in October, some homes in the region experienced flooding with some considerable damage in Rhydyfelin and Cilfynydd in particular.

When I went to visit residents it was frustrating to hear that many of the issues I have previously raised such as blocked culverts continue to be the cause of flooding for many.

This is a huge concern for many as Winter approaches. While I hope there isn't a repeat of 2020 here are some useful emergency contact numbers to use in case of a flood.



Flooding helplines



Natural Resources Wales

Floodline - 0345 9881188

Incident Line - 03000 653000

Welsh Water

Water Emergencies - 0800 052 0130

Sewer Flooding & Sewerage Emergencies
- 0800 085 3968

Gas and Electric Emergencies

Gas - 0800 111 999

Electricity - 105

Council Emergency (Out of Hours)

Rhondda Cynon Taf - 01443 425011

Cardiff - 02920 872087

Vale of Glamorgan - 01446 747874



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Welsh Parliament



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SENEDD BUSINESS

URGENT ACTION NEEDED ON COAL TIPS

Following the publication this month of the breakdown of where Wales' 327 higher-risk tips are located by local authority, I have called on the Welsh Government to publish the precise locations to and for urgent action taken.

71 coal tips are now considered to be in the worst category of risk - Category D - with 23 of those within Rhondda Cynon Taf. A further 52 in Rhondda Cynon Taf are in Category C, which also poses a higher potential safety risk.

Only last year with the landslide at Tylorstown following Storm Dennis, we were starkly reminded of the threat posed by coal tips to the communities living in their shadows.

With the news that more are considered dangerous, urgent action is now needed to clear these tips once and for all and remove the danger.

Both the UK Government and the Welsh Government are arguing over who should pay. Our communities need action not words, and I urge both Governments to work together so that we never again experience a tragedy such as what happened in Aberfan.

People living in the communities most at risk should also be told the status of the coal tips nearby, so that they can help authorities by urgently reporting any changes they may see. They are already living in fear, and we should be completely transparent in terms of the risk they are facing and the steps being taken to safeguard them.

CWM TAF MATERNITY SCANDAL REPORT

The latest report looking into the maternity scandal at Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board was published in October by the independent panel set up by the Welsh Government.

Plaid Cymru has always campaigned for justice for the families affected, and whilst I welcome the recommendations set out in this report, The issue of accountability remains. Managers who were leading the hospitals at the time were able to leave and remain working in similar roles without repercussion.

While the this won't bring back their babies, I will continue to campaign so that this tragedy never happens again.

[Watch my full speech here.](#)

[You can read the report here](#)



RUGBY - PAY WALL

Last month, it was confirmed that fans of Welsh rugby will no longer be able to watch Wales' autumn international matches on free-to-air television. Matches will now only be televised live on Amazon Prime, which sadly sits behind a paywall.

The reason given for this change is that Amazon Prime will be providing the commentary in both English and Welsh, marking a change from previous matches which have been available to view live on S4C for free. This sets a dangerous precedent for the future of Sports broadcasting in Wales.

In my role as Plaid Cymru's spokesperson for Culture and Sports, I have made representations to both the UK Government and the WRU that I strongly believe that all games from our national teams should be free to watch.

Welsh rugby belongs to everyone in Wales, and we must not be priced out of our own culture.

[You can read what I said to the UK Minister here.](#)

CLIMATE CYMRU

As part of their campaign to raise awareness of COP26, it was great to meet with some of Climate Cymru's ambassadors on the steps of the Senedd.

Representing over 10,000 voices from across Wales and bringing them to the Senedd, the Ice heart illustrated perfectly the climate and nature emergency that we all face.

It was heart-warming to hear about all the amazing work they have been doing in communities across Wales, from setting up a library of things to organising workshops for young people.

I look forward to hearing more about their work when I attend COP later this month.



CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

This month, I am happy to announce the launch of my Christmas competition for primary school children across the region to design a Christmas card or decoration made from recycled materials.

Pictures of the winning entries will be used for my Christmas e-card.

Please send a picture of your entry to Heledd.Fychan@Senedd.Wales by 1st December 2021. Please include your full name, age, address and /or school clearly marked. Please also include an email address for your school, Parent or Carer.

[Click here for further details.](#)





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

Or get in touch through any of the platforms below.



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