



## ABERAVON REPORT

### In Parliament

I have now been assigned my office in Portcullis House in Parliament, so both my Westminster and constituency offices are now up and running.

On Saturday I will also be holding my first surgery in Cymmer Library followed by Briton Ferry Community Hall on 26 June. A six month calendar of surgeries to the end of the year is being finalised.

### Maiden Speech

It was an honour to deliver my maiden speech in the House of Commons. In it I spoke about the beautifully rich and varied landscape of the constituency, our proud acting tradition, and our promising present and ambitious future. I called on the Ministry of Justice to posthumously pardon Dic Penderyn and also gave my support to the steelworkers in their fight with Tata Steel over the serious changes that would greatly weaken their pension scheme.

[http://www.stephenkinnock.co.uk/maiden\\_speech](http://www.stephenkinnock.co.uk/maiden_speech)



### Tata Steel



The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Steel, of which I am a member, has met frequently over the last few weeks given the developing situation with Tata. On one occasion it was unanimously decided to cancel the meeting with Tata Steel executives in protest at the company representatives' inability to answer their questions or address their concerns over the ongoing pensions dispute with the company. Since then we have met with Karl-Ulrich Köhler, Chief Executive of Tata Steel Europe

I have also contributed an article to the New Statesman about the Government and Tata walking into the first steel strike in decades and called on the Government to act to prevent this.

[http://www.stephenkinnock.co.uk/the\\_government\\_and\\_tata\\_steel\\_are\\_sleepwalking\\_into\\_the\\_first\\_steel\\_strike\\_in\\_decades](http://www.stephenkinnock.co.uk/the_government_and_tata_steel_are_sleepwalking_into_the_first_steel_strike_in_decades)



### **Parc Slip Open Cast**

With serious questions remaining over the restoration of Parc Slip in Margam I have called for a debate on the matter in the House of Commons and will be meeting with neighbouring elected representative to take the matter forward. In addition I, along with Madeleine Moon MP and Huw Irranca Davies MP, will be meeting with the Minister.

[http://www.stephenkinnock.co.uk/stephen\\_calls\\_for\\_debate\\_on\\_open\\_cast\\_mining\\_restoration](http://www.stephenkinnock.co.uk/stephen_calls_for_debate_on_open_cast_mining_restoration)

### **Media Engagements**

I have again been interviewed on ITV's Sharp End, held a Q&A on Swansea Sound, interviewed on BBC Radio Wales' Jason Mohammed Show and took part in Radio 4's Westminster Hour.

### **Leadership and Deputy Leadership**

Initially I supported Mary Creagh for the Leadership of the party as I believed she had the right balance of experience outside Westminster, in local government and as an MP. My reasoning was laid out in an article I wrote for the New Statesman. Since Mary withdrew her candidacy I have given my support to Yvette Cooper. In the Deputy Leadership campaign I am support Caroline Flint.

[http://www.stephenkinnock.co.uk/all\\_of\\_the\\_leadership\\_candidates\\_are\\_good\\_but\\_there\\_s\\_something\\_about\\_mary](http://www.stephenkinnock.co.uk/all_of_the_leadership_candidates_are_good_but_there_s_something_about_mary)



### **Junction 41**

It was welcome to hear that the Minister had listened to local voices over the Junction 41 trial closure. I recognise though that this is not the end of the matter and I will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with David Rees AM and local residents to ensure it is a permanent re-opening.

### **Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon**

It was encouraging to hear the Government give the go-ahead for the Tidal Lagoon in Swansea Bay. The social and economic benefits to our constituents make this project so much more than a great leap forward. I have written to Amber Rudd MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, calling on the Government to make progress with the remaining decisions so that construction can begin at the earliest opportunity so the social and economic benefits of the Lagoon can begin as soon as possible.

### **Beast of Bryn**

Great to run in the Beast of Bryn again this year and raise money for Cystic Fibrosis at the same time. The organisers did a great job and the event was a real success again.





### Queen's Speech

The Queen's Speech, the Government's legislative programme for the year, set out a number of headline policies:

- *EU Referendum Bill* - to be held by the end of 2017. *(I have joined the 'Pro-EU' group of Labour MPs, chaired by Pat Glass MP, and I fully intend to play an active and committed part in the 'In' campaign).*
- *Full Employment And Welfare Benefits Bill* - will reduce the benefit cap to £23,000 and remove the automatic entitlement to housing support for 18-21year olds.
- *Personal Tax Allowance* - raise the personal tax allowance to £12,5000.
- *National Insurance Contributions / Finance Bill* - no rise in income rates, VAT or National Insurance contributions.
- *Immigration* - bring in greater controls of immigration.
- *Trade Unions Bill* - all strikes must be the result of "clear, positive and recent" decisions by union members. There must be a 50% turnout with 40% in favour of action in essential public services such as health, education, fire and transport.
- *State Pension* - continuing the triple lock.
- *Wales Bill* - giving greater clarity over the division of powers between the Assembly and Parliament. Devolve more powers over energy, transport and local government.
- *English Votes For English Laws* - allowing decisions affecting only England or England and Wales to be taken by the majority of MPs representing these constituencies.
- *Extremism Bill* - strengthen powers to stop extremists promoting views and behaviours that undermine British Values.
- *Psychoactive Substances Bill* - making the production, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply, import or export legal highs an offence.
- *British Bill of Rights* - to be brought in to replace the Human Rights Act.
- *Housing Bill* - giving tenants of housing associations the right to buy their own homes.

Although the Housing Bill is an England only bill it is important to note that the policy is coming apart at the seams with criticisms including it fails to address the shortage of housing and compensation would need to be paid to Housing Associations who would be forced to sell their stock to tenants at below market rates.