

MAY 2019

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Plaid Cymru leading the way in fight for more climate action

New data released recently shows that Plaid Cymru is the number one defender of climate action out of all parties in the UK. Climate Action Network Europe – Europe's largest coalition on climate and energy issues – gives Plaid Cymru a whopping 96% rating on support for stronger climate policies. It analyses the voting behaviour of political parties in the European Parliament on a range of pieces of legislation.

Whether in Westminster, in the Senedd or in the European Parliament, Plaid Cymru is working hard for a greener Wales and planet.

Following the Extinction Rebellion campaign of the past few weeks, the deficiencies of existing decarbonisation policy has been debated twice in the House of Commons, was debated at length on 1 May, and the Government has sought the advice of the Committee on Climate Change as to how they can realise a net-zero carbon target.

I had the opportunity recently to press the Minister for Energy and Clean Growth on whether the Government will ensure the necessary funding is allocated to whatever measures the Committee recommends that we take, so that we see action – and not just fine words – arising from this.



BOWEL CANCER:
Parliamentary
Champion



CCTV:
Preventing
retail crime on our
high streets



ABERCON:
Ceredigion's first
anime convention

BREXIT: working across party divides

The longer the impasse over Brexit persists, the longer urgent issues – such as the UK Government's climate change policy, its state pension reforms, or the impact of continued public spending restraint – will go unaddressed.

It will be difficult to measure the real cost of this inaction, but a growing number of MPs believe that working across party divides will be necessary if we are to secure a resolution to the Brexit stalemate, and in turn unlock the parliamentary logjam.

I'm proud to have co-sponsored a Bill alongside members of the Conservatives, Greens, Labour, Liberal Democrats, and SNP that sought to gain a majority. Indeed, the front benches of both the Government and Official Opposition have since agreed that a set of binding indicative votes - making use of preferential voting - on Brexit options will be the way to resolve the impasse, should a compromise between the two fail to materialise.

Many would argue that this is well overdue: that all sides should have pursued a more cooperative, and less partisan approach following the 2017 general election. I would agree. That the adoption of such an approach has taken so long has much to do with the fact that the party system at Westminster has not, in recent history at least, been geared towards seeking, let alone building, consensus amongst its parties on the biggest policy debates of the day.



Bowel Cancer Champion

I recently pledged to become a Bowel Cancer Champion to lead the change in Parliament for people affected by the disease. It simply isn't acceptable that so many people die from bowel cancer each year. That's why I'm proud to be working with the Bowel Cancer UK charity and helping them make real change happen. I look forward to using my position in Parliament to call for changes which can improve access to best treatment and care both in Ceredigion and nationally.

ADVICE SURGERIES

17 May: Lampeter
31 May: Llanrhystud
14 June: Lampeter
21 June: Aberystwyth

I hold regular surgeries across the county to support and give advice to constituents on a range of issues. To book an appointment please contact my constituency office: **01570 940 333**



AGRICULTURE

Devolved nations need a trusted body to manage farm funding disputes after Brexit

The Bew Review on intra-UK allocation of domestic farm support funding is to be welcomed, for although I applaud the UK Government's commitment to abandoning the Barnett formula as the basis upon which resources will be allocated among the devolved nations post-Brexit, and to maintain levels of agricultural funding until 2022, several important questions remain.

Namely, if the review does manage to address the initial funding allocation - how will we decide the next one in five or ten years' time?

Just as importantly, how will we decide on acceptable thresholds for financial support, and to what policy priorities these thresholds apply? These are important questions to address if we are to avoid unintended market disruptions and distortion within the UK.

I wrote an article for the Farmers Guardian last week setting out my suggestions: <https://www.fginsight.com/brexit-hub/brexit---politician-analysis/devolved-nations-need-a-trusted-body-to-manage-farm-funding-disputes-after-brexit>

New laws to control dog attacks

After meeting with FUW officials recently I have pledged to put forward a Private Members Bill in the Commons to bring forward new legislation which will criminalise dog owners whose animals attack livestock and will provide a mechanism for compensation for farmers. This is a major issue for the livestock farmers of Wales, impacting on incomes and in some cases causing severe mental health issues for those involved. I will be putting forward a Private Members Bill in an attempt to fast track much needed powers aimed at reducing the incidence of this serious threat to livestock and rural livelihoods.

Out and about in Ceredigion...



Great visit to Tŷ Hen - farmers seeking to sell produce locally, and in glass bottles



Judging Aberystwyth Rotary Club's charity dog walk



Celebrating International Week at Ysgol T. Llew Jones



Visiting Coed y Foel, a Woodland Trust site near Capel Dewi



Uncertain future of Gwbert Coastguard's rescue team

The future of Gwbert Coastguard rescue team looks uncertain after the Maritime and Coastguard Agency confirmed that operations at the station have been 'temporarily suspended due to low operational numbers'.

I recently met with representatives and former members of the Gwbert Coastguard Team, and I share their concerns about the future of the Gwbert station, and the impact any changes will have on safety along our coastline. The courage of these volunteers who devote time to rescue efforts on our shores must not be taken for granted by the Government.

I tabled a Written Question recently asking the Secretary of State for Transport "to specify how many Coastguard Rescue Officers are available for service in each Coastguard station along the Ceredigion coast", and asking him to elaborate on any "recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of those numbers". I've also written to the UK Government's Maritime Minister requesting a meeting to discuss the Coastguard provision along the Ceredigion coast and to raise specific concerns regarding Gwbert Coastguard Station.

Dyfed-Powys leading the way with prevention of retail crime

On 11 April I contributed to a Westminster Hall debate on the prevention of retail crimes. During my contribution, I referred to the reintroduction of CCTV infrastructure in towns across Ceredigion and the Dyfed-Powys region, thanks to Dafydd Llywelyn, Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner.

123 CCTV cameras are being installed in 17 towns throughout the Dyfed-Powys Police force area. Installation is almost complete, with 15 of the 17 towns feeding live images back to Dyfed-Powys Police.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's pledge to reinvest in CCTV in the Dyfed-Powys area is leading the way with the detection and prevention of retail crimes in our high streets. The reintroduction of CCTV in Aberystwyth and Cardigan has been welcomed by shopkeepers and local residents - it not only helps with the detection and prosecution of certain instances of retail shop crime, it also acts as a deterrent.



Listening to the voice of young women in Ceredigion



Period poverty, access to mental health services and equal pay were among the issues raised by young women on International Women's Day.

On 8 March, I hosted a 'Real Talk' workshop aimed at young women aged 16 - 30 years old. Young women from all walks of life came together at Ceredigion Museum to voice their concerns and share their hopes for the future.

It was great to hear new ideas for change and to discuss ways in which we can improve the lives of young people in Ceredigion. The experiences of women and girls must be heard, both locally and nationally. After all, it is impossible for policies to be truly effective if they do not reflect the wishes, and address the challenges faced by all in society.

The young women set out three priorities for me to campaign for on their behalf:

1. **Education:** ensure that equality issues and mental health awareness training is included on all PGCE courses;
2. **Youth Employment:** increase the national minimum wage for apprentices and roll out National Living Wage for under-25s;
3. **Period poverty:** campaign, raise awareness and look to introduce policies to mitigate the effects of period poverty.

All-Party Parliamentary Group for Youth Employment

Following the workshop with the young women of Ceredigion, I put my name forward and was successfully elected Vice-Chair on the APPG for Youth Employment.

The primary objectives of the APPG for Youth Employment is to promote youth employment in all its forms and the role of young people within the economy; to ensure young people's voices are heard; to highlight the need for quality opportunities; and to share best practice.



WASPI: Celebrating International Women's Day

I joined members of WASPI Ceredigion – Women Against State Pension Injustice – on a candle-lit vigil at the Old Town Hall, Aberystwyth, to celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March.

In collaboration with the WASPI Ceredigion group, I'll be holding further advice sessions for 1950s women who want to write a formal complaint to the UK Government. Details of the drop-in sessions are as follows:

15/5/19: Cardigan Library (2.30-4.30pm)

29/5/19: Lampeter Library (2.30-4.30pm)

26/6/19: Aberystwyth Library (2.30-4.30pm)

10/7/19: Whilen y Porthmyn, Tregaron (2.30 - 4.30pm)



It was a pleasure to welcome sixth form pupils from Ysgol Bro Teifi to London in March and take them on a whistle-stop tour of Westminster. If your school would like to visit Parliament, please get in touch with my constituency office for further information: 01570 940333 / carys.lloyd@parliament.uk

Llandysul Regeneration Fair

On 4 April, over 30 local organisations came together and over 100 residents gathered at Tysul Hall at an event hosted by myself and Llandysul Pont-Tyweli Ymlaen.

The aim of Ffair Adfywio Llandysul (Regeneration Fair) was to celebrate and learn about the wide range of organisations, clubs and societies in the Llandysul area, and to take advantage of the opportunity to share good practice, share ideas and discover opportunities for better collaboration for the benefit of the local community.

As well as local voluntary groups, such as Llandysul Food Bank and Llandysul and District History Society, the event was supported by external organisations and bodies such as Cered, Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner, Tai Ceredigion and Wales and West Housing.

It was a huge pleasure to host this event - highlighting and sharing all the good practice and work being undertaken by so many societies and clubs in the town and surrounding communities. It was notable to witness the cohesion and the coming together of minds within the community to positively contribute towards the regeneration of the town.



Launching Plaid Cymru's Shared Prosperity Fund Plan

Despite promising a consultation on the design and implementation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund before the end of 2018, the UK Government is yet to publish any details about the new system for allocating post-Brexit funding.

Between 2014 and 2020, Wales will have received over £2 billion from the European Union through European Structural Funds.

These funds are designed to reduce regional inequalities by helping to support people into work and training, youth employment, research and innovation, connectivity and a wide range of development projects.

During the 2016 referendum, the Vote Leave campaign promised that Wales “wouldn’t lose a penny” if we left the European Union, instead claiming Wales would be “better off”. The UK Government has not, however, confirmed whether the current level of funding will be maintained long-term.

In the absence of any proposals from the UK Government on the design and implementation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Plaid Cymru has commissioned a report exploring our preferred funding model. You can read the full report here: <https://bit.ly/2PDLxcC>



CEREDIGION LIFEBOAT CAMPAIGN

I met with the former Wales Office Minister recently to discuss the continued concerns I share with my constituents regarding the decision to withdraw the All-weather Lifeboat at New Quay from 2020 onwards.

The Minister acknowledged that there was a great deal of local concern, and after discussing the matter further, it was agreed that we would raise the matter with the Maritime Minister to ensure that the Government has fully considered

the impact of the decision and any implications on public services, including local coastguard services.



If you would like to receive a copy of this newsletter please send an email with the subject line 'NEWSLETTER' to ben.lake.mp@parliament.uk

To read more about my work in Ceredigion and Westminster:
www.plaidceredigion.cymru

Darlith Gyhoeddus

Public Lecture

**'Brexit o'r
meinciau cefn'**

Ben Lake, AS

6yh, Nos Iau 16 Mai 2019

Prif Neuadd
Adeilad Gwleidyddiaeth Ryngwladol
Campws Penglais

Offer cyfieithu ar gael

Croeso i bawb

**'Brexit from the
back benches'**

Ben Lake, MP

6pm, Thursday 16 May 2019

Main Hall
International Politics Building
Penglais Campus

Simultaneous translation available

All welcome

