

HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MS/AS

Member of the Senedd for Ogmore | Aelod o'r Senedd dros Ogwr

Ogmore's Voice in the Senedd



FANTASTIC WORK OF OUR FOOD PANTRIES



Lewistown Community Pantry,
Tenants & Residents Association House

My thanks to the amazing team at Baobab Bach CIC food pantry in Lewistown, Ogmore Valley for letting me help out during one of their sessions.

Food pantries are an excellent and successful initiative which takes food surpluses from supermarkets to provide affordable food packages whilst also cutting down on food waste.

Affordable food/support/well-being for our communities:
<https://baobab-bach.org/pantries/>

INVESTMENT TO TACKLE ILLEGAL VAPE MARKET

The Welsh Government has announced it will fund Trading Standards Wales to help tackle illegal vaping. This will involve Trading Standards undertaking test purchasing, intelligence gathering and organising checks at ports to ensure the removal of illegal and dangerous products.

The sale of illegal vapes is currently a large scale problem, which includes the products being supplied to children. The Welsh Government are committed to working with partners to put a stop to this issue.



MORE BUSINESS SUCCESS FOR OGMORE



It was great meeting with the team at Rockwool Ltd along with Sarah Murphy MS for Bridgend and Porthcawl. We heard about their exciting plans for the future and the work they have been undertaking on their Wern Tarw site over the past 40 years.

Rockwool have over 500 employees across the UK and offer a full range of high-performing and sustainable stone wool insulation products for the construction industry.

RECYCLING LAWS FOR GREENER WORKPLACES

A new law coming into force on 6th April will add to Wales' proactive approach to tackling the climate crisis.

In the same way that many households across Wales are already doing, The Workplace Recycling Regulations will ask all business, public and third sector workplaces to separate key recyclable materials.

This move will increase recycling, reduce the amount of landfill waste and improve the quality of recyclable materials collected from workplaces.



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SOCIAL PRESCRIBING GROWS ACROSS THE COUNTRY



Social prescribing is a successful tailored approach to help connect people to groups and services within their communities with an aim to help tackle isolation and give people more choice and control over their lives.

Last year there was an increase in referrals of social prescribing across Wales and the Welsh Government has launched a new National Framework for Social Prescribing to better empower individuals to meet their needs and access services.

<https://www.gov.wales/national-framework-social-prescribing>

NEW LEADERSHIP FOR WELSH GOVERNMENT

First Minister Mark Drakeford announces he will continue to work towards delivering on his promises until he stands down in March 2024.

Mark Drakeford has been a wonderful servant to the people of Wales and an inspirational and radical leader in extremely difficult times.

His authenticity, compassion, and forensic intelligence have always shone through; and he's got a nice sideline in gentle humour too. Thank you Mark. Great innings!



GET THE RIGHT SUPPORT AT THE RIGHT TIME THIS WINTER



This winter, there are a number of trusted NHS resources that you can access from the comfort of your own home. The Help Us to Help You page has sections to find the best local services and advice on maintaining good mental and physical health.

<https://www.gov.wales/help-us-help-you>

If you are feeling unwell but don't know what to do next. The NHS 111 Wales symptom checker can provide some clarity and help with which service to turn to.

The NHS 111 press 2 for mental health support helpline is available 24/7 for anyone of any age across Wales needing urgent mental health support.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON STRENGTHENING ANIMAL WELFARE IN WALES

A consultation where people in Ogmore and across Wales can help to shape proposals to modernise and improve animal welfare is open until 31st March 2024.

This is the first step in a process to create a national model for Wales, which would regulate standards and strengthen animal welfare. It explores how animal activities- such as pet day care, pet groomers and dog play parks - are currently regulated and how these processes could be made better.

Following high public interest, greyhound racing is one of the 12 topics people will be asked their views on.

<https://www.gov.wales/licensing-animal-welfare-establishments-activities-and-exhibits>



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KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE



I was pleased to meet with the Police and Crime Commissioner Alun Michael and Shadow Home Office Minister for Policing Alex Norris MP to discuss the collaborative approach to policing and community safety in Wales, our key priorities, and the challenges and potential of facial recognition technology.

We also explored proposals from the Gordon Brown Report of the Commission on the UK's Future to devolve youth justice and probation to Wales, and the established Welsh Government commitment to pursue devolution of policing and criminal justice.

If a UK Labour government is elected, we look forward to continuing this very constructive engagement.

TACKLING AIR POLLUTION THROUGH THE ENVIRONMENT BILL

It was a pleasure to sponsor the Healthy Air Cymru event in the Senedd, celebrating the Environment (Air quality & Soundscapes) Bill passing into law.

Well done to all the many campaigners who have worked tirelessly towards this important piece of legislation.

Marking a milestone in clean air legislation and soundscapes, this new law will tackle air and noise pollution and support a cleaner, healthier and greener future.



MINISTER COMMENDS EXCELLENT SERVICES IN OGMORE



Wonderful to have the Deputy Minister for Social Services Julie Morgan MS visiting our fantastic Supported Living work here in Bridgend, including the Drive gardening projects in Cefn Cribwr behind the famous Green Hall.

One of her many visits across the Ogmore constituency, where she visited schools, community centres, social care and supported living settings.

We are lucky to have many excellent facilities in the local area supported by our local authority and Welsh Government.

SUPPORTING APPRENTICESHIPS TO BUILD STRONGER CAREERS

Apprenticeships are the way into skilled, well-paid, lifelong occupations. In the first two full financial years of this Senedd term, the Welsh Government has spent £273m on apprenticeships.

As a consequence of the UK Government's decision to take powers and money from Wales, painful decisions have been taken elsewhere within the Economy budget to provide as much support as possible for the apprenticeships budget.

I have sought assurances from the First Minister that he and his Ministers will work intensely with the college sector and work-based providers to protect the provision and funding of apprenticeships.



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£8M FOR COMMUNITY CARE TO SUPPORT PEOPLE AT HOME



Funding to increase community health & social care workforce capacity

Despite the extreme financial pressures on public services, the Welsh Government has held back an extra £8 million for community care this winter to support people to stay well at home and reduce pressure on hospitals.

The money will also be used to increase community health and social care workforce capacity in the evenings and on weekends and increase the hours of community nurses and end of life care clinical nurse specialists.

www.gov.wales/8-million-community-care-support-people-stay-well-home-and-reduce-pressure-hospitals

COLLABORTIVE WORKING FROM SUPPORT GROUPS

It was great joining old friends Pontyclun Bosom Pals for their latest monthly 'Warmhub' event at the Boars Head in Tyla Garw, Pontyclun.

As a long standing proud Patron of this wonderful cancer support group, it was also good to welcome the Teams from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust and Macmillan Cancer Cymru who explained how they're supporting people with their Cancer Journey across the Cwm Taf Health Board area.

In Ogmore and across Wales we see many organisations coming together to provide excellent collaborative support to people in times of need.



SUPPORTING OUR YOUNG FARMERS



Meeting with members of the Wales Federation of Young Farmers Clubs (YFC) at the launch of their 'Impact Report' in the Senedd.

The dynamic rural youth group help and support young people to become successful farmers and operate bilingually throughout rural Wales.

With over 5,000 members aged between 10 and 28 years old spread over 12 County Federations including Bridgend, they are always keen to welcome new members:

<https://yfc.wales/>

COALFIELDS REGENERATION TRUST

Great to meet Michelle Rowson-Woods, the Head of Operations of Coalfields Regeneration Trust Wales to discuss their work in Ogmore and throughout the coalfields areas.

Their work on community asset transfers, community ownership, & now on improving the cancer journey in our Bridgend valleys is invaluable.



VIEWS WANTED ON THE SCHOOL CALENDAR



Have your say via a consultation to change the school calendar, to spread school holidays out more evenly through the year. (The number of teaching days and school holidays will not change!)

The autumn term is currently longer than others, which research suggests is more tiring and challenging for some learners and staff, including those with Additional Learning Needs returning after a long break.

<https://educationwales.blog.gov.wales/2023/11/22/consultation-on-revising-the-school-calendar/>

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AT HOME AND PLAY

Electrical Safety First and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service provide great advice for reducing the risk from electrical accidents in the home and information about the risks associated with e-transport batteries.

Many local Fire and Rescue Services will come to your home and carry out a Home Fire Risk Check to help keep you and your family safe.

<https://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/guidance/safety-around-the-home/>



WALES LEADING WAY ON BUILDING SAFETY



Wales is the first country in the UK to confirm a route to address fire safety issues in all residential buildings of 11 meters and over.

The new guidance is a huge step in improving the valuation process for flats in blocks affected by cladding issues.

There are currently 34 buildings with work underway and another 34 buildings estimate to start work in 2024.

WE MUST - AND WILL - FIND WAYS TO INVEST LONG-TERM IN OUR GPS, COMMUNITY PHARMACY AND PRIMARY CARE

Following many visits to surgeries, pharmacies and health care settings over the last year, head over to my website and read my blog about the pressures and opportunities for GP practices and Community pharmacies and the wider primary care sector.

<https://huwirranca-davies.wales/>

I am calling on the British Medical Association and Welsh Government to work together more intensely than ever despite - and because of - the current pressures.


Primary care is crucial to turning around the health inequalities which face our most disadvantaged communities. It's time to talk - frankly and honestly and openly - as we also mark the 75th anniversary of our NHS.



READ MY BLOG:

PUBLIC DROP-IN SESSION ON TRAINS WITH TRANSPORT FOR WALES 25TH JANUARY - DON'T MISS IT!

HAVE YOUR SAY ON TRAINS

VALID FOR MULTIPLE QUERIES	TRAIN: 158	
DESTINATION: MAESTEG HARLEQUINS 25A TALBOT ST, MAESTEG CF34 9BW	PLATFORM: 1	
DATE: 25/01/2024	CARRIAGE: 2	
ARRIVE: 4PM	DEPARTURE: 7PM	
SEAT: L8		

HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MS | CHRIS ELMORE MP

Chris Elmore MP and I have arranged a drop-in event with Transport for Wales (TfW) so people can have their say on all things train-related on the Maesteg-Cardiff line. If you've suffered bad experiences with delays or cancellations or overcrowded trains, or if you've had great experiences, or you want to hear their plans for improvement then please come along. Don't miss this chance to have your say.

This is a drop-in session, so you can turn up anytime between 4pm and 7pm to speak to TfW representatives!!!

Contact Me!

Get in touch if you need help or support. Or if you wish to highlight issues or share ideas.

Advice Surgeries

I hold regular Advice Surgeries and 'Coffee Mornings' in all parts of the constituency and these are advertised via my website and social media channels

Follow Me on Social Media



/huw4ogmore



@huw4ogmore



huw_irranca_davies

Committee Work & Cross Party Groups



I am currently Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and a member of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee, Chair of the Strategic Forum for Regional Investment in Wales and Chaired the Special Purpose committee on Senedd Reform.



I am also Chair, Vice Chair and member of 25 Cross Party Groups.

Keep up with my committee work here: <https://senedd.wales/people/huw-irranca-davies-ms/>

CONSTITUENCY CASEWORK

Housing, Transport and Health continue to dominate my daily caseload.

I am often seen highlighting issues raised by my constituents directly with Ministers during Plenary sessions or via Written Parliamentary Questions.

Follow my policy work and Plenary exchanges via this link: <https://rb.gy/phsb8s>

