



Westminster News — March 2019

Withdrawal Agreement & No Deal

In this weeks votes I voted to reject the Prime Minister's Deal. I appreciate and respect the fact that the majority of people in Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney voted to leave the EU and the onus is on the Prime Minister & the Government to negotiate a deal. However, the Prime Minister's deal does not satisfy anyone. Leavers and Remainers are opposed to it. I have received hundreds of emails and messages in recent weeks from constituents across Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney and only 6% of people supported the Prime Minister's deal.

This deal is an abject failure. It will not deliver frictionless trade. The deal has already been rejected by Parliament, the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly. It is opposed by the TUC and the entire trade union movement.

The deal is deeply flawed, one that will not protect jobs, rights or living standards. The Prime Minister has failed to deliver any substantial change to her deal. Not a single word has changed since it was last rejected.

The deal does not deliver a good outcome on services and would limit access for British businesses to vital EU markets, it would also allow future Tory governments to erode workers' rights, consumer protections and environmental standards.

It provides no guarantee that the UK will continue equivalent arrangements to what we have now with key EU programmes and agencies and it gives no certainty the UK will remain part of security arrangements such as the European Arrest Warrant which is of grave concern for our security.

I have supported all efforts to prevent a no deal and a damaging Tory Brexit. A No deal Brexit would be a catastrophe for the country. All economic analysis and evidence show that No deal would damage our economy.

From manufacturing to farming a no deal Brexit will be disastrous for jobs, rights and living standards. Businesses and trade unions across the country have repeatedly warned about the catastrophic impact of no deal on jobs and the economy. A No deal Brexit would also be a hammer blow to manufacturing industry that employs around 4000 people in our constituency alone. A no deal outcome would also greatly increase the risk of a hard border in Northern Ireland and a threat to the hard-won peace on the island of Ireland.

A no deal Brexit would also have implications for travel across Europe for millions of holidaymakers as well as those travelling for work.

A no deal could potentially hit our economy by up to 10%, which would mean lower wages, higher prices at the supermarket, not to mention the further challenges to trade from currency markets and a falling pound. If the economy is hit by 10%, the reality is that areas like ours would probably be hit harder. I simply cannot vote to increase hardship on the people that I have been elected to represent. I care deeply for our area, an area where I was born, raised and still live. Many of the people I now represent are also my family, friends and people I grew up with. I cannot support anything that would damage their prosperity and livelihoods.

Launch of Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal

Last week, I along with MPs in Westminster joined with actor Stephen Mangan to help launch Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal to help Marie Curie provide care and support to more people living with a terminal illness.

I pledged my support to the Appeal and encourage local people to donate and wear one of the charity's daffodil pins to help fund vital care and support for people living with a terminal illness, and their families.

Every five minutes, someone in the UK dies without getting the care and support they need at the end of their life. The money raised from the Appeal will help Marie Curie be there for more people living with any terminal illness such as terminal cancer, dementia, heart failure, and motor neurone disease.

The Appeal is crucial in raising much-needed funds to enable the charity to continue to provide nursing and hospice care, fund research and campaign on behalf of everyone affected by terminal illness. The charity's free national Support Line now also offers clinical support, enabling anyone with a terminal illness to access a Marie Curie Nurse. The Information and Support Nurses can answer any clinical questions or concerns people may have, from understanding a diagnosis to explaining treatments, or talking about painful and distressing symptoms.

Scott Sinclair, Head of Policy and Public Affairs at Marie Curie, said: "Having the support of Gerald and Stephen makes a huge difference to our Great Daffodil Appeal."

"Too many people miss out on the care and support they need. By donating and wearing a daffodil pin in March you are helping us to support more people at the most difficult time of their lives. We want to make sure that everyone affected by terminal illness, wherever they may live, gets the right support, at the right time – whether that is high quality nursing care, emotional and practical support, or fast access to the benefits they need."

Daffodil pins are available from high streets, Marie Curie shops and stores including Superdrug, Spar, Hotter Shoes and Wyevale Garden Centres.

To find out more about the Great Daffodil Appeal, visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil.

The Information and Support Nurses can be accessed through the Support Line on the existing number; 0800 090 2309 from Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm.





Gerald Jones MP Advice Surgeries

Labour MP for Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney



To get in touch or if you would like to visit a surgery, please see my details below:

March 2019

Friday 1st March

Aberfan & Merthyr Vale Community Centre Pant Glas Rd, Aberfan, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4QE	11.00 - 11.30am
Treharris Library Perrott Street, Treharris CF46 5ET	12.00 - 12.30pm

Friday 15th March

Ael Y Bryn Community Centre Aneurin Terrace, Rhymney, NP22 5DR	2.00 - 3.00pm
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April 2019

Friday 5th April

Calfarfa Chapel, Heolgerig Merthyr Tydfil CF48 1SB	2.30 - 3.00pm
Merthyr Tydfil Council Civic Centre, Meeting Room 1 Castle Street, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8AN	3.30 - 4.30pm

Friday 26th April

White Rose Information & Resource Centre Cross Street, Elliotstown, New Tredegar NP24 6EF	10.30 - 11.00am
Deri Community Centre 9 Riverside Walk, Deri, CF81 9GE	11.30 - 12.00 noon

Oldway House
Castle street

Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8UX

Tel: 01685 383739 or 020 7219 5874

Email: Gerald.Jones.MP@parliament.uk

Community Safety in Phillipstown

I was pleased to support local residents and Cllrs Eluned Stenner and Mark Evans at the CANDO Community Safety Initiative that I attended on Saturday 9th March along with Dawn Bowden AM & Jeff Cuthbert, Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent.

The event was well supported by local residents and gave a great opportunity for them to engage with Gwent Police, Caerphilly CBC and other partners to address the issues of concern in the community.



Called on Chancellor to Apologise for Austerity

During the Chancellor's Spring Statement, I asked him to apologise for the pain his austerity policies have caused to public services and local council's.

We know that the budget for the Welsh Government is around £4 billion less than it what in 2010. This has had a huge knock on impact on our public services. After 9 years of austerity, the efficiency savings have been made and all the 'low hanging fruit' has gone. All that is left to cut are jobs and front line services.

Also, in Treasury Question earlier this month, I asked the Treasury in view of the 4,000 manufacturing jobs in Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney whether they felt that Nissan's decision to build its X-Trail in Japan, and similar decisions by Honda, are a sign of things to come as a result of the Government's chaotic negotiations and failure to negotiate a deal to protect the manufacturing industry?

Celebration of success at Fochriw Primary

Earlier this month, I was pleased to attend an event at Fochriw Primary School along with Dawn Bowden AM, Cllr David Hardacre and other guests to celebrate the success of the Mini Police Initiative.

The scheme has been developing over recent months and has helped to grow confidence amongst young people.

Julian Williams, Chief Constable at Gwent Police along with Inspector Andy O'Keefe thanked all the young people for their work.

I have been impressed with the scheme and the variety of the community initiatives that the school have been involved with. I very much look forward to welcoming the children to Parliament for a tour in June.

The scheme is working across the country and we have a number of schools participating in the constituency.



Prince Charles opens Summit Centre

I was delighted to attend the official opening of the Summit Centre in Trelewis by HRH Prince Charles.

The transformation of the site by Rock UK has helped to put Trelewis and the wider Merthyr Tydfil and valleys area on the tourist map.

It is important that we recognise not just the work of Rock UK but also the Taff Bargoed Development Trust and local volunteers.

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council have supported the development of the project and much of the initial work was driven by the former Labour Leader of Merthyr Tydfil CBC, Brendan Toomey and his team and we owe them a vote of thanks too.

Clearly, the project would not have been possible without the financial support from Welsh Government, the National Lottery and other funders.

It was particularly good to see former miners who worked on the site chatting to Prince Charles about how their former place of work has been transformed for a new generation.



Gerald Jones MP & Dawn Bowden AM

Jobs Fair

With Jobcentre Plus

Ael y Bryn Community Centre,

Rhymney, NP22 5DR

Friday 5th April

10am—1pm

Open to everyone looking for help and support finding
employment and training opportunities

Employers and Organisations attending include:

Groundwork Wales, Gwent Police, South Wales Fire & Rescue,
Remploy, Welsh Water, HMRC, Chwarae Teg, BPI Recycling,
Business Wales, Q Care, Centric, Communities for Work, EE,
Transport for Wales ,The Style Team with Wenda.

For more information please contact:

Email: Denise.toomey@parliament.uk or 01685 383739

Selection of Events & Engagements

February	
21st	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Meeting with Kasai, Pentrebach with Dawn Bowden AM in light of the Honda announcement
22nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Coffee Morning & Advice Surgery at High Street Baptist Church with the Older Persons Commissioner & Dawn Bowden AMAttended opening of Summit Centre at Trelewis by HRH Prince Charles
28th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Only Boys Aloud event in Westminster to mark St Davids Day
March	
1st	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Met with Caerphilly CBC to discuss impact of UC on residents in the Upper Rhymney ValleySurgeries at Aberfan and TreharrisMeeting with Leader & Deputy Leaders, Caerphilly CBCMulti agency meeting with residents to tackle ASB in Tirphil
2nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Campaigning in Park Ward with Dawn Bowden AM & Cllr Clive Jones
7th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Celebration of Mini Police Initiative at Fochriw Primary with Dawn Bowden AM & Cllr David HardacreAttended Dowlais & Penydarren Branch meeting.
8th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Met with Woody's Lodge Charity to discuss support for Veterans in Merthyr Tydfil
9th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Attended CANDO event at Phillipstown Community Centre to tackle ASB with Dawn Bowden AM & Cllrs Eluned Stenner & Mark EvansSpent Night Shift with South Wales Roads Policing Team in Merthyr Tydfil
11th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Met with Cllr Carl Cuss & Caerphilly CBC to discuss advice & support services in Upper Rhymney Valley
15th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Meeting with residents in Park Ward regarding the old General hospital site.Advice Surgery at Ael y Bryn, Rhymney



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