Annual Report to constituents 2019

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Mick Antoniw AM

WORKING FOR YOU

STOP PRESS

SAVE OUR A&E!

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Welsh Labour Llafur Cymru

HOW I VOTED

I am honoured to represent you and the interests of the Pontypridd constituency at the National Assembly for Wales (soon to be renamed Senedd, or Welsh Parliament) which turned twenty this year.

In addition to speaking up for Pontypridd at the Assembly, I also chair the **Constitutional Affairs Committee,** which is responsible for scrutinising a range of legislation and I am chair of the Cross Party Groups on **Problem Gambling** and **Contaminated Blood**, both of which have had further success this year in raising awareness of these important public health issues.

I supported the **Childcare Funding (Wales) Act 2019**, which gives the Welsh Government the power to provide funding for its 30 hours free childcare offer for all eligible 3 and 4 year old children of working parents. It's the most generous offer in the UK and one that benefits thousands of families in Pontypridd. The **Renting Homes (Fees etc) (Wales) Act 2019**, which I also supported, bans letting fees in Wales meaning that tenants cannot be charged for things like signing a contract or renewing a tenancy.

Amongst the important legislation proceeding through the Assembly at the moment and which I'm enthusiastically supporting is the **Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill**, which will prohibit the use of wild animals in travelling circuses in Wales and the **Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill** which will deliver a package of reforms, including measures to modernise the conduct of elections, and extend the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds in order to encourage as much interest as possible in local democracy .

This year, I've also been pleased to continue to support legislation which increases the amount of their money that people can keep before paying for **residential care**. The capital limit in Wales is now £50,000 – the highest in the UK and has been delivered two years ahead of schedule. It's also been pleasing to support the Welsh Government's continued investment in schools through its **21st Century Schools** programme. We've seen the benefit of this locally with Tonyrefail Community school officially opened last year and a consultation on a similar significant investment in Bryn Celynnog in Beddau underway.

I continue to campaign for an **ethical housing policy** for Wales. In particular I want to see leaseholders treated fairly . Increasingly freeholders are being targeted with the same sort of unfair practises—mainly in the form of service fees—which leaseholders have endured for many years. This too is wrong and must change. A great deal of the necessary legislation is not devolved, but there are steps we can take in Wales and I'll continue to argue for a fair deal for home-owners at the Assembly.

I've been pleased to welcome a range of community groups to the Assembly in 2019, including members of the University of the Third Age in Llantwit Fardre and local students (both pictured left). If you or your organisation would like to visit the Assembly, please get in touch.

WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

I am hugely encouraged by the number of young people taking an interest in politics. The climate emergency has been a key motivator for many young people as I've discovered on my frequent visits to local primary and secondary schools and during the schools climate protest campaign, which I've also taken part in.

Young people will inherit many of the environmental issues today's politicians are struggling with, so it's absolutely right that their voice is heard. Later this year I'll be jointly hosting a climate change conference for young people in Pontypridd with our newly elected Member of Parliament Alex Davies-Jones.

During the summer I launched a Youth Report, aimed at encouraging young people's engagement in their community and in the issues that affect them most and I continue to welcome students from schools and colleges in our constituency to the National Assembly for Wales.

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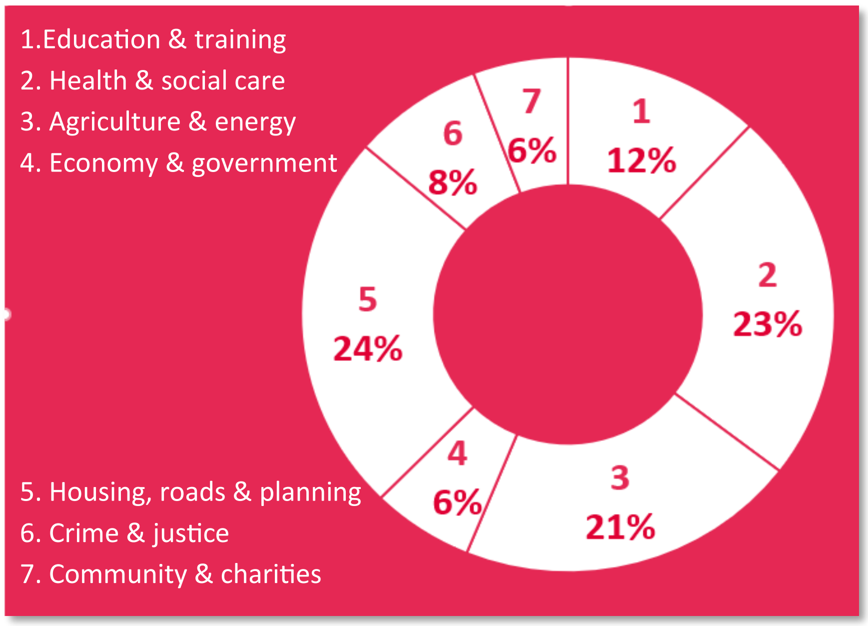
CASEWORK MATTERS

Constituent casework is at the heart of my role as your local Assembly Member. My main focus is always to help resolve your issue as quickly and completely as possible. I hold monthly surgeries around the constituency and carry out a programme of street surgeries. Increasingly my team work with your MP's (Alex Davies-Jones) office on cases to better ensure a positive outcome. If you have any issue you'd like to raise with me please get in touch on any of the numbers below or you can book a surgery appointment via my website: **www.mickantoniw.wales**

Every year I'm happy to help hundreds of individuals and organisations and this year has been no exception. The main issues over the last twelve months have centred on health and housing, with a significant number of people raising education matters and issues around crime (see left).



"Wherever you live in Pontypridd, however you vote or whether you vote or not, **I'm here to help if I can.**"

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My team and I have also seen a spike in the number of people raising concerns about animal welfare. The full roll out date for Universal Credit in Pontypridd is yet to be confirmed, but based on experiences in other constituencies, I expect this to increase the number of cases we help with.

Casework is also often the start of a campaign to bring about a change which will prevent things going wrong in the future, such as a campaign with residents in Dyffryn-y-Coed to ensure new build homes are fitted with high-spec broadband as standard. It can also lead to initiatives such as the 'Over 50 Information Day' I hosted with our then MP in June (see above).

No issue is more important to local people or to me as your local Assembly Member than the provision of high quality medical services, so I share residents' concerns about Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board's intention to review A&E services at the Royal Glamorgan.

SAVE OUR A&E!

Six years ago I was part of the successful campaign which stopped the then proposal to downgrade A&E services. I will campaign alongside Pontypridd's MP, Alex Davies-Jones (and other AMs and MPs, pic left) against any proposal that materially impacts our A&E services. The 'South Wales Programme', on which the proposal is based, is six years old and does not reflect the pressures on A&E today, nor the significant increase in population growth in the immediate area. That's why I have called on Welsh Government to intervene. A robust A&E service must remain available at the Royal Glamorgan into the future.

A&E is a service that we all hope we will never need to use, but if we do, it has to be consultant-led and within easy reach of local people. For me, patient safety is the absolute priority. Please contact me on any of the numbers on page one if you would like further information on the campaign.

AGAINST UNSUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTS

People need houses, but this cannot be at the expense of the wellbeing of existing residents, the community or the local environment.

That's why I've campaigned alongside local residents against large-scale developments, that would put too great a strain of key services and where the transport infrastructure is already struggling to cope.

I'm pleased to have been part of successful campaigns to stop such developments at Cwm Isaf Farm in Efail Isaf and The Meadows in Tonyrefail. I've also spoken against the proposed Ystrad Barwig development in Llantwit Fardre at the recent public enquiry and at the time of writing a decision is still awaited.

WORKING FOR YOU

GWEITHIO AR EICH RHAN CHI

As your elected representative I work with a range of local organisations as well as Welsh Government, RCT Council and our MP Alex Davies-Jones to deliver improvements to our services and infrastructure. Below you'll find some of the highlights during 2019. If you have a project you think I could help with, please get in touch.

Fel eich Aelod Cynulliad lleol, dwi'n gweithio gyda phob math o sefydliadau lleol yn ogystal â Llywodraeth Cymru, Cyngor RhCT a'n Haelod Seneddol lleol Alex Davies-Jones i sicrhau gwelliannau i'n gwasanaethau a'n seilwaith. Dyma rai o uchafbwyntiau 2019 isod. Os ydych chi'n credu y gallwn i helpu gydag unrhyw brosiect sydd gennych chi, yna cysylltwch â mi!

Coedely Working with Welsh Government and RCT's Councillor Robert Bevan (pictured) to help secure £2.6m funding for the Coedely business park on the old coke ovens and colliery site.

Coed-elái: Cydweithio â Llywodraeth Cymru a'r Cynghorydd Robert Bevan o RhCT (llun) gan helpu i sicrhau £2.6 miliwn o gyllid ar gyfer parc busnes Coed-elái, ar safle'r hen lofa a'r gwaith golosg.

Tonyrefail: Following the success in retaining Ponty's Post Office last year I'm delighted to have worked with the Post Office to ensure that Tonyrefail also retained its Post Office at a new premises.

Tonyrefail: Ar ôl llwyddo i gadw swyddfa bost Pontypridd ar agor y llynedd, roeddwn wrth fy modd o weithio gyda Swyddfa'r Post i sicrhau bod Tonyrefail yn cadw ei swyddfa bost hefyd ar safle newydd ar y Stryd Fawr.

Pontypridd: Attending the naming ceremony for Llys Cadwyn, the new Taff Vale precinct with First Minister Mark Drakeford AM. Very pleased to have been able to work with Welsh Government and RCT Council to help deliver this fantastic project.

Pontypridd: Yn seremoni enwi Llys Cadwyn, canolfan newydd Taff Vale. Dwi'n hynod falch o fod wedi cydweithio â Llywodraeth Cymru a Chyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf er mwyn helpu i gyflawni'r prosiect gwych hwn.

Graig: I was delighted to work with local Councillor Jayne Brencher and Network Rail on the project to clean up and install new murals at the 'Gateway to the Graig', which is now a real source of pride in the community."

Graig: Pleser oedd cydweithio â'r Cynghorydd lleol

Graig: Pleser oedd cydweithio â'r Cynghorydd lleol Jayne Brencher a Network Rail ar brosiect i lanhau a gosod murluniau newydd 'Gateway to the Graig', sydd bellach yn destun balchder mawr i'r gymuned leol.

Llantrisant: It has been a pleasure to work with the Guildhall renovation team over a number of years to help secure funding for this fantastic historical project, which was formally opened in May.

Llantrisant: Bu'n bleser gweithio gyda chriw adfywio Neuadd y Dref, Llantrisant dros nifer o flynyddoedd er mwyn helpu i sicrhau cyllid ar gyfer y prosiect hanesyddol hwn a agorwyd yn swyddogol ym mis Mai.

Llantrisant, Church Village, Tonteg, Llantwit Fardre: The South Wales Metro is vital if we're to ease congestion and I've been working with Welsh Government to secure a Llantrisant to Cardiff line, with spurs to Talbot Green and Pontyclun. The first stage of the £135,000 feasibility study is complete with the next planning stage set to start soon.

Llantrisant, Pentre'r Eglwys, Ton-teg, Llanilltud Faerdref: Mae Metro De Cymru yn hollbwysig er mwyn lleihau'r tagfeydd ar ein ffyrdd, a dwi wedi bod yn gweithio gyda Llywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau lein o Lantrisant i Gaerdydd, gyda chysylltiadau i Donysguboriau a Phont-y-clun. Mae cam cynta'r astudiaeth ddichonoldeb gwerth £135,000 wedi'i gwblhau, ac mae'r cam cynllunio nesaf ar fin cychwyn.

Efail Isaf: I've consistently supported local residents against unsustainable large-scale developments and, after a long campaign, I was pleased that the Cwm Isaf Fardre development was rejected by Councillors and later withdrawn by the developers.

Efail Isaf: Dwi wedi cefnogi trigolion lleol droeon i frwydro yn erbyn datblygiadau anghynaladwy ar raddfa fawr ac, wedi ymgyrch hir, yn falch fod datblygiad Cwm Isaf, Llanilltud Faerdref, wedi'i wrthod gan Gynghorwyr a'i dynnu'n ôl gan y datblygwyr maes o law.

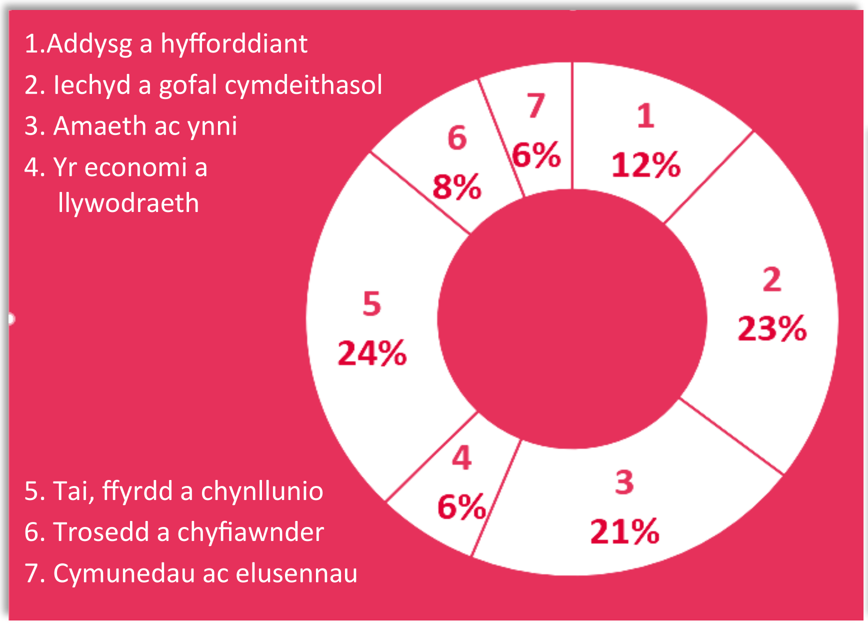
Taff's Well: I've campaigned for the South Wales Metro for many years and was delighted that Taff's Well was chosen as the location for the Metro control centre and to join Transport Minister Ken Skates AM at the ground-breaking ceremony in January 2020.

Ffynnon Taf: Dwi wedi ymgyrchu dros Metro De Cymru ers blynyddoedd lawer, felly roeddwn i wrth fy modd fod Ffynnon Taf wedi'i dewis fel canolfan reoli'r Metro. Ymunais â'r Gweinidog Trafnidiaeth Ken Skates AC mewn seremoni torri tir newydd ym mis Ionawr 2020.

MATERION GWAITH ACHOSION

Mae gwaith achos yn rhan ganolog o'm gwaith fel eich Aelod Cynulliad lleol. Fy mhrif bwyslais bob amser yw helpu i ddatrys eich problem cyn gynted ag mor gyflawn â phosib. Dwi'n cynnal cymorthfeydd rheolaidd ar hyd a lled yr etholaeth yn ogystal â rhaglen o gymorthfeydd stryd. Mae fy nhîm yn gweithio fwyfwy â swyddfa'ch AS (Alex Davies-Jones) ar achosion er mwyn sicrhau canlyniad cadarnhaol. Os hoffech chi godi unrhyw fater neu broblem gyda mi, cysylltwch trwy ffonio un o'r rhifau isod neu gallwch drefnu apwyntiad cymhorthfa drwy fy ngwefan: www.mickantoniw.wales

Bob blwyddyn, dwi'n falch o helpu cannoedd o unigolion a sefydliadau a dyw eleni ddim yn wahanol. Materion iechyd a thai oedd prif bynciau trafod y 12 mis diwethaf, gyda nifer sylweddol o bobl yn codi materion iechyd a phroblemau troseddol (gweler ar y chwith). Hefyd, mae fy nhîm a minnau wedi gweld cynnydd yn nifer y bobl sy'n codi pryderon am les anifeiliaid. Nid yw'r dyddiad cyflwyno llawn ar gyfer y Credyd Cynhwysol ym Mhontypridd wedi'i gadarnhau eto, ond yn seiliedig ar brofiadau mewn etholaethau eraill, rwy'n disgwyl gweld cynnydd o ganlyniad yn nifer yr achosion rydym yn helpu â nhw.



Yn aml iawn, gwaith achos yw dechrau ymgyrch dros newid a fydd yn atal rhywbeth rhag mynd o'i le yn y dyfodol – fel ymgyrchu gyda thrigolion Dyffryn y Coed i sicrhau bod tai newydd yn cynnwys band eang o'r radd flaenaf fel gwasanaeth safonol. Gall arwain hefyd at fentrau fel 'Diwrnod gwybodaeth i bobl dros 50 oed' a gynhaliais gyda'r AS ar y pryd ym mis Mehefin (uchod).

"Ble bynnag rydych chi'n byw ym Mhontypridd, sut bynnag rydych chi'n pleidleisio neu os nad ydych chi'n pleidleisio, dwi yma i'ch helpu os oes modd"

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Does dim yn bwysicach i drigolion lleol nac i mi fel eich Aelod Cynulliad lleol na gwasanaethau meddygol o safon uchel. Dyna pam rwy'n rhannu pryderon trigolion am fwriad Bwrdd Iechyd Cwm Taf Morgannwg i adolygu gwasanaethau damweiniau ac achosion brys Ysbyty Brenhinol Morgannwg.

ACHUB EIN A&E!

Chwe blynedd yn ôl roeddwn yn rhan o'r ymgyrch lwyddiannus i atal y cynnig i israddio gwasanaethau damweiniau ac achosion brys ar y pryd. Byddaf yn ymgyrchu gydag AS Pontypridd, Alex Davies-Jones (ac ACau ac ASau eraill, gweler y llun ar y chwith) yn erbyn unrhyw gynnig sy'n cael effaith sylweddol ar y gwasanaethau hyn. Mae 'Rhaglen De Cymru', sy'n sail i'r cynnig, yn chwe blwydd oed ac nid yw'n adlewyrchu'r pwysau ar y gwasanaeth damweiniau ac achosion brys heddiw, na'r cynnydd sylweddol ym mhoblogaeth ardal yr ysbyty. Dyna pam rwyf wedi gofyn i Lywodraeth Cymru ymyrryd. Mae'n rhaid sicrhau y bydd adran damweiniau ac achosion brys dda yn dal i fod ar gael yn Ysbyty Brenhinol Morgannwg yn y dyfodol.

Mae pob un ohonom yn gobeithio na fydd angen i ni ddefnyddio adran damweiniau ac achosion brys, ond os bydd rhaid, dylai gael ei harwain gan feddyg ymgynghorol a dylai fod o fewn cyrraedd hawdd i bobl leol. I mi, diogelwch cleifion yw'r flaenoriaeth lwyr. Cysylltwch â mi ar unrhyw un o'r rhifau ar dudalen un os hoffech chi gael rhagor o wybodaeth am yr ymgyrch.

YN ERBYN DATBLYGIADAU ANGHYNALIADWY

Mae pobl angen tai, ond ni all hyn fod ar draul lles trigolion presennol, y gymuned neu'r amgylchedd lleol.

Dyna pam rwyf wedi ymgyrchu gyda thrigolion lleol yn erbyn datblygiadau mawr, a fyddai'n rhoi gormod o straen ar wasanaethau allweddol a lle mae'r seilwaith trafnidiaeth dan bwysau'n barod.

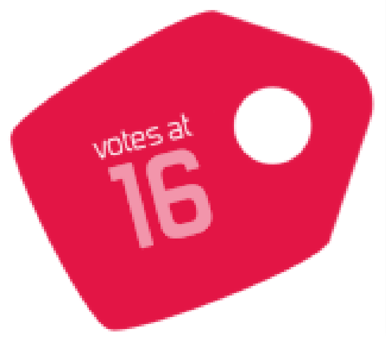
Dyna pam rwy'n falch fy mod wedi cymryd rhan mewn ymgyrchoedd llwyddiannus i atal datblygiadau o'r fath yn Fferm Cwm Isaf, Efail Isaf a The Meadows, Tonyrefail. Rwyf wedi siarad yn erbyn datblygiad arfaethedig Ystrad Barwig yn Llanilltud Faerdref hefyd yn yr ymchwiliad cyhoeddus diweddar. Adeg ysgrifennu hyn roeddem yn dal i ddisgwyl penderfyniad.

SUT WNES I BLEIDLEISIO

Mae'n fraint eich cynrychioli chi a buddiannau Pontypridd yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol (a fydd yn cael ei ailenwi'n 'Senedd' neu 'Welsh Parliament' cyn bo hir) a ddathlodd ei ben-blwydd yn ugain oed y llynedd.

Yn ogystal â siarad dros etholaeth Pontypridd yn y Cynulliad, rwy'n cadeirio'r Pwyllgor Materion Cyfansoddiadol hefyd, sy'n gyfrifol am graffu ar wahanol ddarnau o ddeddfwriaeth. Rwy'n gadeirydd y Grwpiau Trawsbleidiol ar Gamblo Problemus a Gwaed wedi'i Heintio hefyd – ac fe gafodd y naill a'r llall lwyddiant pellach eleni o ran codi ymwybyddiaeth o'r materion iechyd cyhoeddus pwysig hyn.

Cefnogais Ddeddf Cyllido Gofal Plant (Cymru) 2019, sy'n rhoi'r pŵer i Lywodraeth Cymru ddarparu cyllid ar gyfer ei gynnig ar gyfer 30 awr o ofal plant am ddim, i bob plentyn cymwys 3 a 4 oed sydd â rhieni sy'n gweithio. Dyma'r cynnig mwyaf hael yn y DU, sydd o fudd i filoedd o deuluoedd ym Mhontypridd. Mae Deddf Rhentu Cartrefi (Ffioedd etc) (Cymru) 2019, a gefnogais hefyd, yn gwahardd ffioedd gosod cartrefi yng Nghymru sy'n golygu na cheir codi tâl ar denantiaid am bethau fel llofnodi contract neu adnewyddu tenantiaeth.



Ymysg y darnau pwysig o ddeddfwriaeth sy'n mynd drwy'r Cynulliad ar hyn o bryd mae Bil Anifeiliaid Gwyllt a Syrcasau (Cymru), a fydd yn gwahardd defnyddio anifeiliaid gwyllt mewn syrcasau teithiol yma yng Nghymru – ac rwy'n cefnogi hyn i'r carn. Hefyd, Bil Llywodraeth Leol ac Etholiadau (Cymru) a fydd yn cyflwyno pecyn o ddiwygiadau, gan gynnwys mesurau i foderneiddio'r dull o gynnal etholiadau, ac ehangu'r bleidlais i bobl ifanc 16 ac 17 oed er mwyn annog cymaint â phosib o ddiddordeb mewn democratiaeth leol.

Eleni, roeddwn i'n falch o barhau i gefnogi deddfwriaeth sy'n cynyddu'r swm o arian y gall pobl ei gadw cyn talu am ofal preswyl. Bellach, £50,000 yw'r terfyn cyfalaf yng Nghymru - yr uchaf yn y DU, ac mae wedi cael ei gyflwyno ddwy flynedd yn gynt na'r disgwyl. Pleser hefyd oedd cefnogi buddsoddiad parhaus Llywodraeth Cymru mewn ysgolion trwy raglen Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif. Gwelsom fanteision hyn yn lleol, pan agorwyd Ysgol Gymuned Tonyrefail yn swyddogol y llynedd, ac mae ymgynghoriad ar droed ar fuddsoddiad sylweddol tebyg yn ysgol Bryncelynnog, Beddau hefyd.

Rwy'n parhau i ymgyrch dros bolisi tai moesegol yng Nghymru. Yn arbennig, hoffwn weld lesddeiliaid yn cael eu trin yn deg. Yn gynyddol, mae rhydd-ddeiliaid yn cael eu targedu gyda'r un arferion annheg – ar ffurf ffioedd gwasanaeth yn bennaf – y mae lesddeiliaid wedi'u dioddef ers blynyddoedd. Nid yw hyn yn iawn chwaith, a rhaid i hyn newid. Nid yw llawer iawn o'r ddeddfwriaeth angenrheidiol wedi'i datganoli, ond mae camau y gallwn ni eu cymryd yng Nghymru, a byddaf yn parhau i ddadlau yn y Cynulliad dros fargen deg i berchnogion cartrefi.

Roedd hi'n braf croesawu pob math o grwpiau cymuned i'r Cynulliad yn 2019, gan gynnwys aelodau Prifysgol y Drydedd Oes yn Llanilltud Faerdref a myfyrwyr lleol (chwith). Os hoffech chi neu'ch sefydliad ddod draw i'r Cynulliad, cofiwch gysylltu â mi.

GWEITHIO GYDA PHOBL IFANC

Dwi wedi fy nghalonogi'n fawr gan yr holl bobl ifanc sy'n cymryd diddordeb mewn gwleidyddiaeth. Mae'r argyfwng hinsawdd wedi bod yn gymhelliant allweddol i lawer o bobl ifanc fel yr wyf wedi gweld yn ystod fy ymweliadau rheolaidd ag ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd ac adeg y protestiadau newid hinsawdd y cymerais ran ynddynt.

Pobl ifanc fydd yn etifeddu llawer o'r problemau amgylcheddol y mae llawer o wleidyddion heddiw'n straffaglu â nhw, felly mae'n gwbl briodol bod eu lleisiau'n cael eu clywed. Yn ddiweddarach eleni, byddaf yn cynnal cynhadledd newid hinsawdd i bobl ifanc ym Mhontypridd, ar y cyd ag Alex Davies-Jones ein Haelod Seneddol newydd.

Yn ystod yr haf, lansiais Adroddiad Ieuenctid gyda'r nod o ennyn diddordeb pobl ifanc yn eu cymuned a'r problemau sy'n effeithio fwyaf arnyn nhw, a dwi'n parhau i groesawu myfyrwyr o ysgolion a cholegau'r etholaeth i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol.

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Adroddiad Blynyddol i etholwyr

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