

Beth Winter MP



August 2020 Update

Shwmae pawb,

Despite the Parliamentary recess, August has been another busy month for me and my team.

The team have not stopped working over the summer and have been responding to enquiries from constituents as usual. There is no 'In the Bubble' section this month due to Parliament not sitting, however an update on my activities is overleaf.

August has seen the bulk of the work completed on my office at 8 Victoria Square, Aberdare. There is very little left that needs to be done. Throughout September and October the team will gradually start to work from the office, whilst also continuing to work from home as they have been doing until this point.

In normal times I would want the office to act as a community hub, open and accessible to anybody who wanted to drop in. Unfortunately, these are not normal times, and I am awaiting further guidance from Parliament before we are able to welcome Members and constituents into the office. My Office Manager Mark will say a little more about the office later in this update.

I look forward to speaking with you all soon,

Keep safe – cadwch yn ddiogel.

Pob hwyl – best wishes

Beth

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Winter".

Cynon Valley



On 1 August, I joined Unite the Union and other elected representatives in Caerphilly on a '[Walk for Jobs](#)' to protest against potential job losses at GE Aviation. These are highly skilled jobs that we must do everything we can to protect. The loss of these jobs will have wider implications for our communities, affecting local businesses for instance. We all know that we must fly less to avoid catastrophic climate change.

We know that this process will hit workers in the sector. We must support them through a just transition to a greener future. The Chancellor Rishi Sunak needs to live up to [his promise](#) to support the aviation sector in the short term, so that it can adapt.



The following weekend I was proud to [stand in solidarity](#) with protesting NHS workers in Merthyr Tydfil demanding a pay rise following the incredible work they've put in over the pandemic. #ClapforCarers was our way as a nation of saying thank you to our NHS and care workers for everything that they have done over the course of the Covid-19 crisis. Now we must stand alongside all key workers, and say that now is the time for a pay rise to properly recognise their contribution. Our key workers have been underpaid, and undervalued for too long.

Following the decision to scrap free TV licences for the over 75s, I am determined that nobody in Cynon Valley pays unnecessarily for a TV licence. This month I [launched a campaign](#) alongside Age Connects Morgannwg, Citizens Advice Rhondda Cynon Taf and Alzheimer's Society Cymru to encourage take up of Pension Credit. If you are claim Pension Credit and are 75+, you will still be entitled to a TV licence. Thousands of pensioners in Wales are missing out on Pension Credit that they are eligible for, worth on average £3000 per year! It can also open the door to other benefits. If you or anyone you know receives a state pension, please [get in touch](#) to find out if you are eligible for Pension Credit.

Cynon Valley

I have continued getting out across our Communities here in Cynon Valley. This month it was a privilege to meet with the [Ynysybwl Regeneration Partnership](#) to discuss some really exciting plans to develop local services in the village and across RCT. I also visited Cilfynydd Community Centre to discuss their plans. I met with The Black Curriculum to discuss teaching Black History and representatives from the University and College Union to discuss the ongoing uncertainty faced by the Higher Education sector.



I have continued to work alongside local Councillors on a number of issues, including the Enviroparks proposals, the Penderyn quarry and the site of the Abercwmboi Phurnacite plant. I am also in discussion with an organisation in Wales that is interested in developing a Universal Basic Income scheme - something I have [raised in Parliament](#) and [written about](#).

I must also mention the A-level results fiasco. The UK Govt got this very wrong, and in spite of the differences here in Wales, it was clear that an algorithm is not an acceptable way to determine our young people's future prospects. This process was not one that promoted equality in educational opportunity and it caused a lot of stress and anxiety to students. I'm glad that in the end the right decision was made which relieved stress for GCSE students. The wait that BTEC students have then had for their results was also not acceptable. The NEU do have a [petition](#) online that you can sign putting some valid to Welsh Government in order to assist next year's students who have also missed out on crucial school time this year.



Photos from my visit to Cilfynydd Community Centre last week.

Mark's Musings



Mark Davey
Office Manager

Office Update

I'm Mark and as many of you already know, I'm Beth's Office Manager. I will share a little more of the function of my role. If ever there is anything I can do to help, don't hesitate to get in touch.

The Office Manager does what it says on the tin and manages the office. It is my duty to oversee and bring together Westminster staff and the team at the Constituency Office; this is executed through supervision, supporting team members, time management, accessing training, organising team meetings and team planning days, staff recruitment, monitoring staff leave and sickness, plus other HR functions.

It is also my responsibility to keep abreast of the office budget, pay invoices, liaise with utility companies and other organisations. Part

of the role is to ensure the Westminster and Constituency offices are fully equipped with everything we need to operate – from stationary to furniture to equipment. Welcoming visitors and volunteers to the office, post-covid, will also be an important feature.

In addition, offering professional support and assistance to the MP where required, helping manage the inbox & diary as well as protecting Beth's time are also a key functions.

The team will be intermittently working out of the office from now on, however we are not yet able to welcome constituents to the office. We have sourced office furniture from Too Good to Waste and from the Council's stores.

The plan is that the office is open and accessible to all, for people to pop in whenever they like, however with Covid-19 situation, these plans must remain on ice. We have a large reception room, and a ground floor meeting room which will be used not only for internal purposes, but will also be available to local organisations. For instance it is available to the CLP to use. An accessible toilet has also been installed.

Mark

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