

# Mike Hedges MS

Member of the Senedd for Swansea East



Welsh Labour  Llafur Cymru

**SENEDD REPORT – November 23**



## **ENDING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC FOR A GREENER WALES**

Last month, the first phase of the Welsh Governments comprehensive ban on single-use plastic came into force across Wales. The ban on the most commonly-littered single-use plastics in Wales was a 2021 Welsh Labour pledge, I am proud to see this commitment being fulfilled. The ban will help to stop plastic damaging our beaches, streets and wildlife, making things better for generations to come. Items included in this stage of the ban include: single-use plates, cutlery, drink stirrers and takeaway containers made of polystyrene.

## **GAZA CEASEFIRE**

I was very pleased to support the resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. The motion calling for a 'ceasefire', condemned the attacks by Hamas on Israeli civilians, and the Israeli government's "indiscriminate attacks on Gaza". It was carried by 24 votes to 19 with members of the government abstaining.

I condemn the terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas on the 7th of October and I call for all the hostages to be released unconditionally.

It is time to bring an end to this terrible conflict which has taken the lives of innocents on both sides.

## **SCHOOL ESSENTIALS GRANT HELPS OVER 10,000 CHILDREN IN WALES**

The Grant can provide up to £200 to help families on lower incomes with essentials such as school uniforms, shoes, bags and school activities. Last year, 10,055 children across Wales were supported through the Grant.

I know that during the cost of living crisis, many families will be anxious about making sure children have all they need. The grant can help children with some of the barriers to attending, and feeling comfortable in school, as well as taking part in activities with their friends.

The grant is currently open and will close on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024. Families can check with their Swansea Council to see if they are eligible to receive support.



## **WALES MOVES CLOSER TO ENDING HOMELESSNESS**

On World Homelessness Day 2023, the Welsh Government announced an ambitious plan for Wales. Reforming housing law is a key priority for the Welsh Labour Government, with a wish to end all forms of homelessness across the country. Part of this plan will be preventing the risk of homelessness at the earliest stage possible and offering a person-centred, trauma-informed services to those who are facing homelessness.

It is so important that everyone in Wales has somewhere to call home and these steps will help more people to do so.



## BOWEL SCREENING AGE LOWERED

The Welsh Labour Government has lowered the age of bowel-screening across Wales to 51.

If you are aged between 51-54, you will now automatically receive a free at-home testing kit every two years. People aged 55-74 are already eligible for bowel screening.

Bowel screening can help to detect cancer at an early stage. We know that at least

9 out of 10 people will survive bowel cancer if it's found and treated early.

The test can be completed in your own home. Once a test has been sent off the results will be with you within two weeks.

If you are worried about how to complete the test or would like advice on what happens next the [NHS Wales](https://www.nhs.uk) website has helpful advice and resources.

### HISTORIC BAN ON SNARES AND GLUE TRAPS ENFORCED

The Welsh Labour Government are leading the way on animal welfare. Last month, Wales became the first UK nation to make snares and glue traps illegal. This total ban will end unbearable suffering of animals, including pets who sometimes, tragically, have had to be put to sleep due to the injuries sustained.

It is great to know that the lives of many animals will be saved including wildlife, pets and farm animals.



I am pleased to support USDAW's Freedom from Fear campaign to promote politeness to shop workers & to remind shoppers abuse will not be tolerated. Archived photograph.

### Articles

Housing- Nation Cymru- 23<sup>rd</sup> October

20 or 30 MPH- update article

Welsh Fabians- 26<sup>th</sup> October

20 or 30 MPH- Politically speaking- Evening Post – 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Child poverty in Wales-

Morning Star 8<sup>th</sup> November

Children living in poverty-

Nation Cymru 9<sup>th</sup> November

### Constituency Activity

\* Met WJEC to discuss

changes to GCSE examinations

\* Bishop Vaughan School

Presentation Evening

\* Danygraig School Senedd

\* St Thomas Library Surgery

\* Llansamlet Library Surgery

\* Hafod School Surgery

\* Morryston Library surgery

\* Ynystawe School

\* Hafod School

\* Plasmarl School

\* Ynystawe Cricket and

Football Club

\* Deaf Children Society

\* USDAW respect for shop workers

\* Meet WLGA and local Council Leader

\* Meet NRW re flooding

\* Poppy Wreath on Paddington Train

### ADVICE SURGERIES

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 3-4pm @

Brynhyfryd Library

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 3-4pm @

Morryston Library

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2-3pm @

Penlan Library

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 3-4pm @

Llansamlet Library

## Get in touch

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