

Throughout February and March, I have dealt with a range of issues, from the education budget to the Tir Mynydd agricultural scheme.

Of course one of the highlights for me was the official opening of the Senedd on the 1st March. The new building is an outstanding piece of artwork and holds a warm welcome for any visitors. Since the opening I have met with a stream of constituents visiting including groups from the Llandrindod Wells Inner Wheel and Builth Wells High School, and residents from Crickhowell and Erwood. If you would like to visit the Senedd in the future please let me know and I should be more than happy to meet with you and book tickets for you to watch a debating session.

I have also spent time in the Assembly meeting tourism operators from mid and west Wales, meeting with Minister for Economic Development and Transport to discuss the Newbridge-on-Wye by-pass and meeting a delegation from Dyfed-Powys Police.

I have asked Written Questions to Ministers on:-

Kidney Dialysis in Community Hospitals
Home Oxygen Supplies in Wales
Cost of Administering Objective 1, 2 and 3
TB Compensation
School Buildings Improvement Grant
Tir Mynydd
Education Budget
Targets for increasing Public Transport
Bioethanol Fuel Pumps
Marketing and Financing Prescription Charges
Prescription Charges
Manufacturing Skills Academy
Youth Hostel Closures
Green Jobs
Balancing Employment with Public Sector Roles
Environmental Rating of Official WAG cars

I asked Oral Questions in the Assembly on:-

Adoption of New Technology in the NHS
Plans to Promote Social Inclusion
Vulnerable Children
Effect of Energy Costs on School Budgets
Backlog of School Building Maintenance
Future of Healthcare in Mid and West Wales
Road Maintenance
Equal Pay for Women

I have spoken in the Assembly on the:-

Improving the Welfare of Animals
Healthcare Drugs
Access to Primary Care Services
Welsh Police Forces
Regeneration of Town Centres
European Structural Funds
Assembly Sponsored Public Body Pensions
Drugs Approval
Economic Prosperity
Free School Breakfasts
Delivering our Promises
Financing of the WDA and WTB



Meanwhile in the constituency I have arranged meetings with secondary and primary school headteachers in Brecon and Radnorshire which I now plan to make a yearly event. These meetings have been well received and the headteachers have raised a number of points which I shall pursue in the National Assembly for Wales and with Powys County Council.

My driving skills were under the spotlight last month when I undertook a drive check with the Institute of Advanced Motoring in Llandrindod Wells. It's a scheme which offers drivers feedback on their current driving skills and how they might be improved. Roger and I were

particularly delighted to be the first parliamentarians to take part in this scheme. Driving is the most dangerous activity that most of us perform in our daily lives, and yet few of us will have received any additional training since we originally learnt to drive. Improving driver education is key to reducing road accidents, and I would encourage all drivers to consider undertaking further training, such as that offered by the IAM.

I have also met with many constituents over the past two months to discuss various concerns from housing to the health service, and held advice surgeries in Pontneddvaughan, Llandrindod Wells, Rhayader, Ystradgynlais, Talgarth, Knighton, Ynyswen, New Radnor, Llanwrtyd Wells.

I have been out and about at various events including the official start of work on Talgarth by-pass, the Brecknock YFC Drama Festival, the launch of the new rescue boat in Hay-on-Wye and the launch of new co-responder units in Llandrindod Wells. I attended a service at St Mary's Church in Hay-on-Wye to celebrate the restoration work that's taken place there and the official opening of Brecon Advice Centre. I visited J L French in Presteigne, met some athletes from Coleg Powys, attended the Fairtrade Coffee Morning in Brecon, the launch of Pews and Views in Llangorse and presented a cheque to Hay-on-Wye Camera Club.

I have also attended a meeting with Powys Local Health Board to discuss some concerns on the health service, and a meeting with the local branch of the Farmers Union of Wales to discuss Tir Mynydd and TB amongst other things. I chaired a meeting in Bronllys regarding the possibility of a Motor Cross Track in the area, arranged and attended a meeting with the Minister for Economic Development and Transport in Llyswen regarding traffic issues, and met with Pontneddfechan Old Age Pensioners and Llawrtyd Wells Town Council to discuss various concerns they had.



Kirsty talking to the Postmistress in Pontneddfechan

Finally, I have been campaigning to retain the Post Office Card Account and support our Post Offices. I have written to all Postmasters and Postmistresses in Brecon and Radnorshire and am organising a petition. Now I need your help ! I am already collecting correspondence from concerned constituents; it is my hope then to travel to London to present them personally to the Minister responsible for this absurd decision. We have to show them we value our local post offices and don't intend to lose them without a fight !

Kirsty