

VOTE

Michelle Symonds



Independent/Annibynnol Bedlinog & Trelewis

Background

I was born in Aberdare and moved to Merthyr Vale in 1993. I have also lived in the villages of Treharris and Aberfan. I am married to Dan, have 2 daughters and a stepson. We moved to Trelewis almost 5 years ago.

I was educated at Afon Taf High School and went onto study BSc Psychology and Sociology at Glamorgan University (now the University of South Wales).

For the past 10 years I have worked as Community Engagement Manager for Nest, part of the Welsh Governments Warm Homes Programme, managed by British Gas. This role has allowed me to work with communities, organisations and schools across Wales; delivering employment, education and energy efficiency initiatives.

Our Local Community

I believe we all have the right to feel safe and thrive in the areas of which we live.

I have successfully set up a local Neighbourhood Watch Area and helped organise the installation of a defibrillator.

At the height of the pandemic co-ordinated community support for Taf Bargoed Food Bank. Most recently, engaging the local community with donations for the Ukraine.

I have organised and attended litter picks with Keep Wales Tidy Merthyr and Malcolm Colbran. Last summer, I also supported Malcolm with the Summer Play Scheme in Bedlinog.

Involvement in Local Organisations

I am proud to be serving my 11th year as Community Governor at Ysgol Gymraeg Rhyd y Grug, Aberfan, where I have held the position of Chair of Governors for 6 years.

I am also an active member of:

- MTCBC Welsh Education Forum
- RhAG Merthyr (Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg, RhAG which means Parents for Welsh medium education)
- Merthyr Tydfil's School Governors Association
- Merthyr Tydfil's Chair and Vice-chair Forum
- Central South Consortium's Steering Group

I have also served as a co-opted member on MTCBC Learning and LGES (Local Government Education Service) Scrutiny Committee.

I am an appointed Regional Lead of Governance for Central South Consortium, supporting Governing Body's across South East Wales.

I am a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, my role is to connect and support non-members, participating members, local police and partners, actively involved in keeping our neighbourhood safe.

Commitment

My three main passions are education, eradicating poverty and tackling isolation and loneliness.

I want all our children to have access to the best education and experiences embracing our Welsh Language and Culture and to deliver a Welsh Language education setting within our ward.

I want to support and promote anti-poverty and tackling isolation and loneliness initiatives within Merthyr so that our ward is not forgotten about.

I am passionate to make Bedlinog & Trelewis a place of safety and thrive with engagement and collaboration.

For me, community cohesion is so important, and I am passionate about creating these strong community networks and nurturing a sense of belonging and confidence in local people.

You

You have two votes in the upcoming elections, and I would be delighted if you would use these for myself and Malcolm Colbran.

Malcolm and I are standing as joint Independent/Annibynnol candidates as we share the same ethos and values to our community.

I am looking forward to getting to know you so please say 'Hello/Shwmae' when you see me out walking.

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