

with Ynys Môn MP
Virginia Crosbie

london beat

Winning freeport is hugely exciting first step... now we must make the most of it

MAE gan Ynys Môn nawr statws porthladd rhydd! Hyd yn oed cyn i mi gael fy ethol, roedd sicrhau porthladd rhydd ar gyfer Ynys Môn yn un o fy ymgyrchoedd pwysicaf. Bu rhaid i fy nhad adael Cymru er mwyn chwilio am waith - a dyna pam y bu sicrhau swyddi crefftus o'r ansawdd orau yn nod i mi, a dyna'n union fydd y porthladd rhydd yn ei gynnig.

YNYS Môn now has freeport status! Even before I was elected, delivering a freeport to Ynys Môn has been one of my most important campaigns. My dad had to leave Wales in search of work - which is why delivering high-quality, skilled jobs on the island has been my mission, and that is what a freeport will do.

In my mind, there has never been any doubt as to the positive impact that a freeport would have for communities on Anglesey, transforming lives for my constituents through thousands of new high-quality jobs, skills and multi-million-pound business investments. The hard work begins now to ensure that the companies who want to participate and invest in the freeport can do so freely and easily, bringing investment to the island on a scale never seen before.

So how do freeports work, what do I mean when talking of all this good news, new jobs and investment? How in reality will this work for my constituents and the people of North Wales?

Freeports are designated areas within the UK's borders where simplified customs and trade rules and regulations apply, to make processes faster and more efficient.

So, if a company wants to build the next wave of SMRs on the island, they can import the materials they need, our workers build these reactors of the future and export them, all without red tape or customs tax. This encourages businesses to set up and stay on Ynys Môn.

The freeport will extend 45km from Holyhead port, covering the whole Island of Ynys Môn, with four zones designated as tax or customs sites. The proposed sites are Holyhead Port (including the former Anglesey Aluminium site and deep-water jetty), Parc Cybi, Rhosgoch and M-SParc Science Park.

For Ynys Môn, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Global names including GE Hitachi, Rolls-Royce and Fujitsu are already lining up, looking to invest in Anglesey as a key

● Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Virginia Crosbie, MP for Ynys Môn, arrive at the Port of Holyhead. Picture by Simon Dawson / No 10 Downing Street



global trading destination.

I hope you will join me in shared excitement, thinking about the potential for these organisations to offer our young people new skills and jobs, which will retain talented people here on the island.

This freeport will bring young people, professionals and return-to-workers a myriad of opportunities to grow their skills. For too long this island has seen a devastating exodus of talented people leaving in search of work and employment elsewhere, now, Anglesey will become a talent hub for innovation and skills.

Bangor University, M-SParc, the Institute of Export and International Trade, and Grwp Llandrillo Menai will all play a leading role in transforming local talent to take advantage of the employment opportunities afforded by the freeport.

By empowering communities with

the skills to take on new, exciting employment opportunities which the freeport will bring, Anglesey's proud communities and identity will be protected.

But it's not just about attracting new businesses - freeport status will also benefit existing businesses and industries on Anglesey. By bringing in jobs, higher wages and new businesses, existing business will be able to expand and grow. From coffee shop owners like Kristian Cuffin to taxi drivers to construction workers - everyone can benefit from the freeport economic windfall.

Even beyond the benefits to opportunities, to jobs and new and existing businesses, our town centres will see investment too.

Town centre sites like the former Woolworths building in Market Street, Holyhead, that has been empty since 2008 when the high street giant

folded, are in need of investment and bringing back to life.

As we keep our talent on the island, as businesses benefit, so our towns will see investment to provide the services that these new workers will need.

In a further boost to Anglesey, the freeport news comes just one week after the government's budget announced they would contribute £20m towards the refurbishment of Holyhead Breakwater and unleash the potential of nuclear power.

After over three years of campaigning for a Ynys Môn freeport, I believe our island has a bright future. I want to thank everyone who has supported this campaign, my constituents, businesses, Stena and the Council, as well as so many others.

This is just the first step, and I will continue to work hard to make sure that the promise that this freeport

brings to Ynys Môn is delivered on.

I will not stop until we have made sure that there are jobs and opportunities for everyone on the island.

This demonstrates what we can achieve for Anglesey when we work together in such a constructive way.

I enjoy meeting as many constituents as possible, as well as helping individuals, groups and organisations with problems, projects and ideas. You can contact me at virginia.crosbie.mp@parliament.uk or call me on 01407 644645. Diolch yn fawr.

Rwy'n mwynhau cyfarfod â chymaint o etholwyr â phosibl, yn ogystal â helpu unigolion, grwpiau a sefydliadau gydaphroblemau, prosiectau a syniadau. Yna cysylltwch â ni - byddwn wrth fy modd yn clywed genych - gallwch gysylltuâ mi ar virginia.crosbie.mp@parliament.uk neu ffoniwch fi ar 01407 644645. Diolch yn fawr.