

with Ynys Môn MP  
Virginia Crosbie

london beat

# When we work together – we win together

**O** Sgwylwch Gwestiynau'r Prif Weinidog yn y Tŷ Cyffredin, neu ddilyn llawer o'r hyn sydd ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol, mae'n bosib iawn y byddech yn credu mai proffesiwn o sarhau eich glylydd yw gwleidyddiaeth.

**I** F you watch Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons, or follow much that is said on social media, you'd be forgiven for thinking that politics is about throwing insults at each other.

However, in practice the way we get things done is much more collaborative than some would have you believe.

For me being your Member of Parliament for Ynys Môn is about how I can help make people's daily lives better and how I can give a voice to those who feel they have none. As we face a cost-of-living crisis in a post-pandemic economy, it is important that we work collaboratively. As taxpayers we need to know that our hard-earned money is being spent making the UK more united and productive, not more divided and ineffective.

In Westminster, Prime Minister's Questions belies the reality of Parliament. The reality is that, whilst we may have different viewpoints, it is bringing those different viewpoints together that means we can develop legislation to meet the needs of our constituents.

Michele Obama - the first African American First Lady - puts it well:

"Because you don't come up with the right answer if everyone at the table looks the same and thinks the same and has the same experience - you never come up with the best answer.

"So when you get these seats at these tables of power, your obligation is to make sure the conversation is diverse."

Bill Committees - like the Nuclear Energy (Financing) Bill Committee - are comprised of MPs from all different parties and hear evidence from a range of representatives so that we can understand what needs to be addressed when creating new laws.

APPGs (All Party Parliamentary Groups) bring together cross-party MPs, Peers and experts to discuss and represent a range of different needs and interests across the alphabet from autism to zoos.

Information events in Westminster like those on diabetes, mental health and cycling are open to all MPs regardless of their political persuasion.

Parliament is no different to any other workplace in this regard - collaboration is key.

If we all stood shouting at each other the whole time, we would achieve nothing.

Having input from different political parties - and different points of view - is a critical part of the process of government at all levels from community councils to national government.

That is why I take a very open approach to working with others from all political parties.

As your Member of Parliament, I have much to offer by way of support and engagement. I meet regularly with Ministers of State, I can take issues directly to governing bodies and I have a huge network of contacts I can tap into on your behalf.

I believe that those elected to government at any level have a responsibility to do this.



● Virginia Crosbie MP with Labour Holyhead Mayor Cllr Hywel Williams outside Picnics, Holyhead

Not least because they are elected to represent and serve a group of people who will have a whole spectrum of political opinions. I will continue with this policy even though I know it will have varying levels of success because it is important I work with everyone for everyone on our island.

I have always welcomed working collaboratively at a local level here on Ynys Môn.

I enjoy a good working relationship with many of the officers employed by the County Council, particularly those in the Regulation and Economic Development Department because that is where much of my involvement lies.

It is only through collegiate working that we were successful in our bids for Community Renewal and Levelling Up funding and for our Anglesey Freeport.

These projects alone have brought nearly £50 million to Ynys Môn in the past three years. We would not have been successful if we had not put our political opinions to one side and worked together.

Freeport status marks the start of

our economic renaissance and was a true cross-party achievement: Anglesey's Plaid Cymru Council, the Labour Government in Cardiff and the UK Government working together to deliver our Conservative manifesto Freeport commitment.

There are good examples of positive cross-party working at local levels on Anglesey.

I am especially pleased to have developed a good relationship with the Holyhead Town Council.

Holyhead is no more or less important than the rest of Ynys Môn, however it is the largest centre of population, and, with the port, it has the best resources to contribute to an economically prosperous Anglesey.

It has always been my belief that if we can make Holyhead successful, we will make the whole of Ynys Môn successful.

I was particularly impressed to receive this message from a newly elected Labour Councillor in Tref Cybi Ward, Holyhead.

"Though I am a member of the opposition, I wish to extend an arm of friendship, you are my MP and you

are also human, a fact that seems to be forgotten in the game of politics, which spurs the divide of tribalism. Let's do politics differently. Not your enemy." Cllr Pip O'Neill.

It is, of course, critically important that Holyhead is not seen as the only place that needs to thrive.

Amlwch and the north of Ynys Môn has suffered dreadfully, particularly since the closure of Wylfa, and is in desperate need of support.

That is why one of the economic zones for Anglesey Freeport is at Rhosgoch and why I continue to fight hard to bring new nuclear to Wylfa.

Amlwch was also in our minds when developing the Levelling Up Fund bid.

One of the aims is to promote the fantastic attractions Amlwch has to offer to cruise passengers and tourists visiting Holyhead's regenerated town centre.

To make the most of these opportunities it is important that we work together.

Last week I enjoyed a panad with the new Mayor of Holyhead, Cllr Hywel Williams, who is a card-carry-

ing Labour man.

Hywel and I have a good working relationship and a shared determination to make Holyhead an even better place to live and work.

We respect each other's political views and we will not let them get in the way of creating a better Holyhead for everyone.

I aim to enjoy similar working relationship with other town councils on Anglesey because it will help me to help them.

If we all put our energies into working together, as well as being good role models for our young people, we really can create a better future for them.

Over recess last week I had a fantastic time visiting lots of events and meeting lots of people on Ynys Môn. I have been overwhelmed by the positivity of local people who say they can feel a change in the fortunes of Anglesey.

They are excited about the opportunities presented by our Anglesey Freeport and optimistic about the direction of travel with regard to bringing new nuclear energy to Wylfa.

Their frustration is the feeling that it is such a struggle to improve things locally, and their perception is that much of that is down to political division.

I have worked hard to break down the perceived partisan barriers that exist locally, but for that to happen others must also drop their own pre-conceived political ideas.

It can take time to develop that level of trust, but it also takes a willingness to do so on both sides.

When we work together - we win together and together we can create a better future for our island.

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](mailto: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 gyda phroblemau, prosiectau a syniadau. Yna cysylltwch â ni - byddwn wrth fy modd yn clywed genych - gallwch gysylltu â mi ar [virginia.crosbie.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:virginia.crosbie.mp@parliament.uk) neu ffoniwch fi ar 01407 644645. Diolch yn fawr.